



Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities

**CCRHD-RCMI PROGRAM**

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**ADMINISTRATION**

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
 Principal Investigator

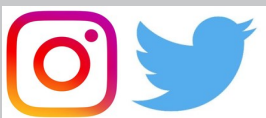
Jordana Ramirez  
 Carmen Doris Cintrón  
 Margarita Díaz  
 Kershlya De La Paz

**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.

**93**

Number of visitors who registered at the CCRHD booth during the Caribbean Strong Summit.



# WEB NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2019

### CARIBBEAN STRONG SUMMIT



The Community Engagement Core had a significant participation in the summit "Caribbean Strong: Building Resilience with Equity" held on February 27-March 1, 2019 at



the Sheraton Hotel and Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The three-day summit focused on disaster preparedness in the Caribbean region and was organized by the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust and the Society

for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, Inc. Prominent local, national and international speakers participated in the plenary conferences, panel discussions and breakout sessions focusing on a variety of disaster medicine and preparedness topics. The summit also featured poster presentations, an exhibit hall, and numerous opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing. Summit participants were able to identify actionable goals and objectives for the response, recovery and preparedness segments of the disaster cycle. The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) was one of the principal sponsors of the summit. Investigators of the CCRHD shared their research at oral and poster presentations, and served as moderators in various of the breakout sessions.



### INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT CORE



On February 25th, **Dr. Gregory Quirk**, Director of the Investigator Development Core, met with Pilot Project investigators to discuss the first two chapters of the reference Book: "At the Helm" by Kathy Barker. The chapters focused on leadership and considerations for a 5-year mentoring plan. Pilot Project investigators, Drs. Sandra Ralat, Sohulei Malavé and Demetrio Sierra also rehearsed their presentations to Dr. Marcia Carlyn, CCRHD External Evaluator. Dr. Fernández-Repollet reminded the group of upcoming deadlines related to the visit of the external evaluator and the annual progress report of the RCMC Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities.

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Abel Baerga, Ph.D.**  
*The Challenge of Developing a Preventive Vaccine Against HIV: 30 years and Counting*  
 February 5, 2019



**Brenda Nieves, BBA**  
*Workshop: Creating Databases in REDCap*  
 February 8, 2019



**Nancy R. Cardona Cordero, MS**  
*Citizen Science: A Tool to Engage Communities in Research*  
 February 13, 2019

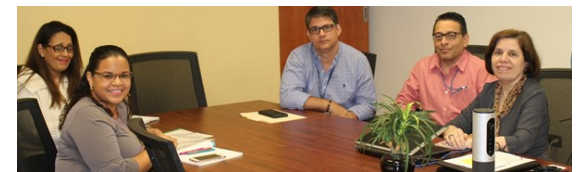


**Valerian E. Kagan, Ph.D., DSc.**  
*Cell Programs for Elimination of the Unnecessary: Fatal Role of Peroxidized Lipids*  
 February 19, 2019



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) co-sponsored the seminar *Ethical Considerations for Sexuality Research with Adolescents: Lessons learned from an HIV Prevention Program*. The seminar included presentations by Drs. Brian Mustanski and Kathryn Macapagal from Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. Both investigators are experts in the ethical aspects of studies addressing sexual and gender minority youth. They are also current collaborators of Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, former CCRHD Pilot Project investigator. Pilot Project investigator, Dr. Souhail Malavé and Dr. Melissa Marzán-Rodríguez coordinated the seminar held on February 12, 2019.

### RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS



Investigators of the RCMC-CCRHD Research Projects Core presented updates of their research projects on February 14, 2019. Lead Investigators: Drs. Jorge Duconge, Pablo Vivas, Cristina Palacios and Maribel Campos shared with Dr. Rada Dagher, NIMHD Program Officer, the objectives, accomplishments, outcomes, as well as, next year plans related to their respective studies. Principal Investigator, Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet, Advisory Committee Chair, Dr. Susan Opava, CCRHD Administrator, Ms. Jordana Ramirez, and Program Coordinator, Ms. Kreshlya De La Paz were also in attendance.