



University of Puerto Rico

UPR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

UPR Graduate Programs

President's Welcoming Statement

The University of Puerto Rico is the preeminent institution for postgraduate studies in Puerto Rico. Its academic offering is the most extensive, varied, and the most academically and professionally significant in the Country.

The Río Piedras, Mayagüez, and Medical Sciences campuses offer over 20 doctoral and 130 master's degree programs. These programs span all disciplines. In response to the growing integration of knowledge and disciplines, the University has created a series of interdisciplinary programs, both intra as well as inter-campus, that allow a multidisciplinary and multi-professional formation.

The amount, quality, and flexibility of the academic offering accommodates and addresses, therefore, both the intellectual and academic propensities and needs for professional formation of our students. That offering is coupled with a generous amount of teaching and research assistance opportunities, and other aids for facilitating academic progress.

The Ten for the Decade Plan, the academic planning project for the next ten years, foresees an expansion of opportunities in graduate programs. I invite you to be a part of this attractive and enriching experience in the University of Puerto Rico.

Antonio García Padilla

Río Piedras Campus



The Río Piedras Campus is the oldest institution of higher education in Puerto Rico. Founded in 1903, it is the teaching center with the greatest academic productivity in the Caribbean, and it's becoming a University essentially directed towards research. In fact, it is the only institution in the country that is recognized as a doctoral University by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a classification that places it among the intensive research Universities of the United States, and the only one of this kind in the Caribbean and Latin American region.

The campus is also affiliated to the Ibero-American University Association for Post Graduate Studies, the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the Graduate Schools Council, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

The quality of the research carried out at the Río Piedras Campus has earned it the support of the UNESCO, the Ford Foundation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the National Geographic Society, among others.



The postgraduate offering of the campus, supported by a wide-ranging team of renowned professors and an extensive array of research and technological resources, include diverse areas of curricular interest, with an academic offering of 77 specializations distributed in 14 doctoral degrees, 55 master's degrees, 1 Juris Doctor, and 7 certificates that stimulate the intellectual and professional development of our students.



Nearly 4,000 out of the 20,528 students in the campus are graduate students, and they participate in research in the most critical fields of the natural sciences, planning, education, social sciences, information sciences, communication, business management, law, architecture, and humanities. In accordance with the best tendencies in higher education, the institution allows studies that are both highly specialized and multidisciplinary.

During academic year 2006-2007, the Río Piedras Campus conferred 631 graduate degrees, among which were: 72 doctoral degrees, 364 master's degrees, 179 Juris Doctor, and 16 post-graduate certificates.

Distinguished Researchers

Dr. Guillermo Bernal

Dr. Guillermo Bernal, a Full Professor at the Psychology Department and Director of the University Center for Psychological Services and Studies (CUSEP, its Spanish acronym) has published more than 100 articles and professional chapters, and 6 books about mental health, psychotherapy, family therapy, substance abuse, and effectiveness studies. He directs training and research programs supported by the United States' National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). He has been an advisor and consultant for the NIMH, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Ford Foundation, and the American Psychological Association (APA), as well as a member of the board of directors of the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP, its Spanish acronym). He is currently conducting research on the effectiveness of psychological interventions for depression on young persons.

Dr. José A. Lasalde Dominicci

Distinguished for his research on the structure and function of nicotinic receptors, Dr. José Lasalde Dominicci is a Full Professor in the Biology and Chemistry Departments, Director of the Confocal Microscopy Facility of the Río Piedras Campus, Director of the Research Center in Minority Institutions Program of the National Institute of Health (NIH), and Scientific Director of the NIH Specialized NeuroAids Research Program of the Medical Sciences Campus. Lasalde is one of the few researchers who has received and maintains competitive RO1 type grant awards from the NIH. He also directs an active laboratory with 30 students that collaborates with the University of Minnesota, the Scripps Institute, and the University of California.

