

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, ISSUE #1 FEBRUARY 2012



## What is PRISE?

PRISE is the acronym for UPR "Ponce Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement". This program is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under the 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 with the collaboration of Prof. Grisobelle Virella-Corujo, Sponsored Research Officer and Chancellor's Assistant for External Resources and Development Office.

## What are the Program's Goals and Objectives?

UPR-PRISE will advance UPR Ponce Campus mission and goals for fostering competitive research, specifically in Biomedical Sciences. The contemplated research activities, will serve to build up outstanding intellectual and technical skills capacities for our students. It will create a pipeline of well-mind trained students that are expected to succeed by completing a BS in Biology and further pursue a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences. The specific aims of this project are oriented towards student development, including sponsorship for summer research internships at research-intensive institutions, offering a standardized verbal test course for improving GRE Verbal scores, conversational English novel practices and strategies, promoting responsible conduct in research, and community-based learning.

## Aug.–Dec. 2011 Semester Activities:

**Pre-entry workshops:** Students admitted to the program successfully completed a pre-entry workshop that provided them a perspective of what university life would be from there on and tools for successfully accomplishing their academic goals. Faculty from the departments of Biology (Prof. G. Rojas, Dr. I. Gonzalez), Chemistry and Physics (Dr. E. Mercado) and Social Sciences (Dr. M. Sepulveda, Dr. A. Torres, Dr. L. Sanchez) and the Library A. Coppin (Prof. D. Alvarado, Prof. N. Rodriguez) collaborated by offering the topics covered during the workshop. Some of the pre-entry topics include:

- Study Techniques and Strategies for Learning & Note Taking
- Scientific Method
- Time management
- Safety Practices in the Lab
- Chemistry in Action
- Library tour & Use of Databases

## Professional Development Activities

**-ABRCMS Convention on November 9-13, 2011 St. Louis, Missouri**



**-Puerto Rico Neuroscience Conference December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Old San Juan, PR**



## Upcoming Trips:

**-FASEB: Experimental Biology**



For more information of the convention please visit, [www.experimentalbiology.org](http://www.experimentalbiology.org)

## Other offerings and tools for ALL UPR-Ponce Students

- English communication and **Writing Editor** (Prof. R. Ritchie) providing support for students' written communication skills while improving students' competitiveness in their field of studies
- Complete orientation, support and resources for research summer internships and their requirements

## How to apply to the program?

- To get more information on how to apply for the program please visit our web page <http://prise.uprp.edu>

## Basic requirements

- GPA of 3.50
- Be enrolled to a Biology Major at UPRP
- Have 30 credits approved (except freshmen)
- Two (2) letters of recommendation
- Written Statement

You may become a formal or adjunct PRISE member



**GET MORE INFORMATION NOW!**  
VISIT: <http://prise.uprp.edu>

## UPR-PRISE

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