COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

Launching the Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

Note From Our PI

It is with great enthusiasm that we share the inaugural edition of the COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences (PR-CMS) Newsletter. This issue marks an important milestone in the development of a pioneering scientific enterprise for Puerto Rico—the first microbiome-focused research center in the Caribbean and one of the first microbiome COBRE centers funded nationally by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), under the NIH award P20 GM156713.

Our mission is to build a strong and sustainable research infrastructure that empowers investigators across the island to advance microbiome science, translational research, and microbiome-driven innovation. The PR-CMS will support early-stage investigators through mentorship, core resources, pilot funding, and collaborative opportunities that strengthen biomedical discoveries with direct relevance to the Puerto Rican population.

Microbiome science is transforming how we understand human health, disease development, environmental interactions, and responses to therapy. By establishing this center, Puerto Rico is poised to contribute meaningfully to this rapidly evolving field, fostering local expertise and producing knowledge that addresses both national and regional health needs.

We are also proud to launch this initiative with strong institutional support and growing collaborations, including an emerging partnership with the Microbiome Centers Consortium and the Global Microbiome Conservancy, which will enable joint scientific activities and cross-institutional research. We look forward to sharing the progress of our Research Project Leaders (RPLs), core scientific events, and community engagement initiatives.

Together, we are building the foundation of a transformative scientific future for Puerto Rico.

Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, PhD

Launching the Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences
Advancing Microbiome-Driven Biomedical Research in Puerto Rico

What's New?

The Launch

- Meet the team
- Meet the new Microbiome Research Project Leaders
- Seminar Series of Success
- Outreach

Meet- UP

1st Symposium: Save the Date for the biggest 2026 scientific event

Member of the MICROBIOME CENTERS CONSORTIUM

GLOBAL MICROBIOME CONSERVANCY

COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

Launching the Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

The Launch

Puerto Rico has officially launched the Caribbean's first microbiome research center, marking a significant advancement for scientific and health research across the region. The newly established Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences (PR-CMS) at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (RCM) was made possible through an $11.3 million award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) under the COBRE program; representing the largest NIH research investment of its kind in Puerto Rico.

Under the direction of Dr. Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, a leading figure in Caribbean microbiome research and the theme "Microbiomes Are Architects of Biology", PR-CMS main goals are to strengthen the island's scientific infrastructure, expand research capacity, and cultivate the next generation of researchers. The Center's mission emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, advanced analytical support, and structured mentorship for early-career scientists.

During its inaugural phase, PR-CMS will support research projects examining the microbiome's influence on sleep and aggressive behavior, the relationship between oral microbiota and cancer therapies, and the role of the gut microbiome in epilepsy. These initiatives will actively involve undergraduate and graduate trainees, broaden research participation and that will foster scientific engagement across the island.

Beyond its research portfolio, PR-CMS aims to integrate Puerto Rican institutions into the Microbiome Centers Consortium, a national network dedicated to resource sharing and collaborative innovation. The Center will also advance community outreach through workshops, seminars, and public-facing activities. This comprehensive strategy reflects a One Health approach—linking human, environmental, and ecosystem well-being—and positions Puerto Rico as an emerging regional hub for microbiome science.

Bibl.: UPR School of Medicine, Microbes and Social Equity, CienciaPR, Puerto Rico launches first Microbiome Research Center in the Caribbean | News | The Microbiologist

Launching the Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences
Left to right: Dr. Stephnie Dorta, Dr. Yamixa Delgado, Dr. Maria Sosa, Dr. Yancy Ferrer, Dr. Mark Miller and Dr. Roberto Rodriguez

Highlights of the Event

- **The new PR-CMS at UPR-RCM opens with a historic $11.3M NIH-NIGMS COBRE award future microbiome scientists.**
- **COBRE PR-CMS will ignite innovative research and strengthen national collaboration.**

A Full House Welcomes the New Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences kick-off

COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

Launching the Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

The event received coverage from both local and national press, and we are pleased to share a selection of photos below.

Bibl.: UPR School of Medicine, Microbes and Social Equity, CienciaPR, Puerto Rico launches first Microbiome Research Center in the Caribbean | News | The Microbiologist

Meet the Team

Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, PhD., Principal Investigator of the COBRE PR-CMS, Professor and Chair of the Microbiology and Immunology Department at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, is a leading microbiome scientist whose work spans animal and human microbial ecology, evolution, and biofilm dynamics, with a strong focus on translating microbial science to human health. She has an extensive record of national and international leadership, including service with the American Society for Microbiology, the NCI ULACNet Precancer Treatment Working Group, and the International Society of Microbial Ecology, where she serves as Ambassador for Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. She is also President of the AAAS Caribbean Division and an editorial board member of ISME Communications. In addition, she collaborates with the Microbiota Vault to preserve global microbial diversity. Her work integrates research, education, training, and public engagement to advance microbial sciences and their societal impact.

