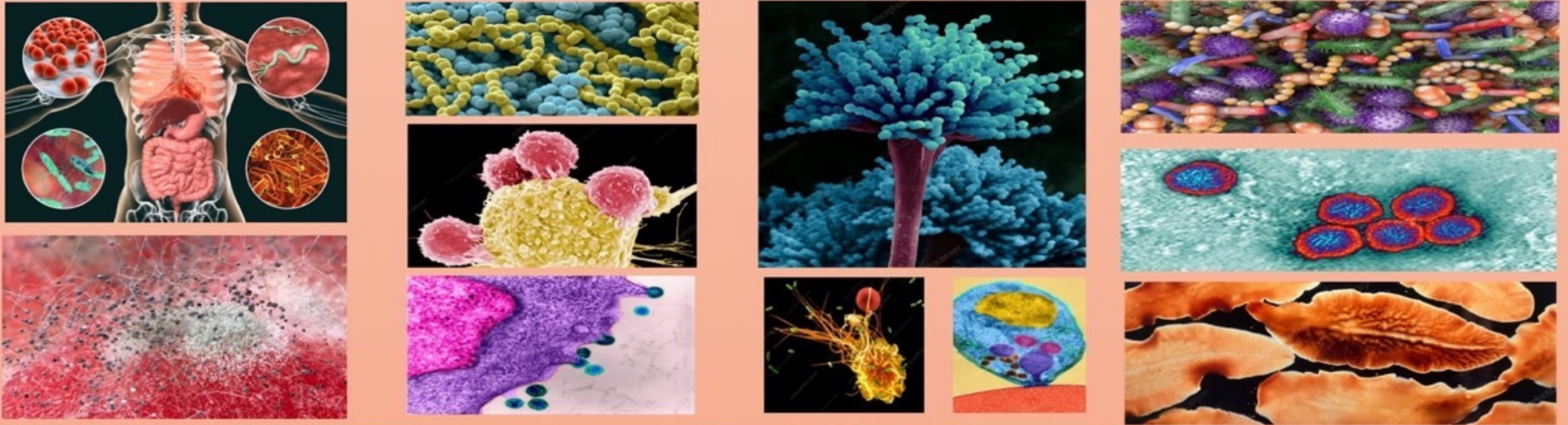




<https://md.rcm.upr.edu/micro>



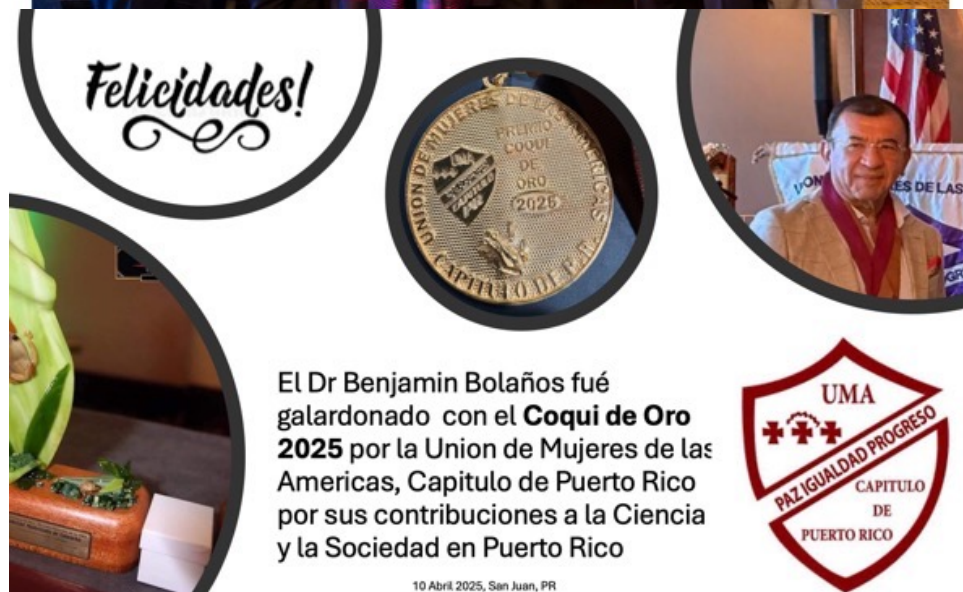
Microbiology and Medical Zoology
School of Medicine - Medical Science Campus

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS REPORT

(January – May 2025)

Felicitamos al Dr
Benjamín Bolaños por
haber sido galardonado
con el
Coquí de Oro 2025

Enhorabuena!



