



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust



Oso Blanco's
Historical Remnants

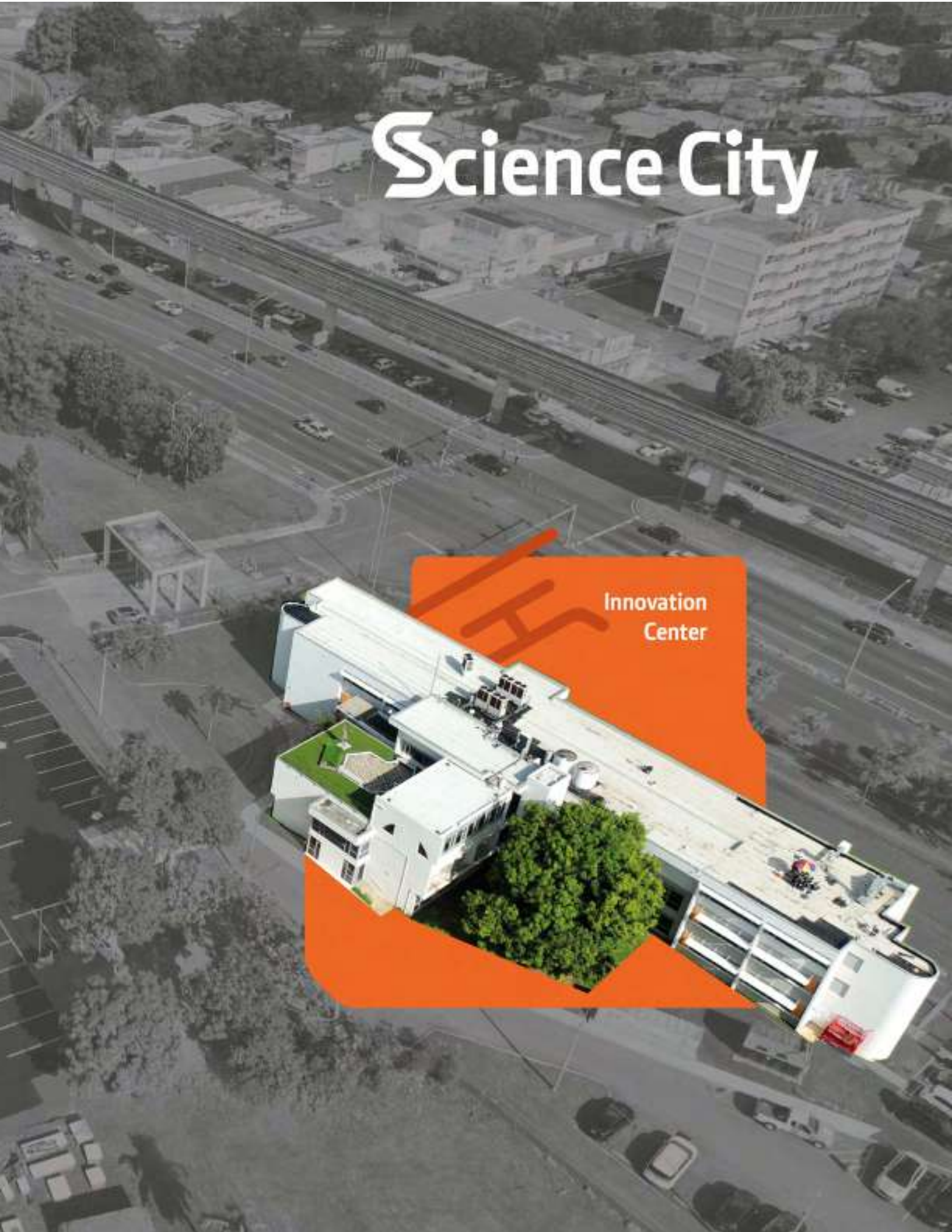
Forward Center

Environmental
Research
Laboratory



Science City

Innovation
Center





Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

MISSION

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

VISION

Puerto Rico is a globally recognized innovation hub.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Be a facilitator
- Desire to Innovate
- Entrepreneur Spirit
- Optimism / Respect
- Collaboration
- Be a Facilitator
- Accountability
- Leadership / Adaptability
- Customer-Centric
- Accomplishments & Results
- Commitment

Who We Are

We are a non-profit organization created in 2004 to encourage participation, job creation, investment and financing of research & development and technology.



STRATEGIC PILLARS & PROGRAMS

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



RESEARCH GRANTS
funds to grow



**TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER OFFICE**



**Caribbean Center
for Rising Seas**



**CENTER FOR TROPICAL
BIODIVERSITY**
A program of Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust



**PRSTRT
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Colmena66
Tu Camino Empresarial



parallel¹⁸



**SBIR/STTR
Federal Grants**

PUBLIC HEALTH



**Puerto Rico
Public Health Trust**



**Puerto Rico Vector
Control Unit**



PRCCI

Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation
CLINICAL RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

EDUCATION



**STEM EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



**PR RESEARCH
& INNOVATION**
Meet-ups

Science City



Ing. Luz A. Crespo
Principal Oficial Ejecutiva

TO OUR COLLABORATORS

Greeting and welcome to the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, a private nonprofit organization created by law in 2004, to encourage and promote the innovation, transfer and commercialization of technology and creation of jobs in the technology sector.

Our esteemed Board of Trustees, management team, associates and partners demonstrate unwavering creativity, innovation, and commitment. Together, we are diligently working towards continuing to position Puerto Rico as a distinguished global innovation hub.

Thank you for collaboration as we collectively strive for excellence in advancing technology, research, and the economic landscape of Puerto Rico.





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



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Daniel Colón Ramos, Ph.D



Edith Pérez, MD



Esther Alegría, Ph.D



Felix Negrón



Frances Santiago-Schwartz, Ph.D.



