



Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities

CCRHD-RCMI PROGRAM

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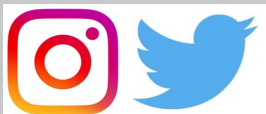
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830/356

Total number of e-mails/twitters RCMI-CCRHD Research Infrastructure Core distributed to the UPR-MSC scientific community during 2018-2019.

Source: CCRHD-Administrative Core



WEBNEWS

July 2019

COMMUNITY COALITION TEAM



On Tuesday July 2, 2019 the Community Coalition Team (CCT) of the Community Engagement Core (CEC) met for the fourth time at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust. The purpose of the meeting was to schedule the proposed activities of the Community Engagement Core.



Proposed activities include ovarian cancer awareness, community mental health, and science communication workshops, as well as community visits to the infrastructure services supported by RCMI-CCRHD. The discussion focused on how the members will collaborate with the Community Engagement Core in conceptualizing and performing of these activities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Dr. Sandra Ralat, RCMI-CCRHD Pilot Project Investigator, was interviewed in radio and television programs about her project *"Inflammatory Cytokines and Neurocognitive Functioning in Bipolar Disorder Across Mood Episodes"*. The overall goal of her investigation is to conduct a case-control study to determine if altered peripheral cytokines are associated with Bipolar Disorder in our Latino population. At her presentations, Dr.

Ralat emphasized the need for volunteers that would like to participate in the study. Over 30 persons called after her media presentations requesting additional information and inquiring about the eligibility criteria. Professor Edaliz Ferrer, RCMI-CCRHD Communications Advisor, arranged the media tour.



RESEARCH ADVANCEMENTS



Cantres-Rosario YM, Ortiz-Rodríguez SC, Santos-Figueroa AG, Plaud M, Negrón K, Cotto B, Langford D, **Meléndez LM**. HIV Infection Induces Extracellular Cathepsin B Uptake and Damage to Neurons. *Sci Rep*. 2019 May 29;9(1):8006. doi: 10.1038/s41598-019-44463-1. PubMed PMID: 31142756



Hernandez-Suarez DF, Kim Y, Villablanca P, Gupta T, Wiley J, Nieves-Rodriguez BG, Rodriguez-Maldonado J, Feliu Maldonado R, da Luz Sant'Ana I, Sanina C, Cox-Alomar P, Ramakrishna H, Lopez-Candales A, O'Neill WW, Pinto DS, Latib A, **Roche-Lima A**. Machine Learning Prediction Models for In-Hospital Mortality After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv*. 2019 Jul 22;12(14):1328-1338. doi: 10.1016/j.jcin.2019.06.013. PubMed PMID: 31320027



Eick SM, Meeker JD, Brown P, Swartzendruber A, Rios-McConnell R, Shen Y, Milne GL, **Vélez Vega C**, Rosario Z, Alshawabkeh A, Cordero JF, Ferguson KK. Associations between socioeconomic status, psychosocial stress, and urinary levels of 8-iso-prostaglandin-F2α during pregnancy in Puerto Rico. *Free Radic Biol Med*. 2019 Jul 29;143:95-100. doi:0.1016/j.freeradbiomed.2019.07.032. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

From July 29 through August 2, 2019, Dr. Emma Fernandez-Repollet, RCMI-CCRHD Principal Investigator, visited various universities and research centers in North Carolina. The objective of the visit was to identify potential collaborators in areas targeted by the RCMI-CCRHD such as unique approaches to community engagement, specialized technologies such as bioimaging, and available mentoring resources. Highlights of the visit included meetings with Dr. Deepak Kumar, RCMI Principal Investigator at North Carolina Cen-



tral University, and Dr. Ann LeFurgey and Dr. Peter Ingram, former RCMI scientific advisors from Duke University and VA Hospital. The meeting with Dr. Kumar offered the opportunity to share goals and objectives of the respective RCMI programs, as well as potential areas of collaborations. Drs. LeFurgey and Ingram offered insights on new approaches to bioimaging.

