



RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

FUNDS TO GROW

Introduction

As part of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (“The Trust”), the Research Grants Program is a structured, systematic, open and competitive funding mechanism to support the development of science and technology research projects in Puerto Rico.

The mission of the Research Grants Program is to provide proof-of-concept funding and incentives to advance locally developed R&D projects to become more competitive for federal and private funding and/or commercialization. The Research Grants Program represents a critical source of competitive financial support for fundamental research and commercialization activities that builds the knowledge economy, fuels innovation and empowers Puerto Rican scientists and entrepreneurs.

The funding initiatives of the Research Grants Program were developed to directly support basic research, applied research and product development through both competitive and non-competitive mechanisms. The Program launched its first competitive initiative in 2014, the Science and Technology Request for Proposals (now the Advanced Research Grant), with the aim of supporting the most innovative and relevant R&D projects on the island from researchers at academic, non-profit and for-profit institutions. In 2015, the Small Research Grants Program (now Catalyzer Research Grant) was launched with the goal of improving the likelihood of success of researchers in academic institutions and non-profit research entities to secure federal funding for their R&D activities. Finally, the SBIR/STTR Matching Fund Program for Phase I projects was implemented as a non-competitive mechanism to incentivize local technology-oriented small companies to compete for SBIR/STTR Phase I grants. Since 2019, the SBIR/STTR Matching Fund Program also includes Phase II projects.

Presently there are no other peer-reviewed funding mechanisms available to researchers in Puerto Rico that encompasses opportunities for junior, mid-level and senior researchers representing a broad range of disciplines. In total, since its inception, the Research Grants Program has awarded more than 85 research grants through its competitive and non-competitive initiatives for a total investment by The Trust of \$10.8 million with a return of investment of over \$21 million.

The Research Grants Program’s selection process is based on standard and recognized peer-review procedures utilized by federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. By strictly adhering to a comprehensive peer review process that assesses the scientific merit of grant applications in a fair, independent, expert-driven, and free from inappropriate influences, the Trust is able to identify and fund the most promising research or development work. The Research Grants Program is continuously optimizing its internal processes, such as grants administration and management, grantee evaluations and progress monitoring, internships, collaborations with other Trust initiatives, and its policies, among others.

Also, the Research Grants Program assists other Trust programs and initiatives with their Request for Proposals (RFPs).

The Research Grants Program is empowering scientists and researchers to take Puerto Rico’s knowledge economy to a higher level of excellence. Continued expansion and investment in the Research Grants Program is among the Trust’s highest priorities with the understanding that the outputs of a robust scientific community engaged in competitive research and development are critical to the creation of meaningful jobs and economic growth in Puerto Rico.



Strategic Sectors



Aerospace



Conservation Sciences



Agriculture



Electronics

Biotechnology and
Natural Sciences

Environmental Sciences

Clean Technologies and/or
Renewable EnergyInformation and
communication technologies

Clinical Trials



Medical Devices

Funding Mechanisms

- Advanced Research Grants (ARG)
- Catalyzer Research Grants (CRG)
- 1-to-1 matching funds for Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals



ADVANCED RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

The Advanced Research Grants (ARG) aims to advance the most innovative Research & Development (R&D) projects in Puerto Rico. The ARG is a solicited proposal mechanism to entice the science and technology community in Puerto Rico to submit proposals for funding consideration. As such, the goal of this RFP process is to provide proof-of concept funding to advance locally developed science and technology projects to a point where these will be able to be further developed through alternate sources of funding (e.g. federal R&D funding, angel and private investments, etc.) and/or commercialized (through licensing, sales, acquisitions, vertical venture integration or a combination of these). Awards are up to \$150,000/year.

Who is eligible:

- Startups
- Established companies
- Private and State Academic Institutions
- Other Non-Profit Research Institutions



CATALYZER RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

The Catalyzer Research Grant Program (CRG) aims to help local researchers increase their probabilities of success in securing federal funding for their research and development activities. In particular, the CRG will provide bridge funding to help researchers to position their R&D proposals competitively prior to the submission, or resubmission, to private or federal agencies. Awards are up to \$70,000/year. The CRG is open to researchers in public and private universities, colleges, and affiliated non-profit research institutions located in Puerto Rico. Ideal candidates fall into one of the following categories:

- Junior faculty (within their first five years of their faculty appointment) with a competitive publication record, seeking to secure their first grants.
- Principal Investigators (PIs) with a successful track record of securing funding in their primary research topic, but now embarking on a new research topic and seeking to secure a grant*
- PIs that applied for highly competitive federal funding*, that had their proposal favorably reviewed, but fell short of being funded. In this case, the PI should provide a copy of the evaluated proposal and the evaluations.