Dr. Luce López-Baralt

Dr. Luce López-Baralt is internationally renowned for her numerous studies in the field of comparative Spanish and Arabic literature, Aljamiado-Morisco literature, and comparative mysticism. She is a Full Professor of Spanish and comparative literature, and a member of the International Association of Hispanists, the Puerto Rican Academy of the Spanish Language, the Royal Spanish Academy of Language, and the Dominican Academy of the Spanish Language. She works as a writer for several philology journals, and has been a researcher and guest professor in the Universities of: Harvard, Yale, Brown, and Michigan State, in the United States; Málaga, Madrid, and Salamanca, in Spain; Rabat, Morocco; National Autonomous University of Mexico, and at the Amado Alonso Institute, in Argentina. Her extensive works have been translated to English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, and French.

Dr. Luis E. Santiago

Dr. Luis Santiago has made several publications about the diversity of economic activity in metropolitan areas, displaced workers, industrial infrastructure, and economic development in Puerto Rico. As an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Planning, he is the main researcher for the Empirical Analysis of Industrial Conglomerates in Puerto Rico: 1980-2000 project, sponsored by the Institutional Fund for Research, and is a co-researcher in the Bio-Complexity and the Environment project, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Our Alumni

Víctor Rivera Hernández

Víctor Rivera Hernández was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on October 2, 1967. He graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Sciences, Cum Laude, in 1989, and a Master's degree in Public Administration in the year 1993. In 1994, he received a Juris Doctor from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, where he was awarded the prize for the "Most Distinguished Student" in his class.

From 1989 to 1991, he served as an Aide to the Secretary of the Department of Consumer Affairs, as a Legislative Aide for the Puerto Rico Senate, and as an Analyst for the Planning Board, Office of the Governor. From 1997 to 2000, he served as a Legislative, Labor, and Municipal Advisor for the Mayor of San Juan. In December of 2000 he was appointed Secretary of Labor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a position he held from January of 2001 until June of 2003, when he returned to the private practice of Law.

Attorney Rivera is a member of the Society of the Educational Arts (SEA, its Spanish acronym), with headquarters in Puerto Rico and New York. He was President of the Boards of Directors of the Roberto Sánchez Vilella Foundation and the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music. In April of 2001, he published his first book, "Ramos Antonini: Una Biografía Necesaria," which had a second edition in 2004. In the past, he has collaborated as a columnist for the *El Nuevo Día* and *Vocero* newspapers.

Doris Nydia Figueroa

She was born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. While still an infant, she moved to the metropolitan area, where she attended public schools and graduated with high honors from the Gabriela Mistral high school in San Juan. She graduated with honors from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, where she completed a Bachelor's degree in Humanities with a major in Drama. In 1986, she obtained a master's degree in Arts from the Graduate School of Public Communications.

She began her professional career at Plus Image Development & Public Relations as Supervisor of Publications. In 1986, she entered public service at the Office of Communications and Publications of the Puerto Rico Government Development Bank, where she has served as Information Officer, Public Relations Supervisor, and is currently the Assistant Vice-president and Public Relations and Communications Manager.

In 2005, she was elected to the Board of Directors of said organization and directed the Government Relations Committee. She actively participates in community service with the Presbyterian Community Services Center, and is a volunteer with the American Red Cross, Puerto Rico Chapter.

Reinaldo Berríos Rivera

Reinaldo Berríos Rivera has a Doctorate degree in Education with a major in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus (1999), a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico (1991), and a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the Pontifical Catholic University in Ponce (1987). Since 1988, he has worked at Colegio San José in Río Piedras. He currently heads the Guidance and Counseling Department. He is also the director of the school's Financial Aid Program, which offers financial aid to students with limited financial resources.

The results of this research work is included in several publications in renowned academic journals and in chapters of books that deal with topics such as: research methodologies, the role of the counselor in managing populations with visual disabilities, spirituality and religion in the guidance process, and homosexuality in old age.

Mayagüez University Campus



The Mayagüez University Campus was the first higher education institution in Puerto Rico to offer degrees in Agricultural Sciences and Engineering. This campus is the only one that offers doctorate degrees in Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Information and Computer Sciences and Engineering. Its College of Engineering is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The campus is also the only institution in Puerto Rico that offers both master's degrees and doctorate degrees in Marine Sciences.

