

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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NAME: Rodriguez-Berrios, Maria Del M.

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Interventionist, Center for Clinical Research and Health Promotion

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras Campus. San Juan, PR.	BS	2006	Natural Sciences
Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine. Tempe, Arizona.	ND	2014	Naturopathic Medicine
University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, PR.	Certificate	2007	Medical Terminology
University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine. Birmingham, AL.	Internship	2005	Pre-medical Internship
American Heart Association	CPR	2014	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

**A. Personal Statement**

My research experiences are in microbiology, HIV/Aids, public health, and epidemiology. In addition, my completed clinical training has given me the experience needed to collaborate in the Center for Clinical Research and Health Promotion (CCRHP). During my undergraduate studies in Natural Sciences, I worked in a microbiology laboratory as a researcher for two years in the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. The published study compared digestive microbes in domesticated and wild cattle in Puerto Rico. The research findings confirmed that the gastrointestinal bacteria in domesticated cattle were becoming resistant to antibiotics in comparison to wild cattle. This study was the base of many studies including the development of the Human Microbiome study implemented by the investigator Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, Ph.D. in the United States and other countries. After completing my Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences, I worked as a Research Assistant in two pilot projects for close to two years with the Puerto Rico Comprehensive Center for HIV and Health Disparities (PR-CCHD). It was an extraordinary experience to be able to become a health advocate and to offer public health education to many Puerto Rican families to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and other communicable diseases. These two research experiences lead me to my decision to pursue graduate studies in Naturopathic Medicine. At the graduate level, I spent three years as student clinician completing clinical rotations in various community clinics of Arizona, Texas, and Mexico. During my clinical training, I worked with culturally diverse populations. While working towards my Doctorate degree in Naturopathic Medicine at the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and Health Sciences (SCNM), I received clinical training to use a unique approach to health and wellness for the management and prevention of acute and chronic conditions using effective natural and integrative therapies. I have empowered many patients who needed more motivation to achieve a healthy weight and maintain healthy lifestyles for the management and prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome. I also have worked closely with pregnant women offering prenatal, perinatal and postnatal care during this time. These experiences inspired me to design a nutritional protocol for women during their pregnancy to postpartum stages according to their needs which has been utilized by colleagues in their clinical interventions.

I am interested to continue my career path in the investigation of effective methods to manage and prevent chronic diseases in Puerto Rico, United States and other countries. Particularly, clinical studies of conditions like cancer, cardiometabolic disorders, obesity and diabetes. I am also interested to be involved in future studies about the benefits of Naturopathic Medicine, and alternative and complementary therapies, to treat and prevent these and other specific health conditions. Receiving direct mentorship from Dr. Kaumudi Joshipura has been very important for my development as a researcher and has enhanced my proficiency in clinical research. It is fascinating to observe what the research center has accomplished with their studies to promote health in diverse communities. I envision myself working on future community initiatives and CCRHP research projects. As an interdisciplinary center, CCRHP is giving me the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from different fields who have provided support for the projects development. This postdoctoral experience in clinical research and health promotion is facilitating me the knowledge and skills to collaborate in research projects that are aligned with my career goals.

## **B. Experience and Honors**

### Experience

- 2015- Present: Interventionist for the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles. Facilitator of Food Frequency Questionnaires to participants of the San Juan Overweight Adults Longitudinal Study (SOALS) and collaborating on the development of research initiatives at the Center for Clinical Research and Health Promotion (CCRHP). University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus.
- 2011-2014: Student Clinician. Southwest Naturopathic Medical Center (SNMC) Tempe, Arizona. Clinical training completed in community clinics in Arizona, Austin, Texas and Puerto Peñasco, Mexico.
- 2009-2012: Bilingual Medical Interpreter. Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine (SCNM) Tempe, Arizona. Volunteer work in community clinics, Women's Domestic Violence shelters, and with Naturopaths without Borders.
- 2009: Naturopathic Research Student Association member at SCNM.
- 2008: Academic Tutor. VIP Corporation. Bayamón, Puerto Rico.
- 2006-2008: Research Assistant and Community Health Educator for the Puerto Rico Comprehensive Center for the Study of HIV and Health Disparities (PRCCHD). University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus.
- 2004-2006: Undergraduate Microbiology Researcher. University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, Department of Biology.
- 2006: Pre-Medical Intern. Dr. Raul Garcia Rinaldi Foundation. Advanced Cardiology Clinic. Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

