

RCMI PROGRAM

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ADMINISTRATION

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KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

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KEY ACTIVITY LEADERS

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

11,408

Number of registered visits to RCMI core facilities during the previous budgetary cycle (August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016).

Source: RCMI E-ticket System



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RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES



The Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (S&T Trust) announced on July 21, 2016 the awardees of its Research Grant Programs. After external review, fourteen of the forty-five grant applications were selected for funding. Of the fourteen projects selected, ten are from academic institutions (University of Puerto Rico: 6; Universidad Central del Caribe: 1, and Ponce Health Sciences University: 3) and four from private for-profit corporations (Tropical Agro, Novel Biomedical Devices, Remote Sensing Consultants, iGen Apps). The awards covered a variety of topics such as cancer, environmental factors, agriculture, medical prototypes and mobile applications.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) sponsored the workshop *Personalized Medicine and Hispanic Health: Contributions to Improving Health Outcomes and Reducing Health Disparities*. The workshop was held at NIH on July 6-7, 2016 and focused on the needed evidence on efficacy, effectiveness and patient

safety of pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies for heart, lung, and blood disorders and the risk factors among Hispanics/Latinos. The influence of racial/ethnic, genetic, socioeconomic factors and cultural diversity was specifically addressed. Discussions were led by experts across the spectrum of the topics discussed, including health systems, registries, clinical research, sociocultural determinants of health, genetics/genomics and epigenetics. The workshop was organized by Dr. Larissa Avilés-Santa, Medical Officer at the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, NHLBI. Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet attended the workshop.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Kelvin Carrasquillo-Carrión, RCMI Bioinformatics Research Assistant, attended the Computational Genomics Summer Institute (CGSI) at University of California Los

Angeles (UCLA). During this event Mr. Carrasquillo-Carrión received training in advanced Computational and Statistical methods for analysis of Genomic and Transcriptomic data. This specialized training will allow to incorporate these state-of-the-art expertise to current Bioinformatics services and research projects.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

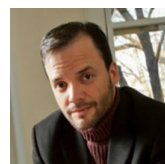


Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet held a meeting with Dr. Daniel Colón, Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, and Dr. Emily Wang, Associate Professor of Medicine, at Yale University to discuss their visit to the UPR Medical Sciences Campus in January, 2017. The meeting was held in Woods Hole and included detailed plans for Dr. Colón's yearly activities as RCMI Neuroscientist in Residence and Dr. Wang's annual workshop on Community Based Participatory Research. Both activities are expected with enthusiasm by faculty and graduate students at the UPR-MS.



Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet participated in the review of the applications submitted by trainees to the Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT) Trainee Development Awards for FY 2015-2016. These awards allow trainees to attend a conference or visit an affiliated laboratory as part of their trainee/mentoring experience. Dr. Fernández-Repollet is a member of PROTECT Training Advisory Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities congratulates Dr. Luis Montaner, who has been awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) nearly \$23 million to establish the **Martin Delaney Collaboratories for HIV Cure Research** grant to the BEAT-HIV: Delaney Collaboratory to Cure HIV-1 Infection by Combination Immunotherapy (BEAT-HIV Delaney). The award promotes a preeminent partnership of more than 30 leading HIV investigators from six academic institutions working with government, non-profit, and industry partners to test combinations of several novel immunotherapies under new preclinical research and clinical trials. **Dr. Montaner, D.V.M., D.Phil.**, director of the HIV-1 Immunopathogenesis Laboratory at The Wistar Institute Vaccine Center, and Key Activity Leader of the RCMI Faculty Development will co-lead the consortium.



Congratulations to Dr. Lourdes Soto, Professor at the School of Health Professions, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, who was named Vice President for Latin America, Mexico and the Caribbean by the Latin American Regional Office of the International Bureau of Promotion and Health Education. Her responsibilities as Vice President focus on identifying new trends in the field of health promotion together with the coordinators in each Latin American region and to represent the Executive Committee at its headquarters in Paris, France.