Mission

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

Vision

By 2022, Puerto Rico is a globally recognized innovation hub that develops, attracts, and retains scientists, technology entrepreneurs, and enterprises to unlock world class creativity and competitiveness.
Who We Are

We are a private non-profit organization created in 2004 to encourage and promote innovation, transfer and commercialization of technology and creation of jobs in the technology sector. We are responsible for Puerto Rico’s public policy for science, technology, research and development and public health.
Our Initiatives

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation

Cultural Heritage Innovation Program

Puerto Rico Public Health Trust

Unidad de Control de Vectores de Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Hurricane Hub Technical Assistance Center

Re-Grow PR Urban and Rural Agriculture

Parallel18

Colmena66 Tu Camino Empresarial

Subvenciones Federales de SBIR/STTR

Resiliency and Business Innovation

STEM Education Program

PR Research & Innovation Meet-ups

Science City
MESSAGE TO OUR VISITORS

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

Our Board, our management team, our associates and our partners are now more than ever creative, innovative, thoughtful, committed, and striving to achieve the vision for Puerto Rico to be recognized as a global innovation hub.

Lucy Crespo, CEO
Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust
EXECUTIVE TEAM

Gilberto Márquez
Chief Financial Officer
gmarquez@prsciencetrust.org

Sebastián Vidal
Chief Innovation Officer
svidal@prsciencetrust.org

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César Piovanetti
Chief Information Officer
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Doira Díaz Esq.
General Counsel & Administrator
ddiaz@prsciencetrust.org
**Key Programs**

**Research Grants Program** empowers scientists and researchers to take Puerto Rico's knowledge economy to a higher level of excellence. The initiatives seek to impact researchers in the academia, non-profit research organizations and at the private sector. 

*Andreica Maldonado – amaldonado@prsciencetrust.org*

- **Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI)** is a non-profit organization that forges an integrated network of clinical trial units (CTUs) in FDA-regulated Puerto Rico. CTUs perform clinical trials as one with high quality, fast execution and reduced costs stemming from sharing of best practices, resources, and services. 

  *Amarilys Silva - Amarisly.silva@prcci.org*

- **The Technology Transfer Office (TTO)**'s objectives are to identify, assess, protect, market, and manage the most promising discoveries from Puerto Rico’s universities, researchers, and entrepreneurs. The TTO’s goals are to build and maintain a robust portfolio of research discoveries and high value intellectual property, and to provide deal-making services to transfer those discoveries into businesses. 

  *David Gulley – dgulley@prsciencetrust.org*

- **The Center for Tropical Biodiversity** will enable a number of efforts aimed at advancing the exploration of tropical biodiversity, the development of searchable collections of biological specimens from tropical environments, the conservation of biodiversity resources and the commercialization of biodiversity-derived products. 

  *Abel Baerga – abaerga@prsciencetrust.org*

**Directors & Managers**

- **Andreica Maldonado, Director, Research Grants Program**

  Andreica leads the Research Grants Program in which she is the spokesperson for agency programs in dealing with the scientific community, Puerto Rican government officials, and other agencies and stakeholders. She previously joined Parallel18 as a Startup Executive. At Parallel18, Andreica managed a group of 16 startups during each cohort, measuring weekly growth through KPI meetings. Prior to that, she was a project manager and senior program coordinator at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey’s Center for Leadership and Management. She also has experience in working with disparate community cohorts, including seniors, women, and adolescents, in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Puerto Rico.

- **Amarilys Silva, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI)**

  Dr. Amarilys Silva is a pharmaceutical industry leader with a solid trajectory in Clinical Research, Medical Affairs, Pharmacovigilance, Outcomes Research, Compliance, and Regulatory Affairs. Her experience spans over twenty-six (26) countries across five (5) regions globally. She steered cross-functional teams in multiple therapeutic areas, including but not limited to, Neurosciences, Diabetes, Oncology, Immunology, Endocrinology, Neurodegenerative, Vaccines, and has a broad experience managing regulatory inspections from US and international agencies as well as a strong managerial experience.

- **David Gulley, Director, Technology Transfer & Commercialization Office (TTO)**

  Dr. Gulley is director of the Technology Transfer Office. His career spans almost 30 years in leading technology-based economic development. For 25 years he provided leadership for the University of Illinois system and its Chicago campus as an associate vice president and assistant vice chancellor, leading academic-industry collaborations, technology transfer, incubation, and research park initiatives. From 2012-2015 he led the establishment of 20 technology transfer offices at universities in Chile. His undergraduate and graduate degrees are from Southern Illinois University and Virginia Tech and he is a Certified Licensing Professional (CLP) and a Registered Technology Transfer Professional (RTTP).

- **Dr. Abel Baerga, Director, Center for Tropical Biodiversity**

  Dr. Baerga is the Acting Director of the Puerto Rico Center for Tropical Biodiversity and Bioprospecting, an initiative of the Trust that aims to enhance infrastructure and capacity in the conservation, management and commercialization of local biodiversity resources. He is currently an Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the UPR-MSC, where he lectures graduate courses on protein structure and enzymology, and supervises a research group with funded projects in the areas of enzyme discovery/evolution and the development of production methods for HIV glycoproteins as vaccines. He has a BA in Chemistry from the UPR; a PhD in Chemistry and Biochemistry from the University of California in San Diego and was a Royal Society Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
**Key Programs**

**Recoveración Agrícola** - Recoveración Agrícola - In October 2018, the American Red Cross teamed up with the PRSTRT to create and manage Recoveración Agrícola, an 18-months micro-grant program to impact 450 underserved farmers to recover and become more sustainable, by helping them return to pre-storm productivity levels, thus minimizing the risk of food deserts, while increasing self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Application was open to local farmers; prioritizing targeted groups such as women, veterans, agroecological farms, and small farms (20-acre or less). Program benefits included: an initial cash donation of $1,000 p/p, farm tools & equipment, clean-up & recovery work, as well as, drone farm assessments, capacity building and technical support. The program exceeded its initial goal supporting a total of 525 small farmers throughout the island through a $3 million dollar funding. Recoveración Agrícola was the first PRSTRT program dedicated to the recovery of the agricultural sector on the island; thanks to this effort, the Trust continues to support the development of producers through new projects such as: The Cacao Project and Re-Grow-PR Urban and Rural Agriculture.

