



Center for  
Collaborative Research  
in Health Disparities

### CCRHD-RCMI PROGRAM

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### ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator

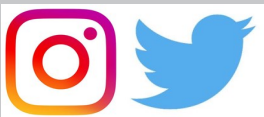
Jordana Ramirez  
Carol Torres  
Carmen Doris Cintrón  
Margarita Díaz

### 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.

780

Total degrees conferred by the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony held on June 1, 2018.



# WEB NEWS

JUNE 2018

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Gaurav Kumar Varshney, Ph.D.**  
*High-throughput Genome Editing for Functional Genomics in Zebrafish*  
June 12, 2018



**Peter Wipf, Ph.D.**  
*Chemical Regulation of Cellular Homeostasis*  
June 20, 2018



**Horacio Ramirez, Ph.D.**  
*Biological Interpretation & Analysis of Next Generation Sequencing Data*  
June 26, 2018



**L. Val Giddings, Ph.D.**  
*"GMOS"- Enriching Lives Around the World*  
June 28, 2018

## ZIKA PILOT STUDIES IN THE NEWS



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) pilot project "The Microbiota of the Zika vector *Aedes aegypti*", conducted by Dr. Emilee Colon, received broad attention by the local media during the month of



June. Dr. Colon's study focuses on assessing the microbiota of Zika infected vs. Uninfected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in order to understand the interaction between the mosquito, intestinal microbes and pathogens transmitted. This information could

provide important information for the prevention and treatment of Zika and other mosquito-transmitted viral infections.



Similar attention was given by radio and TV media to the pilot project "Risk Communication and Community Engagement to Address Zika Virus Prevention". Mr. Samuel Lasen, Health Educator, was interviewed at WIPR radio on how to construct home-made mosquito-traps to eliminate mosquito breeding sites in the communities. According to Mr. Lasen, this educational activity has generated a sense of partnership within the community to adopt behaviors that reduce Zika-health risks. Dr. Deborah Juarbe is the Principal Investigator of the project.

## SPECIAL WORKSHOP



**Workshop: Pre-processing of Scientific Data Using Python**  
June 7-8, 2018

Organized and presented by Integrated Informatics Core Staff: Dr. Abiel Roche-Lima, Director; Ms. Brenda Nieves, and Mr. Roberto Feliú, System Programmers, this workshop impacted seventeen technicians and graduate students.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE: SWOT ANALYSIS ACTIVITY



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus is interested in ensuring that all the information generated from the research efforts it supports reaches the community. To this extent, one of its main components is the Community Engagement Core (CEC). This Core, directed by Dr. Carmen M. Vélez, facilitates academic-community relationships among researchers associated with the Center and the communities they served.

As an initial activity, the CEC gathered over twenty representatives from different sectors including academia, community organizations, patient advocates, government agencies, and industry, to help assess current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Analysis) influencing and/or affecting the development of academic-community partnerships. Eng. Yolanda Lasalle moderated the SWOT analysis sessions and Dr. Edda Santiago, CEC Coordinator, organized the activity, which was held on June 19, 2018 at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust.

Investigators and administrative personnel from the CCRHD, including Dr. Emma Fernandez-Repollet, Principal Investigator and Executive Director; Ms. Jordana Ramirez, Program Administrator, and Ms. Carol Torres, Program Coordinator, attended the activity. All participants indicated their willingness to participate in future Community Engagement activities.