The "Colegio," as it is fondly called by its students and alumni, was founded in 1911 and began its graduate studies program in 1957, with the establishment of postgraduate courses in Mathematics, Radiological Physics, and Nuclear Technology. In subsequent years the graduate programs in Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, and Computer Sciences were added.

The Mayagüez University Campus currently offers postgraduate programs in its four faculties: Engineering, Arts and Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Business Administration. It offers 32 master's degree and 5 doctoral degree programs, a number it plans to double in the next few years to strengthen even more its solid position in the research field.



The Office of Graduate Studies recently developed a digital thesis initiative, through which the campus became the first Caribbean university to publish all of its graduate students' theses freely on the Internet. With the support of the United States' Environmental Protection Agency, the campus is preparing to establish the best environmental management program in Latin America and the Caribbean.



The Mayagüez University Campus provides excellent opportunities to participate in applied research, both in its centers and laboratories and in new creation projects in which the students apply science and technology to current life needs. The extraordinary local and international demand for alumni from this campus evidences the outstanding quality of the education that we offer.

During academic year 2006-07, the Mayagüez University Campus conferred 198 postgraduate degrees: eight in its doctoral engineering and arts and sciences programs, and 190 master's degrees in engineering, arts and sciences, agricultural sciences, and business administration.

Distinguished Researchers

Gustavo A. Martínez, Ph.D.

The outstanding studies of Gustavo Martínez have earned him several acknowledgements as a researcher in the field of agricultural sciences. With a bachelor's degree from the Mayagüez Campus, a master's degree from Cornell University, and a doctorate degree from Ohio University, Dr. Martínez has collaborated in more than 20 publications on the study of soil and the improvement of farming in Puerto Rico, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Switzerland, and Spain. During the past four years, he has worked as main researcher for five projects and co-researcher for another five, on topics related to the nutrients found in bodies of water, the conditioning of soil, the ecological processing of coffee, and the management of contamination.

Aurelio Mercado Irizarry, M.S.

Internationally distinguished for his applied research in the field of Marine Sciences, Aurelio Mercado Irizarry has worked with the storm surge coastal flooding maps used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Puerto Rico Planning Board to

regulate and establish construction criteria in the coasts of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. His studies about the implications of climate changes in the Caribbean region, the swells caused by hurricanes, the topographical elevation, erosion in beaches, estuaries, and the exchange of oceanic waters have been of great utility in designing responsible development and disaster prevention plans. Likewise, his calculations of the exchange of nitrous oxide in the Caribbean Sea, as part of a study for NASA-EPSCoR about the interaction of the atmosphere with the ocean, have important implications regarding global warming. His works on tsunamis, for the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Tsunami Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and the Sea Grant Program, have brought to him multiple requests for assessment from national and international organizations, such as the nations of the Pacific Ocean, the governments of Trinidad-Tobago and Barbados, the Association of Caribbean States, and the Center of Coordination for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America. He is a member of the Physical Oceanography Committee of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, and is in charge of the group that carries out computerized tsunami simulations to use them in real time together with the buoys that will be installed in deep waters of the Atlantic and the Caribbean.

Belinda Pastrana Ríos, Ph.D.

The fact that her teaching has not decreased her passion for research, as well as the excellent teams with which she has worked, are the keys to success for Dr. Belinda Pastrana Ríos. Using infrared spectroscopy, she isolated a pulmonary surfactant protein (SP-C) whose structure was validated by Kurt Wuthrich, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in the year 2002. As an example of scientific research applied to medicine, she corroborated the function of this substance in the lung, and her studies have served as the basis for the treatment of acute respiratory syndrome. She collaborated in the establishment of the first visualization center in Puerto Rico, dedicated to the preparation of three-dimensional models, and qualified for the study of bioinformatics and the genomic structure. She also helped in the creation of the second Center for Biomedical Research Excellence in the University of Puerto Rico and in the development of the doctorate program of Applied Chemistry in the areas of Biophysics, Materials and Environment. She currently works in multidisciplinary and biomedical projects of the NIH-MBRS and NIH-COBRE dealing with proteins associated to cell division and the proliferation of cancer cells, as well as synthetic peptides for the treatment of acute respiratory syndrome.

Miguel Vélez Reyes, Ph.D., PE

Miguel Vélez Reyes specializes in the modeling, identification, and control of dynamic systems and signal processing. His formation in dynamic systems and signal processing has allowed him to work in a great number of multidisciplinary projects in which his expertise has been applied to electric power processing systems, systems for signal processing in applications for the remote sensing of the environment and biological systems, and process control systems. He has over 100 publications included in technical journals and conference reports, and has collaborated in industrial internships with AT&T Bell Laboratories, Air Force Research Laboratories, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He is the Director of the Tropical Center for Earth and Space Studies, Campus Coordinator of the Center for Power Electronic Systems and the Center for Subsurface Sensing and Imaging Systems, both sponsored by the Engineering Research Centers Program of the National Science Foundation. In 1997, Dr. Vélez Reyes was one of the sixty persons who received the United States' White House Office of Science and Technology Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, given by President Clinton. This is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on young scientists and engineers who are in the early stages of their careers. Dr. Vélez Reyes is a member of the Puerto Rico Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a regular member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, where he has served in several capacities.

Our Alumni

Vanessa M. Aponte Irizarry

Vanessa Aponte Irizarry obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Chemical Engineering in the Mayagüez Campus, where she began her studies on space programs, sponsored by the Advanced Life Support at NASA Kennedy Space Center. Her academic achievements earned her a GEM Fellowship from the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center to prepare the thesis for her doctoral degree in Aerospace Sciences at Columbia University (CU). She was selected by the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers as the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year in 2005, for her research on the development of a new BioMEMS sensor for monitoring the astronaut's immune system. Aponte expects to become an astronaut and is currently the only Puerto Rican with great opportunities of going out into space.



Roberto Irizarry Rivera

After having obtained his doctoral degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, and having obtained a Bachelor's and Master's degree at the Mayagüez Campus, Roberto Irizarry Rivera has been working in the area of Research and Development at Dupont Electronics, in Manatí. In 2005, he transferred to North Carolina to lead the company's Research and Development on a central level. As a graduate studies professor in the Mayagüez Campus, he participates in various committees and has established collaboration contracts between the College and Dupont Electronics. His studies' interest is centered on the control and optimization of the Bridgman and Czochralski crystallization processes.

The Medical Sciences Campus



The Medical Sciences Campus is the University of Puerto Rico unit that is specialized in teaching and researching the disciplines related to health sciences. It's a center that continuously searches for alternatives and solutions to offer health services of the highest quality, which promotes the integration of education and experimental exploration as basic components for the formation of professionals that are up to date with the changes and innovations of their fields.

The organization of this campus and the transformations in its academic programs have been tied to the history of this country, always answering to the needs and expectations of the Puerto Rican people. It originated in 1926, when the Institute of Tropical Medicine became the School of Tropical Medicine, sponsored by Columbia University. It offered Medical Technology, Health Education, Public Health, and Nursing programs.

The increase and diversification of health problems, as well as the growth in knowledge and tools used to deal with them, brought about constant changes in the teaching of health sciences, making necessary the creation of various schools and programs. In 1966, the campus was created as an institutional unit of the University of Puerto Rico, and the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry were integrated to



it, as well as other health sciences programs that already existed; programs which led to the origination of the Biosocial Sciences Faculty and the Graduate School of Public Health and, later, the College of Health-Related Professions, currently the School of Health Professions. Eleven years after its creation, the School of Pharmacy was integrated to the campus, and in 1995 the School of Nursing was instituted as an autonomous school, to complete the current composition of the six (6) schools that make up the Medical Sciences Campus. Recently, a center specialized in biosafety was established, which provides training and develops plans to respond to bioterrorist threats.

The Medical Sciences Campus currently offers 71 academic programs, 62 graduate programs, and 9 undergraduate programs, distributed among its six faculties: the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Pharmacy, the Graduate School of Public Health, the School of Health Professions, and the School of Nursing, all endorsed by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Likewise, their professional programs and internships are certified by twenty accrediting agencies. Its growth as a campus is evident in the programmatic areas of the institution in education, research, and service.

The multiple Medical Sciences research centers and clinical laboratories are the focal point of important studies and findings that push forward both national and international knowledge. The students in this campus work in research related to the control of cancer, epidemiological tendencies, the degree of quality in the pharmaceutical industry, and environmental health, among other areas of great relevance and currency.

Its location within the Puerto Rico Medical Center, in Río Piedras, facilitates clinical practices and internships, and allows a progressive integration of the students into professional life. The experience of the students in this campus helps them develop human sensibility, ethical values, critical thinking, and social conscience.

During academic year 2006-07 the Medical Sciences Campus conferred 586 graduate degrees, among these: 3 doctorate degrees, 220 master's degrees, 194 first professional degrees (in medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy), as well as 125 post- master's and post-doctorate certificates, 25 post-bachelor's certificates, and 19 graduate certificates.

Distinguished Researchers

Glorisa Canino, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Glorisa Canino has been a leading researcher in the fields of psychiatric epidemiology and psychometry for the past 18 years. As a professor in the Department of Pediatrics of the School of Medicine and Director of the Behavioral Sciences Research Institute, she is the principal researcher for various proposals of the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Alcohol. Dr. Canino has collaborated with various researchers in the United States in the analysis of data sets and the translation and adaptation of instruments for the Latin culture.

Edmundo Kraiselburd, Ph.D.

As Director of the Neurological Sciences Specialized Program, sponsored by the National Institute of Health, Dr. Kraiselburd works in collaborative projects that deal with the complexities of the complications of Hispanic patients infected with HIV. The virologist, who is the Director of the Comparative Medicine Unit, seeks to develop an effective vaccine against HIV by collaborating in his findings with other researchers from institutions from the United States and at the Caribbean Primate Research Center, which he also directs. Kraiselburd concentrates his efforts in the continuous development of the Indian-Origin Rhesus macaques' primate population in the Santiago Cay, close to the south-eastern coast of Puerto Rico. This colony of monkeys is studied by international researchers, since it is the only one in the world that is free in a cay, and has served as inspiration to create other Primate Research Centers in the United States.

Nicolás Linares, Ph.D.

Dr. Nicolás Linares is the first Puerto Rican to have been appointed to the Council of Public Representatives (COPR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the second Puerto Rican elected to be a member of the NIH. As part of his functions in the COPR, he advises and offers recommendations to the director of the NIH

regarding medical research, Institute policies, and public participation in activities of the agency. Linares is a professor of Speech Pathology in the Medical Sciences Campus and is the Director of the FILIUS Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the University of Puerto Rico.

Carmen D. Zorrilla, M.D.

Considered to be an expert in the study of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Carmen D. Zorrilla established the Maternal Infant Studies Center (CEMI, its Spanish acronym), a longitudinal clinic for women living with HIV and the first of its type in Puerto Rico. Dr. Zorrilla is the main researcher in the multidisciplinary center, where clinical and behavioral research is conducted, and she is working in the development of a vaccine against HIV. She is the first Puerto Rican woman to be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health of the United States' National Institutes of Health. She works as a professor specializing in obstetrics and gynecology in the Medical Sciences Campus.

Our Alumni

The demand for health professionals is very high in Puerto Rico, which is why our alumni find employment relatively quickly after finishing their studies. Some alumni, mainly those that studied medicine and dentistry, continue on to an internship or a master's degree in the area of specialization that they selected. All of our academic programs are accredited by the corresponding professional accreditation agencies, which is why the academic programs are constantly being revised and updated to meet new standards. This, among other factors, has been of fundamental significance in maintaining a passing rate of 90-100% in qualifying exams, for the professions that require them. Below is a sample of some of our alumni.