**Cultural Heritage Innovation Program**

The Cultural Heritage Innovation Program seeks to support the cultural heritage community of Puerto Rico by providing specialized knowledge dissemination and know-how. The initiative also provides guidance for the Trust’s cultural heritage activities by helping to preserve and share Puerto Rico’s cultural heritage through design and execution of digitization activities and other projects. These projects will increase the digital footprint for the collections on the island and raise their international visibility.

Johnny Lugo – jlugo@prsciencetrust.org

**Puerto Rico Public Health Trust**

**PR Public Health Trust** - This program has the vision to achieve sustainable health equity in Puerto Rican communities and improve their quality of life through innovation, collaboration and community engagement. Its mission is to serve as trusted ally working with private and public partners to identify and execute community-led, evidence-based solutions. Its priorities include efforts to improve public health capacity systems and outcomes by fostering innovation, leveraging resources and building partnerships to improve the public’s health.

José Rodríguez Orengo – jrodriguez@prsciencetrust.org

**Bárbara Rivera, Director, Recoveración Agrícola**

Barbara worked Procurement Specialist of the Federal Contracting Center (FeCC) in the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO), a nation-wide Department of Defense funded program, where she served as a liaison between federal business opportunities and the small business community actively providing orientation on federal compliance, regulations, certifications, marketing strategies, and providing specialized training to build local capabilities, and ultimately increasing federal contracts awards in Puerto Rico. Between 2014-2015 was designated to lead the FeCC team as the Program Manager fulfilling all administrative and performance duties, and responsibilities of the program. Barbara has 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 from the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

**Johnny Lugo, Director, Cultural Heritage Innovation Program**

Has a Ph.D. in history of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean from University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus (2017). He has a master’s degree in Environmental Health from the UPR, Medical Sciences Campus, with a concentration in Atmospheric Chemistry-Air Quality applied to cultural heritage (2005), a BS in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, Cayey Campus (1992). Between 1994 and 1997, he studied a specialization in restoration of paintings at the Istituto Per L’Arte e il Restauro in Florence, Italy. Since 2012, he specializes as a Conservation Scientist of cultural heritage, in collaboration with various cultural organizations, both local and international. He is a collaborating professor for the faculties of Humanities and Natural Sciences. He has been a precursor of scientific studies applied to cultural heritage. Recently he was assigned as the Director of the Cultural Heritage Innovation Program under the Puerto Rico Science Technology and Research Trust.

**José Rodríguez Orengo, Executive Director P.R. Public Health Trust**

Dr. Orengo is Senior Advisor to the Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation at the Trust. He is a Professor and Graduate Coordinator at the Department of Biochemistry, MSC-UPR. He has been involved in clinical research since 1993 studying pharmacology aspects of HIV medications in the pediatric population. He has obtained numerous NIH grants including two ROIs. He was appointed Executive Director at the Puerto Rico Institute of Forensic Sciences, where he completed a radical transformation to increase productivity and improve the quality, obtaining accreditation from appropriate educational and government agencies.

**Bárbara Rivera, Director, Recoveración Agrícola**

Grayson Brown is an internationally recognized public health entomologist, has been active in his field for over 40 years. His work has concentrated on research and implementation of vector management programs for municipalities and government agencies throughout the world. He has more than 120 refereed publications, numerous research/development grants, and has trained many graduate students (MS and PhD) and post-doctoral scholars. He is particularly well known for his international work which, at different times of his career, has been conducted in Africa, SE Asia, and South America. He comes to the PRVCU from Guam where he was the Chief Public Health Entomologist for the Pacific Island Health Officers Association.
Colmenna66 is a regional referral network that links entrepreneurs and business owners to local and regional resource partners to provide services to help business grow and prosper. Denisse Rodríguez – drodriguez@prsciencetrust.org; denisse@colmenna66.com

Resiliency and Business Innovation - To enhance Puerto Rico’s economic development through nurturing technically innovative entrepreneurial efforts while also developing products encouraging disaster resiliency for Puerto Rico and making the Commonwealth a model for Resiliency worldwide. Gilberto Guevara – gguevara@prsciencetrust.org Annie Mustafa – amustafa@prsciencetrust.org

Parallel18 is a global accelerator program that offers a unique gateway for startups to scale from Puerto Rico. It is a collaborative effort with PRIDCO and DDEC. It provides equity-free grants, office space and support in an effort to grow the Island as an innovation hub. Sebastián Vidal – sebastian@parallel18.com

The Puerto Rico Hurricane Response Hub Technical Assistance Center will leverage our existing partnerships, management systems, training and surveillance platforms to rapidly and effectively expand the workforce capacity development with minimal effort and enhance the opportunity for long-term sustainability. We are bringing our partners together to develop a comprehensive approach to increase resiliency and preparedness for disasters.

Ms. Leslie Maas Cortes, Director, The Puerto Rico Hurricane Response Hub Technical Assistance Center She is the founder of Proyecto Agua Limpia. Leslie earned her graduate degree at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the area of Social Factors in Health and focused her research work on diabetes and obesity prevention in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Leslie has contributed to the scientific literature through several publications, and topics of interest are mortality studies, social determinants of health, injury control and prevention, and water safety and security. She is married, has two children and resides in Puerto Rico and Wisconsin.

Sebastián Vidal, Executive Director, Parallel18 Mr. Vidal is the Executive Director of Parallel18 the new Startup Program of Puerto Rico, hosted by the Trust. He was the former Executive Director at Start-Up Chile, a government funded program aiming to attract global minded entrepreneurs to Chile in order to transform a country in to the world leading innovation capital. Through Start-Up Chile, he was able to work side by side with more than 1,000 startups from different stages and industries and witness a country’s cultural transformation towards entrepreneurship. He has also worked developing tech hub strategies with countries like Peru, Brazil, Lebanon, Malaysia and South Korea.

Denisse Rodríguez , Executive Director Colmenna66 Prior to joining the Trust, Ms. Rodríguez was Program Manager at Foundation for Puerto Rico. She served as Deputy Fiscal Agent for the Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico and was named Executive Director of the José M. Berrocal Institute for Economics and Finance. Prior to that, Denisse worked at Goldman Sachs’ Investment Banking Division in New York. Has a BA degree in Finance and Marketing with honors from the University of Puerto Rico. Denisse volunteers as a Kiva Fellow and was recognized by the World Economic Forum as a Global Shaper.

