

NEWSLETTER

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What is PRISE?

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. This proposal was written in collaboration with Prof. Grisobelle Virella-Corujo, Sponsored Research Officer and Chancellor's Assistant for the External Resources and Development Office.

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 who are expected to complete a bachelor's in biological sciences and then pursue a PhD in biomedical sciences. 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.

March Activities Headlights.

- ✦ The PRISE Program Visited the Ponce Regional Scientific Fair held on March 1, 2012, where Program Director Dr. Edu Suarez was the President of the Scientific Revision Committee and received a recognition. The Program reached over



two hundred high school teachers and students.



- ✦ Two PRISE Program Students participated in "The 2012 Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting (PRISM)," sponsored by the Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PR-LSAMP) on March 10, 2012, at the University of Puerto Rico, Carolina, where over 300 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) undergraduate and graduate students present their research projects to their peers and to faculty members. We congratulate program students John K Alvarado and Robert Lopez for their great presentations.



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- ✦ Dr. Sonia Flores, Professor (UPR-Ponce alumni), who is from the Department of Pulmonary Sciences & Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO, presented a conference titled "HIV-1 nef and Pulmonary Hypertension: from monkeys to humans to the bench: A Professional Trajectory"



- ✦ Program student Mariano Colon presented some of his work at the 59th Annual Tri-β Convention and received a third prize in oral presentations.



Program announcements:

Congratulations go to active PRISE student, **John Alvarado Torres**, who participated in the annual training workshop "Analytical Microscopy" held at the University of South Florida from March 27 to 29, 2012.



✦ Summer Internships Acceptance

The UPR-PRISE Program feels proud of all the students who applied to different summer internships and congratulates program students Robert Lopez and Yanaira Alonso (who have so far been accepted) and expects to hear about the acceptance of still more.

PRISE Program Students are excellent by default because the program requires it of them. With this in mind, we congratulate those students who were honored in the UPR-P Honor Assembly student gathering for their having maintained the necessary GPA to be considered Cum Laude and over.

- ✦ **Alonso Caraballo, Yanaira** (3rd Yr.)
- ✦ **Batista Cartagena, Alex** (1st Yr.)
- ✦ **Colon Caraballo, Mariano** (4th Year)
- ✦ **Echevarria Andino, Martha** (3rd Yr.)
- ✦ **Jusino Cotto, Shirley** (1st Yr.)
- ✦ **Lopez Astacio, Robert** (2nd Yr.)
- ✦ **Otaño Rivera, Victor E.** (Adjunct Member, 1st Yr.)
- ✦ **Rivera Lugo, Rafael** (1st Yr.)
- ✦ **Santiago Santiago, Ismael** (1st Yr.)
- ✦ **Vargas Zapata, Valerie** (Adjunct Member, 1st Yr.)

Upcoming Trips & Activities:

1. FASEB: Experimental Biology

At the meeting, Program students Mariano Colon, John Alvarado, Robert Lopez, and Martha Echevarria will present posters demonstrating their research.

For more information about the convention please visit www.experimentalbiology.org.



- 2. "2do Simposio de Investigación subgraduada UPR-Mayaguez" on May 5, 2012 where RISE Program students' will orally present their research work.

UPR-PRISE

Dr. Edu B. Suarez, Program Director
Mr. José O. Albelo, Program Coordinator
787-844-8181, ext. 3085
rise.ponce@upr.edu

"The goals you propose for yourself in life will only come true and honored if you are persistent, and after that, just a bit more persistent."

- Anonymous