Gualberto Medina



Michael Caligiuri, MD



Sebastián Negrón



Ubaldo Córdova, Ph.D



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

EXECUTIVE TEAM



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Human Resources Director
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Eng. Luis Nieves, PE, PMB,
Chief Facilities Management Officer

COMPLIANCE TEAM

Our organization enforces a compliance culture to enable success.



Sylvia López Jorge, CPA
Chief Compliance Officer



Mitzy González, Ph.D
HIPAA Compliance Officer



Wilfredo E. De Jesús-Monge, MD, MSc
Chief Medical Officer, Puerto Rico Science,
Technology & Research Trust (PRSTRT)
Clinical Research Director, Puerto Rico
Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI)



Key Programs Directors & Managers

Research



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.



Andreica Maldonado
Program director
amaldonado@prsciencetrust.org

Andreica Maldonado leads the Research Grants Program, a local initiative supporting science and technology projects. Since 2014, the program has awarded 134 grants totaling ~\$14.7M, yielding a ROI of \$43.3M+. Part of the Puerto Rico Science Technology and Research Trust, Andreica serves as a liaison between the scientific community, government officials, and stakeholders. She also spearheads the BEACON initiative, organizes key events like the Forward Research Symposium and Innovation Summit, and initiated the COVID-19 RAPID Grant during the pandemic. Currently, she leads the Advanced Research Grant - Space Edition for bioscience microgravity research. Prior to this role, Andreica held a startup executive position at Parallel18, an international innovation hub in Puerto Rico. Passionate about community, human service, and multiculturalism, she is dedicated to entrepreneurship, innovation, science, and challenging the status quo.



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
dgulley@prsciencetrust.org

Dr. Gulley's distinguished career spans nearly 30 years in spearheading technology-based economic development. For 25 years, he provided strategic leadership to the University of Illinois system and its Chicago Campus, holding roles as Associate Vice President and Assistant Vice Chancellor. In these capacities, he led academic-industry collaborations, directed technology transfer efforts, managed incubation programs, and initiated research park endeavors.

From 2012 to 2015, Dr. Gulley played a pivotal role in establishing 20 technology transfer offices at universities in Chile. His educational background includes undergraduate and graduate degrees from Southern Illinois University and Virginia Tech. Furthermore, he holds the esteemed titles of Certified Licensing Professional (CPL) and Registered Technology Transfer Professional (RTTP).



The program helps prepare Puerto Rico and the Caribbean to adapt and thrive in the new era of increasing flood risk from storms, tides, and sea level rise. This program will further establish Puerto Rico's leadership and stature as a center of excellence and innovation. The comparable safety and wellbeing afforded by Puerto Rico's topographic elevation and geologic attributes will become a reference point for other small island nations. The Center works to develop the knowledge and best practices so that buildings and infrastructure are designed and constructed to be resilient to traditional hurricanes, as well as accelerating sea-level rise this century resulting from climate change.



Fernando Pabón Rico, AIA, CAAPPR
Program director
fpabon@prsciencetrust.org

Pabón Rico, a licensed architect trained at Syracuse University, holds a master's degree in urbanism from a European consortium of universities in Leuven, Delft, Venice, and Barcelona. With over 15 years of experience in education, research, and design, he brings his expertise to the Caribbean Center for Rising Seas. Focused on ethically responsible solutions to urban pressure and investment, particularly in areas vulnerable to sea level rise, Pabón emphasizes resilience and adaptation. Recognized in 2021 with an honorable mention at the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Biennial in Puerto Rico, and in 2022 with the Héctor R. Arce Quintero Prize for significant contributions promoting responsible urbanism through education, research, and publications. Pabón actively shares urban design ideas in various media outlets and is a dedicated member of the American Institute of Architects, the Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico, and Docomomo Puerto Rico.

Research



Established in 2015, our 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, Ph.D
Program Director
abaerga@prsciencetrust.org

Dr. Baerga serves as the Acting Director of the Puerto Rico Center for Tropical Biodiversity and Bioprospecting and holds the position of Associate Professor of Biochemistry at UPR-MSC. In this role, he conducts graduate courses on protein structure and enzymology while overseeing a research group engaged in funded projects related to enzyme discovery/evolution and the development of production methods for HIV glycoproteins as vaccines.

His educational journey includes a BA in Chemistry from UPR, a PhD in Chemistry and Biochemistry from the University of California, San Diego. Additionally, Dr. Baerga was a Royal Society Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.



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, Ph.D
Program Director
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Dr. Lopez, a skilled biochemist and molecular biologist from Humacao, Puerto Rico, holds key roles as the founding director of the Research Institute at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust, research manager at the Puerto Rico Public Health Trust, and assistant professor of Chemistry at the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao. Leading the Puerto Rico COVID-19 Variant Surveillance Initiative, he focuses on genomic surveillance for the Puerto Rico Department of Health. With a BS in Industrial Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Dr. Lopez's impactful journey includes postdoctoral work at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he conducted groundbreaking research in molecular biophysics and cancer biology. His prolific contributions to science include over 40 publications and seven issued patents, highlighting his pioneering work in cancer biology, mitochondrial metabolism, and redox cell regulation. Currently, as an investigator in the National Cancer Institute's Serological Sciences Network, he's unraveling COVID-19 immune responses. Dr. Lopez's expertise extends to editorial boards, NIH study sections, and advisory roles for various organizations.

Entrepreneurship



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.



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.

parallel¹⁸

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 and technology through three main curriculums: pre18, p18 and Xpand.



Denisse Rodríguez
Executive Director
drodriguez@colmena66.com

Denisse Rodríguez brings a wealth of experience to her role. Previously, she served as a Program Manager at the Foundation for Puerto Rico, where her responsibilities included being the Deputy Fiscal Agent for the Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico. Additionally, she held the position of Executive Director at the José M. Berrocal Institute for Economics and Finance.