Gilberto Guevara, Program Director and Strategic Advisor of the Caribbean Center for Rising Seas - Has over 35 years of work in the humanitarian world as part of the American Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and recently with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Recovery from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. In Turkey he led the Earthquake Research Information Center for Humanitarian Assistance (ERICHA). He is a National Instructor and Disaster College Director that prepared national and international instructors for the humanitarian work. In addition to his role as RIL Lab Manager, Gilberto is an Entrepreneurship and International Business doctoral candidate at the Interamerican University, in San Juan.

Annie Mustafa, Program Manager- is an accomplished New Business Innovation Development Leader and Relationship Builder with over 20 years of professional experience in startup projects, international corporations, private sector, NGO’s, academia, local and federal government in Puerto Rico and the United States. She has successfully established, developed, preserved, and strategized long term relationships into a network that includes a diverse group of business associations, professionals, universities, government agencies, NGO’s, media, and online & offline communities that have contributed to fast business growth through her multifaceted professional career.
Jerry Meléndez – jmelendez@prsciencetrust.org

Jorge Valentine - jvalentine@prsciencetrust.org

Jorge A. Valentine, STEM Education Program Manager - holds a professional certification in Project Management from the Project Management Institute and is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at the Ana G. Méndez University. Jorge started his experience in adult learning environments in 2006, and "made the jump" to K-12 education where he served as a high school principal, as well as an educational director in programs like 21st Century Community Learning Centers. His career spans 15 years of both proprietary and non-profit education leadership. As the STEM Education Program Manager for the Trust, his focus is on developing opportunities to engage student interests in both professional and technical STEM disciplines while promoting a holistic approach to formal and informal learning.

Ricardo Burgos, Program Director

Caribbean Center for Rising Seas - Aims to 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 new program of the Puerto Rico Science Trust will further establish Puerto Rico’s leadership and stature as a center of excellence and innovation.

John Englander, Oceanographer & Executive Director - is an oceanographer, multi-book author, and expert speaker on climate change and Sea Level Rise (SLR). He is also a global ocean explorer with expeditions under the polar ice cap, deep dives in research submersibles, 5,000+ SCUBA dives, and visits to Greenland and Antarctica.

Juan E. Figueroa, Ph.D. - Dr. Juan E. Figueroa is Entrepreneurship Advisor and Associated Researcher at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust (Trust) responsible for working with researchers and innovators to transform the results of their research and ideas into product concepts with high potential for commercial success. He also works in the search for research and commercialization funds from private and government sources for the Trust community.
A structured, systematic, open and competitive funding mechanism to support the development of science and technology research projects in Puerto Rico.

We empower scientists and researchers to take Puerto Rico’s knowledge economy to a higher level of excellence.

For more information:
www.prsciencetrust.org/research-grants-program
Contact us: grants@prsciencetrust.org
**ADVANCED RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM**

The Advanced Research Grants Program (ARG) (previously known as the Science and Technology Grants RFP) is a solicited proposal mechanism with the goal of providing funding to advance locally developed science and technology projects to a point where these will be able to be further developed through alternate sources of funding (e.g. federal R&D funding, angel and private investments, etc.) and/or commercialized (through licensing, sales, acquisitions, vertical venture integration or a combination of these).

**Awards up to $150,000/year.**

Aims to advance the most innovative Research & Development (R&D) projects in Puerto Rico.

**Who is eligible:**

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

**Achievements**

- 309+ Students Impacted
- 291+ Abstracts & Presentations
- 93+ Peer-reviewed publications
- 18 Awarded SBIR/STTR Proposals
- 8 Founded Companies
- 60 Patent Applications
- 39 Patents
- 96 AWARDS

**Grants Awarded**

$11,518,345

Number based on grantees’ progress reports (as of Feb 2021).

**ROI**

$31,128,086

**CATALYZER RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM**

The Catalyzer Research Grant Program (CRG) (previously known as the Small Research Grant Program) aims to help local researchers increase their probabilities of success in securing federal funding for their research and development activities. In particular, the CRG will provide bridge funding to help researchers to position their R&D proposals competitively prior to the submission, or resubmission, to private or federal agencies.

**Awards up to $70,000/year.**

The CRG is open to researchers in public and private universities, colleges, and affiliated non-profit research institutions located in Puerto Rico. Ideal candidates fall into one of the following categories:

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

**SBIR/STTR Matching Funds**

1-to-1 matching funds for **Phase I & II SBIR/STTR proposals**: to promote and increase commercialization of research. Match up to $100,000 for Phase I and $200,000 for Phase II.

Since 2014 the Trust offers a **SBIR/STTR Proposal Preparation Workshop** to assist participants to prepare competitive proposals.

**Act 60**

Act 60 is a unique tax incentive to foster research and development activities conducted at local universities in Puerto Rico, allowing qualified Principal Investigators or Co-Principal Investigator to seek tax exemptions for salaries earned from eligible R&D research grants.

The main objective of this incentive is to attract and retain competitive researchers to strengthen Puerto Rico’s performance in science and technology and the Island’s position in the knowledge economy.

For more information:

www.prsciencetrust.org/research-grants-program

Contact us: grants@prsciencetrust.org

**Our Team**

Lucy Crespo
CEO

Gilberto Márquez
CFO

Andreica Maldonado
Grants Program Director

Grace M. Rendón Febles
Grants Program Specialist
Established in April 2016, PRCCI is a 501c3 non-profit network of top academic and private research sites working in strong partnership with the wider Puerto Rico clinical investigation ecosystem to promote the island’s positioning as a preferred location for clinical investigation.

PRCCI enhances clinical research speed and quality by driving performance and efficiencies across our sites, leveraging strategic partnerships, increasing the capabilities of professionals working through educational activities and establishing world-class capabilities in areas such as technology (e.g., Telemedicine tools).

**Vision:**
To become a preferred clinical research hub engaged in minority recruitment (Hispanics). We will achieve this by promoting and enhancing clinical research and development initiatives, while contributing to science advances and innovation, providing access to new treatments for the minority population and improving their wellbeing.

