Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

2025-2026
Annual Report



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Puerto Rico is a globally recognized innovation hub.

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Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust

Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust

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CREDITS:

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The Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust, established in 2004 under Act 214-2004, as amended, as an autonomous entity, stimulates innovation, technology commercialization and the creation of high-technology jobs in Puerto Rico's targeted industry sectors such as: Life Sciences, Alternative Energy, Environmental & Agricultural Sciences, Computer Science & Information Technologies, Medical Devices, and Aerospace & Aeronautics, among others.

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LETTER TO STAKEHOLDERS



Luz A. Crespo Valentín
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Stakeholders,

This year, the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust demonstrated the power of aligning talent, purpose, and partnership. Across research, entrepreneurship, public health, and STEM education and workforce development, we translated investment into measurable progress and advanced our vision of Puerto Rico as a globally recognized innovation hub. In 2026, that progress earned national recognition.

In March 2026, our Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) received Research!America's 2026 Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. The Trust also received Esri's 2025 Special Achievement in GIS Award, recognizing the Trust's groundbreaking use of geospatial technology to monitor, prevent, and respond to dengue. Our entrepreneurship pillar reached equally important milestones: on August 2026, parallel18 was ranked No. 21 among TIME, Statista's 80 America's Best Incubators & Accelerators of 2026—the only organization from Puerto Rico included—and the eighth Boricua Emprende Fest convened 2,275 participants at the Puerto Rico Convention Center on September 4, 2026.

Together, these distinctions affirm the caliber of our teams, the strength of our partnerships, and Puerto Rico's growing influence across science, technology, public health, and entrepreneurship.

During FY 2025–2026, the Trust strengthened its brand as Puerto Rico's leading catalyst for science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, STEM education/workforce development, and public health. An integrated communications ecosystem translated complex work into accessible, compelling stories and delivered measurable reach across earned media, digital platforms, CRM, events, and multimedia.

The organization secured 1,039 media placements, $2.97 million in non-paid publicity value, and 6.38 million earned impressions, while its program channels generated 27.4 million social impressions, 631,700 engagements, and 4.4 million video views. Website visits reached 203,314, marketing databases grew to 121,234 contacts, and 1,463 content pieces and 469 videos broadened public understanding. These results, reinforced by an Emmy® Award, position the Trust as a trusted, visible, and influential voice, strengthening stakeholder confidence and advancing Puerto Rico's knowledge economy through consistent, mission-driven communication. They also demonstrate our capacity to unite diverse audiences around opportunities that turn research, ideas, and partnerships into islandwide impact.



Advancing Research. Accelerating Innovation.

The Research Grants Program strengthened Puerto Rico's scientific competitiveness by supporting 189 grantees, awarding nearly $19.8 million, and helping generate more than $70.8 million in return on funding. In 2025–2026, 34 new grantees joined the program, while active researchers engaged 51 undergraduate and graduate students, secured over $1.19 million in external funding, and published six peer-reviewed articles. A $9.5 million government allocation expanded supported grants from 13 to 46. Rigorous international review resulted in 11 Advanced Research Grants totaling approximately $1.65 million and 16 Catalyzer grants exceeding $1.11 million.

The Space Edition created a pathway to International Space Station research. Beacon now connects 402 researchers across 13 institutions, while 72 Act 60 applications could unlock about $1.06 million in tax relief. Together, these achievements expand research capacity, collaboration, talent development, and Puerto Rico's global visibility, positioning the island to lead in science, innovation, and economic growth while strengthening its knowledge economy for generations to come.

In FY 2025-2026, the Technology Transfer Office strengthened Puerto Rico's innovation ecosystem by evaluating 30 invention disclosures, managing 161 active technologies, filing 27 patent applications, securing three patents, and maintaining 15 licenses and options.



Its fifth EnTRUST cohort trained 11 university research teams, awarding $375,000 to five projects. TTO established the Trust's first intellectual property portfolio, including its first international patent application and two provisional applications. It improved federal invention compliance across three University of Puerto Rico campuses and licensed the Stream Sampling Kit to CIS International.

Global outreach showcased 77 technologies, generated 45 industry introductions and 46 responses across 13 countries, while AI-enabled prospecting engaged more than 100 partners. At BIO International Convention 2026, TTO evaluated 43 assets, identified 342 matching companies, and held 16 partnering meetings. Additional achievements included launching PR Patent Watch, promoting women inventors, advancing technologies, and supporting the $556,898 PRBio Tech Hub's biomanufacturing and workforce initiatives.

Advancing Research. Accelerating Innovation.

The Center for Tropical Biodiversity (CTB) advanced Puerto Rico's leadership in biodiversity-driven innovation, securing $481,680 for year two of its DTRA grant, depositing 118 compounds, identifying 104 new human protein targets, and filing two patent applications. Using the HuProt™ Human Proteome Microarray, CTB validated a pioneering workflow to map protein targets of erianin, strengthening proteome-wide natural products discovery. The team also identified 37 nanoparticle-binding proteins, opening opportunities in drug delivery, vaccine development, and nanomedicine.

These breakthroughs supported a full patent application for the Protein Array Target Search method and a provisional patent for nanoparticle-protein binding discovery, expanding Puerto Rico's intellectual property portfolio. CTB trained students from Puerto Rico and the continental United States in natural products, microbial ecology, computational analysis, and mass spectrometry. Its amphibian microbiome research advanced understanding of fungal resistance and bioactive compounds, while participation in the BIO International Conference expanded partnerships and positioned Puerto Rico's biodiversity as a strategic scientific and economic asset with global relevance.

During FY 2025–2026, the Research Institute strengthened Puerto Rico's biosciences capacity by consolidating the Island's first shared-use scientific core laboratories through an agreement with the Department of Health. The facility now integrates biorepository, sequencing, molecular analysis, imaging, spectral flow cytometry, and bioinformatics services. The Institute secured a $1.3 million role in a $35 million National Institute on Aging program, extending pathogen-surveillance infrastructure into aging research. Since 2021, it has delivered approximately 300 surveillance reports, processed more than 34,000 samples, and deposited 18,766 SARS-CoV-2 genomes in GISAID, while maintaining readiness for dengue, influenza, mpox, and emerging threats. Workforce initiatives trained 15 undergraduates, 18 STEM educators from all seven educational regions, two BioPharma Summer participants, and more than 60 university students, earning a 100% Net Promoter Score. Puerto Rico's first specialized spectral flow cytometry workshop trained over 70 scientists from five countries, expanding regional expertise, public-health readiness, and advanced discovery anchored on the Island.







Entrepreneurship Drives Prosperity.

Colmena66 celebrated its 10th anniversary as Puerto Rico's leading connector for entrepreneurs, serving 21,119 people and facilitating more than 51,000 interactions since 2016. In 2025–2026, it served 2,417 people, generated over 5 million communication impressions, participated in 83 outreach events, and connected entrepreneurs to more than 200 support organizations through its Resource Navigator.

Tu Camino Empresarial served 184 entrepreneurs and generated 490 connections, while Boricua Emprende Fest convened 2,368 participants, 130 speakers, 60 support organizations, and over 5,600 connections. The event produced an estimated $1.07 million economic impact and awarded $12,500 to nine entrepreneurs. Through Acércate al Grant, Colmena66 trained 136 participants, supported 16 SBIR/STTR proposals, and helped secure $429,645 in federal funding plus $325,000 in Trust matching funds. Its inaugural ecosystem report documented over $60 million in capital deployed, 84,000 entrepreneurs supported, and 75,000 jobs created, strengthening data-driven collaboration and Puerto Rico's innovation economy across the island.

Fase1 strengthened Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial pipeline by incubating 189 startups across four generations, including 47 ventures in Generation 4, and sustaining a 94% retention rate. Its inclusive model reached founders across the archipelago, with low- and moderate-income participants representing 53% of program reach. Through 12 weeks of mentorship, practical education, and business validation, entrepreneurs refined their ventures and competed for $10,000 at Demo Day. Fondo Intenso provided $25,000 in seed capital to seven alumni businesses spanning gastronomy, agriculture, technology, manufacturing, health, and tourism, extending economic activity across six municipalities.

Fase1 Lab surpassed 2,600 registered participants, growing approximately 18%, and launched its twelfth online module on permitting. Program visibility also increased through top-rated Coffee Talks at Boricua Emprende Fest, earning 4.8 out of 5. New collaborations with Toa Baja and the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit further expanded regional access, community impact, and practical pathways for emerging entrepreneurs across Puerto Rico.

Parallel18 strengthened Puerto Rico's global innovation profile by graduating 58 companies across its programs, bringing cumulative support to 635 startups over 9.5 years. The platform distributed $1 million in grants this year and $18.1 million since inception, while generating more than $1 million in publicity value. P18 Generation 13 awarded $720,000, produced $1.95 million in revenue, raised $820,000 in capital, and achieved an $88.5 million portfolio valuation, with local companies comprising more than half the cohort. Xpand supported 26 growth-stage companies that generated $28.4 million in revenue and maintained a 90% survival rate.

BioLeap accelerated 14 life-sciences startups, awarded each a $20,000 seed grant, and helped its portfolio raise more than $8 million and secure three SBIR/STTR awards. Brainy Brews convened over 300 participants, strengthening scientific and entrepreneurial connections.

A redesigned brand and website further marked parallel18's evolution into a comprehensive investment platform with global reach and stronger market visibility.







Innovation for Healthier Communities.

PRPHI strengthened Puerto Rico's public health capacity through 970 partnerships, 456 educational activities, and service to more than 10,000 participants. The Institute completed more than 50 staff training courses, strengthened monitoring, evaluation, learning, communications, and publication systems, and expanded its national leadership. Strategic collaborations advanced Puerto Rico's representation in health databases, development of a local data dashboard, Medicaid reimbursement pathways for Community Health Workers, and telehealth adoption. Community engagement included a 794-member interest group and climate resilience initiatives addressing extreme heat. Digital health efforts expanded telehealth, behavioral health integration, and Project ECHO, delivering 42 sessions, 61 learning hours, and 1,871 continuing education credits to 441 healthcare professionals.

PRPHI also developed 126 educational resources, distributed 16,373 materials, achieved 185 media appearances, and effectively elevated its voice in national forums. Together, these achievements demonstrate how evidence, partnerships, community trust, and institutional strength can translate into measurable, sustainable public health impact across Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) strengthened Puerto Rico's vector control capacity through rigorous surveillance, emergency response, applied research, and regional training. Each week, the unit serviced 983 traps, tested 41,381 mosquito pools, and processed 368,632 female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. During the dengue epidemic, it responded to 81 clusters across 11 municipalities using integrated field operations and real-time GIS intelligence. In Bayamón, 3,145 AGO traps, 205 larvicide applications, 54,000 passive emanators, and engagement with 9,688 residents reduced mosquito density by up to 83%. SíScreens interventions reduced indoor mosquito presence by 61% in Ponce and achieved early reductions up to 79% in Metro. International Wolbachia projects expanded regional capacity, with prevalence reaching 87% in El Salvador. PRVCU also delivered 220 educational activities, distributed 5,892 prevention items, generated 103 media hits, and trained 347 municipal employees through TITEC, strengthening operational readiness, public trust, and protection against vector-borne diseases across Puerto Rico and the wider Caribbean region in FY2026.









During FY 2025–2026, PRCCI strengthened Puerto Rico's clinical research ecosystem through portfolio expansion, federal partnerships, workforce development, and inclusive recruitment. The consortium managed over 21 studies and completed 18 sponsor and CRO monitoring visits.

Business development generated more than 85 opportunities, advanced 48 leads, and created more than 10 international prospects at BIO International 2026. Our Clinical Trials Center manages four NIH subawards through strategic collaborations with Harvard University and UMass, representing more than $1 million in annual funding through 2029.

The PROSPECT study reached 77 municipalities and sustained 1,860 active participants. PRCCI certified 39 clinical research coordinators and trained six students and healthcare trainees. Community outreach educated 150 people and identified 69 prospective participants, while Diversia Health campaigns generated 321 submissions and 260 active prospects. Responsible artificial intelligence supported discovery, recruitment, planning, training, and communications under privacy, regulatory, and human-oversight safeguards, strengthening operational readiness and access islandwide.

Inspiring Talent. Building the Future.

The STEM Education & Workforce Development Program expanded Puerto Rico's talent pipeline through $57,500 in scholarships, reaching more than 914 students, training 109 teachers, awarding 35 certifications, and serving 1,185 participants. TecLab doubled participation to 206 students and 15 teachers, adding biotechnology and information technology to its hands-on curriculum. The Trust partnered with industry and aligned universities and training providers with companies' skills plans to meet skilled job requirements. Four public-school students received Azmat A. Assur scholarships and mentorship connecting achievement to STEM careers.

Hexagon 3D Printing Studio engaged 65 teachers and 25 students in digital fabrication, while Despegue Científico introduced over 60 students to aerospace engineering through rocket design and launch. Smart Island broadband education reached 287,000 YouTube viewers and 662 event participants. The STEM+AI Teacher Certification prepared 28 educators to integrate artificial intelligence into learning, strengthening digital inclusion, industry readiness, and access to high-impact STEM opportunities across Puerto Rico's communities and schools.



Expanding **Our Impact.**

In the year ahead, the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust will accelerate a bold, integrated agenda designed to strengthen the Island's scientific, entrepreneurial, public health, and workforce ecosystems. Our STEM and workforce programs will deploy the Talento Boricua Initiative, funded by the USA Department of Labor, to reach more students, educators, and professionals than ever before, opening pathways in AI, biotechnology, robotics, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing. Across the Trust, we will modernize infrastructure, elevate communications, and expand enterprise AI and cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities to support a resilient, future ready organization.

Together, these initiatives will transform Puerto Rico's innovation landscape—keeping talent, data, discovery, and opportunity on the Island; strengthening economic mobility; and building healthier, more resilient communities. The Trust's next chapter is one of expansion, integration, and impact: a coordinated effort to position Puerto Rico as a global leader in science, technology, entrepreneurship, and public health, centered on our human capital.

Last year's achievements reflected in this annual report are more than milestones; they show what Puerto Rico can accomplish when vision is matched by sustained action. As CEO, I am proud of our team's discipline and ingenuity, grateful for our Board's guidance, thankful for our partners' confidence, and inspired by the researchers, entrepreneurs, public health professionals, educators, and students who transform ideas into impact every day. Their work reminds us that lasting progress is never the work of one institution alone. A community united around a shared purpose builds it: advancing science, improving lives, expanding opportunity, and creating a more resilient and globally competitive Puerto Rico. Together, we are not simply preparing for the future—we are shaping it.

With gratitude and determination,

Luz A. Crespo Valentín
Chief Executive Officer

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Key Metrics
FY 2025–2026

Research & Development

Technology Transfer Office:

30 invention disclosures

27 patent applications

3 patents issued

45% inventors served by TTO are female

EnTRUST 2025:

$375,000

awarded to 5 teams ($75,000 each), benefiting 20 researchers.

18,766

COVID-19 Samples processed and banked by **Research Institute**

27 new grantees in this Fiscal Year:
11 ARG 2026 ($1,648,790) +**16** CRG 2026 ($1,113,981) =

$2,762,771

granted by Research Grants Program

Entrepreneurship

Colmena66 served

2,417

people in FY 2025–2026.

Fase1 incubated

189

startups with a 94% retention rate.

SBIR/STTR Matching Funds Program:
$100,000 awarded to Cultimar Technologies, Inc., leveraging a $304,645 NSF SBIR Phase I grant to advance technology development and commercialization.

$1.1M

estimated economic impact generated at Boricua Emprende Fest 2025 and 2,368 participants

48

companies graduated across three **Parallel18** programs during Fiscal Year 2025-2026: P18 Gen. 13 (18), Xpand Gen. 5 (16), BioLeap Gen. 3 (14)

Public Health

PRVCU responded to

81

dengue clusters across 11 municipalities Mosquito density reduced by up to 83% in Bayamón

PRPH: received more than

10,000

participants and **970 partnerships.**

41+

Active Clinical Trials across the **PRCCI** Clinical Research Center and the Consortium site network, expanding research capacity and therapeutic diversity

Talent Development

1,185

participants served and 35 certifications offered by **STEM Program**

TecLab doubled participation to

206

students and 15 teachers.

$57,500

in scholarships and 109 teachers trained.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

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OUR TEAM

TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees is composed of distinguished professionals who support and oversee our work and provide guidance to ensure that the Trust is focused on within its mission and vision.

Alfredo Casta



Alfredo Casta is the Founder and former Chairman of Cascades Technologies, Inc (CTi), which was is recognized as one of Inc. 5000 magazine's fastest growing companies for eight years. Mr. Casta combined his technical expertise, management skills and an unrelenting mission focus to accomplish results in the service of the American public. Under the tenants of Think – Build – Measure, CTi delivers IT Governance services, Technical Solutions, Data Management, Agile Development, and IT Organization Analysis including Cyber Security expertise to key cabinet agencies such as NIH, CDC, Labor, GSA, US Army, DHS, Justice, and Financial Regulatory Agencies.

Daniel Colón Ramos, PhD



Dr. Colón Ramos is the president of the Scientific Coalition of Puerto Rico. He also serves as the Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology at Yale University and is the co-founder of Ciencia Puerto Rico, a non-profit organization that promotes local scientific research and education. His lab at Yale studies the development and function of the nervous system, and their work has been recognized by several awards, including the Sloan Fellowship for "outstanding promise", an award given to recognize the best researchers of the United States and Canada.

Esther M. Alegría, PhD



Dr. Alegría has nearly 30 years of biopharmaceutical industry experience. She serves as a Senior Executive Biopharmaceutical Advisor at Catalyst Excel & Advance lending her expertise to establish and start-up pharmaceutical & biopharmaceutical companies. Prior to this, she held multiple executive roles leading to the success of biopharmaceutical large-scale drug substances, medical devices assembly, finished goods and small molecule manufacturing operations. In 2009, she was named Woman Extraordinaire of the Year by Business NC Magazine for her impact in economic success and forward-thinking strategies. Esther holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Hawaii and an Executive Business Management certification from Harvard Business School. She has also served as mentor, advocate and educator throughout her career.

Felix Negrón



With over 30 years of international experience, Félix Negrón, in his tenure as VP of Operations at Medtronic, was responsible for over 6000 employees, serving as Group VP of Operations for the global Diabetes business, VP of Puerto Rico Operations, Corporate Leader for Lean, Six Sigma, Design for Manufacturability and Global Manufacturing Strategy.

Félix was also the Operations Quality VP in Medtronic with responsibility of 27 sites globally. Prior to Medtronic, he was Senior VP of Global Operations in Pall Corporation and Executive Director in J&J. Now, as Founder of NY Consulting, is advising entities such as like Stryker Corp, Sartorius BioTech, J&J and the Department of Economic Development in Puerto Rico.

Gualberto Medina



Mr. Medina career spans as an attorney, CPA, real estate broker, and New Jersey's Secretary of Commerce. He also served as the co-founder, president, or general counsel for many technology and biotechnology startups. Because of his successful career in government and business sectors, Mr. Medina was named one of Hispanic Business Magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics. He has ample experience serving as a Trustee for the Trust.

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD



President of the City of Hope National Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. He previously served as CEO of The Ohio State University James Cancer Hospital and Director of OSU's Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he oversaw the construction of the third largest cancer hospital in the U.S. and recruited over 300 physicians and scientists. His research on immunotherapy for tumors has led to over 400 peer-reviewed publications and pivotal discoveries in the development of CAR NK cells for cancer therapy. Dr. Caligiuri has conducted clinical studies involving NK cells for over 1,000 cancer patients, mentored over 100 students, and received numerous prestigious awards. He has held leadership roles in various professional organizations and co-founded several initiatives, including Pelotonia and CytoImmune Therapeutics.

Ubaldo Córdova, PhD



Córdova is a professor in UPRM of chemical engineering, a researcher, and the institution's former vice president for Academic Affairs and Research. He holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico (UPRM) and a MS and PhD from California Institute of Technology. His research experience includes the authoring of peer-reviewed articles in Physics Review Letters, Soft Matter, Journal of Fluid Mechanics, Advanced Functional Materials, and Nature Chemistry. In 2011, he was awarded the prestigious NSF CAREER award, and in 2013 as Distinguished Professor in Chemical Engineering.

Angel Soto



Ángel O. Soto Ortiz serves as Special Assistant to the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Jenniffer González Colón, where he supports strategic initiatives related to public policy, legislative affairs, and interagency coordination. He previously served as a Legislative Aide in the United States House of Representatives, gaining experience in federal policymaking and congressional processes relevant to economic development, education, and innovation initiatives. Mr. Soto Ortiz holds a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez. Additionally, he serves as Director of the Luis A. Ferré Executive Internship Program, fostering civic engagement and workforce development by connecting students with hands-on public service experiences.

Hon. Carlos Ríos Pierluisi



Mr. Ríos Pierluisi currently serves as Secretary of Economic Development and Commerce and Ex Officio President of the Board of Trustees for PRSTRT. He is a dedicated and results-driven attorney with a strong background in legal advisory, executive leadership, and public administration. With a proven ability to navigate complex regulatory and financial landscapes, I have successfully led large-scale operations, budget management, and policy development for government entities with positive impact to the private sector. My experience spans legal affairs, economic development, incentives, contract negotiation, and corporate governance.

Carlos Meléndez Esq.



Mr. Meléndez Is a technology executive with more than 25 years of experience in artificial intelligence, software engineering, and digital transformation. He co-founded Wovenware in 2003 and served as Chief Operating Officer until its acquisition by Maxar Technologies in 2022. Currently, he serves as Vice President of International Services Operations at Vantor, leading the development of global service operations for international customers. Mr. Meléndez is recognized as a thought leader in AI and innovation, contributing to publications such as Forbes and InformationWeek. He holds degrees in Electrical Engineering and Law from the University of Puerto Rico and is actively involved in community development initiatives across Puerto Rico.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Luz A. Crespo Valentín
Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Crespo has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust since 2015, leading the organization to outstanding achievements and building the innovation capacity of the country. She was previously appointed as General Manager of Hewlett-Packard Puerto Rico, where she served for 31 years. During her tenure, she successfully lead the HP Computing & Printing and Personal Systems business units. She was also the first woman to become president of the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association.

Lucy is a key figure in the tech and science industry of Puerto Rico due to her ample experience and contributions to these sectors. She holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico (Mayagüez Campus), is a graduate from the Kellogg's Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University for Executive Development and a member of the Alpha Pi Mu, the Industrial Engineering Honor Society. She has also served in several advisory roles and received multiple recognitions for her leadership.



Gilberto Márquez
Chief Financial Officer

In February 2012, Gilberto Márquez joined the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust as Advisor and was promoted to Chief Financial Officer in 2018. Mr. Márquez has over 14 years of experience involved in initiatives related to technology commercialization. Prior to joining the Trust, Mr. Márquez was Director of the Center for Innovation and Technology, a specialty service center of the Puerto Rico Small Business and Technology Development Center hosted by the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Mr. Márquez has participated as proposal reviewer panelist for the National Science Foundation's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II program. He is an accountant and holds a Master's degree in biotechnology management (MBM) from IE Business School in Madrid, Spain.



Doira Díaz, Esq.
General Counsel
& Administrator

Since 2018, Ms. Díaz advises the Chief Executive Officer, the Board of Trustees and the Trust's program directors and managers on applicable regulations, processes and procedures related to the administration, human resources, and general services of the Trust. She is also the Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Puerto Rico Green Energy Trust, a position she holds ad honorem. Prior to joining the Trust, Doira held various positions at top law firms, covering matters in the areas of real estate, environment, land use and telecommunications with emphasis in real estate development, permitting matters and related disputes at the administrative and judicial levels. She also served as Deputy Advisor to the Governor of Puerto Rico for Energy, Environment, and Infrastructure. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University and is also a notary public and a certified mediator. She is admitted to practice in the courts of Puerto Rico, New York and New Jersey.



Inés Álvarez De La Campa
Human Resources Director

Ms. Álvarez de la Campa has a track record of analyzing companies and organization needs and executing plans to improve their competitiveness and overall employees' satisfaction. She has dedicated her career to the management of human resources, talent acquisition and administration in companies like Bristol Mayers Squibb and Johnson & Johnson.

Álvarez holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a master's degree in Business Administration. She is also certified as a Personnel Administrator and Yellow Belt Certified (BMS OpEx).



Luis Nieves, PE
Chief Facilities Management Officer

Mr. Nieves is the Chief Facilities Management Officer. He worked for Hewlett Packard Enterprise until 2018 where he engaged in rolls which included Project Engineer, Business Development and Supply Chain Management defining logistics solutions for HPE for subcontractors located in eastern Europe and México. He also had a role as Strategic Sourcing Manager at Pall Life Science (now Cytiva) until 2021.

Luis holds a Bachelor's degree and a master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, and completed a minor in accounting from the same institution in 1991.



Lupe Vázquez
Chief Communications & Marketing Officer

Lupe Vázquez is the Chief Communications & Marketing Officer at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, where she leads the organization's institutional communications, positioning, visibility, and reputation strategy across a portfolio of more than 16 programs. With more than 30 years of experience in media, strategic communications, and editorial management, she advises executive leadership and spokespersons on communicating science, innovation, entrepreneurship, public health, and education to diverse audiences. She also leads media relations, event communications, and content strategy, including communications and content production for a documentary recognized with a Suncoast Emmy Award. Before joining the Trust, Vázquez built a distinguished career at El Nuevo Día as a reporter and editor, leading editorial teams and print and digital initiatives. Her work earned international recognition with the WAN-IFRA Young Readers Award in 2012. She holds a bachelor's degree in Humanities and a master's degree in Translation from the University of Puerto Rico. She is also associate member of the Asociación de Relacionistas profesionales and the Sales & Marketing Executive of Puerto Rico.



César Piovanetti
Chief Information Officer

Mr. Piovanetti has over 15 years of experience in the geographic information sciences (GIS) field, as GIS and technology consultant in various locations in the United States and Puerto Rico. Throughout his career, he has held various roles in the technology sector integrating cloud software solutions for the public, private and NGO sector. Experienced in designing and deployment of platforms and solutions as a service in the Microsoft Azure Cloud, Office 365 integrations at the enterprise level as well as logistic operations using geolocation technologies. During the last couple of years, as part of the Trust's technology team, Mr. Piovanetti has led implementations for federal, local and NGO funded geospatial projects.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

PILLARS & PROGRAMS

Research & Development

Entrepreneurship

Public Health

Talent Management

Research & Development

RESEARCH GRANTS
funds to grow

Provides a structured, systematic, open, and competitive funding mechanism to support the development of science, technology, and 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. It represents a critical source of competitive financial support that builds the knowledge economy, fuels innovation, and empowers Puerto Rican scientists and entrepreneurs.



Natasha De Leon Rodriguez, PhD
Program Director

TTO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE™

The Technology Transfer Office™ mission is to identify, evaluate, protect, market, and transfer the most promising research discoveries from Puerto Rico's universities, institutions, and research institutes to the private sector for commercialization and to benefit the public. The program's vision is to implement shared risk/shared reward partnerships that deliver best-in-class technology transfer services to identify and increase innovation opportunities for Puerto Rico's scientists and researchers, thereby improving Puerto Rico's overall innovation ranking.



David L. Gulley, PhD, RTTP, CLP
Program Director

CENTER FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY

Established in 2015, this program directs the conservation and exploration of Puerto Rico's distinctive geography for scientific, societal, and economic benefits. The Center focuses on developing searchable collections of biological specimens, conserving biodiversity resources, and commercializing products derived from biodiversity. Despite a century-long tradition of scientific research in Puerto Rico centered on its unique environment, a coordinated local policy has been absent to guide these efforts, often driven by individual researchers' curiosity in various universities. The program aims to foster a unified and strategic approach to maximize our collective scientific endeavors with biodiversity.



Abel Baerga, PhD
Program Director

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Research Institute is committed to fostering a collaborative and diverse research community by supporting innovative basic and applied research into the fundamental biological mechanisms underlying diseases that disproportionately impact our population. It focusses on developing potential therapies and interventions that can significantly reduce or eliminate health disparities across Puerto Rico. It also encourages investigations into a wide range of diseases associated with significant morbidity and mortality in Puerto Rico and accelerates biomedical research.



Marcos López Casillas, PhD
Program Director

Entrepreneurship

Fase1 is a business incubator that aims to make entrepreneurship more accessible to Puerto Rican talent. With no entry barriers, it provides universal access to entrepreneurship education and incubates ideas that can transform into successful startups. Through our educational efforts, we envision the growth of an inclusive and diverse entrepreneurial community to address the island's needs in an innovative way, thus propelling the country's economy.

Colmena66 facilitates entrepreneurship in Puerto Rico by connecting entrepreneurs with the right resource at the right time so that they can start or grow a successful business in Puerto Rico. It analyzes the gaps in the ecosystem and works together with the members of the Business Support Network to strengthen the community. As ecosystem builders, Colmena66 creates an infrastructure to support people by providing ecosystem access points for anyone to participate, grow and rebuild.



Bárbara Rivera
Program Director

Parallel18 is a top-level, performance-driven international startup program with a social mission: offering entrepreneurs from all over the world and underrepresented groups access to high-quality business training, funding, and networks. We help them scale globally while working to position Puerto Rico as a unique hub for innovative businesses an technology through three main curriculums: pre18, p18 and Xpand.



Héctor Jirau, PhD
Program Director

Public Health

Puerto Rico
Public Health Institute

The PRPHI, established in 2019, serves as a public health institute for Puerto Rico with the purpose of promoting innovative, evidence-based public health practices to achieve systematic health improvements, increase access to health programs, and reduce inequities in the communicates of Puerto Rico.



Marianyoly Ortiz-Ortiz, PhD
Program Director

Puerto Rico Vector
Control Unit

The Vector Control Unit us a program established to leverage Puerto Rico's capacity to control the Aedes Aegyptis mosquito, the vector of dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, and Yellow Fever.



Julieanne Miranda Bermúdez, DrPH
Program Director

PRCCI
Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation

Established in April 2016, PRCCI is a not-for-profit consortium of top academic and private research sites. The Consortsium enhances clinical research speed and quality by driving performance and efficiencies across our sites, leveraging strategic partnerships, and establishing world-class capabilities.



Amarilys Silva, PharmD
Program Director

Talent Management

STEM EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The program is focused on improving K-12 STEM education and developing skills in emerging technologies. It aims to promote technology literacy from an early age and ensure a smooth transition from education to employment. The ultimate objective is to enable Puerto Rico's active involvement in the global tech economy.



Luis Nieves, PE
Program Director



Héctor De Jesús Cortés, PhD
Director of Resources Development

Compliance Team



Sylvia López Jorge, CPA
Chief Compliance Officer



Mitzy González, Ph.D
HIPAA Compliance Officer

Special Project



Ricardo Burgos
Special Projects: Research & Innovation Meetups

STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERSHIP

The following organizations support the Trust through sponsorships and other contributions to events and programs across our strategic pillars. These partnerships contribute to our growth and strengthen the ecosystems we serve.During fiscal year 2025-2026, the Trust received **$311,134.00** in sponsorships from **38 organizations** supporting our events and programs:

- Agro Servicios
- Aligned Solutions & Co
- ALPFA Puerto Rico
- Apple One
- Atlantic University College
- Banco de Desarrollo Económico
- Banco Popular
- Benitez Insurance
- Bioanalytical Instruments
- Black Girls Code
- Burson Puerto Rico
- Business Atelier
- Central Life Sciences
- Chess Advertising Group
- Clarke International
- Claro
- Compañía de Turismo
- Conexión Laboral de San Juan
- Coopaca
- DDEC
- Departamento de Agricultura
- Donativos Ambientales Ford
- First Bank
- Farmacias Caridad
- Global Vision Comms
- Gloria Viscasillas
- INCENTIVES-PRO LLC
- Izquierdo Law
- LaBase820
- LISC
- L'Oréal Caribe
- MITEL DISTRIBUTING
- Municipio Autónomo de Ponce
- Municipio de Caguas
- Oriental Bank
- Permisos SOS
- Piloto 151
- Puny.bz
- SC Johnson
- Superior Angran
- The Raevis Group
- Triple-S Management
- Vexit
- Walmart PR
- Yestoday LLC



















































Gloria Viscasillas































Memoranda of Understanding signed and formalized during fiscal year 2025-2026

The Trust establishes alliances with a wide range of educational institutions, private-sector organizations, government entities, and nonprofit organizations. These partnerships expand our stakeholder network and advance the Trust's mission and vision. During this fiscal year, the Trust and its programs formalized alliances with **30 organizations**:

1. AgroInnova
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
3. DECA Analytics
4. Departamento de la Vivienda (PRVCU SiScreens)
5. Department of Education Public Schools (TecLab Puerto Rico)
   Ponce High School
   Esc. Sup. Dr. Manuela De La Pila Iglesias
   Esc. Sup. Josefa Vélez Bauzá
   Esc. Sup. Josefina León Zayas
   Esc. Sup. Luis Lloréns Torres
   Esc. Sup. Lila M. M. Mayoral Wirshing
   Esc. Sup. José Vizcarrondo Añeses
   Ramón José Dávila School
   José Emilio Lugo School
   Escuela Loaíza Cordero
   Escuela Luis Negrón
6. EmprendeNotas
7. Estudios Técnicos
8. Filantropía Puerto Rico
9. Fundación Azmat A. Assur
10. Hello Media
11. Hewlett Packard Enterprise
12. HighTide Intelligence
13. ICAP Global Health
14. INprende
15. Mastercard
16. MCS Healthcare Holdings, LLC
17. Municipality of Bayamón
18. NIIMBL
19. Peru Ministry of Health (MINSA)
20. SC Johnson
21. Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez, Inc.
22. Triple S
23. Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Ponce
24. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
25. University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus
26. University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
27. Vida Sin Dengue
28. Volunteers of America
29. World Mosquito Program (WMP)
30. Blessed Mommies Medical Group (PRPHI - ECHO Participating Clinic)

Innovamos
por Puerto Rico

www.prsciencetrust.org

Awards, Recognitions and Distinctions

A Year of Recognition Across the Trust

During fiscal year 2025-2026, the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust and its programs received important local, national, and international recognitions that reflect the organization's commitment to scientific excellence, innovation, public health, community impact, and effective science communication.

These distinctions recognize both institutional accomplishments and the contributions of the people and teams advancing the Trust's mission across Puerto Rico.



Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award for When the Sea Reaches Us

The Trust achieved a historic milestone when its documentary *When the Sea Reaches Us* received a 2025 Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award for Photographer, Long Form Content. The production also received nominations in five categories: complete program/topic, direction, writing, editing, and photography.

Produced by the Trust's Caribbean Center for Rising Seas in collaboration with the Rising Seas Institute, the documentary connects scientific evidence from Greenland with the realities experienced by coastal communities in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Through scientific data, community perspectives, and visual storytelling, the production explores the causes of sea level rise and the urgency of climate adaptation.

The Emmy® recognition highlights the Trust's commitment to making science accessible through compelling storytelling and demonstrates the role that science communication can play in educating and engaging broader audiences.



Achievement in GIS Award

The Trust and the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) received the 2025 Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award from Esri for their innovative application of geospatial technology to Puerto Rico's dengue response. The recognition highlighted PRVCU's use of geographic information systems to monitor *Aedes aegypti* populations and support public health interventions.

The Trust was selected as one of 197 awardees from more than 700,000 Esri users worldwide. In collaboration with the Puerto Rico Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PRVCU integrated entomological, epidemiological, and community data through GIS to facilitate rapid and targeted interventions during Puerto Rico's most severe dengue season in more than a decade.

The award, presented during the 2025 Esri User Conference in San Diego, marked the second time the Trust and PRVCU received the SAG Award, following their first recognition in 2018.



Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award

In 2026, the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit received the Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award from Research!America, becoming the first organization from Puerto Rico to receive this recognition.The distinction adds to the national recognition of the Trust's work in public health and complements PRVCU's 2025 Esri recognition for the application of geospatial technology in the dengue response.



"Las Caras de la Biociencia" Recognition

In October 2025, Luz A. "Lucy" Crespo Valentín, CEO of the Trust, received INDUNIV's Las Caras de la Biociencia recognition, which honors leaders whose vision and commitment have contributed significantly to strengthening Puerto Rico's bioscience ecosystem and its international positioning.



Parallel 18 ne of America's Best Incubators & Accelerators 2026

Parallel18, an entrepreneurship program of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT), has been recognized as one of America's Best Incubators & Accelerators 2026 by TIME and Statista. This prestigious recognition places parallel18 at position 21 of a select group of 80 organizations nationwide, being the only winning organization from Puerto Rico in this edition of the ranking.

The recognition from TIME and Statista evaluates the best entrepreneurship centers in the United States using rigorous criteria that include measurable results from startup founders, peer recommendations, and proven historical track records. Parallel18 was selected from more than 200 applications, standing out for its demonstrable impact on the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem on the Island.

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute Recognitions

The Puerto Rico Public Health Institute (PRPHI), a program of the Trust, also received significant recognition during the fiscal year for initiatives aimed at strengthening public health systems and community partnerships in Puerto Rico.



2026 NNPHI Health and Racial Equity Partnership Award

The CAPBRACE Project received the 2026 NNPHI Health and Racial Equity Partnership Award, which recognizes collaborations between public health institutes and community-based organizations that take action to address the impacts of structural inequities. The recognition specifically highlighted the partnership's involvement of community members from the beginning and its efforts to center community voices throughout the collaboration.



2026 NNPHI Strengthening the Public Health System Award.

The CRESe Project received the 2026 National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Strengthening the Public Health System Award. The award recognizes a project team that has successfully implemented an initiative that strengthens the public health system.



Dedication and Community Commitment Award

In March 2026, Arnaldo Cruz received the Dedication and Community Commitment Award from Piñones Aprende y Emprende (PAYE). The recognition honored his dedication and commitment to the community of Loíza and his support of community-based initiatives and engagement efforts led by PAYE.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT 2026



PROMOVEMOS LA

INVESTIGACIÓN Y EL DESARROLLO

We Promote
Research & Development

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

RESEARCH GRANTS

funds to grow

ANNUAL 2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

196

Grantees since program inception

34

New Grantees in this Fiscal Year

$21,022,428

in Grants Awarded since program inception

$70,816,920

Return on Funding

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Current Grantees

From July 2024 until June 2025, active grantees reported the following achievements:

Students Impacted*

40 undergraduate students

29 graduate students

*Out of a total of 588 students impacted since program inception.

Thesis and Dissertations

As a result of the funding provided by the Research Grants Program, three (3) MS theses were completed during this period.

External Funding

Since July 2024, the total amount of external funding secured that the active grantees reported is $9,603,000*. Several grantees are awaiting responses from federal agencies to which they have submitted proposals.

*Out of $69,624,720 since program inception.

PublicationsSince

July 2023, our active grantees have successfully published 7 peer-reviewed articles across various journals*.

*Out of 222 publications since program inception.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

As part of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research 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 build the knowledge economy, fuel innovation, and empower Puerto Rican scientists and entrepreneurs.

HOW WE DO IT

Our approach is characterized by competitive mechanisms and rigorous peer review. Through this process, proposals are evaluated by subject matter experts to assess their quality, feasibility, and potential impact. By employing such a system, we ensure that resources are allocated to projects with the highest scientific merit, fostering transparency and encouraging excellence and innovation. Additionally, we are committed to fostering initiatives that promote collaboration within the scientific ecosystem of Puerto Rico. By creating platforms, networks, and opportunities for researchers, we aim to enhance knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary collaborations, and the overall advancement of scientific research in Puerto Rico.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

The Research Grants Program takes a “Researchers First” approach, striving to create an environment that empowers and supports researchers in Puerto Rico in their scientific endeavors. In addition, we engage subject matter experts from around the world who play a vital role in evaluating their proposals and providing valuable insights. By harnessing their expertise, we ensure a rigorous and comprehensive assessment process. The program also extends its support to research administrators, acknowledging their vital role in facilitating the smooth management of scientific projects. By assisting them, we contribute to advancing the overall landscape of scientific research.

In January 2026, Puerto Rico's government allocated $9.5M to the Trust, a strategic investment that reinforced the Trust's role as Puerto Rico's engine for research and innovation. The funding multiplied project support from 13 to 46 grants creating immediate ripple effects across the research ecosystem. This funding also supports TTOs program EnTrust and Colmena66 Acércate al Grant SBIR/STTR matching program.

Advanced Research Grant

The Advanced Research Grant (ARG) is a solicited proposal mechanism that provides funding to advance locally developed science and technology projects to a point where they can be further developed through alternate sources of funding and/or commercialized. Awards are up to $150K. We received 117 letters of intent last fiscal year, nearly three times more than the prior call, and invited 35 applicants to submit full proposals. We received 33 full proposals. This fiscal year, we completed peer review of these proposals by 59 external reviewers from 9 countries and awarded 11 grants totaling $1,648,790.to $70K.

11 Funded Projects

$1,648,790 Awarded

Type of Proposal	
Basic/Translational Research	27
Technology/Product Development for Commercialization	6

Strategic Sectors	
Aerospace	2
Agriculture	1
Biotechnology and Life Sciences	14
Clean Technologies/Renewable Energy	6
Electronics	1
Environmental Sciences	4
Medical Devices	2
Other	3

Institutions	
Ana G. Méndez University - Carolina	1
Ana G. Méndez University - Cupey	1
Ana G. Méndez University - Gurabo	2
Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc.	1
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico - Ponce	1
University of Puerto Rico - Cayey	2
University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez	8
University of Puerto Rico - Medical Sciences	5
University of Puerto Rico - Ponce	1
University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras	7
For Profit	4

Principal Investigator:	Institution	Proposal Title:
Alfredo Ghezzi, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus	Role of the microbiota-derived acetate in alcohol tolerance in Drosophila
Allison Smith, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus	A pilot study of Methylidyne in the Milky Way: a highly relevant science project for training future radio astronomers
Eduardo J. Caro-Díaz, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus	Discovery of mechanistically novel LRAs from Puerto Rican marine algae assemblies
Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus	Vaginal Probiotics for Cancer Prevention in Hispanics
Ingrid Y. Padilla, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus	Advancing Sustainable Water Treatment: Pilot Testing a Flow-Through Electrochemical Reactor in Puerto Rico
José A. Lasalde Dominicci, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus	Crystallization of neuronal nicotinic acetyl-choline receptors in an electrically polarized environment
Loyda B. Méndez, PhD	Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus	Particle pollution-induced neuroinflammation: role of the lung-brain axis
Marco Menegozzo, PhD	University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus	Implementation of Innovative 3D-printed Honeycomb in the Design of Curved Sandwich Composite Structures for Aerospace Applications
Miguel Canals, PhD	Wavemaps	Wavemaps: Ultra-high-resolution actionable ocean intelligence
Valerie Ortiz Gómez, PhD	Ana G. Méndez University, Gurabo Campus	Therapeutic Innovation in Urinary Catheters: Antibiofilm Coating with MH5C-Cys-PEG in Preclinical Evaluations
Wilfredo Otaño Rivera, PhD	Venus Sensors LLC	Development of ultra-sensitive gas sensors for environmentally harmful gases using machine learning

New ARG Grantees' Recognition Event

On January 29, 2026, we presented the new cohort of grantees during our Advanced Research Grant Recognition Event. We recognized 11 new grantees. These 11 projects received a total award of $1.65M.

The recognition event spotlighted grant recipients and their innovative work and positive impact, creating a sense of community and celebration among everyone involved. The new grantees are from universities and the private sector (start-ups).

