

NEWS FROM PSM



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PONCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

What is new at PSM by: Dr. Raul A. Armstrong, Associate Dean for Faculty & Clinical Affairs

Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA, former Assistant Secretary of Health and Director of the Public Health Services of the U. S. Government with the rank of Admiral of the Navy, was officially installed as President and Dean of the Ponce School of Medicine the 1st of April of 2009. The appointment of the distinguished alumnus of the Ponce School of Medicine (Class of 1988) was well received by the faculty and students and by the Ponce community.

During an interview by the local press, Dr. Garcia had the opportunity to express his Vision for the future of the school in the following terms: "The Ponce School of Medicine has to think beyond the limits of the city of Ponce. The Institution has at the present time the opportunity to become the focal point to attract economic resources for investment in the Southern Region and the entire island of Puerto Rico. It can position itself as the leading school of medicine of Hispanic roots in the entire hemisphere."

As part of this strategy, Dr. Garcia plans to develop a five year action plan that includes expansion of the present physical facilities at the school and the growth of the academic offering. He is interested in participating in the utilization of Federal Funds as part of the economic stimulus package developed by the Obama administration (ARRA Funds) to make this possible. His concern for the expansion of the programs now being offered at PSM was expressed in the following terms: " I believe that the School has to continue to increase the academic offer in Doctorate and Master degrees and also has to offer undergraduate training and certificate degrees. There is a great need in Central and South America for additional Health Training, specially for technical personnel to work in Operating Rooms, Emergency Rooms and Nursing. Some of these allied health positions do not require postgraduate degrees."

Dr. Garcia also envisions the role of PSM in the training of Hispanic Veterans who are being discharged from the Armed Forces and



Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA
President and Dean

who have the opportunity to retrain in the health related fields. This could be carried out through alliances with other university systems, both in Puerto Rico and in the mainland. "Another field of growth for PSM is in the research field", he said. "We have developed and excellent group of able and respected investigators. We are ready to attract more funding by Federal Grants and by the Private Pharmaceutical Industry". This will benefit the school and the entire southern region of Puerto Rico. ■

Dr. Garcia inducted to the Military Health System Honor Society

The Military Health System Honor Society, established in 2008 by Dr. S. Ward Casscells, former assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, each year recognizes the contributions of those who go above beyond in their daily lives and careers to improving the health of U.S. service members. Dr. Joxel Garcia, President and Dean of Ponce School of Medicine, was inducted to The Military Health System Honor Society. Adm. Joxel Garcia was recognized

for exceptional public service as Assistant Secretary for Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from March 2008 to January 2009. Garcia played a pivotal role in the historic memorandum of agreement between the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and Defense Department, detailing 200 USPHS officers to supplement care for wounded warrior psychological health needs. ■



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MEET OUR LEADERS

Dr. Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA, President and Dean of PSM recently announced the appointment of Dr. Jose E. Cangiano as Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Services. Dr. Cangiano, a prominent Psychologist in the Ponce area, has been a member of the PSM Faculty since 1977. After obtaining an M.A. degree with major in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico in 1970, he graduated with a Ph. D in Professional Psychology (with distinction) from the Caribbean Center for Advanced Studies in 1976 and since then has been active in private practice and in Academia in our city. Between 1977 and 1995 he was also a member of the faculty of the Clinical Psychology Program at Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (PUCPR) also in Ponce.

During the years 1995 to 2001 he served as Chairman of the Psychiatry Department. Under his leadership, PSM developed the Behavioral Health Centers (CSCO's) in Mayaguez, Coamo and Guayama for the evaluation and treatment of medically indigent mental patients under the health plan sponsored by the Government of Puerto Rico. He participated in the development of the Clinical Psychology Program that started in 1999 and now graduates 30 students annually. He also coordinated the creation of a Residency Program in Psychiatry through a joint effort of the Psychiatry staff at PSM and V.A.

Hospital in San Juan. This program is fully operational with 20 residents in General (Adult Psychiatry) and 2 Fellows in Child Psychiatry.

Among the many tasks performed at PSM, he coordinates the Basic Psychiatry Class for 1st year students, has presided the PSY. D. Program admission committee and the grievance committee, has been secretary of the Faculty Forum and has been Counselor of the 1977 and 2001 graduating medical school classes. He was elected as an Honorary Member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Society in 2001. He was President of the Puerto Rico Psychology Association in 1977-1978 and President of the Puerto Rico Psychology Board from 1986 to 1992. In recognition of his outstanding work in the field of Psychology, he was honored by the P. R. Psychology Association with A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD in October, 2007.



Dr. Luis Franco and Dr. Jose E. Cangiano

In addition to his involvement in the teaching and evaluation of students of both the Medicine and the Psychology Programs, Dr. Cangiano has developed the Behavioral Health Center at the PSM campus to offer services to medically indigent patients, school children and school communities, police officers, firemen and other governmental employees in the areas of Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse to Children, Prevention of Violence and Drug Use in our schools, Prevention of Suicide and evaluation and treatment of aggressors.