Maria Sosa Llorens, PhD., Administrative Director of COBRE PR-CMS and Chair of Anatomy & Neurobiology at UPR, leads research on how invertebrate nervous systems shape social behaviors and how environmental change impacts Puerto Rico's river species. Her team uses *Macrobrachium* prawns to study the neural basis of aggression and dominance she has successfully fostered the careers of 15 independent faculty scientists. Furthermore, she has spearheaded extensive infrastructure renovations, transforming outdated facilities into modern molecular and microscopy labs, demonstrating a masterful command of federal research and infrastructure grants (NIH, NSF). This synergy of scientific expertise and administrative leadership positions her as a pivotal figure in advancing the COBRE Program in Environmental Neuroimmunology and the COBRE PR CMS program.

Mark Miller, PhD., Associate Director of the COBRE Center for Neuroplasticity at the UPR and Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the UPR, Medical Sciences Campus. With a career devoted to uncovering how neural circuits are built and functioning, his research brings decades of expertise in neurophysiology, neuroanatomy, behavior, and molecular neuroscience. Since joining UPR-MSC in 1992, he has led major NSF-funded initiatives—including URM, CREST, and PIRE—and mentored early-career scientists through key leadership roles in COBRE Neuroplasticity and the Institute of Neurobiology. His extensive administrative and mentoring experience uniquely positions him to guide the Faculty Development Module of the new COBRE PR Center for Microbiome Science.

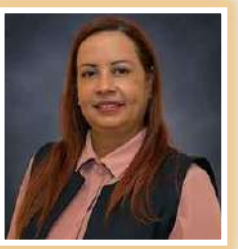
Meet the COBRE PR-CMS Staff

The COBRE PR-CMS program at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus brings together investigators advancing microbiome science in Puerto Rico through innovative research, mentorship, and collaboration.
This work is supported by a dedicated team that administers programs, manages logistics, and facilitates scientific interactions, ensuring operational excellence and investigator success.

Kreshlya De la Paz Rodríguez, MPH.
Program Coordinator

Mariam Vázquez, PhD.
Project Coordinator

Nydia L. Rivera-Rivera, PhD.
Outreach, Education and Logistics Coordinator



Brenda Carrucini González, Bs.
Administrative Assistant

Jaleniz Suárez Pérez, BSc.
Bioinformatician

Vivian Santos Quiñones, Bs.
Administrative Assistant

Meet the new PR-CMS Research Project Leaders

Roberto Rodríguez Morales, PhD., Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology at the UPR School of Medicine, investigates the mechanisms that shape social behavior adaptation using fish models. He earned his PhD at UPR, where he studied genetic drivers of sensory system regeneration in zebrafish using CRISPR/Cas9. As a postdoctoral fellow at Lehigh University, he examined the evolution of aggression in the blind cavefish *Astyanax mexicanus*. Returning to UPR in 2023, he established a laboratory exploring sensory function, and social behavior in cavefish, supported by RCMI, COBRE Neuroplasticity, and an NIH R16 SuRE-First award. In addition, his research group is investigating how gut microbiome diversity shapes social behavior in cavefish.

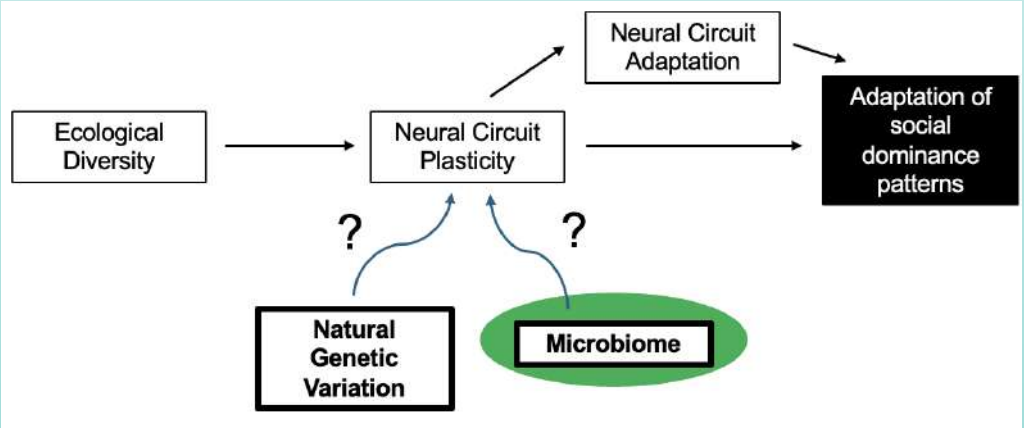


Fig 1. Project Overview and Hypothesis-Driven Research Questions

The mechanisms underlying social behavior adaptation are multifactorial, including natural genetic variation, and potentially gut microbiome diversity. *Image by RRM.*

The Rodriguez Lab – Brains in the Dark Team

Instagram:

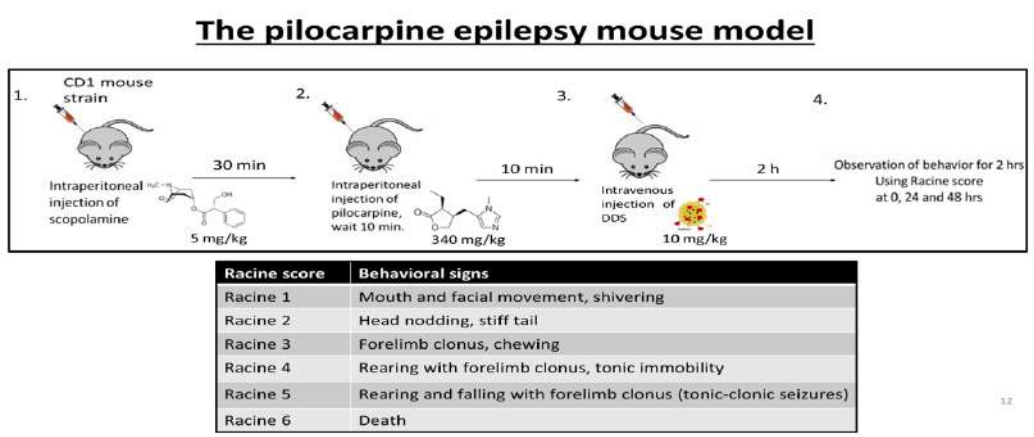
ORCID ID:

LinkedIn:

Meet the new PR-CMS Research Project Leaders

Yancy Ferrer-Acosta, PhD., Assistant Professor and researcher, bridges neuroscience, cancer biology, and translational science through a multidisciplinary career. A UPR-Río Piedras alumna, she completed her PhD. in Neuroscience investigating tau aggregation in neurodegeneration, followed by postdoctoral training in cancer and immunology. Her research program spans neuroprotection and lung cancer therapies, including nanoparticle-based drug delivery, natural neuroprotective compounds, and immune-mediated mechanisms of neuroinflammation. She also develops targeted strategies for non-small cell lung carcinoma. With strong teaching and mentoring experience, she is committed to mentoring the next generation of biomedical scientists. Her research group is dedicated to advancing innovative therapies for neurological disorders and cancer.

Fig 1. Experimental Design of the Research Project



Racine score	Behavioral signs
Racine 1	Mouth and facial movement, shivering
Racine 2	Head nodding, stiff tail
Racine 3	Forelimb clonus, chewing
Racine 4	Rearing with forelimb clonus, tonic immobility
Racine 5	Rearing and falling with forelimb clonus (tonic-clonic seizures)
Racine 6	Death

The pilocarpine mouse model is used to study *status epilepticus,* combining pharmacological agents and behavioral monitoring to evaluate seizure severity using the Racine Scale. *Image by YFA.*

The Ferrer Lab Team

ORCID ID:

LinkedIn:

ResearchGate:

Meet the new PR-CMS Research Project Leaders

Stephanie Dorta-Estremera, PhD., Assistant Professor of the Microbiology and Immunology Department at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) School of Medicine and the UPR Comprehensive Cancer Center, is a basic and translational immunologist whose work centers on defining immune mechanisms that drive disease progression and treatment response in HIV, autoimmune disorders, and cancer. A graduate of UPR-Río Piedras, she completed post-baccalaureate training at the NIH and earned her PhD and postdoctoral training in immunology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Currently, she leads research on treatment resistance in HPV-related cancers, microbiota–immune interactions in mucosal tissues, and the identification of immune and microbial biomarkers to improve therapies for Puerto Rican patients.

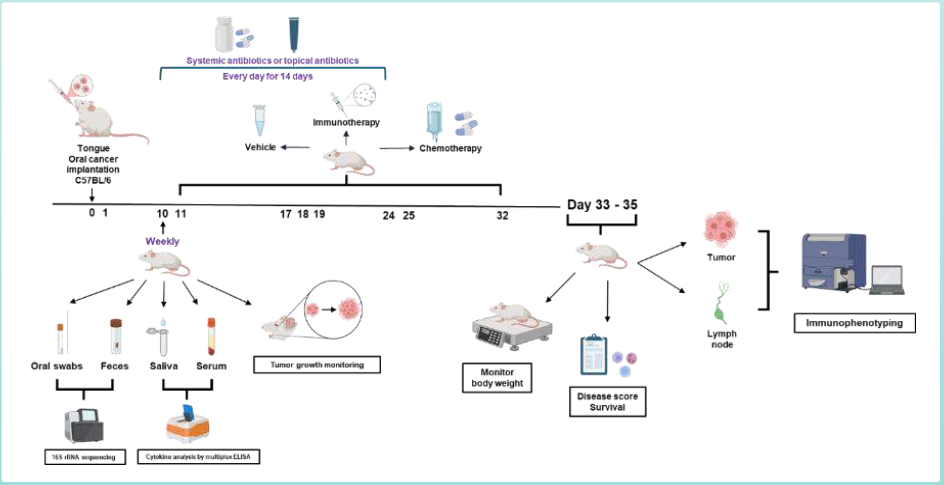


Fig 1. Experimental Design of the Research Project

One of the current research goals is to determine the biological effect of oral and topical antibiotics on cancer treatment responses in preclinical models of oropharyngeal cancer.