Currents Grantees

In September 2019, the Research Grants Program granted \$3.1M to 25 research projects in Puerto Rico.

The seismic activity at the beginning of the year 2020 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affected the progress of our grantees' projects. Even though the grantees have experienced many obstacles, they have shown resilience and progress.

During the first 6 month period, the grantees reported the following achievements:

Students Impacted

- **37** undergraduate students
- **32** graduate students

Thesis and Dissertations

The following grantees reported that thanks to the funding provided by the Research Grants Program, some of their students were able to complete their research projects. As a result, one (1) MS Thesis was completed and two (2) PhD dissertations were completed. In addition, there is an additional PhD dissertation in progress.

1 MS Thesis

PI - Dr. Idhaliz Flores

Name of student: Miguel X. Oyola MS

Thesis Title: Evaluation of potential immunomodulators as a non-hormonal treatment for endometriosis



3 PHD Dissertations

PI - Dr. Luis Medina:

Name of student: Cesar Serna.

Dissertation Title: Value distribution of elementary symmetric polynomials and their perturbations over finite fields

PI - Dr. Suranganie Dharmawardhane:

Name of student: Maria del Mar Maldonado, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Biochemical pharmacology of the metastatic cancer inhibitor MBQ-167

PI - Dr. Marco Menegozzo:

In progress: This work will constitute part of the PhD Thesis of the Graduate Student Orlando J. Flores Velez.

External Funding

From December 2019 through July 2020, the total amount of external funding that the grantees secured is **\$239,683**. It is important to note that obtaining preliminary data and securing additional funding is a lengthy process. Several grantees are awaiting response from federal agencies to which they have submitted proposals.



Publications

In a short period of time (approximately seven months), our grantees have published in the following peer reviewed journals:

ARG – 9

- Biomedicines
- PNAs (añadir reporte foto portada)
- Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences
- Experimental Biology and Medicine
- Cryptography and Communications
- Finite Fields Their Applications
- Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (3 manuscripts)

CRG – 4

- Proceeding of the Royal Society
- Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
- Plos One
- Ecology and Evolution



Ricardo Piza, profesor e investigador de la Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Río Piedras (rpiza@pru.edu)

La revista científica estadounidense Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS (<https://www.pnas.org/>)) desplegó en su portada el estudio sobre mariposas comandado por el doctor Ricardo Piza, profesor e investigador de la Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Río Piedras (<https://www.elnuevodia.com/topicos/recinto-de-rio-piedras-de-la-upr/>), titulado "Divergence of chemosensing during the early stages of speciation".



→ Cover image: Pictured is a postman butterfly (*Heliconius melpomene rosina*) perched on a leaf. Bas van Schooten, Jesyka Meléndez-Rosa, et al. uncovered sensory tissue gene-expression profiles in a pair of recently diverged butterfly species, *H. melpomene rosina* and *Heliconius cydno chioneus*, and identified candidate genes involved in chemical signal recognition, which were not physically linked to wing-color pattern genes. The results suggest that genes associated with chemical perception and vision evolved independently in *Heliconius* butterflies, with implications for the role of chemosensing in speciation. Image credit: Luca Livraghi (University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom).

Conferences, Abstracts, Proceedings and/or Presentations

During the reporting period, the grantees participated in a variety of activities in which they showcase their research projects and significant results. For the ARG, 30 activities were reported and 14 for the CRG. Among them:

ARG

- International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) First Latin America Congress, Viña del Mar Chile, Sept 11-14 2019
- AACR The Microbiome, Viruses, and Cancer, February 21 - 24, 2020, Hyatt Regency Orlando
- International Papillomavirus Congress, (IPVC 2020). Barcelona, Spain
- 40th Annual Research and Education Forum, San Juan, PR January 17 2020
- 2020 ASCCP Oral Presentations, Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease
- Proceedings of the AACR Special Conference on the Microbiome, Viruses, and Cancer; 2020 Feb 21-24; Orlando, FL. Philadelphia
- PRADOS won the First TOP Prize Cash Award for the category "Creating Resilient People and Places." from the US Census program The Opportunity Project.
- Case Study published by the U.S. Census as one of the positive experiences of the Opportunity Project. US Census June 2020
- RCMI (Research Centers in Minority Institutions) bi-annual meeting in Washington DC.
- San Antonio Breast Cancer Meeting-December 2019
- Puerto Rico Coastal Hazards Symposium (invited speaker), December 2019, San Juan, PR
- 104th Annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologist (AAI) May 8-12, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Immunobiology Gordon Research Conference, Barcelona, Spain, June 2020
- American Mathematical Society Fall Southeastern Sectional Meeting, Gainesville, FL. November 2019.
- Puerto Rico Honey Bees and Evolution of Invasive Organisms on Islands. August 13-15, 2019, San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA

Dr. Idhaliz Flores (ARG Grantee) Poster presentation: Validation of Putative Endometriosis Antigens in an in-vitro model Miguel X. Oyola, Dianisse Rodriguez, Ignacio Pino, Idhaliz Flores Ponce Health Sciences University Scientific Conference, May 2019





Dr. Filipa Godoy (ARG Grantee) Learning from ecology: Our microbial selves, UPR School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, Amphitheater B103, UPR Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, PR, February 7, 2020

CRG

- American Association for Cancer Research Annual meeting, June 2020, Virtual Conference.
- Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. St. Louis, MO, November, 2019
- 2020 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Jan. 2020, Austin, TX
- NIH sponsored Stem Cells in Cancer advanced training course Morehouse University, Atlanta, GA USA
- 4th P.R Cancer conference in Ponce, Ponce, P.R.
- Neurobiology Symposium. University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras. November 7, 2019
- NASA HBCU/MSI Technology Infusion Road Tour - Instituto de Aeronáutica y Aeroespacial de Puerto Rico (IAAPR) , Aguadilla - Thursday, November 14, 2019

Dr. Nawal Boukli (CRG grantee) from Universidad Central del Caribe participating at the NIH sponsored Stem Cells in Cancer advanced training course Morehouse University, Atlanta, GA USA



Collaborations ARG

(collaborations with other local researchers and universities)

- 36
- NIH
- Smithsonian Research Institute - Panamá
- US Postal Service
- US Census
- Federal Geographic Data Committee
- Oakridge National Laboratory
- Moffitt Cancer Center
- Department of Energy
- Thomas Jefferson University
- Paul Spring Harbor Lab
- USDA
- John Hopkins University – Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Naval PostGraduate School
- Avara Pharmaceuticals
- UC San Diego
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Puerto Rico Address Data Working Group
- Ana G Méndez - Filipa



Collaborations CRG

● 32

- Regina University, Canada
- University Paul Sabatier, France
- Saviors University of Louisiana
- SUNY Upstate Medical University
- USDA
- Northeastern University
- Smithsonian Research Institute - Panamá
- Mississippi State University
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Boeing Company
- W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation, University of Texas at El Paso
- University of New Mexico
- Texas A&M University
- Universidad Politécnica
- UPR other campuses



TV Appearances & Scientific Communication

The Research Grants Program coordinated interviews with Noticentro al Amanecer (WAPA). This is an effort to promote scientific communication. This participation allowed some of the grantees to present their research project and other interests in a simple language to the general public.

- 11/7/2019 - Ciencia y Meteorología: Seguridad en las playas y surfing (Dr. Miguel Canals)
- 11/29/2019 - Ciencia y Meteorología: Investigación con mariposas (Dr. Riccardo Papa)
- 12/16/2019 - Ciencia y Meteorología: Deslizamiento de terreno después de María (Dr. Stephen Hughes)
- 12/19/2019 - Ciencia y Meteorología: Problema de infraestructura de direcciones (Raúl Ríos)
- 12/20/2019 - Ciencia y Meteorología: Nuevas terapias contra el VIH (Dr. Marvin Bayro)





22nd Annual Conference “Leading Changes: Maximizing Research Administration.”

On September 27, 2019, the Sociedad de Administradores de Investigación, Inc. (SAI), the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Society of Research Administrators International (SRAi), held its 22nd Annual Conference, “Leading Changes: Maximizing Research Administration”. This is the main event in the island that offers continuing education to those that oversee and execute the pre-award and post-award processes in their respective organizations.

Grace Rendón, Research Grants Program Specialist had the opportunity to present the Research Grants Program initiatives and outcomes. Also, during the event Ms. Rendón connected with pre-award and post-award representatives of other research institutions of which the Program has grantees.



