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PRCTRC AIDS DAY

The Public Health Program of Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences (PSMHS), with collaboration of the PRCTRC, will sponsor AIDS Day on Saturday, February 11, 2012. We want to welcome you to an activity that will allow participants to update their knowledge about the AIDS epidemic, covering issues ranging from local to global and from prevention to treatment.

The activity will feature many high level professionals who have contributed significantly to the fight against this pandemic. Dr. Susan Hillis, Senior HIV Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control will address the topic of mother to child transmission prevention and the orphan contribution to the next wave HIV epidemic. Dr. Daniel Halperin, a medical anthropologist from the University of North Carolina, with more than 20 years of global AIDS experience, will talk about translating evidence into policy and effective programs. Other speakers will include Dr. Johnny Rullán, former PR Secretary of Health and current PR State Epidemiologist, Dr. E. Anne Peterson, former Assistant Administrator in charge of global health, including PEPFAR initiation, at USAID and currently Director of PSMHS Public Health Program, Dr. Yasuhiro Yamamura, Professor and Senior AIDS Researcher at PSMHS, Dr. Lisa Norman, Associate Professor of Public Health, and Dr. Julio Jiménez, Professor of Clinical Psychology.

The activity has been approved for 7 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME). The cost of registration will be $80, lunch included.

For additional information and registration please call or inquire by e-mail:
Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences
787-840-2575
Office of Continuing Medical Education
Ms. Amariliz Torres - Extension 2115
amtorres@psm.edu
Mr. José Febles – Extension 2305
jfebles@psm.edu
In celebration of its first anniversary the PRCTRC held its Scientific Day Friday, December 9, 2011 at the Four Points by Sheraton Caguas Real Hotel and Casino

The program included presentations by researchers receiving support from the PRCTRC Pilots Project, PRCTRC Scholars, and also by Senior Investigators. In addition, the attendants enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Gualberto Ruaño, President and CEO of Genomas Inc. and Director of Genetics Research at Hartford Hospital, who came as Invited Investigator. Doctor Ruaño presented research work that has resulted in a novel way of using genetic information to provide individualized clinical care to patients in the community.

The activity began with a welcome message from Dr. Walter Frontera, Principal Investigator of the PRCTRC. Investigators of Pilot Projects included Dr. Antonio Martins Baccin, from Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) who presented his work with tobacco cembranoid (4R) and its potential as an Anti-HIV therapeutic agent. Dr. Karen Martínez, from UPR-Medical Sciences Campus made a presentation of her research about fear learning and extinction. Dr. Carlos Báez Pagan, from UPR-Río Piedras Campus talked about his project with bupropion as adjunctive therapy in HIV seropositive smokers.

PRCTRC Scholar Dr. Albert Villanueva presented his work with voice training in geriatric patients. Dr. Nancy Torres, also a PRCTRC Scholar talked about her research related to Vitamin K levels and insulin sensitivity.

Senior investigators Dr. Yasuhiro Yamamura, from Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Dr. Pedro Ferchmin, from UCC also collaborated presenting their research work related to HIV. Dr. Carlos Luciano, Dr. José Torres, Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa and Dr. Robert Hunter served as moderators for the different sessions.

The 2011 scientific day served as an important activity to promote networking between all members of the academic community involved in some way in translational research. It was also an important activity to highlight the accomplishments of the PRCTRC after it first year since implementation.
The success cases were much higher than expected, as these individuals represent innovators and early adopters (Rogers, 2003) in the process (expected percentage = 16%).

We can conclude that implemented training activities provided opportunities in a moderate group of professional to adopt and implement new technologies.

One of the main outcomes of the Office of Community Research and Engagement (OCRE) is to encourage research and its clinical application within communities. In order to achieve this outcome during FY 2011 OCRE sponsored two trainings targeting researchers and community based organizations members.

The Success Case Method (SCM) was used as reference to determine the impact and usefulness of the trainings sponsored by the Office.

OCRE staff contacted participants three months after the trainings. A Qualitative Follow-Up Interview was used to track information about the participants, whether or not they had used skills learned during the training sessions. Participants will also be contacted after six month for a second follow up.

**What is the Success Case Method?**

The SCM (Brinkerhoff, 2003) is a process to evaluate the effects and the factors that are associated with successful application of new skills. This method can be used to answer any or all of the following questions:

1. What is really happening?,
2. What results, if any is the program helping to produce?,
3. What is the value of the results?, and
4. How could the initiative be improved?

It is used to determine in a fast and simple way which parts of an initiative work well enough to be left alone, which parts need revision and which should be abandoned. The method seeks to understand why things worked and why they did not.

Qualitative strategies approaches were used in order to gain a better understanding of participants experience with the Atlas.ti and Intervention Mapping approach. We performed qualitative data analysis to identify emergent themes.

Fourteen of the 16 participants were successfully contacted by CRE staff. 29% of the interviewed participants had used the Atlas.ti software and 32% of the interviewed participants had used the Intervention Mapping model according to the established successfulness criteria.

All participants used the program and model accordantly as expected and were mostly satisfied with both. Furthermore, specifically in Intervention Mapping training, some participants expressed delivering learned knowledge to their staff and colleagues. General difficulties or barriers experienced were related to not having the opportunity to use them or practice before.
Community-Based Organizations Service and Capacity Needs Assessment

In an effort to form and sustain community-campus partnerships to enhance clinical and translational research, an assessment of needs for selecting and implementing evidenced-based programs was conducted among a selected group of community-based organizations throughout the Island. The target sample for this study was community-based organizations in Puerto Rico that work or address specific health areas: cancer, neuroscience, HIV and cardiovascular. From the total of 100 invited CBOs, 68 community-based organizations in Puerto Rico replied to our survey.

Community-Based Organizations Service and Capacity Needs Assessment survey

The survey was based on an instrument developed by the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network. It assessed specific service information (e.g. services offered, health condition(s) addressed, target population, location), program selection/implementation processes, knowledge and perception of EBPs, funding venues, evaluation processes, and capacity and training needs.

Representatives of CBOs that responded to the survey came from diverse professional backgrounds, and roles including executive directors (69.9%), administrators (11.3%), service providers, both clinicians (5.7%) and non-clinicians (5.7%), advisory board members (3.7%), and outreach coordinators (3.7%).

Survey Results

The survey revealed that participating CBOs have substantial needs for the development and implementation of EBPs and that their efforts are hampered by limited personnel and a lack of collaboration with other organizations and agencies.

Regarding training needs, organizations identified specific training topics and community needs to enhance impact in their service area. Prominent among these were utilization of data for decision making, development of collaborations, management of information services, conducting community needs assessments, and program evaluation. CBOs reported positive attitudes toward the implementation of EBPs.

Community Research Principles

OCRE endorses the use of community engagement and community based-research approaches. Thus, we will follow community-based participatory research principles and community engagement guidelines to guarantee opportunities of inclusive participation with CBOs and other community stakeholders. In the following months we will invite a group of participating CBOs to discuss and interpret results, and to guide us in our planning process. This strategy will translate the results back to CBOs and legitimize them as experts on both their organizational needs and service needs in the communities that they serve.
UP Coming Activities

WORKSHOP
Understanding genetic admixture and its implications for complex diseases.

This workshop will be offered on February 9, 2012 at the Conrado Asenjo Library, UPR- Medical Sciences Campus. Registration for this workshop is already full.

This seminar will be offered on February 9, 2012 at the PRCTRC Conference Room. For more information:
http://prctrc.rcm.upr.edu/events/introduction-to-qualitative-health-research

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• Introduce participants to the logic and language of qualitative research.
• Describe some applications of qualitative methods in health research.
• Describe the basic tools for the design of qualitative health research.
• Discuss some examples of research in the area of health following a qualitative model.

This activity is on February 23 & 24, 2012
For more information:
UP Coming Activities

Call for Pilot Projects
Puerto Rico Clinical and Translational Research Consortium

Deadline for submission is Monday, April 30, 2012
For more information: http://prctrc.rcm.upr.edu/researchers/pilot-project-program/call-for-pilot-projects

This workshop is designed to give up-to-date information to health care providers about clinical trials and of the barriers presented for recruitment and retention among minority participants in such studies.

For more information:

Deadline for Application:
March 06, 2012

FELLOWSHIPS: all accepted students will have the expenses with accommodation, meals and transfer airport-hotel-airport covered by ELAG. For information and registration: www.igpt.org.br or write to elig@igpt.org.br
Meet the New Staff

Talia Sánchez
Talia joined the PRCTRC on September 2011 and is working as Dr. Frontera’s administrative assistant. She previously worked for the OB-Gyn Department at the Medical Sciences Campus.

María del Pilar Cotto, RN, BSN, MSN
Pilar joined the PRCTRC staff on January 2012. She is the new research nurse at the Medical Sciences Campus facilities. Pilar have 24 years of experience as a nurse, 14 of them dedicated to clinical research. She is available to support patient care for PRCTRC studies.

Welcome!