### Honors

- 2014: Special Appearances in the Live Radio Show "Let's get healthy" with Dr. Bill Swail, Ph.D., and Dr. Blake Gordon, ND. April 2014. People's Pharmacy. Austin, Texas.
- 2012: Special appearance at the 2012 publication of the SCNM magazine, Student Biography: "The future of Naturopathic Medicine", page 4.
- 2001 to 2004: Honor Roll University of PR, Rio Piedras. San Juan, PR
- 2001: Acknowledgement in Who's who American High School Student 2000-2001 35th Edition, Vol. 6
- 2001: Salutatorian Award and High Honor Roll. Colegio Nuestra Sra. De la Guadalupe. San Juan, PR
- 2000: Presidential Classroom Scholar. Washington, D.C. US
- 1999: Award for the Most Outstanding Member of the year in National Honor Society of Chapter Alpha, San Juan, PR.

## C. Contributions

Maria Rodriguez. In collaboration with Dr. Mona Morstein, ND and Dr. Farra Swan, ND, CPM. Nutritional Plan during Pregnancy. Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine. Tempe, Arizona. March 2013.

Kassandra M. De Jesús-Laboy, Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, Yvette M. Piceno, Lauren M. Tom, Ida G. Pantoja-Feliciano, Michelle J. Rivera-Rivera, Gary L. Andersen, María G. Domínguez-Bello. Comparison of the Fecal Microbiota in Feral and Domestic Goats. *Genes (Basel)* 2012 March; 3(1): 1–18. 2011 December 21. (Acknowledged contributor). NSF CREST HRD0206200.

Pantoja-Feliciano, I.G., Noriega-Ovalle, A., Reyes, I., Ferrer -Rodríguez, M; Rodríguez, M. M., Dominguez -Bello, M.G. Selection for antibiotic resistance genes by animal domestication practices. XXVI Symposium of the Puerto Rico Department of Environmental Resources. San Juan, PR Oct 24-25, 2007

Maite Ferrer, Maria Del Mar Rodriguez. Digestive Microbiomes from animals isolated in an island for five centuries. Prevalence of antibiotic resistance genes in wild and domestics goats and pigs. CREST-CATEC Presentation. National Science Foundation. 2006.

### PUERTO RICO COMPREHENSIVE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIV DISPARITY (PRCCHD)

Role: PRCCHD Core Research Assistant

1. Exploring the knowledge and communication skills of mothers living with HIV/AIDS. PRCCHD Pilot Project funded by NIH Grant 1U54RR019507-06.

T Figueroa-Cosme WI, López-Córdova NM, Capriles-Quiros JA. Mothers of adolescent girls: comparing HIV positive and HIV negative women. *Ethn Dis.* 2010; 20(1 Suppl 1):S1-127-30. 20521400

Lopez-Cordova NM, Figueroa-Cosme WI, Capriles JA. Recruitment of HIV positive and negative women in Puerto Rico: the experiences of a research team. *Ethn Dis.* 2010; 20(1 Suppl 1):S1-155-7.

2. Factors affecting the utilization of healthcare services by HIV patients: A case study of early and later presenters in Puerto Rico. PRCCHD Pilot Project funded by NIH Grant 1U54RR019507-06.

### SPECIAL COLLABORATION IN UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DEL CARIBE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE:

ASUMA Pilot Project. RCMIUCC funded by NIH Grant 2G12RR03035.

Collaborated and provided assistance in research activities as Community Health Educator.

### GRANT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

March 2008

Final report of the status of pilot projects 202 and 203. Prepared a report for the PR-CCHD which specified information of the projects development.

November 2007

Collaborated to renew a grant for the Retrovirus Research Center at the UCC School of Medicine. Developed a report about publications and objectives of the studies from 2004 to 2007, in collaboration with Biostatisticians.