

### RCMI PROGRAM

PO Box 365067  
San Juan PR 00936-5067  
Tel: (787) 763-9401  
Fax: (787) 758-5206  
E-mail: [rcmi.rcm@upr.edu](mailto:rcmi.rcm@upr.edu)  
URL: <http://rcmi.rcm.upr.edu>

### ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator

### KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

Carmen Cadilla, Ph.D.  
Gregory Quirk, Ph.D.  
Loyda Meléndez, Ph.D.  
Mark Miller, Ph.D.  
José Rodríguez-Medina, Ph.D.  
Adelfa Serrano, Ph.D.  
José G. Conde, M.D., M.P.H.

### KEY ACTIVITY LEADERS

Marcia Carlyn, Ph.D.  
Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M.

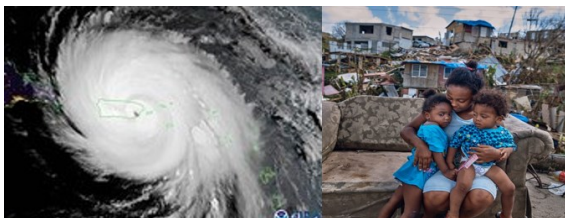
9

Number of days to resume academic and academic operations at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus.



@rcmienews

### MARIA'S PATH THROUGH PUERTO RICO



On September 20th, 2017, Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 storm, made landfall in Puerto Rico, nearly immediately rendering the island's power grid, cellphone towers, and even its banking system inoperable. It has been reported that the hurricane is the most powerful storm to hit Puerto Rico directly in eighty years, and has left the island reeling in the days and weeks since. Worse, this massive storm arrived just days after the eye of Hurricane Irma narrowly missed the island, still wreaking havoc with record-setting wind speeds and rainfall. Recovery from the storms has been slow, at some points almost stagnant.

At the UPR Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSC) we were fortunate. Administrative work was initiated on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and classes on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Within the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) damages to the infrastructure were minimal. However, research projects involving the engagement of communities have been affected by the lack of power, Internet and telephone communications. The CCRHD is working on strategies to address these limitations maintaining a stable progress toward achieving the Center's goals and objectives. The support of institutional officials at the UPR-MSC and at the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, as well as colleagues within and outside Puerto Rico during this difficult situation has been inspiring and heartily appreciated.

### RELATED REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Meléndez Edwin and Hinojosa Jennifer, Estimates of Post-Hurricane Maria Exodus Puerto Rico, Center for Puerto Rican Studies Hunter College, CUNY, Research Brief, Issued October 2017, Centro RB2017-01 [https://centropu.hunter.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/RB2017-01-POST-MARIA%20EXODUS\\_V2.pdf](https://centropu.hunter.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/RB2017-01-POST-MARIA%20EXODUS_V2.pdf)

Rodríguez-Díaz, Carlos E., Maria in Puerto Rico: Natural Disaster in a Colonial Archipelago, AJPH January 2018, Vol 108, No. 1, p. 30-31. <http://ajph.apublications.org/doi/pdfplus/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304198>

Zorrilla, Carmen D. The View from Puerto Rico — Hurricane Maria and Its Aftermath, N Engl J Med 2017; 377:1801-1803, November, 2017, DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1713196 <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1713196#t=article>

Reardon Sara, Science scramble after storm, Nature, Vol 551, November, 2017 [https://www.nature.com/polopoly\\_fs/1.22956.1511953853!/menu/main/topColumns/topLeftColumn/pdf/nature.2017.22956.pdf?origin=ppub](https://www.nature.com/polopoly_fs/1.22956.1511953853!/menu/main/topColumns/topLeftColumn/pdf/nature.2017.22956.pdf?origin=ppub)

### MARIA...by the Numbers

- 20.2% of households have had electricity restored
- 63.0% have had telecommunications restored
- 53.4% cell towers rebuilt
- 92 shelters open with 4,154 occupants
- 39% businesses processing SNAP vouchers
- 51.9% of hotels in operation
- \$94.4M estimated damage to PR infrastructure
- 1,516 students (2.7%) left the UPR System
- \$119M estimated damage to UPR campuses

Source: The Government of Puerto Rico website, [status.pr](http://status.pr), as of October 22, 2017

### IMPACT ON UPR RESEARCH FACILITIES

Although CCRHD-supported research infrastructure was not significantly affected after the path of Maria, severe damages were reported at the Caribbean Primate Research Center locations at the island of Cayo Santiago (free-ranging colony of Rhesus monkeys) and the Sabana Seca Field Station, and at the Institute of Neurobiology, an interdisciplinary historical research facility located in Old San Juan.

#### CARRIBEAN PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER

Estimated Cost of Damages: \$3.0m



<http://cprc.rcm.upr.edu/>

#### INSTITUTE OF NEUROBIOLOGY

Estimated Cost of Damages: \$1.1m



<http://www.neuro.upr.edu/>