El Dr Benjamin Bolaños fué
galardonado con el **Coquí de Oro
2025** por la Union de Mujeres de las
Americas, Capitulo de Puerto Rico
por sus contribuciones a la Ciencia
y la Sociedad en Puerto Rico

10 Abril 2025, San Juan, PR

DR. BENJAMIN BOLAÑOS

Puerto Rico Public Health Trust's Post

Panel de Asma en PR (22/abril/25)
Efecto de los Aerobiológicos en el Asma en PR (29/mayo/25)



OPINIÓN

PUNTO DE VISTA



BENJAMÍN BOLAÑOS

OPINIÓN

+ *El rastreo de la calidad del aire como aliado de la salud*

Es clave tomar medidas para minimizar la exposición a los niveles altos de esporas de hongos, destaca Benjamín Bolaños

2 de mayo de 2025 - 1:00 AM

lidad del ai

PUNTO
DE VISTA



Benjamín Bolaños

Profesor de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Ciencias Médicas

Filipa Godoy-Vitorino



Tribute for service to science and society as distinguished citizen by the Consulate of Portugal



Speaker ARIS Advancing Research in Society summit 2025



Speaker "Alimenta tu microbiota" PR Science Trust March 2025



PhD student Natalia Pagan winner of the ASM Future Leaders fellowship



Postbac student Jemilly salas, 3rd place poster competition SMPR

2025 ONLY Peer-reviewed Publications

Microbiology Dept (N=2) Jan-April 2025



Filipa Godoy, Ph.D

- Editor Genome Biology and Scientific reports

Proposal reviewer :

- NIH study section IMII April 12 2025
- HFSP Human Frontier Science Program G7, Jan 2025)

Trends in Microbiology

Forum

Solutions to expand microbiome sciences in the Caribbean Region: an insider's perspective

Filipa Godoy-Vitorino ¹*

The Caribbean harbors diverse genetic resources, yet microbiome research in the region remains poorly characterized. Addressing infrastructure and training challenges through collaborations and capacity building is vital. This article reflects on the obstacles facing microbiome research in the region and proposes solutions to ensure equitable participation in the global microbial research ecosystem.

Microbiomes matter: the great divide

diverse habitats such as coastal and marine ecosystems (with over 12 000 invertebrate species) crucial to societies' cultural, economic, and ecological life [5].

Human diversity is high, with indigenous ancestry mixed with native South and Central America and African and European components [6]. These diverse host factors drive high microbial diversity, too. Additionally, different dietary habits and lifestyles lead to microbiota that is distinct from other world regions, making it essential to be characterized and harnessed. As a planetary **biodiversity hotspot** with the highest proportion of endemic species and one of the most threatened [5], Caribbean microbiomes remain under-represented.

The Caribbean lacks representation in microbiome sciences, which has significant regional and global implications. Microbiomes in these unique environments could harbor novel genes with potential applications in medicine, agriculture, and biotechnology, and even health-associated

Glossary

Biodiversity hotspot: a region that is an important reservoir of biodiversity. The Caribbean is cited as an example of a vulnerable hotspot.

Bioinformatics: a branch of data science aimed at collecting and analyzing complex biological data such as sequence data generated from microbiomes.

Capacity building: efforts to develop and strengthen the skills and resources that communities need to thrive and be competitive.

Climate change: long-term changes in atmospheric conditions, including warming weather and precipitation, impacting ecosystems, especially in vulnerable regions like the Caribbean.

Equitable policies: approaches that aim to provide fair access to resources, opportunities, and benefits to all individuals, regardless of their background or geographic location.

Holobiont: a host organism, together with all its associated microbial symbionts.

Memorandum of understanding (MOU): a formal agreement between two or more parties that outline the terms and details of a mutual understanding or partnership. MOUs are often used to facilitate research collaborations.

Microbiome: a collection of prokaryotic and eukaryotic microbial communities, including bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses, and all their genetic material, that inhabit a particular environment, such as the human body or a specific ecosystem.



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Collection

Cancer in understudied populations

Submission status
Open

Submission deadline
31 October 2025



Call for papers - Microbiome and cancer

Guest Editors:

Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, PhD, University of Puerto Rico, USA

Christian Jobin, PhD, University of Florida, USA

Dan Spakowicz, PhD, Ohio State University, USA

Submission Status: Open | Submission Deadline: 23 October 2025



Genome Biology is calling for submissions to our Collection on host-microbiome interactions in the context of cancer and how microbial communities can influence tumor development, progression, and response to therapy.