The Trust sponsored 20 Scholarships to allow Research Administrators to enroll in the conference and participate in the continuing education activities.

Meet the Trust

The Research Grants Program led the “Meet the Trust Event” held in September 2019. The goal of the event was to connect researchers, entrepreneurs and students from the University of Mayagüez Campus (RUM), and the western area, with the programs of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust.

Andreica Maldonado (Grants Program Director) providing orientation during the informative event.





Collaboration with Florida International University

On November 6th, 2019, Andreica Maldonado, Research Grants Program Director, participated in 'The Role of Water' in Washington, D.C. The event included a curated mix of national researchers, key federal and state agency partners, associations and foundations, and representatives from Florida and other critical regions. Participants explored opportunities for federal, state, local, corporate and university collaboration on solutions and technologies relating to water quality, water resilience, and long-term restoration efforts. During the event Ms. Maldonado connected with other researchers to explore possibilities of collaboration between FIU and The Trust. Since FIU has hosted so many Puerto Rican researchers and students at the university, especially after Hurricane María, it would be excellent if together we could create a preparedness plan for students and researchers in the event of a disaster. An initiative in the Grants Program pipeline is to create an asset mapping tool to see where the researchers are, what type of equipment they have and with which external academic institutions they have relations. We also want to create a preparedness plan that will include how to protect samples, research continuity, who are our allies, among other things, in order to better serve the research community.



Andreica Maldonado (Research Grants Program Director) in a roundtable discussion at the 'The Role of Water' event.

Puerto Rico Honey Bee and Evolution of Invasive Organisms on Islands (August 13 – 15, 2019)

Between August 13 and August 15, 2019, Dr. Tugrul Giral, a grantee, led the "Puerto Rico Honey Bee and Evolution of Invasive Organisms on Islands" conference. This event was sponsored by The Trust.

Honey bees play a key role as pollinators in agricultural systems worldwide and are under threat by human activities. The aim of this three day conference was to examine the Puerto Rico Gentle Africanized honey bee, through the lens of invasion biology and island biogeography. Participants gave presentations on the first day of the conference. On the second day, attendees visited several apiaries on the Island. For the third day, attendees formed breakout groups for round table discussions leading to a strategic plan on research directions, resources, and policy advice on honey bees and other invasive organisms on island



Participants of the Puerto Rico Honey Bees and Evolution of Invasive Organisms on Islands conference included researchers, students, beekeepers and agronomists from various countries, states, and institutions. Their aim was to identify new directions in research and honey bee management, and to determine a strategy for the development of a certification process for the export of the Honey Bee of Puerto Rico.

Sara ElShafie: Science through Story: Engaging Broad Audiences

On November 1, 2019, the Research Grants Team facilitated “Science through Story: Engaging Broad Audiences,” a communication conference presented by Sara ElShafie from the University of California, Berkeley. ElShafie is an expert in science communication and storytelling techniques. Her work seeks to enable a general and diverse public to understand scientific and complex issues. Her visit was sponsored by the Centro de Apoyo a la Innovación y Comercialización (upr i+c).



Sara ElShafie: Science through Story: Engaging Broad Audiences. Innovation Center, Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust. November 1, 2019



Support to other Trust Programs

The Research Grants Program uses Zengine, a managing platform from the WizeHive company. This platform allows us to manage the grants cycle in a centralized way. It is a robust tool that gives access to a customizable dashboard that shows research trends, demographics, and reports.

Using this tool, Grace Rendón, Grants Program Specialist assisted other Trust programs and initiatives with their Request for Proposals (RFPs) by creating their application and review portals:

- Resiliency and Business Innovation (RBI) Project - Request for Proposals for Research Projects, January 2020
- Puerto Rico Public Health Trust (PRPHT) - Request for Proposals for Public Health Research, January 2020
- SBIR/STTR Evaluation Form - In progress

Each application portal was developed according to the requirements of each program. This includes brainstorming sessions with the different teams. The Grants Team assisted them with the timelines and the revision and selection process.

2020 Advanced and Catalyzer Grants Call

On March 18, 2020, the Letter of Intent (LOI) Phase for the Advanced Research Grant and Catalyzer Research Grant began. As part of the outreach efforts, the Research Grants Team conducted info sessions at various universities across the Island:

- Universidad Central del Caribe: March 05, 2020.
- University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras: March 09, 2020.
- Ponce Health Science University: March 12, 2020.
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus: March 13, 2020.
- University of Puerto Rico, Utuado campus: March 17, 2020.

