

Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation Commemorates 5th Anniversary

Virtual Event will Touch on Array of Topics, Including Covid-19 Pandemic
'Celebrating our Achievements while Embracing our Future'



Join Us
to commemorate our
Anniversary!

5th Anniversary



PRCCI
Puerto Rico Consortium
for Clinical Investigation
Innovation • Investigation • Well-being

Subsidiary of the:



**Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust**

*Celebrating our Achievements while
Embracing our Future*

April 30, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • Via Zoom 
Earn Up to 1.5 CME Credits*
Registration deadline: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.
Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.
For more information: contact@prcci.org

BY MARÍA MIRANDA | m.miranda@cb.pr

The Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI), the nonprofit subsidiary of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTR), is celebrating its fifth anniversary Friday, April 30, starting at 9 a.m. in a virtual event, dubbed “Celebrating our Achievements while Embracing our Future.”

A group of experts will be touching on a number of scientific topics including the COVID-19 pandemic, PRCCI Executive Director Amarilys Silva Boschetti said in an interview with Caribbean Business.

“The Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation will be celebrating

its fifth anniversary with a presentation of recognitions and a scientific educational program for the clinical investigation community,” Silva said. “We will be celebrating the event on Friday, April 30, via Zoom. This event recognizes the immense work that the Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation has done since it was founded five years ago.”

The consortium had five research centers in 2016 and today has 29 research centers in hospitals, universities and private practice physicians. These achievements have turned the PRCCI into the clinical investigation hub of the Caribbean with the participation of Puerto Rican doctors who have formally begun to conduct research investigations. Silva said the PRCCI’s

mission is to become a global research hub and thus far has 21 clinical trials underway and six pending approval. “Our program is focused on expanding clinical trials in Puerto Rico and helping to develop professionals in that area,” Silva said. “And we are also focused on the education and training of professionals in the clinical trial area.”

Novel Option

In addition, the PRCCI coordinates clinical trials and offers “the opportunity of a novel treatment for our patients here in Puerto Rico,” she noted. “We are also contributing to global science because we have a diverse Hispanic group and the impact that PRCCI makes to the science community and to education.”

The event will have four talks and will be open to the entire scientific community, Silva said, noting that doctors can obtain up to 1.5 continuing medical education credits if they participate. Among the invited panelists is Dr. Alejandro David Cané, the U.S. Medical Lead for Vaccines at Pfizer, who “will be speaking about the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, its mechanism for action and its development during the pandemic,” Silva said.

Cané will be followed by Dr. Kenneth Ramos, the executive director at Texas A&M Institute of Biosciences and Technology. He will be speaking about re-envisioning clinical trials in the era of precision medicine during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“He forms part of our board of directors and he specializes in genetic medicine. His talk will focus on genetic medicine and Covid-19,” Silva added.

The other two talks will be led by Dr. Álvaro Aranda, a renowned pulmonologist in Puerto Rico who “has worked on a number of Covid-19 studies with hospitalized patients. Basically, he will be speaking about his experience and how he achieved managing the challenges of the pandemic to keep all these clinical studies active,” the PRCCI executive director said.

Finally, Dr. Rafael Betancourt, an oncologist and director and founder of the Puerto Rico Medical Research Center, will delve into clinical research investigations. Silva explained that Betancourt “is another researcher who has worked closely in oncology clinical trials, and he will be speaking about the strategies he has used and that have been effective to be able to carry out clinical studies. Under his direction, a great number of clinical trials have been conducted under the umbrella of the PRCCI in an admirable amount of time.

“We want to bring to Puerto Rico oncology [clinical] studies for patients that sometimes find that their only treatment option is clinical trials. This happens in oncology, and we have heard many a time that patients leave Puerto Rico looking for these treatment options in the mainland U.S. More importantly, is how we impact



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— Amarilys Silva Boschetti,
Executive Director, Puerto
Rico Consortium for Clinical
Investigation (PRCCI)

the patient—and their family—that need that medical treatment option.” “Celebrating our Achievements while Embracing our Future” is “aimed at the entire community, not only the scientific community, but also to all who are interested in learning more about clinical trials and their benefits,” Silva concluded.

For more information and to register for the event, which will be translated simultaneously to English, visit www.prcci.org.