

### RCMI PROGRAM

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### ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator

### KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

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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.  
Idalí Martínez, Ph.D.  
Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M.

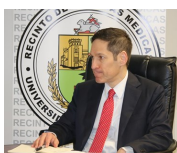
# 5,459

Number of visits to RCMI-supported facilities as of March 31, 2016



@rcmienews

### CDC DIRECTOR VISITS PUERTO RICO



Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) visited Puerto Rico on March 7-8, 2016. During his visit to the UPR Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MS-C), Dr. Frieden called Zika a "tremendous challenge and crisis" and said protecting pregnant women from the virus is a top priority. "The Zika is a great challenge. Every day we learn more of the Zika". Other priorities include controlling the vector and the promotion of access to voluntary contraception. Cases of Zika are increasing weekly in Puerto Rico, and the CDC expects hundreds of thousands of individuals will become infected, including thousands of pregnant women, indicated Dr. Friedman. The UPR Medical Sciences Campus has always been a natural contributor to initiatives for research, prevention and guidance led by the CDC said Dr. Noel J. Aymat, Chancellor of the UPR-MS-C.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



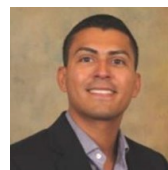
On March 30, 2016, the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities offered a workshop on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus. Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet organized and conducted the workshop. As defined by federal agencies, RCR encompasses the following nine areas: collaborative science, conflict of interest, research misconduct, mentoring, data management practices, laboratory animal welfare, protection of human subjects, authorship and publication, and peer review. The workshop was attended by forty-one graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research faculty.

### TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE HILLYER

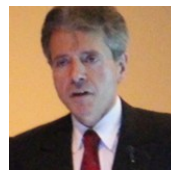


On March 7, 2016, the RCMI Infectious and Global Diseases Symposium: A Tribute to Professor George V. Hillyer was held at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus. Speakers included Dr. Adelfa Serrano, Director of the Infectious and Global Diseases Research Program; Dr. Mark Miller, Interim Director of the Institute of Neurobiology; Dr. Noel Aymat, Chancellor of the UPR-MS-C; Dr. Edgar Colón, Dean of the School of Medicine; Dr. Eric Locker, University of New Mexico, and Dr. Marcelo-Jacobs Lorena and Dr. Joel Vega-Rodríguez, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. The workshop was attended by Dr. Hillyer's widow, Ms. Josefina Gómez and son, Dr. Julian Hillyer.

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Dr. Demetrio Sierra-Mercado**  
*Building the Evidence in Research: Predatory Journals & Data Misrepresentation*  
March 1, 2016



**Dr. Gualberto Ruaño**  
*Building the Evidence for Personalized Medicine: Pharmacogenetics Trials and Clinical Outcomes*  
March 4, 2016



**Dr. Gerald R. Fink**  
*Understanding the Success of the Pathogen, Candida albicans, using CRISPR Technology*  
March 8, 2016

### BIOMEDICAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine has been conducting online videoconferences between health professionals at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus and middle and high school students from four schools across the Island. The goal of this project is stimulate the interest of students in health-related careers such as medicine, pharmacy, basic research, demography, occupational therapy, and dental medicine. Thirty-five students participate in the monthly videoconferences offered since September, 2015.



### COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS



The Infectious and Global Diseases Research Program (IGDRP) hosted the visit of collaborators Dr. Marcelo Jacobs-Lorena and Dr. Joel Vega from Johns Hopkins University.

The collaborators met with IGDRP-research team including Dr. Adelfa Serrano, Dr. Emilee Colón, and Mr. Jesús Muñiz to discuss current and future collaborative projects.



### CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Carmen Albizu, professor at the School of Public Health, was recently appointed to the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) of the National Institute of Health (NIH).