LOI Phase

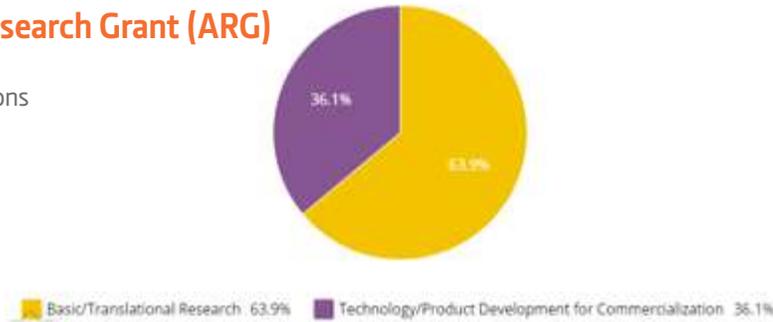
During the LOI phase, the Grants Program received 97 LOIs for the Advanced Research Grant and 33 for the Catalyzer Research Grant





Advanced Research Grant (ARG)

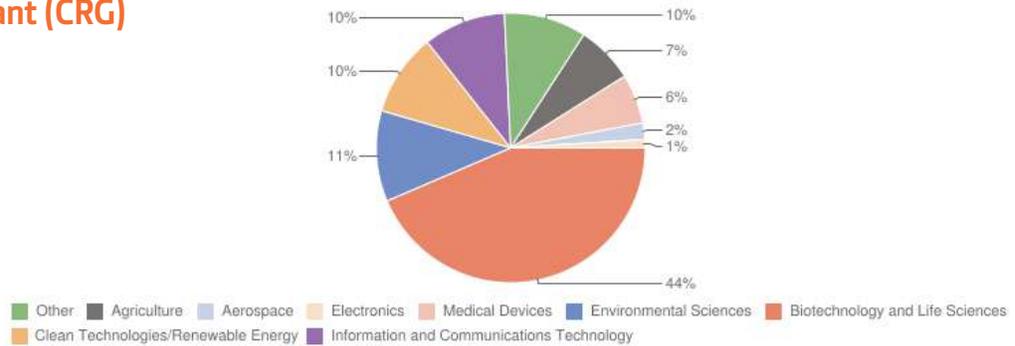
Type of Applications



Catalyzer Research Grant (CRG)

Type of Applications

Strategic Sectors



The Research Grants Team paused the current call efforts due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Although the initial evaluation of the LOIs was completed and the reviewer selection process is in progress, we had to focus our efforts in developing a mechanism to fund research projects to help mitigate the current public health emergency.



In March 2020, the Trust’s Research Grants Program issued the COVID19 RAPID Grant. At the beginning of the year, the World Health Organization declared a worldwide public health emergency in response to the 2019 novel COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the COVID19 RAPID grant aimed to support projects that will improve our understanding and available control measures for COVID-19.

The Trust’s RAPID funding mechanism is used for proposals having a severe urgency with regard to the availability of, or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, including quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

The COVID-19 RAPID grant was open to researchers in public and private universities, colleges, and affiliated non-profit research institutions located in Puerto Rico. Startups and established companies based in Puerto Rico are also invited to apply.

To be eligible for funding, projects were presented in one of the following strategic activities:

- Pathogenesis of the disease
- Epidemiology
- Clinical Research
- Pharmacology
- Mental health and Social Sciences
- Cyberinfrastructure and solutions
- Research & Development



The request for proposals opened on March 31, 2020 and closed on April 7, 2020. The **COVID19 RAPID** grant was open to researchers in public and private universities, colleges, and affiliated non-profit research institutions located in Puerto Rico. Startups and established companies based in Puerto Rico were also invited to apply.

For this call, the Research Grants Program received 80 full applications in one week. All applications were checked for completeness and responsiveness by the grants team. After the first screening, 20 applications were disqualified and 60 were assigned for review. Internal and external qualified reviewers, based on scientific and technical qualifications, were recruited. The grants team assigned two reviewers per proposal. The goal of peer review is to assess the scientific merit of Trust grant applications in a fair, independent, expert-driven, and free from inappropriate influences, so the Trust can fund the most promising research or development work.

