Dr. Ana M. Espino  
Professor  
Coordinator Graduate Studies  
Department of Microbiology, 3rd Floor  
Phone: 787-758-2525  
Exts: 1312, 1318  
Email: ana.espino1@upr.edu

**MEDICAL VIROLOGY**  
Innate immunity to HIV with emphasis on macrophage biology, Neuropathogenesis of HIV, Proteomics of neurologic disorders caused by HIV, Proteomics of the placentas from mothers infected with Zika virus. Director of the Translational Proteomics Center  
Loyda M. Meléndez, Ph.D.; loyda.melendez@upr.edu

DNA-vaccine development against infectious agents  
Miguel A. Otero, Ph.D.; miguel.otero2@upr.edu

Mechanisms of pathogenesis of Chikungunya virus  
Idali Martínez, Ph.D.; idali.martinez@upr.edu

**Adjunct Professors**  
Pathogenesis of Dengue virus and interactions between Dengue and interferon pathways  
Jorge Muñoz Jordán, Ph.D.  
ckq2@cdc.gov

Pathogenesis of Dengue and Zika virus in animal models (Non-human primates) and interaction with the cellular pathways of innate and adaptive immunity  
Carlos A. Sariol, M.D.  
carlos.sario1@upr.edu

Immunology of Cancer  
Stephanie Dorta, Ph.D.  
stephanie.dorta@upr.edu

Humberto M. Guiot, M.D.  
humberto.guiot@upr.edu
The Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology of the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine is located in the third floor of the Medical Sciences Building in the San Juan Medical Center. It is the only graduate program in Puerto Rico that offers both, a Master in Science (M.S.) and Doctor in Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in Microbiology. The Graduate Program trains students for careers in biomedical research and teaching in the disciplines of Microbiology, Medical Zoology and Immunology. Microbiologists are scientists, which investigate the virulence factors, the pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, prevention and immune mechanisms of medically important pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses. Graduates from our program have successful careers in the biopharmaceutical industry, academia and local and federal government agencies.

The Department of Microbiology is internationally recognized by its research in the areas of Bacteriology, Parasitology, Mycology, Virology, Immunology and Microbiome. It has an outstanding and experienced faculty which actively seeks external funds to support research activities, graduate students training and state of the art facilities and equipment. Our program fosters the interdisciplinary collaboration with well-recognized scientists and clinical investigators from PR and other countries.

Program Description and Admission Requirements
Candidates for the M.S. degree are required to complete a minimum of 27 course credits and 6 thesis credits. Doctoral candidates (Ph.D.) must complete a minimum of 45 course credits, pass a qualifying exam after the second year and complete 15 thesis credits. In addition to each investigator’s research laboratory, the following institutional facilities are available to expand the researcher armamentarium: the Genomics Translational Research Unit, the Translational Proteomics Center, Infectious and Global Diseases Program Core Lab, Flow Cytometry Core Lab, Electron Microscopy Unit, Campus Computer Center, the Animal Resources Center and the Caribbean Primates Center. Individual faculty members also participate as mentors in the UPR Intercampus Ph.D. Program in Biology. With these backgrounds, students are exceptionally well prepared for a variety of careers in science education, basic and clinical science research, the biomedical and biotechnology industry and various other health-related fields.

Selection and Admission of Graduate Students
Prospective graduate students may obtain an application for admission from the Division of Biomedical Sciences
www.md.rcm.upr.edu/biomed/

The Requirements for Admission are as follows:

1. A Bachelor degree in Biology; however, applicants with majors in other related areas are strongly encouraged to apply.
2. Required undergraduate courses are: General, Analytical and Organic Chemistry, General Physics, Differential and Integral Calculus and Biology.
3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 in both, overall and in sciences.
4. A working knowledge of Spanish and English
5. Submission of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test score. The GRE Subject Test in Science is optional.
6. An interview with the Department’s faculty
7. Copies of official transcript and three letters of recommendation.
8. An interview with the Department's faculty
9. Research experience is highly recommended.
10. Completed application form

Application deadline for admission on August is: DECEMBER 1ST

Areas of Research and Faculty

MEDICAL BACTERIOLOGY
Epidemiology and mechanisms of resistance to antimicrobial agents
Guillermo J. Vázquez, M.D.; guillermovazquez@upr.edu
Edna E. Aquino, Ph.D., M.T. (ASCP); edna.aquino@upr.edu
Raúl Rivera, DrPH, M.S., M.T. (ASCP); raul.rivera8@upr.edu

MEDICAL PARASITOLOGY
Molecular and cellular mechanisms of multidrug resistance in Plasmodium. Target validation, identification and development of novel anti-malarials.
Adelfa E. Serrano, Ph.D.; adelfa.serrano@upr.edu
Identification, purification and biochemical characterization of Fasciola hepatica antigens that exhibit anti-inflammatory properties; interaction of these antigens with toll-like receptors of immune cells and cellular pathways involved in the innate and adaptive immunity. Application of parasitic antigens in the treatment of sepsis, ulcerous colitis and other inflammatory diseases using animals’ models.
Ana M. Espino, Ph.D.; ana.espinol@upr.edu

MICROBIOME
Microbiome, Metagenomics, Biodiversity and Microbe-Host Relationships. Role of microbes in the development of infectious diseases, cancer and other phenotypes. Applications of Next-Generation Sequencing data, Omics and Bioinformatics.
Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, Ph.D.; filipa.godoy@upr.edu

MEDICAL MYCOLOGY
Benjamín Bolaños, Ph.D.; benjamin.bolanos@upr.edu