



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 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.

April – Early May Activities: Highlights

- Program students and Program Coordinator Mr. José Albelo traveled to and participated in the Experimental Biology 2012 (EB2012) Convention held in the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. The convention was sponsored by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).
- The PRISE Program congratulates the students who presented posters both at FASEB/EB2012 and at the American Physiology Society (APS) poster session meeting, which took place at the San Diego Convention Center at the same time as the FASEB Convention. Following are the students who attended:
 - **John K. Alvarado-Torres** – *"Depression and anxiety behaviors are influenced by sex and estrous cycle stage"*
 - **Mariano Colón-Caraballo** – *"Validation of Epigenetic Marks in Endometriosis"*
 - **Martha Echevarria-Andino** – *"Elucidation of CXCR4-CXCL12 mediated angiogenesis mechanism in endometriosis"*
 - **Robert A. Lopez-Astacio** – *"Isoflurane-induced impairments in rodents exposed to a novel object-recognition task"*



UPR-PRISE PROGRAM 2011-12
April 2012, San Diego California

- Dr. Sharilyn Almodovar from the University of Colorado, Denver, presented "Beyond College and Graduate School: Insights Into Biomedical Research" on May 3, 2012, in

the conference room (116) of the Biology Department. Students from the UPR-PRISE program and non-PRISE students participated.



- The PRISE Program participated in the 2nd Annual Undergraduate Students Research Symposium. Four of our students did oral presentations of their work at PSMHS. We congratulate them for their wonderful presentations; the students were
 - John Alvarado
 - Mariano Colón
 - Martha Echevarría
 - Robert Lopez



Upcoming Activities:

Tri-Beta National Convention 2012 between May 14 and 20, 2012 (held in San Juan, Puerto Rico), where three (3) PRISE program students will present; these students are John Alvarado, Mariano Colón, and Martha Echevarria.



SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR BIOLOGY STUDENTS; THE UPR PRISE PROGRAM WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNTIL JUNE 4, 2012. PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

UPR-PRISE

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"My scientific studies have afforded me great gratification; and I am convinced that it will not be long before the whole world acknowledges the results of my work."
- Gregor Mendel