**Mission:**
To improve the impact, quality, and speed of the clinical research activity in Puerto Rico through:
- Building a collaborative network of investigators
- Establishing best practices to conduct clinical trials
- Educating patients, sponsors and researchers
- Building capacity and creating new job opportunities necessary for the successful execution of clinical trials

These combined efforts result in direct impact to the Puerto Rico economy.

**About Our Sites**
- Highly qualified investigators with Board Certifications
- Quality Validated Sites by our external quality partner, Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI)
- Resilient sites with solid experience equipped to continue operations during natural disasters
- Access to a minority population exposed to participating in clinical research trials
- Phase I-IV clinical trial capabilities

For more information:
[www.prcci.org](http://www.prcci.org)  [contact@prcci.org](mailto:contact@prcci.org)
+1 (787) 523-5876
Therapeutic Areas

PRCCI's member sites have experience in a wide and diverse range of therapeutic areas. These areas include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cardiology / Vascular
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Vaccines
- Infectious Disease / HIV
- Inflammatory Diseases
- Metabolic Diseases
- Neurology / Psychiatry
- Oncology / Hematology
- Ophthalmology
- Respiratory including COVID-19 vaccines and treatments
- Renal Diseases
- Rheumatology
- Endocrinology
- Ophthalmology
- Gastroenterology
- Neurology / Psychiatry
- Dermatology
- Oncology / Hematology
- Respiratory
- Renal Diseases
- Rheumatology

For Patients

Offering patients access to innovative treatments through clinical trials

We are focused on promoting Puerto Rico-based patients’ well-being by directly collaborating with patient advocacy groups and expanding our educational initiatives related to clinical investigation and diseases. The targeted segments are both patients and the broader population who can contribute through PRCCI to advancing science, facilitating access to new innovative treatments, and helping others.

For Sponsor and CROs

Improving the speed and quality of your clinical trials

Working with PRCCI provides one-stop access to an experienced network of investigators, fast site selection process, access to a large population of minority patients in many therapeutic areas, a single point of contact for quick and efficient study start-up and, ongoing quality monitoring of our consortium members. Monitoring enrollment and implementation of enrollment strategies are also available.

For Research Sites

Joining the PRCCI network will help you increase the breadth and number of clinical trials. We work on your behalf to promote your site, identify and secure research opportunities, conduct budget and contract negotiations, monitor and improve your quality processes, and more.

Proud to be part of PR's Clinical Investigation Ecosystem

We are proud to be part of this talented and committed group of professionals that along with PRCCI generated a steady performance during the 2016-2020 period. Results attest the ecosystem’s resiliency in coping with natural disasters that have impacted PR ranging from hurricanes, such as Irma and María, earthquakes on the Island’s southern region, to the COVID-19 pandemic- all occurring during this time frame.

2016 – 2020 PR Clinical Investigation Activity
(Source: www.clinicaltrials.gov)

A significant growth has been achieved between 2016 and 2020: 536 clinical trials were conducted during this period.

For more information:

www.prcci.org  contact@prcci.org  +1 (787) 523-5876

Subsidiary of the: Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust
The program was designed and created to implement an agile and effective approach to foster the commercialization of locally developed scientific inventions and discoveries. 

Our mission is to effectively identify, assess, protect, market, and transfer the most promising research discoveries from Puerto Rico’s research institutes, and early-stage companies to the private sector for commercialization and to benefit the public.

Our vision is to work collaboratively with partner institutions and organizations to build a 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.

The TTO provides invention disclosure screening and assessment of the technical/scientific and commercial merits of a new discovery. For those meeting the criteria:

- partner with the institution/inventor to develop and implement a patent strategy
- support IP protection and prosecution
- develop and implement a marketing and licensing strategy
- negotiate and execute options and licenses
- manage all aspects of the license including revenue distribution, compliance, and patent enforcement

KEY PROGRAMS

STEM & Career Technical Education
Reimagines and transform the way Puerto Rico educates and prepares its STEM and CTE cohorts through the promotion of effective public policy, innovative learning opportunities and facilitating key initiatives for the development of children, youth, and adults.

Jorge Valentine - jvalentine@prsciencetrust.org
Jorge A. Valentine, STEM Education Program Manager - holds a professional certification in Project Management from the Project Management Institute and is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at the Ana G. Méndez University. Jorge started his experience in adult learning environments in 2006, and “made the jump” to K-12 education where he served as a high school principal, as well as an educational director in programs like 21st Century Community Learning Centers. His career spans 15 years of both proprietary and non-profit education leadership. As the STEM Education Program Manager for the Trust, his focus is on developing opportunities to engage student interests in both professional and technical STEM disciplines while promoting a holistic approach to formal and informal learning.

Future plans
- engaging researchers and scientists by increasing their knowledge about disclosing new discoveries
- protecting intellectual property
- and identifying opportunities for technology transfer and commercialization

The aspirational long-term goal is for Puerto Rico’s research institutions to perform at their U.S. peer average in the area of technology transfer.

For more information:
http://prsciencetrust.org/tech-transfer-office

Contact:
David L. Gulley, PhD, CLP, RTTP Director,
dgulley@prsciencetrust.org

The TTO launched in early 2016 and has formal on-going partnerships with the University of Puerto Rico, Ana G. Mendez University System, and Ponce Medical School Foundation. The TTO also serves small tech companies and seeks to work with other tech companies and research institutions as opportunities arise.
The Center for Tropical Biodiversity and Bioprospecting was established to guide the efforts of conservation and exploration of Puerto Rico’s unique geography for societal and economic benefits.

Within the purview of the Center are the development of searchable biospecimen collections, the conservation of biodiversity resources and the commercialization of biodiversity-derived products.

Mission & Vision

To contribute to the advancement of basic and applied research associated with the preservation and intelligent utilization of regional biodiversity resources. Puerto Rico, located in the Caribbean, with its many distinct ecosystems and its advanced infrastructure for scientific research, is an ideal location for these efforts.

Our main goal

Over the last century, perhaps even longer, Puerto Rico has enjoyed a rich tradition of scientific research centered on its 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 environment.

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.

The Puerto Rico Center for Tropical Biodiversity and Bioprospecting was established precisely to provide guidelines under which our local ecosystems can be explored for scientific or economic benefit and protected to ensure sustainable use of the biodiversity resources.