According to the COVID19 RAPID Grant guidelines, proposals were scored individually by approach and technical merit, significance, investigator(s), environment, and budget justification. The Research Grants Program's selection process is based on standard and recognized peer-review procedures utilized by federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The Research Grants Program is empowering scientists and researchers to take Puerto Rico's knowledge economy to a higher level of excellence. Continued expansion and investment in the Research Grants Program is among the Trust's highest priorities with the understanding that the outputs of a robust scientific community engaged in competitive research and development are critical not only to the creation of meaningful jobs and economic growth in Puerto Rico, but to the mitigation of the COVID19.



CIENCIAS **Científicos boricuas ingenian antídotos contra el COVID-19**

Investigadores de todo el país están inmersos en distintos proyectos relacionados con este virus en busca de tratamientos.

Este artículo está contenido en publicación más de \$2.144.



El telescopio para Ciencia e Investigador de Puerto Rico acerca a la vista relacionados con el COVID-19. (Santibañez)

Desde que se descubrió el COVID-19 (<https://www.elnuevodia.com/topicos/coronavirus/>) en China, en diciembre pasado, cientos de investigadores en el mundo -incluyendo a puertorriqueños en la isla y el exterior- han tratado de descifrar el virus que causa la enfermedad en busca de tratamientos.



NOTICIAS

Cuatro investigadores de la UPR reciben sendas subvenciones para innovadores proyectos para combatir al COVID-19



Los investigadores de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR) han sido seleccionados por el Fondo de Incentivos de la Fundación de la Universidad de Puerto Rico para recibir subvenciones para innovadores proyectos de investigación para combatir al COVID-19.

Los investigadores seleccionados para recibir estas subvenciones de la UPR son: Dr. José María Rivera-Rodriguez, Dr. Mariana Rivera-Rodriguez, Dr. Pamela Cruz López y Dr. Mariana Rivera-Rodriguez.

El Fondo de Incentivos de la UPR es un programa de apoyo a la investigación científica y tecnológica que busca promover el desarrollo científico y tecnológico de la isla y el exterior.

Para más información sobre el Fondo de Incentivos de la UPR, visite el sitio web: www.fondo.incentivos.upr.edu

Este artículo está en español. Para obtener más información sobre este artículo, visite el sitio web: www.fondo.incentivos.upr.edu

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In April 2020, the Government of Puerto Rico approved an appropriation of \$1,714,000 to the University of Puerto Rico to finance research and development projects related to COVID-19 at the Medical Sciences Campus and other campuses of the institution. This initiative allows professors and researchers at the University of Puerto Rico to develop research projects to address and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. This funding represents an opportunity for the development of projects by professors and researchers of the first teaching center in Puerto Rico. Projects may be subsidized in amounts ranging from \$125,000 to \$175,000. The recommendation for funding will be based on research experience, scientific merit and programmatic objectives that support quality research in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to evaluate the proposals, the University of Puerto Rico partnered with the Trust and its Research Grants Program to conduct a peer review process. After the UPR developed the Request for Proposals (RFP) and evaluated the guidelines, the Trust's Marketing and Communications Team developed a [microsite](#) for this initiative that included important dates, guidelines, memorandum of call for proposals, and access to the application portal.

The application opened on May 4, 2020 and closed on May 11, 2020. The Grants Team pre-screened the applications and identified potential reviewers. A total of 38 proposals were received and evaluated by two subject matter experts.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, numerous potential reviewers were unavailable, due to research and review commitments related to the COVID-19 at their institutions. A total of 183 invitations were sent in order to comply with the 76 proposal revisions. The Trust offered an honorarium to the reviewers of \$150 per proposal for a total of \$11,400.

A total of 56 reviewers from the following countries participated in the process:

1. United States
2. Canada
3. Colombia
4. Spain
5. Finland
6. India
7. Italy
8. New Zealand
9. South Africa
10. Saudi Arabia
11. United Kingdom



