

Annual Meeting 2023

Speaker and Moderator Biographies



Salim A Barquet Muñoz, M.D.
Anoscopist, Instituto Nacional de Cancerología
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Medical doctor in ITESM-School of Medicine. Monterrey NL, Mexico from 2000 to 2007
Obstetrics and gynecology in Programa Multicéntrico de Especialidades Médicas Tec de Monterrey-SSA. From 2008 to 2012
Gynecologic Oncology in the Instituto Nacional de Cancerología. Mexico City, Mexico from 2012 to 2015
MSC (Medical Sciences) in UNAM-post graduate Program. Mexico City, Mexico From 2015 to 2017
PhD (Medical Sciences) in UNAM-post graduate Program. Mexico City, Mexico. At present.
Attending Physician of Gynecologic Oncology Department in the Instituto Nacional de Cancerología México from March 2017 to the present.
Dysplasia Clinic Coordinator of the Instituto Nacional de Cancerología- Mexico from 2017 to the present.
Member of the National Research System (SNI II) of the Mexican Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), from 2018 to the present.



Arismendy Benitez, M.D.
Pathology, Laboratorio Medipath, Instituto Dermatológico y Cirugía de Piel
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Arismendy Benitez is a physician specialized in Pathology. He received his degree from the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo and has had training in Molecular biology techniques and

molecular pathology. He has worked in research on programs for the detection of lesions associated with the Human Papilloma Virus, such as cervical and anal cancer, in populations of people with HIV, Trans women, and MSM. He has also worked on the prevention of HIV and other STIs in these populations. He currently works in HPV identification programs in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas and implementation of self-collection of anal cytology in men. He also studied molecular bases of chronic non-communicable pathologies such as coronary heart disease in a winning project of the National Fund for Innovation and Scientific and Technological Development (Fondoc) of the Ministry of Higher Education. He is currently part of the team in the Dominican Republic of Etudio Oportunidad, as a member of the pathology team and HPV testing laboratory.



Emma J. Brofsky, M.S.P.H.
Scientific Program Analyst, US National Cancer Institute
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Emma Brofsky is a Scientific Program Analyst in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute. She serves as Project Manager for two research networks, the US-Latin American-Caribbean HIV/HPV-Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (ULACNet), focused on collaborations to evaluate approaches for prevention of HPV-related cancers in people living with HIV, and the HIV/Cervical Cancer Prevention 'CASCADE' Clinical Trials Network, focused on pragmatic clinical trials on optimizing the cervical cancer screening, management, and precancer treatment cascade for women with HIV. In addition, she supports other projects within the Breast and Gynecological Cancer Research Group and the Division.

Emma received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Public Health in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has experience working with local, state, and federal public health agencies as well as in international field settings on projects related to emerging infectious disease response, program implementation, and maternal and child health.



Ann Duerr, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
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Dr. Duerr is a medical epidemiologist with broad experience in the design and conduct of HIV prevention trials and studies on biological and epidemiological determinants of sexual transmission of HIV and HIV-STD interactions. She has worked extensively with HIV-affected and at-risk populations in the U.S., Europe, Asia, South America and Africa, designing and conducting studies in many areas of HIV prevention. From 1991-2003, she directed a research group at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focused on describing the clinical course of HIV infection in women and studying HIV prevention interventions among women. In 2003, she joined the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and has served as its Director of Scientific Affairs since 2008. Her recent research work has focused on interventions among high-risk men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TW) in Lima, Peru, in collaboration with investigators at the Impacta NGO in Lima. Her work within ULACNet is focused on HPV vaccination for children living with HIV in Peru, Brazil and Haiti.



Mark H Einstein, M.D. M.S.
Professor and Chair, Rutgers, New Jersey Medical School
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Dr. Mark Einstein is Professor and Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Health at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. There, he also serves as Associate Dean of Clinical Research for the Medical School and the Associate Director of the NJ Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ State CTSA). He has served in numerous leadership roles for many national and international cancer-focused groups including the World Health Organization, the US National Cancer Institute, ASCCP, the American Cancer Society, and the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. Most recently, he served as the President of the ASCCP. As an expert in Gynecologic Oncology with a focus on cervical cancer and Human Papillomavirus (HPV), he manages complicated gynecologic precancer and malignancies using state-of-the-art evidence based and clinical trial strategies. He leads numerous clinical and translational trials related to precancerous and invasive HPV-associated anogenital diseases.