Denisse's background extends to the finance sector, having worked at Goldman Sachs' Investment Banking Division in New York. She holds a BA degree in Finance and Marketing with honors from the University of Puerto Rico. Beyond her professional achievements, Denisse is actively engaged in volunteer work as a Kiva Fellow and has earned recognition from the World Economic Forum as a Global Shaper.



Bárbara Rivera Chinea
Executive Director
brivera@prsciencetrust.org

Bárbara served as a Procurement Specialist at the Federal Contracting Center (FeCC) within the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO), in a nationwide Department of Defense funded program. In this role, she acted as a liaison between federal business opportunities and the small business community. Bárbara actively provided guidance on federal compliance, regulations, certifications, and marketing strategies, offering specialized training to enhance local capabilities and increase federal contract awards in Puerto Rico. From 2014 to 2025, she held the role of Program Manager, overseeing all administrative and performance aspects of the FeCC team. Bárbara holds a bachelor's degree in marketing/business administration from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, and is a Level III – Certified Contracting Assistance Specialist accredited by the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Center.



Héctor Jirau, Ph.D
Executive Director at parallel18
hector@parallel18.com

Dr. Héctor Jirau holds a B.S. in Cell & Molecular Biology, an M.S. in Financial Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. He has been nominated and received numerous awards and recognition from federal institutions, holding a fellowship grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for four consecutive years. Dr. Jirau worked as a financial advisor at a state-registered investment advisory firm offering separately managed accounts services in healthcare. He has served as an Associate at Unity Growth Fund, a private equity firm, leading their investor relations and investment due diligence efforts for their Pre-IPO and early-stage investments in highly vetted companies like SpaceX, Thrasis, Stripe and Klarna. He also served as the investment fund manager, Director of Operations, and Investments and today as the Executive Director of parallel18, a renowned global startup accelerator. Dr. Jirau holds ownership in early-stage companies in different sectors and maintains active participation in numerous ventures in the healthcare sector.

Public Health



Puerto Rico Public Health Trust

The PRPHT, 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 communities of Puerto Rico.



Marianyoly Ortiz, Ph.D
Executive Director
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Dr. Marianyoly Ortiz-Ortiz serves as the Executive Director of the P.R. Public Health Trust, spearheading evidence-based public health initiatives in Puerto Rico. Her prior roles include serving as the Associate Director for the P.R. Vector Control Unit, where she supervised entomology labs, surveillance systems, and educational campaigns. Dr. Ortiz brings extensive experience in grant management and has actively collaborated in programs like the Center of Biodiversity and PR Innovation Meet-ups. A dedicated professional, she is an active member of the Puerto Rico Society for Microbiology and holds a position on the Board of Directors for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Caribbean Division. Dr. Ortiz earned her bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico and holds a Doctorate in Environmental Sciences and Microbiology from the University of Arizona.



Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit

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



Grayson Brown, Ph.D
Executive Director
gbrown@prvcu.org

Dr. Brown, a globally recognized public health entomologist, boasts over 40 years of active engagement in his field. Throughout his distinguished career, he has focused on researching and implementing vector management programs for municipalities and government agencies worldwide. With a portfolio comprising more than 120 refereed publications, numerous research and development grants, and a commendable record of mentoring graduate students (both MS and PhD) and post-scholars, Dr. Brown is celebrated for his significant contributions. Dr. Brown has conducted impactful work at various stages of his career in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America. His wealth of experience includes serving as the Chief Public Health Entomologist for the Pacific Island Health Officers Association in Guam, underscoring his commitment to global public health efforts.



Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation
CLINICAL RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

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



Amarilys Silva, DPharm.
Executive Director
Amarilys.silva@prcci.org

Dr. Silva is a distinguished leader in the pharmaceutical industry, boasting a robust career in Clinical Research, Medical Affairs, Pharmacovigilance, Outcomes Research, Compliance, and Regulatory Affairs. With a track record spanning over twenty-six (26) countries across five (5) global regions, she has successfully led cross-functional teams in various therapeutic areas, including, but not limited to, Neurosciences, Diabetes, Oncology, Immunology, Endocrinology, and Neurodegenerative Vaccines. She brings extensive experience in managing regulatory inspections from both US and international agencies, coupled with a strong background in managerial roles. Her multifaceted expertise positions her as a seasoned professional with a global perspective in the pharmaceutical landscape.

Education



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.



Frances Zenón Menéndez, PhD
Directora de Stem Education

She holds a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao and a Ph.D. in Microbiology with a specialization in HIV Virology and Neuropathogenesis from the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. She has served as a professor and director of academic programs at several universities and is currently the Associate Director of the STEM Education and Workforce Development Program at the Trust.

Under her leadership, programs have been implemented to engage students in areas such as programming, electrical engineering, aeronautics, robotics, artificial intelligence and virtual reality. As a liaison with the Puerto Rico Department of Education, Dr. Zenón Meléndez is responsible for ensuring the continuity of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education initiatives on the island, regardless of political or administrative changes.

She is also a strong advocate for the inclusion of more women in STEM disciplines, focusing on providing them with the skills and confidence to excel in these professions. Her work has contributed to the increase of female participation in STEM in Puerto Rico, a commitment she continues to strengthen through educational and mentoring programs.

Ms. Zenon is the director of the STEM Education Program. She obtained her PhD in Microbiology with a concentration in Virology in 2014 from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus.



PR RESEARCH
& INNOVATION
Meet-ups

The program is dedicated to constructing thriving communities within the knowledge economy, where diversity and creativity serve as the cornerstones for both social and economic prosperity. The overarching goal is to cultivate meaningful multisectoral dialogues that pave the way for innovative solutions, contributing to enhanced citizen well-being and sustainable economic development.