Achievements

- Established a Product Development Unit as a pipeline for the licensing and commercialization of biodiversity-derived products. The Unit identifies new organisms and chemical entities that may have commercial uses.
- Established a catalog of unique biological specimens or chemical entities naturally found in the tropical ecosystems of Puerto Rico. The searchable catalog will be invaluable for licensing or commercialization efforts.
- Served as a facilitator between researchers interested in exploratory field work and the key installations and facilities in Puerto Rico for such investigations.

For more information:
www.prsciencetrust.org

Contact:
Dr. Abel Baerga, Acting Director of the PRCTBB
abaerga@prsciencetrust.org
The Cultural Heritage Innovation Program seeks to support both the cultural heritage and the creative sectors through strategies focused on a sustainable conservation model with a self-sustainable economy for the communities of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

**Areas of Interest:**
- Emergency Planning and Risk Assessment
- Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Research in the Tropics
- Digitalization and Innovations in Humanities
- Development of Creative Economy
- Conservation and Planning
- Oso Blanco Museum and Ex Open Lab
- Sustainable Tourism and Planning
- Sustainable Planning and Development
- Conservation and Innovation Center of the Caribbean
- Development of Creative Economy

**Sustainable Heritage Conservation Model: Aligned with PRSTRT and UNESCO’s ICOMOS Models**

- **Beam 1:** Education and Research
- **Beam 2:** Community and Outreach
- **Beam 3:** Sustainable Planning and Development
- **Beam 4:** Green Business Products, Services, and Creative Enterprises

**For More Information:**
Johnny Lugo Veg, Ph.D. | Program Director | jlugo@prsciencetrust.org | www.prculturalinnovation.com
Background
In October 2018, the American Red Cross teamed up with the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust to perform Recuperación Agrícola, a micro-grant program that impacts 525 underserved farmers across the island. Recuperación Agrícola plays an essential role in the recovery, preparedness and sustainability by helping farmers and beekeepers regain productivity while increasing entrepreneurial and economic development opportunities. Application was open to local small farmers; however, priority was given to targeted groups such as: women, veterans, agroecological and small farms (20-acres or less).

Farm Recovery Initiative | Program benefits include:
- $1,000 cash grant
- Vouchers for farm tools, supplies & equipment
- Clean-up and recovery brigades
- Agribusiness & technical training program
- Drone’s farm assessments & other technical services

Established objectives intent to generate changes in beneficiaries, condition, behavior, and knowledge while supporting the local economy. Measurable program outcomes include increase in farm production and revenues; and job generation.

Results
Besides all the above, generating relevant and accurate data of the agricultural sector in Puerto Rico and incorporating technological resources are critical contributions to partners, collaborators and industry stakeholders. It will be considered a catalytic factor for the development of future projects, investments and grants awards.

790 applications
525 participant farmers
450 micro-grants
35 capacity building sessions
+20 local suppliers
29% Women
5% veterans
16% agro-ecological farms
Promover y aumentar la seguridad alimentaria en toda la isla así como optimizar la producción agrícola relacionada con la revitalización económica y las actividades de desarrollo sostenible.
**Trasfondo**

Los huracanes Irma y María agravaron significativamente los desafíos alimentarios al causar una pérdida de más del 80 por ciento (80%) del valor de la cosecha y más de $ 780 millones en daños económicos inmediatos para la agricultura.

A través de la subvención de los fondos del **Programa de Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario para la Recuperación ante Desastres de Puerto Rico (CDBG-DR, por sus siglas en inglés)**, el Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico (Vivienda) aborda las necesidades de desarrollo económico insatisfechas en la isla para alentar la revitalización sostenible a largo plazo en todas las industrias y sectores a través de un conjunto de programas de desarrollo económico.

El programa Re-Grow PR Agricultura Urbana y Rural (RGRW, por sus siglas en inglés) fue diseñado para estimular la recuperación económica específicamente en el sector agrícola. La asignación total para el Programa Re-Grow es de noventa y dos millones ($ 92,500,000) pero está sujeta a cambios con enmiendas adicionales al Plan de Acción CDBG-DR.

El Fideicomiso para Ciencia, Tecnología e Investigación de Puerto Rico es el subrecipiente y administrador de Re-Grow Puerto Rico, para proveer subvenciones y asistencia técnica a las entidades solicitantes elegibles.

**Diseño del Programa**

El programa Re-Grow PR Agricultura Urbana y Rural desarrollará la capacidad agrícola y suplirá recursos para satisfacer las necesidades creadas por los huracanes en una amplia variedad de actividades agrícolas viables. Los ciudadanos que podrán beneficiarse por este programa abarcan un demográfico diverso, localizados desde zonas urbanas a rurales.

El programa se centra en granjas pequeñas y medianas, empresas agrícolas y organizaciones no gubernamentales que participan en actividades agrícolas sostenibles que se vieron afectadas por los huracanes de 2017.

Los desafíos que han provocado el urbanismo, la migración de la población y el cambio en el uso de la tierra se abordarán a través de la agricultura urbana y el despliegue de tecnología. La lastimada infraestructura agrícola se reforzará para que pueda afrontar futuras incertidumbres climáticas.

El programa expanderá a las personas a oportunidades agrícolas y al mismo tiempo ayudará a los productores establecidos a crear oportunidades de empleo en todo el sector.

**Entidades elegibles**

- Fincas pequeñas, o agricultores(as); incluyendo pesca, acuicultura, apicultura, agricultura vertical, entre otros;
- Productores de alimentos, manufactureros, distribuidores o suplidores vinculados a la producción / distribución alimentaria local;
- Organización de base comunitaria involucrada en producción alimentaria;
- Microempresa agrícola de menos de cinco (5) empleados.

**Entidades no elegibles**

- Cualquiera que figure como listado en la de exclusión / prohibición de HUD;
- Entidades que participan en actividades políticas y/o de cabildero;
- Entidades que participan o están involucradas en actividades religiosas, excepto aquellas en las que dichos gastos son claramente distinguibles entre las actividades religiosas y seculares de la organización;
- Entidades que hayan recibido asistencia federal en el pasado y el seguro de inundación requerido no ha sido mantenido.

**Costos elegibles**

- Infraestructura agrícola;
- Equipos y herramientas agrícolas;
- Suministros de producción;
- Transporte de producción y vehículos de cosecha;
- Terreno (debe comprarse o asegurarse mediante arrendamiento agrícola a largo plazo).