Silvina Frech, Ph.D., M.S.
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Dr. Frech brings more than 20 years of experience in cancer research and control in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Before returning to NCI, she played key roles at the start-up leadership team of City Cancer Challenge Foundation, a Swiss non-profit organization that supports cities in LMICs to improve sustainable and equitable access to quality cancer care through evidence-based interventions and multisectoral partnerships. From 2009 until 2016, Dr. Frech worked at the NCI Center for Global Health focusing on strengthening the capacity of Latin American countries on cancer research and control through technical assistance and global health diplomacy. Dr. Frech received her B.S. in Pharmacy from Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Argentina in 1996, her M.S. in Molecular Biology in 2001, and her Ph.D. in Cancer Biology in 2006, both at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Her doctoral and postdoctoral research work focused on understanding the role of the Estrogen Receptor and Cyclin D1 in mammary gland development and carcinogenesis. She has authored publications in high-impact journals such as The Lancet, the Journal of Clinical Oncology-Global Oncology, Cancer Research, and Science Translational Medicine.



Brandy Heckman-Stoddard, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Chief, Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Research Group, National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Prevention
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Dr. Brandy Heckman-Stoddard received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine focusing on the intersection of Rho and IGF signaling in mammary gland development and breast cancer before joining the National Cancer Institute as a Cancer Prevention Fellow in 2008. During the fellowship she completed a Master's in Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health working with the Institute for Global Tobacco Control and the Evidence-Based Practice Center. During her time at NCI as a fellow, she focused on breast cancer prevention research including preclinical development and early clinical trials.

Dr. Heckman-Stoddard's research focuses on drug development for breast cancer prevention and biomarker development. She is particularly interested in local delivery of agents, alternate dosing strategies, biomarkers of efficacy to reduce the number needed to treat and targeting of stem cells. She serves as Program Officer for the Early Phase Breast Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials grants portfolio and scientific lead of early phase breast cancer clinical trials within the NCI Division of Cancer Prevention Clinical Trial Network (CP-CTNet). Dr. Heckman-Stoddard is the NCI lead for an NCI-NIDDK collaboration examining cancer incidence within the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study a randomized study of metformin, lifestyle intervention, versus placebo. She also serves as the Breast Cancer Project Scientist and Uterine Cancer Project Scientist of the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET), a consortium of NCI-sponsored investigators who use simulation modeling to improve our understanding of cancer control

interventions in prevention, screening, and treatment and their effects on population trending in incidence and mortality. Dr. Heckman-Stoddard has developed and serves as the scientific contact on multiple funding opportunities including the NCI Clinical and Translation R21, the NCI Cancer Prevention and Control Clinical Trials Grants Program, and the NCI Cancer Prevention and Control Planning Grant Program.

In 2016, Dr. Heckman-Stoddard became the Chief of the Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Research Group (BGCRG) expanding the work of the group through supporting and recruiting additional staff. BGCRG currently includes 1 Senior Scientific Officer, 2 Medical Officers, 5 Health Scientist Administrators, a Nurse Consultant, a Scientific Program Analyst, and a Cancer Prevention Fellow.



Maggie House, R.N., B.S.N.
Nurse Consultant, National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Prevention

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Maggie House is a Nurse Consultant with over 30 years of oncology nursing and clinical trial experience. She earned her Diploma in Nursing from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1982 and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgetown University in 2000. Maggie provides support to the Prostate and Urologic Cancer Research Group Contracts and Grants Program, and several HIV/HPV and cervical cancer prevention programs including the US-Latin American-Caribbean HIV/HPV-Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (ULACNet), the Cervical Cancer 'Last Mile' Initiative, and the HIV/Cervical Cancer Prevention "CASCADE" Clinical Trials Network. Maggie also leads the DCP 'Unified Network Initiative to Enhance Community Dialogue and Site Education (UNITED)' for both ULACNet and CASCADE. Maggie's clinical trial interests include clinical trial recruitment and retention, and clinical trial process improvements including clinical trial conduct, site monitoring/auditing, and staff education.



