



Center for  
Collaborative Research  
in Health Disparities

### CCRHD-RCMI PROGRAM

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### ADMINISTRATION

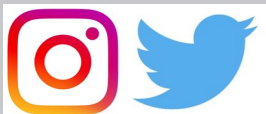
Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
Jordana Ramirez  
Carmen Doris Cintrón  
Margarita Díaz  
Kershlya De La Paz

### RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Jorge Duconge, Ph.D.  
Pablo Vivas, Ph.D.  
Cristina Palacios, Ph.D.  
Maribel Campos, M.D.  
Carmen Vélez, Ph.D.  
Edda Santiago, Ph.D.  
Carmen Cadilla, Ph.D.  
Gregory Quirk, Ph.D.  
Loyda Meléndez, Ph.D.  
Mark Miller, Ph.D.  
Adelfa Serrano, Ph.D.  
Abiel Roche-Lima, Ph.D.  
Wilfredo De Jesús, M.D.  
José G. Conde, M.D., M.P.H.

51/72

Number of peer review articles and associated external collaborations reported by RCMi investigators and facility users as of April 25, 2019.



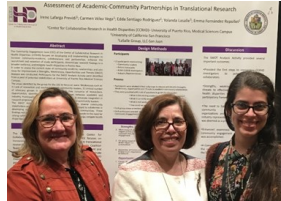
# WEBNEWS

April 2019

## HEALTH DISPARITIES CONFERENCE



The Principal Investigator of the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) and Leaders of the Community Engagement Core (CEC) attended the **12<sup>th</sup> Health Disparities Conference**, organized by Xavier University and held in New Orleans, LA from April 8 -10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Dr. Emma Fernandez-Repollet, CCRHD-PI, served as moderator in the session *Mobilizing Community Partnership*. Speakers at this session shared with attendees their experiences when engaging the community in research activities, as well as the importance of this involvement in improving the health and well-being of local populations. Dr. Carmen Velez, CEC-Director, and Ms. Irene Lafarga, CEC Coordinator, presented a poster titled *Assessment of Academic-Community Partnerships in Translational Research*. The poster depicted the results of a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis conducted at University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus to assess the current state of community-academic relationships from a selected group of 21 individuals from government agencies, industry, community-based organizations and researchers. The conference provided an excellent forum to obtain updated information in topics relevant to community engagement, health disparities and networking.



## MENTORING ACTIVITIES



On April 30, 2019 Dr. Luis Montaner, director of the RCMi Faculty Advancement Program, visited the UPR Medical Sciences Campus to meet with the eleven early-stage investigators participating in the mentoring activities sponsored by the CCRHD. His visit included individual meetings with each investigators, who presented their research projects and discussed career plans for the next five years. Investigators participating in the current program are: Souhail Malavé, Ph.D., Demetrio Sierra, Ph.D., Sandra Ralat, Ph.D., Elba Caraballo, Ph.D., Emilee Colón, Ph.D., José Colon, Ph.D. Eduardo Caro, Ph.D., Ednalise Santiago, Ph.D., Maribel Campos, M.D., Filipa Godoy, Ph.D. and Cristina Velázquez, Ph.D. Dr. Montaner will submit to CCRHD Principal Investigator, a comprehensive report of his visit which will include his recommendations and initial assessment of participating investigators, as well as details about the mentoring plan for FY 2019-2010.

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Héctor L. Franco Coriano, Ph.D.**  
*Genomic Approaches to Study the Cancer Genome: Enhancers and Enhancer RNAs*  
April 4, 2019



**Jürgen Bosch, Ph.D.**  
*42 Years after P. falciparum, Long-term Culturing of P. vivax Reaches the Lab*  
April 5, 2019



**Ben Naman, Ph.D.**  
*International Cooperation and Interfacing Disciplines in Drug Discovery from Cyanobacteria*  
April 8, 2019



**Tana E. Wood, Ph.D.**  
*Hurricane Disturbance and Forest Recovery in a Warmer World: Lessons Learned from a Novel Warming Experiment in Puerto Rico*  
April 9, 2019

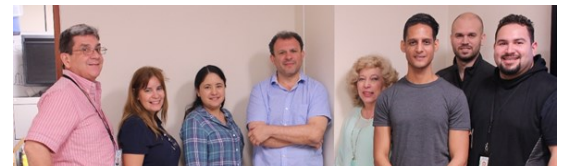


**Harry Hochheiser, PhD.**  
*Interactive Tools for Precision Medical Informatics*  
April 16, 2019



**Cheryl McCormick, Ph.D.**  
*Social stress and social brain development in adolescence in rats*  
April 23, 2019

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKSHOP



On April 8, 2019 Dr. Jürgen Bosch, Research Scientist, Division of Pediatric Pulmonology and Allergy/Immunology Case Western Reserve University CEO and Co-Owner at InterRayBio, LLC, participated in a workshop focusing on *Computational Tools for Drug Design and Discovery*. The workshop was organized by Dr. Adelfa Serrano and staff of the Research Infrastructure Core.

## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The CCRHD awarded travel funds to 7 faculty and 6 graduate students to learn research techniques and/or develop collaborative relationships with senior scientists outside of Puerto Rico. Four of the six schools at the UPR-MSC, Medicine, Public Health, Pharmacy and Nursing, benefited from these unique opportunity. Research training in areas relevant to **health disparities** including cancer, HIV-AIDS, child abuse, infectious diseases (Dengue and Zika), cardiovascular and neurological disorders were given priority.