Ricardo Burgos
Program Director
rburgos@prsciencetrust.org

Ricardo Burgos is a multidisciplinary entrepreneur and innovation consultant with over 30 years of experience. As director of the "Puerto Rico Research & Innovation Meetups" he leads initiatives to map the knowledge economy in Puerto Rico, propelling special projects in diverse topics such as food security, B corporation development, space economy, among others. He also leads special projects for the CEO's office of the PRSTRT. As a business leader, he directs the consulting firm Espacio Conector, where he works as an innovation agent to help companies improve their innovation capacity and create new growth opportunities. Furthermore, he also acts as co-founder of the platform Puerto Rico Creativo, Agro Imperative and serves as the treasurer of the board of directors for Taller Comunidad La Goyco Inc. and is a member of the Advisory Board of Colmena66.



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

RESEARCH



RESEARCH GRANTS
funds to grow

WE EMPOWER SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS TO TAKE PUERTO RICO'S KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE

WHAT WE DO

The **Research Grants Program** is a structured, systematic, and open source of competitive funding mechanisms to support the development of science and technology research projects in Puerto Rico.

OUR WORK

134

research grants awarded
since its foundation

\$14.7M

million in
total investment

\$43.3M

million return
of investment

This results in a strong knowledge economy, fuels multisectoral innovation, and enables Puerto Rican scientists and entrepreneurs.



FUNDING MECHANISMS

WE EXPAND THE CAPACITY THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM OF PUERTO RICO.



**ADVANCED RESEARCH
GRANTS PROGRAM**

Awards up to
\$150k

Solicited funding mechanism for advancing local science and technology projects toward alternate sources of funding and/or commercialization.

prsciencetrust.org/advanced



**CATALYZER RESEARCH
GRANTS PROGRAM**

Awards up to
\$70k

Enhances the competitiveness of Puerto Rico's researchers by providing critical bridge funding to help them improve their primary research results, address R&D grant review feedback to strengthen their position, and secure resources such as reagents, laboratory materials, collaborations, and technical training for their project goals.

prsciencetrust.org/catalyzer-rgp



**SBIR/STTR
Federal Grants**

Phase I up to
\$100k Phase II up to
\$200k

Provides 1-to-1 matching funds for SBIR/STTR Phase I & II proposals, promoting and enhancing research commercialization.

prsciencetrust.org/sbir-sttr



Puerto Rico y España
Subvención para proyectos colaborativos en innovación tecnológica

Awards up to
\$75k/year

This call will facilitate the selection and funding of R&D projects through effective collaboration between a Puerto Rican entity (research center, university, or company) and a Spanish company.

prsciencetrust.org/cdti

BEACON

BEACON is a centralized platform that collects, displays, analyzes, and reports on all academic activity taking place on the island. It allows researchers to publish their profile, connect with public and private academic institutions, researchers, companies and/or potential investors.

Learn more: prsciencetrust.org/beaconplatform



AGILE

Enhances agility in project application and execution processes for projects funded by foundations, public, private, or federal entities, strengthening their ability to secure future funding. The program aims to develop a new generation of Grant Managers and Research Administrators through education, capacity building, community engagement, and other activities.

Learn more: prsciencetrust.org/agile

ARE YOU IN THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SECTOR? LET'S CONNECT!

A program of the:



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CONNECTING SCIENCE TO BUSINESS

WHO WE ARE

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is helping to make Puerto Rico a global leader in innovation. Through our resources and partnerships, we 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.

WHAT WE DO

TTO helps researchers take their ideas and discoveries out of the lab and into the real world, where it impacts people in their everyday lives. The office also helps protect the researchers' ideas through intellectual property and serves as a bridge between researchers and entrepreneurs. Our portfolio of technologies consists of inventions and intellectual property from our university partners, reflecting discoveries in Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering.



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

OUR INITIATIVES

XLERATOR NETWORK

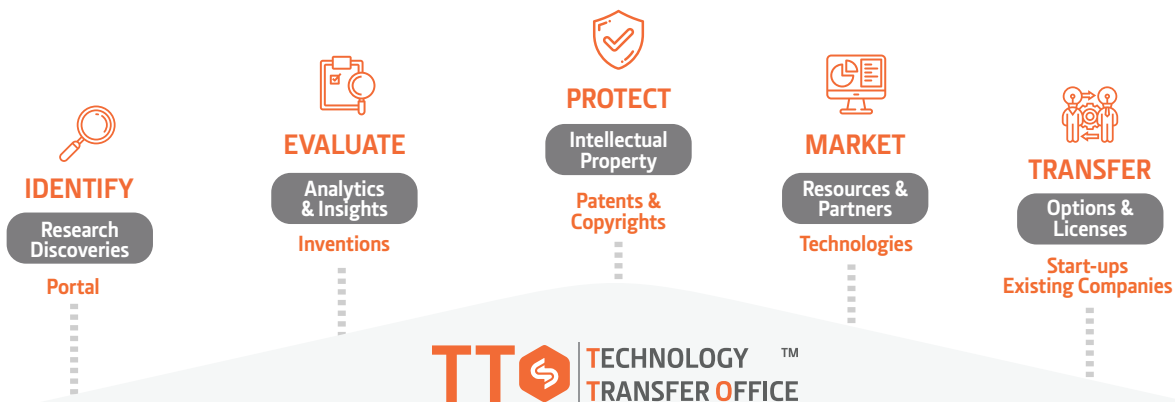
Supported by NIH - Offers resources for biomedical researchers interested in bringing promising technologies from the lab to the marketplace.

ENTRUST BOOTCAMP

A Life Science "Lab to Market" bootcamp offered in conjunction with Columbia University. The 12-week course exposes academic researchers to key aspects of drug development, design, and commercialization.

NSF DEVELOPMENT AWARD TO TTO

The award named "Advancing Biopharmaceutical Technologies and Manufacturing Practices (PR)" was granted through the NSF Regional Innovation Engines program and aims to help revamp the global supply chain for medicines to make it more reliable and demand-based as part of a sustainable National Security strategy.







LET'S CONNECT TO ACCELERATE RESEARCH INTO COMMERCIAL SUCCESS!

