

National Institutes of Health & Puerto Rico

The National Institutes of Health (NIH)

is the nation's primary medical research agency, supporting research efforts in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"[E]l nuevo [Centros de Investigación en Instituciones Minoritarias (RCMI por sus siglas en inglés)] Programa se dedicará a desarrollar una infraestructura de vanguardia para conducir investigaciones de carácter colaborativo con respecto a enfermedades que afectan de manera desproporcionada la población puertorriqueña."

Emma Fernández-Repollet, PhD, Principal Investigator for the RCMI grant, University of Puerto Rico

BY THE NUMBERS: PUERTO RICO IN FY 2012*

\$51 Million: NIH funds awarded
(From FY 2003-12, NIH funding in Puerto Rico totaled **\$587 million**)

12: NIH-funded institutions

82: NIH grants awarded

* <http://report.nih.gov/award/>

IMPROVING PUERTO RICO'S HEALTH THROUGH NIH FUNDING

- University of Puerto Rico sites received NIH grants totaling \$40 million in FY 2012. Researchers at the University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras are working to develop cellular signaling pathways into biosensors. As many biological pathways are highly specific, such sensors could function as accurate and rapid detectors of viruses and biochemical molecules and would have both clinical and research applications.
- NIH also supports research at the Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences, which received \$5.3 million in FY 2012. Investigators found that morphine treatments increased genetic changes of an HIV-like virus in a macaque model, which accelerated disease progression to AIDS. This result has implications for the clinical care of HIV patients.



SELECTED NIH GRANTS IN PUERTO RICO FY 2003-12

Center/Network	Total Distributed	Center/Network	Total Distributed
Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities	\$25,113,521	Universidad Central del Caribe Biomedical Research Centers	\$23,712,815
Advancing Competitive Biomedical Research in Puerto Rico (INBRE)	\$29,676,571	Puerto Rico Clinical and Translational Research Consortium	\$33,870,627

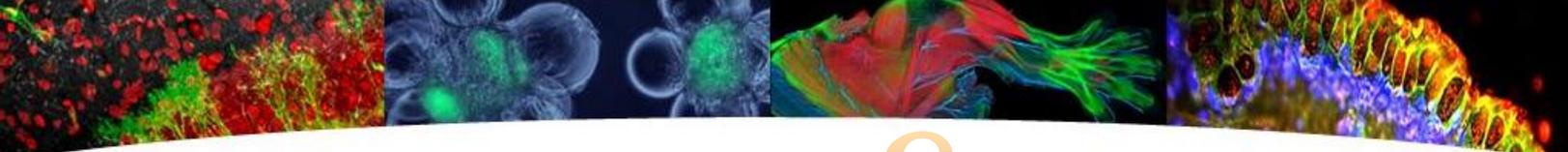
PUERTO RICO'S BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROFILE

- Puerto Rico is developing the Knowledge Corridor in San Juan. The initiative will connect current and future research laboratories, academic institutes, and bioscience companies.
- The 2012 Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) international symposium was held in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is home to three NIH-designated RCMI sites; only Texas has as many RCMI sites.



FASEB
Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Office of Public Affairs ♦ 9650 Rockville Pike ♦ Bethesda, MD 20814



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NIH's MISSION is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.

<http://www.nih.gov/about/mission.htm>

NIH invests **\$30.9 billion** in medical research to benefit the American people.

More than 80% of NIH funding is distributed through approximately 50,000 competitive grants to more than 300,000 researchers at more than **2,500 universities** and other institutions throughout the US.

INVESTMENT IN NIH RESEARCH BENEFITS THE PUERTO RICO ECONOMY

- Puerto Rico is home to 1,019 bioscience business establishments.¹ From FY 2004-09, venture capital firms invested \$31 million in Puerto Rico bioscience companies.³
- The University of Puerto Rico received 28 patents from 2001-09, more than three times the number it received in the prior decade. Currently, the university lists seven active licenses.⁴
- Puerto Rico residents held 41,230 bioscience industry jobs in 2010. In Puerto Rico, the 2010 average annual wage was \$49,331 for bioscience sector workers compared to the private sector average of \$24,813.¹



Translated from reverse side:

The new [NIH-funded RCMI] program will be devoted to develop a cutting edge infrastructure to conduct collaborative research on diseases that disproportionately affect the Puerto Rican population.

Emma Fernández-Repollet, PhD, Principal Investigator for the RCMI grant, University of Puerto Rico

NIH SPURS PUERTO RICO INNOVATION

- Puerto Rico received \$2.1 million in NIH grants in FY 2012 to train the next generation of innovative scientists.²
- From 2004-09, 35 bioscience-related patents were issued to individuals and entities in Puerto Rico, with surgical and medical instruments representing the largest category.³
- A total of 72 clinical trials were initiated at Puerto Rico institutes in 2009, with treatments for infectious diseases being the most common focus of these studies.³
- In 2008, 1,627 higher education degrees in the life sciences were conferred in Puerto Rico.³



¹ [Battelle/BIO 2012 State Bioscience Industry Development Report](#)
² [NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools \(RePORT\)](#)

³ [Battelle/BIO 2010 State Bioscience Initiatives Reports](#)
⁴ [UPR, Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization](#)