Myrtha Díaz Medina, RN, MSN

Myrtha Díaz Medina, Professor Emeritus of the Medical Sciences Campus, is responsible for the creation of the Campus' Deanship of Nursing, in 1995, and was its first Dean. She implemented the first program for the preparation of nurses specializing in cardiology in Puerto Rico and the Nursing Sciences Master's degree program. She played a leading role in the preparation of nursing professors in Haiti. She also distinguished herself as President of the Puerto Rico College of Nursing Professionals.

Francisco González Lima, Ph.D.

After obtaining his Doctorate in Philosophy with a specialization in Physiology in 1980, González Lima served as Professor in the Psychology Department of the University of Texas, at Austin, and later as Full Professor and Director of the Division of Behavioral Neurosciences. He is a founding member of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Toxicology. In 2000 he became the first Hispanic full professor to be honored with the first endowed chair named after a Hispanic professor in the USA, the George I. Sanchez Centennial Professorship in Liberal Arts and Sciences. He has currently published 80 articles in scientific journals, 3 books, 11 book chapters, and 113 presentations about his research in neuroscience, neuroanatomy, neurobiology, psychology, physiology, psychobiology, learning and memory; and neural mechanisms of behavior.

Juan A. Panelli Ramery, DMD

Dr. Juan Panelli graduated in 1988 as a dental surgeon from the School of Dentistry and, since the beginning of his professional career, has distinguished himself for his dedication to missionary medical service. He performed evaluations and offered treatment and medications to populations in hard to reach communities, among them, the community of the Padamo River, a tributary of the Orinoco River, in the Venezuelan part of the Amazon jungle, where he worked offering oral health services to the Yanomami tribe, for the first time in the history of the region. He has also brought his services to the poorest regions of the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Colombia. His missionary experiences have prepared him for recognizing and treating diseases such as malaria, snake bites, and skin conditions. In 1999, he funded Proyecto Amor que Sana, Inc. (Love that Heals Project) in Ponce, which searches for alternatives to provide health care and help in the rehabilitation of patients who are homeless, drug or alcohol users.

**Magaly Rodríguez de Bittner,
Pharm. D., BCPS, CDE, CDM, FAPhA**

Dr. Magaly Rodríguez is an Associate Professor at the School of Pharmacy and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Maryland. She also serves as a consultant for the Veterans Affairs Department of the Baltimore Medical Center and the Pan-American Health Organization, and as a Director of the ASHP Accredited

Community Pharmacist Program, at the University of Maryland. She designed, implemented, and coordinates the Giant Diabetes Care Outpatient Education Program, the first program to receive ADA Recognition on a national level and the first to obtain a Medicare Provider Number. She has received various acknowledgements, among which are the LKS/Merck Vanguard Leadership Award in 2005, the AACP Leadership Fellow in 2005, the AphA Fellow in 2003, the 1999 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award by MPhA, and the Baltimore's Magazine 1999 Best of Baltimore Pharmacist of the Year.

Marta Valcárcel, M.D.

Dr. Marta Varcárcel has collaborated for over 40 years in favor of education, medical research, and children's health. She is the Director of the Neonatology Section of the Pediatrics Department of the Pediatric University Hospital and a Full Professor at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus School of Medicine. She was awarded the Felisa Rincón de Gautier Medal for Public Service, which is given to women who have demonstrated their commitment through extraordinary achievements and distinguished services in their areas of specialization, and for discharging their responsibilities as leaders in their field.

Atty. Alfredo Volkers Rodríguez, M.H.S.A.

Alfredo Volkers is the Executive Vice-president of Pavía Health and of Pavía Hospital, one of the largest Hospitals in Puerto Rico. Volkers has held other administrative positions in hospitals such as San Pablo and Auxilio Mutuo. He graduated in 1971, with a Master's degree in Health Services Administration, from the Graduate School of Public Health, at the Medical Sciences Campus, and in 1980, obtained a Doctoral degree in Public Health from Columbia University, in New York. He is currently the President Elect of the Puerto Rico Hospitals Association Board of Directors, and is a member of the Health Administration Association, the American Red Cross - Puerto Rico Chapter, the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, and the Salvation Army.

UPR Graduate Schools

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