Catalyzer Research Grant

The Catalyzer Research Grant (CRG) enhances the competitiveness of local researchers by providing critical bridge funding to help them (1) obtain reproducible and robust preliminary results, (2) address recommendations from previous grant reviewers to strengthen their R&D proposals, and (3) secure reagents, laboratory materials, collaborations, or technical training necessary for their proposed goals. Awards are up to $70K.

We launched the call with a virtual info session on February 23, 2026. We received 104 letters of intent, invited 45 applicants to submit full proposals, and received 41 proposals. Forty-nine external reviewers from 9 countries completed peer review, and 16 projects were selected for funding totaling $1,113,981. All projects were selected by June 2026, completing the full cycle in record time.



Type of Proposal	
New submission – Junior faculty	25
New submission – PIs with successful track record	12
Resubmission	4

Strategic Sectors	
Aerospace	1
Agriculture	1
Biotechnology and Life Sciences	26
Clean Technologies/ Renewable Energy	3
Electronics	2
Environmental Sciences	3
Information and Communications Technology	1
Medical Devices	1
Other	3

Institutions	
Ana G. Méndez University – Gurabo Campus	1
Carlos Albizu University	1
Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Bayamón Campus	1
Molecular Science Research Center	3
Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc.	4
San Juan Bautista School of Medicine	1
Universidad Central del Caribe	1
University of Puerto Rico - Cayey Campus	1
University of Puerto Rico - Humacao Campus	1
University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez Campus	13
University of Puerto Rico - Medical Sciences Campus	9
University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras Campus	5

16 Funded Projects

$1,113,981 Awarded

Principal Investigator:	Institution	Proposal Title:
Andrew M Seeds, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus	How somatotopic circuits generate spatially aimed grooming behavior
Bighnaraj Sarangi, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras Campus	FRESCO: Fortalecimiento de la Red de Estaciones para la Supervisión de Calidad de Aire y Observaciones atmosféricas
Cristina Velázquez-Marrero, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus	Molecular Alcohol Tolerance Modulation of Fear Extinction Learning: vHIP–NAc Circuit Plasticity
David Ortiz, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras Campus	Toward a predictive framework for hidden diversity: drivers of diversification in Puerto Rican tarantulas
Hansel Montalvo-Castro, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus	Mechanisms of Dopant Exsolution in Rh-Doped SrTiO3 Perovskites and Their Role in Dynamic Active Site Ensembles for CO2 Hydrogenation
Jesús Antonio Sánchez-Pérez, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus	A Pilot Study of a Wearable Multimodal Device for Continuous Asthma Monitoring in Puerto Rico
José A. Carmona Negron, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus	Broad-Spectrum Antiviral Chemical Probes Targeting Specific AAK1 and GAK Host Proteins
Jose M. Rivera, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras Campus	Supramolecular Catalysis of Indole-Forming Reactions Relevant to Cancer Therapeutics
Keven J Laboy Juárez, PhD	Molecular Sciences Research Center	Neural Mechanisms of Effort-Based Decision-Making and Motivated Action,
Luis Esteban Hernández, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus	Ultra-Low-Power Hardware Security Primitives for Battery-Free IoT Devices: True Random Number Generators and Physical Unclonable Functions
Rachel Rodríguez-Santiago, PhD	Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc.	Psychosocial Determinants of Health-Related Quality of Life Following Dengue Infection
Suranganie Dharmawardhane, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus	CPV-337 as targeted therapy for pancreatic cancer
Tiffany J Ríos-Fuller, PhD	Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc.	Translational Control of Œ≤-Catenin Signaling by eIF3h Drives Tumor Plasticity and Therapeutic Resistance in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Torsten Stelzer, PhD	Molecular Sciences Research Center	Understanding Solvent Entrapment Mechanism by Solid Solutions in Crystalline Organic Molecules
Umberto Ciri, PhD	University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus	Oscillatory Heat Pipes for High-Efficiency Cooling in Aerospace and Data Centers

Advanced Research Grant: Space Edition

The Advanced Research Grant: Space Edition, developed with Rhodium Scientific, provides Puerto Rican researchers rapid access to the International Space Station through a competitive proposal process, accelerating the island's role in space science. We held a virtual info session on May 15, 2026, with 65 registrants; the recording is available on our webpage. We received 16 letters of intent, three times more than the previous cycle, and invited all applicants to submit full proposals; 15 were received. Peer review is underway, with results expected in next year's annual report. We aim to fund four projects through this initiative.



The experiment, Rhodium StemCell 01, by Dr. Maribella Domenech



The experiment, Rhodium Water Filtration 01, by Dr. David Suleiman Rosado



Astronaut Sunita 'Suni' Williams inside the International Space Station (ISS)

Other Initiatives

BEACON

Beacon is a centralized platform for collecting, displaying, analyzing, and reporting academic activity across Puerto Rico, supporting collaboration among researchers and institutions. It now connects 402 active researchers across 13 Puerto Rican institutions. The University of Puerto Rico comprises the largest cohort with 247 users, followed by Ponce Health Sciences University, Ana G. Méndez University, and other institutions. With 21% of researchers maintaining profiles at 50% completion or higher, the platform is building momentum as a tool for documenting research activity. As institutions leverage Beacon to catalog research output and facilitate collaboration, completing user profiles remains a priority for the coming year.

ACT 60

Through the Research Grants Program, we evaluate and process applications for Act 60 tax incentives designed to boost research and development initiatives at Puerto Rico's universities. By enabling qualified Principal and Co-Principal Investigators to secure tax exemptions on salaries from eligible R&D grants, this program works to build a competitive research ecosystem that strengthens our island's scientific capabilities and knowledge economy position.

For FY 2025, we received 72 applications for incentive participation, which, if approved, would unlock approximately $1.06 million in tax relief for participating researchers.

Institution	Act 60 Applications	Incentive requested
UAGM	3	$25,197.75
UPR-Aguadilla	2	$35,311.00
UPR-M	25	$301,468.63
UPR-MSC	13	$314.806.40
UPR-RP	14	$282,191.00
UPR-Bayamón	1	$20, 349.00
UPR-Humacao	2	$24,247.00
Ponce Medical School Foundation	12	$360,863.98
	72	$1,057,046.01

2026 EPSCoR Annual Summit

From May 19 to 22, 2026, Dr. Marianne Cartagena Colón, Program Manager, attended the 2026 Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Annual Summit on behalf of the PRSTRT. Dr. Cartagena attended key sessions, presentations, and meetings to learn about national trends, funding opportunities, and strategic partnerships relevant to Puerto Rico's research and innovation ecosystem. The Summit brought together stakeholders from EPSCoR jurisdictions across the country to discuss workforce development, research competitiveness, cyberinfrastructure, community outreach, and the growing role of artificial intelligence in science. After the Summit, the Grants Program team held a strategic meeting to inform PRSTRT program directors about EPSCoR funding opportunities. In July 2026, PRSTRT submitted an E-CORE grant.



Dr. Marianne Cartagena Colón, attends the 2026 EPSCoR Annual Summit."

WHAT'S NEXT

RESEARCH GRANTS | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

- Expand access to funding and resources for Puerto Rico's local researchers by strengthening capacity, visibility, and support systems across all regions and academic institutions.
- Publish and actively showcase the results of the Scientific Needs Assessment to guide decisions.
- Cultivate local, national, and international partnerships to maximize research impact and attract additional investment.
- Strengthen internal capacity, tools, and staffing to support sustainable program growth and operational excellence.
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the program through diversified funding strategies and meaningful impact measurement.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

TTO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE™

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

30
Invention Disclosures

$1,813,578
in Patent Expenditures Since 2017

161
Active Technologies

3
Issued Patents

27
New Patent Applications

15
Active Licenses & Options

45%
Inventors are Female

61%
Of the 59 inventors who disclosed inventions in FY2026, submitted an invention disclosure for the first time.

TTO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE ™ | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

The TTO's mission is to identify, evaluate, protect, market, and transfer the most promising research discoveries from Puerto Rico's universities, institutions, and research institutes to the private sector for commercialization and to benefit the public. Our vision is to implement shared risk/shared reward partnerships that deliver best-in-class technology transfer services in order to identify and increase innovation opportunities for Puerto Rico's scientists and researchers, thereby improving Puerto Rico's overall innovation ranking.

HOW WE DO IT

The TTO process begins with inventors disclosing their invention via the TTO Inventor Portal, detailing development stage, public disclosures, supporting grants, publication plans, and potential commercial interest. The TTO conducts a thorough evaluation of technical aspects, patentability, and market potential, then provides recommendations to inventors and university partners. If suitable, the TTO files a patent application using expert law firms. Utilizing the IN-PART platform, the TTO connects technologies to over 6,000 global R&D companies and negotiates partnerships using best practices.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

The TTO connects science to business by delivering technology transfer services to five university partners, representing 17 campuses, including four medical schools. These are the University of Puerto Rico campuses, Ana G. Méndez University campuses, Ponce Health Sciences University/ Ponce Research Institute, San Juan Bautista School of Medicine, and Universidad Central del Caribe.

Among these there are about 450 PIs/Co-PIs conducting sponsored research and the most recent official report NSF (FY2022) showed $108 million in R&D expenditures. Our portfolio of active technologies consists of inventions and intellectual property from our university partners and mirrors the R&D activities of their scientists and researchers.

Program Highlights

Technology Transfer Office (TTO): In FY2026, the TTO made notable advancements in connecting Puerto Rican research with commercial applications. The office evaluated 30 invention disclosures and expanded its active portfolio to 161 technologies.

We filed 27 new patent applications, increasing the number of patents and patent applications under our management, while maintaining 15 active licenses and options. Importantly, $1.8M has been invested since 2017 in patent-related matters, reflecting our commitment to providing robust intellectual property protection. Female inventors made up 45% of total submissions, and of the 59 inventors who disclosed inventions in FY2026, 61.0% submitted an invention disclosure for the first time.

During FY2026, three patents were granted, marking important milestones in protecting Puerto Rico-developed innovations and strengthening their position for licensing, industry partnerships, and commercialization.



EnTRUST 2025 Award ceremony participants, celebrating the fifth cohort's completion of the "Lab to Market" bootcamp at the Forward Center.



Dr. Annelyn Torres-Reveron, co-founder and CEO of Sur180 Therapeutics, delivers the keynote address at the EnTRUST 2025 Award ceremony.



Dr. Rodolfo Romañach's research team at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez developed a locally invented Stream Sampler Kit.

EnTRUST 2025 Celebrates Fifth Cohort with $375,000 in Grants

On March 17, 2026, the Technology Transfer Office celebrated the completion of EnTRUST's fifth cohort at the Forward Center. The 12-week "Lab to Market" bootcamp, delivered in partnership with Columbia University's Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, provides researchers with specialized training in commercialization strategy, regulatory considerations, IP protection, and market validation, along with mentorship from industry experts. The program brought together 11 research teams led by 16 principal investigators and 36 team members from six Puerto Rico universities, representing therapeutic development, cancer research, and medical device sectors.

External experts evaluated final proposals and pitch decks, assessing research strength, clinical need, innovation, market viability, and IP strategy. The Trust selected five teams for $75,000 each—totaling $375,000—to de-risk their technologies and protect intellectual property. Funding was made possible through support from the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) and the Trust's Grants Program, reflecting the commitment to accelerating the commercialization of Puerto Rico's scientific innovations.

Trust-Owned Intellectual Property Portfolio

In FY2026, the Technology Transfer Office reached a defining milestone by filing the Trust's first international patent application as an assignee. On June 12, 2026, a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application (PCT/US2026/032631), titled "Methods for Identifying Protein Targets of Samples of Unknown Composition," was filed covering the first technology belonging to the Trust: a method for identifying protein targets of small molecules and natural extracts using a human proteome protein array. The filing preserves international priority across PCT member states and positions the invention for future national-phase entry and commercial partnering.

A second Trust-owned technology, "A Method for the Identification of New Protein Binding Partners of Nanoparticles," also advanced during FY2026 through the filing of two U.S. provisional patent applications assigned to the Trust: No. 63/977,817, filed February 6, 2026, and No. 64/042,748, filed April 17, 2026. These provisional filings established early priority dates while preserving time to further develop supporting data before pursuing subsequent patent protection.

Together, these filings mark the emergence of an intellectual property portfolio owned by the Trust, creating new opportunities for the TTO to directly market, license, and advance Trust-owned technologies through strategic commercialization partnerships.

Strengthening Federal Compliance: UPR-TTO iEdison Reporting Process

During FY2026, the TTO, in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico, established a standardized iEdison reporting process to support compliance with federal requirements for inventions developed with federal funding. Kiara J. Rosario Cordero, TTO Operations & Compliance Associate Manager, led and implemented the initiative, coordinating with UPR representatives to establish responsibilities, reporting timelines, communication channels, and procedures between the TTO and UPR. Designated personnel at the Río Piedras, Mayagüez, and Medical Sciences campuses received orientation and training on iEdison reporting requirements and procedures.

As part of this effort, the team developed and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to formalize the process and establish an ongoing framework for coordinating federally funded invention disclosures and supporting timely, consistent reporting across the UPR system. Compliance with Bayh-Dole Act requirements is essential to preserving the University's rights in federally funded inventions and maintaining its federal research compliance obligations.

CIS International LLC Licenses Romañach's Technology

Dr. Rodolfo Romañach's Stream Sampling Kit (SSK), developed over 26 years at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, is now exclusively licensed to CIS International LLC following an agreement signed in December 2025. The TTO facilitated this commercialization by negotiating licensing terms, establishing the development roadmap, and providing strategic guidance to advance the patented technology from prototype to market viability. Supported by the Trust's Research Grants Program and BioLeap mentorship, the SSK enables real-time sampling of powder blends in pharmaceutical manufacturing without halting production or compromising sample integrity, solving a longstanding industry challenge.

This partnership exemplifies the TTO's impact in connecting university innovation with entrepreneurship. The CIS-Romañach story was featured across the Trust's communications channels, showcasing successful technology transfer outcomes.

Agricultural Innovation: Advancing Pigeon Pea Varieties Toward Commercialization

During FY2026, commercialization efforts continued for two pigeon pea (Cajanus cajan) varieties, IIPG-7 and IIPG-11, developed by Dr. Diego M. Viteri Dillon and Dr. Ángela Linares at the Agricultural Experiment Stations of Isabela and Lajas of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. Building on the previous year's Protecting Innovation in Agriculture initiative, the TTO conducted targeted outreach to more than 100 companies, universities, and institutions across multiple international markets, generating interest in evaluating the varieties for potential commercial applications.

Post-FY2026 update: Interest has continued to advance, including Green Cover Seeds in Arkansas, Tropical Seeds in Florida, the University of Florida, and the University for Development Studies in Ghana. Because of this growing interest, UPR is scheduled to plant additional IIPG-7 and IIPG-11 pigeon peas at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Lajas on October 5, 2026, to increase seed availability for samples to provide to interested entities. These samples will support field evaluations to assess the varieties and inform potential licensing decisions.

Global Technology Marketing through IN-PART

The TTO continued using IN-PART to position technologies from Puerto Rico's universities and research institutions before an international audience of industry R&D professionals and prospective commercialization partners. As of June 2026, the platform published 77 technologies. Collectively, the portfolio generated 8,224 targeted internal alerts, 1,334 technology article reads, 45 industry introductions, and 46 pieces of industry feedback, reaching audiences across 44 cities, 13 countries, and four continents.

During the most recent reporting period, IN-PART generated three new industry introduction requests and three additional pieces of industry feedback. In addition to creating industry connections, this feedback provides market intelligence regarding technology readiness, validation requirements, commercial fit, and alignment with corporate R&D priorities, helping inform subsequent technology development and commercialization strategies.

AI-Enabled Commercialization and Battery Technology Outreach

During FY2026, the TTO added FirstIgnite, an AI-powered business development platform, to complement its technology marketing activities through market analysis, company and decision-maker identification, and targeted outreach to prospective licensees and industry partners.

Technology Manager Josiah Hernández led the initial use of FirstIgnite, with particular emphasis on UPRM's rechargeable battery and energy-storage technology portfolio. Through this effort, the team reviewed more than 200 companies and directly contacted more than 100 prospective licensees and industry partners. The initiative also connected the team with the technology transfer offices of the University of Washington and the University of Michigan. Five UPRM professors working in rechargeable battery research were connected to three University of Washington researchers to explore collaborative research opportunities and broaden access to industry and investor networks outside Puerto Rico.

PR Patent Watch

During FY2026, the TTO launched PR Patent Watch, a digital content initiative designed to promote newly granted patents beyond traditional patent announcements. Each feature presents innovation as a commercialization opportunity by highlighting its potential applications, commercial relevance, and licensing availability, helping position Puerto Rico-developed technologies before potential licensees, industry partners, and investors.

BIO International Convention 2026: Expanded Industry Partnering

For the third consecutive year, the TTO participated in the BIO International Convention, using the event as a strategic venue to market technologies and engage prospective licensees and industry partners. During FY2026, the TTO expanded its delegation from two to three representatives by adding Associate Technology Manager Alba L. Marrero, joining Executive Director Dr. David L. Gulley and Associate Director Dr. Carlos Báez. The additional representative increased the team's capacity to conduct partnering activities and market a broader range of technologies, particularly within the life sciences portfolio.

In preparation for BIO 2026, the TTO evaluated 43 assets for potential promotion and identified 342 matching companies across the portfolio. Based on this targeted prospecting effort, the team sent 233 meeting requests to prospective industry partners and conducted 16 partnering meetings during the convention. These meetings provided direct opportunities to present technologies available for licensing and increase the visibility of Puerto Rico's research portfolio among biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry representatives.

Highlighting Women Inventors and Researchers

In celebration of Women's History Month, the "Spark Session with Lucy: Mujeres Investigadoras y la Ruta a sus Patentes" highlighted women researchers and inventors from across Puerto Rico. The event featured portfolio data and patent metrics on women inventors, along with panel discussions showcasing their experiences in research, patenting, entrepreneurship, and technology commercialization.

The conversation continued through public outreach. On June 3, Associate Director Dr. Carlos Báez joined Radio Isla's El Calentón, along with Sonia Valentín, Dr. Michelle Martínez-Montemayor, and Dr. Beatriz Zayas, to discuss innovation and technology transfer in Puerto Rico. The conversation also highlighted women's leadership in research, noting that more than 60% of the patents managed by the TTO include at least one-woman inventor.

EDA Puerto Rico's Tech Hub

Puerto Rico's Tech Hub ("PRBio Tech Hub"), led by Dr. David L. Gulley, TTO Executive Director and the Tech Hub's Regional Innovation Officer (RIO), advanced its Consortium in the second year of the EDA award, which totaled $556,898. This period focused on reshoring biopharmaceutical manufacturing and workforce development efforts aligned with the 2025 federal administration's priorities and the Governor's Reshoring Task Force priority areas. Highlights included an inventory of industry support resources; initial plans for a biomanufacturing apprenticeship program; engaging Consortium members for the new Reshoring Workforce Training Fund; developing a data collection infrastructure to support key metric reporting; and submitting a set of Stage II implementation projects.

A Designated Tech Hubs Coalition, representing the 31 Tech Hubs, and a subgroup of eight biopharma Tech Hubs were formed to advocate for the overall program, including a Hill Day on October 22, 2025, to educate key congressional representatives.

WHAT'S NEXT

TTO's mission is to effectively identify, assess, protect, market, and transfer the most promising research discoveries from Puerto Rico's universities, institutions, and research institutes to the private sector for commercialization and to benefit the public.

Our vision is to work collaboratively with our partner institutions to build a robust portfolio of research discoveries and high-value intellectual property and provide deal-making services to move those discoveries into businesses through industry partnerships, licensing agreements, and startup companies.

In 2027, the TTO will continue strengthening partnerships with academic institutions, external collaborators, industry partners, and other Trust programs to advance technology commercialization across Puerto Rico. We will further enhance our operational capacity by expanding staff expertise, strengthening professional networks, and advancing a specialized technology transfer model that improves efficiency, scalability, and service delivery.

Building on the implementation of FirstIgnite during FY2026, the TTO will continue expanding AI-powered prospecting and targeted industry outreach while strengthening its integration with Minuet, the technology transfer management platform developed by Inteum.

Together with IN-PART, direct industry outreach, and sector-specific partnering, these tools will support more efficient identification and engagement of potential licensees, collaborators, and commercialization opportunities.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

CENTER FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY

ANNUAL 2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

$481,680

for year #2 of the DTRA grant for the discovery of targets of natural products

2

patent applications: one provisional patent + one full patent protection application

118

compounds deposited in the NatPORT Online Repositor

104

previously unknown human targets for anticancer natural product erianin

CENTER FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

The Center for Tropical Biodiversity (CTB) was established in 2015 to guide the efforts of conservation and exploration of Puerto Rico's unique geography for benefits that can be scientific, societal or economic. Within the purview of the Center are the development of searchable collections of biological specimens, the conservation of biodiversity resources and the commercialization of biodiversity-derived products.

Over the last century, Puerto Rico has enjoyed a rich tradition of scientific research centered on its unique natural environment. There have been numerous projects aimed at observing and cataloging Puerto Rico's rich biodiversity with the goal of understanding how organisms interact with their surroundings. Lacking through the years has been a local policy to guide and coordinate these efforts, which were often driven by the curiosity of individual researchers in our many universities.

HOW WE DO IT

The CTB has become an important facilitator for high-impact research in the areas of biodiversity and natural products. We make contact with the appropriate stakeholders to (i) enable their biodiversity research by ensuring access to high- end equipment, (ii) communicate important issues related to the preservation of critical ecosystems for biodiversity , (iii) facilitate the public availability of data pertaining to biodiversity and natural products and (ii) promote that biodiversity researchers fully benefit from other PRSTRT programs, such as PRCCI and the TTO.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

Biodiversity research involves stakeholders at many levels: community organizations, environmental protection groups, scientific researchers, universities, commercial partners, government agencies and the media. The CTB has successfully connected several of these stakeholders for fruitful collaborations.

We have (a) engaged with university researchers and placed them in contact with entrepreneurs and innovators, (b) engaged the media for the communication of important issues concerning the conservation of biodiversity, and (c) established links with the business development sector to ensure that Puerto Rico is promoted as a potential source of biodiversity-derived products.

A new route for the discovery of human protein targets of natural products

During 2025-26, we substantially advanced two technologies that could enable the discovery of human protein targets for natural products and nanoparticles, respectively. We have developed methods that employ the HuProt Technology pioneered by CDI Laboratories in Mayagüez, PR. We used HuProt to identify human targets for erianin, a natural product derived from Dendrobium orchid species that have been extensively reported to have anticancer properties. We chose erianin as the model compound because it has been widely used in Chinese traditional medicine against different types of cancer. Additionally, published studies report validation of erianin targets using the HuProt™ platform.

This past year, the Center for Tropical Biodiversity implemented three independent strategies for measuring natural binders of erianin: (1) Label-free: measuring the ability of free erianin to outcompete Congo Red in the selected targets; (2) Direct labeling of erianin with a Nitrobenzodiazole (NBD) dye; and (3) Labeling erianin with biotin followed by application of Cy5-Streptavidin. We implemented these three approaches to compare the identified protein targets and fully validate the HuProt™-based target-identification workflows.

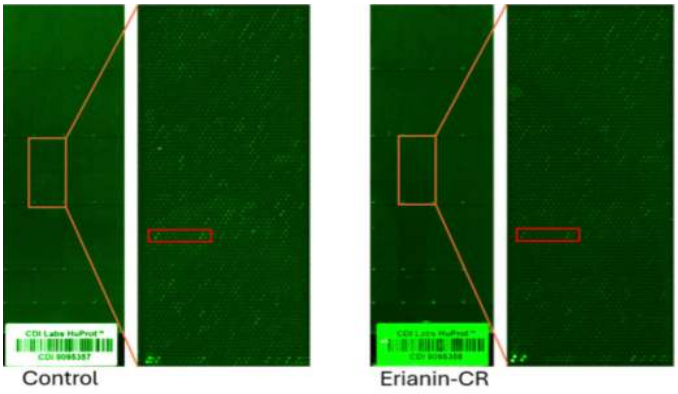


Figure 2: Using CDI's HuProt Technology we can access 22,000 human proteins simultaneously. Shown here is a block with a sample of 1,200 proteins in duplicates. The human targets of natural product erianin are identified as those signals that are decreased in the Erianin-CR surface vs the Control surface.

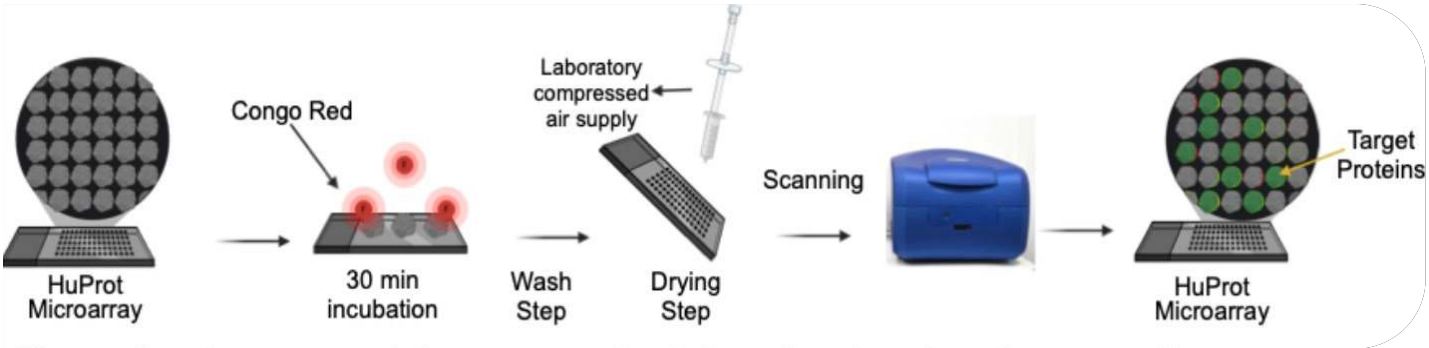


Figure 1: Schematics of the new methodology for thw identification of human targets for natural products in this case, erianin.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) supported this work through a grant, and we hold monthly meetings to report progress. The grant was authorized for a second year with $481,680. This closely supervised project has led to rapid development of expertise in operating the GenePix Microarray Scanner and GenePix Pro software to acquire, align, quantify, and analyze HuProt™ Human Proteome Microarray data. These skills are the technical foundation required to process and analyze protein microarray experiments. Specific skills include understanding the function and differences between GPR, GPS, and GAL files generated by the system, as well as identifying the most relevant GPR data outputs for each experimental format. We also gained a deeper understanding of the HuProt™ chip composition, structure, and manufacturing methods, including how these factors can influence assay performance, signal quality, and downstream data interpretation.

Optimization work included testing the microarray's ability to withstand multiple scans and repeated washing steps, evaluating wavelength specificity, identifying appropriate controls for specific wavelengths and Congo Red staining, and optimizing scanner settings such as PMT (Photomultiplier Tube) amplification and laser power. Additional testing determined when the microarray signal became saturated or damaged, and whether performance improved when used directly from freezer storage or after equilibration at room temperature.

Overall, this work supports the development of a robust, ground-breaking microarray processing pipeline with appropriate acquisition parameters, quality-control considerations, and experimental conditions to generate reliable, high-quality information on targets for small molecules and natural products.

Name	Z EriCR54	Z CR53	Delta Z CR53 vs Z EriCR54	Delta Z-Score Rank
FAM131B	2.092080197	5.59466859	3.502588392	1
TACSTD2	-0.61183503	2.4928531	3.104688128	2
MOSPD2	0.478115294	3.57753704	3.099421749	3
CADM4	-0.569913864	2.39770538	2.967619247	4
ZNF804B	-0.947204361	1.84584864	2.793053001	5
L3MBTL2	-0.297426283	2.32158721	2.619013495	6
KIAA1215	0.52003646	3.08276893	2.562732468	7
TSHZ3	-0.129741618	1.8268191	1.956560715	8
SAMD8	-0.507032114	1.44622824	1.953260353	9
PKD2	-0.360308032	1.50331687	1.863624899	10
ATP1B3	-0.423189782	1.23690327	1.660093049	11
ZDHHC8	0.016982464	1.5604055	1.543423032	12
TARBP2	2.301686028	3.80589156	1.504205529	13
RBL1	-0.863362028	0.49475109	1.358113122	14
HSPB9	-0.989125527	0.36154429	1.350669821	15
ZNF443	-1.135849609	0.19027841	1.326128017	16
CCDC97	3.182030521	4.47192556	1.289895038	17
TFR2	-0.716637946	0.53281018	1.249448126	18
P2RY4	-0.360308032	0.87534195	1.235649984	19
FAM160A2	-0.548953281	0.64698744	1.195940718	20
CBLN4	1.358459786	2.53091218	1.172452398	21
RBMKL2	0.205627713	1.31302144	1.107393726	22
COPS3	0.310430629	1.38913961	1.078708981	23
CYP2C18	1.127893372	2.13129178	1.003398411	24

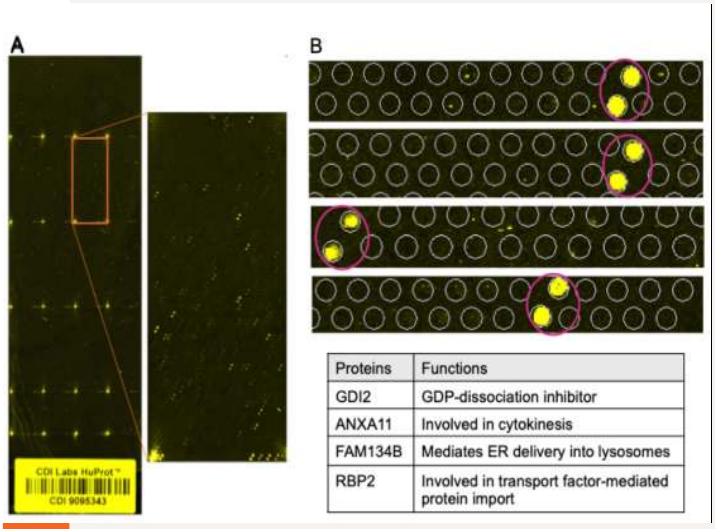
Name	Z EriCR56	Z CR53	Delta Z CR53 vs Z EriCR56	Delta Z-Score Rank
DHX30	-0.938705254	3.235005271	4.173710525	1
CADM4	-0.421049471	2.397705383	2.818754854	2
L3MBTL2	-0.403199271	2.321587212	2.724786483	3
PAWR	-0.849454257	1.446228239	2.295682496	4
CAGE1	-1.188608045	0.932430581	2.121038626	5
PKD2	-0.617401664	1.503316867	2.120718531	6
SAMD8	-0.510300468	1.446228239	1.956528707	7
SHFM1	1.292569672	3.196946185	1.904376513	8
OCLM	-0.795903658	1.046607838	1.842511496	9
PLTP	-0.563851066	1.217873724	1.78172479	10
ZDHHC8	-0.171146679	1.560405496	1.731552175	11
RUVBL2	3.220391208	4.947664131	1.727272923	12
RAB36	-0.528150667	1.141755552	1.669906219	13
FAM131B	3.987949782	5.594668589	1.606718807	14
RBMKL2	-0.224697277	1.313021439	1.537718716	15
FAM160A2	-0.831604057	0.646987437	1.478591494	16
PCDHGA7	-1.170757846	0.228337494	1.39909534	17
LRPAP1	0.16800711	1.484287325	1.316280215	18
P2RY4	-0.403199271	0.875341952	1.278541223	19
ATP1B3	0.043055714	1.236903267	1.193847553	20
GNB5	-1.741964227	-0.570903308	1.171060919	21
TFR2	-0.43889967	0.53281018	0.97170985	22
TARBP2	2.84553702	3.805891557	0.960354537	23
SBF1	-1.081506849	-0.133223821	0.948283028	24

Figure 3: Two different HuProt surfaces were used to identify possible targets. Two independent determinations of the top 24 hits. (out of 22,000 proteins) revealed 11 proteins (labeled in yellow) that represent the likely targets of erianin.

Nanoparticles find their partners

As a side project, the Center for Tropical Biodiversity has also developed the use of HuProt arrays to identify human proteins that bind to nanoparticles with high affinity. This knowledge matters because these newly discovered binding partners could shed light on the formation of protein coronae when nanoparticles encounter biological fluids. This corona can modulate the medicinal properties of the administered nanoparticle. So far, we have tested only two types of nanoparticles: outer membrane vesicles and liposomes. However, the field of nanoparticles and delivery systems is broad, offering an opportunity to further develop these microarrays as a screening tool, much like more typical particle characterization techniques such as Dynamic Light Scattering and zeta potential measurements.

Here we show an example of using HuProt™ microarrays to identify protein targets associated with lipid nanoparticles labeled with the fluorescent dye DIL. We found that the liposomes clearly stained proteins on the chip, and we identified 37 liposome-binding proteins. These preliminary data raise hope that this technology can be repurposed to formulate nanoparticles increasingly being developed as delivery systems for therapeutics and vaccines.



Proteins	Functions
GDI2	GDP-dissociation inhibitor
ANXA11	Involved in cytokinesis
FAM134B	Mediates ER delivery into lysosomes
RBP2	Involved in transport factor-mediated protein import

Figure 4: The HutProt technology has also been deployed to identify spontaneous protein partners of nanoparticles. Shown here are labeled nanoparticles spontaneously binding to a number of human proteins.



CTB Director Abel Baerga on the AAAS panel “Science in the Caribbean: Past, Present and Future” in Humacao.



CTB Director Abel Baerga presents his natural products research at the 2026 Latin American Chemistry Congress in Lima.

Expanding the intellectual property portfolio for the CTB

Both technologies previously described represent original and novel methodologies for using protein arrays to develop natural products and nanoparticles, respectively. Both technologies have been disclosed to the Technology Transfer Office for IP protection. In June 2025, we filed the provisional patent titled Methods for Identifying Protein Targets of Samples of Unknown Composition (US Pat. App. No. 63/822,495), which describes a novel method called Protein Array Target Search (PATS) that uses protein array technology to search for numerous targets of natural products and other chemical compounds. This provisional patent was converted into a nonprovisional patent on June 12, 2026.

Similarly, the provisional patent titled “A Method for the Identification of New Protein Binding Partners of Nanoparticles” (US Pat. App. No. 63/977,817) was submitted in February 2026 and describes using protein microarrays to identify proteins with a high natural affinity for nanoparticles. This invention could help formulate nanoparticles for human use, although further confirmation is needed to ensure the identified proteins enhance nanoparticle bioavailability in animal models and prolong their half-life.



uspto UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450
www.uspto.gov

ELECTRONIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT

APPLICATION #	RECEIPT DATE / TIME	ATTORNEY DOCKET #
63/822,495	06/12/2025 03:07:00 PM Z ET	25-0041-US-PRO

Title of Invention

METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING PROTEIN TARGETS OF SAMPLES OF UNKNOWN COMPOSITION

Application Information

APPLICATION TYPE	Utility - Provisional Application under 35 USC 111(b)	PATENT #	-
CONFIRMATION #	2748	FILED BY	Kyle Planck
PATENT CENTER #	70867987	FILING DATE	-
CUSTOMER #	20306	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	Abel Baerga-Ortiz
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	-	AUTHORIZED BY	-



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Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450
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ELECTRONIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT

APPLICATION #	RECEIPT DATE / TIME	ATTORNEY DOCKET #
63/977,817	02/06/2026 07:37:59 PM Z ET	26-0200-US-PRO

Title of Invention

A Method For The Identification of New Protein Binding Partners of Nanoparticles

Application Information

APPLICATION TYPE	Utility - Provisional Application under 35 USC 111(b)	PATENT #	-
CONFIRMATION #	2410	FILED BY	Bryan Helwig
PATENT CENTER #	74377411	FILING DATE	-
CUSTOMER #	20306	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	Abel Baerga Ortiz
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	-	AUTHORIZED BY	-

Figure 5

Impact of the Center for Tropical Biodiversity on the training of students

Throughout the years, the Center for Tropical Biodiversity has provided ideas and expertise to inform a robust program for training and workforce development. Several students have developed projects in support of their master's and bachelor's Degree projects. Here is a sample.



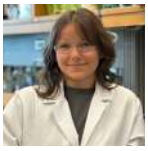
Marie Matos, PhD.
UPR School of Pharmacy



Jacobo Morales, MS
Interamerican University,
Barranquitas Campus



Myrna Rodríguez, MS
Interamerican University,
Barranquitas Campus



Chloe Naquin (Summer Research)
University of Alabama Birmingham, AL



Audrey Blust (Summer Research)
West Luberty University, West Virginia



Jabiel Aqueron (Summer Research)
Stony Brook University, New York



Yeissette Burgos, MS
UPR Mayagüez



Alejandro Reyes, MD
UPR Río Piedras



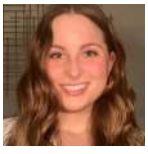
Amanda García (PostBac Student)
UPR Mayagüez



Alejandro Freytes (PostBac Student)
Boston University Boston,MA



Karla Gómez (Undergraduate)
UPR Río Piedras



Emma Dionne (Summer Research)
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Video on the Cuban Tree Frog

This past year, a new video was made available detailing the CTB's work, in collaboration with UPR Mayagüez, to characterize the microbial communities associated with the Cuban Tree Frog. Amphibians in the tropics are increasingly threatened by fungal infections, yet some of them can thrive even in the presence of fungal pathogens. This work by Colston and the CTB aims to elucidate the role of bacteria associated with the frog that may help control fungal populations. Some of the work to sample the Cuban Tree Frog is captured in a series of videos available through FideicomisoTV, in collaboration with the Communications Team. These videos document field scientists collecting samples from this invasive species to determine its microbiological profile, understand its biology, and potentially extract useful compounds from its skin.

The complete recording of the activity is available on PRSTRT's Youtube at the following.

Participation at BIO

For the past 8 years, the CTB has participated in the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) Conference to find partnering opportunities. As an active participant in the BIO International Conference as part of the Puerto Rico Delegation, we engaged in numerous ways with companies and institutions abroad to identify opportunities. In BIO, we made numerous contacts with potential business partners for the initiative. Invest Puerto Rico assembled the delegation and included the BIO International Conference as one of the four main platforms for showcasing Puerto Rico's vast potential for business in the life sciences sector. The CTB has advanced conversations with Invest Puerto Rico to include natural products and biodiversity in Puerto Rico's value proposition.

WHAT'S NEXT

CENTER FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

In the coming years, the Center for Tropical Biodiversity should continue to expand knowledge on biodiversity and natural products, should continue to establish critical collaborations with field biologists and environmental scientists with the goal of developing areas of impact and mutual interest, and should continue to advance policies consistent with current global knowledge on how to best protect and manage biodiversity resources. This year, our team has drafted a Strategic Plan that projects our work for three years into the future, with emphasis on areas of strength, weakness, opportunities, and threats. Clearly, the Center's growth in these areas will largely depend on our ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions and efficiently identify funding opportunities that sustain existing efforts.

In collaboration with the renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego (https://scripps.ucsd.edu/), we have begun drafting a proposal that explores potential applications of Caribbean sargassum as fuel for a bioreactor.

Dr. Eric Allen's group at Scripps has identified numerous microorganisms that live inside a Pacific Ocean fish species and can fully digest sargassum, converting it into high-value chemical compounds. CTB's participation in the project would go beyond providing sargassum samples and into biochemical characterization of the mechanisms by which bacteria drive sargassum decomposition.

Our current areas of impact go beyond the environmental sciences as we venture into the agricultural sciences, nutrition, health, and planning: all areas of current growth and good potential for commercial impact.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ANNUAL 2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

300

Genomic Surveillance Reports Delivered to the PR Department of Health

Since 2021, including about 40 reports produced this year, we have sustained uninterrupted SARS-CoV-2 surveillance for Puerto Rico.

18,766

COVID-19 Samples Processed and Banked

Puerto Rico's largest genomic dataset: 71.8% of the Island's sequences have been seen since April 2022; surveillance remains active today.

$1.3M

NIH U19 Award Within a $35M Aging Program

The Research Institute will manage and consolidate all clinical molecular biology for a National Institute on Aging U19 on the biology of aging, co-led by Dariana Morales (awarded July 2026).

35

Students and Educators Trained Through the NIIMBL eXperience Workforce Development Program and BioPharma Summer

15 undergraduates and 18 high school STEM educators completed immersive NIIMBL biomanufacturing programs, and two additional undergraduates joined the inaugural BioPharma Summer Program.

100%

Net Promoter Score Across Both NIIMBL Cohorts

Every 2026 participant, students and educators alike, rated the experience highly valuable and would recommend it.

70+

Scientists From 5 Countries Trained in Spectral Flow Cytometry

The first specialized spectral cytometry workshop of its kind is offered in Puerto Rico (April 2026).

60+

Undergraduate and Graduate Students Instructed.

Institute scientists delivered guest lectures across four university courses in Puerto Rico, spanning biopharmaceutics, microbiology, bioinformatics, and human metabolism.

Research Institute Core Laboratories Consolidated

The Island's Core Laboratories were established through a Memorandum of Understanding with the PR Department of Health, a milestone of the Institute's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

The Research Institute (RI), under the auspices of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust (PRSTRT), is committed to fostering a collaborative and diverse research community. Our mission is to support innovative basic and applied research into the fundamental biological mechanisms underlying diseases that disproportionately impact our population. We focus on developing potential therapies and interventions that can significantly reduce or eliminate health disparities across our archipelago. We encourage investigations into a wide range of diseases associated with significant morbidity and mortality in Puerto Rico, believing that accelerating biomedical research and improving human health requires a diverse community in terms of education, training, background, perspectives, interests, and identity. Our vision at the Research Institute is to serve as a beacon of health innovation and research excellence in Puerto Rico and beyond.

HOW WE DO IT

We aim to ensure that the benefits of all research outcomes are translated to our people, reaching all the way to the patient's bedside. We strive to create a tangible difference in the health and well-being of our community, transforming lives through the power of scientific discovery and its application. We envision a future where health disparities are significantly reduced, and every individual has access to the best possible healthcare solutions informed by cutting-edge research.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

The Research Institute primarily connects with educational institutions, both public and private, that are involved in scientific and medical research. Our program is designed for researchers, healthcare professionals, and students in Puerto Rico and beyond who are committed to advancing biomedical research and improving health outcomes. We also engage with the healthcare and biotechnology sectors, including hospitals, biopharmaceutical and biomanufacturing companies, and biotech startups. We collaborate with a variety of stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector companies, to facilitate research, drive innovation, and translate scientific discoveries into practical healthcare solutions. Our partnerships span local, national, and international levels, fostering a diverse and dynamic research ecosystem.

Consolidating the Research Institute Core Laboratories

Advances Strategic Priorities I and II of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goals A and E).
This year, the Research Institute consolidated the Research Institute Core Laboratories, the Island's first shared-use scientific core services operation. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Puerto Rico Department of Health, a milestone objective of the Institute's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, formalized terms for shared equipment use, service offerings, and long-term access, enabling a sustainable fee-for-use service model.

The Core Laboratories offer a unified menu spanning biorepository, nucleic acid extraction, next-generation sequencing, qPCR and ddPCR, imaging, and bioinformatics, anchored by Puerto Rico's largest whole-genome sequencing capacity and the region's first spectral flow cytometry and imaging core. Together, these capabilities let investigators run projects that previously required sending samples off-Island.

This consolidation repositions the Institute as a key contributor to the scientific backbone of Puerto Rico's research ecosystem, able to anchor multi-institution federal programs, attract national and international collaborations, and keep talent, data, and discovery in Puerto Rico.



Biomanufacturing Hands-on training for students.



Welcome Reception for Educators.



Professional Associations Panel

Puerto Rico Anchors a Landmark NIH U19 Program on the Biology of Aging

Advances Strategic Priority II of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goal D, funding diversification and external collaboration).