The Dorta Lab Team

Instagram:

ORCID ID:

LinkedIn:

Lab webpage :

Momentum in Motion: COBRE PR-CMS Monthly Seminars Series Deliver an Exceptional Semester

Seminar Speakers

The COBRE PR-CMS Monthly Seminar Series achieved notable success during this fall first semester of the program, underscoring the value of convening leading scientists within our microbiome research community and hosting remarkable international scientists in the campus. The presence of distinguished speakers enriched the intellectual environment of the UPR Medical Sciences Campus and other institutions, fostering rigorous scientific exchange and advancing dialogue across diverse areas of microbiome research. Their contributions strengthened collaborative networks, enhanced trainee engagement, and reinforced the Center's commitment to cultivating a robust research ecosystem in Puerto Rico. This semester's momentum reflects the growing prominence of COBRE PR-CMS as a regional leader in microbiome science and highlights the critical role of sustained scholarly interaction in driving scientific progress and promoting an interchange of ideas for future collaborative works.

Below is a summary of the invited speakers for this semester month seminar series and their contributions.

September 24, 2025
Speaker: *Dr. Lauren Colbert*, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Lecture: *Vaginal Microbiomes in Cervical Cancer Development and Response to Therapy*

October 15, 2025
Speaker: *Dr. Imilce Rodríguez*, University of Puerto Rico–Río Piedras
Lecture: *Dissecting Host–Microbe Interactions: From Methods to Microbiota-Based Interventions in Aging and Disease*

October 16, 2025
Speaker: *Dr. Filipa Godoy*, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus
Lecture: *Microbiomes as Architects of Biology: The Role of the New Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences in Catalyzing Discovery*

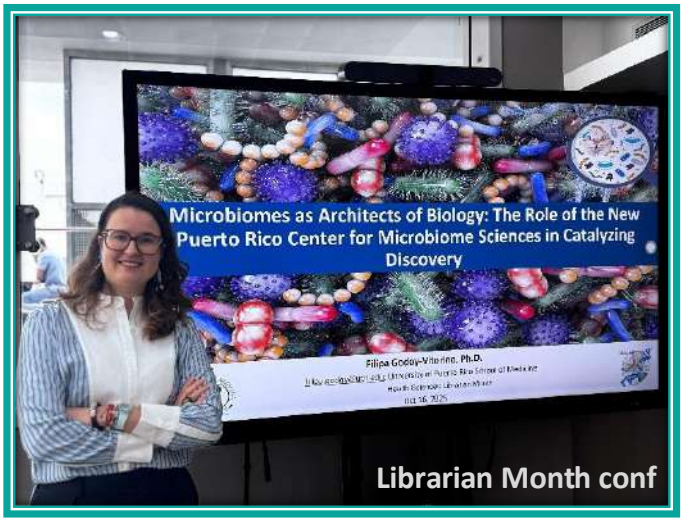
December 17, 2025
Speaker: *Dr. Omar Cornejo*, University of California, Santa Cruz
Lecture: *Population Genomics of Microorganisms and Their Hosts*

Participants at Dr. Imilce Rodriguez seminar

These activities were supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIGMS-NIH) award #1P20GM156713-01

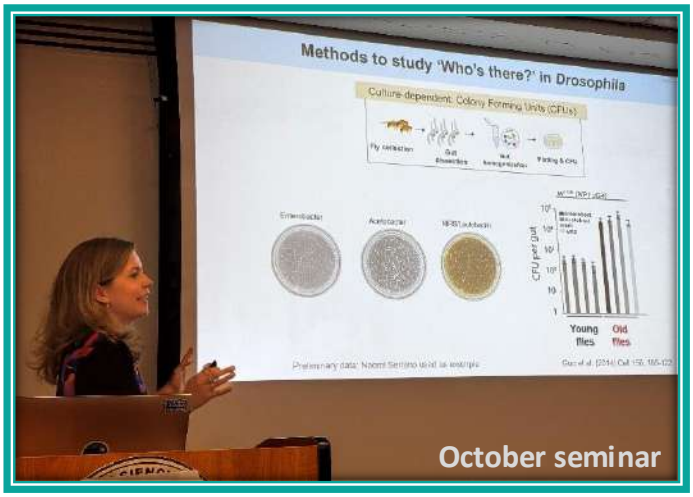
Momentum in Motion: COBRE PR-CMS Monthly Seminars Series (cont.)