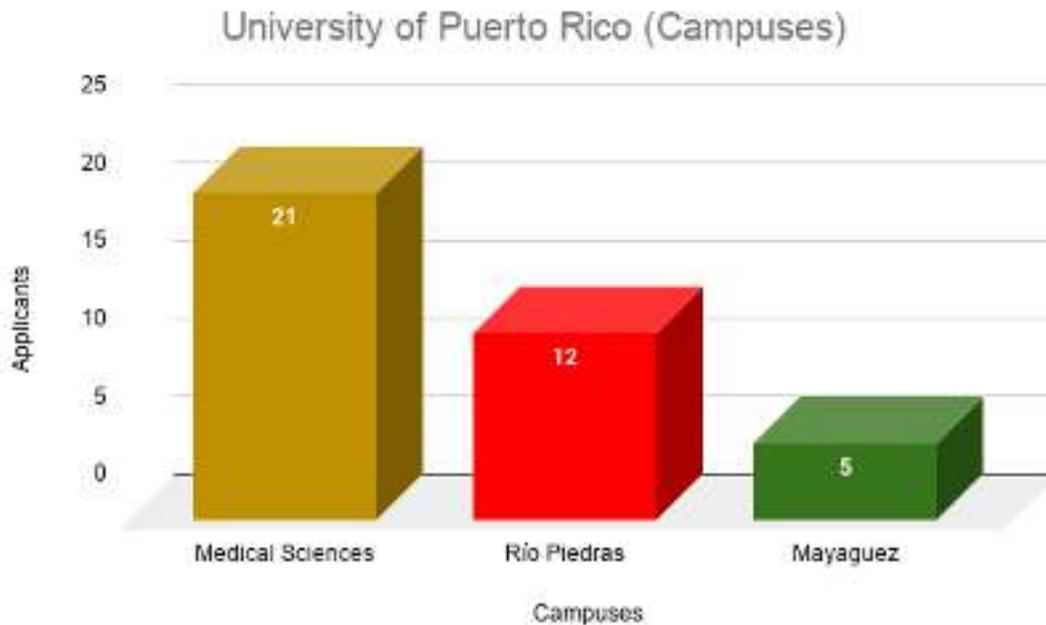
The research institutions involved in the process were:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Stanford University
- University of Oxford, England
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech)
- University of Connecticut
- George Washington University
- University of Edinburgh
- NIH - National Cancer Institute
- Valdosta State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Montana State University
- University of North Texas
- Louisiana State University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Fundación Cardiovascular de Colombia
- Board of Governors Federal Reserve
- University of Kentucky
- University of Toronto
- University of Florida
- University of Canterbury, New Zealand
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia
- University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy
- Monmouth University
- Wayne State University
- Istituti Clinici Scientifici Maugeri IRCCS, Italy
- University Hospital Germans Trias, Spain
- Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, Colombia
- Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla, Spain
- Universidad Industrial de Santander, Spain
- CiaoLapo Foundation, Italy
- Kazi Nazrul University, India
- Adamas University, India
- University of Valencia
- Center for Biomedical Research of La Rioja (CIBIR), Spain
- Long Island University-Brooklyn
- Georgia Southern University
- University of Wisconsin - School of Medicine & Public Health
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- Hospital Internacional de Colombia
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of California, Merced



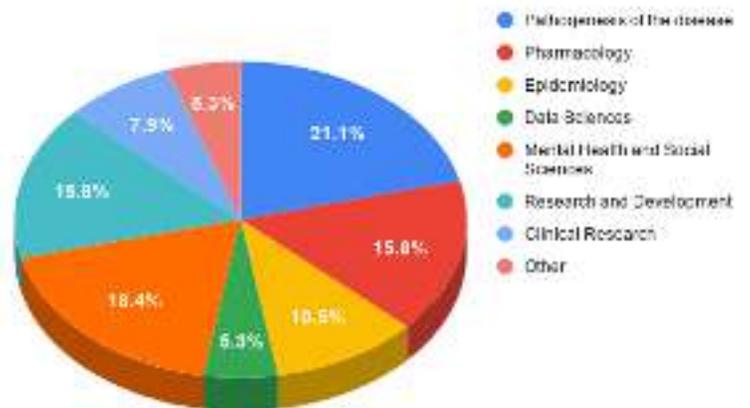
University of Puerto Rico campuses

Of the 38 proposals, 21 were from the Medical Sciences campus, 12 from the Río Piedras campus and 5 from the Mayaguez campus.



