

NEWSLETTER

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PRISE is the acronym for the UPR "Ponce Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement." This program is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under grant #1R25 - GM096955 - 01, awarded to Dr. Edu Suarez,

Associate Professor of the Biology Department at the University of Puerto Rico in Ponce (UPRP). This proposal was written in collaboration with Prof. Grisobelle Virella-Corujó, Sponsored Research Officer and Chancellor's Assistant for the External Resources and Development Office.

ABRCMS 2012

During the month of November, 22 students and the Programs' Coordinator and Director, participated in the ABRCMS 2012 conference celebrated in San José, California between November 7 to 10. This was the first time our students presented in this conference and a total of four of our students presented Posters and one presented orally. **Students were given three awards including Outstanding Poster Presentation in the Biochemistry Category.** We congratulate Students Michael Manoharan, Ismael Santiago, Yanaira Alonso, Martha Echevarria, and Robert Lopez for a magnificent well done job.



What are the program's goals and objectives?

By fostering competitive research (with a particular focus on the biomedical sciences), UPR-PRISE will advance the mission and goals of UPR Ponce. The planned research activities will increase the intellectual and technical capabilities of our students, which will, in turn, create a pipeline of well-trained students expected to complete a bachelor's in biological sciences and then pursue a PhD in that same field. The specific aims of this project are oriented towards student development and are achieved via the sponsoring of summer research internships at research-intensive institutions, the offering of a standardized verbal test course (aimed at improving GRE verbal scores and conversational English abilities), the promoting of responsible conduct in research, and the encouraging of community-based learning.

Summer Internship 2013 information now available in the PRISE Programs' Office located in the UPR-PONCE J-2 Research Laboratory. If you are interested please, ask for an appointment, and plan your Research Summer Today!



PSM SSS

On November 17, 2012 the Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences celebrated their first Southern Science Symposium (SSS) where PRISE students presented their research work.

Students Victor Otaño and Martha Echevarria were awarded in their category.



CONFERENCE

During the first week of December, 2012 we had, as an Invited Speaker, the opportunity to participate in Dr. David Irwin Conference: **"Is Hemoglobin a therapeutic or toxin? How hemoglobin effects the fields of high altitude physiology, cancer biology and hematology"**. Also , Dr. Irwin, added a little perspective on how his career developed from the beginning of his career to nowadays.



Cancer Genetics

During early January, 2013, adjunct student *Marielys Colazo* participated in an intensive workshop at University of Puerto Rico Medicine Sciences Campus related to the Cancer Genetics topic. Mrs. Collazo mentioned *"It was an amazing experience to learn the molecular approach to cancer genetics. Even though the course was for a small period of time, it was wonderful"*. Currently she is aiming to integrate what she learned in the workshop to her research at the Ponce School of Medicine.

2012 in Pictures



UPR-PRISE

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*"If you are not part of the solution, then
you are the precipitate"*
-Anonymous