**Asistencia técnica**

- Ayuda en completar la solicitud;
- Capacitación agrícola y empresarial;
- Ayuda en la gestión de las operaciones de la finca;
- Ayuda para obtener certificaciones de agricultores, exenciones de impuestos y beneficios adicionales para productores disponibles localmente;
- Ayuda y acceso a servicios especializados;
- Desarrollo de destrezas para el agroturismo / ecoturismo.

**Sobre el Fideicomiso para Ciencia, Tecnología e Investigación:**

El Fideicomiso para Ciencia, Tecnología e Investigación, según descrito en la Ley Pública 214, es una organización sin fines de lucro creada en el 2004 para impulsar la participación y creación de empleos de la isla en la economía global del conocimiento al promover la inversión y el financiamiento de la investigación y el desarrollo de la ciencia y la tecnología. Invirtiendo, facilita y desarrolla las capacidades que adelantan continuamente la economía de Puerto Rico y el bienestar de sus ciudadanos, mediante empresas basadas en la innovación, la ciencia y tecnología y su base industrial. Con la meta de que para el 2022, Puerto Rico sea un centro de reconocimiento global que desarrolla y retiene a científicos, empresas y emprendedores de excelencia mundial, para impulsar nuestra competitividad y creatividad. Es también responsable de la política pública de Puerto Rico para la ciencia, la tecnología, la investigación y el desarrollo y la salud pública.

Para más información visite: [www.prsciencetrust.org](http://www.prsciencetrust.org)

Aprobado por la Oficina del Contralor Electoral OCE-SA-2020-719
THE PROBLEM
Flooding is getting worse in coastal communities all over the world. “100-year storms” and deluge rains are happening every couple of years.

Sea level rise has passed a tipping point. It is accelerating and can no longer be stopped. Estimates now range from a foot higher by mid-century and as much as 8 feet higher by the end-of-century.

During hurricanes and severe storms, even a few inches higher sea level can cause flood waters to enter buildings and cause major damage to infrastructure.

Coastal communities will be in jeopardy with billions of dollars of assets going underwater, literally and financially.

OUR SOLUTIONS
The Center’s focus will be on “resiliency + adaptation”, promoting design guidelines and best practices for the built environment to better prepare communities for increased flooding. The four primary areas of focus will be:

1. Create Safe Advanced Flood Estimates (SAFE™) as guidelines for coastal design, planning, and engineering that include a margin-of-safety over the latest projections for flooding.

2. Work with the built-environment professions such as architecture, engineering, finance, and legal.
   • Create educational courses and workshops to teach the latest scientific understandings and best practices.
   • Develop a global resource hub and online database with critical information and adaptation solutions.
   • Hold Caribbean regional conferences engaging private sector, government, and science/academia.

3. Establish a policy center for smart building codes and zoning that will ensure more durable buildings, infrastructure, and communities.

4. Do outreach to promote 100-year flood safe communities.

PROGRAM BENEFITS
1. Flood resistant design and construction will reduce property damage and loss of life.
3. Flood resistant buildings and infrastructure will attract more investment.
4. People will visit Puerto Rico to see what we are doing to adapt in advance of future flooding.
5. Create a better legacy and inheritance for future generations.

www.prsciencetrust.org
787-523-1592 Ext. 1006
www.caribbeancenterrisingseas.org
Gilberto Guevara, Strategic Advisor | gguevara@prsciencetrust.org
John Englander, Executive Director | jenglander@prsciencetrust.org
Puerto Rico Public Health Trust

The Puerto Rico Public Health Trust (PRPHT) is a program of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT), created by law with the objective of strengthening the capacity and results of the public health systems to strengthen the capacity and results of public health systems, fostering innovation, maximizing resources, and building alliances to improve public health in Puerto Rico.

Vision

To achieve sustainable equity in the health of Puerto Rican communities and improve their quality of life through innovation, collaboration and community participation.

Mission

Serve as a trusted partner working with public and private entities to identify and realize evidence-based, community-driven solutions.

Priorities

- Emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- Chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, etc.
- Opioid addiction epidemic
- Climate change
- Health equity
- Mental health

Capabilities

Provide population-based health, fiscal, administrative and information management programs to foster the adoption of electronic health information systems in Puerto Rico.

Objective

To improve the quality of life and achieve health equity in all Puerto Rican communities.

Reach

Residents of Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans living abroad.

Programs

Puerto Rico Hurricane Hub

Community Engagement

ENLACE COMUNITARIO

Telemedicine & Telehealth

Telehealth for Nursing Home

Research Program

Public Health Research Program

prpht@prsciencetrust.org  www.prpht.org

A program of the:

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust
WHO ARE WE?

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.

WHAT WE DO?

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

- **Monitoring and Surveillance**
  - The Unit has the laboratory capacity to monitor the presence and abundance of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes across the Island.

- **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.

- **Vector Control**
  - The Unit works in close collaboration with government agencies to strengthen mosquito control programs.

Connect and contact us! Join in and Say NO to Aedes aegypti.

www.prvectorcontrol.org

Call us: 787-523-5860      Email us: info@prvectorcontrol.org

Follow Us:     /PRVectorControl

Funding for this was made possible by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views expressed in written materials or publications do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.
Centro de Asistencia Técnica de Respuesta a Huracanes de Puerto Rico

El Centro de Asistencia Técnica de Respuesta a Huracanes de Puerto Rico (HRH-TAC), es parte de una red de cinco centros que ofrece asistencia técnica a profesionales de primera respuesta ante desastres, para mejorar los esfuerzos de recuperación ambiental y de salud ocupacional en áreas afectadas por los huracanes del 2017. En febrero de 2019, iniciamos nuestros servicios colaborando con socios en todo Puerto Rico y el Caribe para identificar y manejar las necesidades de recuperación ambiental y salud ocupacional en nuestras comunidades. El centro está dirigido por el Fideicomiso de Salud Pública de Puerto Rico (PRPHT, por sus siglas inglés), una unidad del Fideicomiso para Ciencia, Tecnología e Investigación en Puerto Rico (FCTIPR).