Margaret M. Madeleine, M.P.H., Ph.D.
Professor, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center/University of Washington

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I am a Professor of Epidemiology, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research, and Research Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington in Seattle, WA, USA. My studies center immunocompromised and understudied populations at highest risk of HPV cancers locally and globally to advance the science of HPV cancer prevention through interdisciplinary collaboration. I

led the development of Colaboración Evita, a partnership center funded by an NCI U54 in 2019, to confront the main challenges to elimination of HPV cancers among persons living with HIV (PLWH) in Latin America and the Caribbean (ULACNet). The first of three studies in ULACNet, OPTIMO, is a randomized trial of 75 CLWH and 25 non-HIV-infected children, that will compare antibody and B memory responses between groups who receive 1-, 2- or 3-doses of the licensed HPV vaccine. If positive, OPTIMO could lead to a subsequent, larger trial to assess efficacy of 3-doses vs fewer doses in CLWH. The second trial, Estudio Oportunidad, will compare standard of care cytology for cervical cancer screening to self-sampling of HPV DNA followed by cervical imaging and dual stain cytology (DS) in Santo Domingo, DR among 600 WLWH. We will use dual stain cytology that will make use of the infrastructure for Pap smear evaluation already in place in the DR and could serve as a highly specific triage tool if acceptable to local collaborators. We incorporated several important methodologic studies such as comparing slides made from self-collected vs clinician-collection samples for a new HPV assay, and manual vs automated reading of the dual stain slides. Estudio Oportunidad will also contribute data to evaluate the accuracy of automated visual evaluation (AVE) of cervical images using machine learning to detect precancers, as AVE is understudied in WLWH. Based on our findings from Oportunidad, a future trial would continue to refine screening and triage in WLWH to improve test characteristics. The third trial of Colaboración Evita is a safety and dose-finding placebo-controlled trial to evaluate an intravaginal topical antiviral among WLWH with precancer, scheduled to start in Rio de Janeiro in summer 2024.

Positive findings could lead to a multi-center Phase 3 study. I am also the Operations Director and Protocol Team Leader for a trial of immediate thermal ablation (TA) versus no TA among WLWH who are non-HPV16/18 positive and VIA negative. The trial is called, "Expanded use of thermal ablation for cervical cancer prevention in women living with HIV (EXCEL)." The EXCEL trial is part of the CASCADE cervical cancer prevention network funded by NCI.



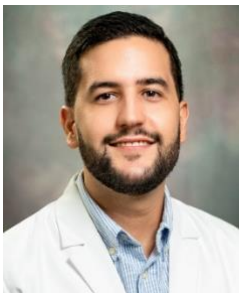
Ana P. Ortiz, Ph.D, M.P.H.
Epidemiologist and Investigator, University of Puerto Rico
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Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz is an Epidemiologist and Investigator at the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences and Associate Director of the Office of Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination of the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC). She has more than 19 years of experience leading multiple research efforts focused on human papilloma virus (HPV), HPV-related malignancies, HIV, women's health, HPV vaccination, and interventions to increase cancer prevention strategies among Hispanics/Latinos. She is Multiple PI of the UPR/MDACC Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research grant and is Program Director and Multiple-PI of the Cancer Prevention and Control (CAPAC) Research Training Program at the UPRCCC.



Joel Palefsky, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
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Joel Palefsky, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.P.(C). Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. He is an internationally recognized expert on the molecular biology, treatment, pathogenesis and natural history of anogenital human papillomavirus infections, particularly in the setting of HIV infection. He is the founder and director of the world's first clinic devoted to prevention of anal cancer, the Anal Neoplasia Clinic Research and Education Center at the UCSF Cancer Center. He is the vice-chair of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported AIDS Malignancy Consortium, the contact PI for the ULACNet CAMPO consortium and protocol chair of the Anal Cancer /HSIL Outcomes Research (ANCHOR) Study. He is founder and past president of the International Anal Neoplasia Society and is past president of the International Papillomavirus Society. He is founder and director of the International Papillomavirus Society International HPV Awareness campaign.



Sayel Rivera-Garcia, Pharm.D.
Associate Pharmacist, ACTU
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Dr. Sayel Rivera García is an Associate Pharmacist of the Clinical Trials Unit of the Medical Sciences Campus of the University of Puerto Rico. He graduated from the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy in 2019 and completed a Post-Graduate Year in pharmacy residency at HIMA San Pablo Caguas / Nova Southeastern in 2020. In addition, he is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).