Dra Loyda Melendez



International Journal of
Molecular Sciences



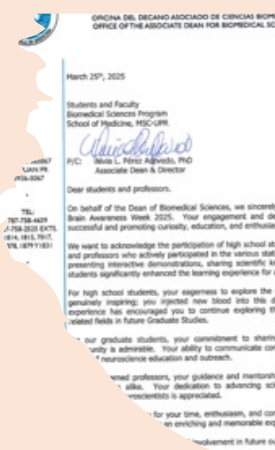
Article

Upregulation of MMP3 Promotes Cisplatin Resistance in Ovarian Cancer

Mariela Rivera-Serrano ^{1,2,3,*}, Marienid Flores-Colón ^{2,3}, Fatima Valiyeva ³, Loyda M. Meléndez ^{4,5} and Pablo E. Vivas-Mejía ^{2,3,*}



Dra Yisel Cantres



Dra Cantres nombrada coordinadora de proyectos piloto Titulo V

Journal of NeuroVirology (2025) 31:95–107
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13365-024-01240-9>

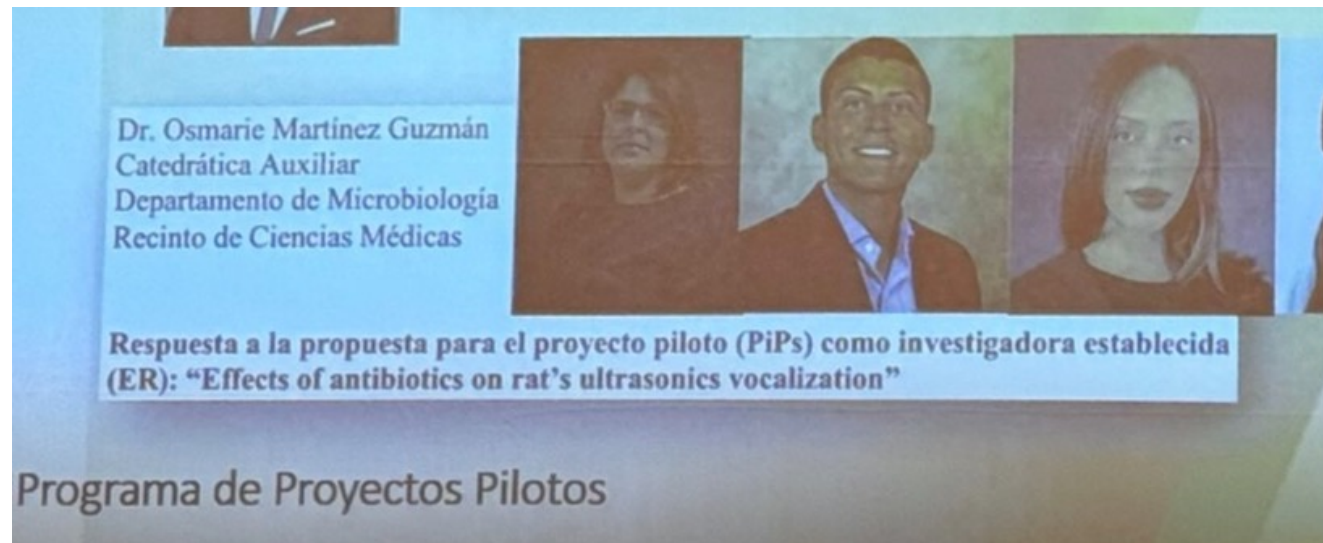
RESEARCH

Influence of plasma exosomes from women living with HIV Stratified by HAND on monocyte subpopulations from healthy women without HIV

Bryan Jael Collazo¹ · Lorivette Ortiz-Valentín¹ · Cristhian G. Negrón-Rodríguez¹ · Juan Carlos Medina-Colón
Yisel M. Cantres-Rosario² · Elaine Rodríguez³ · Valerie Wojna³ · Yamil Gerena¹

Dra Osmarie Martinez

Titulo V le otorga propuesta piloto



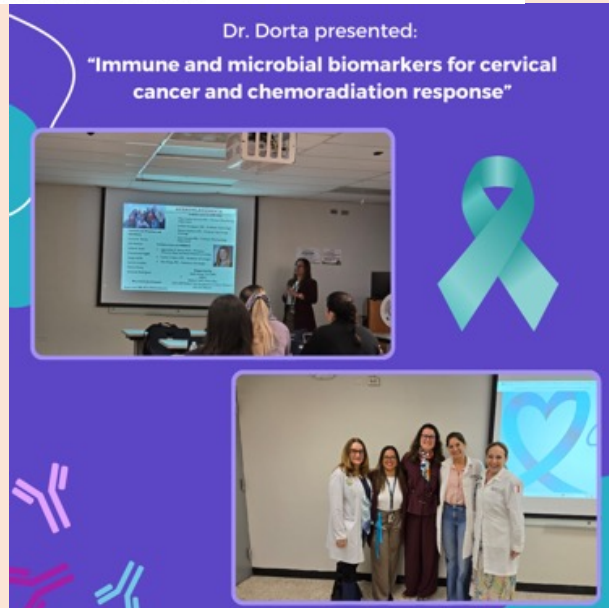
Dra Stephanie Dorta Estremera

Dr. Dorta received the Hispanic Alliance Researcher Productivity Award (May 7, 2025)

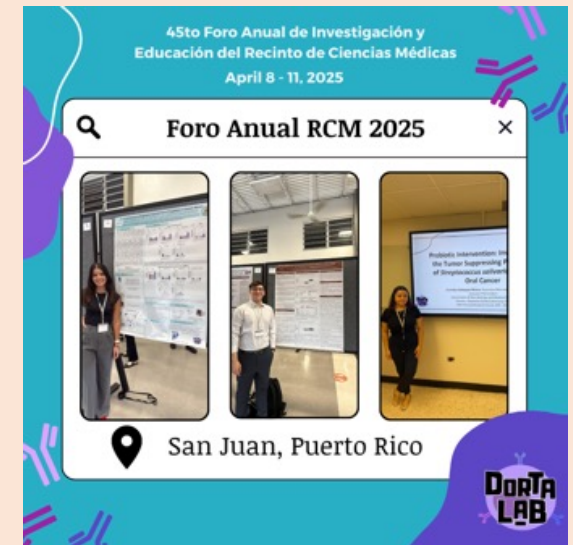


Students presented:
Oral and 2 posters at Foro Anual RCM

Dr. Dorta presented at:
OB-GYN Grand Rounds



Dr. Dorta presented at:
UPRCCC Office of Research Training and Education



Adelfa E. Serrano, PhD

- Presentación del Libro (Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín, Feb. 20, 20205) y
- Conversatorio con los autores (RCM. Biblioteca Conrado Asenjo, Marzo 25, 2025).

Historia Cultural de la Malaria en Puerto Rico en el Siglo XX.

(2024) Raul Mayo Santana, Editor; Adelfa E. Serrano Brizuela; Consultora Científica ISBN: 979-8-9915667-9-7

Poster and oral presentations:

- 2025 RCMI Consortium National Conference (March 16-19, 2025 in Bethesda, MD)

Imported Malaria Cases in Puerto Rico (1992 – 2020) Rafael A. Ortiz, Adelfa E. Serrano-Poster

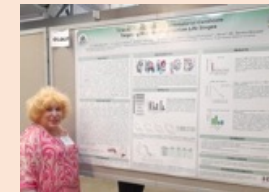
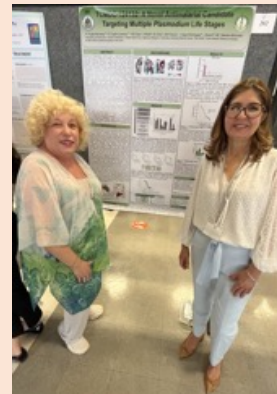
TCMDC-124132: A Novel Antimalarial Candidate Targeting Multiple Plasmodium Life Stages K Trujillo-Nevarez; E Colón-Lorenzo; RG Diaz; A Roth· JG Ortiz; DA Fidock; J Vega-Rodríguez; J Bosch; AE. Serrano-Brizuela Poster

- 45th Annual Research and Education Forum of the Medical Sciences Campus , April 9 – 11, 2025

Imported Malaria Cases in Puerto Rico (1992 – 2020) Rafael A. Ortiz, Adelfa E. Serrano Oral

TCMDC-124132: A Novel Antimalarial Candidate Targeting Multiple Plasmodium Life Stages

K Trujillo-Nevarez; E Colón-Lorenzo; RG Diaz; A Roth· JG Ortiz; DA Fidock; J Vega-Rodríguez; J Bosch; AE. Serrano-Brizuela Poster





Grd Round ObGyn, Dorta Jan 2025



*Asthma Conf
PR TRUST, April 22nd 2025*



*PR-TRUST Alimenta tu Microbiota
March 2025*



GRAD STUDENTS FORO RCM 2025



*Brain Awareness Week March 21st Dr Cantres
and team*

Varios eventos y logros Micro



RCMI national meeting, March 2025



Ashford conference April 8, conversatorio



Reconocimiento al Dr Raul Rivera por estudiantes graduados may 2025



La facultad de Microbiología en la Conf Bayley K Ashford 2025