Celebrating Highlights from Our Recent Events



Librarian Month conf

COBRE at the ISMELAT Merida Mexico



October seminar


COBRE at the ISMELAT Merida Mexico


September seminar

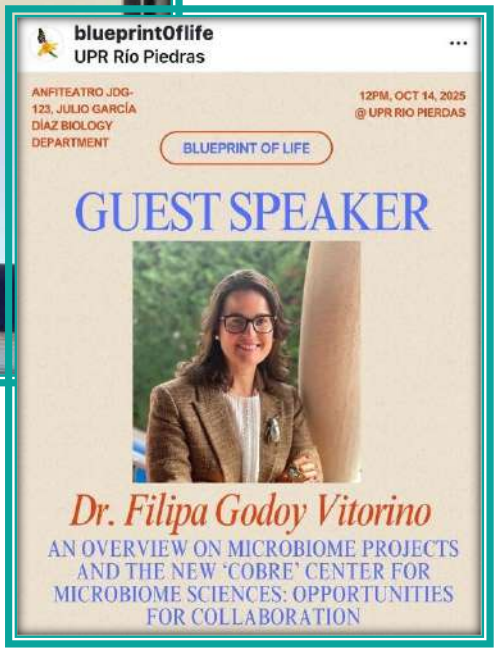

September seminar

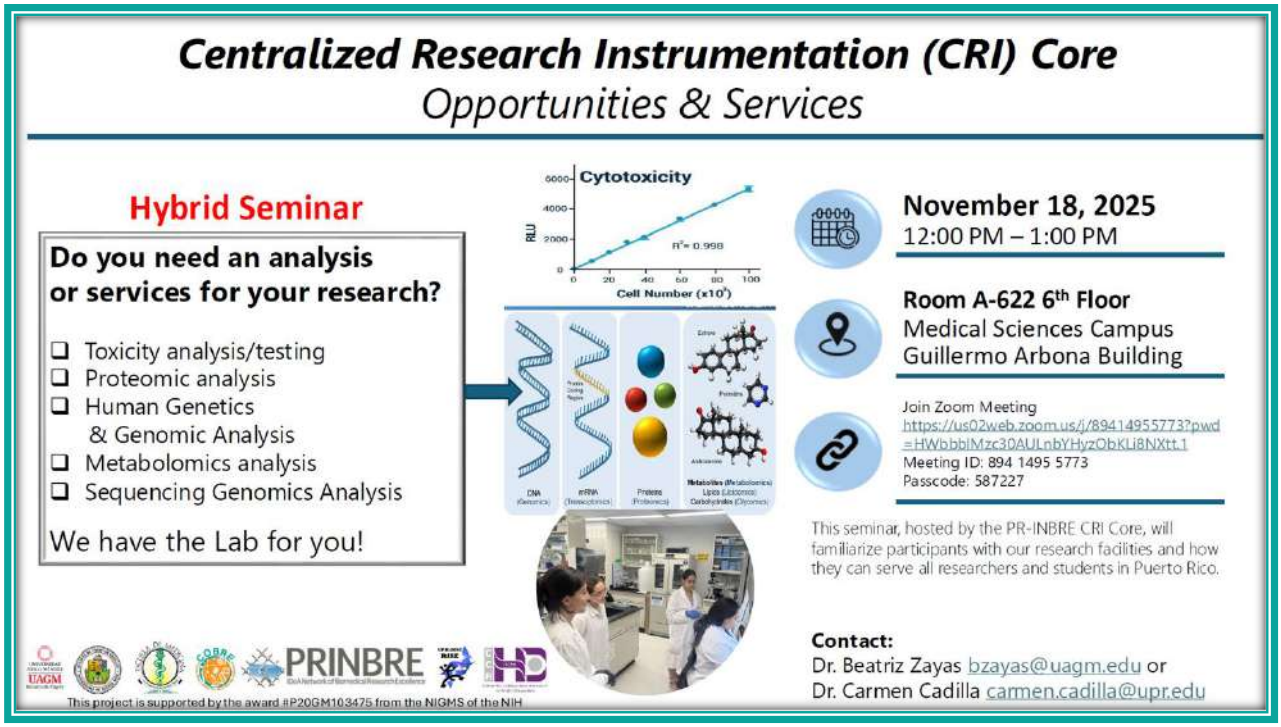
Momentum in Motion: COBRE PR-CMS Monthly Seminars Series (cont.)

Celebrating Highlights from Our Recent Events

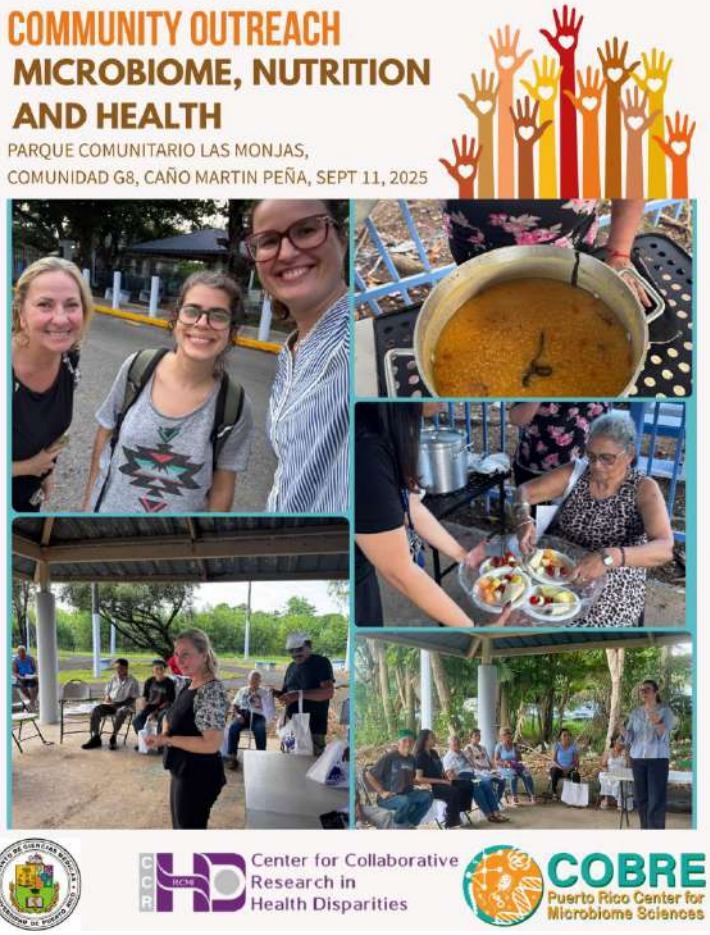
Momentum in Motion: COBRE PR-CMS Additional Events, Seminars & Activities

