

RCMI PROGRAM

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ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

Carmen Cadilla, Ph.D.
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Mark Miller, Ph.D.
José Rodríguez-Medina, Ph.D.
Adelfa Serrano, Ph.D.
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KEY ACTIVITY LEADERS

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

18.8% & 24.3%

Prevalence of overweight and obesity of 12-year-olds residing in PR (*BMC Public Health* 2015, 15:219).



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COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) is collaborating with Dr. Craig Locatis at the National Library of Medicine on a project to promote health careers among – middle- and high-school students in Puerto Rico. Faculty and health professional are sharing their career experiences with over forty students from 5 different schools across the Island utilizing web-based technology. Dr. Emily Colón, Adjunct Professor and Coordinator of the RCMI Infectious and Global Diseases Laboratory, initiated the cycle of conferences on October 27th by describing her experiences as a biomedical graduate student in the field of microbiology. She also discussed the skills and knowledge required to be a successful research facility coordinator.



BIOMEDICAL WORKFORCE

Dr. Daniel Colón, Associate Professor at Yale University and RCMI Neuroscientist in Residence, visited the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSC) on October 19-13, 2015. During his visit Dr. Colón met with medical students interested in participating in the recently organized MD-PhD program recently established by Yale University and the UPR-MSC. The program intends to stimulate the involvement of medical students in clinical research.



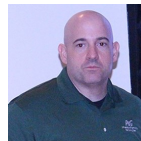
The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) sponsored a focal group with graduate students from the Biomedical Sciences departments who attended the course in Survival Skills and Ethics in Research. The course is part of the professional development component of the CCRHD. Dr. Giovanna Guerrero, Director, Yale Ciencia Initiative, organized and conducted the focal group. The report of this activity is available at: <http://rcmi.rcm.upr.edu/publications/report/view>

RESEARCH ADVANCEMENTS



Dr. Mark Miller, Director of the RCMI Translational Neuroscience Program, was awarded a \$3.8M, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation for the project "Neural Mechanisms of Reward and Decision". The award includes projects from Dr. Annabell Segarra and Dr. Carlos Jiménez, both in the Department of Physiology at the Medical Sciences Campus, and Dr. Tugrul Giray at the Department of Biology, Rio Piedras Campus. The project will foster collaboration with investigators in Oklahoma, Canada, Egypt, Italy, Turkey and Chile.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



Dr. Ismael Cotte-Rodriguez
Research & Development and Career Opportunities at Procter & Gamble
October 6, 2015



Dr. Mohan Babu
Mitochondrial Interaction Dynamics in Health and Disease
October 27, 2015



Dr. Greg Kunkel
Using the Odyssey System Software
October 29, 2015



Dr. Christopher J. Winrow
Discovery and Development of Orexin Receptor Antagonists for the Treatment of Insomnia Disorder
October 29, 2015



Dr. Federico Garrido
MHC antigen expression and tumor immune escape
October 30, 2015



Ms. Brenda G. Nieves
REDCap Training
October 23, 2015

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Guilloty NI, Soto R, Anzalota L, Rosario Z, Cordero JF, Palacios C. Diet, Pre-pregnancy BMI, and Gestational Weight Gain in Puerto Rican Women. *Matern Child Health J.* 2015 Nov;19(11):2453-61. PubMed PMID: 26100133; NIHMSID: NIHMS714113; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4596788.

Zenón F, Cantres-Rosario Y, Adiga R, Gonzalez M, Rodriguez-Franco E, Langford D, Melendez LM. HIV-infected microglia mediate cathepsin B-induced neurotoxicity. *J Neurovirol.* 2015 Oct;21(5):544-58. PubMed PMID: 26092112; NIHMSID: NIHMS702014; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4618197.

Jardón J, Izquierdo NJ, Renta JY, García-Rodríguez O, Cadilla CL. Ocular Findings in Patients with the Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome (Types 1 and 3). *Ophthalmic Genet.* 2015 Aug 21;PubMed PMID: 24766090; NIHMSID: NIHMS633459; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4232478.

Jansen RJ, Fonseca-Williams S, Bamlet WR, Ayala-Peña S, Oberg AL, Petersen GM, Torres-Ramos CA. Detection of DNA damage in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from pancreatic cancer patients. *Mol Carcinog.* 2015 Oct;54(10):1220-6. PubMed PMID: 25111947; NIHMSID: NIHMS698711; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4478243.