A program of the:



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
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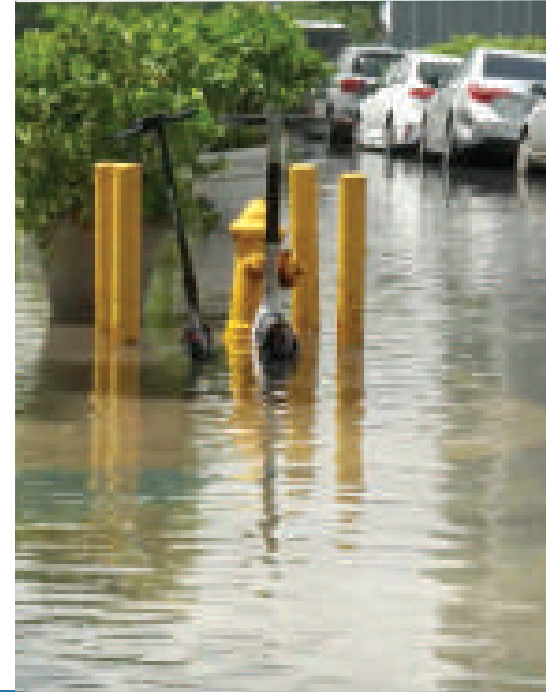
SEA LEVEL RISE HAS PASSED A TIPPING POINT, and flooding is getting worse in coastal communities all over the world.

OUR FOCUS




The Center's focus is on "resiliency + adaptation": providing education, outreach, and promoting design guidelines and best practices for the built environment to better prepare communities for increased flooding.

OUR MISSION

Prepare Puerto Rico and the Caribbean to adapt and thrive in the new era of increasing flood risk from storms, tides, and sea level rise.



DID YOU KNOW?

-  During hurricanes and severe storms, even a few inches of higher sea level can cause flood water to enter buildings and cause major damage to infrastructure.
-  In the last 100 years, sea level rose one foot (1'). It is expected to rise another foot in just thirty (30) years.
-  We need to prepare for as much as seven feet higher by end of the century.

AREAS OF FOCUS:



Create Safe
Advanced Flood
Estimates (SAFE™)



Establish a policy center
for smart building codes
and zoning



Work with
built-environment
professions



Promote
100-year flood
safe communities

SUSCRÍBETE PARA ENTENDER, PLANIFICAR Y CREAR UN MEJOR FUTURO JUNTOS.





EXPLORING NATURE'S TREASURE: PUERTO RICO CENTER FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY

OUR APPROACH

Conservation efforts and exploration of Puerto Rico's unique geography in search of scientific, social, or economic benefits. Development of curated collections of biological specimens, the conservation of biodiversity resources, and the commercialization of biodiversity-derived products.

OUR MISSION

To facilitate high-impact research in the areas of biodiversity and natural products. To encourage more projects aimed at observing and cataloging Puerto Rico's rich biodiversity with the goal of understanding how organisms interact with their environment.



STRATEGY AND GOALS

- A legal framework to protect biodiversity resources and the sharing of any benefits arising from biodiversity.
- A strategy for the establishment of a searchable, curated collection of either biological specimens or environmental genomic data.
- A database to enable the sharing of such information on biological/data collections.
- The identification of existing bio-prospecting initiatives with high probabilities of commercial advancement.
- The establishment of links with analogous efforts in the Caribbean region.

FOCUS AREAS

Tropical ecology
Taxonomy
Microbiology
Biodiversity
Bioprospecting
Natural Product Chemistry

Tropical biodiversity has been recognized worldwide as a valuable asset with numerous potential benefits to Society: environmental, educational and monetary. In Puerto Rico, there have been important efforts to explore, describe, catalog and conserve biodiversity and to foster the development of "bio-prospecting", or the systematic identification of potentially useful substances in a given environment.

However, it is common that many of these efforts take place in a disconnected fashion since there has never been a regional strategy to provide focus toward common goals.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

A program of the:



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PRSTRT
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

WE SERVE AS A BEACON OF HEALTH INNOVATION AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN PUERTO RICO AND BEYOND

WHAT WE DO

The Research Institute (RI) leads the way in advanced applied research in integrative biosciences, with a special emphasis on decoding the fundamental biological processes underlying diseases that impact the Puerto Rican population. Our ambition is to establish ourselves as a premier center of innovation and excellence in biosciences research, recognized not just within Puerto Rico but globally. Our institute is committed to a holistic approach, encompassing research, discovery, education, training, and the application of knowledge across a diverse array of biomedical challenges. We aim to foster an environment where scientific excellence thrives, contributing to a profound understanding of life's complexities and advancing the frontiers of biosciences. Through our dedication, we seek to inspire breakthroughs and innovations that transcend traditional boundaries, paving the way for new solutions in the biosciences landscape.

WHO DO WE CONNECT WITH?

Our program supports researchers, healthcare professionals, and students (both local and international) dedicated to biomedical research and health improvement, fostering collaborations with hospitals, biopharmaceutical and biomanufacturing companies, and biotech startups for a dynamic research environment.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

We are committed to advancing integrative biosciences through pioneering research, discovery, and the application of knowledge across various biomedical challenges. Our approach values diversity, recognizing that differences in education, training, backgrounds, and perspectives are essential to driving innovation and progress in biosciences. Our institute is located at the Science City within the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust, making it a hub for multidisciplinary collaboration. We aim to create an ecosystem that nurtures research, education, and training, providing an environment where scientists with both specialized expertise and a broad understanding of the biological sciences can thrive. Our holistic perspective is crucial for recognizing and leveraging advancements across different fields, catalyzing breakthroughs that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. By uniting experts from different disciplines, we aim to create a dynamic synergy that propels forward our mission to redefine the biosciences landscape.



+28,000

SARS-CoV-2 samples recollected in our biorepository to understand the virus's evolution



11,000+

Sequence completions of the SARS-CoV-2 genomes to better understand the Covid-19 pandemic



6,500+

Successfully identified critical mutations of SARS-CoV-2 detected via the ddPCR test

Establishment of Core Laboratories, to facilitate onboarding of new researchers and trainees, local and from the international community.





Established the Puerto Rico COVID-19 Surveillance Initiative, standing as the 4th jurisdiction in the US, submitting the highest number of COVID-19 sequences.

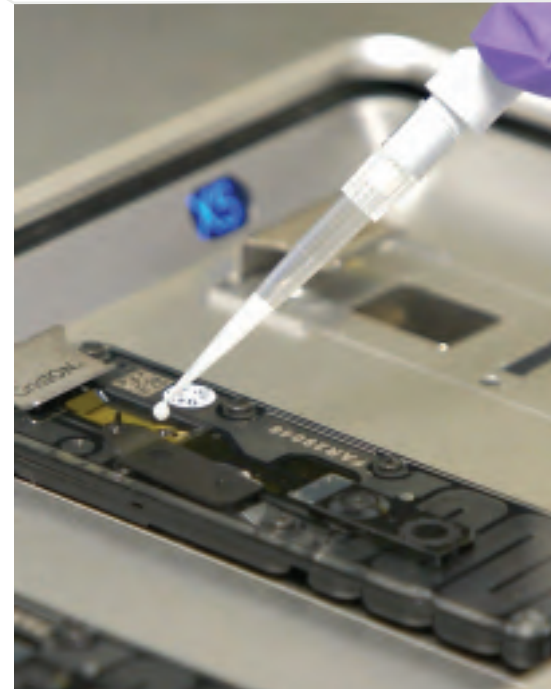
READY TO INNOVATE? CONTACT US

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Colmena66
Tu Camino Empresarial

#WeAreTheTrust

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WE CONNECT ENTREPRENEURS WITH THE RIGHT RESOURCE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

Colmena66 facilitates entrepreneurship in Puerto Rico by connecting entrepreneurs with the right resources at the right time, tailored to the specific needs and stage of their business. It is the only organization on the island that works with all types of businesses at any stage.

Colmena66 analyzes the gaps in the ecosystem and works together with the members of the Resource Network to strengthen the community. As ecosystem builders, Colmena66 creates the infrastructure that supports entrepreneurs and provides access points for anyone to participate, grow and thrive.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



220+
resources in the
Resource Network



20,000+
entrepreneurs impacted
since 2016



29,000+
referrals to our
Resource Network

RESULTS AFTER COLMENA66



36.6%
decided to become
entrepreneurs
(According to the 2023 Annual
Entrepreneurship Survey)



16.4%
indicated that they
opened a business
(According to the 2023 Annual
Entrepreneurship Survey)

OUR RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY



Business Assistance
Hotline



Entrepreneurial
Calendar



Resource
Navigator



Opportunities for
Entrepreneurs



Educational
Content



Tu Camino
Empresarial Map

START YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY!



**Add Some Honey To
Your Inbox!**
Subscribe to our newsletter.



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WE ARE THE STARTING POINT FOR YOUR BUSINESS IDEA!

WHAT WE DO

Fase1 is an **early-stage business incubator** dedicated to making entrepreneurship more accessible to Puerto Rican talent. We provide entrepreneurial content and nurture ideas that can evolve into successful startups. Through our educational initiatives, we aim to cultivate an **inclusive and diverse entrepreneurial community**, addressing the island's needs with innovative solutions and driving economic growth.

HOW IT WORKS?

Fase1 has two components



LAB

100% virtual modules covering various topics on how to turn an idea into a business.



INTENSIVE

A 12-week **business incubator** that offers a hybrid (in-person & virtual) specialized curriculum aimed to transform 50 ideas into new startups every year, while facilitating their access to subsequent programs in the entrepreneurial journey such as pre-accelerators like **pre18**.

Our program prepares you to participate **in other** entrepreneurship programs of the PRSTRT, so you can lead a successful journey in the business ecosystem.



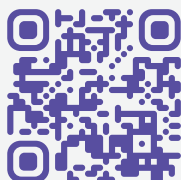
WHO IS FASE1 FOR?



FOR EVERYONE!

Our program is designed so that anyone that wants to be an entrepreneur can achieve it successfully.

READY TO START? CONTACT US



fase1.org

f @fase1org

787-523-1592

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A program sponsored by:



WHERE YOUR STARTUP NEEDS TO GO!

WHAT ARE WE?

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.



By Puerto Ricans for Puerto Ricans! This pre-acceleration program helps early-stage companies from the island to upscale into global markets.

BioLeap

Life Science & STEM incubation program that bridges the gap between research and commercialization.



Our acceleration program welcomes companies from around the world to help them scale in a curriculum-based structure.

xpand

An entrepreneurial program designed to support growth-stage companies in Puerto Rico by providing business resources that can potentiate sustainable expansion into new markets.

WHAT WE OFFER:



Training and mentorship



Methodology to track growth



\$25k
equity-free
for pre18ners.



\$40k
equity-free
for P18ners.



Access to 600+
active investor network



Access to 75+
Corporate Partners

WHAT WE ASK:



innovative startups with
three years of experience
or less (pre18/P18).



Companies that can
scale globally.



Fully-committed teams
ready to take it
to the next level.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? www.parallel18.com

    @parallel18startups



SBIR/STTR
Federal Grants



WE PROVIDE SUPPORT TO RESEARCHERS AND ENTREPRENEURS WITH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF THESE INNOVATIONS.

WHAT WE DO

The Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR), (SBIR from here on), at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (the Trust) is a program designed to support and empower researchers and entrepreneurs in bringing their innovative product concepts to market. By leveraging federal agency investments and the Trust's Matching Funds, we strive to address critical priorities that will propel the growth of a robust Puerto Rican economy.