In partnership with Arizona State University, the Research Institute secured a $1.3M role in a $35M multi-institution U19 program funded by the National Institute on Aging (awarded July 2026), titled “Causes, Consequences, and Modifiers of Heterogeneity in Aging in a Naturalistic Nonhuman Primate Model.” Co-led at the Institute by Dariana Morales, this collaborative, interdisciplinary project studies aging in one of our nearest primate relatives, revealing how social and environmental factors shape aging, health, and disease.

Fieldwork centers on the world-renowned Cayo Santiago Biological Field Station, while the Research Institute will manage and consolidate all clinical molecular biology activities for the project at the Trust, applying the high-throughput capacity built for pathogen surveillance to a new frontier in aging biology. This places Puerto Rico at the heart of a nationally significant effort to extend human health span by identifying protective factors and the mechanisms behind aging.

The knowledge generated is expected to guide personalized interventions that lower the risk of age-related diseases and disabilities, ultimately benefiting population health. For the Institute, the award validates its Core Laboratories strategy, converting local infrastructure and talent into a durable engine for federally funded, globally competitive science conducted in Puerto Rico.

Multiplying Impact: The NIIMBL eXperience for Students and, for the First Time, Educators

Advances Strategic Priority III of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goal F, market-driven biomanufacturing workforce).

In 2026, the Research Institute deepened its biomanufacturing workforce strategy by pairing direct student training with a first-of-its-kind program for educators, a deliberate move to multiply reach across the K-12 system.

For the first time, the Institute hosted the NIIMBL eXperience for Educators at its own facilities (June 2026), training 18 public and private high school STEM teachers drawn from all seven of Puerto Rico’s educational regions. By equipping teachers rather than only students, the program creates a multiplier effect, since each participating educator carries upstream and downstream biomanufacturing concepts back to hundreds of students, embedding industry-relevant science directly into classrooms across the Island.

This builds the workforce pipeline upstream of the university, where interest in biomanufacturing careers is first formed.

In parallel, the NIIMBL eXperience for Students (May 31 to June 6, 2026) trained 15 undergraduates in hands-on biomanufacturing, with visits to biopharmaceutical companies. Both cohorts earned a 100% Net Promoter Score, and the Institute placed two University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras undergraduates in its laboratories through the BioPharma Summer Program. Together, these efforts align the Institute with Puerto Rico's biomanufacturing reshoring strategy and the EDA BioTech Hub, building talent at every level.

Research Scientists as Educators: Bridging Discovery and the Classroom

Advances Strategic Priority III of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goal G, research training and education).

Beyond its research, the Research Institute contributed to scientific education this period by placing its scientists in the classroom as guest lecturers across several of Puerto Rico's universities, both public and private. Rather than teaching textbooks, Institute scientists brought their active research programs directly to students, giving them firsthand exposure to the methods and questions driving biomanufacturing and genomics on the Island today.



NIIMBL experience for Educators



Biomanufacturing Hands-on training for Educators



2026 Educators Cohort

The Institute taught four university courses. In Industrial Microbiology (BIOL 4433) at Universidad Interamericana, Recinto Metro, its scientists presented the upstream and downstream processes central to biopharmaceutical drug development. In Microbiomes (BIOL 6010) at UPR Río Piedras, they shared the Institute's SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance work, showing how population-scale sequencing informs public health decisions. In Bioinformatics (BIOL 4370) at UPR Humacao, they covered genomic surveillance and bioinformatic analysis of SARS-CoV-2. At the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, School of Medicine, they taught three modules of Human Metabolism: A Biochemical Perspective course (BCHM 8670). Together, these efforts reached more than 60 students. This engagement reflects the Institute's commitment to integrating research expertise with academic instruction, strengthening the talent pipeline, and fostering the next generation of scientists across Puerto Rico's higher education system.

First Spectral Flow Cytometry Workshop in Puerto Rico

Advances Strategic Priority III of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goal G, technical training modules).

Building on the launch of Puerto Rico's first spectral flow cytometry core, the Research Institute hosted the Island's first specialized spectral cytometry workshop for researchers on April 27 and 28, 2026. The training drew more than 70 scientists from five countries, an unprecedented gathering for this technology in the Caribbean.

Participants received foundational and advanced instruction in high-dimensional cellular analysis, spectral unmixing, and immunophenotyping, delivered through lectures and hands-on laboratory sessions on the Institute's Cytek and Amnis platforms. The workshop gave regional investigators, clinicians, and technical professionals direct access to capabilities that were previously unavailable in Puerto Rico or the wider Caribbean.

Beyond the technical content, the event strengthened a growing community of practice around advanced cytometry, seeding new collaborations and positioning the Institute as the regional hub for this field. It reflects a deliberate strategy of pairing world-class infrastructure with the training needed to use it, so that local scientists can compete at the highest level without leaving the Island. Additional workshops in sequencing, metabolism, multiplex immunoquantification, and organoid culture, among others, are currently on the Institute's training agenda.

Sustained Genomic Surveillance and a Permanent, Pathogen-Ready Asset

Advances Strategic Priorities I and II of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goals C and D).
The Puerto Rico COVID-19 Variant Surveillance Initiative (PRCVSI) has remained fully active, with nearly five years of uninterrupted data since November 2021. In the second quarter of 2026, the program is tracking the XFG lineage at roughly 70%, alongside XFJ, LP.8.1, and recombinants, resolved to the senatorial-district level and published through a live public dashboard.
Since 2021, the Institute has received 34,262 samples, extracted 23,304, and deposited 18,766 genomes in GISAID, a more than 40-fold increase in monthly sequencing output (from about 8 to about 335 genomes per month). The Institute has contributed 53.8% of all Puerto Rico SARS-CoV-2 sequences deposited in GISAID and 71.8% of those since April 2022. Sequencing runs on dual platforms, Oxford Nanopore Technologies and Illumina, with ddPCR screening and an independent bioinformatics pipeline.

Because that pipeline is the Institute's own, the platform is pathogen-agnostic and ready today for other infectious diseases of clinical importance, including dengue (endemic in Puerto Rico), influenza, mpox, and emerging arboviral and anti-microbial-resistance threats. A manuscript on the Omicron wave, led by Luis A. Acevedo-Marquez and colleagues, is being prepared for the Journal of Infectious Diseases.



Spectral Flow Cytometry Workshop



International Scientist at Flow Cytometry Workshop



Oxford Nanopore Technologies Workshop

Disseminating Research at the AAAS Caribbean Division 40th Annual Meeting

Advances Strategic Priorities II and III of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goals D and F).
The Research Institute brought Puerto Rico's science to a regional stage at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Caribbean Division 40th Annual Meeting, held October 24 and 25, 2025, in Humacao. With five poster presentations, the Institute stood among the meeting's most active contributors, and its work drew directly on the two commitments that define its mission, building the workforce and protecting public health.

One presentation spotlighted the NIIMBL eXperience, the Institute's hands-on summer program that opens biomanufacturing career pathways for undergraduates and channels local talent toward Puerto Rico's growing bioeconomy. The remaining four traced the Institute's genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, pairing advanced molecular sequencing with epidemiological analysis to track emerging variants from Omicron through KP.2 and to turn that data into early warning for the Island.

Presenting this body of work at a single meeting showcased both the breadth and the maturity of the Institute's research program and reaffirmed its role as a scientific anchor for Puerto Rico and the wider Caribbean.

Convening the Ecosystem: DNA Summer Camps and Puerto Rico's First Nanopore Users Event

Advances Strategic Priorities II and III of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan (Goals D and G).
As a trusted, neutral convener, the Research Institute increasingly serves as the physical and scientific home for programs that grow Puerto Rico's research community from the ground up.

In June and July 2026, the Institute hosted DNA Summer Camps at the Trust's facilities, bringing hands-on molecular biology and DNA science to Puerto Rican students through programming from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory DNA Learning Center and Arecibo C3. Research Institute scientists volunteered as instructors and mentors, giving young participants direct contact with working researchers and access to professional laboratory space rarely available at the K-12 level. Hosting programming of this caliber positions the Institute as a launch point for the Island's next generation of scientists.

Building the community at the other end of the pipeline, on August 25, 2026, the Institute will host Puerto Rico's first Nanopore Users Event at the Trust, convening researchers and technical staff who use, or want to adopt, Oxford Nanopore long-read sequencing. The event extends the Institute's sequencing leadership from a single laboratory into a shared regional user community, reinforcing its role as the hub for genomics capability in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

WHAT'S NEXT

RESEARCH INSTITUTE | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Guided by its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, the Research Institute enters the coming year focused on turning its Core Laboratories into a durable engine for federally funded science. The immediate priority is to stand up the new NIH U19 aging program and ramp up the pipeline for specimens from Cayo Santiago and partner sites.

This year, the Institute will also submit an NIH C06 construction grant to make the Nexus Research and Innovation Center a reality. Beyond expanding capacity, Nexus will let the Institute recruit independent investigators who establish their own extramurally funded research programs in integrative biosciences, turning construction into a self-sustaining engine of federally funded research anchored in Puerto Rico.

A proposal portfolio is pending review, including Talento Boricua and FORGE PR (US Department of Education), the E-CORE Puerto Rico Research Commons as a co-lead (NSF), an NIH R21 with Omiquity Health LLC, and a USDA NIFA proposal on nano biosensors. Building on the NIIMBL eXperience, the team is expanding bio-manufacturing training, including the Pathways to Biomanufacturing (PTBio) initiative for high school students, and plans to broaden access to its cores, extend pathogen-agnostic surveillance to dengue, influenza, and mpox, and grow its workshop series, with an organoids workshop already planned.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Caribbean Center for Rising Seas

ANNUAL 2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

3
Months of work

2
Appearances in Senate Public Hearings

51,854
When the Sea Reaches Us documentary views

5 nominations and
1 EMMY Award for Best Photography for When the Sea Reaches Us

195
Individuals reached in 7 events

3
Universities engaged

1
Newspaper Column (Up to 1.2M readers)

1
Upcoming Research Article

An award for scientific communication

Our sea level rise documentary, “Cuando el Mar Nos Alcance” (When the Sea Reaches Us), has been viewed by almost **52 thousand** unique viewers since its release online in December of 2024. The film which takes viewers on a journey from the warm shores of the Caribbean to Greenland’s majestic yet melting glaciers, received five nominations for EMMY Awards in the fall of 2025 and in December was presented with an **EMMY** for best photography. This is the first time a documentary produced in Puerto Rico centering on scientific communication receives an award of this type and underscores the value produced by the Caribbean Center for Rising Seas the larger Puerto Rico Science Trust and the Rising Seas Institute as relates to advocating for resilience and adaptation to the myriad effects of global warming. We are thankful for the invitations to screen the documentary from the Interamerican University, the San Juan Bay Estuary Program, and **12** other organizations.

27.4M

Impressions

168.7K

Followers

631.7K

Engagements

Circa $60,000 investment by PRSTRT and RSI on production.

6 months of planning,
18 months of production.

With the collaboration of Cosecha Creativa, Malou Media, Puerto Rico Sea Grant, Terra Firma Software, Instituto para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades, and La Margarita Inc.

Advancing research for adaptation

The research article titled **"Empowering Climate Resilience in La Margarita, Salinas, Puerto Rico: Lessons Learned from the Co-Production of NASA Earth Observation Data Applications for Environmental Justice"** has been accepted for publication in the Community Science journal of the American Geophysical Union. This project used earth observation data to strengthen environmental justice in coastal areas, combining advanced technology and local wisdom in efforts to improve resilience and resource management, and identify and mitigate environmental problems exacerbated by extreme weather and poor land use. The collaborative approach seeks to empower community residents by providing them with tools for better adaptation and planning. This has been an effort led by the Global Resilience Institute, Dr. Stephen Flynn, and Dr. Kristin Raub which received funding from NASA. As an often-overlooked typical neighborhood, the community became a case study in planning, policy, and climate impact's mitigation relief gaps. We are grateful for the collaboration of the community members who co-produced the knowledge derived from the study.

Fall 2021:

Initial community engagement

2022:

Proposal granted by NASA

Summer 2026:

Research article accepted

Project advanced by a multidisciplinary team

Otherwise invisible community needs and circumstances where unveiled for a critically useful case study.

Critical projects in progress

Risk assessments, demonstration projects, and practical tools can help manage the risks of global warming. Félix Santiago Ph.D. (University of Georgia) leads the Co-developing Actions and Tools for Compounding Hazards (CATCH) project to develop a community-informed framework for understanding, modeling, and mitigating compound coastal flooding. Immediate and long-term resilience solutions will be tested with floodable communities in the San Juan Bay estuary. The initiative involved the CCRS which had been repeatedly asked about non-governmental local data sources. This project advances the opportunity to create one such independent data source network of flood sensors to observe micro-geographies and create supporting data, validate observations, and improve hazard warnings.

Meanwhile, the Engagement and Mitigation for Building Resilience Against Cascading Events (EMBRACE) project, led by Dr. Alireza Ermagun (George Mason University), focuses on inland municipalities, where many events start. Researchers and communities work to formulate questions, conceptualize solutions, and co-produce a research program that advances knowledge, builds capacity, and reduces vulnerability in a changing climate. While understanding cascading hazards shapes research, a strategic shift from response and recovery to preparedness, proactive management, and adaptation can promote the development of smarter cities, where better problem diagnosis can lead to a reduction in disruptions and hazards.

Policy recommendations summary

Puerto Rico must urgently adopt measures contained in the Mitigation Adaptation and Resiliency to Climate Change Plan for sea-level rise, resilient infrastructure, effective coastal planning, climate justice, and science-based investment to reduce escalating risks, costs, and community vulnerability. We recommend:

1. For tangible results, it is vital to update building codes and related regulations, considering the different scenarios of sea level rise, the particular level of risk of coastal areas and adding safety margins recognizing the increase in vulnerability caused by sea level rise.
2. We urgently recommend that current budget allocations, the Four-Year Investment Plan, and the priority projects of the different government agencies and instrumentalities be reviewed to include adaptation strategies that coincide with the social, political, economic, environmental and climate reality that our archipelago faces. We must be able to live for many decades with the result of those budget allocations.
3. The government must carefully review the economic aspects of updating the use and location of infrastructure in the coastal area. Privileges granted to maximize the benefit of real estate and the tax on real estate must be calibrated to pay for infrastructure or else the infrastructure must not be implemented or maintained.

Since 2021, answered 17 requests for information and made 24 policy recommendations.

Policy recommendations addressed legislators, mayors, professionals, educators, and industry leaders.

Advocated for community-led adaptation, updating building codes, land use and zoning regulations, and updating decision-makers' knowledge on sea level rise.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust envisions a transformative future, driven by innovation and resilience. As part of the Trust's strategic planning and given the limitations of existing funds at both the local and federal levels, the Caribbean Center for Rising Seas program has been paused as of October 2025.

The Caribbean Center for Rising Seas successfully established Puerto Rico's first integrated platform dedicated to sea-level-rise adaptation, policy innovation, public education, and resilience planning. The high-impact accomplishments and results generated by the program remain active assets that position the Puerto Rico Science Trust prepared to rapidly relaunch the initiative should strategic funding opportunities emerge as risks intensify.

Sea level rise remains one of the most significant long-term transformations in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, and its impacts will shape our environment, society, and economy for many generations.

We are extremely grateful for all the contributions from the program's team, the technological tools developed, and the strategic relationships initiated and cultivated, as well as the presence the program gave us in communities and the efforts made to advance legislation on the issue of sea level rise. The Trust remains firmly committed to climate resilience and applied science.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT 2026



FACILITAMOS

EMPRENDIMIENTO

We Facilitate Entrepreneurship

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Colmena66

Tu Camino Empresarial

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

21,119
served since 2016 (2,417 in 2025–2026)

51,035
entrepreneur interactions since 2016 (4,554 in 2025–2026)

1 of 65
affiliates using SourceLink Pro

69,679
Resource Directory searches since 2016 (1,076 in 2025–2026)

$1.1m
estimated economic impact generated by Boricua Emprende Fest 2025

5,600+
connections between entrepreneurs and Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) at BE Fest 2025

16
SBIR/STTR proposals submitted and 2 SBIR Phase I awards secured

$429,645
in federal SBIR/STTR funding secured

$325,000
SBIR/STTR matching funds awarded

Colmena66
Tu Camino Empresarial

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

Colmena66 facilitates entrepreneurship by connecting and building the entrepreneurial community. We are the entrepreneurial ecosystem builder and integrator. Our vision is that anyone in Puerto Rico can start and grow a successful business.

Colmena66 is an award-winning program that connects entrepreneurs with the right resources at the right time, helping them accelerate their ideas into sustainable businesses that create jobs. We identify and analyze gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and work hand in hand with the Entrepreneurial Resource Network to build the invisible infrastructure that supports entrepreneurs.

HOW WE DO IT

As the main resource hub for entrepreneurs, we provide guidance through our call center, interactive resource directory, event calendar and educational resources. We help find answers to any business question and connect entrepreneurs with the right resource at the right time so that they can start or grow a successful business.

Colmena66 convenes and builds community among Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (ESOs) in the Resource Network. They can leverage our events, communication channels, and data to amplify their reach and better serve entrepreneurs. ESOs benefit from opportunities to network, educate their staff, and join ecosystem-wide efforts such as the Resource Network Meetups, the Boricua Emprende Fest, Tu Camino Empresarial Tour regional events, the Status Report of the Entrepreneurial Community in Puerto Rico and Levanta tu Negocio crisis recovery platform.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

To fulfill our role of entrepreneurial ecosystem builder and integrator, we work with entrepreneurs and connect them with the right ESOs to address their needs. We are the only organization in Puerto Rico that works with all types of businesses, at any stage.

The ESOs that make up our Resource Network include non-profit organizations, service providers, academia, government agencies, and others. With this network we have been able to develop system-wide initiatives related to public policy, innovation and R&D, capacity building, disaster recovery, and much more.

Colmena66 Highlights

As Colmena66 celebrates its 10th anniversary, we continue to strengthen Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs with the resources, organizations, and opportunities they need to succeed. During 2025–2026, our communications efforts expanded the visibility of Colmena66 and Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem, growing our social media community by 13.3% and generating more than 5 million impressions—a 25% increase over the previous year.

Through our annual Entrepreneur Support Organization Survey, we also captured the collective impact of our robust network of resource partners across the island. The 94 participating organizations reported deploying more than $60 million in capital, supporting over 84,000 entrepreneurs, and creating more than 75,000 jobs in 2025. These insights provide valuable data to inform decision-making and demonstrate the strength of Puerto Rico's collaborative entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Colmena66 actively participated in 83 outreach events, raising awareness of entrepreneurial resources and connecting 1,318 entrepreneurs across Puerto Rico with the support they need to launch, grow, and scale their businesses.

During October 2025, the program underwent a leadership transition, marking an important milestone in its continued growth and development. We were pleased to welcome Bárbara Rivera-Chinea as the new Executive Director, bringing a renewed vision and commitment to advancing the program's mission and strategic priorities. At the same time, we appointed Samuel Merced as Associate Director, strengthening the leadership team and supporting the organization's efforts to enhance operations, expand impact, and ensure continued success in serving our business community and stakeholders.



Executive Director Bárbara Rivera-Chinea



Associate Director Samuel Merced

Tu Camino Empresarial

In November 2025, Tu Camino Empresarial Tour (TCE Tours) brought entrepreneurs from across northern Puerto Rico to Arecibo, transforming the Tu Camino Empresarial map into a hands-on experience that connected participants with Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs), expert mentors, and the resources available to help them succeed.

By bringing Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem directly to communities outside the metropolitan area, TCE Tours expands access to expert guidance, business resources, and meaningful connections. Each regional stop is tailored to the local business community's unique needs and opportunities, ensuring entrepreneurs receive relevant support at every stage of their journey.

The agenda featured educational sessions on business idea validation, marketing strategies, and access to capital, providing practical knowledge to help entrepreneurs launch, strengthen, and scale their agrobusinesses.



TCE Tour brings entrepreneurs together in Arecibo, November 2025.



Expert mentors provide personalized guidance to entrepreneurs.

184
entrepreneurs served

98.3%
reported increased access to entrepreneurial support resources

72
one-on-one mentoring sessions

9.6/10
participant satisfaction and likelihood to recommend

490
connections between entrepreneurs and ESOs

Boricua Emprende Fest

For the seventh consecutive year, Boricua Emprende Fest (BE Fest) served as Puerto Rico's largest gathering of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, advancing Colmena66's goal of creating a stronger, more connected entrepreneurial ecosystem through collaboration, innovation, and access to resources. The event brought entrepreneurs, Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs), investors, corporations, and strategic partners together for a full day, expanding access to resources, fostering meaningful connections, and showcasing the collective progress of Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The event featured more than 130 speakers across 50 educational sessions, personalized mentoring opportunities, and Puerto Rico's largest entrepreneurial ecosystem expo, showcasing more than 60 ESOs. A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of the BE Boricua Pitch Competition, which awarded $12,500 in seed funding to nine entrepreneurs, providing early-stage capital to help accelerate the growth of promising small businesses.

Beyond the main event, BemBÉ extended the festival's reach through a week of community events across Puerto Rico, bringing entrepreneurial resources directly to local communities and engaging 1,784 participants.



CEO Lucy Crespo, presenting at BE Fest 2025.



ESOs offer resources to entrepreneurs at BE Fest 2025

2,368
participants

90%
satisfaction rate

5,600+
connections between entrepreneurs and ESOs

4/5
participants reported increased business knowledge and readiness

74/78
municipalities represented

$1.1M
estimated economic impact generated

$283,000+
in earned media value (non-paid publicity)

Acércate al Grant (AAG)

During the reporting period, Acércate al Grant (AAG) strengthened Puerto Rico's innovation ecosystem by increasing awareness of SBIR/STTR opportunities, enhancing grant readiness, and supporting technology commercialization. Through 24 outreach activities, the program engaged approximately 650 entrepreneurs and researchers across Puerto Rico. AAG collaborated with key partners including the Federal Contracting Center (FeCC/APEX Accelerator), University of Puerto Rico, Grupo Guayacán's I-Corps Puerto Rico, PR-SBTDC, DARPA, USPTO, and DDEC, expanding access to mentorship, technical expertise, research infrastructure, and federal funding opportunities.

The program delivered specialized training on grant readiness, intellectual property, and capital access to 136 participants and provided individualized business and technical assistance to 126 innovators. Despite the lapse in federal SBIR/STTR authorization from October 1, 2025, through April 13, 2026, participants continued advancing proposals and preparing opportunities with agencies such as NASA and the Department of Defense (DoD). Notable outcomes included a USDA Phase I award to Flora Rural, an NSF Phase I award to Cultimar Technologies, and $325,000 in matching funds awarded to innovative Puerto Rico-based companies, helping accelerate commercialization and strengthen the Puerto Rico's R&D pipeline.

PROGRAM IMPACT NUMBERS

650
entrepreneurs and researchers reached

136
participants trained

$325,000
in SBIR/STTR matching funds awarded by the PRSTRT

$429,546
in federal SBIR/STTR funding secured

16
in SBIR/STTR proposals submitted

2
SBIR Phase I awards

Juntes de La Red (Meetups)

A strong entrepreneurial ecosystem is built on collaboration. Through Juntes de la Red (Resource Partner Meetups), Colmena66 brings together Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) from across Puerto Rico to strengthen relationships, share knowledge, and align efforts around a common goal: helping entrepreneurs succeed.

During the year, Colmena66 hosted two Juntes de la Red, creating a platform for organizations to exchange best practices, build new partnerships, and leverage data to support strategic decision-making. These convenings also provided a forum to discuss the challenges and opportunities shaping Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem, with featured sessions on Economic Outlook 2026 and Identifying Funding Opportunities and Operational Sustainability Strategies.

By strengthening collaboration and promoting data-informed decision-making, Juntes de la Red helps build a more connected, coordinated, and resilient entrepreneurial ecosystem—one that is better equipped to support entrepreneurs across Puerto Rico.



ESOs network at Colmena66's Junte.`



Leaders discuss entrepreneurial ecosystem opportunities and strategies.



Hector Jirau (right), Parallel18's executive director, moderates a panel discussion.

Status Report of Puerto Rico's Entrepreneurial Community 2025

At Colmena66, data-driven decision-making is at the core of everything we do. To better understand and measure the impact of Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial support ecosystem, in september we launched our Annual Survey, in September, designed to provide meaningful insights into the organizations and entrepreneurs driving the island's economy.

The inaugural survey gathered responses from 94 Entrepreneur Support Organizations, representing more than 130 entrepreneurial support programs, as well as 555 entrepreneurs from across Puerto Rico. As part of this initiative, Colmena66 convened an advisory group of ecosystem leaders and subject matter experts to help guide the survey's development and the analysis of its findings. The findings will be presented for the first time at Boricua Emprende Fest 2026, providing valuable data to inform decision-making.



CEO Lucy Crespo moderates a panel discussion on Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Entrepreneurs share their experiences and insights on the island's business landscape.



Colmena66, the team behind the entrepreneurial community status report.

Entrepreneurial Calendar

Through our centralized entrepreneurial calendar, Colmena66 increases access to business resources by bringing opportunities together in one accessible platform. The calendar featured 660 entrepreneurial events, helping entrepreneurs discover opportunities. Additionally, our team participated in 83 outreach events throughout Puerto Rico.

Business Opportunities Hub

Colmena66 maintains a centralized directory of open calls, grants, competitions, and funding opportunities designed to help entrepreneurs and small businesses identify resources to support their growth. Through this platform, entrepreneurs can explore opportunities by industry and type of support. In 2025–2026, we shared 38 calls for applications from our Resource Partner Network, increasing access to relevant opportunities across Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Resource Navigator

Finding the right support at the right time can be a challenge for entrepreneurs. Through Colmena66's interactive Resource Directory, entrepreneurs can explore Puerto Rico's Entrepreneurial Support Network and connect with more than 200 organizations offering resources for every stage of their business journey. The platform allows users to search by industry, business stage, location, and type of support, creating a more personalized way to access programs, funding opportunities, and services. Since 2016, the directory has supported more than 69,679 searches, with 1,076 searches during 2025–2026.

Ecosystem Connector

Accessing the right resources can make the difference between an idea moving forward or reaching a standstill. Through Colmena66's Business Support Line, entrepreneurs connect directly with Entrepreneurship Strategists who provide personalized guidance and referrals based on their unique business needs. By understanding each entrepreneur's journey and connecting them with relevant support organizations, Colmena66 strengthens the bridge between entrepreneurs and Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem. During 2025–2026, we assisted 2,417 entrepreneurs through hotline and email support.

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW)

Worldwide celebration that brings together entrepreneurs, innovators, and ecosystem builders to inspire collaboration, learning, and business growth. Each year, millions of people across more than 180 countries participate in activities designed to promote entrepreneurship and highlight the individuals and organizations driving economic development.

In Puerto Rico, Colmena66 continues to play a key role in strengthening and amplifying GEW's impact by coordinating efforts across the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Through collaboration with Entrepreneur Support Organizations, we help mobilize organizations across the island to host events and create opportunities for entrepreneurs to connect, learn, and access resources. As part of these efforts, Colmena66 serves as the central hub for GEW Puerto Rico communications, collecting and promoting events through our platforms and increasing visibility and accessibility for entrepreneurs across the island. In 2025, Puerto Rico celebrated GEW with 100 events, showcasing the strength, diversity, and collaboration of our entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Levanta Tu Negocio

Colmena66 continues to strengthen the resilience of Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial community by providing entrepreneurs with tools, resources, and connections to prepare for and recover from unexpected challenges. During 2025–2026, Colmena66 expanded the platform by integrating a new online PRcovery module and a directory of Resource Partners offering specialized support for business continuity, crisis prevention, and recovery. These enhancements provide entrepreneurs with a centralized space to assess their needs, access educational resources, and connect directly with organizations equipped to support them during times of uncertainty. By strengthening the connection between entrepreneurs and support organizations, Levanta Tu Negocio helps build a more prepared, resilient, and responsive entrepreneurial ecosystem—ensuring that small businesses have access to the guidance and resources needed to navigate challenges and continue moving forward.

WHAT'S NEXT

Colmena66 Tu Camino Empresarial | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

As we enter our next decade, Colmena66 remains committed to strengthening the infrastructure that supports entrepreneurship across Puerto Rico. By expanding access to information, resources, and connections, we will continue building a more connected, collaborative, and resilient ecosystem where entrepreneurs can find the support they need at every stage of their journey.

In 2027, we will continue advancing key ecosystem initiatives, including the eighth edition of Boricua Emprende Fest (BE Fest), taking place on September 4 at the Puerto Rico Convention Center. As Puerto Rico's largest entrepreneurship gathering, BE Fest will bring together entrepreneurs, Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs), partners, and leaders from across the island to inspire collaboration, share knowledge, and create new opportunities for growth. Through Tu Camino Empresarial, we will also continue expanding regional access by bringing resources and ecosystem connections closer to entrepreneurs throughout Puerto Rico, including the Southern region.

We will further strengthen data-driven decision-making across the ecosystem with the first presentation of the Estado de la Comunidad Empresarial de Puerto Rico report at BE Fest 2026. By generating insights from entrepreneurs and support organizations, this initiative will help inform strategies, identify opportunities, and guide collective action. Through Juntes de la Red, we will continue convening our network of Resource Partners to foster collaboration and strengthen the capacity of organizations supporting entrepreneurs.

Through Acércate al Grant and our FAST Partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), we will continue supporting innovation-driven companies pursuing SBIR/STTR funding. By providing outreach, training, and technical assistance, we aim to expand access to federal resources and strengthen Puerto Rico's innovation economy.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

parallel[18]

ANNUAL2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

48

Companies graduated across three programs during Fiscal Year 2025-2026 — P18 Gen. 13 (18), Xpand Gen. 5 (16), BioLeap Gen. 3 (14)

$18,157,500

Cummulative grants distributed in 9 years

654

Companies graduated or are currently active across all programs in 9.5 years

$345,304,500

Total investment raised by portfolio companies to date

$1,000,000

Grants distributed to companies during this fiscal year (P18 and BioLeap)

$1,013,165

Non-paid publicity value, from 658,582 media impressions

*The cumulative figure of 654 includes companies currently active in programs that extend beyond the fiscal year; the fiscal-year figure of 48 counts graduates only. Xpand Gen. 6, which began in January 2026 and concludes in November 2026, accounts for 10 companies reported as in progress rather than graduated.

parallel18 | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

Parallel18 is an entrepreneurial center that offers startup founders from all over the world access to high-quality business training, grants, mentorship, connections and investment opportunities to help them scale globally.

HOW WE DO IT

We are changing the narrative of Puerto Rico's economy by promoting an innovative business community. We believe in creating opportunities within the Puerto Rican ecosystem that can propulse high-impact business with a global reach. Our mission is to support founders' entrepreneurial journey while working to position Puerto Rico as a unique hub for innovative businesses and technological advancement. We leverage the island's advantages as a multinational business center that offers the structures and protections of U.S. legal frameworks with cultural connections to Latin America and the Caribbean and a bilingual highly-trained workforce.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

Parallel18 offers a complete startup acceleration cycle, supporting companies at every stage of growth. Through BioLeap, we incubate early-stage life science startups, while Xpand fuels the expansion of growth-stage companies. By combining these programs, we create pathways for startups to thrive from idea to scale, positioning Puerto Rico as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Year in Review

This year, Parallel18 completed the transition it has been building for a decade: from a grants-based accelerator to an investment platform.

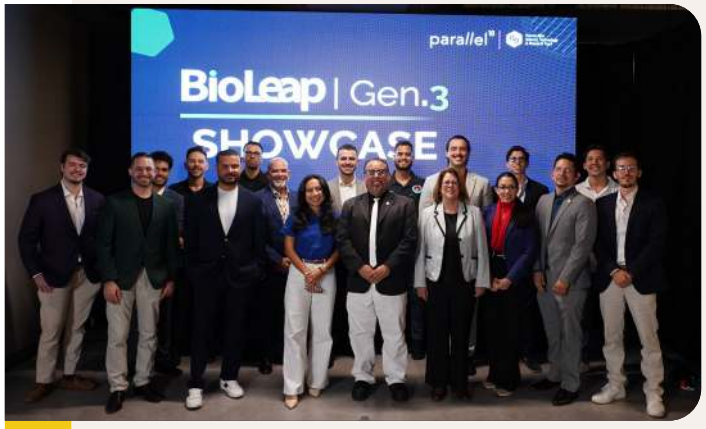
P18 Gen. 13 was the last cohort to receive grant funding, closing a model that distributed $13.34 million to founders over nine years. Generation 14, welcomed in July 2026, became the first cohort in which every company receives a $100,000 SAFE investment. The Venture Capital Access Program moved from design into operation, with its first $15 million tranche formally in place and Parallel18 confirmed as the entity responsible for sourcing, evaluating, and managing its deployment into Puerto Rico–based startups.

The shift is visible in the year's numbers. Generation 13 was a smaller and more selective cohort than Generation 12 (18 companies against 23), and volume metrics moved accordingly. It also reported the highest portfolio valuation in P18's history at $88.5 million (self-reported). Selectivity, not contraction, is what an investment platform is built to produce.

Around that core, the program expanded. BioLeap onboarded 17 companies, its largest cohort, secured a $340,000 equity-free funding commitment for participants, and opened Puerto Rico's first dedicated life sciences laboratory outside an academic institution. Xpand ran two generations under a renewed commitment from Banco Popular. As of this writing, TIME and Statista have named Parallel18 one of America's Best Incubators and Accelerators, and the only organization from Puerto Rico on the list.



Nicole Gonzalez, Co-founder of Raya Power at P18 Gen.13 DemoDay



BioLeap Gen.3 Showcase



Xpand Gen. 6 Roundtable

P18

P18 welcomes companies from around the world to help them scale from Puerto Rico to global markets. P18 is an investment acceleration platform that promotes access to capital opportunities, bootcamps, connections with local corporate partners, and potential follow-on investment from Parallel18 Ventures.

Generation 13 closed the grants era of the P18 program. Its 18 companies received the final $720,000 in grant funding distributed under the original model.

Revenue generated during the program, private capital raised, and jobs created were each below Generation 12's figures, consistent with a smaller cohort and a program in transition between funding models. Rather than reducing the commitment made to each company, Parallel18 reduced the number of companies admitted. Grant funding per company was held at exactly $40,000, unchanged from Generation 12. Every founder accepted into the program received the same support as the year before.

The consequence is visible across the volume of metrics. Total capital raised, jobs generated, and revenue during the program all reflect a cohort roughly a fifth smaller, compounded by a fundraising environment in which early-stage companies across the market faced longer timelines to close rounds. Job creation is a lagging indicator: hiring follows funding, and companies that took longer to raise took longer to hire.

Cumulatively, P18 companies have sustained a 78.5% survival rate across Generations 1 through 13.

GENERATION 13: KEY RESULTS

$720,000
Grants distributed across 18 startups

$1,950,709
Revenue generated during the program

$820,000
Private capital raised during the program

13
Job opportunities generated

56%
Local companies

Countries represented: Puerto Rico, United States, Chile, Argentina, Brasil.



P18 Gen.13 DemoDay

Xpand

Xpand is a growth-stage program developed by Parallel18 and subsidized by Banco Popular that supports companies scaling into new markets by providing resources for sustainable expansion. The curriculum offers bootcamps, technical assistance, investment readiness, and support.

Banco Popular renewed its commitment to Xpand with a $190,000 grant received in August 2025, funding program delivery through November 2026 and inclusive of the seed capital placed with participants. Murmuratto, a workflow automation platform for companies pursuing innovation and sustainability initiatives, received seed capital at the December 2025 Generation 5 closing event and launched its AI platform in the United States market during the fiscal year.

The evolution of the Xpand model

Xpand began with Generations 1 and 2, which established a selective, infrastructure-focused approach for startups with three or more years of operations and $250,000 or more in annual revenue. Generations 3 and 4 introduced a $100,000 seed investment fund alongside curriculum-based technical assistance customized to each company. Generations 5 and 6 refined the model further with intensive single-day bootcamps led by specialized mentors, enabling companies to define and develop targeted strategies in critical areas.

FISCAL YEAR RESULTS

- Generation 5 ran July through December 2025 with 16 companies
- Generation 6 began January 2026 with 10 companies and continues through November 2026
- 2 hours of mentoring and technical assistance delivered, spanning public relations, investment, marketing and business development
- $5.4 million in revenue generated by participating companies between July 2025 and June 2026
- 95% overall survival rate among participating companies and support community
- $20,000 in seed capital placed with an Xpand company through the Banco Popular partnership

*Revenue figures are reported by participating companies through an annual survey. Mentoring hours and survival rates are drawn from Parallel18's internal KPI dashboard.The survival rate is calculated against the full population of companies that have participated in Xpand, including those currently enrolled. Because newly admitted companies enter the denominator as active participants, the measure carries an upward bias with each additional generation and is not directly comparable across reporting years.Generation 6 composition. Generation 6 admitted 10 companies in the first half of 2026, within this fiscal year, and will admit 6 more in the second half of 2026, outside this reporting period. The generation will close with 16 companies in total when it concludes in November 2026.

BioLeap

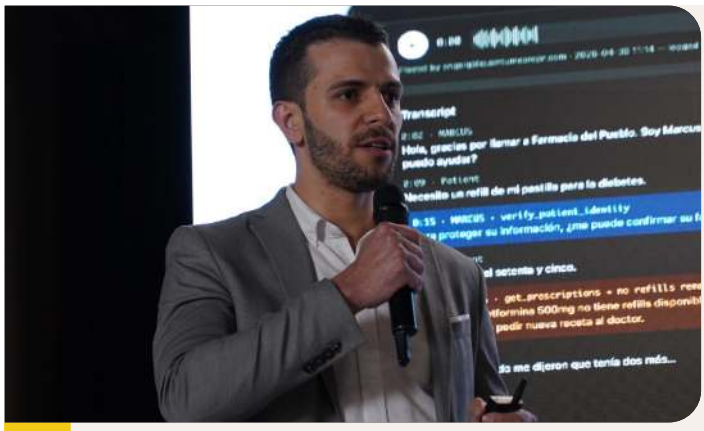
BioLeap is a life sciences incubation program designed to support bioscience entrepreneurs in driving scientific research and innovation toward commercialization. Developed by PRSTRT and operated by Parallel18, the program focuses on bioengineering, biotechnology, agrotech, medtech, medical devices, and digital health. BioLeap is funded through a “Build to Scale” grant from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, which supports organizations promoting technological entrepreneurship and innovation.

Generation 3: the largest cohort in BioLeap’s history

BioLeap opened its Generation 3 call on October 16, 2025, supported by five outreach events with external institutions that engaged more than 194 prospective applicants. Eighteen mentors served as reviewers, evaluating more than 40 applications through a selection process that concluded on January 30, 2026. Seventeen life sciences startups were onboarded into a 12-module curriculum, the largest cohort the program has run.

Fourteen companies completed Phase I, Capacity-Building: Capicú Technologies, ClinBioMap, DoseGrid, KDL, Liberri, Minds2Create, NovoHeal, Protein Dynamic Solutions, QuantumCare, Stream Sampling Kit, Toa, Vantheon, Vidalens and Wellbyn. At the 25 March mid-point evaluation, 14 of 17 participants were assessed as in good standing, with three receiving targeted additional support.

At the cohort’s first in-person event, featuring a keynote from Dr. Greyson Brown, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit, the cohort made two announcements. Through support from the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, each participating company would receive $20,000 in equity-free funding, totaling $340,000 in direct non-dilutive capital. Through PRSTRT’s award from the SBA Growth Accelerator program, participants would also gain access to a new 1,000-square-foot core laboratory called the Confluence Center.



Founder, QuantumCare at BioLeap Gen.3 Showcase



Attendance at the BioLeap Gen.3 Showcase

The Confluence Center

The absence of dedicated wet-lab space outside academic institutions has been the central constraint on life sciences entrepreneurship in Puerto Rico since BioLeap's inception.

A $75,000 award from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Growth Accelerator Fund Competition enabled Parallel18 to activate a 1,000-square-foot core laboratory at the Forward Building, providing hot-bench access for up to 12 companies simultaneously. The permanent Confluence Center, a collaboration between BioLeap and PRSTRT's Research Institute, is planned to open in winter 2026, co-located with PRSTRT's core instrumentation and staffed by resident scientists.The Confluence Center offers laboratory facilities, specialized instrumentation, in-house technical assistance, and capacity-building support, closing a multi-year infrastructure gap and enhancing the readiness of Puerto Rico's STEM innovations to compete for federal funding and private capital.

Brainy Brews

BioLeap established Brainy Brews, a recurring monthly networking and knowledge-sharing series bringing together founders, researchers, clinicians, and entrepreneurs from the life sciences ecosystem. Brainy Brews has hosted four events with more than 300 cumulative attendees. Topics included the story of the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit translated into practical startup strategy; commercializing diagnostics and biotech platforms; and a session with Pooja Y. Patel, co-founder of Synvect, a biotechnology platform providing solutions to eliminate disease-transmitting vectors.

CUMMULATIVE RESULTS

- 35 life sciences companies have participated in BioLeap since inception.
- The BioLeap portfolio collectively raised more than $6.1 million, as of March 2026, in private and non-dilutive capital.
- Participants have secured a cumulative three SBIR/STTR awards and created five jobs.

Confluence Center Logo



Brainy Brews panel at Takabrú Brewery

Puerto Rico x New York

Life Science Exchange

The New York-Puerto Rico Life Science Exchange Initiative, which connects Puerto Rico's growing life science startup community with New York's biotech innovation ecosystem, hosted 14 BioLeap Puerto Rican startup founders in New York City. The initiative, held June 1-3, 2026, was sponsored by Empire State Development in partnership with SOSV NY, LLC, and the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust (PRSTRT). Empire State Development, New York State's economic development agency, made the event possible through its Life Science Initiative and its relationship with SOSV NY, LLC, an early-stage deep-tech investor. This exchange was one facet of a broader alliance announced by Governor Kathy Hochul and Governor Pedro Pierluisi of Puerto Rico in November 2023 to connect New York and Puerto Rico through their commitment to advance life sciences research and innovation.

The three-day immersive event built on two previous exchanges under this alliance: a successful collaborative event in San Juan featuring SOSV NY's signature two-day entrepreneurial bootcamp, and a two-day investor networking event hosted by SOSV NY at its NYC headquarters. The latest installment of this exchange brought together key stakeholders, including investors, industry leaders, academic researchers, startup founders, and policymakers to further facilitate investment opportunities in Life Sciences in Puerto Rico and New York.

Activities during this event included: workshops offering best practices for crafting effective elevator pitches and building a strong company blueprint; visits to incubators and entrepreneurial research centers in West Harlem and Long Island City; opportunities to meet with venture capital investors and SOSV NY's founders; and a panel introduction to resources and incentives available to young companies in New York State.

This year, BioLeap's visit coincided with New York Tech Week 2026, a decentralized tech conference presented by a16z that included hundreds of events across New York - from hackathons to demo days, formal networking sessions to casual coffee chats and more. Each day of their visit, founders could attend events across this broad programming and gain a fuller understanding of the depth and diversity of the city's innovation scene.

The visiting founders left with crucial skills to manage startups effectively and raise the capital needed to pursue their vision. They also learned about the many ways New York State can support fledgling biotech companies. Their visits to West Harlem and opportunities to network also gave them an inspiring look at a more developed life science ecosystem and the benefits it can offer. The event brought to life a shared vision of strengthening ties between New York and Puerto Rico to accelerate progress in the life sciences and innovation sectors.

