



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.

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.
- 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 BS in biology and then pursue a PhD in biomedical sciences.
- Sponsor summer research internships at research-intensive institutions.
- Offer a standardized verbal test course (aimed at improving GRE verbal scores and conversational English abilities).
- Promote responsible conduct in research.
- Encourage community-based learning.

Summer 2014 PRISE Internships

Students from the UPR-PRISE Program participated in summer internship programs throughout the United States. We are glad to hear great news from their respective Principal Investigators, who were in charge of supervising these outstanding students. Students accomplished and in fact exceeded their (and our) expectations.

Following are the institutions to which our students traveled during the summer of 2014 and the research projects in which they took part:

Néstor Carrasco went to the University of Colorado in Denver for his summer research experience. His project was titled *Effects of Lung Carcinogens on PPARgamma Activity in A549 Cell Line*.

Paola Gómez visited Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, for her summer research experience. Her project was titled *Dynamic sensing of histone methylation through the status of methionine metabolism*.

Shirley Jusino traveled to the University of San Antonio at Texas’s Center of Excellence in Infection Genomics for her summer research experience. Her project was titled *Probable Contribution of Polymeric Immunoglobulin Receptor a in Chlamydia Muridarum Genital Infection*.

Roberto Morales journeyed to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (NY) for his summer research experience. His project was titled *Characterization of Dendritogenesis in Cortical Pyramidal Layer V Neurons in Niemann-Pick Type C Disease Using Yellow Fluorescent Protein*.

Carla Rodríguez went to the Sackler Institute (NYU) for her summer research experience. Her project was titled *Auditory Learning Down-Regulates Inhibitory Synaptic Function in the Sensory Striatum*.

Rafael Rivera trekked to the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) for his summer research experience. His project was titled *Mutational Analysis of a Putative Drug Resistance Transporter in the Human Parasite T. gondii*.

Michael Manoharan escaped to the University of Colorado in Denver for his summer research experience. His project was titled *HIV X4 Viruses as Potential Agents in the Pathophysiology of HIV-associated Pulmonary Hypertension*.

Francisco Gómez visited the University of Texas at San Antonio for his summer research experience. His project was titled *A novel mouse model to study chronic-progressive multiple sclerosis*.

Kevin Muñoz traveled to the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Center of Excellence in Infection Genomics for his summer research experience. His project was titled *Kinetic Mechanism of Lipidprotein nanodisc Dissociation in Bicelles*.

Valerie Vargas visited the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) for her summer research experience. Her project was titled *The role of TarA in regulating gene expression and physiological processes in Vibrio cholerae*.

Luis Rivera traveled to the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) for his summer research experience. His project was titled *Development of Intraspinial Serotonergic Neurons in Zebrafish*.

Cesar Torres journeyed to the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) for his Summer Research Experience. His project was titled *Admixture in Horse Breeds Illustrated from Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Data*.

Yessenia Cedeño went to the University of Illinois at Chicago for her summer research experience. Her project was titled *C. elegans hlh-3 mutant males have abnormal behavior in three specific mating related steps*,

Lysmarie Figueroa traveled to the Syracuse Biomaterials Institute (NY) for her summer research experience. Her project was titled *Screening of alcohol inducible transgenic poplar trees and quantification of Transgene Expression*.

Gemilly Rosado, adjunct member of the PRISE Program, undertook her summer research experience at Boston University. Her project was titled *Uncovering the genetic basis of mimetic adaptation North American admiral butterflies (Limenitis)*.

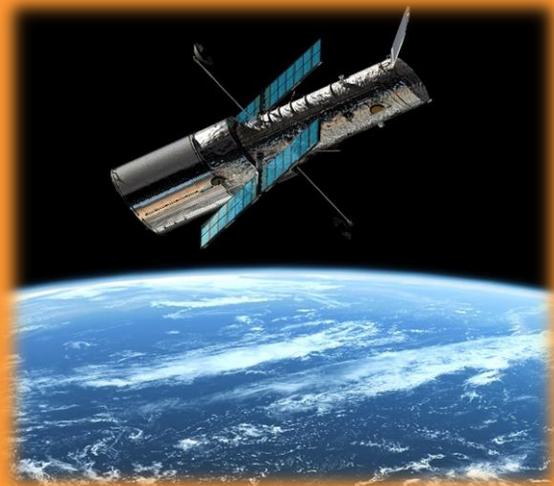
“Escuela de Verano” (Summer School). June, 2014

Students pursuing their H.S. Diplomas participated in workshops in the J2 Research Laboratory offered by UPR students

***Interviews were conducted, a NEW Regular Member was selected
Congratulations to Faviola Bernard for this new step in her Profession***

Summer 2014 Summer Research Presentations

UPR-PRISE will share their 2014 summer research experiences with their peers next Saturday, August 30, 2014.



***Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.
-Edwin Powell Hubble***

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