Josefina Romaguera, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus
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I'm a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist currently Professor at the University of Puerto Rico with focus on research including mentoring. My research interests include women's' health including gynecologic cancers prevention, HPV related conditions and the human cervicovaginal microbiota in addition to polycystic ovarian syndrome. Our studies have provided important contributions to the body of knowledge demonstrating that characterizing the vaginal ecosystem, about both microbiome and metabolome, is important in understanding the biology of cervical neoplasia, and in the development of therapeutic interventions.



Vikrant Sahasrabuddhe, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
ULACNet Program Director, National Cancer Institute
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Dr. Vikrant Sahasrabuddhe serves as Deputy Chief of the Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Research Group and Program Director in the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) where he provides scientific direction and strategic guidance for clinic- and population-based precision prevention research efforts for HPV-related cancers. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe directs ULACNet, NCI DCP's clinical trials network focused on collaborative research on innovations in optimization of HPV immunoprevention, screening and triage, and precancer treatment in persons living with HIV. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe received his medical degree from University of Pune in India, his master's and doctorate in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and fellowship training in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins and at the NCI. He has published widely across a broad spectrum of clinical, epidemiologic, and implementation research areas on infection-associated cancers with high or rising incidence and mortality burden.



Marievelisse Soto-Salgado, Dr.P.H., M.S.
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Dr. Marievelisse Soto-Salgado is an Assistant Investigator at the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC). Dr. Soto-Salgado has a master's in sciences (MSc) in Epidemiology and a DrPH with a Specialty in Social Determinants of Health from the UPR Graduate School of Public Health. She completed the National Cancer Institute Summer Course in Cancer Prevention, The Principles, and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control. In addition, she completed a postdoctoral research experience in cancer epidemiology in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the UPRCCC in collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) located in Lyon, France.

Dr. Soto-Salgado has a broad background in study design, recruitment strategies, data management using REDCap, analysis of population-based studies and population-based databases, and behavioral intervention trials. Dr. Soto-Salgado has been involved in the description of cancer health disparities in Puerto Rico as compared with other racial/ethnic groups in the US, using data from the Puerto Rico Central Cancer Registry and SEER. Dr. Soto-Salgado has strong research interests in cancer health disparities and infection (HIV, HPV, Hepatitis C, and H pylori) related cancers, which have been documented in more than 55 peer-reviewed publications in these areas. Her long-term research goal is to understand the social and structural factors that potentially influence access to cancer care among persons living with HIV. From 2020 to 2022, she was awarded a Diversity Supplement within the UPR/MDACC Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research (NCI grant # U54CA096297) to develop risk prediction models for the detection of anal high-grade lesions among persons living with HIV (PLWH) and cervical high-grade lesions among women living in Latin America. During 2018-2020, she expanded her research experience to include natural disasters, cancer care, and mixed methods research as an investigator in a mixed methods project aimed at examining the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on disruption of cancer care among patients with breast and colorectal cancer in Puerto Rico (NCI grant #R21CA239456). Currently, she is an investigator of the ULAC-Net Network and of ULAC-Net 101 (California-México-Puerto Rico Partnership Center for Prevention of HPV-related Cancers in HIV Populations [CAMPO Consortium], NCI grant # U54CA242646), focused on optimizing anal and cervical cancer screening approaches for PLWH. As part of that initiative, Dr. Soto-Salgado supports recruitment and retention efforts and leads a supplement (NCI grant #3U54CA242646-04S2) to optimize recruitment strategies within CAMPO at the Puerto Rico site. Also, she is a Research Project Leader at the Center for the Promotion of Cancer Health Equity (CePCHE; NIGMS grant # 1P20GM148324-01), where she is conducting a mixed-methods approach to identify multi-level factors within the social determinants of health that affect timely access to cervical cancer care across the cancer care continuum (screening, diagnosis, and treatment) among women living with HIV in Puerto Rico. Lastly, Dr. Soto-Salgado is an Assistant Director and Mentor at the Cancer Prevention and Control (CAPAC) Research Training Program (NCI grant # R25CA240120) at the UPRCCC.



