

Career Development: Training the Next Generation of Independent Cancer Researchers (ESIs and Postdocs)

Ana Patricia Ortiz, PhD, MPH
Principal Investigator
UPR/MDACC Partnership for Excellence
in Cancer Research



The Partnership supports the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC) in building research capacity by:

- Establishing collaborative partnerships in key research areas
- Promoting faculty development opportunities
- Providing access to research resources and grant support

Recruitment Strategies

- U54 cancer training pipeline
- *Bring Them Back* Seminar Series - Candidates invited to present their research.
- Leverage recruitment through established collaborations with other NIH programs

Experience Strategies

- Postdocs/ESIs paired with senior mentors on the U54 IAC and/or PSC Committee
 - Moon Chen, MPH, PhD
- Assistance with networking and establishing collaborations
- Partnership rotations
- Targeted workshops (e.g. sponsorship)
- Travel support for meetings
- Grant writing support and peer review process (INTEREST)

Engagement Strategies

- Experience Strategies +
- Annual tracking
- Social media interactions
- ESIs and postdocs serve as planning committee members, speakers, and judges
- Focused Triannual Feedback Meetings

Planning and Evaluation Core (PEC) Tracking Strategies

- Participates in the CPACHE Partnership's Survey Instrument Group (SIG)
- Maintains/updates REDCap tracking database
- Self-report via evaluations and Internet verification (e.g. PubMed, NIH Reporter)



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Postdocs

Recruited



Institution	Name	Research Interest
UPR/UPRCCC	Ingrid Montes, PhD	Genomics
	Jean Ruiz, PhD	Gastric Cancer
	Julyann Perez, PhD	Colorectal Cancer
	Jeyshka Reyes, PhD	Ovarian Cancer
	Marievelisse Soto, MS, DrPH	Health Disparities in Social Determinants of Health
	Maria del Mar Gonzalez, PhD	Microbiology in Cancer Genomics
UT Health Sciences & MDACC	Khaled Mohammed, PhD	Translational Cancer in Nanotechnology
	Chi-Fang Wu, PhD, MS	Health Services Research
	Karem Court, PhD	Ovarian Cancer
	Janice Santiago, PhD	Ovarian Cancer



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New

Faculty

Recruited



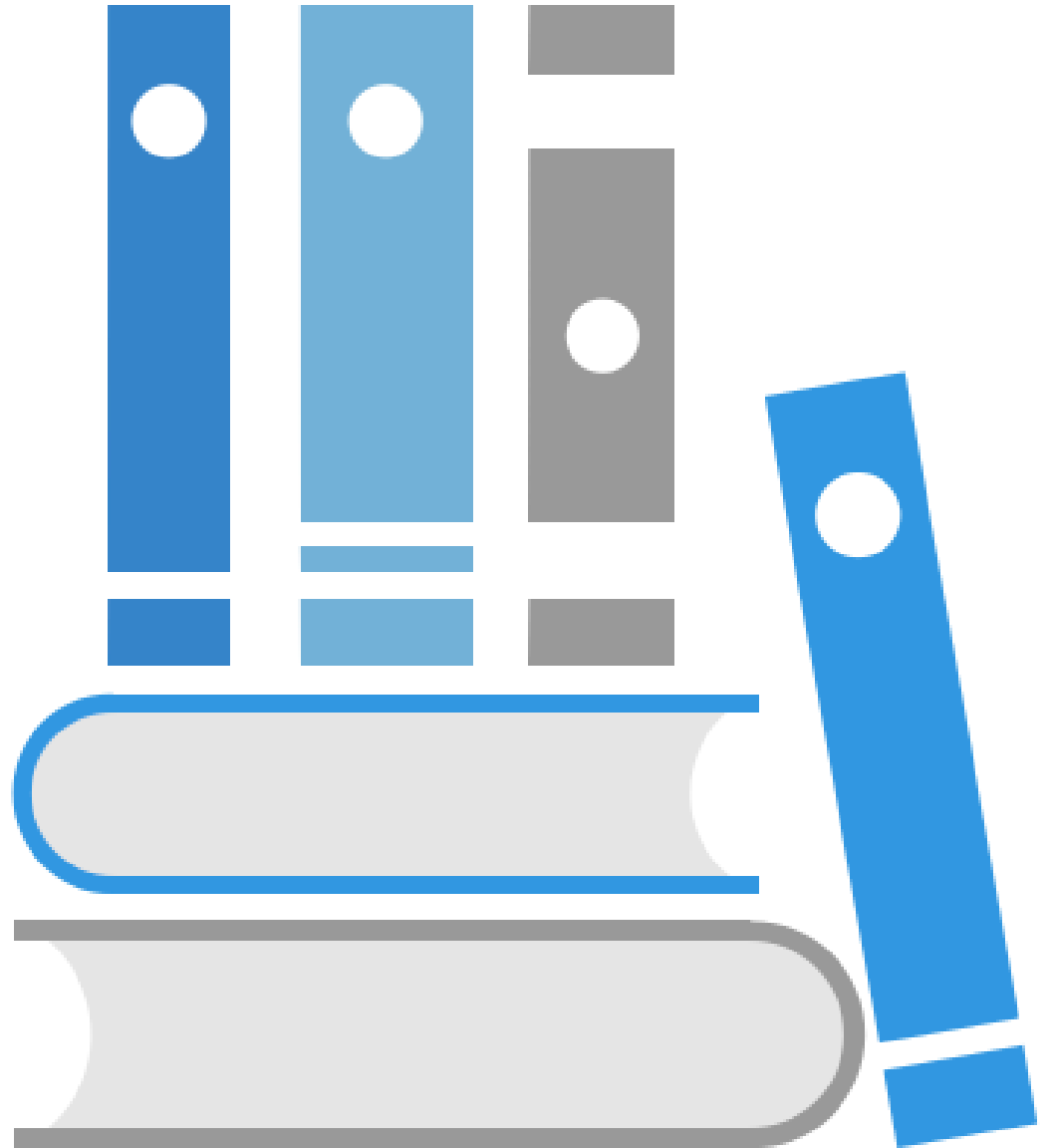
Institution	Name	Faculty Rank	Department
UPRCCC	Ingrid Montes, PhD	Research Scientist	Cancer Biology
	Maria del Mar Gonzalez, PhD	Assistant Investigator	Cancer Biology
	Josue Perez, PhD	Assistant Professor	Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
	Karen Ortiz, DrPH	Assistant Professor	Cancer Control & Population Sciences
	Marivelisse Soto, DrPH	Assistant Professor	Cancer Control & Population Sciences
MDACC	Janice Santiago	Instructor	Experimental Therapeutics