From local gatherings to international stages, we contribute, connect, and co-sponsor activities that elevate our scientific ecosystem





More Ways We're Engaging and Reaching Our Audiences



Advancing Microbiome Sciences: COBRE PR-CMS Meet-up Mark a Semester of Success

COBRE PR-CMS Features Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Environment, Cancer, and the Microbiome

The Puerto Rico Microbiome Sciences Center (COBRE PR CMS) organized the interdisciplinary meet-up: *"Environment, Cancer, and Microbiome: Perspectives from Puerto Rico,"* hosted by the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (UPR–MSC). The event convened researchers, clinicians, and public health experts to explore how environmental exposures influence cancer risk and human health through the microbiome and was held at the UPR Molecular Sciences Building.

In collaboration with the UPR–MSC Comprehensive Cancer Center, CARIB-CARES, and CPHE, COBRE PR CMS contributed to a shared research framework addressing environmental contamination, climate-related health risks, cancer disparities, and post–Hurricane Maria prevention initiatives. Discussions also emphasized innovative strategies to connect environmental data with clinical outcomes, strengthening translational research in Puerto Rico .

Dr. Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, Director of COBRE PR CMS, highlighted the importance of integrating microbiome science into environmental and cancer research, underscoring the microbiome's role as a key mediator of health. The meet-up reinforced COBRE PR CMS's commitment to fostering collaboration across disciplines and engaging community stakeholders to advance impactful research and improve population health on the island .

The program featured presentations by leading investigators on air quality, Saharan dust exposure, extreme weather events, cancer risk in Hispanic populations, and emerging microbiome research in Puerto Rico. The event concluded with a forward-looking panel discussion focused on integration, collaboration, and future research opportunities aligned with the mission of COBRE PR CMS .

From left to right: Dr. Abel Baerga, Dr. Vivian Colón, Dr. Pablo Méndez, Dra. Filipa Godoy, Dr. Benjamin Bolaños y Dr. Ana P. Ortiz

Advancing Microbiome Sciences: COBRE PR-CMS Meet-up Mark a Semester of Success

The seminar brought together multiple investigators from the RCM-UPR and collaborating research centers.

- **Dr. Benjamín Bolaños,** Professor in the Department of Microbiology at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus and an expert in mycology and environmental aerobiology, delivered a lecture on air quality, COVID-19, influenza, and patient outcomes

- **Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz**, professor and researcher in the Graduate School of Public Health and director of the Epidemiology Program, presented on extreme atmospheric events and their impact on continuity in cancer control. She also serves as Principal Investigator of CARIB-CARES (NIH, NCI).

- **Dr. Pablo Méndez Lázaro**, geographer and environmental scientist, discussed environmental exposure data, with particular emphasis on **Saharan dust** and air quality. He is also a Principal Investigator for CARIB-CARES (NIH, NCI).

- **Dr. Vivian Colón López**, professor and researcher at the Comprehensive Cancer Center, examined cancer risk within the Hispanic population. She is a Principal Investigator of the COBRE CPCHE.

- **Dr. Filipa Godoy-Vitorino,** presented new findings on the microbiome in Puerto Rico, highlighting ongoing work within the COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences (PR-CMS).

- **Dr. Abel Baerga Ortiz**, chemist and professor in the Department of Biochemistry, and Principal Investigator of the COBRE CPCHE, moderated the closing panel, *"Integration and Future Directions."* He also directs the Puerto Rico Center for Tropical Biodiversity and Bioprospecting.

Bibl.: Ciencias Médicas expone impacto del medioambiente en la salud, Ciencias Médicas fomenta el diálogo interdisciplinario sobre el impacto del medioambiente en la salud - Foro Noticioso Puerto Rico, Especialista exponen sobre el impacto del medioambiente en la salud – Precision,

Advancing Microbiome Sciences: COBRE PR-CMS Meet-up: A Look at Standout Moments

Photos courtesy of Neftaly Rosario, Dr. Godoy, Marian Cobian

Advancing Microbiome Sciences: COBRE PR-CMS Meet-up: A Look at Standout Moments

Photos courtesy of Neftaly Rosario, Dr. Godoy, Marian Cobian

CARIB CARES
CARIBBEAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL HAZARDS

CePCHE

COBRE
Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS INTEREST GROUP
University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center

CCR RCMI

PRINBRE
IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence

CENTRO COMPRENSIVO DE CÁNCER
universidad de puerto rico

RECINTO DE CIENCIAS MÉDICAS
UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO

Interview behealthmed.com to Dr Omar Cornejo

Interview Dr Omar Cornejo on pathogen evolution and the role of the microbiome and host genetics

In a conversation with BeHealthMed, UCSC population geneticist and COBRE invited speaker Dr. Omar Cornejo explained that some people become more severely ill than others is not determined by genes alone, but by a long evolutionary interaction between humans, pathogens, and the microbiome. This ongoing “biological arms race” shapes how both hosts and pathogens adapt and survive over time. Unlike short-term infections such as influenza or COVID-19, the microbiome—our community of resident bacteria—constantly interacts with our immune system, subtly influencing our physiology and responses to disease. Dr. Cornejo emphasized that these everyday microbial interactions matter just as much as acute infections.

He also challenged one-size-fits-all approaches like generic probiotics or microbiome transplants, noting that a person’s genetics influence which bacteria can thrive in their body. Studying genetically diverse populations, such as those in the Caribbean and Latin America, is essential for advancing truly personalized medicine.

Finally, Dr. Cornejo warned that human behavior and ecosystem destruction are increasing contact with wildlife pathogens, raising the risk of zoonotic diseases and blurring the boundaries between species.

Check out his interview at: https://behealthmed.com/genetica-de-poblaciones-la-evolucion-de-los-patogenos/

Ending the year at the radio sharing news about the center and educating the community

RADIO ISLA 1320 Puerto Rico's leading station for news and analysis.

#PuestosParaLaMañana With Luis Herrero and Jonathan Lebrón

Click here to see the video

Dr. Mónica Feliú interviewed Dr. Filipa Godoy-Vitorino in a dynamic conversation about the microbiome, its impact on health and the environment, and the launch of the new COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences. The discussion highlighted emerging career opportunities, scientific innovation, and the growing importance of microbiome research in Puerto Rico and beyond.

UPCOMING EVENTS

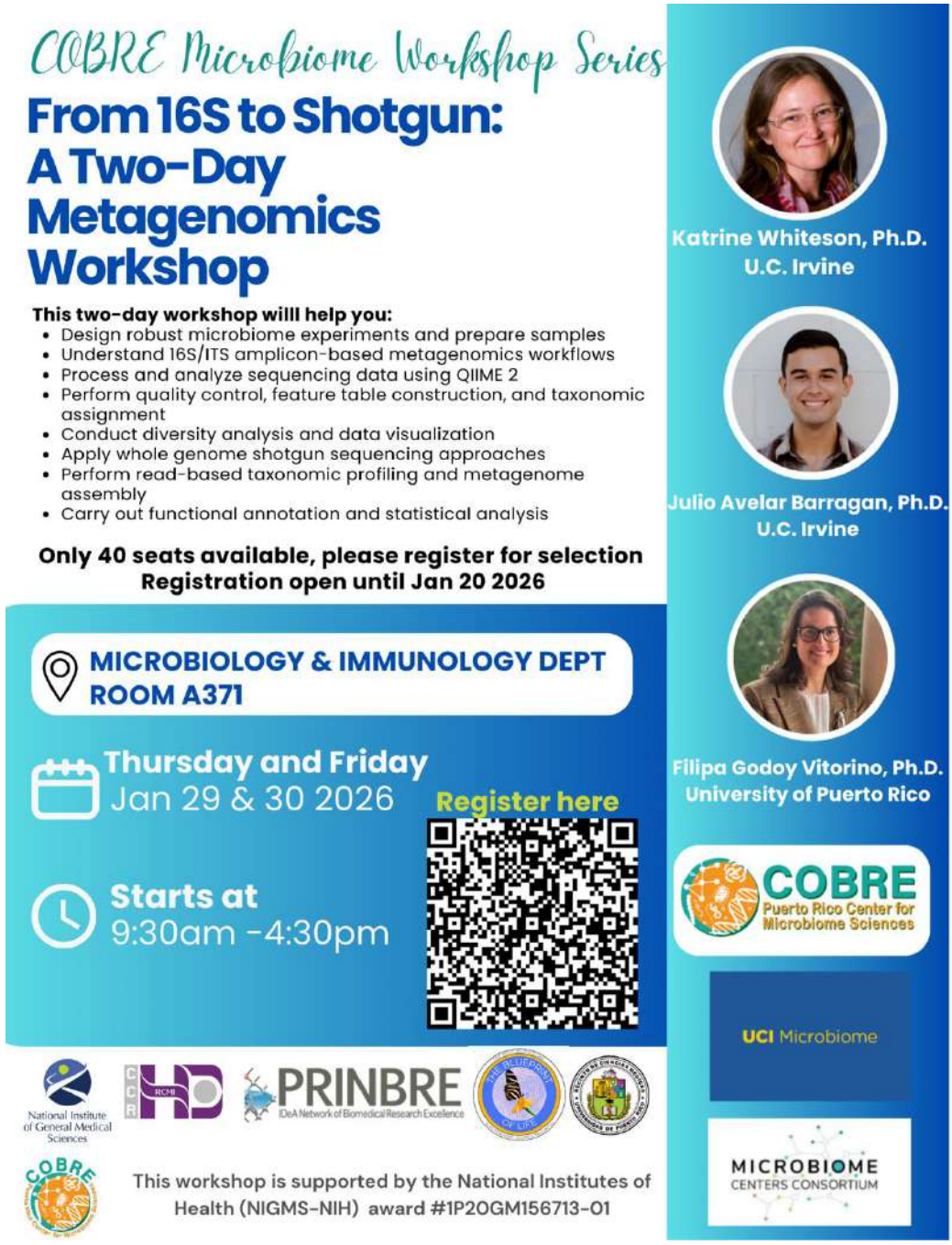
We are pleased to launch the 2026 PR-CMS Monthly Seminar Series:

First 2026 guest speaker is Dr. Katrine Whiteson of University of California, Irvine on January 28, 2026.

Documentary:
Jan 28, 2026 (2:30pm)
Amphitheater 1 (3rd floor)

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are excited to announce the inaugural workshop of the COBRE PR-CMS.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1ST MICROBIOME SYMPOSIUM

PUERTO RICO & THE CARIBBEAN

Community Dynamics in a Changing World

Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Beach Resort
San Juan, Puerto Rico

February 28, 9:30 AM – 6:00PM

Important Dates

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** January 30, 2026
- **Abstract Acceptance Notification:** February 5, 2026
- **Symposium Date:** February 28, 2026
- **Location:** San Juan, Puerto Rico

Event will be free of charge
Please follow instructions below

1ST MICROBIOME SYMPOSIUM
PUERTO RICO & THE CARIBBEAN

Submission Instructions

- **Abstracts must be submitted by email** in **Word or PDF format**
- **Email address:** cobremicrobiomepr.rcm@upr.edu
- **Email subject line: ABSTRACT – YOUR NAME**
- **The email must include:**
  - Name of the presenting author
  - Abstract title
  - Attached abstract file (Word or PDF)
  - Presenter status (Undergraduate, Graduate, Postdoc, or Faculty)
  - Indication of preference for short oral talk or poster presentation
  - Topic: Indicate your topic (up to 3 keywords to facilitate disposition of posters)

Presentation & Registration Requirements

- The presenting author must register using the same email used for abstract submission
- Presenters must be available to present in person in San Juan, Puerto Rico on February 28, 2026. Remote presentations are not available
- Registration is free, however the PR-CMS does not provide travel funding
- International submitters are responsible for all travel funding and documentation and are encouraged to apply for visas as early as possible

Important Policies

- The abstract submitter must be the first/presenting author
- Each abstract may only be submitted once
- Overlapping abstracts submitted by multiple presenters will be rejected
- Approval of all co-authors must be obtained before submission
- Rejected abstracts may not be edited or resubmitted
- Abstracts must be well written, easy to understand, and in English

1ST MICROBIOME SYMPOSIUM
PUERTO RICO & THE CARIBBEAN

Abstract Title
(Short, concise, and descriptive. Not included in the 2,500-character count.)

Author Information
Presenting Author (First Author): Full Name
Co-Author(s): Full Name(s)
Institution(s): Department, Institution, City, Country
Presenter Status: Undergraduate Student / Graduate Student / Postdoc / Faculty
Presentation Preference: Short Oral Talk / Poster

Abstract Body

- **Background**
  - Clearly state the scientific background and the central question, hypothesis, or discovery motivating the study. Explain the relevance of the work to microbiome research.
- **Methods**
  - Briefly describe the objective, experimental design, sample source, and analytical methods used. Methods should reflect objective data collection and analysis.
- **Results**
  - Present key findings of the study. Preliminary data are acceptable. Results should be clearly stated and data-focused. Do not include tables or figures**.**
- **Conclusion**
  - Summarize the main conclusions and significance of the findings. Briefly describe the implications or future directions.

Keywords: Indicate up to three keywords

Funding

- State any source(s) of funding contributing to this work. *(Not included in the 2,500-character limit.)*

(Maximum length: 2,500 characters for the abstract body only. Title, authors, affiliations, and funding are not included in the character count.)
Please review all submission instructions carefully and submit your abstract by email as specified. Failure to comply with the abstract submission requirements may result in automatic rejection.

Abstract Acceptance Notification: February 5, 2026

COBRE
Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences

The COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Science (COBRE PR-CMS) is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under grant **P20 GM156713**.

The goal of this COBRE initiative is to establish the Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences (PR-CMS) at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. The PR-CMS will serve as a premier hub for advancing microbial ecology and microbiome research on the island by providing state-of-the-art scientific infrastructure and fostering robust interdisciplinary collaboration. Its mission is to elevate Puerto Rico as a center of excellence in microbiome sciences.

"The research/publication/press release was supported by Award Number ***P20 GM156713*** from the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health".

These activities were supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIGMS-NIH) award #1P20GM156713-01

The images featured in this special issue are provided courtesy of Dr. Filipa Godoy, Mariana Cobian, Neftali Rosario, Dr. Nydia Rivera as well as numerous students and researchers who generously contributed their photographs to PR-CMS.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors.