

Newsletter Fall 2018



Ponce Health Sciences University-
Moffitt Cancer Center Partnership

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

SAVE THE DATE

COMING
UP



- **Hablemos de cáncer**
 - March 9, 2019 at Pontifical Catholic University of Ponce



- **¡Salud! Serie de charlas:**
 - January 24, 2019 (PHSU)
 - January 30, 2019 (MCC)
 - March 23, 2018 (MCC)
 - May 18, 2019 (MCC)
 - June 14, 2019 (PHSU)



- **The Bridge/El Puente:**
 - July 27, 2019 (MCC)
 - August 9, 2019 (PHSU)

2019 Meeting of the Advisory Committee

- May 20-21, 2019 at
Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa



Partnership webpage: www.psm-moffitt.org
E-mail: psm-mcc.partnership@psm.edu
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Engaging Our Community

Event News

Latinos y el cáncer Educational Symposium

The 7th edition of *Latinos y el cancer* was held on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at MCC Stabile Research Building.

Latinos y el cáncer is an educational symposium designed to provide cancer education and resources to the Hispanic community in the Tampa Bay area.

Physicians and researchers from MCC and PHSU held interactive sessions to discuss cancer prevention, early detection, physical health and nutrition.

The event focused on cancer education on: cancer (skin, women's, colon, lung, prostate, leukemia, lymphoma); psychosocial care for patients and caregivers; nutrition; and genetics.

Over 140 participants attended the event. Half of the community members enrolled in our CONTINUAR protocol to track the longer-term impact of educational activities on cancer prevention knowledge and behaviors.

Latinos y el cáncer was supported by

Florida Blue Takeda Oncology

Sanitas Medical Center Nestle

Ana G. Méndez: Sistema Universitario

MPower – Moffitt Program for Wellness
Education and Resources



Previous Partnership Events:

Salud! Serie de charlas

PHSU • 12/14/2017 at the Residencial Caribe; 34 community members participated • 2/23/2018 at Peñuelas Municipality with 60 participants • 6/15/2018 at the Jayuya Municipality with 58 participants •

MCC • 1/23/2018 at Blessed Sacrament Manor; 30 community members participants • 03/17/2018 at Men's Health Forum at USF; 68 participants • 6/30/2018 at Orlando Florida; 17 community members attended the event.

The Bridge

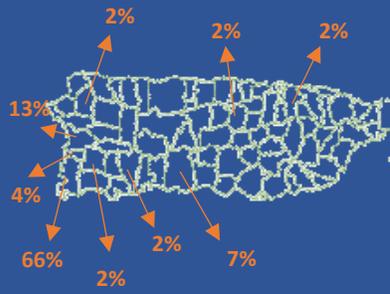
PHSU • 08/10/2018 Forty-one, community members (N=24) and researchers (N=17) attended the event.
MCC • 08/25/2018 Thirty-one community members attended the event.

Salud! Serie de charlas

¡Salud! Serie de charlas is a quarterly educational series for the Hispanic/Latino community in the southern region of Puerto Rico organized by the Outreach Core

Two panelists discussed information on risk factors for prostate cancer (Jomar López, CHE), as well as the diagnosis and treatment of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) (Dr. Lynnette Ruiz, PhD). This charla was conducted at *Iglesia Ministerio Vida con Propósito*, Cabo Rojo Municipality (rural área) and was attended by 68 community members, either patients of cancer or caretakers.

Event evaluations were highly positive. Importantly 29 community members had mammograms in addition to receiving blood pressure/glucose screenings and physical exams.



R21 Award Reactions:

President of the Ponce Research Institute Dr. Kenira Thompson: "We are extremely proud of the team of researchers from our Cancer and Community Divisions. This grant is very important in order to identify those barriers in health services faced by cancer patients after Hurricane María. This information can help establish preparedness and resilience measures that provide a more efficient health system for populations in need, in the face of any future event. The proposed plan is consistent with our mission to seek solutions to the most pressing health problems for the Hispanic community"

President of Ponce Health Sciences University David Lenihan: "This project establishes an important step to improve education, research and the creation of jobs in Puerto Rico. Ponce Health Sciences University is in a unique position to address existing health problems both locally and globally, and we are committed to providing the infrastructure necessary to advance new discoveries in cancer, as well as improving health and education opportunities here, Puerto Rico and in Florida".

Congratulations!



R21 Grant Type Title: Post-Hurricane Cancer Care: Patient Needs After Hurricane María
 PIs: Dr. Eida Castro (PHSU) & Dr. Heather Jim (MCC)
 Co-PIs: Drs. Guillermo Armaiz (PHSU), Mary Rodríguez (PHSU), Idhaliz Flores (PHSU) and Steven Sutton (MCC)

1R21MD013674-01

This team achieved what represents the first R-type grant of the partnership.

- Aim 1:** Identify the unmet psychological and medical needs, which can result in immediate health impact after H. María.
- Aim 2:** Describe the barriers and facilitators to care among cancer patients after H. María.
- Aim 3:** Explore physiological markers of stress among those affected by H. María.

The award will help researchers examine the health impact in Puerto Rico following the physical and psychological damage and community-level hardships left by Hurricane María in 2017.

This investigation will help uncover risk and resilience factors, better preparing these and other communities for possible disasters down the road

The grant is funded by The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), part of the National Institutes of Health.

This project will lay a foundation for future research, leading to effective prevention measures and chronic disease management to improve quality of life following natural disasters.

"This groundwork is crucial to understanding the health care needs of Puerto Ricans affected by this sentinel event, who are more vulnerable because of social factors and chronic health problems," expressed by the NIMHD Director Dr. Pérez-Stable

Congratulations and keep up the good work!!!

Welcome!



Melissa Marzán, Dr.P.H., MPH is an Assistant Professor of the Public Health Program at the Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) since 2013. Dr. Marzan earned a Dr.P.H. degree from the PHSU and a Master's degree from the University of PR, both in Public Health with a major in Epidemiology. Dr. Marzan is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Center for Sociomedical Research and Evaluation at the University of PR, Medical Sciences Campus.

As a new member of the Partnership, she is involved with two cores; the Planning and Evaluation Core (PEC) and the Outreach Core (OC). Under the PEC, she works closely with the PEC team from PHSU and Moffitt and the external evaluator, Dr. Quinn (NYU).

Dr. Marzán also works with the PHSU Outreach Core (OC) with Dr. Julio Jimenez. Her work focuses primarily, on statistical analysis of OC data necessary for preparation of publications, grants and progress reports.

PHSU-MCC Partnership grants numbers:
U54CA163071 and U54CA163068



Partnership webpage: www.psm-moffitt.org
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