BioLeap Media reach

BioLeap generated $256,159 in earned media value across 154,611 impressions between July 2025 and June 2026, spanning El Nuevo Día, News Is My Business, El Vocero, Ciencia PR, among others, and grew its LinkedIn following past 1,200.



BioLeap Gen.3 visits SOSV during NY Tech Week

Program challenges

Job creation among BioLeap participants continues to lag program targets, reflecting the long commercialization timelines characteristic of life sciences, where revenue generation and hiring typically follow 36 to 60 months after early-stage incubation. The program addresses this through capital access support, connecting participants with DDEC funding, non-dilutive grants, and investor networks. The $340,000 in equity-free funding secured for Generation 3 is expected to contribute to job creation over the next 18 to 24 months.



BioLeap Gen.3 visits SOSV during NY Tech Week

SBIR/STTR proposal submissions also remain below the cumulative end-of-grant target, partly because of uncertainty during the program's reauthorization process in the U.S. Congress. Several Generation 2 companies are preparing submissions to NSF, NIH, and USDA, supported by PRSTRT's Acércate al Grant program.



BioLeap Gen.3 visits SOSV during NY Tech Week

Success stories from BioLeap

Cultimar Technologies (BioLeap Generation 1) develops proprietary biological breeding and rearing protocols to produce local, fresh, sustainable seafood in the Caribbean, cultivating fish species outside their natural ecosystem without genetic modification and without impacting wild populations. Cultimar is the first commercial Atlantic Red Snapper hatchery supporting an emerging industry. Founder Dr. David Miranda has secured $3.3 million in total funding across equity and debt rounds, with SBIR proposals submitted to NSF. The company finalized an agreement with the Puerto Rico Ports Authority to transform part of the Arecibo Pier facilities into its operations center, on track to inaugurate the first land-based deep-sea fish farm in the Caribbean.

Ama Earth Group (BioLeap Generation 2) is an environmental technology company developing a SaaS platform for environmental professionals, using AI to streamline data analysis, report generation, and compliance monitoring. Founder Isiah Cruz has raised $600,000 in equity from Drive Capital and the Bravo Foundation and represented the program at the Startup Grind Global Conference in San Francisco.



Founder of Cultimar Technologies



Founder of Ama Earth Group



Puerto Rican startups in Startup Grind Global

Parallel18 Ventures and VCAP

Parallel18 Ventures provides high-potential startups with the knowledge, connections, and capital needed to build a fundraising strategy through two funds: the Matching Fund and the Venture Capital Access Program. Portfolio companies have raised $138,797,294 in total investment, with an 84.6% Matching Fund survival rate.

This exchange was one facet of a broader alliance announced by Governor Kathy Hochul and Governor Pedro Pierluisi of Puerto Rico in November 2023 to connect New York and Puerto Rico through their commitment to advance life sciences research and innovation.

Venture Capital Access Program

This year marked the formal launch of the Venture Capital Access Program, Puerto Rico's first direct equity co-investment vehicle funded through the U.S. Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative. After coordinating with the Banco de Desarrollo Económico para Puerto Rico (BDE), the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Financial Oversight and Management Board, Parallel18 and PRSTRT were formally confirmed as BDE financial advisors for the program.

With the program's first $15 million tranche formally in place, VCAP made its public debut at Startup Grind's Global Conference in Silicon Valley in April 2026.

Parallel18 traveled to the event alongside BDE, the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and a delegation of Puerto Rico–based founders, who pitched to investors and met directly with Silicon Valley operators and ecosystem leaders. For many of these founders, it was a first exposure to the world's most active startup ecosystem, and the delegation's presence, public and private sector standing together, signaled Puerto Rico's growing investment infrastructure.

In Puerto Rico, VCAP convened its first Investment Committee meetings this year, establishing the operating rhythm the program will run on and marking the transition from program design to active investment activity.

Funding Opportunities

Parallel18 secured $265,000 in new program funding during the fiscal year.

Banco Popular ($190,000), received in August 2025, renewing support for the Xpand growth-stage program through November 2026 and inclusive of seed capital placed with participating companies.

U.S. Small Business Administration ($75,000), awarded through the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition, funding the 1,000-square-foot core laboratory at the Forward Building that became the foundation of the Confluence Center.

Parallel18 Connect and Industry Meetups

The Parallel18 Connect Program is Parallel18's Business Development Program, with the main objective of helping startups grow on the island while also promoting Puerto Rico's biggest industries to become more competitive by integrating the latest innovations. The program connects established companies with relevant startups to promote business deals, brokering relationships between corporates and startups while giving corporate partners the tools to build innovation into their operations. Last year, we achieved more than 8 connections between startups and the following corporate partners: Gaither International, Advanced Energy Group, UPS, Asociación Constructores de Hogar, Florida Chamber of Commerce, UVI Park, and Discover Puerto Rico, among others.

Additionally, through this program, we encourage networking events with corporate partners through Industry MeetUps designed to generate and foster high-quality business connections, giving Parallel18 alumni the opportunity to connect with business executives in their industry, nurture collaborations, and close deals. We hosted more than 6 networking events with our corporate partners Accukardia, RSM, CIRACET (Scientific Innovation Night), Unlock Capital, Cámara de Comercio Española, and Partnership for Modern Puerto Rico, among others, establishing connections, all for the benefit of our startup community.



RSM, Networking event



Cámara de Comercio Española, Networking Event



Accurkardia, Networking Event

Giveback

Parallel18's Giveback initiative is a subprogram designed to generate a positive impact on Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem through voluntary mentor engagements. As part of the program, Parallel18 founders must give back by leading mentor sessions, advising aspiring entrepreneurs, organizing entrepreneurial events, or leveraging their personal networks. The Parallel18 team works diligently to create meaningful Giveback opportunities for each cohort, all with the goal of strengthening the startup pipeline for future Parallel18 programs. Oriental Bank currently supports this program. They provide specialized resources in each session on topics such as Savings, Bank Credits, Finance, Investment, Retirement Plans, Marketing, and more.

The program measures its impact by tracking engagements generated within the ecosystem, including speaking opportunities and mentoring sessions offered to college students, fellow founders, and ecosystem organizations.

Last fiscal year, more than 669 people were impacted, with Parallel18 founders contributing over 66 hours of their time to the community.

Memorandum of Understanding with Ecuador

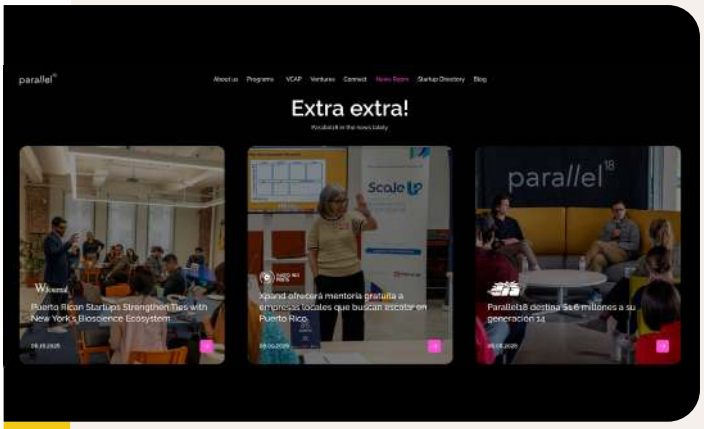
Parallel18 and the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centro de Emprendimiento e Innovación de la Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (i3Lab) in Ecuador, establishing a formal relationship to promote science, innovation, and technology. Both organizations agreed to facilitate mentorships, workshops, promotional material, and access to each other's startup ecosystems.

Through the agreement, i3Lab and Parallel18 will support Ecuadorian startups entering Caribbean and United States markets, and support Parallel18's expansion into Ecuador. The agreement also creates reciprocal value for Puerto Rican startups seeking entry into the South American market, leveraging ESPOL's networks and resources.

Parallel18 in the News

Parallel18 brought media relations in-house during the fiscal year and discontinued its external publicity agency. Non-paid publicity value reached $1,013,165 across 658,582 media impressions, up from the prior fiscal year's $997,485.60, achieved without agency fees or paid media investment. Impression counts are not directly comparable year over year, as the measurement source changed with the transition.

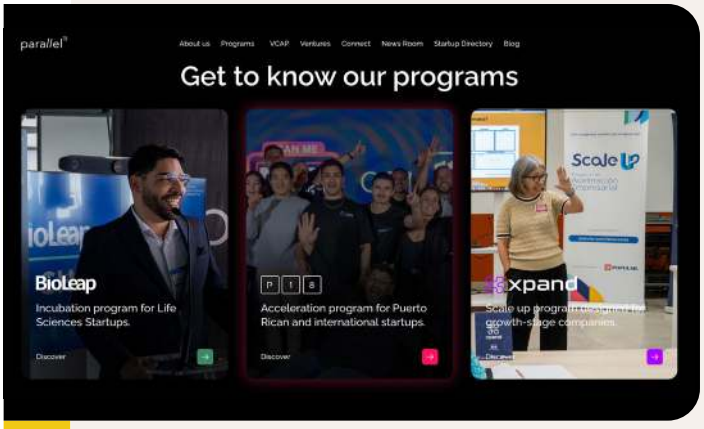
Coverage during the year appeared in El Nuevo Día, News Is My Business, El Vocero, Ciencia PR, The Weekly Journal, Entrepreneur en Español, and international outlets.



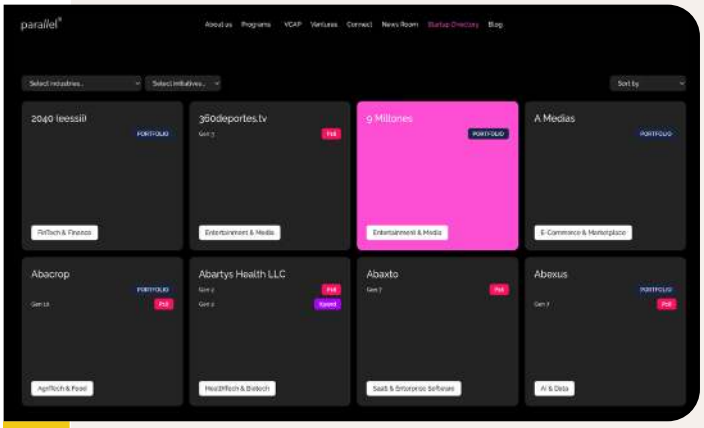
Parallel18 in the news

Parallel18.com — Our New Website

After a decade of operation, Parallel18 evolved from a grant-based program into a full investment platform and redesigned its brand and website to reflect that change. The new site reframes the program's identity around its history, community, and results, and connects entrepreneurs, corporate partners, and innovators to opportunities and to each other.



Parallel18 new website screen capture



Parallel18 new website screen capture

WHAT'S NEXT

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P18 Generation 14: a new cohort and a new model

In July 2026, Parallel18 welcomed 16 startups to P18 Generation 14. For the first time, each company received a $100,000 SAFE investment rather than a grant, completing the program's transition to an investment model. The cohort represents industries including edtech, health and biotechnology, with companies from Argentina, Chile, Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and the United States.

VCAP deployments

With its first $15 million tranche in place and its Investment Committee convened, VCAP moves from program design to active deployment into Puerto Rico–based startups in the coming year.

The Confluence Center

The Center enters full operation as the permanent laboratory home for BioLeap participants across future cohorts, providing specialized equipment and wet-lab space access for up to 12 early-stage companies at a time.

TIME and Statista: America's Best Incubators & Accelerators 2026

When this report was developed (August 2026), TIME and Statista named Parallel18 one of America's Best Incubators and Accelerators 2026 in the inaugural edition of the ranking. The list evaluates the top 80 organizations across the United States, with Parallel18 the only organization from Puerto Rico to be recognized.

The methodology weights founders' experience z most heavily: 40% of the score comes from general alumni recommendations, and a further 45% comes from six alumni sub-criteria, with track record and expert recommendations comprising the remainder. Parallel18 ranked #21 out of 80 and was the only one from Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rico
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ANNUAL 2025 REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

189
Total Startups Incubated through Fase1 Intensive Gen.1 – Gen.,4, (47 New Incubated Startups through Fase1 Intensive Gen.4)

94%
Overall Retention rate

53%
Low- and Moderate-Income Individuals' Participation"

12
Entrepreneurship online modules (1 New Module Launched for Fase1 Lab)

$25,000
One-on-One Mentoring Sessions

+2,600
Registered Participants through Fase1 Lab

17
Municipalities Visited through Outreach Events

106
Outreach Events

$10,000
Seed funding distributed as part of the first Bootcamp. First Bootcamp Empresarial Llanero, in partnership with the Municipality of Toa Baja Empresarial Llanero.

Fase 1

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

Fase1 is our incubation program designed specifically for entrepreneurs in the idea/concept stage. It has two primary objectives: firstly, to offer accessible education in key concepts, tools, and methodologies of entrepreneurship, and secondly, to guide individuals in successfully transforming their ideas into thriving startups. The name ‘Fase1’ represents our commitment to providing new entrepreneurs and those with innovative ideas the fundamental knowledge and a structured approach for idea generation, validation, and product development. Fase1 serves as the starting point for any local aspiring to be part of the Puerto Rico business community, enabling them to gradually turn their creative ideas into tangible startups, one step at a time.

HOW WE DO IT

Fase1 is divided into two steps, Fase1 Lab and Fase1 Intensive, Fase1 Lab is the foundation of our program, offering a comprehensive online academy. It features training modules covering various entrepreneurial topics that are based on current trends and industry needs. Each module consists of a compilation of short videos that include discussions on technical concepts and real-life experiences from “boristartups”. This simple yet resourceful educational tool aims to provide new and upcoming entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

Participants who have completed at least the first three modules of Fase1 Lab can apply for Fase1 Intensive. This 12-week incubator program focuses on guiding 50 new ideas each year. It provides a structured and guided curriculum, drawing on both internal and external resources. The main objective of Fase1 Intensive is to enhance the capabilities of new founders and increase the success rate of their business endeavors.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

Fase1 was tailor-designed for new and upcoming boricuas emprendedores. That is why both, Fase1 Lab and Fase1 Intensive, are 100% in native Spanish, for cultural and language accessibility. However, it is made available to everyone in Puerto Rico who wants to generate and develop new innovative ideas with a business mindset and vision.

Fase1 Intensive

Fase1 Intensive Gen.4 proved a resounding success, incubating 47 new bori-startups and strengthening Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial pipeline through strong participant engagement, high retention, and expanded access to entrepreneurial support. Notably, 51% of participating founders identified as low- and moderate-income individuals, highlighting the program's reach across diverse economic backgrounds. This cohort of entrepreneurs showed that there are no limits to their creativity or their ability to identify problems and design new solutions across industries such as tourism and hospitality (including food services, arts, entertainment, and recreation), educational services, and information technologies, among others. Entrepreneurs from all regions, including Cabo Rojo, Ceiba, Morovis, Cayey, and San Juan, participated for 12 weeks and gained access to mentors and tools that helped them turn their ideas into viable business ventures. With a 90% retention rate, our entrepreneurs completed the incubation cycle and presented their business ideas at Demo Day, where they competed for $10,000 in prizes.

We also launched the open call for Fase1 Intensive Gen.5 and received more than 100 applications of which 51 projects were selected to participate.



Fase1 Gen.4 Kick-Off



Fase1 DemoDay Pitch



Fase1 DemoDay Winners

Fondo IntensO

Fondo IntensO was established to provide early-stage seed funding opportunities for emerging Puerto Rican startups, known as “boristartups,” that successfully completed the Fase1 Intensive program. A $25,000 grant from the Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico and Fondo Oriental made the initiative possible. The fund aimed to support 5 to 10 startups from the 189 Fase1 Intensive alumni through seed capital grants ranging from $1,000 to $5,000, helping cover costs associated with developing products and/or services for projects with high potential for success, depending on each startup’s immediate needs.

The program received 64 applications from graduates across the four cohorts and ultimately selected seven projects to receive grants. Through Fondo IntensO, the program supported 7 projects across industries such as gastronomy, agriculture, technology, manufacturing, health, and tourism. The recipient entrepreneurs are in various municipalities around Puerto Rico, such as Salinas, Caguas, Rincón, Carolina, Santa Isabel, San Juan, and Rincón, which maximizes economic impact in their respective regions by offering products/services and/or purchasing products/services in their communities. Likewise, 28% of the founders have low and moderate incomes (LMI), according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition.



Taller Fondo IntensO, AgroLab



Taller Fondo IntensO, Foto Grupal



Taller Fondo IntensO, Oriental Bank

Fase1 Lab

Fase1 Lab has had consistent growth and reach each year, increasing the number of registered participants across all regions of the archipelago. Fase1 Lab continued to expand its reach, growing from just over 2,200 registered participants in the previous fiscal year to more than 2,600 this year — an increase of approximately 18%. During the year, we identified a need within the entrepreneurial community for resources on permits, a widely known struggle for entrepreneurs at any stage; as a result, we designed, developed, and produced our twelfth online module on permits. Like last year, our community consists mostly of women (56%), employed individuals interested in entrepreneurship (51%), and millennials (42%). Overall, of the 2,600 registered participants, 897 have completed at least 3 of our online modules at 100%, reflecting growing interest in self-guided entrepreneurial content that adapts to each person's schedule through its on-demand format.



Amanda Laguerra from Fase1, at Tu Negocio en Ley



Panel at Tu Negocio en Ley

Fase1 Coffee Talks at the Boricua Emprende Fest 2025

Marking its fourth consecutive year, Fase1 designed and hosted the Coffee Talks during the 7th edition of the Boricua Emprende Fest 2025 in San Juan. The Fase1 Coffee Talks, sponsored by Banco Popular, reaffirmed their strong appeal, ranking among the event's top three favorite sessions. With 8 panels totaling more than 20 invited speakers, such as the musical group Los Pleneros de la Cresta, Wapa TV host Bryan Villarini, influencers and content creators Luis Peña from Backpacking Luis and Kiara Mendoza from La Ferretera, among other business owners and personalities, this year's Coffee Talks were better than ever! As a result, the session's average rating increased from 4.7 to 4.8 out of 5, reflecting continued strong audience satisfaction.



Pleneros de la Cresta at Coffee Talks



Brian Villarini at Coffee Talks



Luis Peña of 'Backpacking Luis' at Coffee Talks

Bootcamp Empresarial Llanero 2026

The Bootcamp Empresarial Llanero 2026 marked the first regional entrepreneurship initiative Fase1 launched in collaboration with the Municipality of Toa Baja. Our goal was to encourage the development and validation of new business ideas within the Toa Baja community, providing participants with the tools, resources, and mentorship needed to turn their initiatives into viable business proposals. For this initiative, we supported more than 15 entrepreneurs through 5 days of sessions culminating in a Celebration of Achievements, where participants presented their business ideas and competed for $10,000 in seed capital, made possible by a grant from the Municipio of Toa Baja.

Notably, 100% of participants said they were interested in establishing their new business ideas in Toa Baja, which could represent future economic growth for the region. Through these strategic partnerships, we continue our mission to make entrepreneurship a viable option across the archipelago.







Bootcamp Empresarial Llanero 026

SíScreens Metro x Fase1

The SiScreens Metro x Fase1initiative was launched in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU). The project aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of Integrated Vector Management (IVM) interventions, with an emphasis on using screens in public housing communities within San Juan. Additionally, the project was structured to encourage economic activity by developing and establishing microenterprises that can act as main contractors for project execution. To achieve these goals, SiScreens Metro x Fase1 supported 5 participants from low- and moderate-income areas and provided sessions on key business development topics, along with a technical component on screen creation, manufacturing, and installation in collaboration with Build Strong Academy of Puerto Rico.

As a result, all participants successfully completed the program and gained the technical and business training needed to establish microenterprises that can provide screen installation services, supporting broader vector control efforts to help reduce the spread of dengue, chikungunya, and other community health risks.



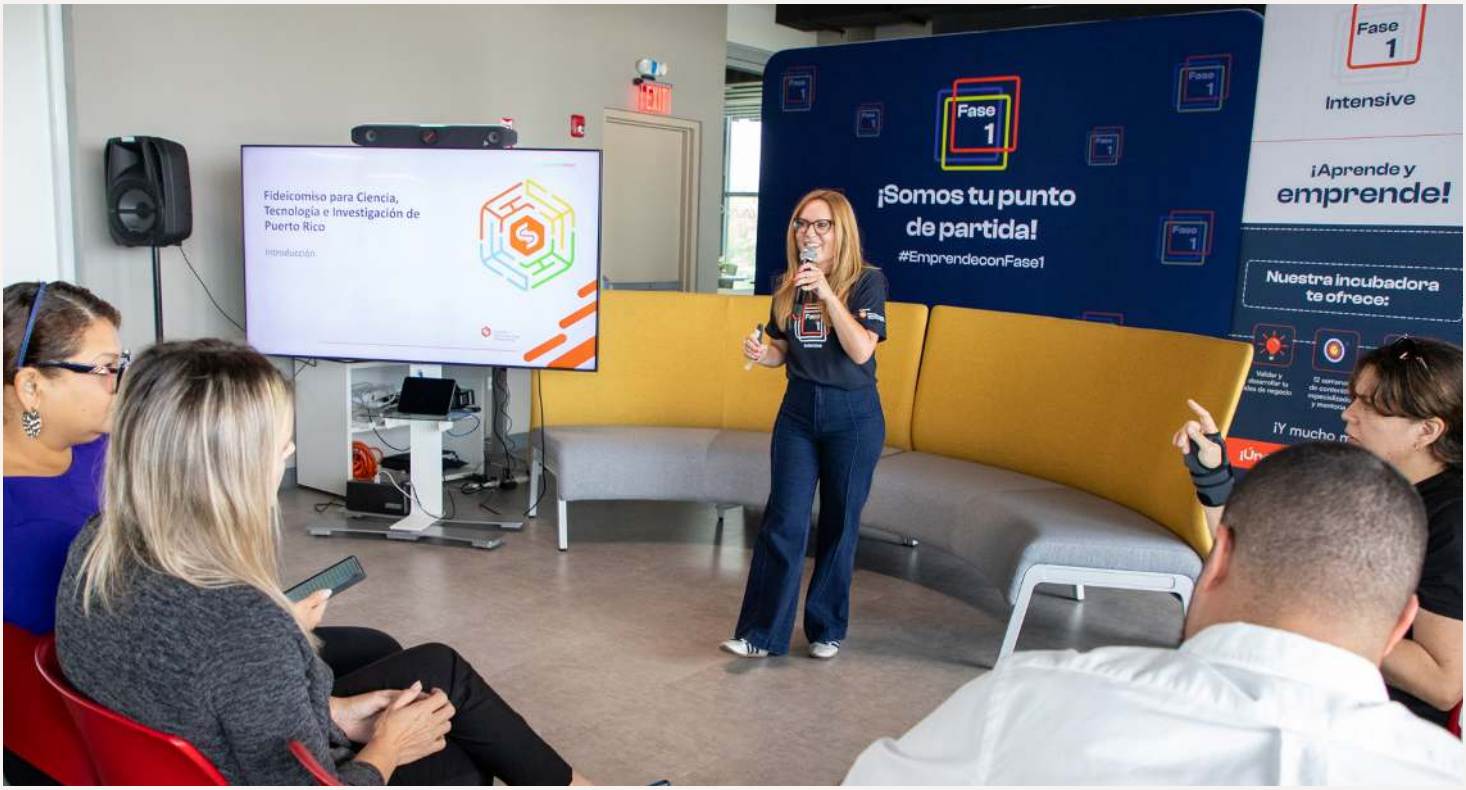
SiScreen Metro x Fase1 participants

WHAT'S NEXT

Fase1 aspires to continue helping early-stage entrepreneurs turn their ideas into viable business ventures. In the coming years, Fase1 plans to continue designing and launching incubation initiatives that strengthen Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem by partnering with additional resources, such as municipalities, to reach entrepreneurs across regions.

Additionally, Fase1 will continue developing educational content that adapts to the evolving needs and interests of entrepreneurs with limited time but a strong desire to keep learning.

The program also seeks to expand support for Fase1 alumni by connecting them with grants, resources, and other opportunities to help them advance their entrepreneurial journeys.



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 2026



AVANZAMOS LA SALUD PÚBLICA

We Advance
Public Health

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute

ANNUAL 2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

970

Partnerships, Collaborations, and Networks Sustained

48

Scientific Knowledge Generated and Disseminated (not peer-reviewed)

456

Educational and Outreach Activities

10,231

Educational and Outreach Participants

126

Educational and Outreach Resources Developed

16,373

Educational and Outreach Resources Distributed

612

Referrals to Clinical and Social Services

22,931

Digital & Media Followers and Subscribers

$444,200

Non-paid Publicity Value

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

The Puerto Rico Public Health Institute (PRPHI), established in 2019 as a program of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, brings together a multidisciplinary team with strengths in community engagement, health technology and innovation, emergency preparedness, epidemiology, evaluation, and strategic communications. Guided by our Mission —improving Puerto Rico's public health through evidence-informed interventions, working hand in hand with communities, and facilitating intersectoral collaborations— we envision a healthy Puerto Rico driven by a collaborative health ecosystem. This report highlights our collective efforts over the past fiscal year to advance community health and resilience, strengthen Puerto Rico's health workforce and technological capacity, and elevate evidence to inform policy and shape the public health dialogue.

HOW WE DO IT

AT the PRPHI our values of collaboration, excellence, innovation, integrity, respect and social justice drive our work. These values guide our efforts to ensure we maintain and establish strategic alliances and partnerships to achieve our objectives. We use knowledge, research, technology and data to drive innovative initiatives.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

Through a strong network of community leaders, we center the needs of our communities to increase health promotion and preparedness. We provide training and education for health professionals and community members and leaders to build capacity in chronic disease management, emergency and climate effects, preparedness, telehealth, community organizing, behavioral health and social determinants of health.

Program Highlights

Over 45 community health workers across 29 municipalities and in collaboration with 19 organizations, extended PRPHT's capacity to address public health at the community level.

I. Strengthening the Foundation for Sustainable Public Health Impact

"Behind every community served is a strengthened institute—one investing in its people, systems, and long-term sustainability."

deliberately invested in staff competencies across technical and leadership domains through more than 50 training courses to support effective implementation of its 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. PRPHI advanced internal frameworks to support institutional learning and effectiveness, including strengthening its Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system and formalizing communication and publication strategies. This fiscal year also marked early progress toward a more diversified and sustainable resource base to support its long-term mission and impact.



PRPHI team



PRPHI workshop

II. Advancing Community Wellbeing Through Partnerships

“Impact is co-created through trust, partnerships, and shared ownership with the people we serve.”

PRPHI strengthened active participation in U.S. and local collaborative networks and sustained 970 collaborative agreements. Aligned with its vision of a healthy Puerto Rico driven by a collaborative health ecosystem, PRPHI cultivated strategic partnerships across academia, nonprofit and community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, philanthropy, municipal and national government, healthcare, and the private sector, thereby expanding opportunities for collective action and knowledge exchange to address public health priorities across Puerto Rico.

PRPHI strengthened strategic partnerships with the Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDoH), the Office of the Resident Commissioner, national organizations, and private sector leaders to advance four strategic priorities: expanding Puerto Rico’s representation in national health databases, developing a local health data dashboard, advancing Medicaid reimbursement for Community Health Workers (CHWs), and accelerating telehealth adoption. Moreover, presenting evidence of Puerto Rico’s exclusion from key health databases and surveys elevated the issue in national discussions.

Throughout the fiscal year, PRPHI expanded its visibility and influence through participation in key public health forums, including the ASTHO Currents of Collaboration: Caribbean Diabetes and NCD Partner Summit, the NACCHO Preparedness Summit, and PHIG Convenings for the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through these engagements, PRPHI represented Puerto Rico in advancing collaboration among island and territorial jurisdictions, fostering relationships across the Caribbean and Pacific regions to address shared public health challenges. These opportunities promoted the exchange of promising practices, strengthened strategic partnerships, and reinforced PRPHI’s role as a trusted convener advancing equitable, data-driven, and community-centered public health solutions.



ASTHO Currents of Collaboration: Caribbean Diabetes and NCD Partner Summit, U.S. Virgen Islands



PHIG Convenings for USAPI, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, held in Oahu, Hawaii.

The Public Health and Wellness Interest Group grew to 794 members and hosted 3 webinars about prostate cancer awareness, anxiety management in the context of community violence, and suicide prevention strategies. Additionally, 34 advisory committee representatives ensured community priorities informed planning for the Communities Resilient in Drought Project, the Technology Enabled Collaborative Learning Project (TECLP), the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Project, and the Lilly Endowment-funded National Storytelling Initiative.

As a recognized Category A member of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), select team members participated in the Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Workgroup, the Executive Committee for Public Health Policy, and the Operations Affinity Group. For the first time, PRPHI convened leaders from 15 public health institutes in Puerto Rico, shaping the future of public health while fostering collaboration on shared challenges.

PRPHI engaged extensively with the Climate Change Adaptation Network (CCAN) Community of Practice for Extreme Heat, served as training facilitator for the American Public Health Association (APHA) and Climate for Health, and co-hosted the first anniversary of the Puerto Rico Extreme Heat Community of Practice, fostering collaboration among government, healthcare, community, and climate partners to advance coordinated extreme heat action and expand dissemination of evidence-informed heat preparedness strategies.



NNPHI CEO Forum



Extreme heat anniversary - CCAN



AARP & PRPHI extreme heat awareness campaign

The team successfully engaged with the Department of Education to launch a school climate and health education pilot program. In partnership with AARP, the team developed an extreme heat awareness campaign *El sol está que pica: protégete del calor*, which included educational videos and a media tour. The campaign produced 40 traditional media placements and 3 educational videos, reaching an audience of 2,365. Together with U-TREE PR from Desarrollo regenerativo de comunidades caribeñas (CRCD), the team delivered an extreme heat preparedness workshop during *Árboles contra el calentón*, Vol. 2, providing community education on heat stroke recognition, emergency response, and family and community preparedness strategies.

In partnership with the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT), PRPHI co-hosted the NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit, convening leaders from government, academia, healthcare, industry, community organizations, and the public health sector to foster multidisciplinary dialogue on artificial intelligence, digital health, workforce development, and community engagement. The summit's insights and recommendations contributed to the NHIT Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., strengthening Puerto Rico's leadership in shaping equitable, technology-enabled healthcare solutions.



NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit

III. Community-Centered Initiatives in Action

PRPHI hosted 456 educational and outreach activities (73% in person), serving 10,231 individuals across 39 municipalities of Puerto Rico. PRPHI trained 54 health access ambassadors for cancer prevention through an American Cancer Society (ACS) partnership. These ambassadors conducted 104 educational activities, reaching 4,789 people across PR. The CHWs distributed the HIV Services Directory to 43 clinics and organizations serving people with HIV, thereby facilitating patients' access to HIV care, treatment, and support services.

PRPHI heavily invested in community-centered emergency preparedness. A total of 131 individuals directly benefited from outreach and educational interventions, and 4,446 preparedness and health items were distributed to community members in Torrecilla Baja, Piñones. In partnership with Piñones Aprende y Emprende (PAYE) and community members, the team used community-based participatory research to identify local emergency preparedness needs. To address these, they co-develop practical solutions, including household emergency plans, first aid training, and workshops focused on emergency preparedness for older adults. In recognition of this collaborative work, PAYE and PRPHI received the 2026 NNPHI Health and Racial Equity Partnership Award for addressing structural inequities through community-driven emergency preparedness initiatives that reflected residents' priorities and lived experiences.

PRPHI's leadership in advancing community resilience was further recognized through the 2026 NNPHI Strengthening the Public Health System Award for successfully implementing the EPA-funded Communities Resilient During Drought (CRESe) Project.



ACS ambassadors training



Amor Mayor Preparedness Training



NNPHI Award

IV. Transforming Healthcare Through Digital Health & Workforce Development

"We are bringing care closer by equipping providers, expanding access, and transforming how healthcare reaches underserved communities."

PRPHI implemented the HRSA-funded Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) care model in two rural clinics, connecting community members to psychological assessment and psychotherapy services through CWH support and telehealth technology. This collaborative care model integrates behavioral health into primary care settings, supported by a consulting psychiatrist. Broader community-wide mental health promotion initiatives with prominent public figures such as Miss Universe PR 2023, Karla Guilfú, radio host Amós Morales, and social media content such as *Navidad sin máscaras: Una mirada honesta a la salud mental* highlighted factors affecting mental health, educated about recognizing signs of stress and loneliness, shared self-care strategies, and connected viewers with resources like the PAS Helpline.

PRPHI led healthcare workforce development through telementoring using the Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) methodology. Expansion of the HRSA funded ECHO Telementoring series provided interactive, case-based learning spaces for 441 healthcare professionals in rural and underserved areas facing limited specialist care. Participants engaged in deep discussions on mental health during pregnancy and the postpartum period, HIV care continuum, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, nutrition, heart health, community adaptation and preparedness, healthy aging and cognitive health,



BHI training que diga 'BHI training on CPI (Non-violent Crisis Prevention Intervention)

and clinical practice.

These series totaled 42 sessions of over 61 hours of synchronous discussions, awarding 1,871 continuing education credits free of charge. Resources produced from the ECHO sessions are available at PRPHI's Digital Library, supporting continuous learning of a broader audience. To complement this effort, PRPHI conducted a comprehensive needs assessment among 237 healthcare professionals to identify clinical priorities, learning preferences, and workforce challenges. These findings are actively guiding development of targeted, evidence-informed ECHO curricula aligned with the audience's needs. PRPHI collaborated with five primary care clinics in medically underserved areas to develop a standardized assessment tool for evaluating data management and data transfer practices. The tool helps identify barriers to clinical data exchange and inform strategies to improve data quality and reporting for evaluation studies.

PRPHI delivered a CHW training curriculum externally, achieving high completion and satisfaction rates aligned with National CHW Core Competency Standards (C3 Standards). The team also developed and piloted the REACH CHW integration plan and referral platform, improving coordination and communication between healthcare clinics and community-based services. The team interviewed clinics and organizations in Bayamón and Caguas, creating a comprehensive digital directory of organizations that provide services to people with an HIV diagnosis, documenting services offered, delivery modalities, schedules, and eligibility requirements to strengthen referral pathways and system navigation for individuals with HIV.



BHI Telementoring-Telemedicine



ECHO telementoring por "ECHO telementoring to rural health professionals.

V. Leading Public Health Dialogue, Policy, and Collective Action

"Evidence becomes impact when it informs decisions and is transformed into action."

A major achievement was securing official recognition as coordinator of the Puerto Rico Telehealth Collaborative Alliance under Act 168-2018 (Article 15) from the PRDoH. The Department appointed multisectoral Alliance members spanning academia, health insurers, healthcare providers, telemedicine professionals, patient representatives, government, and support networks to strengthen and expand telehealth services across Puerto Rico. Beginning in May 2026, the members identified priority areas focused on telehealth service codification, reimbursement policies, and interoperability standards.

PRPHI developed evidence products that translate research into actionable decision-making tools for education and preparedness. The BRACE project created a comprehensive 6-week curriculum unit titled 'Changes in Atmospheric Patterns and their Effect on Human Health' in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Department of Education, the Medical Sciences School of Public Health, and CCAN. It was launched during the 3rd Extreme Heat Summit and was presented to PR-wide science facilitators.

PRPHI advanced CHW workforce development in Puerto Rico by contributing to the national HIV Integrated Plan (2027–2031) and convening stakeholder discussions on CHW sustainability and education together with Mujer Latina. PRPHI also conducted a comprehensive review of CHW policies and payment models across multiple U.S. jurisdictions, including credentialing and billing approaches. These efforts informed the launch of the CHW integration and sustainability study, which examines workforce professionalization, healthcare system integration, and reimbursement opportunities.



Puerto Rico Telehealth Collaborative Alliance

PRPHI staff disseminated research findings and public health innovations through presentations at several professional and scientific forums. At the Advancing Cancer Research for Latinos and All Populations event, PRPHI presented work on strategic partnerships to promote the prevention and early detection of cervical, breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer in Puerto Rico. At the Annual Environmental Health and Safety event, the team shared findings from an educational intervention on prostate cancer. The team presented research on the effectiveness of virtual learning to increase engagement in cervical cancer prevention at the Hispanic Alliance for Clinical and Translational Research Scientific Day. Additionally, at Día Internacional de Seguridad y Salud Ocupacional, PRPHI showcased a public health curriculum initiative designed to build climate resilience among high school students. The team presented disaster preparedness for health impacts in a Puerto Rican community at the APHA 2025 Annual Meeting & Expo.

Team experts published opinion columns advancing public health dialogue: *Red comunitaria contra el cáncer en Puerto Rico* was published in El Nuevo Día, highlighting the urgency of cancer prevention and the critical role of health access ambassadors. *Promotores de salud comunitaria: Pilares de la salud en Puerto Rico* was published in El Nuevo Día and highlights the essential role of CHWs in improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities. Through real life examples, it emphasizes how CHWs build trust, connect communities to care, and strengthen the public health system. A Educar con Ciencia y Evidencia discusses the importance of integrating environmental health and atmospheric patterns into science school education as a prevention strategy. The communications team delivered a master class, “Behind the production of the ConCiencia podcast,” at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, sharing communications strategy and production process with future public health professionals.



CHW training curriculum

Additional multi-platform media coverage appeared in Puerto Rico Posts, University of Puerto Rico, Magazine PR, and La Voz Digital PR, amplifying PRPHI's thought leadership on science integration for societal impact.

General public communication efforts achieved unprecedented reach: 185 strategic media appearances, nearly 12.5M impressions, 187K engagements, and over one million people reached, with 2,603 new followers. The ConCiencia podcast, Season 4, aimed at health professionals and general audiences, shared evidence-informed public health content through 10 episodes covering mental health, cancer, aging, nutrition, and anxiety disorders, with two episodes surpassing 1,000 views each. The team developed new educational resources (126 assets) and made them freely available to the public through PRPHI's digital library; they also distributed 16,373 educational resources to communities.

Driven by an unwavering commitment to chronic disease prevention, digital health, emergency preparedness, rural health, and mental health, PRPHI continues to leverage evidence, community engagement, capacity building, health promotion, and policy engagement to create lasting and equitable public health impact for Puerto Rico. Fiscal year 2025-2026 reflects PRPHI's capacity to transform knowledge into action, partnerships into impact, and vision into measurable change for Puerto Rico.



Oral presentation at APHA 2025 Annual Meeting & Expo



Newspaper appearances



ConCiencia podcast

WHAT'S NEXT

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Building on this year's successes and guided by a strong strategic plan, PRPHI looks to the future with a clear commitment to advancing health systems transformation in Puerto Rico. We will prioritize initiatives that promote sustainable change and improve access to high-quality health services. A key focus will be advancing the sustainability and integration of CHWs as essential members of the health ecosystem.

PRPHI will also continue supporting the Telehealth Alliance as a catalyst for expanding digital health solutions and increasing access to care, particularly for underserved populations. In parallel, we will strengthen collaborations that enhance health data infrastructure, improve the representation of Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories in national surveys and databases, and support more informed decision-making. Elevating local health priorities and challenges will remain central to our work, ensuring that Puerto Rico's and the territories' needs inform public health policy, planning, and investment decisions.

PRPHI seeks to further strengthen partnerships with Caribbean and Pacific islands and U.S. territories, advancing shared learning, collaborative advocacy, and joint solutions to common public health challenges. The team remains committed to evolving alongside the communities served, leveraging innovation, partnerships, and evidence-informed approaches to build a healthier and more resilient future.



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

PRCCI
Puerto Rico Consortium
for Clinical Investigation

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

85

Visible active, upcoming, and pipeline trials across 16 therapeutic areas, demonstrating the scale and diversity of PRCCI's opportunity portfolio

41+

Active Clinical Trials across the PRCCI Clinical Research Center and the Consortium site network, expanding research capacity and therapeutic diversity

21+

Clinical Trials generating financial activity

39

New Clinical Research Coordinators certified by PRCCI, strengthening Puerto Rico's clinical research workforce pipeline

4

NIH Sub Awards secured (1 renewal + 3 new), diversifying funding streams and enabling long-term strategic investments

260

Potential study participants in our database generated through targeted community recruitment campaigns, expanding inclusive research access and enrollment readiness

PRCCI
Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation
CLINICAL RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

Subsidiary of the:
Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

The Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI) has a clear vision: to become the preferred partner for the implementation of clinical trials in Hispanics.

Our mission: To expand and enhance clinical research in Puerto Rico by connecting investigators, communities, academic institutions, government partners, and life-sciences sponsors; developing a highly skilled research workforce; and delivering ethical, inclusive, high-quality studies that improve health and advance scientific knowledge.

HOW WE DO IT

Our value proposition focuses on the continuous growth of clinical research to deliver safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable patient-centered clinical trials. PRCCI has access to a large network of strongly committed and experienced investigators in Puerto Rico; serves as one-point of contact for sponsors for quick and effective start-up processes; offers an array of local services such as quality assessment and validation, study monitoring, patient recruitment strategies, contract and budget negotiations, invoice and billing, clinical trials management system, regulatory and staffing support; educational and capacity building for healthcare professionals and other staff to share best practices and tailored sessions for advocacy groups.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

PRCCI connects with a broad network of partners, including sponsors, investigators, healthcare organizations, academic institutions, and patient advocacy groups. Through these collaborations, we streamline clinical trial operations, enhance research capabilities, and expand access to high-quality studies in Puerto Rico. By fostering these alliances, PRCCI drives innovation and promotes the inclusion of Hispanic populations in global research.

Vision

To establish Puerto Rico as a globally preferred destination and trusted partner for the conduct of clinical trials, recognized for operational excellence, participant diversity, bilingual talent, strong community engagement, and reliable study delivery.

Our nonprofit commitment

PRCCI reinvests its expertise, partnerships, and resources in the island's clinical research ecosystem. We work to broaden access to research opportunities, strengthen local capacity, support responsible innovation, and ensure that Puerto Rico's communities are represented in the evidence used to shape the future of healthcare.

Clinical Research Operations

During FY 2025–2026, PRCCI's Clinical Research Operations team strengthened the Clinical Research Center's position as a leading research execution hub in the Puerto Rico, advancing operational excellence, building sponsor relationships, and accelerating portfolio growth.

Key Achievements

- Active Research Network: Managed 21+ ongoing studies across the Clinical Research Center and consortium site partners, demonstrating operational capacity and network strength.
- Strategic Negotiations: Advanced 3 new studies through contract and budget negotiations, strengthening partnerships and securing favorable terms for PRCCI and network sites.
- Strategic Positioning: Conducted 25+ sponsor and site presentations to pharmaceutical companies and research organizations, establishing Puerto Rico as a competitive destination for clinical research execution.
- Operational Infrastructure: Provided comprehensive support for contract management, budget negotiations, and compliance across the consortium network, ensuring smooth study operations and sponsor satisfaction.

Driving Growth Through Partnership

The Operations team prioritized direct sponsor engagement and relationship-building, positioning PRCCI's technical capabilities, experienced team, and diverse patient population as key assets for research success. These efforts translated research opportunities into active partnerships and expanded our role within the global clinical research ecosystem.

Strategic Direction

Looking ahead, the Operations team will focus on scaling research capacity, deepening collaborations with local investigators and international sponsors, and maintaining operational excellence. This commitment to high-quality trial execution and collaborative partnership remains central to PRCCI's mission of advancing clinical research innovation in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean region.

Business Development & PRCCI Clinical Research Center

Pipeline Development & Growth

PRCCI's business development strategy focuses on cultivating research partnerships and expanding the clinical trial portfolio to position Puerto Rico as a competitive hub within the global research ecosystem. During FY 2025–2026, sustained outreach and relationship-building efforts yielded significant growth:

- Lead Generation: Cultivated 85+ prospective research opportunities through targeted outreach efforts, industry networking, and strategic referrals.
- Opportunity Pipeline: Progressed 48+ leads through feasibility evaluation and sponsor engagement, demonstrating growing sponsor confidence in PRCCI's capabilities and strengthening our competitive position for new studies.

Portfolio Strength & Market Focus

As of June 2026, PRCCI maintains visibility of 85 active, upcoming, and pipeline clinical trials across 16 therapeutic areas. The portfolio is strategically concentrated in high-demand areas:

- Top 3 Therapeutic Areas: Obesity/Weight Management (17 studies), Diabetes Type 1 & 2 (14 studies), Psychiatry/CNS (12 studies)
- Top Sponsors by Study Volume: Pfizer (8), Novo Nordisk (6), AstraZeneca (6), Hoffmann-La Roche (3), Eli Lilly (3)

Strategic Portfolio Development

Recognizing current pharmaceutical innovation trends and market demand, PRCCI:

- Prioritized obesity and metabolic disease portfolios for competitive advantage.
- Implemented dual-study outreach approaches (e.g., Merck RA + PsA programs) to maximize site qualification efficiency.
- Developed targeted follow-up protocols for 8 pending sponsors, focusing on protocol review, feasibility questionnaires, and site activation timelines.

Sponsor Relationship Development

- Active Outreach: Executed targeted sponsor outreach initiatives across multiple therapeutic areas, resulting in expressed site interest from key pharmaceutical companies including Metsera, Abbott Vascular, AbbVie, and Merck.
- New Partnerships: Established contact with emerging sponsors (Serena Group, Tiger Biosciences) and advanced site qualification discussions with major players, demonstrating PRCCI's strategic positioning in priority therapeutic areas.
- Sponsor Intelligence: Maintained a comprehensive, verified sponsor contact directory (37 sponsors/CROs) with updated contact information, enabling efficient pipeline management and strategic communication.

Operational Excellence & Compliance

The team successfully conducted 18 sponsor and CRO monitoring visits throughout the fiscal year, demonstrating consistent adherence to protocol requirements, regulatory standards, and GCP principles. Comprehensive audits of documentation, procedures, and compliance infrastructure reinforced PRCCI's commitment to research quality and participant safety.

PRCCI is positioned to sustain pipeline growth, attract cutting-edge research opportunities, and foster enduring partnerships with sponsors, academic institutions, and government entities. With demonstrated operational excellence and growing sponsor confidence, the Clinical Research Center is poised to advance Puerto Rico's prominence in global clinical research.

Industry Recognition & Strategic Visibility

PRCCI & PRSTRT's programs participated as a member of the Invest Puerto Rico delegation at BIO International 2026, leveraging the Puerto Rico Pavilion to showcase the island's clinical research capabilities and foster strategic relationships with global biotechnology and pharmaceutical leaders. The engagement generated more than 10 high-potential partnership opportunities across five countries, significantly expanding PRCCI's international network and elevating Puerto Rico's position as a premier destination for innovative clinical research. Participation in this leading global life sciences conference strengthened PRCCI's visibility, enhanced its international reputation, and created new op opportunities for cross-border research collaborations and investment.





The Invest Puerto Rico delegation at BIO International 2026.

Research Grants Federal Funding

PRCCI continues to demonstrate strong momentum in research funding diversification through strategic partnerships with leading academic institutions. During FY 2025-2026, the organization successfully advanced multiple federally funded research initiatives representing over $1 million in annual public investment, with funding commitments projected through 2029. These collaborative efforts strengthen PRCCI's role in advancing health equity research while building capacity across Puerto Rico's research infrastructure and workforce.

PROSPECT Research Study (NIH R01 – Harvard University)

This R01 award was granted to Dr. Josiemer Mattei, PhD, MPH at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, PROSPECT represents a landmark longitudinal epidemiological study examining psychosocial, food-related, and cardiometabolic risk factors across Puerto Rico. The study's island-wide reach encompasses 77 of 78 municipalities with an active cohort of 1,860 participants and 124 on the waitlist. Key accomplishments include high long-term retention with many participants completing their third and fourth year of follow-up, expansion into rural areas, and increased male enrollment. Biological samples are securely stored at Harvard University for current and future research. PRCCI supports the study in its facilities and four staff members. This research project supports the recruitment of five research assistants and two coordinators, with plans for additional team expansion.

PRECISION Research Study (NIH R01 – Harvard University)

Another R01 award granted to Dr. Josiemer Mattei, PhD, MPH, the PRECISION study focuses on understanding the genetic, dietary, and psychosocial risk factors underlying obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and allostatic load. With strategic targeting of underserved Latino populations across the continental United States and Puerto Rico, PRECISION develops and validates diet quality indices while evaluating their associations with cardiovascular disease risk factors. The study includes a pilot intervention component designed to improve diet quality among Latino subgroups, advancing both scientific knowledge and health equity.

University of Massachusetts Lowell Osteoporosis Research Program (with Dr. Sabrina Noel)

PRCCI facilitated the establishment of a new collaborative research subaward partnership with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, with Dr. Sabrina Noel serving as a key research collaborator. This strategic collaboration advances research into osteoporosis and bone health, expanding PRCCI's portfolio in translational and applied health research. The subaward created a new Clinical Research Coordinator position aligned with PRCCI's focus in the creation of workforce opportunities for professionals in clinical research. The partnership reflects PRCCI's commitment to fostering high-impact academic collaborations that enhance scientific innovation, strengthen research capacity, and further position Puerto Rico as a leading hub for clinical and translational research.

All of Us Research Program (NIH – Yale University & Coast-to-Coast Consortium)

On May 1st, 2025, PRCCI's participation in the All of Us Research Program (AoURP) was renewed through the Coast-to-Coast Consortium (C2C), with a new subaward for the period of May 1st, 2025, to April 30th, 2026. This subaward reflects a strategic pivot toward retention and engagement of existing participants. While new participant recruitment is not active in this cycle, the PRCCI team remains committed to maintaining engagement with the cohort, ensuring they are well-informed and supported throughout their continued involvement.

This year also marks significant transition toward advancing research utilization of All of Us data resources. PRCCI is conducting targeted outreach to research-oriented groups and academic institutions to promote awareness and responsible use of the All of Us Researcher Workbench within Puerto Rico. These activities aim to connect local researchers with powerful tools for exploring health trends and disparities across diverse populations.

Clinical Research Training & Education Program

During FY 2025–2026, PRCCI's Clinical Research Training & Education Program expanded workforce development and community engagement, strengthening Puerto Rico's clinical research ecosystem through professional training, academic partnerships, regulatory compliance, and public awareness initiatives.

Building the Clinical Research Coordinator Workforce

The CRC Certification Program trained 39 clinical research professionals across two cohorts (18 participants in the Fall 2025; 21 participants in the Spring 2026), directly supporting Puerto Rico's clinical research workforce pipeline.

Expanding Academic Partnerships

PRCCI strengthened collaborations with Universidad de Puerto Rico, Bayamón, San Juan Bautista Caguas, and Nova Southeastern University's APPE program, providing 6 students and healthcare trainees with hands-on clinical research experience.

Strengthening Institutional Compliance

PRCCI facilitated comprehensive HIPAA onboarding, workforce training, and compliance monitoring across employees, students, interns, and collaborators, ensuring institutional readiness and regulatory excellence at the Puerto Rico Science Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT).

Advancing Professional Development

A Biosciences Webinar in October 2025 reached approximately 40 professionals and students, promoting awareness of research innovation and career advancement pathways.

Behavioral Health Integration Through Telehealth

PRCCI provided a training session on how to approach physicians at their offices for the Puerto Rico Public Health Institute team, focused on the Behavioral Health Integration study through Telehealth. This collaboration strengthened capacity-building efforts and expanded knowl-edge-sharing innovative telehealth-enabled research approaches to the professionals assigned to this project.

Deepening Community Engagement

PRCCI partnered with the Puerto Rican Diabetes Association (November 19–21, 2025) to reach approximately 150 community members with health and research education. This engagement yielded 69 prospective research participants—directly translating outreach into recruitment pipelines.

Impact

- 39 CRC professionals trained
- 6 university students and healthcare trainees engaged
- ~150 community members educated about clinical research
- 69 prospective research participants identified
- Expanded academic partnerships strengthening the clinical research workforce across Puerto Rico



A Biosciences Webinar in October 2025.





Training session: Behavioral Health Integration Through Telehealth.

Marketing & Communications Initiatives

Celebrating Milestones: PRCCI 10th Anniversary & Clinical Research Center 2nd Anniversary

PRCCI 10th Anniversary Campaign

PRCCI marked its 10th anniversary with a strategic, multi-phase communications campaign that elevated the organization's profile and strengthened institutional partnerships:

April 16 – Official Anniversary Launch & Strategic Partnership Announcement

PRCCI hosted a live webinar officially launching the 10th anniversary celebration and announcing new strategic collaborations with leading academic institutions, including Harvard University, UMass, and Nova Southeastern University. The event positioned PRCCI as a key research hub while publicly reinforcing its partnerships with nationally recognized universities.

May – Clinical Trials Awareness Month Celebration

Aligning with National Clinical Trials Awareness Month, PRCCI held an in-person anniversary celebration convening with partners, collaborators, academic institutions, and community members. The event celebrated a decade of advancing clinical research in Puerto Rico while engaging stakeholders in the organization's future direction and emerging research priorities.



10th anniversary celebration and announcing new strategic collaborations.





National Clinical Trials Awareness Month.

PRCCI Clinical Research Center: 2nd Anniversary

August 17, 2025 – PRCCI celebrated the 2nd anniversary of its Clinical Research Center, marking two years of delivering high-quality research infrastructure, clinical trial support, and participant care. The milestone reflected PRCCI's commitment to strengthening Puerto Rico's clinical research ecosystem and providing world-class research facilities to advance studies benefiting local and broader populations.

Expanding Community Reach: Diversia Partnership

PRCCI expanded its community engagement capacity through a strategic partnership with Diversia Health, a health-technology and clinical research engagement platform dedicated to increasing inclusive access to clinical trials with a focus on Latino and Puerto Rican communities. This collaboration leveraged Diversia's technology platform and community networks to strengthen PRCCI's research participation efforts, address health equity gaps, and expand enrollment pipelines across underrepresented populations. Joint campaigns elevated awareness of clinical research opportunities and reinforced PRCCI's commitment to equitable, community-centered research practices.



2nd Anniversary: PRCCI Clinical Research Center.

Campaign Results: Diversia Partnership

PRCCI's partnership with Diversia Health yielded strong results across two targeted lead generation campaigns, leveraging PRCCI's social media presence and Diversia's community database to drive research participation among diverse populations.

AIM4 Campaign: The AIM4 campaign successfully exceeded recruitment targets through integrated digital outreach across PRCCI social media and Diversia's participant database:

Lead Generation: 184 total submissions with 157 active participants, surpassing the initial target of 150.

Campaign Channels: Primary recruitment through PRCCI social media promotion and Diversia's existing community database.

Lead Quality: 63%–88% matching scores across majority of participants; multiple participants achieved 100% match rates with only 13%–38% low-matching leads.

Timeline & Impact: Primary activity December 2025–January 2026 with significant acceleration in late January following campaign optimizations.

Results: Form refinements and strategic reactivation drove immediate increases in both lead volume and matching quality, accelerating recruitment within a compressed timeframe.

AIRTIVITY Campaign: The AIRTIVITY campaign demonstrated steady, sustained momentum toward recruitment goals using the same multi-channel approach:

Lead Generation: 137 total submissions with 103 active participants, progressing toward the 150-participant goal with campaign ongoing.

Campaign Channels: Sustained outreach via PRCCI social media and Diversia's community networks.

Lead Quality: Consistent 63%–88% matching scores with several 100% matches; more stable score profile with lower variability compared to AIM4.

Timeline: Sustained lead generation from December 2025–January 2026 with steady growth pattern and campaign stability since launch.

Results: Disciplined, sustained approach yielded reliable participant pipeline with minimal fluctuations.

Combined Campaign Impact

Together, AIM4 and AIRTIVITY generated 321 total submissions and 260 active participants, demonstrating:

Effective multi-channel recruitment strategy integrating PRCCI social media reach with Diversia's community database Strong participant-study alignment (majority at 63% –88% matching) Scalable model for reaching underrepresented populations in clinical research High-quality lead pipeline supporting PRCCI's recruitment growth and research portfolio expansion.

Executive Director Insights on Clinical Research Growth

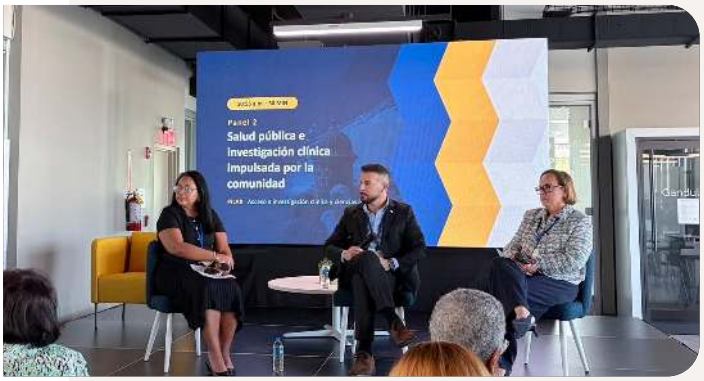
PRCCI's Executive Director contributed to PharmExec.com with an insightful piece examining ten years of clinical research growth in Puerto Rico, sharing key lessons and perspectives on advancing research capacity and community engagement in the region. This thought leadership positioning reinforced PRCCI's expertise and influence in the clinical research landscape.



PRCCI Shares Insights on Clinical Research Growth.

NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit: Puerto Rico 2026

PRCCI was proud to participate in the NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit: Puerto Rico 2026, where Dr. Amarilys Silva joined leaders in public health, research, and technology to discuss the future of clinical research in Puerto Rico. The engagement reinforced PRCCI's role as a convener and thought leader in advancing equitable, innovative research practices.





PRCCI participates in the NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit: Puerto Rico 2026.

Responsible Artificial Intelligence: Increasing Capacity and Impact

PRCCI uses artificial intelligence as a practical support tool to help a growing nonprofit organization operate with greater speed, consistency, and insight. Our approach is human-led and mission-focused: AI assists qualified staff with high-volume, repeatable, and analytical tasks, while trained professionals retain responsibility for decisions involving participants, study conduct, compliance, scientific interpretation, and organizational strategy.

How AI Supports Our Operations

- Identification of new research projects and sponsor intelligence: During FY 2025–2026, PRCCI used AI-assisted research, screening, categorization, and synthesis to identify new potential clinical research projects. The team analyzed public and industry information,emerging development programs, therapeutic-area activity, sponsor pipelines, and opportunities aligned with Puerto Rico's patient population and investigator capabilities. Human review then validated relevance, prioritized prospects, and guided targeted sponsors and CRO outreach. This approach supported the development of 85+ prospective research opportunities and the progression of 48+ leads through feasibility evaluation and sponsor engagement.
- Participant recruitment and outreach: AI supports audience segmentation, campaign planning, bilingual content development, lead organization, and the analysis of recruitment patterns so staff can focus resources on the channels and communities with the greatest potential for appropriate engagement.
- Operational planning and resource allocation: AI-assisted summaries, dashboards, and trend analysis help leadership monitor workloads, surface bottlenecks, prepare meetings, and direct limited staff time toward activities with the highest mission and operational value.
- Quality, compliance, and documentation: AI assists with document comparison, completeness checks, standardized templates, issue tracking, and preparation for monitoring activities. These functions support, formal quality-control reviews, regulatory obligations, and professional judgment.
- Training and knowledge management: AI helps transform complex research, regulatory, and operational information into role-specific learning materials, checklists, summaries, and bilingual educational resources, strengthening workforce readiness and reducing the time required to locate and organize institutional knowledge.
- Communications and reporting: AI-assisted drafting, editing, translation support, and data synthesis enable PRCCI to communicate more consistently with sponsors, investigators, partners, trainees, and communities while maintaining human review for accuracy, tone, and context.

Strategic value

Using AI at the earliest stage of project discovery allowed PRCCI to scan a broader opportunity landscape in less time, compare prospective studies against organizational capabilities, and concentrate business-development resources on the most relevant opportunities. Compared with a fully manual approach, this reduced repetitive research and information-synthesis work, improved consistency in opportunity review, and enabled faster, better-informed follow-up by experienced staff.

Maximizing Efficiency and Responsible Use of Resources

For a nonprofit clinical research organization, efficiency expands mission capacity. By reducing time spent on routine synthesis, repetitive drafting, manual organization, and preliminary analysis, AI allows PRCCI personnel to devote more attention to participant relationships, investigator support, sponsor responsiveness, quality oversight, partnership development, and workforce education. It also helps us reuse institutional knowledge, standardize recurring work, and scale selected services without requiring every increase in activity to produce a proportional increase in administrative burden.

Potential Benefits in the Clinical Research Industry

Across clinical research, persistent challenges include lengthy start-up activities, fragmented information, participant recruitment and retention barriers, intensive documentation requirements, and limited visibility across complex study portfolios. PRCCI's targeted use of AI can help address these challenges by enabling faster information retrieval, more consistent workflows, earlier identification of operational risks, better prioritization of prospective participants and study opportunities, and more timely reporting. For sponsors and CROs, this can translate into a more responsive site partner, stronger operational visibility, and better use of local knowledge. For participants and communities, it can support clearer communication, more relevant outreach, and improved access to appropriate research opportunities.

Human Oversight, Privacy, and Trust

PRCCI recognizes that AI in healthcare and research must be governed carefully. We apply a risk-based approach that prioritizes participant protection, confidentiality, data integrity, fairness, transparency, cybersecurity, and compliance with applicable protocol, contractual, HIPAA, GCP, sponsor, and regulatory requirements. Sensitive or identifiable participant information is not placed into unapproved public AI tools.

AI-generated work is reviewed by accountable personnel, and AI does not independently determine participant eligibility, provide clinical advice, make safety decisions, or replace investigator judgment. When an AI-supported output could affect regulated work, PRCCI evaluates the tool's intended use, data quality, limitations, validation needs, documentation, and ongoing performance before relying on it.

Next-Stage Priorities

PRCCI's next stage of AI adoption will focus on measurable, well-governed use cases: strengthening recruitment analytics, improving study-feasibility and pipeline intelligence, supporting quality and risk indicators, expanding bilingual knowledge resources, and tracking the time, cost, quality, and service improvements produced by each application. This disciplined approach will allow PRCCI to innovate responsibly, maximize nonprofit resources, and demonstrate to global sponsors that Puerto Rico can combine trusted human expertise with modern, efficient research operations.

WHAT'S NEXT

PRCCI
Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation
CLINICAL RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

Subsidiary of the:
Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

From Foundation to Excellence: Scaling Our Impact

PRCCI's clinical research operations have moved beyond the startup phase. With foundational infrastructure in place and initial studies launched, priorities now focus on operational excellence, sustainable growth, and deepening our impact across Puerto Rico. Our strategy reflects lessons learned and emerging opportunities that will position us as a leading research partner for sponsors and our community.

Accelerating Study Operations and Site Excellence

Building on our operational infrastructure, we are implementing advanced quality metrics and streamlined workflows to reduce study startup timelines and improve protocol adherence rates. Investment in our data management systems and staff training will enable us to consistently exceed sponsors' expectations while maintaining the highest ethical standards. Real-time performance monitoring will allow us to identify and address challenges proactively.

Maximizing Participant Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention

Scaling recruitment volume is a core priority. We are expanding outreach through targeted digital campaigns, social media initiatives, and community partnerships to increase enrollment across diverse populations. Alongside aggressive recruitment efforts, we are strengthening retention through improved participant communication, engagement programs, and feedback mechanisms. This dual focus on growing recruitment while maintaining strong retention positions us as a high-performing partner for sponsors and longer-duration studies.

Expanding Strategic Research Partnerships

Our portfolio growth strategy targets therapeutic areas with strong community health relevance and demonstrated sponsor interest. We are actively pursuing new studies in obesity and metabolic disease, a critical health priority in Puerto Rico, and exploring innovative opportunities in autism spectrum research. Additional focus areas include respiratory health, dermatology, rheumatology, and gastroenterology. We are actively pursuing early-phase capability expansion and establishing ourselves as a preferred site for long-term observational research, positioning us to support multi-year partnerships across diverse therapeutic domains.

Investing in Our Team and Organizational Culture

Retaining and developing our research professionals remains critical to our success. Enhanced professional development pathways, specialized certifications in GCP and protocol-specific training, and leadership mentorship programs will strengthen our competitive advantage. A culture of continuous improvement and collaborative problem-solving will drive innovation across all functions.

Modernizing Data Infrastructure and Technology

Electronic source data, integrated remote monitoring platforms, and real-time analytics capabilities will strengthen operations. These technology investments enhance data integrity, improve sponsor confidence, and position us as a digitally progressive research organization capable of supporting increasingly complex studies.

Deepening Community and Institutional Partnerships

Strategic relationships with academic medical centers, government health initiatives, and industry collaborators will expand our research capacity and community reach. Educational programming and public health engagement will strengthen PRCCI's visibility and reinforce our commitment to advancing Caribbean health.

Charting the Path to Sustainability

We are pursuing diversified funding strategies including grant development, industry partnerships, and institutional collaborations. These efforts will secure PRCCI's long-term viability while ensuring we remain a trusted, innovative, and accessible clinical research resource for Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit

ANNUAL 2025
REPORT 2026

IMPACT NUMBERS

983
Surveillance traps serviced weekly

41,381
Mosquito pools tested for arboviruses

368,632
Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes processed

81
Dengue clusters intervened across 11 municipalities

3,145
AGO surveillance and control traps deployed in Bayamón

205
Wide-area larvicide applications completed in Bayamón

54,000+
Passive emanators distributed to approximately 5,450 households

5,800+
Prevention and educational materials

490+
Members of the Puerto Rico Vector Management Association

Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

The Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) was established in September 2016 as part of a cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust. The PRVCU aims to leverage Puerto Rico's capacity to control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the vector for the diseases Zika, chikungunya, and dengue.

Mission: Establish a world-class, modern, and dynamic Integrated Vector Management program that serves as a local and regional research, evaluation, and training.

Vision: Striving together for a Puerto Rico free from mosquito-borne disease

HOW WE DO IT

PRVCU non-profit organizational structure makes it unique among vector management programs, all of which are associated with a state or local government. The PRVCU, thus, has flexibility, independence, and nimbleness that other programs lack. We use these advantages in working with municipalities, health regions, and PR Department of Health to implement those management practices most locally appropriate. We are also active in competing for grants and awards at all levels and, as our reputation and recognition has grown, so has our award success grown. Finally, we strongly emphasize the evaluation and adoption of new technology for vector management.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

During this period, PRVCU continues to perform the activities for awards from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC and US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) Program Highlights

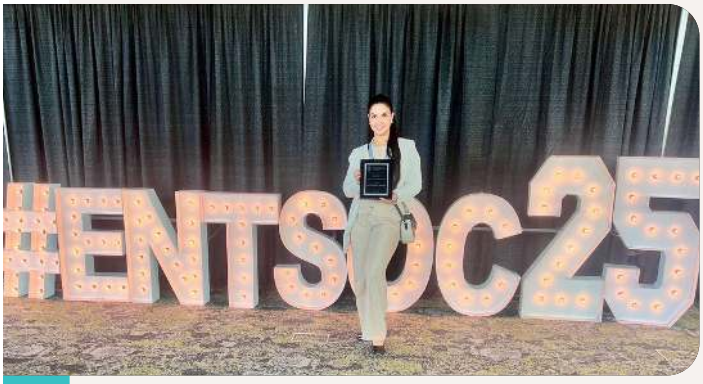
During this reporting period, the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) continued implementing key activities under multiple awards from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These projects aim to strengthen vector surveillance, Integrated Vector Management (IVM), workforce capacity, and public health infrastructure in Puerto Rico and across the region. PRVCU also expanded engagement with private-sector partners to promote innovation, evaluate emerging vector-control technologies, strengthen operational capacity, and explore sustainable public–private collaborations that support long-term vector-borne disease prevention and response.

Recognitions and presentations

PRVCU staff had the opportunity to represent us at various conferences as speakers, panelists, and awardees, among others. These engagements continue to position and recognize PRVCU as a world-class vector control program, both locally and internationally.



Dr. Rafael Saavedra, Project Manager, Raiza Alvarado, Vector Management Team Lead, and Clary Herrera, International Project Coordinator, presented in the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) Annual Meeting 2025 in Toronto, Canadá.



Dr. Joanelis Medina received the International Branch Early Career Research and Leadership Award from the Entomological Society of America (ESA).



Signature of collaborative agreement with the Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration as part of the launch of the SiScreens Metro project.



Dr. Julieanne Miranda-Bermúdez, PRVCU Program Director, was invited by the University of Florida (UF) to share Puerto Rico's experiences and lessons learned in IVM with public health students.



The PRVCU received the Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award, the highest honor presented by Research!America, in recognition of its outstanding work and contributions to public health.



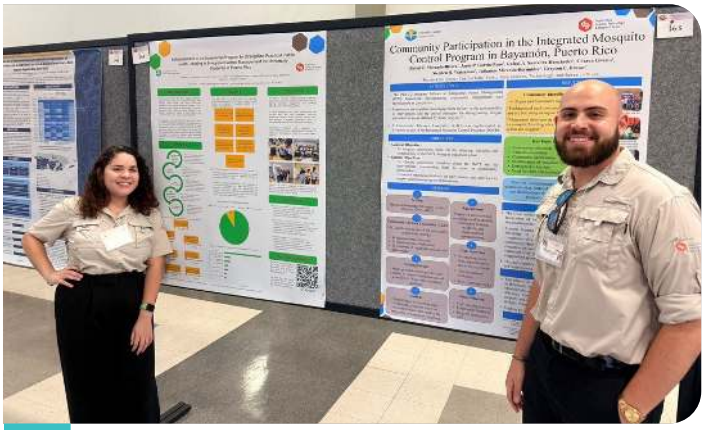
Dr. Julieanne Miranda-Bermúdez, Program Director, Dr. Fhallon Ware-Gilmore, Urban and Principal Public Health Entomologist, and Amarilys Asencio, TITEC Manager, participated in Vector Week 2025 in Ft. Collins, Colorado.



Dr. Grayson Brown received the Medal of Honor and Verónica Rodríguez received the Boyd-Ariaz Grass Roots Award from the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in 2025.



Our team's participation in the AMCA conference in Oregon.



Katherine Torres and Rafael Mercado participated in the 46th Annual Research and Education Forum of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, held under the theme "Innovating Together for a Healthier Future," where the team presented two scientific research posters.

PRVCU Student Program

This year, we received 20 interns from the University of Puerto Rico-Bayamón Campus, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez Campus, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus, and Ana G. Méndez University, Carolina Campus, who supported several PRVCU projects. The program's primary goal was to give students their first work experience in science and public health, focusing on surveillance, control, and prevention of vector-borne diseases. Student interns strengthened the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit's efforts by enabling broader coverage of community and educational activities. At the same time, this experience gave students valuable hands-on learning opportunities in public health and vector control in Puerto Rico.

Dengue Epidemic Response

Puerto Rico experienced the highest sustained dengue burden among U.S. jurisdictions, reporting more than 6,000 cases in 2024 and over 3,300 cases in 2025, including 21 deaths. Puerto Rico accounted for more than 80% of all dengue cases reported across the United States. The Puerto Rico Department of Health declared a public health emergency in March 2024, which remained in effect through December 2025. Using surveillance data from PR Department of Health and CDC, PRVCU prioritized communities reporting at least three confirmed dengue cases within the previous 30 to 60 days. Response activities focused particularly on public housing complexes (PHC) with elevated female *Aedes aegypti* populations, positive mosquito pools, and clinical cases. PRVCU implemented a comprehensive integrated vector management response that combined entomological surveillance, weekly arbovirus testing, deployment of AGO surveillance and control traps, larvicide applications, insecticide resistance testing, breeding-site elimination, and community education. The team conducted response activities across 81 dengue clusters in 11 municipalities. During the outbreak, the team deployed 659 surveillance traps and 1,903 control traps, and 25 clusters received wide-area larvicide or targeted treatments. A centralized GIS dashboard integrated intervention data and supported timely, evidence-based decisions. After the emergency response was concluded in December 2025, approximately 199 surveillance and control traps were removed.

Vector Surveillance

During the reporting period, PRVCU refined its mosquito surveillance strategy to prioritize PHC, and communities associated with active dengue clusters, based on joint programmatic discussions with CDC. This targeted approach focused resources on areas with elevated *Ae. aegypti* populations, dengue-positive mosquito pools, and reported human cases, while maintaining surveillance in locations supporting active projects and program priorities. Between August 2025 and July 2026, PRVCU processed 38,151 AGO trap chambers, averaging approximately 983 surveillance traps serviced weekly. More than 368,632 female *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes were collected and organized into 41,381 pools for molecular arbovirus testing.

The PRVCU laboratory uses the Trioplex assay developed by the CDC-Dengue Branch. This multi-target molecular assay is intended for the qualitative detection and differentiation of RNA from dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses in mosquito samples. If dengue is detected, the DENV1-4 assay is then used to determine the dengue serotype (DENV-1, 2, 3, 4). Since 2018, PRVCU has processed 440,177 AGO chambers, more than 4.3 million female *Ae. aegypti*, and 271,574 mosquito pools. Female *Ae. aegypti* are collected from AGO traps, identified, and submitted for weekly testing in PRVCU Molecular Laboratory. During this year, all positives were DENV-3 (100%). Table 1 summarizes the mosquitoes processed and the number of pools evaluated for arboviruses. We also provide mosquito testing to the Pacific Islands as a service.

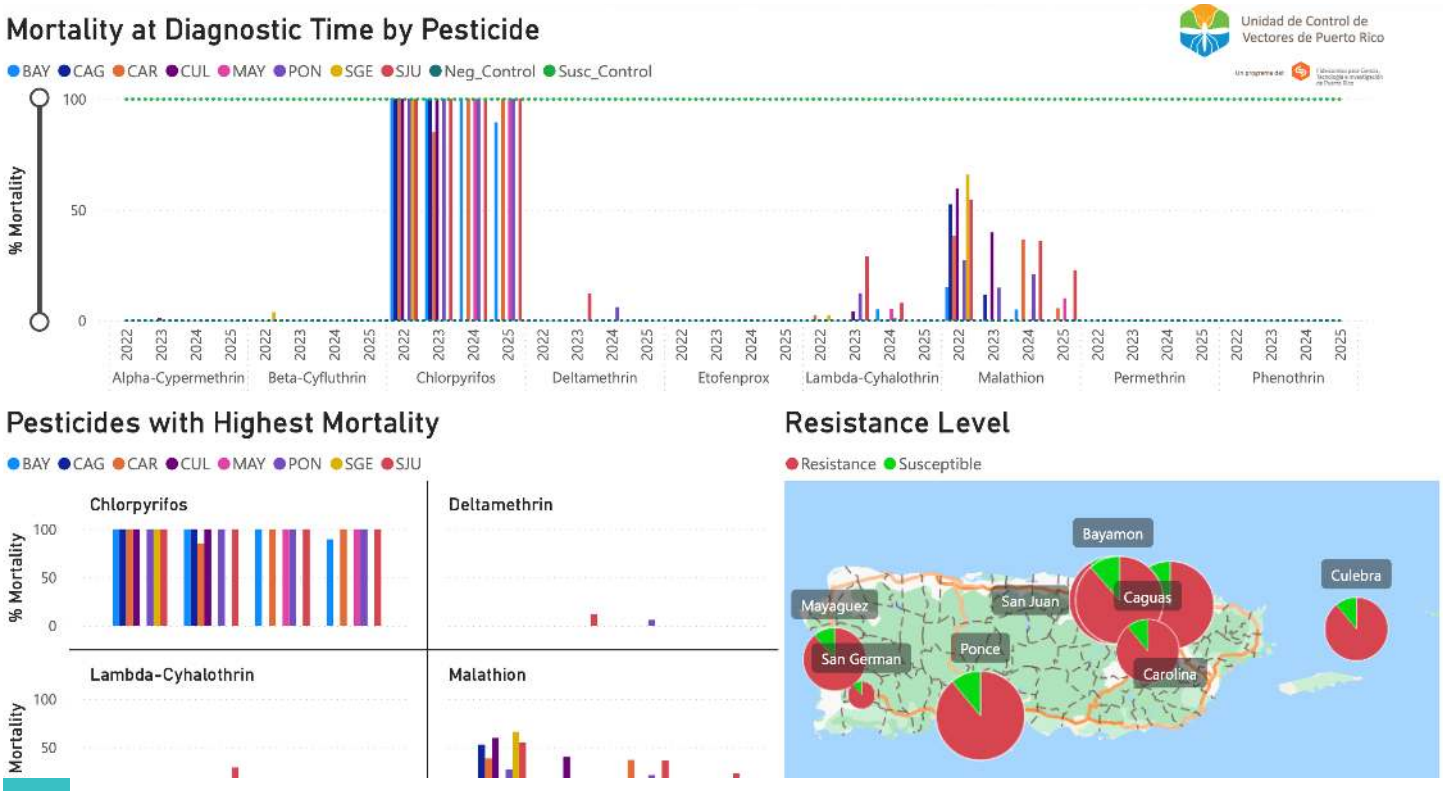
Description	August 2025-July 2026	To date (January 2018-July 2026)
AGO captured chamber processed	38,151	440,177
Total *Ae. aegypti* female captured	368,632	4,334,216
Total pools tested for arbovirus	41,381	271,574
Total pools positive for dengue	100	819

Table 1. Summary of mosquito samples processed in the PRVCU laboratory for this period.

Insecticide resistance assays

In 2025, PRVCU assessed insecticide resistance in *Ae. aegypti* populations from Bayamón, Carolina, Mayagüez, Ponce, and San Juan. Researchers used eggs collected from each municipality to establish laboratory colonies, anD evaluated first-generation female mosquitoes using the CDC bottle bioassay. Researchers tested each population against nine active ingredients commonly used in adult mosquito control. Results confirmed that *Ae. aegypti* populations in Puerto Rico remain resistant to most adulticide active ingredients evaluated. Susceptibility was observed only to chlorpyrifos and malathion.

The high susceptibility to chlorpyrifos may reflect its withdrawal from the market, while the more limited and regulated use of malathion may have reduced selection pressure. These findings were shared with the Puerto Rico Department of Health and municipalities to guide evidence-based mosquito control decisions. PRVCU continued recommending greater reliance on larvicides and IVM approaches instead of routine use of pyrethroid-based adulticides. Calibration tours were also promoted during the dengue outbreak to improve equipment performance and application practices. Given the consistency of recent resistance profiles, future evaluations will expand to active ingredients used in larvicide products and compare their resistance patterns with commonly used adulticides.



Results of insecticide resistance testing for Ae. aegypti resistance against 9 insecticides at 5 different locations in Puerto Rico.

Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Project in Bayamón

The Bayamón IVM Program addressed high *Ae. aegypti* densities and sustained dengue risk through a comprehensive combination of surveillance, control, and community-based interventions in PHC, schools, and residential communities. Interventions included AGO mass trapping, passive emanators, wide-area and targeted larvicide applications, breeding-site reduction, molecular arbovirus testing, and community engagement. Community engagement was central to implementation, reaching 9,688 people through 2,619 activities, incorporating community input through nine Community Advisory Committee meetings, and using 10 Denguemetro signs to translate surveillance data into clear, weekly dengue-risk messages for PHC residents.

The program deployed 3,145 AGO traps, completed 205 wide-area larvicide applications, and conducted 137 source-reduction visits across 10 PHCs, six educational centers, and surrounding communities. The team distributed more than 54,000 passive emanators to approximately 5,450 households across 17 priority areas, with estimated installation rates ranging from 68% to 93%.

Among surveyed residents, 75% reported positive experiences with the devices. Preliminary modeling indicated reductions in mosquito density of up to 83% in certain PHCs during periods when all control interventions were implemented, as well as a 75% reduction in classrooms with female *Ae. aegypti.* The mosquito population remained below the four-female-per-trap threshold in approximately 40% of PHCs and 94% of school zones. To support sustainability, PRVCU trained 14 municipal employees and transitioned maintenance of 533 AGO traps across 10 PHCs to the Municipality of Bayamón.

SíScreens Project, Ponce, Puerto Rico

In August 2023, PRVCU, Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU), and the Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDH) launched a three-year HUD-funded project to evaluate the effectiveness of window and door screens in preventing dengue by reducing indoor *Ae. aegypti* exposure in households in Ponce, Puerto Rico. The study enrolled 499 households and randomly assigned them to either the intervention (250 households) or control (249 households) group. All intervention households completed screen measurements and installations, and follow-up reached 90% at 6 months and 92% at 12 months. Entomological surveillance demonstrated a sustained impact of the intervention. The proportion of intervention households with at least one female *Ae. aegypti* indoors decreased by 61%, from 40.4% at baseline to 15.7% at 12 months, compared with 34.5% to 27.3% in control households. Mean indoor female *Ae. aegypti* density was 45% lower than the control group at 12 months (1.7 vs. 3.1 females per household; $p = 0.002$). Screen durability assessments found that 99 households required one or more screen repairs at the 6-month visit and 80 households at the 12-month visit, providing valuable information on long-term maintenance requirements. Final analysis of epidemiological outcomes, acceptability, and cost-effectiveness is underway to inform future implementation of housing-based vector control strategies in Puerto Rico.

SíScreens Project, Metro, Puerto Rico

The SiScreens Metro Project is an innovative, HUD-funded, evidence-based dengue prevention initiative launched in 2024 that evaluates the effectiveness of IVM activities combined with window screen installation across eight PHCs in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As of July 2026, the project has achieved significant progress. Outdoor surveillance deployment reached 100% completion across all sites. To date, 310 of 500 participants (250 interventions with screens vs. 250 controls without screens) have been recruited, with 900 window screens successfully installed. Entomological surveillance data collected over 43 weeks confirm active dengue virus circulation (16 dengue 3-positive pools detected) at some study sites. Indoor aspiration collections provide preliminary evidence of screen effectiveness, with one study-site intervention apartment showing a 79% reduction in mosquito density compared to control units. The project has successfully completed its Phase 1 Microenterprises Program in collaboration with Fase 1, PRSTRT program, engaging community-based services to produce and install window screens locally. This initiative generated employment opportunities for PHC residents while ensuring long-term sustainability of dengue prevention efforts. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed with Puerto Rico's Housing Administration, establishing institutional partnerships that strengthen project implementation and facilitate participant recruitment. These collaborative frameworks position SiScreens Metro as a model for community-driven vector control in resource-limited settings.

COPA Emanator Research and Evaluation Study (CERSE)

In partnership with Ponce Health Sciences University and CDC, PRVCU completed field implementation of the COPA Emanator Research and Evaluation Study (CERSE) in 2026. The study evaluated the effectiveness of SC Johnson Guardian™ passive emanators in reducing indoor *Ae. aegypti* abundance, mosquito exposure, and dengue risk across 36 clusters in Ponce. A total of 903 households were enrolled, with 815 (90%) remaining active, including 392 intervention and 423 control households. Follow-up completion remained high, reaching 89%, 90%, 92%, and 89% of active participants at the 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month visits, respectively. Preliminary results demonstrated high participant acceptability, with 91% of intervention households reporting satisfaction with the passive emanators. At the three-month follow-up, 49% of intervention households reported fewer indoor mosquitoes compared with 21% of control households, while 50% reported fewer mosquito bites compared with 20% of controls. Entomological monitoring also showed greater reductions in female *Ae. aegypti* abundance in intervention households, decreasing from a mean of 1.0 at baseline to 0.56 and 0.38 at three and six months, respectively, compared with 0.89, 0.72, and 0.84 in control households. Final epidemiological, implementation, and cost-effectiveness analyses are underway to inform future vector control strategies in Puerto Rico.



Installation of SC Johnson Guardian passive emanator device in household setting as part of the CERSE study to evaluate effectiveness in reducing indoor Aedes aegypti abundance.

Community outreach and education activities

During the reporting period, the PRVCU Community Mobilization Program expanded proactive outreach across Puerto Rico to strengthen public awareness of *Ae. aegypti*, dengue prevention, mosquito control, and breeding-site elimination. Activities complemented priority initiatives, including the Bayamón IVM Program, CERSE, and the dengue outbreak response, while also reaching schools and communities through educational talks, booths, informational visits, summer camps, and distribution of prevention materials. Between August 2025 and July 2026, PRVCU conducted 108 educational booths and 45 educational talks, including 67 school-based sessions. PRVCU distributed more than 5,892 prevention and educational items, including repellents, larvicides, educational materials, and activity books. Since 2017, PRVCU has delivered more than 951 educational booths, over 1,300 educational talks, and distributed more than 357,000 prevention and educational items. Table 2 summarizes outreach and education activities during this period. The 2025 World Mosquito Day campaign was a major outreach effort that reached 2,493 people across Puerto Rico, including approximately 1,956 students in 10 schools. At least 44 educational talks were conducted, supported by interactive activities and prevention materials. These efforts reinforced community knowledge, promoted household action to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, and sustained dengue-prevention messaging beyond the formal epidemic response.



Educational outreach session with senior community members on dengue prevention and mosquito control.

Activity/Material	August 2025 – July 2026 Number of activities/ materials
Educational booths	108
Educational task (general public)	45
Educational task (schools)	67
Community visits	109
Informational visit	--
Summer camps	13
Distribution of repellents	1,419
Distribution of larvicides	16
Distribution of educational material	3,715
Distribution of activity books	742
Mosquito nets	--

Table 2. Summary of outreach and education activities conducted during this period.

Communications and Digital Outreach

During the reporting period, PRVCU's communications efforts strengthened public awareness, institutional visibility, and access to vector prevention and control information. Media outreach supported dengue education, outbreak response, research activities, academic and PHC partnerships, and recognition through the Research!America Outstanding Public Health Advocacy Award. In 2025, PRVCU generated 103 media hits, 15 interviews, and an estimated earned media value of $244,800. An additional $101,200 in earned media value was generated from January through July 2026 with 28 news media publications and seven interviews.

From August 2025 to July 2026, the website recorded 34,377 visits and 93,031 page views. PRVCU's website remained a central source of program updates and dengue prevention resources. Monthly newsletters maintained strong engagement, with email open rates between 32.0% and 35.4%. PRVCU also maintained a consolidated digital audience of more than 20,670 followers and subscribers across Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube. Between June and July 2026, the team achieved notable growth: Facebook led with an organic growth of 2% from 17,306 to 17,650 followers. These gains follow the hiring of a junior creative designer and a strategic pivot toward educational health communications. These efforts sustained access to reliable public health information following the dengue epidemic and reinforced PRVCU's leadership in vector control, research, and community education.



PUERTO RICO HOY/13

EN WASHINGTON D.C.

Galardón a la unidad de control de mosquitos

Validan la labor que vienen realizando desde 2016 contra el dengue, el zika y el chikungunya en Puerto Rico

LA CIFRA 2016



December 3-7, 2025

The San Juan Star WEEKEND EDITION DAILY 50¢

Guayama District Senators Call for Independent Probe into Arroyo Harassment Allegations

P3

Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention Alliance

Vector Control Unit, UPR Medical Sciences Campus Sign Pact to Create Graduate Program in Public Health Entomology

P4

Earned media coverage highlights: front-page coverage in San Juan Daily Star and a full-page article in El Nuevo Día.



Marketing and Communications efforts by the numbers.

Tropical Islands Training and Evaluation Center (TITEC)

During the reporting period, the Tropical Island Training and Evaluation Center (TITEC) strengthened vector management capacity across Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and the Pacific through workforce development, applied evaluation, and regional partnerships. In Puerto Rico, 27 “Facing Dengue” sessions reached 347 municipal employees across 55 municipalities, increasing average knowledge scores from 64% to 80%. Seven calibration tours trained 65 personnel and supported the calibration of eight ultra-low-volume machines. TITEC also strengthened PRVCU’s internal workforce through specialized training in mosquito identification, equipment calibration, mosquito collection and aspiration techniques, larvicide applications, and Train-the-Trainer methods. TITEC advanced sustainable professional training pathways through a formal agreement with the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus to establish Puerto Rico’s first graduate-level elective course in Public Health Entomology. In the Pacific, partnerships with PIHOA and the Department of Defense supported Category 8 pesticide applicator training and technical assistance across multiple island jurisdictions. Evaluation activities generated evidence to inform future vector control decisions. TITEC assessed adulticides for pyrethroid-resistant *Ae. aegypti*, initiated evaluation of Larvasonic technology, advanced sterile insect technique planning, and promoted innovations in AGO traps and long-lasting larvicides. Collectively, these efforts strengthened technical capacity, regional coordination, operational readiness, and PRVCU’s leadership in tropical vector management innovation.







TITEC workforce development and technical training sessions for vector surveillance, identification, and vector control.

Puerto Rico Vector Management Association (PRVMA)

During the reporting period, the Puerto Rico Vector Management Association (PRVMA) strengthened the capacity of municipalities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to vector-borne disease threats. With more than 490 members, PRVMA continued serving as a key platform for professional development, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among municipal personnel, public health professionals, emergency management staff, academic institutions, and private-sector partners. PRVMA held its Annual Members' Meeting to share updates, training opportunities, and organizational priorities. The 2025 Annual Convention brought together approximately 250 participants in Gurabo and Hormigueros and featured scientific and educational presentations, panel discussions, 10 posters, and demonstrations from the PRVCU Mobile Unit. Private-sector sponsorships fully covered convention expenses and generated a surplus, supporting the Association's sustainability and continued municipal capacity-building activities. The convention received an average rating of 3.89 out of 4, and 91% of respondents indicated that the topics would improve their job performance. Recordings of the presentations were made available through PRVMA's YouTube channel and website, providing members with an ongoing reference and training resource. PRVMA also strengthened emergency preparedness through engagement with the Puerto Rico Bureau of Emergency Management and participation in regional hurricane-season preparedness workshops.



Attendees visiting exhibitor booths showcasing collaborative vector management products and services.



Recognition of the 2025 Premio Alfredo Casta award recipient, Mr. Luis Antonio Rodríguez Marrero, for distinguished service and leadership in vector management.



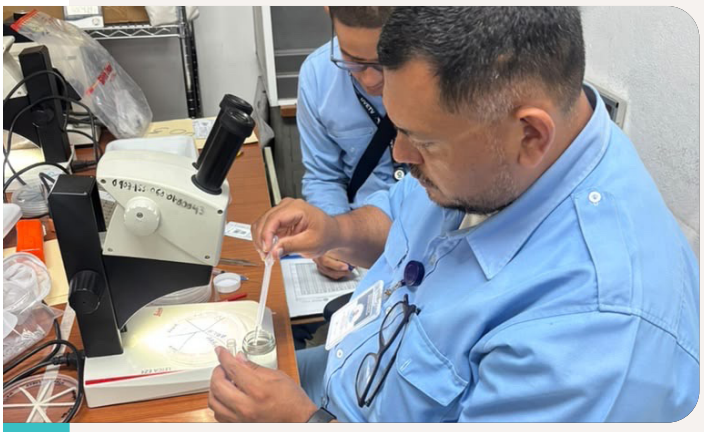
Recognition of the 2025 Dr. Grayson C. Brown Award recipient, Xavier O. Muñoz Llorens, for outstanding contributions and excellence in vector control.

PRVCU International: *Wolbachia* Replacement in El Salvador

In 2023, PRVCU received CDC funding to support a vector control project in El Salvador aimed at establishing and evaluating *Wolbachia* in *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes across urban areas. The project was a collaboration between PRVCU, the World Mosquito Program (WMP), El Salvador's Ministry of Health (MINSAL), and CDC. PRVCU continued supporting the long-term monitoring phase of the *Wolbachia* replacement project in El Salvador, conducted in September 2025 across Santa Ana, San Sebastián Salitrillo, and Chalchuapa. In coordination with MINSAL, WMP, El Salvador National Institute of Health (INS), Environmental Health and Toxicology Research Laboratory (LISAT), and other partners, PRVCU supported mosquito collection, sample processing, data management, quality assurance, and shipment of specimens for molecular analysis. Refresher training was also provided to field personnel, and two laboratory technicians were trained to process samples at LISAT. Monitoring was implemented across 432 quadrants. A total of 1,954 mosquitoes were processed, with preliminary results showing an overall *Wolbachia* prevalence of approximately 87%. Positivity exceeded 90% in several reporting areas, including Santa Ana 1, Santa Ana 3, Chalchuapa, and San Sebastián Salitrillo. PRVCU, CDC, and WMP also completed a draft national scale-up plan for future expansion. Although finalization was paused pending additional regional evidence, the plan preserves a pathway for broader implementation. PRVCU's support strengthened local capacity for field operations, laboratory testing, digital data collection, sample traceability, and biobanking, while lessons from customs delays, reagent shortages, and species identification informed improvements for the 2026 monitoring cycle.







El Salvador Wolbachia replacement project activities: field mosquito collection and laboratory specimen processing.

PRVCU International: *Wolbachia* Replacement Implementation in Perú

PRVCU continued supporting Perú's first *Wolbachia* replacement pilot, launched in 2025 to strengthen sustainable local capacity for dengue prevention. In partnership with the WMP, CDC, and Peruvian government agencies, PRVCU provided technical assistance, financial support for supplies, and logistical coordination throughout project planning and implementation. PRVCU leadership participated in the official launch in Lima and supported the community engagement and pre-release phase. In September 2025, PRVCU collaborated with partners to conduct a workshop for the Peruvian Ministry of Health staff and the Peruvian CDC team on control site selection and potential impact assessment analyses. Mosquito releases began in April 2026. The release phase is expected to be completed over approximately 20 weeks. PRVCU participated in weekly coordination meetings to monitor progress, address risks, and maintain implementation continuity. Through this pilot, PRVCU helped expand local capacity for mosquito rearing, field releases, community engagement, workspace development, and operational planning, while providing critical support to sustain the project during periods of goverment and administrative transition.





Official launch event of the Wolbachia project in Comas, Perú in August 2025.

PRVCU International: *Wolbachia* Replacement Implementation in Guatemala

PRVCU expanded its regional technical assistance by supporting preparations for *Wolbachia* replacement implementation in Guatemala, building on experience gained through projects in El Salvador and Peru. Following Guatemala's decision to implement the initiative through Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the Debug Project, PRVCU established a technical partnership with CHAI, CDC Dengue Branch, and CDC Central America Regional Office. PRVCU's support focused on three priority areas: developing operational manuals for *Wolbachia* implementation, assessing the economic impact of dengue in Guatemala, and exploring simplified molecular testing approaches to reduce costs and accelerate results. Initial work included defining the structure of a community engagement and communications manual, planning data collection for dengue impact analysis, and discussing revised specimen-handling and testing protocols with Western Carolina University. PRVCU also engaged Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and CHAI to explore a cluster-randomized controlled trial evaluating passive emanators in communities with high dengue incidence. These activities strengthened partnerships and transferred practical implementation knowledge to support evidence-based vector control in Guatemala.

Quality Assurance Division

Between August 2025 and July 2026, PRVCU's Quality Assurance Division strengthened the consistency, documentation, and reliability of entomological surveillance, vector control, laboratory, and data-management activities. The team reviewed and updated standard operating procedures for mosquito surveillance, field collections, vector control interventions, equipment use, sample handling, and data documentation to support standard implementation across projects. Quality Assurance personnel also supported the long-term monitoring of *Wolbachia* replacement in El Salvador by assisting with protocol development, refresher training, field and laboratory supervision, specimen traceability, and data quality review. This support helped improve coordination among entomology, field, and laboratory teams and informed corrective actions for future monitoring cycles. In Puerto Rico, the Division developed and refined data tools, weekly visualizations, process flowcharts, and equipment identification systems to improve tracking, accountability, and operational consistency. Staff training included proper use of traps, mosquito aspirators and evaluation of technical knowledge through pre- and post-training assessments conducted in coordination with TITEC. Collectively, these activities strengthened compliance with established procedures, improved data integrity, supported continuous quality improvement, and enhanced PRVCU's capacity to implement reliable and reproducible vector surveillance and control programs locally and internationally.

Private sector collaborations

Private partners supported the evaluation of adulticides, passive emanators, larval-control technologies, fly-control products, and improvements to surveillance and control tools under real-world conditions in Puerto Rico. These efforts are also helping PRVCU expand its technical capabilities beyond mosquito control to include the evaluation of technologies for flies and other public health pests. Corporate sponsorships supported professional development activities, including the PRVMA Annual Convention. Through these collaborations, PRVCU has strengthened public–private knowledge exchange, independently assessed emerging technologies, and created new opportunities to diversify its services and advance evidence-based solutions for vector control, pest management, and public health preparedness. PRVCU strengthened collaborations with private-sector partners to support innovation, operational capacity, and long-term sustainability in vector and pest management. These partnerships included product manufacturers, technology developers, suppliers, and corporate sponsors that contributed technical expertise, training, equipment, products, and financial support.

WHAT'S NEXT

Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit | Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

New Technology:

PRVCU will continue evaluating emerging vector-control technologies, including Larvasonic devices, improved AGO trap designs, long-lasting larvicide formats, novel adulticides, passive emanators, and others. The program will also expand its evaluation capacity beyond mosquitoes to include flies and other public health and veterinary pests, creating opportunities for new private-sector and agricultural collaborations.

Regional and International Expansion:

PRVCU International will continue supporting *Wolbachia* implementation and monitoring in Peru, El Salvador, and Guatemala, while expanding technical assistance in community engagement, surveillance, laboratory testing, quality assurance, data systems, and program evaluation. These experiences position PRVCU to pursue additional funding and partnerships throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and U.S. territories.

Workforce and Municipal Capacity:

PRVCU will strengthen sustainable vector management capacity through municipal training, professional certification pathways, the Public Health Entomology course with the University of Puerto Rico, and continued support to the PRVMA. Lessons from the Bayamón IVM Program will guide future municipality-led surveillance and control models.

Sustainability and Diversification:

Priorities include expanding public–private partnerships, pursuing federal and international funding, supporting research and technology evaluation services, and developing new programs related to agricultural and environmental pest management.

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CULTIVAMOS EL

MANEJO DE TALENTO

We Cultivate
Talent Development

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

STEM EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL 2025
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IMPACT NUMBERS

$57,500
in scholarships awarded to graduating students entering college

914+
public school students from all levels impacted

109
public school teachers impacted by all initiatives

34
partnerships with academia, industry, and government

35
certifications and training offered in science, technology, and emerging technologies

1,185
overall participants served across all initiatives

STEM EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WHAT WE DO

Global economies, innovation, science, and technology require adaptable, skilled workforces to navigate 21st-century challenges. The STEM Education & Workforce Development Program fosters formal and informal approaches to sustain a healthy K-12 and lifelong learning pipeline through meaningful partnerships, innovative programs, and educational policy advocacy to revolutionize the region's educational and employment systems. It focuses on equity and diversity in STEM opportunities for K-12 students and skills-building in emergent technologies open to interested stakeholders, thereby enabling for the success of the island's prime asset - its people.

Our mission is to advance, connect, expand, and sustain key initiatives that drive STEM Education & Workforce Development as key components of Puerto Rico's economic development.

HOW WE DO IT

Connecting with key education, technology and innovation projects, communities and organizations, engaging in meaningful work that advances our mission.

Collaborating with key stakeholders to ensure successful STEM, CTE and Workforce Development initiatives.

Designing informal and formal approaches to learning, training, and capacity building.

Advocating on behalf of innovation, lifelong learning and professional development as the keys to long-term socioeconomic development in Puerto Rico.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

As a strategic partner for the innovation, science, technology and research ecosystem, the program connects with a multitude of stakeholders to deliver high quality STEM education content, programs, and services, as well as workforce development programs specialized in emerging technologies.

Program Highlights

TecLab Puerto Rico: Continuing to Foster High School Students' Interest in Science and Technology

To encourage students in grades 9-12 to pursue an interest in and participation in science and technology, TecLab Puerto Rico launched its second cohort of active learning experiences through the TecLab Clubs model this past January.

In collaboration with 11 public high schools in the Ponce and Mayagüez educational regions, this after-school model follows a sequence of 40 hours of active-learning activities led by 16 Teacher Coordinators, who receive 24 hours of training per semester in a curriculum in either Biotechnology or Information Technology.

This model has impacted 293 students across both cohorts, promoting skills transferable to technical schools and universities and providing labor-market-relevant educational opportunities through collaborations with universities, community-based organizations, and individuals from academia and industry.

Some of these collaborative experiences include mentoring sessions by volunteer STEM professionals, energy transition workshops, and



Chemistry lab activity during the TecLab Summer Experienced 2026 at UPR Ponce



Student workshop at Hexagon 3D Printing Studio



Participants of the Hexagon Summer Experience 2026

guided visits to Casa Pueblo and its Bosque Escuela, offering immersive experiences with real-world energy solutions, and the opportunity to spend a day as college students to connect with an academic setting at the University of Puerto Rico in Ponce, via TecLab PR's Summer Experience, tackling from various angles our students' needs to experience science in a real academic setting, explore academic careers, and get involved in their communities through science.

TecLab Puerto Rico is currently funded by the Department of Economic Development and Commerce of Puerto Rico.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Partnership

The PR Science Trust's STEM & Workforce Development Program is playing a key facilitation role in a major workforce expansion effort led by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) in Puerto Rico. The Trust supports this effort by aligning workforce strategies with the technology industry's evolving needs. This includes active engagement with the local talent ecosystem, strategic coordination with academic institutions, and targeted outreach to both local and diaspora professionals. Additionally, the Trust partners with training providers to equip emerging talent with critical skills and use strategic tools—such as workforce landscape assessments—to inform decision-making and strengthen talent pipelines.

This initiative exemplifies the Trust's broader mission to strengthen Puerto Rico's innovation economy through sustainable workforce pipelines and strategic alliances, enabling stronger industry-academia collaboration and accelerating innovation capacity.

Azmat Assur Awards: Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM Leaders

The Azmat A. Assur Awards for Future Scholars in STEM, established through a partnership between the Azmat A. Assur Foundation and the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust, recognizes four outstanding public high school students annually for their academic excellence, leadership, community engagement, and commitment to pursuing STEM careers in Puerto Rico. Each recipient receives a $20,000 scholarship to support their higher education and professional development.

Beyond financial assistance, the program provides meaningful opportunities for students to engage with professionals across STEM industries through mentorship, networking events, and guided visits to leading organizations, including biopharmaceutical manufacturing facilities and television network stations. These experiences connect academic achievement with real-world career exploration, exposing students to diverse professional pathways while strengthening leadership, communication, collaboration, and lifelong learning skills essential for success in STEM fields.

To further promote recognition and foster a strong STEM culture in Puerto Rico, the program invested approximately $25,000 in the Assur Awards Gala. The event celebrated the awardees' achievements alongside their families, scientists, industry leaders, and academic professionals. It also served as a valuable networking platform connecting emerging talent with role models and future opportunities. A highlight of the event was an inspirational message from distinguished NASA scientist Joseph Acabá, encouraging students to pursue their STEM aspirations with curiosity, resilience, perseverance, and confidence in their potential.



Launch of model rockets during Despegue Científico 2026



Model rocket design workshop during Despegue Científico 2026

Hexagon 3D Printing Studio: Inspiring Innovation Through Design, Technology, and STEM Learning

Hexagon 3D Printing Studio continues to expand access to emerging technologies by giving students, educators, and community members hands-on experience in 3D design, additive manufacturing, and digital fabrication. Supported by a $25,000 annual investment from the Azmat A. Assur Foundation, totaling up to $125,000 over five years, the initiative has enhanced STEM equipment, increased laboratory use, and strengthened Hexagon's role as a regional hub for innovation and workforce development.

Through collaborations with industry partners, Hexagon offers free introductory 3D printing courses covering digital modeling, printer



Smart Island educational event at Ecoexploratorio

operation, file preparation, and classroom integration. During this reporting period, the program impacted 65 teachers and 25 students representing more than 25 municipalities across Puerto Rico. These experiences promote creativity, problem-solving, engineering thinking, and innovation while introducing participants to advanced manufacturing technologies.

A major addition this year was the Hexagon 3D Printing Summer Experience 2026, a five-day project-based immersive program that engaged 25 middle and high school students in 3D design and additive manufacturing projects, culminating in the creation of a functional LED night lamp.

Hexagon also improved visibility through a new website and digital outreach strategy and strengthened operations by hiring a dedicated 3D Printing Technician. Collectively, these efforts advance STEM education, digital literacy, and workforce readiness across Puerto Rico.

Despegue Científico: Launching our future-ready generation

This year, the program hosted the third edition of Despegue Científico, an exciting one-day educational experience for students ages 9 through 15. Over 60 participants from across Puerto Rico explored the full engineering design process through interactive lessons, prototype construction, safety training, and assembling and launching their own rockets.

The experience also introduced students to the wide range of careers within the aerospace industry, helping them connect classroom STEM concepts with real-world applications and future workforce opportunities. The event concluded with a live rocket launch attended by their families, creating an engaging celebration of student achievement and scientific discovery.

This initiative reinforces the Trust's mission to deliver high-quality STEM opportunities across Puerto Rico and exemplifies its commitment to developing a future-ready generation through innovative programming and early intervention.

Nominations for the L'Oréal for Women in Science Award

For the third consecutive year, the PR Science, Technology & Research Trust proudly participated in the nomination process for the L'Oréal For Women in Science Awards. This award recognizes women's achievements in STEM. During this reporting period, the Trust successfully nominated two outstanding women scientists whose work exemplifies excellence, innovation, and leadership in their respective fields. The nominees represented Computer Science and Astronomy, showcasing Puerto Rico's exceptional scientific talent and women's growing contributions to research, technology, and innovation. Through this continued participation, the Trust reinforces its mission to promote diversity, elevate women leaders in STEM, and encourage future generations of girls and young women to pursue careers in science and technology.

Smart Island

The PRSTRT is one of the allied organizations in promoting study and employment opportunities for the Puerto Rico Broadband Program (Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget). Our role is to promote educational opportunities in the High-Speed Internet industry, connect with communities, and share initiatives that support pathways to high-demand careers in this growing field.

We do this through in-person and online strategies, addressing various topics to build awareness of the program and its benefits within communities.

Throughout the year, we held and recorded five online meetups, which generated over 287,000 YouTube views. We held 10 in-person events in Vega Baja, Orocovis, Ponce, Caguas, Trujillo Alto, and San Juan. For these events, we collaborated with more than 15 local institutions, schools, and communities to integrate them into educational orientations and activities. Together, registrations for virtual orientations and in-person events brought in 662 people who learned about the Broadband Program.



Representatives from allied organizations for the Puerto Rico Broadband Program



Year 2 of the STEM+AI Teacher Certification



HackLab Summer Experience 2025 Programming Academy

STEM+AI Teacher Certification

The STEM+AI certification for professional development is intended for teachers in the Puerto Rico Department of Education. With this certification, educators will integrate the knowledge and skills they gain into their curriculum, improving student engagement and achievement. The 5-year goal is to train 125 teachers.

On this second cohort, the certification included 40 hours of hybrid training, with teachers meeting with the course facilitator through the Learning Management System Canvas, and in-person meetings in San Juan. This year, the final project was a Hackathon where teachers demonstrated leadership, teamwork in problem-solving, innovative idea generation, and effective presentations for each project.

They can organize this teaching strategy in their schools for the benefit of students and the community. 28 educators completed their certification for this cohort and are implementing in their classes the knowledge acquired, such as the use of prompts for accurate AI information, the integration of AI for the science fair, the ethical use of AI, a curiosity wall integrating questions, scientific method and the WOW approach, hackathons for teamwork, collaboration, and problem-solving, projects with robots, coding, and computational thinking.



HackLab Summer Experience 2025 Programming Academy



Year 2 of the Azmat A. Assur Awards 2026



Awardees of the Azmat A. Assur Awards 2026

WHAT'S NEXT

Building on a strong year of impact, the STEM Education & Workforce Development Program will continue expanding opportunities that inspire, prepare, and connect Puerto Rico's next generation of STEM talent. In the coming year, the Program will strengthen hands-on learning experiences in artificial intelligence, robotics, programming, 3D printing, aerospace, biotechnology, and other emerging technologies, while broadening professional development for educators and student industry-connected experiences. Signature initiatives such as TecLab Puerto Rico, the Azmat A. Assur Awards, Hexagon 3D Printing Studio, Despegue Científico, and HackLab, will continue growing through strategic partnerships with industry, academia, government, and nonprofit organizations. Planned efforts include new teacher and student training, a biomanufacturing facility visit for Azmat Award winners, and the launch of TecLab's third cohort, expanding to additional educational regions, public high schools, teachers, mentors, and students. The Program will also advance AI workforce readiness through the third year of the STEM+AI Certification for Department of Education teachers and new learning opportunities for students, professionals, and older adults. In parallel, the Trust will continue supporting HPE's workforce expansion, strengthening talent pipelines and advancing Puerto Rico as an emerging technology ecosystem.



Participants of the TecLab Summer Experience 2026

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Operational Areas Key Achievements

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUELS INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

César Piovanetti | Chief Innovation Officer

During the past year, the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust significantly advanced its digital transformation strategy through two critical pillars: Enterprise Artificial Intelligence Adoption and Cybersecurity Modernization. These initiatives have strengthened the organization's operational capabilities while positioning the Trust as a leader in responsible technology innovation across Puerto Rico.

One of the year's most transformative accomplishments was the organization-wide deployment of Anthropic Claude as the Trust's enterprise artificial intelligence platform. This implementation was more than adopting new technology; it established a foundation for how employees across all departments can responsibly leverage AI to improve productivity, collaboration, and decision-making.

To support this initiative, the Information Technology Department developed and released the organization's first AI Usage Policy, providing employees with clear governance, ethical guidelines, and security standards for using artificial intelligence technologies. The policy balances innovation with accountability, data protection, and compliance, creating a framework that enables staff to confidently incorporate AI into daily workflows while reducing organizational risk.

Adopting Claude has accelerated automation and standardization across numerous business processes. Teams are using AI to enhance document creation, research, policy development, communications, meeting summaries, and operational workflows. By reducing repetitive administrative tasks and improving access to institutional knowledge, the platform has increased efficiency and allowed staff to focus on higher-value strategic initiatives that support the Trust's mission. The deployment demonstrates how artificial intelligence can be successfully integrated into an organization when paired with strong governance and employee education.

Cybersecurity remained another major strategic focus throughout the year. The organization successfully implemented Fortinet Secure Access Service Edge (FortiSASE) and FortiClient Workspace Security, significantly strengthening the Trust's security posture in an increasingly complex threat landscape. These platforms expanded the organization's ability to protect users, devices, applications, and data regardless of physical location, supporting a modern hybrid workforce while enforcing consistent security controls across the enterprise. The new architecture provides enhanced visibility, secure connectivity, advanced endpoint protection, and a zero-trust security framework designed to reduce risk and improve resilience against evolving cyber threats.

These cybersecurity initiatives earned national recognition from Fortinet, resulting in a Fortinet Customer Success Story and Press Release highlighting the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust as an example of cybersecurity excellence.

This recognition validates the organization's strategic investment in modern security technologies and underscores its commitment to safeguarding critical systems, research initiatives, employee information, and organizational data. Recognition from one of the world's leading cybersecurity providers reflects the effectiveness of the Trust's forward-thinking approach to security governance and infrastructure modernization.

Together, these achievements demonstrate a comprehensive strategy that combines responsible artificial intelligence adoption with advanced cybersecurity protection. Deploying Anthropic Claude and establishing an AI governance framework enable employees to work smarter and more efficiently, while implementing FortiSASE and FortiClient Workspace Security ensures these innovations are supported by a robust, resilient security foundation. As the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust continues to lead innovation throughout the island, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital transformation will remain central to delivering secure, scalable, and impactful solutions that advance the organization's mission and strengthen Puerto Rico's innovation ecosystem.

1

Enterprise AI Platform

Anthropic Claude deployed organization-wide to support productivity, collaboration, and decision-making.

1

AI Governance Policy

First organizational framework established for responsible, secure, and ethical use of artificial intelligence.

2

Enterprise Security Platforms

FortiSASE and FortiClient Workspace Security implemented to modernize cybersecurity defenses.

1

National Recognition

Featured by Fortinet in a Customer Success Story and official press release for cybersecurity excellence.

100%

Organization-Wide Reach

AI tools and security enhancements made available across all departments and business functions.

OUR TRUST BRAND

Lupe Vázquez | Chief Communications & Marketing Officer

Collectively, the Trust's communications ecosystem generated a measurable impact across media relations, digital communications, audience development, marketing technology, web platforms, and multimedia production. Through strategic storytelling and integrated communications efforts, the team reached millions of stakeholders, supported every strategic pillar of the organization, and strengthened the visibility of Puerto Rico's science, innovation, entrepreneurship, STEM education, and public health ecosystems.

FY 2025-2026 Communications and Marketing at a Glance

$2.97M
Non-Paid Publicity Value

1,039
Earned Media Placements

6.38M
Earned Media Impressions

203K Website visits
143K New Website Users

121K CRM
Contacts & Subscribers

23K
New Contacts Added

725
Email Campaigns Delivered

168.7K
Combined total Social Media Followers Across Trust Programs

20.5K
New Followers Added Across Program Channels

27.4M
Social Media Impressions

631.7K
Social Media Engagements
186.9K Link Clicks

4.4M
Video Views

1,463
Content Pieces Published

469
Videos Produced

55
Events Supported Through Digital Platforms

1
Emmy® Award Won

Expanding Reach and Visibility

The Trust and its programs generated 1,039 earned media placements across print, online, television, radio, and social media channels, resulting in an estimated $2.97 million in non-paid publicity value and more than 6.38 million earned media impressions. These efforts increased awareness of the Trust's work while amplifying the impact of initiatives across research, entrepreneurship, public health, and STEM education.

Digital Growth and Audience Engagement

The Trust's institutional social media channels continued to grow throughout the fiscal year. The audience surpassed 54,000 followers, a 14.1% year-over-year increase. Content generated 5.6 million impressions, 175,700 engagements, 69,900 link clicks, and 884,000 video views across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Across all Trust and program social media accounts, digital channels collectively reached 168,700 followers, generated 27.4 million impressions, 631,700 engagements, 186,900 link clicks, 20,500 net new followers, and 4.4 million video views. These results show the Trust's growing ability to connect audiences with scientific discoveries, entrepreneurial opportunities, educational initiatives, and public health information.

Content Strategy and Scientific Storytelling

The Communications & Marketing team published 1,463 pieces of content, representing a 48.7% increase over the previous fiscal year. Content focused on communicating the impact of the Trust's programs, scientific research, innovation initiatives, workforce development efforts, entrepreneurial success stories, and community partnerships.

Key content areas included STEM Education & Workforce Development (16.1%), Research Grants Program projects (9.7%), Collaborations & Partnerships (7.3%), and Entrepreneurship initiatives (7.2%). Additional content highlighted technology transfer, research activities, outreach efforts, institutional recognition, and Trust personnel, reflecting the organization's diverse impact across Puerto Rico's innovation ecosystem. Through articles, videos, photography, interviews, newsletters, podcasts, and social media campaigns, the team translated complex scientific and technical topics into accessible stories that informed, inspired, and engaged the public.

Understanding Our Audience

Audience insights demonstrate strong engagement among professionals, educators, researchers, entrepreneurs, students, public health practitioners, and innovation ecosystem stakeholders. Women represented 57.6% of Facebook and Instagram followers, with the largest audience segment aged 35 to 44. Puerto Rico remained the primary market, particularly within the San Juan metropolitan region. On LinkedIn, the Trust reached a highly qualified

professional audience spanning business development, education, research, technology, engineering, health services, and innovation-related sectors. Nearly half of followers were senior-level or early-career professionals, while an additional 14% occupied management and executive leadership roles.

CRM, Audience Development, and Marketing Technology

The Trust continued expanding its marketing technology ecosystem to strengthen audience development and stakeholder engagement. Marketing databases grew to 121,234 contacts and subscribers, including 22,936 new contacts acquired during the fiscal year. The team delivered 725 email campaigns, attracted 5,101 new LinkedIn newsletter subscribers, generated 8,750 form submissions, supported 55 events with 3,367 registrations, and facilitated 203 virtual meetings and 32 webinars, reaching more than 8,200 participants.

Strengthening Digital Platforms

The Trust continued enhancing its digital presence through strategic website improvements, including a complete redesign of its News section. Website traffic reached 203,314 visits, with 120,615 active users and 142,967 new users during the reporting period. Overall website performance continued to grow, with visits up 12.3%, active users up 65.2%, and new users up 45.9%. The redesigned News section delivered particularly strong results, increasing page views by 178% and visitors by 204%, while reducing bounce rates and improving content discoverability and audience engagement.

Strategic Communications Efforts Multimedia production and Emmy® Recognition

Throughout the fiscal year, the Communications & Marketing team developed integrated campaigns that combined storytelling, scientific communication, multimedia production, digital engagement, and earned media to amplify the impact of the Trust's mission and programs. Featured initiatives included the Trust's scientific storytelling efforts highlighting researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, students, and community partners; the When the Sea Reaches Us (Cuando el mar nos alcance) documentary and awareness campaign on coastal resilience; Puerto Rico Is Innovation, showcasing local innovators and ecosystem leaders; the NIIMBL eXperience summer campaigns; and STEM-centered initiatives including Tec Lab, Hexagon, and Despegue Científico.

The Communications & Marketing team produced 469 videos, provided photography coverage for 24 events, and supported the production of the fourth season of the Public Health Institute's ConCiencia Podcast, releasing ten new episodes during the fiscal year. Together, these efforts increased visibility, fostered public engagement, and strengthened the Trust's reputation as a leader in science, innovation, entrepreneurship, and public health. Earning an Emmy Award for When the Sea Reaches Us marked a significant milestone for Communications & Marketing, validating the team's commitment to powerful storytelling that elevates the Trust's mission and impact.

Operational Areas
Key Achievements

POWERING PERFORMANCE

Doira Díaz Rivera, Esq. | General Counsel & Administrator

Inés Alvarez | Talent Manager Director

Gilberto Márquez | Chief Financial Officer

Eng. Luis Nieves, P.E. | Chief Facilities Management Officer

Managing talent and deploying infrastructure capabilities is central to the Trust's ability to deliver on its mission with excellence, resilience, and accountability.

$20 Million

Strategic funding secured through the New Markets Tax Credit initiative supporting STEM Pathways.

$14 Million

Financial documentation prepared to support transaction leverage requirements.

$376,000

Research & Development expenses identified for future tax credit monetization.

9 Years

Consecutive clean Single Audit opinions reinforcing financial accountability and transparency.

AI-Powered

Accounting modernization initiative launched to improve efficiency, consistency, and decision support.

These five callouts provide the strongest combination of financial scale ($20M, $14M), value creation ($376K), governance (9 audits), and innovation (AI-powered finance)

Strengthening Financial Stewardship and Strategic Growth

The Finance Department continues to strengthen the Trust's capacity for long-term sustainability, responsible growth, and operational excellence. Over the past year, the department has supported strategic funding initiatives, maintained a strong record of financial accountability, and advanced modernization efforts that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of core accounting processes. Together, these efforts reflect a finance function that not only manages resources but actively enables the Trust's mission and future ambitions.

A key area of impact has been the department's support for the CEO in advancing alternative funding sources that can expand the Trust's financial flexibility and support high-priority initiatives. This includes work related to Research and Development Tax Credits and New Markets Tax Credits. The New Markets Tax Credit transaction, which supports a STEM Pathways initiative through a $20 million allocation, is on track to close in FY2026-27. To support the transaction's leverage structure, the Finance Department provided documentation for approximately $14 million in prior costs. Through the R&D Credit effort, the department also identified approximately $376,000 in eligible research and development expenses for a six-month period in FY2025-26, with the expectation that these credits will be monetized in FY2026-27.

The department also continued to demonstrate excellence in financial governance and compliance. Achieving a ninth consecutive Single Audit with a clean opinion reflects the Trust's consistent commitment to strong internal controls, transparent reporting, and disciplined stewardship of public, private, and philanthropic resources. This sustained record of clean audits strengthens confidence among funders, partners, regulators, and stakeholders, reinforcing the Trust's credibility as a responsible manager of complex financial activities.

At the same time, Finance advanced the implementation of artificial intelligence tools to support accounting processes during FY2025-26. This modernization effort positions the department to streamline routine work, improve process consistency, enhance decision support, and strengthen the organization's ability to respond to growing operational demands. By combining strategic funding support, rigorous compliance, and technology-enabled process improvement, the Finance Department is helping build a stronger financial foundation for the Trust's continued impact.

Developing and Strengthening Our Talent

The Trust continues to invest intentionally in the people, capabilities, and partnerships that strengthen its mission and long-term impact. Through a comprehensive talent strategy, the organization has attracted and retained a strong professional workforce of 169 employees while cultivating a multi-generational team that brings diverse perspectives, practical experience, and fresh ideas to the work. This approach has fostered innovation, supported collaboration, and advanced key organizational milestones. The Trust also continues to demonstrate meaningful representation across its workforce, with women comprising 63% of employees.

A central part of this work is expanding pathways for emerging talent. By partnering with universities across Puerto Rico, the Trust served as an experiential learning site for 27 students, offering real-world exposure to mission-driven work and helping prepare the next generation of professionals. The organization also provided a certified first-employment experience for six students through the Juvempleo program, reinforcing its role as a bridge between academic preparation and workplace readiness.

The Trust is equally focused on developing talent from within. During the year, 16 employees advanced through internal promotions and growth opportunities, including 10 professionals who transitioned into supervisory roles. These movements reflect a deliberate commitment to recognizing potential, building leadership capacity, and creating meaningful career pathways for

employees. To support these transitions, 17 employees and 22 leaders completed Leadership Academy training focused on effective communication, conflict management, time management, meaningful conversations, team effectiveness, and supervisory skills. In addition, 12 employees completed an individual coaching program designed to support their professional and personal growth goals.

Beyond leadership development, the Trust strengthened organizational capabilities through specialized training aligned with both current needs and future priorities. Directors and Associate Directors completed Project Management training for AI methodology, enhancing the organization's ability to manage complex, technology-enabled initiatives. Employees also benefited from a Personal Finance Management workshop offered across the organization, supporting financial wellness as part of a broader commitment to employee development. Through Inprende Academy, 60 employees participated in 12 workshops focused on key leadership skills, while 20 employees completed training in Disciplined Agile methodology to build adaptability, collaboration, and project execution skills.

The Trust's talent work is also supported by sound governance and operational discipline. The completion of the 401(k) audit with no findings for the sixth consecutive year reflects a continued commitment to accountability, compliance, and responsible stewardship of employee benefit programs. Together, these initiatives show an organization that is developing talent at every stage: attracting and retaining skilled professionals, opening doors for students and early-career talent, preparing emerging leaders, strengthening specialized capabilities, and sustaining the systems that support employees' long-term success.

Building Professional Capability and Institutional Readiness

A major part of this work involved developing institutional knowledge and professional judgment. The legal team provided strategic counsel to the Board of Trustees, management, and Trust programs, supported staff through more than 900 consultations, and drafted or reviewed over 1,000 legal documents across federally, locally, and privately funded initiatives. This work safeguarded operations while helping program teams deepen their understanding of compliance, contracting, partnerships, and responsible stewardship.

Strengthening Safety, Preparedness, and Leadership Skills

The Trust also invested in staff readiness through a broad environmental health and safety agenda. OSHA compliance efforts, updated emergency plans, evacuation routes, fire prevention procedures, collaboration with the Puerto Rico Seismic Network, the ShakeOut earthquake drill, and strengthened biosafety and respiratory disease procedures all reinforced a culture of prevention and preparedness.

Developing Operational Excellence

Operationally, the Trust created learning opportunities through procurement, logistics, and facilities coordination. The procurement team supported programs and external grantees, processed more than 1,440 purchase orders, managed $2.5 million in purchases, coordinated travel logistics, oversaw a 23-unit vehicle fleet, and maintained more than 350 active suppliers—building skills in planning, vendor management, compliance, customer service, and resource stewardship.

Supporting Wellbeing as a Foundation for Performance

The Trust's commitment to talent development also recognized that performance depends on wellbeing. Through the Wellness Program, employees accessed group exercise, ergonomics activities, physical evaluations, Coffee Talks, a three-day health fair, wellness workshops, yoga, salsa and Zumba classes, step challenges, and the Thanksgiving race. These initiatives fostered connection, healthy habits, and a culture that supports employees as people and professionals.

Creating Systems that Help People Succeed

Behind the scenes, the Administration Department improved processes, optimized space, and strengthened systems that help staff work effectively. Support for inventory processes, the Single Audit, platform synchronization, maintenance, vendors, contractors, receiving, and distribution helped teams focus their energy on mission delivery and continuous improvement.

Taken together, these efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to developing talent: building expertise, reinforcing safe and resilient practices, strengthening operational discipline, promoting wellbeing, and improving the systems that support people's work. In doing so, the Trust is cultivating a workforce prepared for today's demands and ready for the future.

Advancing Facilities Management and Campus Readiness

The Trust's Facilities Management Department continues to play a central role in strengthening the organization's campus physical infrastructure, operational reliability, and long-term readiness. Through strategic investments in power, water, safety, specialized research spaces, and tenant support, the department is ensuring that the Trust's facilities can sustain current operations while supporting future growth, innovation, and economic development.

A major focus of this work has been building resilience into critical campus systems. The installation of a 350 kVA diesel generator for the Innovation Center, the updating of the diesel generator control panel serving the Laboratory Building, and the installation of two 1,300-gallon water cisterns all contribute to stronger continuity of operations. These improvements help ensure that essential facilities remain better prepared to support research, innovation, and daily operations even when infrastructure demands increase or external conditions create pressure on campus systems.

The department also advanced targeted improvements that directly enhance safety, functionality, and specialized research capacity. Lighting upgrades in the PRVCU and PRSRT areas of the Laboratory Building improved visibility and working conditions, while the installation of speed bumps, traffic signage, and pedestrian crossings strengthened campus safety for employees, visitors, tenants, and partners. The completed autoclave installation in the PRSRT area further supports the Trust's progress toward BSL-3 status, expanding the infrastructure needed for higher-level research activities and reinforcing the campus as a platform for scientific advancement.

Facilities Management has also contributed to the strategic use of Trust properties as engines for partnership and economic activity. The execution of a 15-year lease agreement for Building 45 with Farm-In-The-City enabled the repurposing of the facility for light manufacturing, with the potential to create up to 25 new jobs. In addition, the leasing of a 40-foot laboratory-ready trailer for fly research activities provided flexible, mission-aligned space to support specialized scientific work.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 2026



Annexes

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT 2026



Also, the PRSTRT's most recent

STRATEGIC PLAN,

applicable from 2024 through 2025
can be reviewed in these attachments

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

STRATEGIC PLAN
2025-2028



Board of Trustees

WeAreTheTRUST


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Our Board is composed of distinguished professionals who support and oversee our work, providing guidance to ensure that the Trust is managed within its mission and vision.

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Strategy Map
Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust

Learning and Growth
- Strengthen the innovation and collaboration culture
- Enhance staff learning and knowledge sharing. Maintain employees' engagement.
- Leverage data analytics and emerging technologies to drive innovation across all business functions.
- Establish the Trust as an AI leader in Puerto Rico, including enabling High Performance Computing Capability Access for Knowledge creation and Economic Development
- Accelerate development of Scientific and Entrepreneurial Infrastructure at Science City

Programs and Initiatives
- Advance scientific and technological competitiveness for local researchers
- Accelerate the deployment of an integrative biosciences research institute
- Parallel18 is a global venture accelerator and investment platform
- Mindset shift to move to a fee-for-service approach for program product and services
- Leverage technologies and build digital health capacity for healthier communities
- Progressively develop PRCCI's in-house Contract Research Organization (CRO)
- Align STEM Education with Workforce Development Through Strategic Partnerships

Financial Stewardship
- Stabilize and increase government funding for Research and Development (Intensity Rate)
- Increase diversification of funding sources, including R&D Credit, New Tax Market Credit, and Private Foundations
- Expand role as financial advisor and funder using mechanisms such as Treasury VCAP and SBA Loans
- Expand Trust's financial capabilities using AFICA Funds for Science City
- Increase endowment fund

Plan Objective: Increase Puerto Rico's innovation capacity

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WeAreTheTRUST

Get to know Us

Mision

We invest, facilitate and build capacity to continually advance Puerto Rico's economy and its citizen's well-being through innovation-driven enterprises, science and technology and public health.

Vision

Puerto Rico is a globally recognized innovation hub.

Values

- Integrity
- Be a facilitator
- Desire to Innovate
- Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Optimism / Respect
- Collaboration
- Be a Facilitator
- Accountability
- Leadership / Adaptability
- Customer-Centric
- Accomplishments & Results
- Commitment
- Ethical use of AI

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

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Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Strategic Pillars & Programs

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- RESEARCH GRANTS — funds to grow
- TTO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE
- CENTER FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY
- RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Colmena66 — Tu Camino Empresarial
- Fase 1
- parallel18

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Puerto Rico Public Health Institute
- Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit
- PRCCI — Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation

EDUCATION

- STEM EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WeAreTheTRUST

Puerto Rico Science Technology & Research Trust

2025 – 2028 Strategic Plans

All Programs

DRAFT

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Research & Development Pillar

Research Grants Program
Technology Transfer Office
Biodiversity Center
Research Institute

DRAFT

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Research Grants Program

The Research Grants Program (RGP) is a structured, systematic, open, and competitive funding mechanism to support the development of science and technology research projects in Puerto Rico. RGP supports fundamental research and commercialization activities that strengthen the economy, fuels innovation, and empowers Puerto Rican scientists and entrepreneurs.

VISION

A Puerto Rico where research thrives, innovation is cultivated, and local talent drive solutions to global scientific challenges.

MISSION

To support and accelerate research excellence in Puerto Rico by funding high-impact, competitive projects that address local and global challenges.

FOCUS AREAS

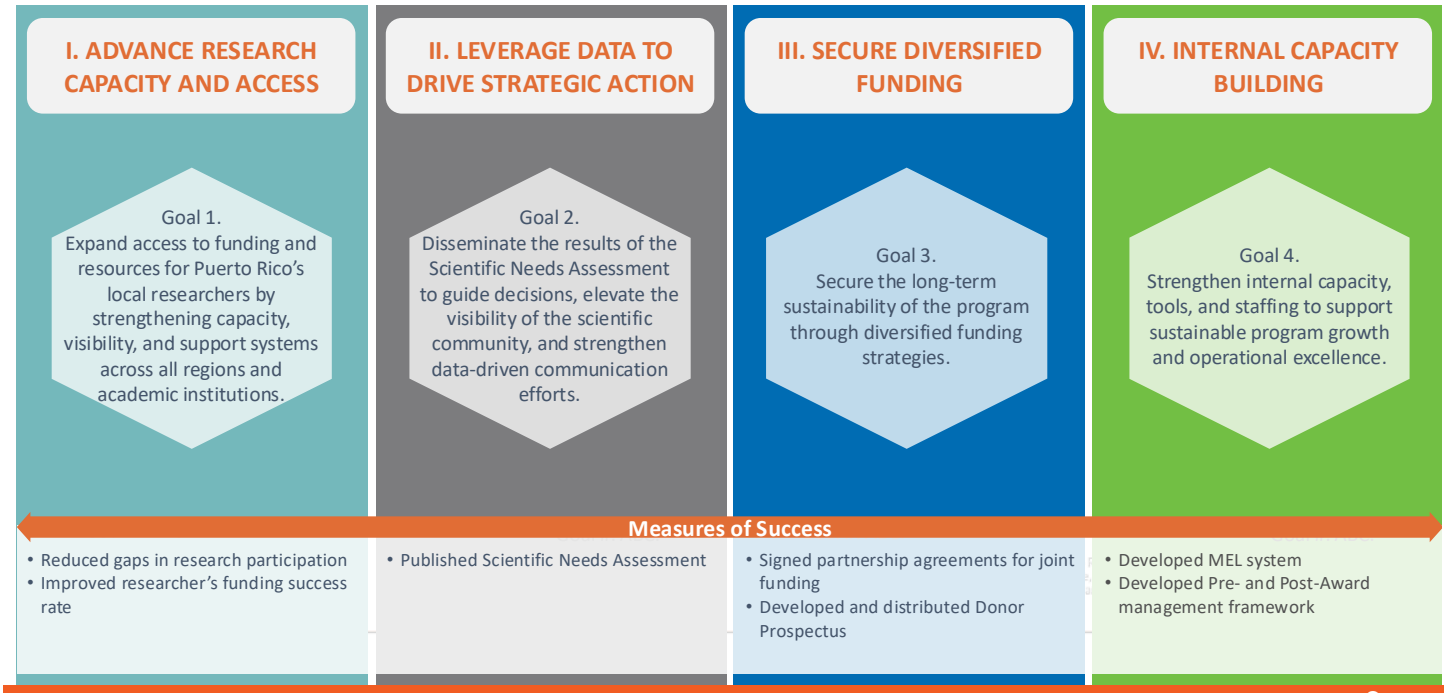
- Access to funding
- Research excellence
- Research Capacity Building

HOW WE WORK

- Standardized peer reviewed process
- Competitive grants and performance-based evaluation
- Training programs, mentorship, and early-career researcher support

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

RGP • Strategic Priorities



Technology Transfer Office

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) identifies, evaluates, protects, markets, and transfers the most promising research discoveries from Puerto Rico's universities, institutions, and research centers and institutes to the private sector for commercialization and to benefit the public. Through its resources and partnerships, the TTO supports the growth of Puerto Rico's innovation ecosystem.

VISION

A Puerto Rico where research discoveries and high-value intellectual property are transformed into thriving businesses, driving innovation, economic growth, and public benefit.

MISSION

To effectively identify, assess, protect, market, and transfer the most promising research discoveries from Puerto Rico's researchers and entrepreneurs.

FOCUS AREAS

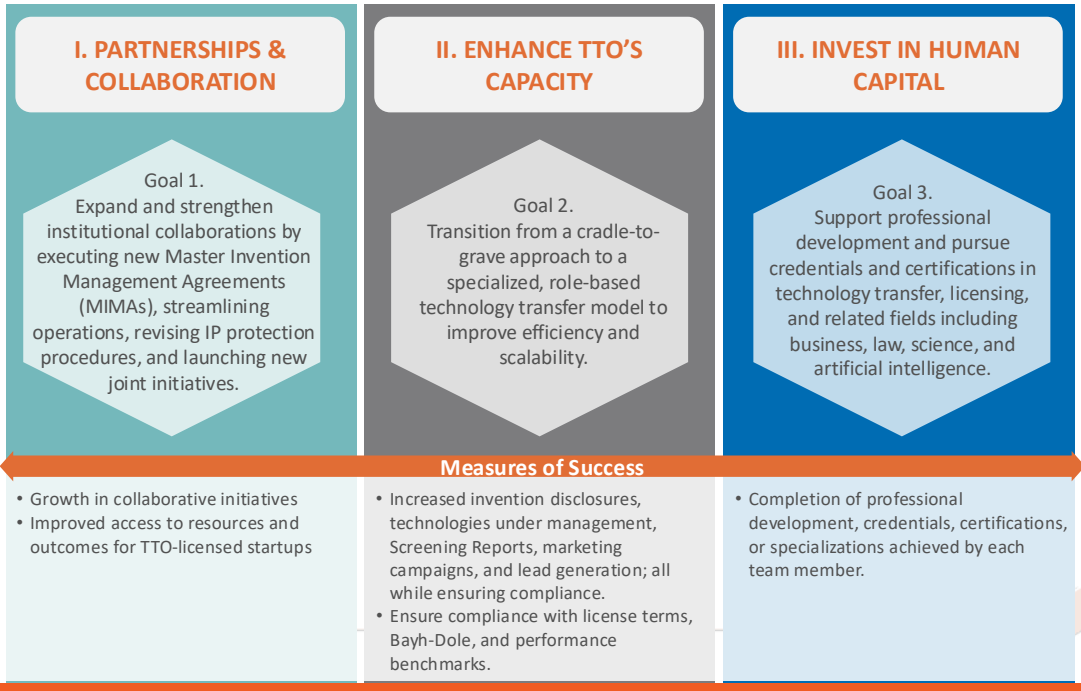
- Portfolio of inventions and intellectual property in Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
- Parternships with academia, industry, and government

HOW WE WORK

- Identification, evaluation, and protection of ideas and discoveries through intellectual property.
- Provide guidance, templates, and education.
- IP protection, marketing, negotiation and deal-making services.

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

TTO • Strategic Priorities



Center for Tropical Biodiversity

Established in 2015 to guide the efforts of conservation and exploration of Puerto Rico's unique geography for benefits that can be scientific, societal or economic. CTB supports a searchable collection of biological specimens, the conservation of biodiversity resources, and the commercialization of biodiversity-derived products, including natural chemical compounds.

VISION

Puerto Rico's ecosystems and biodiversity are protected and understood, and its natural resources are sustainably leveraged for scientific and economic advancement.

MISSION

CTB facilitates high-impact research to deepen understanding and advance the responsible use and preservation of Puerto Rico's biodiversity.

FOCUS AREAS

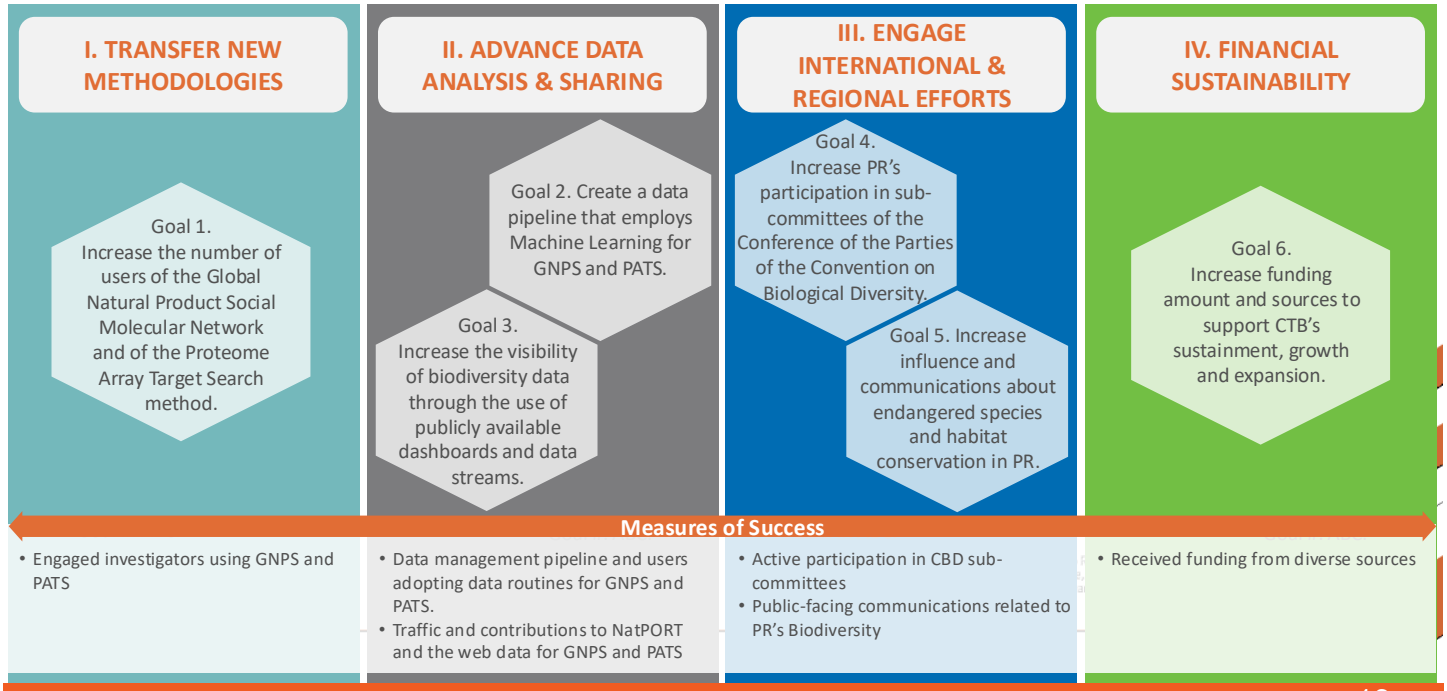
- Natural products
- Artificial Intelligence and drug discovery
- Access and benefit sharing with local communities

HOW WE WORK

- Collaborating across the research spectrum, regionally and internationally
- Developing new methods
- Cataloging natural products
- Informing public policy decisions

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

CTB • Strategic Priorities



Research Institute

The Research Institute (RI) was established in August 2021 as an integrative biosciences institute for Puerto Rico to advance discovery, innovation, and collaboration across disciplines thereby fostering a robust and inclusive research ecosystem.

VISION

A thriving Puerto Rico powered by discovery, driven by innovation, and defined by science.

MISSION

To serve as a beacon for integrative biosciences, advancing discovery, empowering researchers, and building Puerto Rico's capacity to harness knowledge that drives innovation and economic growth.

FOCUS AREAS

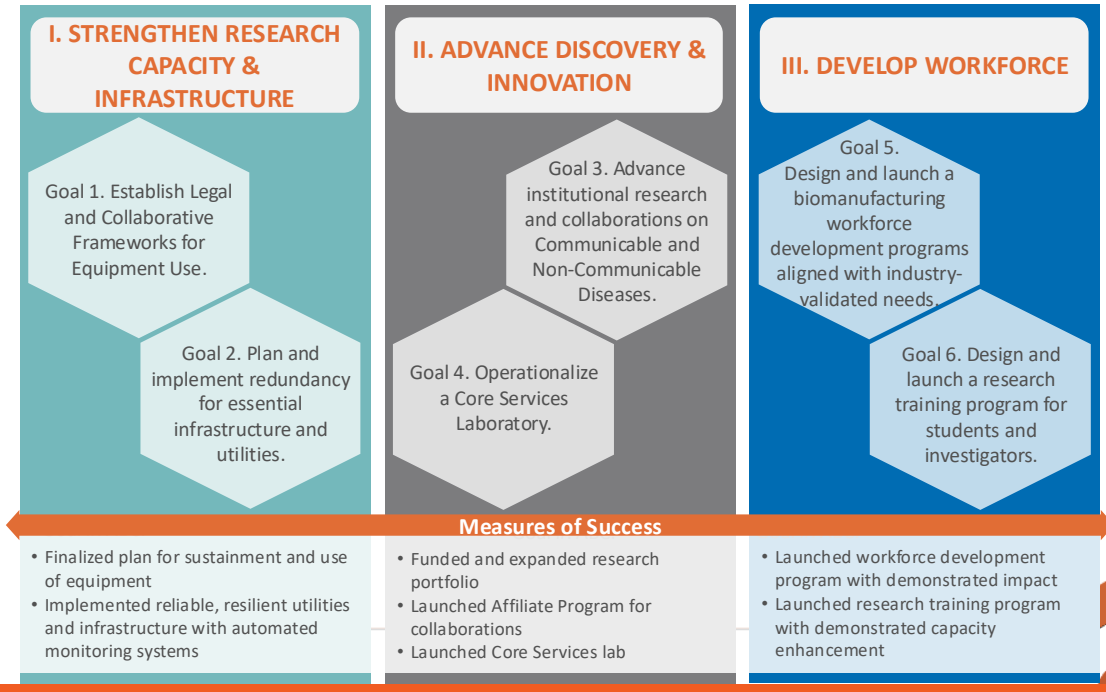
- Translational biosciences, integrative, interdisciplinary research
- Research capacity building
- Biomanufacturing and workforce development

HOW WE WORK

- Catalyze high-quality, investigator-initiated research through resources, technical support, and infrastructure
- Strategic, multisectoral alliances that amplify research output and impact
- Training and education in biomanufacturing

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

RI • Strategic Priorities



DRAFT WeAreTheTRUST

Entrepreneurship Pillar

Colmena 66

Fase 1

Parallel 18

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Colmena 66

WeAreTheTRUST

Colmena66 strengthens Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial ecosystem by connecting founders at any stage to hundreds of resources in the Entrepreneurial Resource Network. It conducts research to identify and address ecosystem gaps and needs.

VISION

Anyone in Puerto Rico can start and grow a successful business.

MISSION

Colmena66 facilitates entrepreneurship by connecting and building the entrepreneurial community.

FOCUS AREAS

- Access to capital & federal funding
- Data & insights on entrepreneurship and economic development
- Ecosystem building & collaboration
- Community engagement & visibility
- Crisis preparedness & recovery

HOW WE WORK

- Connect entrepreneurs with the right resource at the right time.
- Create resources and content that entrepreneurs can follow to create or grow companies.
- Build community through events that connect the business ecosystem.

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

C66 • Strategic Priorities

WeAreTheTRUST

I. BUILD A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRAM

Goal 1. Grow the internal talent, organizational capabilities, and cultivate adaptability.

Goal 2. Become financially resilient through diversified and reliable funding.

II. CATALYZE ACCESS & RESOURCES

Goal 3. Connect entrepreneurs across business stage, type, industry, and municipality with the right resources.

Goal 4. Enhance communication strategies to increase engagement and drive conversions.

III. CONNECT & BUILD THE ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY

Goal 5. Strengthen PR's entrepreneurial community by using data, insights, and shared platforms to foster collaboration, inform decision-making, and co-create solutions that address ecosystem gaps and opportunities.

IV. EMPOWER GRANT-READY ENTREPRENEURS

Goal 6. Strengthen innovation and expand access to funding by supporting entrepreneurs in submitting competitive funding proposals.

Measures of Success

- Talent needs assessment report with action and training plan
- Secured diverse, multi-year revenue sources to sustain flagship programs

- Optimized referral service, reduced lead time, and improved client satisfaction
- Increased engagement and number of

- Published digital annual report
- Launched initiatives
- Launched system to track entrepreneurial journey

- Supported and submitted funding proposals by entrepreneurs

Fase 1

Fase1, established in 2021, is a business incubator designed to support aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs in their entrepreneurial journey – from idea to launch. Through accessible education, technical resources, connections, and mentorship the program nurtures a pipeline of high potential startups equipped for scale and impact.

VISION

Aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs successfully launch new innovative businesses that strengthen the local economy throughout Puerto Rico.

MISSION

Fase1 equips aspiring and early-stage Puerto Rican entrepreneurs with accessible education and resources to turn high-potential ideas into real businesses.

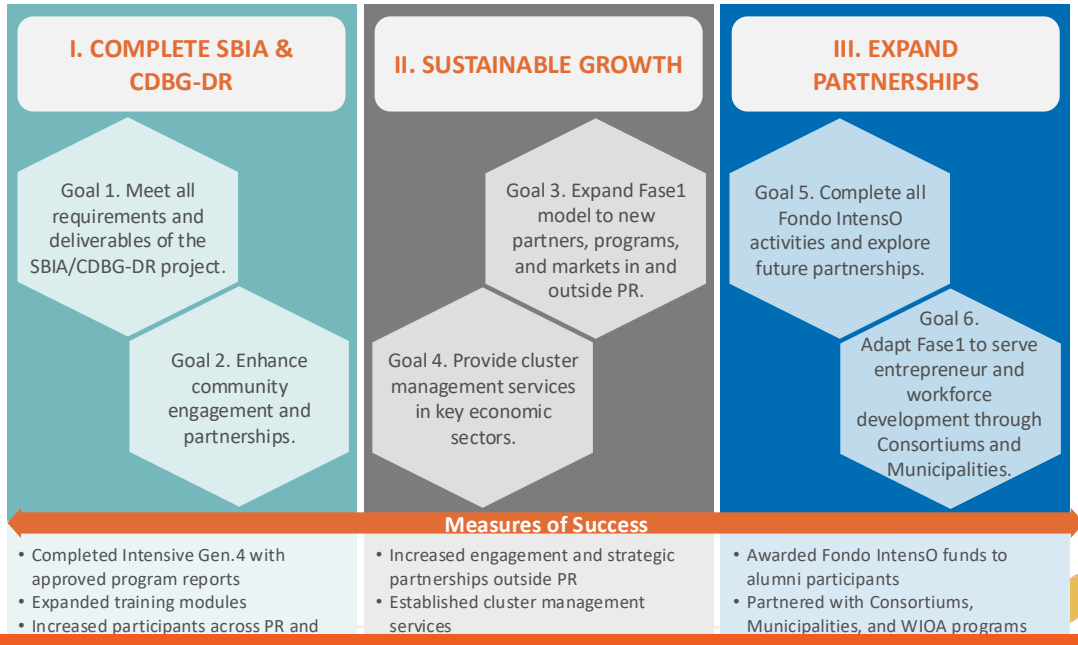
FOCUS AREAS

- Early-stage entrepreneurial education and specialized curriculum
- Community & strategic connections
- Innovative, scalable, impact-driven ventures
- Accessible and individualized support to participants

HOW WE WORK

- Offer entrepreneurial education with practical tools, targeted programs, and networks to validate promising ideas and turn them into startups.
- Create an active community of early-staged entrepreneurs, mentors and supporters that enables collaboration.

F1 • Strategic Priorities



Parallel 18

WeAreTheTRUST

Parallel18 seeks to become a global venture accelerator and investment platform designed to identify, invest in, and scale high-potential startups from within Puerto Rico. As part of the PRSTRT, it aims to position Puerto Rico as a globally connected launchpad for innovation and technology-driven entrepreneurship.

VISION

A Puerto Rico recognized worldwide as a leading launchpad for innovation and technology-driven entrepreneurship, powering a vibrant, globally connected business ecosystem.

MISSION

To identify, invest in, and accelerate high-potential global startups, providing the capital, mentorship, knowledge, and global connections they need to scale and transform industries.

FOCUS AREAS

- World-Class Mentorship & Founder Education
- Structured Growth Frameworks
- First Check & Seed Capital Investments
- Enterprise & Ecosystem Access
- Follow-On Investment Vehicles

HOW WE WORK

We are **evolving** from a grant-awarding platform into an **investment vehicle** structure.

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

WeAreTheTRUST

P18 • Strategic Priorities

I. TRANSITION INTO AN INVESTMENT PLATFORM

Goal 1. Transition from an equity-free funding model to a performance-based investment program using syndicate financing.

Goal 2. Structure and launch a Venture Capital Fund to back operations and all financing activities.

- ≥10 accredited angel investors
- >$250K cumulative capital committed through Special Purpose Vehicles
- VCF closed at ≥$5M AUM with ≥3 LPs

II. CONSOLIDATE AND ELEVATE PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Goal 3. Transition into an integrated pipeline that originates, de-risks, and scales venture-backable startups across key verticals.

Goal 4. Programmatic unification with CRM, diligence platform, and modernized curriculum.

- ≥10 startups from ≥3 U.S. states per BioLeap cohort; of which ≥75% reach post-incubation milestones
- Integrated intake funnel deployed for

III. EXPAND GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Goal 5. Establish strategic, co-branded Global Hubs with leading incubators to facilitate cross-border startup mobility and market access.

Goal 6. Implement joint programming with global incubators to channel founders into P18's pipeline and build an investment ecosystem.

- ≥2 signed MOUs with incubators and implemented unified analytics system
- Piloted Global Hubs with a monetizable platform

IV. OPTIMIZE OPERATIONS & SECURE SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 7. Establish standardized, compliant workflows and digitized systems to drive efficiency and cost-reduction.

Goal 8. Secure recurring revenue, recycle capital, and boost efficiency to reduce PRSTRT subsidy to ≤20% of operating budget.

- ≥40% reduction in processing time, ≥80% KPIs automated
- ≥20% of operating budget covered by PRSTRT

Measures of Success

Public Health Pillar

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute

Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Puerto Rico Public Health Institute

Established in 2019, we serve as the Puerto Rico Public Health Institute with the purpose of promoting innovative and evidence-informed public health practices to achieve systematic improvements and sustainably support the health of residents.

VISION

A healthy Puerto Rico driven by a collaborative health ecosystem.

MISSION

Improving Puerto Rico's public health through evidence-informed interventions, working hand in hand with communities, and facilitating intersectoral collaborations.

FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Diseases
- Digital Health
- Emergencies and Disasters
- Rural Health
- Mental Health

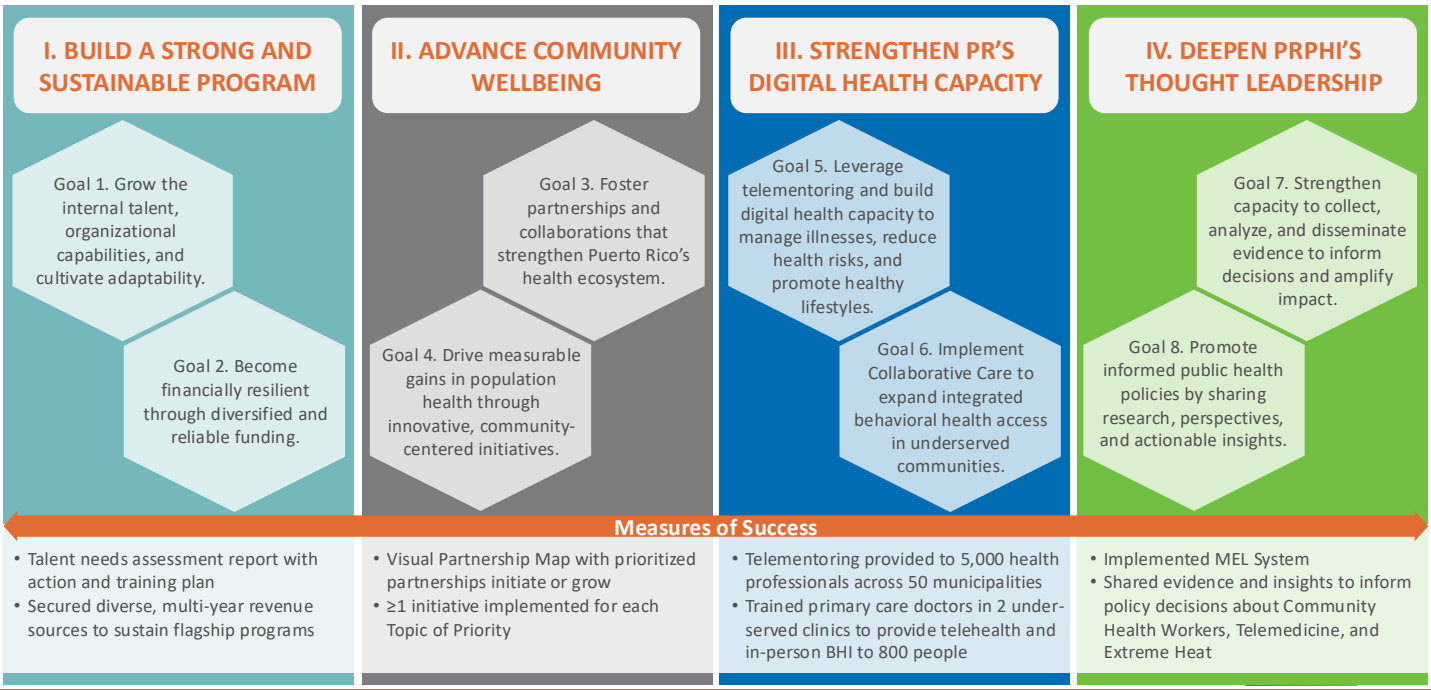
HOW WE WORK

- Health promotion for healthier lifestyles
- Capacity building, education and communication
- Participatory research and community engagement
- Public policy and health advocacy
- Data, evidence, knowledge generation

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

PRPHI • Strategic Priorities

WeAreTheTRUST



Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit

WeAreTheTRUST

The Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU), established in 2016, enhances Puerto Rico's capacity to monitor and control vectors or human disease—such as the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

VISION
Striving together for a Puerto Rico free from mosquito-borne disease.

MISSION
Establish a world-class, modern, and dynamic Integrated Vector Management program that serves as a local and regional research, evaluation, and training.

FOCUS AREAS

- Vector surveillance
- Vector control
- Community mobilization

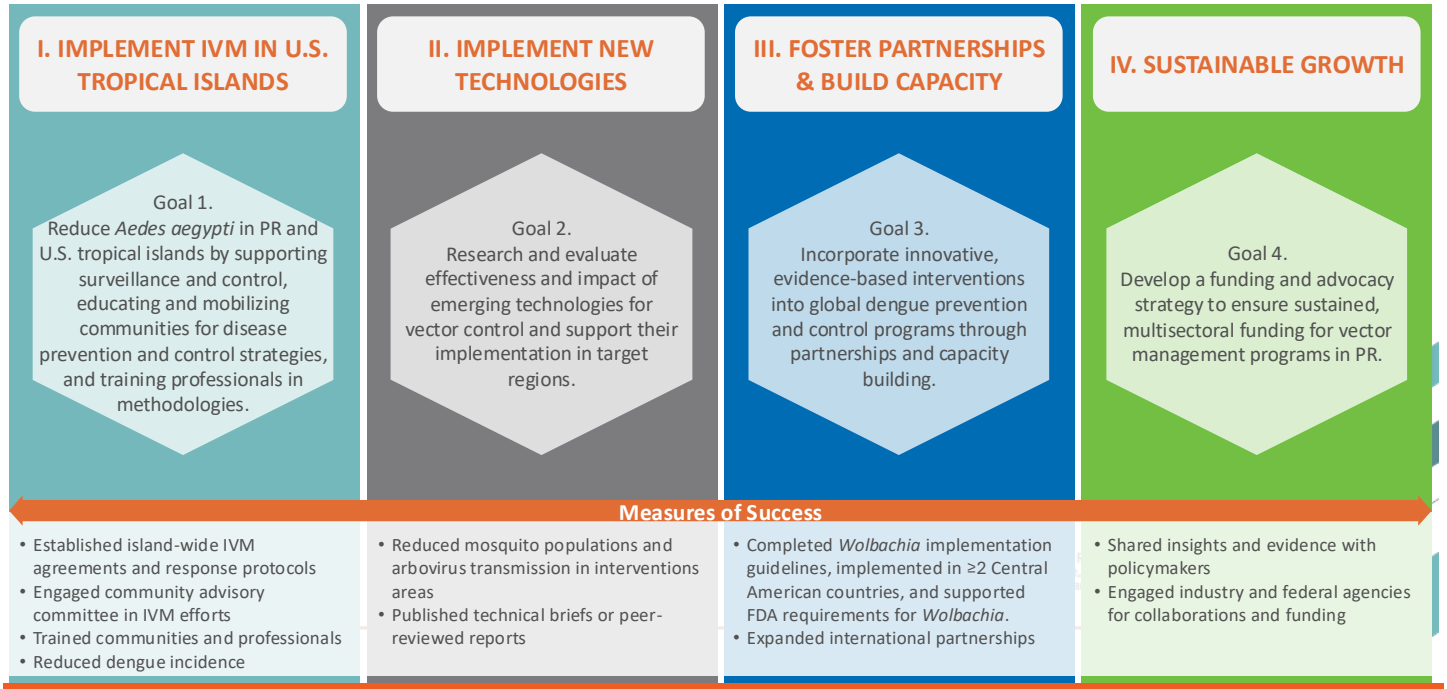
HOW WE WORK

- Implement IVM strategies using research, surveillance data, and public health best practices to reduce vector-borne disease risk.
- Engage residents, organizations, and municipalities to foster participation, awareness, and sustainable behaviors.
- Deliver training programs for public health staff and community members to strengthen local vector control capacity.
- Collaborate with partners to improve environmental conditions and promote vector-resistant, healthy communities.

DRAFT

WeAreTheTRUST

PRCVU • Strategic Priorities



WeAreTheTRUST

Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation

The Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI) is dedicated to advancing clinical research. It serves as a strategic hub, aligning industry and academic investigators and patient organizations to drive innovation and excellence in clinical research.

VISION

A Puerto Rico that stands as a globally recognized leader in clinical research, where cutting-edge trials are conducted and residents have direct access to the benefits of medical innovation and advanced treatments.

MISSION

PRCCI drives the ongoing expansion of clinical research by partnering with the global research community to deliver high-quality, patient centered studies in Puerto Rico, broadening access to advanced therapies and strengthening the Puerto Rico's role in life sciences.

FOCUS AREAS

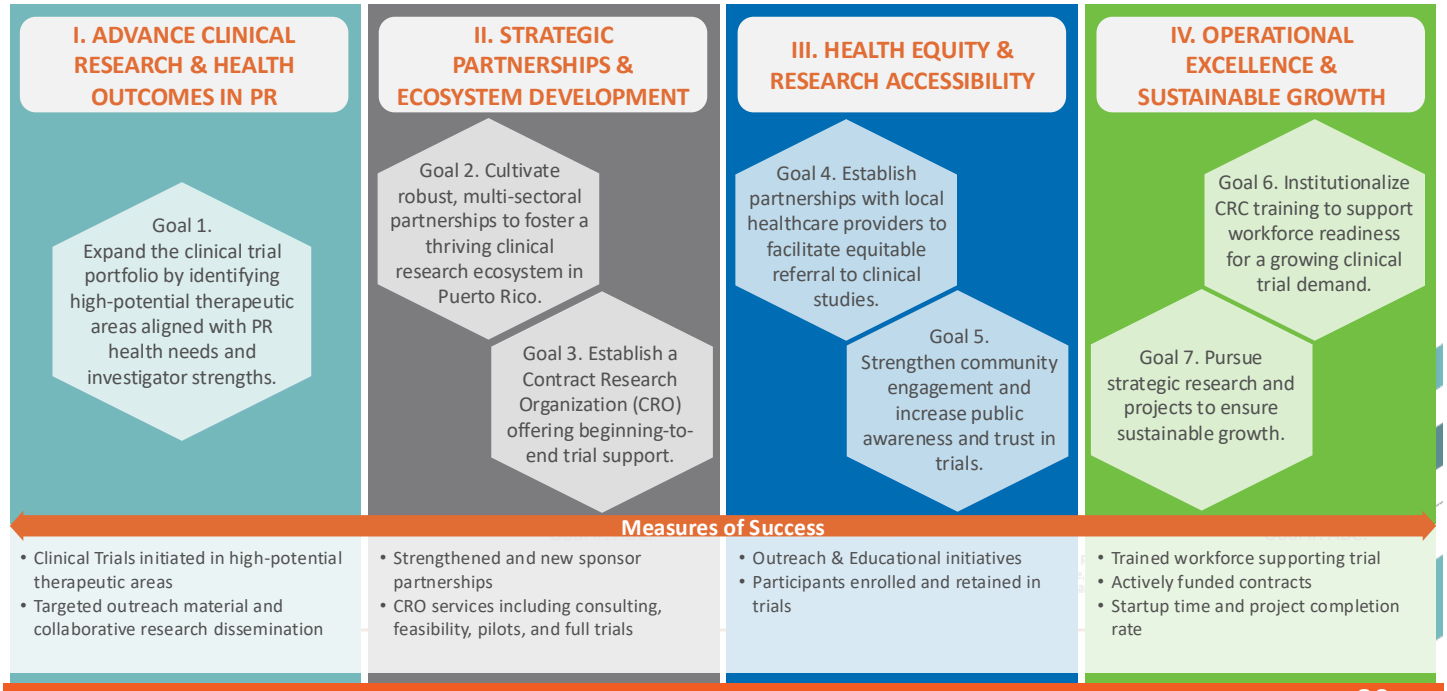
- Training & Education
- Medical Innovation
- Ecosystem growth
- CRO capabilities
- Pursue new projects ensuring organizational growth

HOW WE WORK

We work across the spectrum, from **leading a research consortium** to managing a **clinical research center and expanding CRO capabilities** to meet the evolving needs of the ecosystem.

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

PRCCI • Strategic Priorities



WeAreTheTRUST

Education Pillar

STEM Education & Workforce Development

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

STEM Education and Workforce Development

WeAreTheTRUST

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education & Workforce Development program strengthens K-12 STEM education in Puerto Rico, develops competencies aligned with STEM-related labor market, and promotes technology literacy from an early age thereby ensuring a smooth transition from education to employment.

VISION

Puerto Rico thrives through an innovative, knowledge-based economy powered by a competent STEM workforce.

MISSION

To equip learners with high-quality STEM education and career pathways that strengthen Puerto Rico's workforce, drive innovation, and fuel sustainable economic growth.

FOCUS AREAS

- Early childhood interventions to promote STEM education (K–12)
- Future-ready STEM talent pipeline aligned with workforce demands
- Emerging technologies literacy and skills

HOW WE WORK

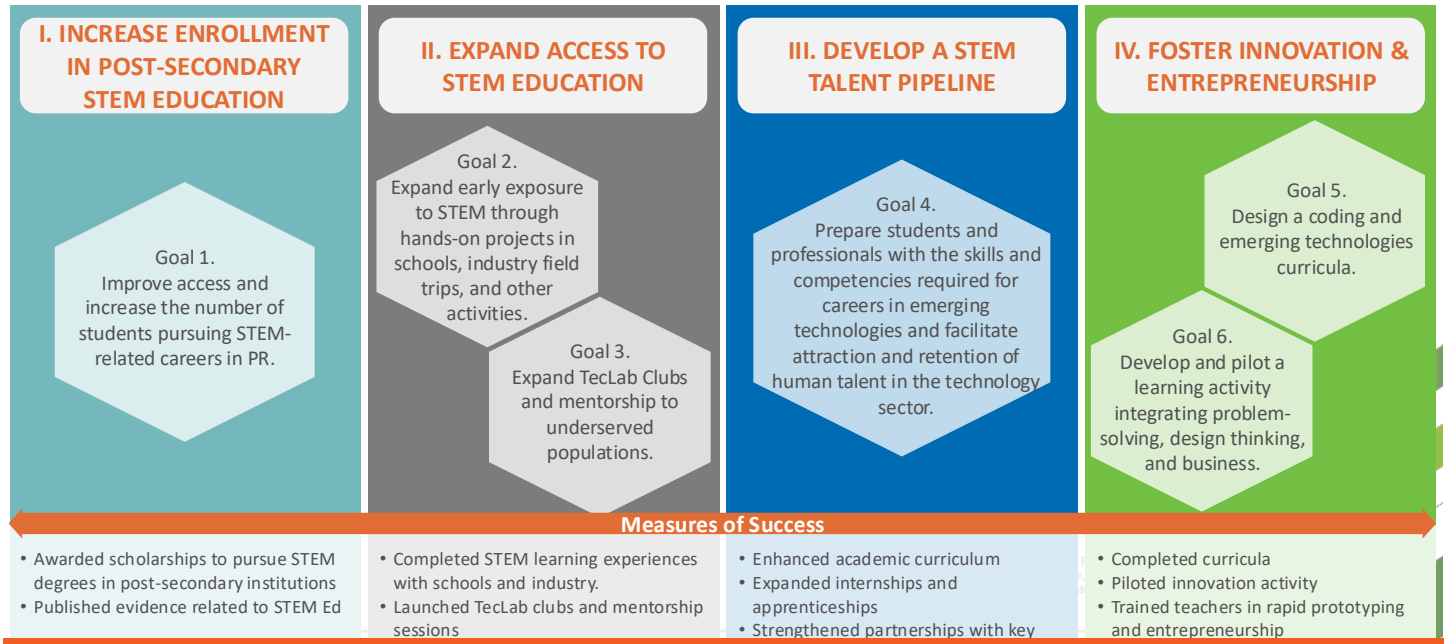
- Train students, teachers, professionals, and key stakeholders in the education sector.
- Collaborate with industry, academia, government, and the education sector to develop a workforce equipped with relevant competencies, skills, and innovation capacity.

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Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

STEM • Strategic Priorities

WeAreTheTRUST



Trust Journey

This timeline highlights the Trust's evolution, showcasing the launch of pioneering programs, expansion of research and entrepreneurship initiatives, and key milestones that have positioned Puerto Rico as a leader in science, technology, and innovation.

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Transformation through Innovation

This timeline highlights the Trust's evolution, showcasing the launch of pioneering programs, expansion of research and entrepreneurship initiatives, and key milestones that have positioned Puerto Rico as a leader in science, technology, and innovation.

2004

The PRSTRT is constituted under Public Law 214-2004 as a non- profit private organization.

2015

Eng. Luz A. Crespo is appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

New programs:
- Research Grants, Center for
- Tropical Biodiversity,
- Research & Innovation Meetups.

Facilities transformation: Science City is initiated.



2016

Expansion in research and entrepreneurship programs.

New programs:
- Technology Transfer Office
- Brain Trust for Tropical
- Disease Research & Prevention
- Parallel18
- Colmena66
- PR Consortium of Clinical Research
- PR Vector Control Unit.

2017

Amendment of deed designating the Public Health Institute and Educational Organization as bona-fide fiscal agent of the Government of P.R.

New programs: Cultural Heritage Innovation

2018

Expansion of programs in agriculture, education, community response and access to business funding.

New programs:

Recuperación Agrícola
- STEM & Workforce Development
- SBIR/ STTR Federal Grants
- Pre18
- Puerto Rico Hurricane Hub and ASHTO

2019

Expansion of recovery, economic development and public health programs.

New programs:
- Resiliency Business Innovation
- Response Innovation LaB
- Puerto Rico Public Health Trust
- ProdTec

2020

Strengthening of all programs in strategic pillars

Growth in collaborations (51MOUs)

New programs:
- Re-Grow PR
- Telemedicine (PRPHT)

2021

Signing of amendment to the deed of creation of the Trust.
Public Health Leadership: Enhanced COVID-19 response with telemedicine, expanded community health programs, led genomic surveillance, expanded vector control management and increased investment in clinical trial research.
Entrepreneurship Growth: Supported +2k entrepreneurs, generated $189M in revenues, awarded $11.6M in grants and expanded programs.
Education & Workforce Impact: Expanded stem efforts and workforce capacity building.
New programs: Caribbean Center for Rising Seas, Research Institute, Fase 1 , Telemedicina para Adultos Mayores, Laboratorio Genómico de COVID-19, Community Health Promoters Capacity building program, Red de Pacientes, Academia del Cacao, Puerto Rico Ready.

2022

New programs:
- Xpand (p18)
- Agile (Research Grants)
- EnTrust (TTO)
- Agroecología para el futuro (Stem & Worforce).

199 collaboration agreements signed (MOUs)

$13.8M, with ROI of $37M by Research Grants.

22 patents filed and 7 issued by Technology Transfer Office, contributing to Puerto Rico's high ranking in patent applications.

Over 84 clinical trial protocols by PRCCI.

Colmena66 Top-ranked in US Source Link network for entrepreneur assistance.

P18 Graduated 138 companies and raised $189M in private investment.

Continued expansion of public health initiatives through PRPHT and PRVCU

2023

Awarded the **NSF Engines Development Award** to the Trust to foster regional collaboration and growth in the biopharmaceutical sector.
Trust recognized as **1 of 31 Tech Hubs** in the United States under the Biden-Harris administration's EDA Tech Hubs program, an initiative that promotes the biotechnology sector with allies such as DDEC, UPR and private companies.
Selected by the New York Department of Commerce as **host in P.R. for the life sciences exchange** with IndieBio NY, promoting the development of biotech startups.

2024

Science City expansion: Opening of the **Forward Center** building and new headquarters of parallel18.

Trust designated as the financial advisor to the PR Economic Development Bank for the **Venture Capital Access Program**, providing a $30M allocation from the U.S. Department of Treasury for investment in emerging and expanding companies.

Hexagon 3D printing studio opening in Ponce (STEM & Workforce program)
Cohorts for **Empresas B** en Formación (Meetups Program)

2025

The Federal Reserve allocates $30M to the BDE and the VCAP program, with the Trust selected as the administrator of this effort.

Two research projects funded by the Research Grants program, both from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, are launched to the International Space Station. First edition of the Milo Climate Action Academy, focused on developing innovative solutions using satellite data and advanced technology (presented by Research Grants and the MILO Space Science Institute at Arizona State University).

Premiere of the documentary When the Sea Reaches Us, the first film production by the Trust and its Caribbean Center for Rising Seas program.

First edition of the Futuros Académicos Awards, funded by the Azmat Assur Foundation, granted to public school students to support their STEM studies in Puerto Rico.

First cohort of the NIIMBL eXperience, a free summer program for students interested in biomanufacturing and STEM careers (presented by the Research Institute, with funding from the NIIMBL Institute).

Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT 2026



Basic Consolidated **Financial Statements 2025-2026**

RSM Puerto Rico

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

(A Puerto Rico Not-For-Profit Organization)

Basic Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2026 and 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To: The Board of Trustees of
Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, a Puerto Rico not-for-profit organization, and its Subsidiaries, which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust and its Subsidiaries as of June 30, 2026 and 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust and its Subsidiaries and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust and its Subsidiaries' ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

RSM Puerto Rico is a member of the RSM network and trades as RSM. RSM is the trading name used by the members of the RSM network. Each member of the RSM network is an independent accounting and consulting firm which practices in its own right. The RSM network is not itself a separate legal entity in any Jurisdiction.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust and its Subsidiaries' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust and its Subsidiaries' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

San Juan, Puerto Rico
November 4, 2026.

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Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 2026 and 2025

	2026	2025
ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	**$ 12,327,619**	$ 11,997,155
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for credit losses of $79,472 and $61,516, respectively	**799,083**	701,964
Prepaid expenses	**150,880**	9,600
Due from governmental entities	**3,245,841**	1,739,149
Investments	**3,781,252**	4,846,340
Notes receivable, net	**110,000**	144,016
Other assets	**18,278**	18,278
Endowment fund	**62,730,791**	55,645,117
Property and equipment, net	**1,990,030**	3,428,057
Right-of-use asset for operating leases, net of accumulated amortization of $283,037 and $171,528, respectively	**513,131**	44,411
Building, net	**15,123,047**	15,497,368
Land and property for research, development and infrastructure project related to science and technology	**18,100,307**	18,100,307
Land development costs	**12,124,213**	12,124,213
Construction in progress - Science City	**11,148,357**	11,148,357
	$ 142,162,829	$ 135,444,332
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Program service payable	**$ 1,418,359**	$ 1,329,576
Accounts payable	**1,765,544**	2,250,589
Refundable advances	**208,911**	1,403,110
Accrued expenses	**546,275**	525,715
Operating lease liabilities	**516,779**	44,512
Other liabilities	**184,094**	193,294
	4,639,962	5,746,796
NET ASSETS:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	**45,517,360**	45,925,619
Designated by the Board of Trustees for endowment	**62,730,791**	55,645,117
	108,248,151	101,570,736
With donor restrictions:		
Purpose restrictions	**11,174,409**	10,026,493
Perpetual in nature	**18,100,307**	18,100,307
	29,274,716	28,126,800
	137,522,867	129,697,536
	$ 142,162,829	$ 135,444,332

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements of financial position.