*Bolded text indicates recruitment from the U54 Partnership

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Publications cited

Yr. 2016 - Present



Post CPACHE



Maria del Mar Gonzalez-Pons, PhD
Assistant Investigator
UPRCCC

K22 - NIH

5K22CA226395

Principal Investigator

Host Genetic Susceptibility to Gut
Microbiota Driven Colorectal
Carcinogenesis

RCMI - NIH

Principal Investigator

Project: Interplay between gut bacteria
and metabolites in the development of
colorectal adenomas

Post CPACHE



Josue Perez Santiago, PhD
Assistant Professor
UPRCCC

R21-NIH

1R21CA264606

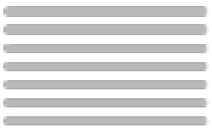
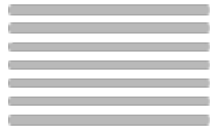
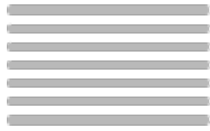
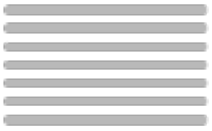
Principal Investigator

Cross Sectional Association of the Oral Microbiota and the Inflammasome with Oral HPV among HIV+ Adults

RCMI - NIH

Principal Investigator

The oral microbiome and its association with inflammation and cancer risk in HIV+ Adults



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Examples of
Success Stories
(transition to
independent
investigators)

Post CPACHE



Ana Patricia Ortiz, PhD
Professor
UPRCCC

1U54CA242646-01
2U54CA096297-17
1 R25 CA240120-01



Vivian Colon-Lopez, PhD
Professor
UPRCCC

1 R01 CA232743-01A1



William Calo, PhD, JD
Assistant Professor
Penn State University

1R37CA253279-01
1R01CA253279-01

Best Practices

- Team approach to mentorship
- Sponsorship
- Assistance with identifying funding mechanisms (grants, supplements, foundations)
- Funding for salaries
- Research projects
- Administrative and Diversity Supplements
- Feedback discussions on current and future needs

Challenges

- Lack of tenure track positions
- Academic workload
- Overextended mentors

Lessons Learned

- Need for protected time for research
- Respectful inquiry
- Research Match-Making
- Fostering belonging within the academic community