HOW WE DO IT

We are committed to supporting scientific excellence, technological innovation, research and development, and the commercialization of their outcomes. The program provides technical and commercialization expert advice while working with the innovative team in the search for non-dilutive funds to overcome the commercial viability risks associated with new technologies. Participants are also assisted in the submission of competitive proposals to the SBIR program in all agencies.

NETWORK OF EXPERTS

As a program of the Trust, we leverage our collaborations and partnerships with accomplished programs like Colmena66, the Research Grants Program and Parallel18, among others. From the identification of potential applicants to amplifying our outreach efforts.

GUIDING PROPOSALS TO SUCCESS

Our team offers invaluable guidance to proposal applicants, ensuring they navigate the process of writing competitive proposals with confidence. By working closely with us, promising applicants gain insights on avoiding programmatic and subtle mistakes that could result in their proposals being rejected without undergoing a comprehensive technology innovation-based review.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

Through our education process, we foster the development of a robust mentor network. Seasoned professionals share their insights and knowledge, making the journey smoother for new applicants. Those that are awarded naturally transition into mentors within the network.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

The Trust covers the cost of the Development and submission of competitive proposals to different agencies' SBIR programs. They also provide non-dilutive matching funds to SBIR and STTR awardees in Puerto Rico after meeting requirements.

PHASE 1
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
6-12 months
\$50,000 to \$400,000*
Puerto Rico adds \$100,000
Total up to \$500,000

PHASE 2
PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT
24 months
\$600,000 to >\$2,000,000*
Puerto Rico adds \$200,000
Total up to > \$2,200,000

PHASE 3
COMMERCIALIZATION
No SBIR Funding

READY TO INNOVATE? CONTACT US



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PUBLIC HEALTH



AT THE PUERTO RICO PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST, WE PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE THROUGH INNOVATION, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

WHO WE ARE

The Puerto Rico Public Health Trust (PRPHT), established in 2019, is a program of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust. We serve 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 communities of Puerto Rico.

WHAT WE DO

We serve as a trusted ally working with health equity and social determinants of health, in partnership with public and private partners to identify and execute community driven, evidence-based solutions.

PRIORITIES



**EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS,
RESPONSE AND
RECOVERY**



**CHRONIC DISEASES
PREVENTION AND
MANAGEMENT**



CLIMATE CHANGE



**HEALTH EQUITY
AND SOCIAL
DETERMINANTS
OF HEALTH**



**MENTAL AND
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**



**EMERGING
PUBLIC HEALTH
ISSUES**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION

Facilitates and builds strong relationships and collaboration between PRPHT and the communities we serve by actively engaging community leaders and members. This approach strengthens public health initiatives, promotes health equity, creates a sense of ownership, and actively empowers communities to improve their health and well-being.

Primary initiatives:

- Community Health Workers capacity building and advocacy
- Diverse outreach and educational activities and resources
- Health and digital literacy for older adults
- Youth leadership development
- Activity books on mental health, COVID-19, and emergencies and disasters.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Aims to provide environmental research, resources, education, evidence-based training, community engagement and technical assistance. The purpose is to improve health, develop strategies and help communities to prepare for health impacts from climate change and for the stressors of emergencies and disasters in rural and underserved communities.

Primary initiatives:

- Provide telemedicine equipment and training to improve health access and crisis management.
- Increase capacity for the treatment of chronic diseases using the ECHO telehealth methodology.
- Investigate the cumulative health effects of drought in community-operated aqueducts.
- Understand the effects of climate change on the health of our population.



SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY DIVISION

Aims to understand and improve the social conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, which influences public health outcomes. This division works to achieve health equity among the residents of Puerto Rico through education, research, and public policy. The social determinants of health, health disparities, and health equity are priorities of the division.

Primary initiatives:

- Puerto Rico COVID-19 Registry to understand long-COVID-19 effects.
- EquiTrust, an initiative to educate on topics related to health equity in Puerto Rico.
- Social determinants of health and social epidemiology interest group
- Awareness and education on social determinants of health in the Hispanic populations.
- Technical assistance on equity and workforce capacity for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.



CONNECT WITH US!



paralasaludpublica.org

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info@prpht.org

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

WHO WE ARE?

The Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) is an initiative of the private non-profit organization the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust. The PRVCU was established to leverage Puerto Rico's capacity to control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the vector for the diseases Zika, chikungunya, and dengue in Puerto Rico.

The PRVCU focuses on strengthening the capacity for vector control in Puerto Rico as well as implementing vector surveillance, creating innovative information systems, carrying out vector control operations, and boosting community engagement through citizen mobilization and education programs.

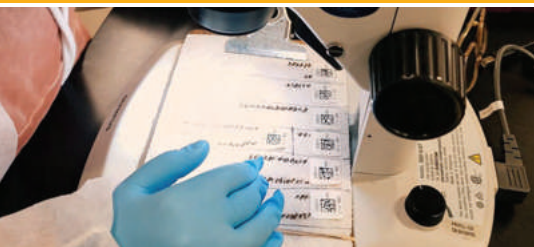
OUR MISSION:

Protect the people of Puerto Rico from the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, while educating and empowering everyone to dramatically and sustainably reduce mosquito populations across Puerto Rico.

WHAT WE DO?

The Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit has three main initiatives that form the Integrated Vector Management Program:

MONITORING & SURVEILLANCE



The Unit has the laboratory capacity to monitor the presence and abundance of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes across the archipelago.

950+

Surveillance Traps

+630,000

Aedes aegypti Female Captured

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION



The Community Mobilization core works to educate and empower all residents and visitors to play a direct and meaningful role in the control of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

More than

150 ACTIVITIES

7,000+ 4,000+

Educational Materials

Repellents

VECTOR CONTROL



The Unit works in close collaboration with government agencies and municipalities to strengthen mosquito control programs.

