



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.
- 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 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 2015 will be a summer full of Research for our students participating in summer internships throughout the Nation. Below the Universities in which our students will be at this summer.



PRISE says Goodbye to all UPR-Ponce Biology students and PRISE Program who graduates this June, 2015... *It has been a long journey with success stories because the main character in your story it's you!*

Thanks for letting the PRISE family be a part of your development.

Best wishes to:

-Francisco Gomez (who has been accepted to University of Texas at San Antonio)

-Jamie Rosado (who has been accepted to San Juan Bautista Medical School)

-Victor E. Otaño (Former Adjunct member who has been accepted to an MD Program at Ponce Health Sciences University)

-Jailenne Quiñonez

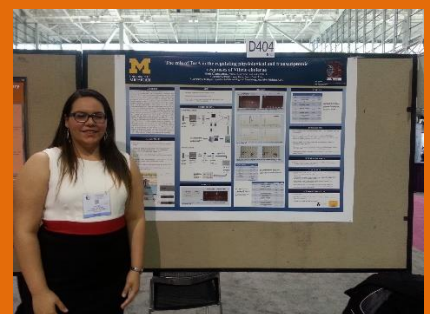
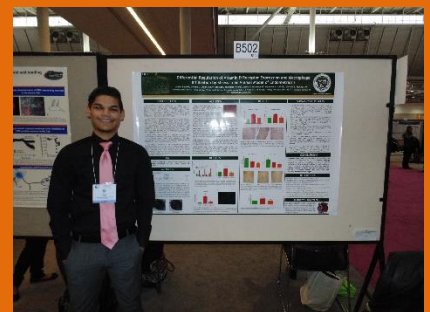
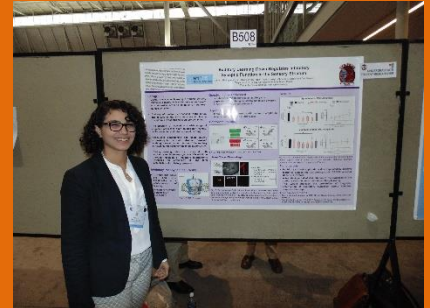


UPR-PRISE Students participated in the Experimental Biology Meeting at Boston, MA between March, 29 and April 1, 2015. Below are the Research topics presented by our students.

- **Shirley Jusino** - Drug-associated DNA Damage in HIV-1 Patients taking HAART (Poster Presentation)
- **Rafael Rivera**- Mutational Analysis of a Putative Drug Resistance Transporter in the Human Parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* (Poster Presentation)
- **Michael Manoharan** - HIV X4 Viruses as Potential Agents in the Pathophysiology of HIV-associated Pulmonary Hypertension (Poster Presentation)
- **Roberto Morales** - Characterization of Dendritogenesis in Cortical Pyramidal Layer V Neurons in Niemann-Pick Type C Disease Using Yellow Fluorescent Protein (Poster Presentation)
- **Jamie Rosado** - Analysis of PTEN and ARID1A expression in Endometriosis disease using RT-PCR assay (Poster Presentation)
- **Valerie Vargas** - The role of TarA in regulating gene expression and physiological processes in *Vibrio cholera* (Poster Presentation)
- **Jose Chamorro** - Morphine Withdrawal Reveals Sex Differences in Contextual Responses During Cued Fear Conditioning and Extinction
- **Carla Rodriguez** - Auditory Learning Down-Regulates Inhibitory Synaptic Function in the Sensory Striatum (Poster Presentation)
- **Cesar Torres** - Admixture in Horse Breeds Illustrated from Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Data (Poster)
- **Francisco Gomez** - A Novel Mouse Model to Study Chronic-Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (Oral and Poster Presentations)
- **Kevin Muñoz** - Kinetic Mechanism of Lipidprotein Nanodisc Dissociation in Bicelles (Poster Presentation)

Adjunct Member Presentation

- **Abdon Lopez** - Differential Regulation of Vitamin D Receptor Expression and Macrophage Infiltration by Stress in an Animal Model of Endometriosis (Poster Presentation)



Science at a Glance...Oceans and Earth's habitability

On 8 June, 2015 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrates World Oceans Day, a fitting occasion to remind ourselves of the essential role of the oceans in making Earth a habitable planet. We have had an official day of celebration for the oceans only since December 2008. In contrast, Earth Day has been celebrated every year since 1970. Conceived by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson in the aftermath of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, Earth Day became a focus for the growing environmental movement (it became an international event in 1990) and the catalyst that led to the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts in the United States. Imagine what might be accomplished if World Oceans Day could similarly inspire actions for improving the state of the oceans worldwide. to read more visit: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/348/6237/841.full>