Objetivos

- Expandir rápida y efectivamente el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral en sistema de manejo, plataformas de adiestramiento y vigilancia
- Desarrollar estrategias para mejorar la resiliencia y preparación ante desastres
- Crear adiestramientos en línea para educar a profesionales en salud pública y otras áreas
- Adiestrar a promotores de la salud para facilitar adiestramientos en las comunidades
- Alinear temas de adiestramiento a las necesidades evaluadas

Servicios

- Adiestrar a profesionales de primera respuesta en necesidades de recuperación ambiental y salud ocupacional
- Facilitar asistencia técnica en la preparación, respuesta y recuperación ante desastres
- Atender la vigilancia de morbilidad y mortalidad
- Mejorar la capacidad de proveer información de salud pública
- Educar ante el cambio climático

Capacidades y Experiencia Colectiva de Nuestra Red

- Evaluación rápida de necesidades
- Epidemiología en caso de desastres
- Educación y comunicación de alta y baja tecnología
- Educación y comunicación en español e inglés
- Cálculo y vigilancia de mortalidad
- Seguridad del agua
- Índice de vulnerabilidad

¿Cómo solicitar Asistencia Técnica?

Llene la solicitud y un representante de uno de nuestros centros se comunicará con usted dentro de 2 días laborables

SOLICITA AQUÍ:

https://prsciencetrust.org/asistencia-tecnica

Nuestros socios

Departamento de Salud de Puerto Rico | Agencia Estatal para el Manejo de Emergencias y Administración de Desastres (AEMEAD) | HHS Región 2 | Asociación de Funcionarios de Salud Estatales y Regionales | Impactivo Consulting | Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Ciencias Médicas | Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) | Carlos Albizu University (CAU) | Colegio de Médicos y Cirujanos de Puerto Rico | COR3 | Courses of Action | Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA, por sus siglas en inglés) | Asociación Federal de Protección Ambiental (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) | Asociación de Hospitales de Puerto Rico | OXFAM | United Way

Un programa de:

Fideicomiso para Ciencia, Tecnología e Investigación de Puerto Rico

El Centro de Respuesta a Huracanes de Puerto Rico (PR-HRH, por sus siglas en inglés) es un esfuerzo colaborativo entre el Centro Nacional de Coordinación para Adiestramientos en Salud Pública en NNPHI (Red Nacional de Institutos de Salud Pública), el Fideicomiso de Salud Pública de Puerto Rico y otras organizaciones. PR-HRH está financiado por el Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades bajo el acuerdo cooperativo 1 NU1ROT000004-01-00.
**WHAT IS PARALLEL18?**

Parallel18 is a top-level, performance-driven international startup program with a social mission: offering entrepreneurs from all over the world access to high-quality business training, funding, and networks to help them scale globally while working to position Puerto Rico as a unique hub for innovative businesses and technology through two main curriculums: pre18 and P18.

200+ startups  
40+ countries  
58 investments in our portfolio

P18 is an accelerator that supports startups from all over the world that are already in the market, have traction, and are ready to scale.

pre18 is for Puerto Rican innovative businesses that need help launching or pushing through the early stages of their MVP.

**WHAT WE OFFER**

- Training and mentorship
- Methodology to track growth
- US $20K equity-free for pre18ners
- Access to investment opportunities
- US $40K equity-free for P18ners
- Connections with top corporates

**WHAT WE ASK**

- Innovative startups with 3 years of operations or less.
- Companies that can scale globally
- Fully-committed teams ready to take it to the next level

We believe in creating opportunities for entrepreneurs of underrepresented groups. To do so, our team works hard to nurture startups by giving them access to exceptional resources tailored to streamline the way to their utmost potential.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

@p18startups  
@pre18startups  
cob@parallel18.com  
parallel18.com  
elboricuaselasinventa.com
Colmena66 is a regional referral network dedicated to guiding entrepreneurs and business owners and connecting them, free of charge, with the resources they need to start or grow their businesses.

As ecosystem builders, Colmena66 creates the invisible infrastructure to support entrepreneurs, including access points to the ecosystem so that anyone can participate, grow and re-build.

A Glance At Our Numbers

- **240+** Resource Partners
- **8,600+** Entrepreneurs Impacted
- **14,600+** Referrals To Our Resource Partners

How Colmena Helps Entrepreneurs

- Entrepreneurial Events Calendar
- Resource Navigator
- Step-by-Step Guides
- Personalized Action Plan
- Blog

Join The Community!

Hotline
(787) 525-4111

Email
info@colmena66.com

Website
colmena66.com
Description of the Program

The Resiliency and Business Innovation Program (RBI) is an EDA i6 grantee, and part of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT) since April 2019.

The program provides business resiliency training, research support in documenting resiliency, and development of proof-of-concept. The educational support to businesses on resiliency includes methods and concepts, and assistance in soliciting Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funds. RBI has partnered with institutions of higher education, other nonprofit organizations, professional, trade and business associations to promote the identification of innovative practices that foster resiliency in the business community. The program will focus on resilient innovations the second year of service. Our aim is to promote startups and support established businesses to scale up their resilient innovations for societal benefits and promotion of sustainable economic development.

Mission and Vision

To foster a Resilient Business Community on the Island. Enhance the innovations that create business resiliency from entrepreneur development and SBIR program applicants.

Achievements

By helping build a resilient business model benefitting Puerto Rican entrepreneurs, RBI has been able to impact businesses, organizations, and university programs that support businesses through collaboration, capacity building, training, research, and technical assistance. Through collaboration with other entrepreneurial programs, RBI has certified business coaches and mentors helping businesses create their resiliency plans.

Over 1500 people and businesses have benefited from the products and services offered by the RBI, including training, research, webinars, technical support, mentoring, and business concept reviews.

The RBI has also partnered with over 30 entities and professional business organization to extend our RBI services to target groups. Collaborators include The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, Echar Pa Lante, the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association, the Chamber of Commerce of the South, Alumni School of Business University of Puerto Rico (AFAE for its Spanish acronym), the Coalition of the Private Sector, Enactus, Hecho en Puerto Rico, the United Retailers Association, the CPA Collegiate, the Collegiate of Engineers and Land Surveyors, the Puerto Rico Constructors Association, the IT Cluster, MIDA (Food Wholesaler and Distribution Association); state and municipal Economic Development agencies and public and private higher education entities.