Strategic Areas

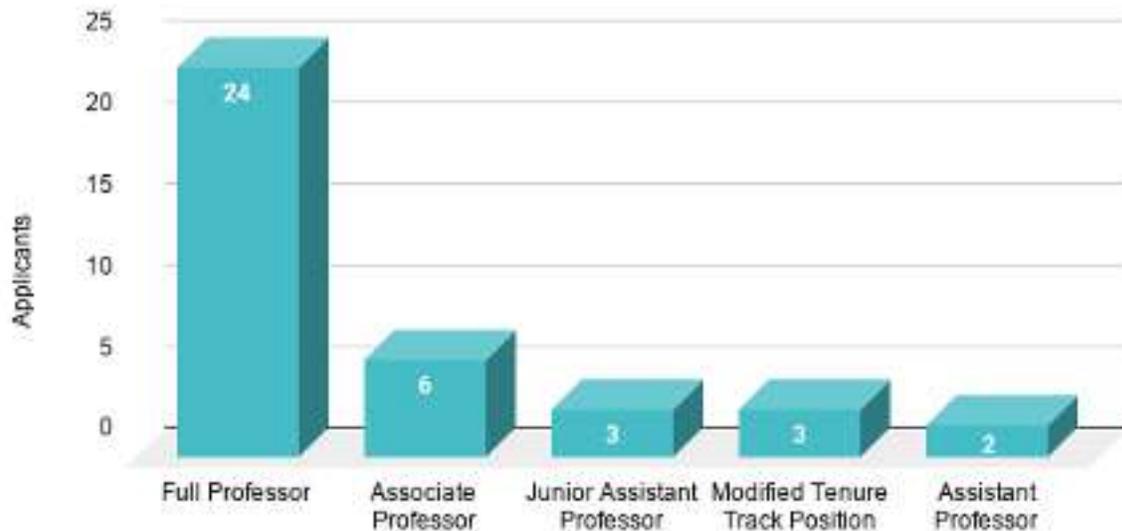
- Clinical Research - 3
- Data Sciences - 2
- Epidemiology - 4
- Mental health and Social Sciences - 7
- Pathogenesis of the Disease - 8
- Pharmacology - 6
- Research & Development - 6
- Other - 2



Faculty Title

In order to be eligible for the grant, the applicant must fall under one of the following categories: Full Professor, Associate Professor, Junior Assistant Professor (within 5 years of appointment), Modified Tenure Track Position (under contract) and Assistant Professor (less than 5 years of appointment). The majority of the applicants were Full Professors (see chart below).

Faculty Title



Próximos HORA

La UPR busca detener el COVID-19 con estas 10 investigaciones

Un comité inter-institucional por investigadores locales recibió 38 propuestas y entre ellas se eligieron para otorgarles a cada una fondos acordados a \$25,000

Por Juan Carlos Magón
12 de agosto de 2020 | 11:45pm

¿Cuál es la secuencia genética del coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 en Puerto Rico? ¿Desde dónde se llegó? ¿Tiene alguna relación con la gravedad de la enfermedad en el País? ¿Existirá algún medicamento aprobado que sirva como tratamiento contra el COVID-19? <https://www.prnewsonline.com/hora/comunicacion/>? ¿Cuál es la prevalencia de la enfermedad en la isla? ¿Los anticuerpos realmente neutralizan al virus? ¿Cuáles serán las consecuencias a largo plazo en los sobrevivientes?

Investigadores de la UPR laborarán en 10 proyectos relacionados al COVID-19

Los proyectos de investigación fueron elegidos entre un total de 38 que fueron sometidos

En el proceso de evaluación participaron más de 30 investigadores miembros de Centros de Estudios de la UPR de Río Piedras, Mayagüez, San Juan

Profesores de los recintos de Río Piedras, Mayagüez y Ciencias Médicas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (<https://www.elnuevodia.com/toquios/upr/>) (UPR) liderarán 10 investigaciones que ayudarán en la lucha contra la pandemia provocada por el coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (<https://www.elnuevodia.com/toquios/coronavirus/>), informó la institución universitaria.

Jorge Haddock (<https://www.elnuevodia.com/toquios/jorge-haddock/>), presidente de la UPR, indicó que el gobierno de Puerto Rico otorgó \$1.7 millones para financiar los proyectos seleccionados.



Future Plans

- The Research Grants Program will continue providing support to its grantees and the scientific community in the island.
- By the end of the year the Research Grants Program expects to announce the new grantees for the Advanced and Catalyzer Research Grants.
- Currently, the Grants Team along with the Technology Transfer Office is working with the deployment of Symplectic, a digital platform that will allow the measurement of scientific activity on the island. The platform is expected to go live in February 2021. Outreach activities will take place in order to inform the universities and the research community about the tool.
- The Program will continue providing support with the SBIR/STTR efforts.
- The Program will launch a new blog called “En Rice and Beans” to promote scientific communication and showcase the grantees.
- The Program will explore new funding mechanisms in order to continue supporting the local scientific community.



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Events

2019-09 Grants Announcement





2019-09 Grants Announcement





2020-06 Rapid Grant Virtual Recognition

