



Center for  
Collaborative Research  
in Health Disparities

### CCRHD-RCMI PROGRAM

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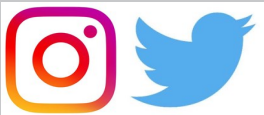
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José G. Conde, M.D., M.P.H.

141

Number of scientific presentations at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Education Forum held at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus in April, 2018.



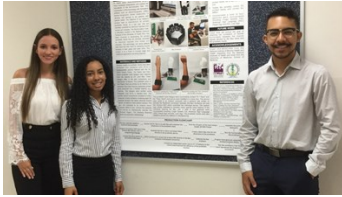
# WEB NEWS APRIL 2018

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FORUM



The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Education Forum of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus took place on April 18-20, 2018. This annual forum allows members of our academic community and collaborators the opportunity to disseminate their scientific contributions. This year's theme:

"Commitment to Research and Education in the Face of Adversities" invited to reflect on the importance of continuing research activities in spite of the difficulties after Hurricane Maria by the scientific community. Twenty investigators from the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities presented at the Forum, which included a total of 37 oral and 104 poster presentations.



## DISASTER MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Puerto Rico Public Health Trust hosted a meeting on April 3, 2018 with Dr. James J. James, Executive Director of the Society for Disaster Management and Public Health and the Editor in Chief of the Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness Journal. Dr. James shared with participants an opportunity to publish a journal supplement on disaster medicine and public health that would be funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Articles will focus on the impact of hurricanes in the Caribbean. An international conference on the topic is also considered for Spring 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Jose G. Conde represented the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities in the meeting.



## 58th BAILEY ASHFORD MEMORIAL LECTURE



The 58th Bailey K. Ashford Memorial Lecture was held on April 19, 2018 at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. The Conference is presented by an investigator distinguished by his/her work in Tropical Medicine. This year's conference was presented by Dr. Mariano Garcia-Blanco, a distinguished Puerto Rican investigator known for his contributions in the area of gene expression as it relates to infection of human and insect cells with flaviviruses such as dengue and yellow fever viruses. He is currently Professor and Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he is also Mildred Hajek Vacek and John Roman Vacek Distinguished Chair in Honor of President Truman G. Blocker, Jr. Dr. Garcia-Blanco is also Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore. His lecture was entitled "RNA and Immunity: A Story of Dengue Virus and its Hosts".

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Michael S. Denison, PhD**  
*Exactly The Same... But Different: Ligand-Diversity in Ah (Dioxin) Receptor Signaling and Response*  
April 3, 2018



**Ben Novitch, PhD**  
*Integrative Modeling of Mammalian Brain Development and Congenital Zika Virus Syndrome*  
April 25, 2018



**Yahveh Comas Torres, Eng.**  
**Forum on Patents, Inventions, and Commercialization at the UPR**  
April 25, 2018



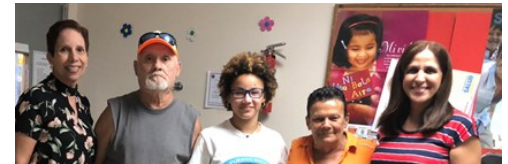
**Lilia Kucheryavykh, PhD**  
*Role of HIV in Glioma Developments and Progression*  
April 27, 2018

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



On April 6, 2018 staff of the pilot project "Zika Virus Prevention and Risk Communication Strategies" visited Botijas II, a farm school in the rural

town of Orocovis. The school is known for its curriculum and teaching personnel sensitive to the environmental problems of the region. The project team was led by principal investigator, Dr. Deborah Juarbe. To address community concerns about the existing problem of mosquitoes in the school, a workshop was conducted focusing on the preparation of home-made mosquito's traps. Fourteen eighth-grade students, three teachers, and the school principal participated in the workshop, which included a conference about the biology of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito. An interview with the project team was transmitted by radio on the next day to neighboring towns.



On March 28, Drs. Deborah Juarbe and Mildred Vera, investigators of the Pilot Project "Risk Communication and Community Engagement to Address Zika Virus Prevention" visited the Manuel A. Pérez public housing complex. At the meeting, members of the Board of Directors informed the investigators about their experiences after the passage of Hurricane Maria and reiterated their commitment to participate in future research activities. The investigators shared with community leaders the results of the pilot project in which they participated.