1,310 Participants receiving training, referrals or other project support

12 Resiliency Trainings
166 Outreach Events
93 Marketing Efforts

4 Researches Sponsored
6 SBIR award applications supported
18 Mentoring and coaching

88 Technical Assistance
39 Concepts Reviewed
27 Entrepreneurs Startups

Our Team
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Reimagine and transform the way Puerto Rico educates and prepares its STEM and CTE cohort through the promotion of effective public policy, innovative learning opportunities and facilitating key initiatives for the development of children, youth and adults.

Re-imaginar y transformar la manera en que Puerto Rico educa y prepara a su cohorte STEM & CTE mediante una política de educación pública efectiva, soluciones innovadoras de aprendizaje y la facilidad de oportunidades claves para el desarrollo de niños, jóvenes y adultos.

Areas of Focus
Áreas de Enfoque

STEM education public policy
Política Pública para la educación STEM

Strategic partnerships to advance STEM education in the island
Colaboraciones estratégicas para adelantar la educación STEM en la isla

Support the local STEM education ecosystem for equitable access for all
Colaboraciones estratégicas para adelantar la Apoyar al ecosistema de educación STEM para brindar acceso equitativo para el aprendizaje a través de la vida

Contact Us / Contacto
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San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-3475

105 Carr. #21, Km. 0.8 Bo. Monacillo
San Juan, PR 00927

Jorge A. Valentine, Program Manager
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The Puerto Rico Research & Innovation Meet-Up platform is the first of its kind in Puerto Rico. The expectation is to position Puerto Rico as a research and innovation leader in the region, as well as a capable global player by targeting the local ecosystem through a series of meet-ups.

**Mission & Vision**

To establish a point of departure for the ongoing development of the research and innovation ecosystem - both locally and internationally. We seek to capitalize on the spillover effects over time to help drive a new atmosphere for commerce, innovation, and social impact.

**Our value**

- Fostering encounters to enable sharing, learning, and improvement
- Discussing important topics pertaining to group dynamics and interests
- Increasing social capital by providing space and context from which to engage in crossed networking

**Achievements**

- More than 300 attendees
- More than 35 speakers & panelists (local, US, and International)
- Increased attendance, participation, and collaborations
- Collaborative work among attendees
- Positive change in collaborative innovation culture

For more information:

- [www.prsciencetrust.org/research-innovation-meetups](http://www.prsciencetrust.org/research-innovation-meetups)
- Contact: [meetups@prsciencetrust.org](mailto:meetups@prsciencetrust.org)
Science District

The Trust’s main infrastructure-related initiative is Science District. It is a Puerto Rico-wide network of state-of-the-art facilities for research, academic, and business initiatives that advance knowledge and innovation. Its members benefit from important tools described in Act 214-2004. Its major component is Science City, a 69 cuerdas mixed-use project located in San Juan, in a dense concentration of hospitals, universities, and other science and technology resources. The Trust aims to fortify Puerto Rico’s research infrastructure and enable its use as a tool to develop, attract, and retain a vibrant research ecosystem. To do so, it is identifying and incorporating additional resources that contribute to the Trust’s overarching mission of facilitating economic development and citizens’ well-being through science, technology, research, and Puerto Rico’s industrial base.

Science City

Science City is the major component of Science District. It is located in Puerto Rico’s capital city of San Juan, hosting state-of-the-art facilities for research, academic, and business initiatives, as well as other lifestyle amenities. The 69 cuerdas site will contain a vibrant, culturally rich, planned science campus in an urban setting with many important science, technology, research, health, and academic resources nearby.

The Trust is executing a plan of action with the ultimate goal of facilitating such an innovation ecosystem. To do so, the Trust is pursuing two action steps: First, it is seeking a development partner to lease, finance, develop, and manage the mixed-use 69 cuerdas Science City project (Master Development - RFO). Secondly, it is identifying and approaching potential anchor tenants to be a part of Science City.

Since 2014, $8 million awarded to science and technology research projects.

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Jerry Melendez, Project Manager

PROJECTMANAGER@PrScienceTrust.ORG
The Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) (SBIR from here on) at The Puerto Rico Science Technology & Research Trust (Trust) provides support to entrepreneurs with innovative technologies and/or applications in the commercialization of a product concept derived from these innovations. The program provides technical and commercialization experts advice while working with the innovative team in the search for non-dilutive funds to overcome the commercial viability risks associated with new technologies. The program assists in the submissions of competitive proposals to the SBIR program in all agencies.

The SBIR program is highly competitive and encourages domestic innovative technologies-based small businesses with commercial viability to engage in federally funded Research and Development (R&D). Through competitive awards and contracts, SBIR enables small businesses, entrepreneurs, and researchers to explore their innovative technologies and applications potential while providing an incentive to profit from its commercialization. These small businesses with high-tech innovations will provide the United States economy gains through the creation of new high skilled jobs.

This three-phase program provides $100K- $265K in Phase I and $600K - ->$1M in Phase II, there is no support for Phase III where the awardee should be in the commercial part of the process. The Trust provides matching funds to grant/contract winners, $100K for Phase I and $200K for Phase II.

The Trust's SBIR Program is the coordinating entity of related activities in Puerto Rico. It assists all qualified small businesses, researchers and individuals accessing these funding opportunities (approximately $2.8 billion annually in non-dilutive federal funding grants and contracts from 11 agencies) provided by this Program.

This Trust program emphasizes two areas critical to increasing the successful proposals; outreach and education. 1) Outreach: Colmena66 and the Grants Program together with the following organizations; 2) Education: The Trust provides advice to those working on proposals, it does not write proposals, instead it walks the promising applicants through the process of writing a competitive proposal. As the proposals take form the applicants learn how to avoid programmatic and subtle mistakes that can get their proposals rejected. This education process will create a mentor network that will share their experiences and ease the new applicants into the applications. After this process, the applicant will have a good understanding of how to develop a competitive SBIR proposal. Award/contract winners will join the mentors' network grown to provide support to new applicants.

The Trust's SBIR program started in the second half of the calendar year 2015. During the previous 28 years, Puerto Rico had 27 awards and $4,205,645 in awards from six (6) agencies. Since 2015 Puerto Rico has seen 19 awards, that is, 70% of the previous period while bringing $5,992,025, 142% of what had been achieved previously.

As a result of the success in the applications, the Small Business Administration held their SBIR Road Tour in Puerto Rico in November 2019, the first time this event is held in Puerto Rico. The Road Tour brings representation from all agencies to present and address questions regarding small businesses' participation in their SBIR programs.