Ronaldo Andres Vázquez Maldonado, B.A.
Health Promoter, Puerto Rico Department of Health
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Ronaldo Andrés is a Health Promoter living with HIV in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He uses his knowledge in Graphic Design and Visual Communication, along with his HIV diagnosis to eliminate stigma. He promotes prevention and health care from its social networks, browsing and connecting people to health services on the Island and other countries. Actively collaborates with professionals to publicize information, services and available clinical trials, with the goal of creating healthy families and communities without stigma.



Luisa L Villa, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Sao Paulo, School of Medicine
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Biologist graduated at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, involved in studies of the natural history of Human Papillomavirus, HPV carcinogenesis and prophylactic vaccines against HPV. For 28 years she was a senior investigator at the Virology group of the São Paulo Branch of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. Presently, she heads the Innovation in Cancer laboratory of the Cancer Institute of the State of São Paulo, at the School of Medicine, University of São Paulo. She published over 350 peer-reviewed articles and supervised over 40 Master, Ph.D. thesis and Pos-doctoral fellows. She is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).



Timothy Wilkin, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine
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Dr. Wilkin is an experienced clinical trials researcher with a focus on multicenter clinical trials related to the prevention of HPV-related cancer in people living with HIV, both domestically and internationally. He has chaired or co-chaired 15 clinical trials within NIH-funded cooperative group networks, including the AIDS Malignancy Consortium (AMC), AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), including 6 on the prevention of HPV-related cancer. Dr. Wilkin has extensive scientific leadership not only as an investigator in his own clinical trials, but also as a professor of medicine, assistant dean for clinical research compliance, an institutional official for Human Research protections, and an educational instructor through the AIDS Education and Training Center. He is contact PI for ULACNet (ROCCHHA) and CASCADE (RB2).



Carmen D Zorrilla, M.D.
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Carmen D. Zorrilla, M.D. Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, Medical Sciences Campus (MSC), and Interim Dean of Research at the UPR-MSC. She is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Academy of HIV Medicine. With experience in Ob-Gyn, HIV and COVID-19 related research that includes behavioral interventions and clinical trials with HIV infected and at-risk populations, as well as with pregnant and non-pregnant women. She was part of the group of examiners for the American Oral Board of Ob-Gyn (ABOG) for 22 years. She established an infrastructure for the care of pregnant and nonpregnant women living with HIV and leader in the successful efforts to eliminate the perinatal transmission of HIV in Puerto Rico. With zero transmission for the past 2 decades at her clinic, she also served as PI for the Integrated UPR Clinical Trials Unit (IUPR-CTU), and the UPR Mentoring Institute for HIV and Mental Health sponsored by NIAID and NIMH. A former member of the NIH Disparities and Minority Health Advisory Council (NACMHD) for the past 4 years, she has been a consultant for diverse national and international organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Agency for Health Research Quality (AHRQ), the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) and others, and a former member of the Office of Women's Health Advisory Committee and the CDC/HRSA AIDS and STD Advisory Committee (CHAC). Dr. Zorrilla has received multiple distinctions: PR Senate resolution and Distinction (1990), UPR President's Recognition (2000), the "Bajari Award" by the PR Science, Technology and Research Trust for leadership in science and academia; a PR Senate Resolution and Diploma for contributions to eliminate HIV perinatal transmission and the APPIA-association of people living and affected by HIV-recognition of research and services on behalf of women living with HIV.

Dr. Zorrilla established the first group prenatal care program in PR (Centering Pregnancy) with funds from the Innovation Center of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the first Spanish Centering Program outside of the mainland USA. The program had a reduction in preterm births and low birth weight among infants born of women enrolled in group prenatal care. Expanding the program to improve the health of mothers and infants is one of her professional goals. She established a multidisciplinary clinic for pregnant women with Zika in 2016 and implemented the Zika in Infants and Pregnancy (ZIP Study) in San Juan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic she spearheaded the development of a Molecular testing program at the RCM, a Phase III vaccine trial and a COVID Vaccine Center with a 97% vaccination rate of the faculty, students, and staff at the UPR-MSC. She is a member of the Scientific Coalition named by PR Governor Hon. Pedro Pierluisi, to advise on issues related to the COVID pandemic response and to further incorporate the input of Science into public policy.