4,000+

Control Traps



CONNECT WITH US!

www.prvectorcontrol.org

info@prvectorcontrol.org

[YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) /PRVectorControl

San Juan

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Ponce

T:787-671-3348

A program of:



THE GATEWAY TO CUTTING-EDGE CLINICAL RESEARCH IN PUERTO RICO!

WHO WE ARE

Established in 2016 as a non-profit organization, the Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI) has created and developed the largest network of top clinical, academic and private research sites in Puerto Rico.

PRCCI CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

PRCCI recently launched its state-of-the-art Clinical Research Center, reinforcing our commitment to advancing capabilities within the ever-evolving healthcare landscape. In line with the FDA's recommendation to enhance diversity in clinical trials, PRCCI is at the forefront of this effort. Companies in the US can now tap into Puerto Rico's diverse population for inclusive trials. Our new facility features cutting-edge technologies, with a dedicated team of experts poised to provide unwavering support for investigations.

VISION

Become the preferred partner for the implementation of clinical trials in Hispanics.

WHY CHOOSE PRCCI?

- ✓ Modern Infrastructure
- ✓ State-of-the-Art Equipment
- ✓ Expert Staff
- ✓ FDA Regulatory Compliance
- ✓ Strategically located near major academic and hospital institutions

PRCCI SOLUTIONS:

- CLINICAL TRIAL NETWORK
- CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING
- CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PATIENT ENGAGEMENT
- CONTRACT RESEARCH ORG (CRO)

SOME OF THE THERAPEUTIC AREAS WE SERVE:

**ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY - RESPIRATORY DISEASES -
DERMATOLOGY - VACCINES - RHEUMATOLOGY - PSYCHIATRY -
NEUROLOGY - INFECTIOUS DISEASES - INFLAMMATION**

600+

**PATIENT LIVES
IMPACTED**

100+

**CLINICAL TRIALS
CONDUCTED**

20+

**CLINICAL
RESEARCH SITES**

90+

**CLINICAL RESEARCH
INVESTIGATIONS**



EXPLORE THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES WITH PRCCI

A subsidiary of:



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contact@prcci.org
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EDUCATION

EMPOWERING LEARNERS BY SHAPING THE FUTURE OF STEM THROUGH EDUCATION AND INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE?

The STEM Education & Workforce Development program in Puerto Rico focuses 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.

OUR FOCUS

We serve students, teachers, professionals, and key stakeholders in the education sector, aligning its efforts with the needs and objectives of the wider technology and education communities. Our program actively collaborates with industry leaders, government agencies, and academic institutions.



OUR INITIATIVES



STEM
EDUCATION PROGRAM

We provide resources and initiatives for teachers, parents, and students. We offer accessible and quality learning experiences that encourages students to continue growing throughout their academic careers.



PR READY
WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM

Through training, certification and mentoring, participants will be prepared with the necessary skills that will place Puerto Rico within the economy of the future.



The Cacao Academy is the first project of its kind to seek to provide theoretical and practical knowledge about the cacao agroforestry model to farmers in Puerto Rico.

*Through a dual approach based on **educational experiences** and **specialized workforce training**, we cultivate technological skills for an evolving landscape.*



1,500+

young students
served since
2018



500+

participants in our
STEM Boxed Kit
Experience



450+

Applicants to
PR Ready
from 73
municipalities



150+

Participants that completed
professional certifications
(PR Ready)



Technical
Capacity Building
to strengthen
agroforestry

CONNECT WITH US TO ADVANCE STEM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT!

A program of the:



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facebook.com/groups/stemeducationprogram
stem@prsciencetrust.org
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WE FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT OF SUSTAINED DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION WITHIN A NETWORK OF STAKEHOLDERS AND THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY OF PUERTO RICO

WHAT WE DO

Our vision is to create a vibrant and thriving community within the knowledge economy, where diversity and creativity are celebrated as fundamental pillars of social and economic prosperity. We are committed to fostering productive dialogues that lead to innovative solutions, ultimately enhancing the well-being of citizens and driving sustainable economic development.

WHO WE CONNECT WITH

This is designed for a diverse audience, encompassing researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, innovators, industry professionals, policymakers, and community leaders, providing insights and resources for individuals and organizations.



The MeetUp Program has successfully engaged with over 1K event attendees and featured more than 60 speakers, including local and international experts. Since its foundation in 2015, it has experienced an increase of 329% in attendance. Some of the topics have been:

Climate Change



Artificial Intelligence



Bio-Economy



Technology



B-Corporations



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Waste Management Project

In collaboration with Syracuse University and Generación Circular, the inaugural interactive map of Puerto Rico's recycling sites was created to inform citizens about local recycling centers and materials to aid the island's sustainable development.

Social and Solidarity Project

The program hosted four encounters for entrepreneurs interested in B Corp certification, offering mentorship and insights into the social and environmental benefits of certification, thereby facilitating knowledge transfer.

Food Security Project

A gathering where experts discussed the effects of sea level rise and climate change on Puerto Rican agriculture, focusing on analyzing projections, strategies, and ensuring food security.

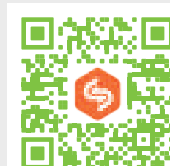
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OUR MEETUPS? LET'S CONNECT!

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meetups@prsciencetrust.org
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INFRASTRUCTURE

SCIENCE CITY: A GLOBAL CENTER FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION FOR INNOVATION IN PUERTO RICO

Science City is an innovation center that follows global standards that connects different ecosystems in Puerto Rico to promote innovation.

The project is located in San Juan, extending over 69 acres of land and comprised of several state-of-the-art buildings. It currently has a high-tech scientific research complex with advanced laboratories, business incubator spaces, conference center and offices.



Science City

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

It provides scientific and laboratory support to PREQB and other government agencies.



New collaborative center for the acceleration of companies in fields such as science, technology and manufacturing.

Headquarters that houses offices, a Clinical Research Institute and co-working spaces.



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT SCIENCE CITY AND OUR MISSION



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