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025

	2026		
	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT AND OTHERS:			
State grants and assessments	$ 14,425,000	$ -	$ 14,425,000
Federal grants	10,326,843	-	10,326,843
Private grants and sponsorships	679,575	2,053,425	2,733,000
Donations and contributions	30,990	-	30,990
Clinical trials	370,943	-	370,943
Rental income	648,441	-	648,441
Interest Income	198,656	-	198,656
Net return on investments	5,076,214	248,074	5,324,288
Net return on endowment fund	1,139,887	-	1,139,887
Other income	270,957	-	270,957
	33,167,506	2,301,499	35,469,005
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	1,153,583	(1,153,583)	-
	34,321,089	1,147,916	35,469,005
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Program services:			
Research and data	4,430,989	-	4,430,989
Public health initiative	9,435,104	-	9,435,104
Technology transfer and commercialization	5,896,957	-	5,896,957
Science City development	572,773	-	572,773
	20,335,823	-	20,335,823
Supporting services:			
Management and administrative	7,307,851	-	7,307,851
	27,643,674	-	27,643,674
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	6,677,415	1,147,916	7,825,331
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	101,570,736	28,126,800	129,697,536
NET ASSETS, end of year	$ 108,248,151	$ 29,274,716	$ 137,522,867

Continues…

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025

...Continued

	2025		
	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT AND OTHERS:			
State grants and assessments	$ 5,000,000	$ -	$ 5,000,000
Federal grants	21,031,933	-	21,031,933
Private grants and sponsorships	1,307,664	190,000	1,497,664
Donations and contributions	19,491	-	19,491
Clinical trials	339,961	-	339,961
Rental income	321,902	-	321,902
Interest Income	432,097	-	432,097
Net return on investments	2,654,593	225,239	2,879,832
Net return on endowment fund	1,034,833	-	1,034,833
Other income	202,638	-	202,638
	32,345,112	415,239	32,760,351
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	406,240	(406,240)	-
	32,751,352	8,999	32,760,351
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Program services:			
Research and data	4,774,828	-	4,774,828
Public health initiative	15,865,049	-	15,865,049
Technology transfer and commercialization	7,661,230	-	7,661,230
Science City development	500,374	-	500,374
	28,801,481	-	28,801,481
Supporting services:			
Management and administrative	7,912,246	-	7,912,246
	36,713,727	-	36,713,727
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(3,962,375)	8,999	(3,953,376)
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	105,533,111	28,117,801	133,650,912
NET ASSETS, end of year	$ 101,570,736	$ 28,126,800	$ 129,697,536

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025

	2026					
	Program services				Supporting services	
	Research and data	Public health initiative	Technology transfer and commercialization	Science City development	Management and administrative	Total
Program support:						
Capacity building and sponsorships	$ 7,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 7,500
Research and development grants	976,843	-	75,000	-	-	1,051,843
Matching grants	-	-	750,000	-	-	750,000
Parallel 18 grants	-	-	1,009,375	-	-	1,009,375
Other program initiatives	266,045	2,377,858	-	-	-	2,643,903
	1,250,388	2,377,858	1,834,375	-	-	5,462,621
Personnel costs:						
Salaries and wages	1,389,716	3,219,997	2,072,879	-	2,586,798	9,269,390
Benefits and payroll taxes	563,630	1,455,842	787,897	-	1,022,050	3,829,419
	1,953,346	4,675,839	2,860,776	-	3,608,848	13,098,809
Professional services	388,211	695,315	772,030	174,440	710,740	2,740,736
Occupancy expenses:						
Depreciation and amortization	87,000	1,326,831	5,416	75,650	642,442	2,137,339
Rent	1,650	-	-	-	-	1,650
Repairs and maintenance	16,881	-	-	128,010	351,166	496,057
Security	-	-	-	-	221,719	221,719
Other	14,700	50	599	154,608	757,207	927,164
	120,231	1,326,881	6,015	358,268	1,972,534	3,783,929
Travel	52,332	107,748	49,054	-	66,183	275,317
Other	666,481	251,463	374,707	40,065	949,546	2,282,262
Total operating expenses	$ 4,430,989	$ 9,435,104	$ 5,896,957	$ 572,773	$ 7,307,851	$ 27,643,674

Continues…

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025

…Continued

	2025					
	Program services				Supporting services	
	Research and data	Public health initiative	Technology transfer and commercialization	Science City development	Management and administrative	Total
Program support:						
Capacity building and sponsorships	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 173,912	$ 173,912
Research and development grants	1,635,736	-	75,000	-	-	1,710,736
Matching grants	-	-	425,000	-	-	425,000
Parallel 18 grants	-	-	1,540,000	-	-	1,540,000
Other program initiatives	267,884	3,768,777	682	-	-	4,037,343
	1,903,620	3,768,777	2,040,682	-	173,912	7,886,991
Personnel costs:						
Salaries and wages	1,138,904	4,563,937	2,192,459	-	2,506,703	10,402,003
Benefits and payroll taxes	574,601	2,186,360	836,593	-	1,075,212	4,672,766
	1,713,505	6,750,297	3,029,052	-	3,581,915	15,074,769
Professional services	442,745	3,096,402	1,792,344	143,787	882,678	6,357,956
Occupancy expenses:						
Depreciation and amortization	36,529	1,598,483	4,598	68,624	617,466	2,325,700
Rent	-	14,650	-	-	113,004	127,654
Repairs and maintenance	6,225	-	-	114,871	392,345	513,441
Security	-	-	-	128,525	222,131	350,656
Other	51,900	5,417	587	-	815,921	873,825
	94,654	1,618,550	5,185	312,020	2,160,867	4,191,276
Travel	91,492	199,442	104,966	-	102,989	498,889
Other	528,812	431,581	689,001	44,567	1,009,885	2,703,846
Total operating expenses	$ 4,774,828	$ 15,865,049	$ 7,661,230	$ 500,374	$ 7,912,246	$ 36,713,727

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025

	2026	2025
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	**$ 7,825,331**	$ (3,953,376)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Credit losses	**27,331**	4,000
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	**(35,406)**	13,072
Realized loss on investments	**175,000**	20,000
Impairment loss on investments	**733,435**	-
Capitalized income on Endowment fund	**(1,139,887)**	(1,034,833)
Unrealized gain on Endowment fund	**(5,945,787)**	(2,580,058)
Depreciation and amortization	**2,025,830**	2,239,936
Amortization of right-of-use asset for operating leases	**111,509**	85,764
Changes in operating assets and liabilities-		
Decrease (increase) in assets:		
Accounts receivable	**(115,075)**	21,243
Prepaid expenses	**(141,280)**	106,001
Due from governmental entities	**(1,506,692)**	1,174,380
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Program service payable	**88,783**	722,450
Accounts payable	**(485,045)**	(118,884)
Refundable advances	**(1,194,199)**	766,278
Accrued expenses	**20,560**	37,234
Operating lease liabilities	**(107,962)**	(87,802)
Other liabilities	**(9,200)**	14,750
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**327,246**	(2,569,845)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Net repayments under notes receivable	**24,641**	78,132
Net proceeds from sale and redemption of investments	**192,059**	134,291
Purchase of investments	**-**	(644,991)
Contributions to Endowment fund	**-**	(192,306)
Purchase of property and equipment	**(77,103)**	(3,082,441)
Additions to building	**(136,379)**	(148,832)
Additions to land development	**-**	(94,613)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	**3,218**	(3,950,760)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**330,464**	(6,520,605)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	**11,997,155**	18,517,760
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	**$ 12,327,619**	$ 11,997,155

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

PUERTO RICO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRUST AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2026 and 2025

1) Organization and summary of significant accounting policies:

A) Organization – Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (the Trust) is a not-for-profit organization created on August 18, 2004 by Act No. 214, as amended (the Act 214), of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the Commonwealth). The purpose of the Trust is to foster, and fund research, development and infrastructure projects related to science and technology that will promote the economic, social or educational development of the Commonwealth and to operate exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The Act 214 also designates the Trust as a Public Health Institute, an Educational Organization and allows the Trust to act as fiscal agent to pursue certain federal funding opportunities on behalf of the Commonwealth. The Act 214 also enables the Trust to establish a research institute through which researchers from public and private research institutions might affiliate with and enables the Trust to evaluate competitive grant proposals and/or act as fiscal sponsor to pursue funding opportunities on behalf of these institutions.

The projects of the Trust are financed as follows: (i) the greater of $6,340,000 or 31% out of the monies deposited in the Special Fund for Economic Development (FEDE for its Spanish acronym) managed by the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO) for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017 through 2019, (ii) the monies of Scientific Investigation Fund for the Centenary of the University of Puerto Rico (Centenary Fund), (iii) $5,000,000 annually from the balance of collections of federal excise taxes in accordance with Section 7652(a)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and (iv) private grants and donations, other government funds, and legislative appropriations. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, FEDE was superseded by the Economic Incentive Fund (EIF), created under Act 60 titled *"Código de Incentivos de Puerto Rico"*. Section 5010.01 of Act 60 bestows upon the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC) total discretion upon the use of the EIF.

The Act 214, as amended in August 2017, provides that the Board of Trustees is to be composed of eleven (11) trustees, two (2) of whom shall be members *ex officio* including the Secretary of the DEDC and other government agency representative to be appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth; and nine (9) members from the private sector.

Since September 2016, the Trust has been awarded, as prime recipient and subrecipient, with federal funds from the US Department of Health and Human (DHHS) - Center for Disease Prevention and Control, the DHHS - National Institutes of Health, the US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration, the US Department of the Treasury, and the US Department of Agriculture. In addition, the Trust has been the primary recipient, or acted as fiscal sponsor, for the implementation of privately funded initiatives, mostly related to recovery efforts after the passing of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in September 2017, and the organization's Public Health Institute initiative.

Subsidiaries – The Trust has established the following subsidiaries by virtue of Article 5(26) of Act 214, as amended, whereby the Trust may organize subsidiaries or affiliates subject to its total or partial control to carry out any assignment from the Trust's Board of Trustees for the best interest of the Trust:

- The Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation, Inc. (PRCCI) – A not-for-profit entity organized on January 20, 2016. PRCCI began operations on April 1, 2016 and its purpose is to improve the impact, quality, and speed of clinical research activity conducted in Puerto Rico, especially in the fields of oncology, infectious diseases, neurological disorders and cardio-metabolism. To achieve its mission, PRCCI partners with clinical research sites across Puerto Rico to ensure access to a diverse patient population. PRCCI's operations are sustained through a combination of revenues obtained from clinical research sponsors, grants and contracts with state and private entities, and contributions from the Trust.

- PRST, Inc. (PRST) – A not-for-profit entity organized on December 28, 2016. The purpose of PRST is to act as a Qualified Promoter as defined in Section 2034.01 of the newly enacted Incentives Code of Puerto Rico. A Qualified Promoter is authorized by the Department of Economic Development and Commerce to engage in the promotion of new companies established in Puerto Rico and to obtain decrees under Act No. 20 of 2012, to establish and expand their export services. During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, no operations were conducted by this subsidiary.

- Innovation Financial Solutions Inc. (IFS) – A not-for-profit entity organized in November 2023. The purpose of IFS is to manage programs to increase the Trust's portfolio of investments in ventures. During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, no operations were conducted by this subsidiary.

- TC Solutions LLC (TCS) – A for-profit entity organized on June 25, 2025. The purpose of TCS is to invest in, establish, and expand a research and development-focused technology business in Puerto Rico.

These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Trust and its Subsidiaries (collectively referred as the Trust and its Subsidiaries) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025.

B) Summary of significant accounting policies – The Trust and its Subsidiaries prepare its consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) for not-for-profit organizations. The significant accounting policies used by the Trust and its Subsidiaries are as follows:

Principles of consolidation – The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Trust and its Subsidiaries, as described in Note 1A. Intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated in consolidation.

Basis of presentation – The consolidated financial statements of the Trust and its Subsidiaries report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net assets classifications:

- Net assets without donor restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Trust and its Subsidiaries. These assets may be used at the discretion of the Trust and its Subsidiaries' management and the Board of Trustees.

- Net assets with donor restrictions – Net assets that are subject to stipulations imposed by donors and some grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Trust and its Subsidiaries or by passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

  Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities. However, if a restriction is fulfilled in the same period in which the contribution is received, the Trust and its Subsidiaries report the support as without donor restrictions.

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries' net assets with donor restrictions include the following:

Purpose restrictions:

- Federal funds that are restricted for the implementation of programmatic initiatives, and funds from private sources that are restricted for the implementation of public health and venture creation initiatives.

- Monies for the Scientific Investigation Fund for the Centenary of the University of Puerto Rico. This fund was created to improve the infrastructure, activities and environment of investigative activities of the University of Puerto Rico, and to facilitate the commercialization of the innovations that are developed there. Among the activities to be supported are the recruitment and retention of researchers and the promotion of technology transfer.

- Restricted portion of the Forward Center Building from funds received from the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). This amount is presented net of accumulated depreciation.

Perpetual in nature:

- Consist of a land, described in Note 10 that was contributed with the restriction of using it for the purpose described in Act 214, as amended, through the implementation of a Master Plan.

Use of estimates – The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities, at the dates of financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents – Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time of purchase. Cash equivalents include cash in investment-managed accounts such as money markets and mutual funds.

Allowance for credit losses – The Trust and its Subsidiaries offset gross accounts receivable with an allowance for credit losses. The allowance for credit losses is the Trust and its Subsidiaries' best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in the existing accounts receivable and is based on management's evaluation of current status of donor pledges, contributions and grants, and any other factors that deserve current recognition. Receivables are charged-off against their respective allowance accounts when deemed to be uncollectible.

Estimating credit losses based on risk characteristics requires significant judgment by the Trust and its Subsidiaries. Significant judgments include but are not limited to assessing current economic conditions and the extent to which they would be relevant to the existing characteristics of the Trust and its Subsidiaries' financial assets, the estimated life of financial assets and the level of reliance on historical experience in light of economic conditions. The Trust and its Subsidiaries review and update, when necessary, its historical risk characteristics that are meaningful to estimating credit losses, any new risk characteristics that arise in the natural course of business and the estimated life of its financial assets. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Investments – Investments represent a Puerto Rico government bond, private equity securities and Simple Agreements for Future Equity (SAFE) investments.

The investment in bond is measured at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized in the consolidated statements of activities.

The private equity securities and SAFE investments are accounted for using the measurement alternative prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 321-10-35-2 and are measured at cost, less impairment, if any, adjusted for observable price changes in orderly transactions involving identical or similar investments of the same issuer. Management evaluates these investments at each reporting date for indicators of impairment and observable price changes. When a qualitative assessment indicates that an investment is impaired, its fair value is estimated and the resulting impairment loss is recognized in the consolidated statements of activities.

Net investment return (loss) is reported in the consolidated statements of activities and consists of interest and dividend income, realized and unrealized gains and losses, including impairment losses and adjustments resulting from observable price changes, net of external and direct internal investment expenses.

Fair value measurements – Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The valuation techniques are based upon observable or unobservable inputs.

Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect the entity's market assumptions. Market or observable inputs are the preferred source of values, followed by assumptions based on hypothetical transactions in the absence of market input. These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 – Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 – Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and model-derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.

Level 3 – Significant inputs to the valuation model are unobservable.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries maintain policies and procedures to value financial instruments using the best and most relevant data available.

Property and equipment – Property and equipment are stated at cost, or if donated, at the fair value at date of receipt. Maintenance and repair costs that do not improve or extend the useful life of the respective assets are expensed as incurred. Costs of renewals and betterments which extend the useful life of the respective assets are capitalized. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets, as follows:

Description	Estimated Useful Life
Furniture and fixtures	5 years
Computer and laboratory equipment	3 to 5 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term

At the time property and equipment is sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation or amortization are removed from the books and the resulting gain or loss, if any, is credited or charged to operations.

Building – Is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis over the useful life of 35 years. Maintenance and repair costs that do not improve or extend the useful life of the building are expensed as incurred while the costs of renewals and betterments which extend its useful life are capitalized. When the asset is sold or disposed of, the cost of the asset and the related accumulated depreciation are removed from the books and the resulting gain or loss, if any, is credited or charged to operations.

Accounting for the impairment or disposal of long-lived assets – The Trust and its Subsidiaries' long-lived assets held and used in operations are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. Assets are considered to be impaired if the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flow expected to result from the use and eventual disposition of the asset.

If such assets are impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds its fair value. Assets to be disposed of, other than by sale, continue to be classified as held and used until they are disposed of. Assets to be disposed of by sale are classified as held for sale in the period in which certain criteria are met and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value. At the time such criteria are no longer met, such assets are reclassified as assets held and used in operations.

Land development costs – Represent costs for a land site consultation approval, certification of environmental compliance, architectural design, and other costs incurred in connection with land received by the Trust and its Subsidiaries for the construction of its facilities.

Contributions and support revenue – The Trust and its Subsidiaries mainly derive its revenues from state and federal grants, contributions received from the government, corporations, sponsors and individuals. The Trust and its Subsidiaries recognize contributions when cash, securities or other assets; an unconditional promise to give; or a notification of a beneficial interest is received. Grants, contribution, and conditional promises to give with a measurable performance or other barrier and a right of return are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been met. All revenues and contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor. Amounts received that are designated for future periods or restricted by the donor for specific purposes are reported as donor-restricted support that increases the net assets with donor restrictions class. However, if a restriction is fulfilled in the same period in which the contribution is received, the Trust and its Subsidiaries report the support as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions. The Trust and its Subsidiaries also report donor restricted contributions that were initially conditional as increases in net assets without donor restrictions if both the donor-imposed restriction and the condition are met in the same period. The Trust and its Subsidiaries has a similar policy for reporting gains and investment income that are limited to specific uses by donor-imposed restrictions and the restrictions on the gains and income are met in the same reporting period as the gains and income are recognized.

A portion of the Trust and its Subsidiaries' revenue is derived from cost-reimbursable federal and state contracts and grants, which are conditioned upon certain performance requirements and/or the incurrence of allowable qualifying expenses. Amounts received are recognized as revenue when the Trust and its Subsidiaries have incurred expenditures in compliance with specific contract or grant provisions. Amounts received prior to incurring qualifying expenditures are reported as refundable advances in the consolidated statements of financial position.

In-Kind contributions – Contributed nonfinancial assets include donated professional services, donated equipment, and other in-kind contributions which are recorded at the respective fair values of the goods or services received. There were no in-kind contributions during the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025.

Leases – The Trust and its Subsidiaries account for leases following the ASC Topic 842, *Leases.*

The Trust and its Subsidiaries determine if an arrangement is or contains a lease when it conveys the right to use of an identified asset for a period of time for consideration. The Trust and its Subsidiaries' assessment is based on: (i) whether the contract involves the use of a distinct identified asset, (ii) whether the Trust and its Subsidiaries obtained the right to substantially all the economic benefit from the use of the asset throughout the period, and (iii) whether the Trust and its Subsidiaries have the right to direct the use of the asset. The recognition of the right-of-use (ROU) asset and related liability at the commencement date are based on the present value of the lease payments over the lease term. The term of the lease may include options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that the Trust and its Subsidiaries will exercise the option. At the commencement of the lease, the Trust and its Subsidiaries classify the lease as either finance or operating lease. For operating leases, lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. For finance leases, lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset under the lease.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries have made an accounting policy election to account for lease and non-lease components in its contracts as a single lease component. In addition, the Trust and its Subsidiaries made an accounting policy election available under Topic 842 not to recognize ROU assets and lease liabilities for leases with a term of 12 months or less. For all other leases, ROU assets and lease liabilities are measured based on the present value of future lease payments over the lease term at the commencement date of the lease. The ROU assets also include any initial direct costs incurred and lease payments made at or before the commencement date and are reduced by any lease incentives. To determine the present value of lease payments, the Company made an accounting policy election available to non-public companies to utilize a risk-free borrowing rate, which is aligned with the lease term at the lease commencement date.

In addition, under Topic 842, lessors will only capitalize incremental direct leasing costs. As a result, the Trust and its Subsidiaries no longer capitalize non-incremental direct costs. These costs are expensed as incurred and are included within general and administrative expenses on the consolidated statements of activities.

Functional allocation of expenses and operational expenditures – The costs of providing the Trust and its Subsidiaries' programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the accompanying consolidated statements of activities. The consolidated statements of functional expenses present the natural classification detail of expenses by function. During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, certain costs have been allocated among the following programs and support activities:

- *Research and data*: includes expenses aimed to improve, analyze and/or strengthen the local research and development (R&D) infrastructure and the breadth of science and technology activity in Puerto Rico. It also includes support activities to strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Expenses within this function include: clinical trials, grants to support laboratory infrastructure, research grants, research institute and educational organization initiatives, grants to attract or retain distinguished researchers, studies to determine R&D, innovation, knowledge economy activity in the Island; and, salaries and professional services to support this area.

- *Public health initiative*: includes expenses incurred regarding the *Puerto Rico Public Health Trust*, an initiative established by the Trust and its Subsidiaries to act as Public Health Institute (PHI). Acting as a PHI, the Trust implements programs which aim is to improve public health capacity, systems and outcomes by fostering innovation, leveraging resources and building partnerships to improve the publics' health. Expenses within this function include: integrated vector management initiatives, farmers support, health-outcome-and-measures research and studies, and salaries and professional services to support this area.

- *Technology transfer and commercialization:* includes expenses incurred in initiatives to support technology transfer and commercialization and direct investments in technology development projects which have a clear commercialization aim. Expenses within this function include: intellectual property assistance, sponsorship, grants for technology developments; investment in technology commercialization accelerators and startup incubators, salaries and professional services to support this area.

- *Science City development*: includes non-capitalizable expenditures necessary for the on-going development and construction of sites at the Science City. These expenditures include salary and professional services to support this area, planning and assessment projects, security services to enable construction work, etc.

- *Management and administrative*: includes all administrative expenses incurred to support all functional areas as described above which are not directly allocable to any of them. These expenses include administrative staff salaries, accounting fees, depreciation and amortization, utilities, etc.

- *Fundraising*: includes expenses incurred in soliciting contributions, gifts, grants, etc. These expenses include publicizing and conducting fundraising campaigns, soliciting grants from foundations and government agencies, costs of participating in federated fundraising campaigns, preparing and distributing fundraising manuals, instructions and other materials. The Trust and its Subsidiaries did not engage in any fundraising activity during the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025.

Certain categories of expenses are attributed to more than one program or supporting function. Therefore, expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. The expenses that are allocated include mainly salaries, fringe benefits and payroll taxes, which are allocated on the basis of time and effort.

Income taxes – The Trust and its not-for-profit subsidiaries are exempt from Puerto Rico income taxes under the provisions of Act 214, as amended, and from federal taxes under the provisions of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

TCS obtained a 15-year tax exemption decree under Section 2061.01 of Act No. 60-2019 (the Act), as amended. Pursuant to Section 2062.01(a)(1) of the Act, and during the term of the decree, TCS is subject to a fixed income tax rate of four percent (4%) on its industrial development income (IDI) derived from the operations covered by the decree, in lieu of any other income tax rate; provided further, that the fixed income tax rate before mentioned will not be subject to base period income limitation of Section 2062.01(g) of the Act.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries follow the guidance for uncertainty in income taxes issued by the FASB. Management evaluated the Trust and its Subsidiaries' tax positions and concluded that the Trust and its Subsidiaries had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustments or disclosure in the consolidated financial statements.

All applicable tax returns have been appropriately filed by the Trust and its Subsidiaries. The Trust and its Subsidiaries' open audit periods are fiscal years ended June 30, 2022 to 2026.

Advertising and promotion – The Trust and its Subsidiaries charge to operations advertising and promotion costs as they are incurred. During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries incurred in advertising and promotion expenses of approximately $70,000 and $198,000 respectively.

Accounting pronouncements for future applicability – In July 2025, the FASB issued the ASU 2025-05, *Financial Instruments- Credit Losses (Topic 326) Measurement of Credit Losses for Accounts Receivable and Contract Assets.* The ASU 2025-05 provides *a)* all entities with a practical expedient and *b)* entities other than public business entities with an accounting policy election when estimating expected credit losses for current accounts receivable and current contract assets arising from transactions accounted for under Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers.* In developing reasonable and supportable forecasts as part of estimating expected credit losses, all entities may elect a practical expedient that assumes that current conditions as of the balance sheet date do not change for the remaining life of the asset. An entity other than a public business entity that elects the practical expedient is permitted to make an accounting policy election to consider collection activity after the balance sheet date when estimating expected credit losses. The ASU 2025-05 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2025.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries is currently evaluating the impact of this pronouncement on its financial statements.

2) Credit risks and uncertainties:

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the Trust and its Subsidiaries to concentration of credit risks, consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, due from governmental entities, investments and endowment fund.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries maintains its cash deposits in various financial institutions. The cash deposits, at times, may exceed the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) of $250,000 per financial institution or the amount protected by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) of $250,000 per brokerage firm. As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries' cash deposits exceeded the insured limits of FDIC and SIPC by approximately $11,328,000 and $11,162,000, respectively.

For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, grants and contributions from state and federal entities represent approximately 68% and 78%, respectively, out of total revenues. The balance due from these state and federal entities represents approximately 79% and 48%, respectively, of total accounts receivable.

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries maintain the investment in bond and the endowment fund aggregating approximately $58,851,000 and $52,140,000, respectively, with one (1) brokerage firm. Those balances are insured up to $500,000 by the SIPC, with a limit of $250,000 for cash. As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries have a risk exposure of approximately $58,353,000 and $51,640,000, respectively, not insured by the SIPC.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries' investments in private equity securities are subject to risks and uncertainties associated with privately held companies, including limited market liquidity and uncertainty in estimating fair value. Because the investments are not traded in an active market, its estimated fair value depends on the valuation techniques and assumptions applied. Changes in the financial condition, operating performance, and prospects of the investee, as well as market conditions, may affect the investments' future value. The amount ultimately realized upon the sale or disposition of these investments may differ from its reported carrying amounts.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries hold investments in SAFEs, which represent contractual rights to receive equity interests in privately held companies upon the occurrence of certain future events, as specified in the underlying agreements. These investments are subject to significant risks and uncertainties, including limited liquidity, the absence of readily available market quotations, and uncertainty regarding the timing and occurrence of events that may result in conversion into equity securities. The realization of these investments depends on the financial performance and future prospects of the underlying companies, as well as their ability to obtain additional financing or achieve other qualifying events. There can be no assurance that the specified conversion events will occur or that the Trust and its Subsidiaries will recover its initial investment. Consequently, the amounts ultimately realized may differ materially from the carrying amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position.

3) Liquidity and availability:

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, financial assets available for general expenses, that is, without donor restriction or other limiting their use, within one year of the financial position date, comprises the following:

Description	**2026**	2025
Cash and cash equivalents	**$ 12,327,619**	$ 11,997,155
Accounts receivable	**799,083**	701,964
Due from governmental entities	**3,245,841**	1,739,149
Investments	**3,781,252**	4,846,340
Endowment fund	**62,730,791**	55,645,117
Less amount not available to be used within one year:	**82,884,586**	74,929,725
Net assets with donor restrictions	**(5,915,438)**	(4,603,176)
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next twelve months	**$ 76,969,148**	$ 70,326,549

4) Investments:

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the carrying amounts of investments consisted of the following:

Description	2026	2025
Fixed income:		
Puerto Rico government bond	**$ 1,185,889**	$ 1,342,542
Private equity securities	**1,200,363**	1,868,798
SAFE investments	**1,395,000**	1,635,000
	$ 3,781,252	$ 4,846,340

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the cost and fair value of the investment in bond were as follows:

	2026	
Description	**Cost**	**Fair value**
Fixed income:		
Puerto Rico government bond	**$ 1,202,238**	**$ 1,185,889**

	2025	
Description	Cost	Fair value
Fixed income:		
Puerto Rico government bond	$ 1,394,297	$ 1,342,542

The changes in the carrying amounts of private equity securities and SAFE investments accounted for under the measurement alternative for the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, were as follows:

	2026		
Description	**Private equity securities**	**SAFE investments**	**Total**
Balance at July 1, 2025	**$ 1,868,798**	**$ 1,635,000**	**$ 3,503,798**
Conversion of SAFE investments to private equity securities	**25,000**	**(25,000)**	**-**
Impairment losses	**(693,435)**	**(40,000)**	**(733,435)**
Realized losses	**-**	**(175,000)**	**(175,000)**
Balance at June 30, 2026	**$ 1,200,363**	**$ 1,395,000**	**$ 2,595,363**

Description	2025 Private equity securities	2025 SAFE investments	2025 Total
Balance at July 1, 2024	$ 1,798,807	$ 1,080,000	$ 2,878,807
Purchases	69,991	575,000	644,991
Realized losses	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Balance at June 30, 2025	$ 1,868,798	$ 1,635,000	$ 3,503,798

During the year ended June 30, 2026, the Trust and its Subsidiaries recognized impairment losses of $693,435 and $40,000 related to private equity securities and SAFE investments, respectively. These impairment losses were determined based on fair value measurements and were recognized in net investment return (loss) in the accompanying consolidated statements of activities.

5) Fair value measurement:

For certain of the Trust and its Subsidiaries' financial instruments, including cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, the carrying amounts approximate fair market value due to their short-term maturities.

Below is a description of the methodology used for instruments recognized at fair value, including the classification of such transactions in accordance with the valuation hierarchy.

Puerto Rico government bond – The fair value of this bond is obtained from third party pricing service providers that use a pricing methodology based on an active exchange market and quoted market prices for similar securities. The bond is measured at fair value on a recurring basis.

Private equity securities and SAFE investments – The objective of these investments is to achieve current income by providing debt and equity financing alternatives to targeted privately-held companies that are mostly organized or engaged in trade or business in Puerto Rico. These investments in private equity securities and SAFE investments are accounted for using the measurement alternative prescribed by ASC 321-10-35-2. These investments are not measured at fair value on a recurring basis.

The following tables present the investment measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2026 and 2025:

Description	**2026 Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Fixed income:				
Puerto Rico government bond	**$ -**	**$ 1,185,889**	**$ -**	**$ 1,185,889**

	2025			
Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Fixed income:				
Puerto Rico government bond	$ -	$ 1,342,542	$ -	$ 1,342,542

During the year ended June 30, 2026, the Organization recognized impairment losses related to its private equity securities and SAFE investments. Accordingly, the affected investments were measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis.

The following table summarizes the fair value measurements of investments subject to nonrecurring remeasurement during the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025:

	2026			
Description	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Private equity securities	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 1,200,363**	**$ 1,200,363**
SAFE investments	**-**	**-**	**1,395,000**	**1,395,000**
	$ -	**$ -**	**$ 2,595,363**	**$ 2,595,363**

	2025			
Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Private equity securities	$ -	$ -	$ 1,868,798	$ 1,868,798
SAFE investments	-	-	1,635,000	1,635,000
	$ -	$ -	$ 3,503,798	$ 3,503,798

The fair values of private equity securities and SAFE investments measured on a nonrecurring basis were estimated using available financial information and management's assessment of the financial condition of the underlying investees.

The fair value measurements of private equity securities were based on available valuation information for a portion of the underlying equity interests, together with management's assessment of the investees' financial condition, including their liquidity and solvency.

The fair value measurements of SAFE investments were based on management's assessment of the financial condition of the underlying issuers, primarily considering available information regarding their liquidity and solvency.

6) Notes receivable:

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust is the holder of the following promissory notes:

Description	2026	2025
5% interest bearing promissory note, due in December 2024. The note is reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**$ 25,000**	$ 25,000
5% interest bearing promissory notes, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuers. The notes were due in December 2023 and are reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**59,375**	59,375
5% interest bearing promissory notes, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuers. The notes were due in August 2022 and are reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**175,000**	175,000
5.25% interest bearing promissory note, due on June 30, 2024. The note is reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**74,329**	74,329
5% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was due in December 2024 and a formal extension to December 2026 is currently in progress.	**25,000**	25,000
3% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was due in December 2023 and is reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**75,000**	75,000
7% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was due in December 2023 and it was collected during the year ended June 30, 2026.	**-**	24,641
10% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was due in August 2022 and is reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**50,000**	50,000
5% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was due in January 2021 and is reserved in the allowance for credit losses.	**75,000**	75,000
7% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was originally due in February 2026 and it was extended to July 2027.	**35,000**	35,000
10% interest bearing promissory note, convertible to shares of common stock of the issuer. The note was originally due in February 2026 and it was extended to July 2027.	**50,000**	50,000
	643,704	668,345
Less: Allowance for credit losses	**(533,704)**	(524,329)
	$ 110,000	$ 144,016

7) Endowment fund:

During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Trust and its Subsidiaries established an investment fund that has a perpetual investment horizon and is tax exempt. Its main purpose is to provide for long-term sustainable growth, while addressing any current operational expenses and those public financial responsibilities established by applicable law, rules and regulations.

The endowment fund includes funds designated by the Board of Trustees to function as endowments, including reserves created by the Trust and its Subsidiaries to assist in assuring its sustainability and its projects into perpetuity. The endowment fund might be nurtured as well of donations from individuals, private corporations and the U.S. government. Net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the Board of Trustees to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Trust and its Subsidiaries have adopted an investment policy for endowment assets, as approved by the Board of Trustees, that attempts to provide a predictable stream of funding while seeking to maintain their purchasing power. Under this policy, total investments' return should exceed the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index plus 3%, net of fees, expenses and taxes. This objective should be achieved in such a manner that the fund is protected from unwarranted market risk. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount. To satisfy its long-term rate-of-return objectives, the Trust and its Subsidiaries rely on a total return strategy in which investments' return is achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Trust and its Subsidiaries targets a diversified asset allocation and provides its managers appropriate guidelines to achieve its long-term objective within prudent risk constraints. The preferred asset mix, expressed in lower-upper limits, is: 10%-70% global equities, 10%-40% global fixed income, 0%-25% alternative investments and 0%-5% cash and cash equivalents.

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the endowment fund is presented in the net assets without donor restrictions as designated by the Board of Trustees. Changes in the endowment fund for the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, consisted of the following:

Description	**2026**	2025
Endowment fund at beginning of year	**$ 55,645,117**	$ 51,837,920
Investment return:		
Investment income, net	**1,139,887**	1,034,833
Net appreciation	**5,945,787**	2,580,058
Total investment return	**7,085,674**	3,614,891
Contributions	**-**	192,306
Endowment fund at end of year	**$ 62,730,791**	$ 55,645,117

8) Property and equipment:

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, property and equipment consisted of the following:

Description	June 30, 2026 Cost	Accumulated depreciation and amortization	Book value
Furniture and fixtures	**$ 788,215**	**$ 494,598**	**$ 293,617**
Computer and equipment	**8,684,198**	**6,991,371**	**1,692,827**
Leasehold improvements	**829,068**	**829,068**	**-**
Vehicle	**59,025**	**55,439**	**3,586**
	$ 10,360,506	**$ 8,370,476**	**$ 1,990,030**

Description	June 30, 2025 Cost	Accumulated depreciation and amortization	Book value
Furniture and fixtures	$ 755,087	$ 366,536	$ 388,551
Computer and equipment	8,662,963	5,631,604	3,031,359
Leasehold improvements	829,068	828,427	641
Vehicle	59,025	51,519	7,506
	$ 10,306,143	$ 6,878,086	$ 3,428,057

9) Building:

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, building consisted of the following:

Description	2026	2025
Innovation Center Building - A three-story building that houses the Trust's headquarters and provides space for both, the incubation of local hi-tech startups and strategic service providers, creating a synergistic effect to accelerate the commercialization of technologies.	**$ 4,824,988**	$ 4,698,359
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board's Laboratory - Building that houses the laboratory facilities of the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board and the laboratory facilities of the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit.	**3,694,428**	3,694,428

Continues…

Description	2026	2025
…Continued		
Forward Center Building - A three-story building partially funded by EDA grant. In connection with the EDA grant-imposed restrictions, the property shall only be used to provide space to high-technology ventures to conduct research and development and manufacturing activity for a period of 20 years from the date of its completion.	**9,429,617**	9,419,867
	17,949,033	17,812,654
Less: Accumulated depreciation	**(2,825,986)**	(2,315,286)
	$ 15,123,047	$ 15,497,368

10) Land and property for research, development and infrastructure project related to science and technology:

On October 22, 2007, the Trust received prime real estate in the metropolitan area of San Juan, which includes the former Río Piedras Correctional Facilities (Oso Blanco State Penitentiary). The land and property were valued based on a market appraisal opinion report, dated October 20, 2008.

As established by Act 214, as amended, the Trust and its Subsidiaries plan to develop the land of Oso Blanco State Penitentiary site into a research park, which combines residential, retail, educational, and civic facilities with laboratory and research and development facilities with the purpose of facilitating the development of infrastructure favorable to the research and development of science and technology. Costs related to the design, development and improvements of the campus are capitalized as incurred.

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the land was restricted by donor for research, development and infrastructure project related to science and technology.

11) Construction in progress - Science City:

The Trust and its Subsidiaries' main infrastructure-related initiative is the Science City, located in a 69-acre mixed-use land located in San Juan, in a dense concentration of hospitals, universities, and other science and technology resources. The aim for the development of the Science City is to strengthen Puerto Rico's research infrastructure and enable its use as a tool to develop, attract, and retain a vibrant research ecosystem.

Since the year ended June 30, 2016, the Trust and its Subsidiaries are executing a plan of action with the ultimate goal of facilitating such an innovation ecosystem, including the identification of a Master Development Partner (MDP) to lease, finance, develop, and manage the Science City project. To facilitate the identification and attraction of a MDP, the Trust and its Subsidiaries have invested approximately $11,150,000 in critical infrastructure comprised of the construction of the Laboratory Road and major improvements for the interconnection of Highway 21 and 28 to the Science City. These projects will be further developed and finalized after the identification of the MDP.

12) Net assets:

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, net assets with donor restrictions are as follows:

Description	2026	2025
Purpose restrictions:		
University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Centenary Fund	**$ 4,574,081**	$ 4,326,007
Forward Center	**5,258,971**	5,423,314
Puerto Rico Dept. of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) Tech Lab program	**817,702**	-
Other private initiatives	**523,655**	277,172
	11,174,409	10,026,493
Perpetual in nature:		
Land and property for research, development and infrastructure project related to science and technology	**18,100,307**	18,100,307
	$ 29,274,716	$ 28,126,800

During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses that satisfy the restricted purpose or by occurrence of the passage of time or other events specified by the donors, as follows:

Description	2026	2025
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions:		
Forward Center	**$ 164,343**	$ 164,343
Puerto Rico Dept. of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) Tech Lab program	**618,898**	-
Other private initiatives	**370,342**	241,897
	$ 1,153,583	$ 406,240

13) Rental income:

The Trust and its Subsidiaries lease building spaces under operating lease agreements. The lease agreements are for periods of one year with a renewal option for an additional year on a month-to-month basis.

In October 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries entered into a fifteen (15) year commercial lease agreement for a building at Science City. The lease agreement calls for monthly rental payments of approximately $3,800, with a nine (9) month rent-free grace up to July 2026. Pursuant to the lease agreement, the rent increases 3% every five (5) years. The lessee has a preferential option to renew for an additional fifteen (15) years.

In addition, the Trust and its Subsidiaries lease a facility under an agreement expiring on September 30, 2026. The lease agreement calls for monthly rental payments of approximately $24,000.

Future minimum lease collections for the remaining non-cancellable term of these agreements subsequent to June 30, 2026, are as follows:

Year ending June 30,	Amount
2027	$ 113,800
2028	45,600
2029	45,600
2030	45,600
2031	46,512
Thereafter	445,413
	$ 742,525

For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, revenues from rental agreements amounted to approximately $648,000 and $322,000, respectively.

14) Leases:

The Trust and its Subsidiaries lease an office space located in Ponce, Puerto Rico, under an operating lease agreement, which expired in December 2025. The agreement called for monthly rental payments of $7,500. On December 16, 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries signed an amendment to extend the term of the agreement for an additional five (5) year period ending on December 31, 2030. The new agreement calls for monthly rental payments of approximately $8,600.

In addition, the Trust and its Subsidiaries lease four (4) office spaces located in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, under an operating lease agreement for a five (5) year term ending on July 31, 2030. The agreement calls for quarterly rental payments of approximately $6,000.

For the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, the components of the lease cost were as follows:

Description	Financial Statements Classification	**2026**	2025
Operating lease cost	Program services-Public health initiative	**$ 96,750**	$ 90,000
Operating lease cost	Management and administrative	**24,000**	-
		$ 120,750	$ 90,000

As of June 30, 2026 and 2025, the weighted average remaining lease term and discount rate for the Trust and its Subsidiaries' operating lease were as follows:

Description	**2026**	2025
Weighted-average remaining lease term in years	**4.29**	.5
Weighted-average discount rate	**3.75%**	3.5%

As of June 30, 2026, maturities of lease liabilities for the operating leases are as follows:

Year ending June 30,	Amount
2027	$ 127,500
2028	127,500
2029	127,500
2030	127,500
2031	51,750
	561,750
Less: Imputed interest	(44,971)
Present value of lease liabilities	$ 516,779

15) Retirement plan:

The Trust and its Subsidiaries have established a defined contribution retirement plan (the Plan) that covers all full-time employees who have reached 21 years of age, without requiring eligibility service requirements. Under the Plan, participants may contribute an amount not exceeding $15,000 per year. The Trust and its Subsidiaries is not required to make matching contributions but reserves its right to start making matching contributions based on a maximum of 3% out of each dollar contributed by the employee, up to 10% of compensation. The Trust and its Subsidiaries may contribute a discretionary amount in addition to the matching contribution for all eligible participants. Amounts contributed by the Trust and its Subsidiaries are 100% vested after an employee completes one (1) year of service. Total contributions made by the Trust and its Subsidiaries during the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, amounted to approximately $267,000 and $302,000, respectively.

16) Commitments:

The Trust has entered in certain commitments to invest in various private equity funds. These commitments and the investment as of June 30, 2026, are as follows:

Entity	Commitment	Investment
Semillero Investment Fund I, LLC	$ 500,000	$ 499,620
Semillero Investment Fund II, LLC	1,000,000	638,143
Bluhaus Small Business Fund, L.P.	250,000	187,500
Grupo Guayacán, Inc.	1,000,000	435,612
Sana Capital Fund I, L.P.	2,000,000	-
Bluhaus Small Business Fund II, LP	250,000	-
	$ 5,000,000	$ 1,760,875

17) Contingencies:

The Trust and its Subsidiaries, in its ordinary course of business, is a party to certain legal claims. Management, after consulting with its legal counsel, is of the opinion that the ultimate outcome or settlement of these claims, if any, will not have a material impact in the Trust and its Subsidiaries' financial position and result of operations.

18) Supplemental disclosures for the statements of cash flows:

A) Non-cash from investing and financing transactions – During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, non-cash investing and financing activities consist of the following:

Description	2026	2025
SAFE investments converted in private equity equity securities	**$ 25,000**	$ -
Right-of-use asset obtained in exchange for lease liabilities	**$ 580,229**	$ -
Retirement of property and equipment:		
Cost	**$ 22,740**	$ -
Accumulated depreciation	**$ 22,740**	$ -

B) Other cash flows information – During the years ended June 30, 2026 and 2025, the Trust and its Subsidiaries make no interest payments.

19) Subsequent events:

In September 2026, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, awarded the Trust a grant of approximately $8,587,000 under the TRIO Talent Search Program to implement a project titled *Talento Boricua: Puerto Rico Talent Search Program*. The award has a period of performance from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2031, with an initial budget period ending September 30, 2027.

Subsequent events were evaluated through November 4, 2026, the date on which consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

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