In the newly created position of Assistant Dean for Behavioral Health Services, Dr. Cangiano will report to the Associate Dean of Clinical and Faculty Affairs and will be in charge of the coordination of all the Psychology and Psychiatric Services offered at PSM and at the satellite clinics to our Mental Health patients. These ambulatory clinics will serve as the training sites for the Psychiatry Residents and the Interns of the Psychology Program, so that Dr. Cangiano will be working in close relationship with Dr. Pedro A. Castaing, Chair of Psychiatry and Dr. Jose Pons, Chair of the Psychology Program. He will also continue to participate in Classroom teaching for Psychiatry and Psychology students. ■

Meeting of the Association of Medical Students



Student Leaders

The "Asociación de Estudiantes de Medicina de Puerto Rico" (AEMPR) held the first Medical Students

convention at the Ponce Hilton Hotel in April 3-5, 2009. Over 450 students from the four accredited medical schools in the island enjoyed three days filled with educational conferences, workshops and social events. A group of 34 students from the four schools composed the committee that organized the event. One of the highlights of the weekend was the "Noche de Decanos" during which Deans Dr. Walter Frontera of the UPR School of Medicine, Dr. Raúl A. Armstrong, of Ponce School of

Medicine, Dr. José Ginel Rodríguez, from UCC School of Medicine, and a representative of Dr. Yocasta Brugal, Dean of San Juan Bautista, talked to the students about the programs and the future goals of their schools. Dr. Joxel García, MD, MBA, the new President and Dean of the Ponce School of Medicine, also had the opportunity to address the students about his plans for the future growth of the School.

Faculty members from all four schools participated in the conferences, which included Dr. Jaime Rivera Dueño, designated Secretary of Health



Ponce City Mayor with Hector Velez, PSM & Luis Tarrats, UPR

and former Dean and President of our school, who offered a conference on the future of the government's health reform. After the academic and administrative program, students were able to enjoy dinner and live music from groups such as Deborah Brum, Sin Prisa, Gomba Jahbari, Nejo y Dálmata. ■



Participating Deans



FIBER AND FLUID HEALTH FAIR by: Tareq Khedir Al-tiae, MSIV

Alpha Omega Alpha Beta Chapter Puerto Rico (Ponce School of Medicine) held a "Fiber & Fluid" Health Fair for "Ponceños" at Plaza del Caribe, the principal shopping mall in Ponce. The event occurred Saturday May 2, 2009. Participants started by filling out a pre-interview to evaluate what they knew about fiber and water. Then they went on to an interactive table that included information about how to read nutritional labels, amount of fiber in fruits with and without peeling, and fiber content in cereals. There was also a demonstration of bottles with an equal amount of beans (a local staple in the Puerto Rican diet) with varying amounts of water to show how fiber & water create bulk to facilitate the

digestion process. Another station included over twenty recipes from the traditional Puerto Rican cuisine with nutritional guides. Members of Alpha Omega Alpha and other collaborating students provided information about cooking alternatives and substitutes, and how to increase fiber content, lower fat and sugar content in daily food preparation. They also discussed benefits of water as an alternative to cola and carbonated drinks. Students gave presentations every 15 minutes about how to choose foods based on fiber content, calorie consumption, what to look for on food packages and information on how to support local produce from the Puerto Rican coastal and moun-

tainous regions. The last station provided information about health screening, identification of risk factors, colonoscopy and the benefit of fiber-rich diets in reducing colon cancer risk. Participants were fortunate to also have free gastroenterology consultation with Alpha Omega Alpha faculty member Dr. Bárbara Rosado, along with referrals for those who are without insurance. Participants finally had an exit interview to evaluate what they learned from the event. Alpha Omega Alpha students hope to analyze data obtained from the activity as a research project. The event exceeded expectations with over 300 participants. ■



Jennifer Rullán, Richie Solá, Neha Morparia



Carina Fernández with a participant



Tareq Khedir Al-tiae, Cumara O'Carroll, Tracy Catlin



Daniel Rivera-Buscaglia, Paola Chamorro

GREAT FOR YOU

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PONCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

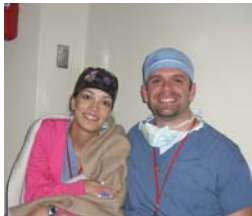
ALUMNI NEWS



Emergency Funds Continue to Grow - : \$19,150

Class	Name	Class	Name
1982	Rubén Brignoni Serrano, MD	1993	Gioia Riccio, MD Luis D. Ghigliotti Lagares, MD
1983	Jose Ginel Rodríguez Irizarry, MD	1994	Lionel Noy Fernández, MD
1984	Tyrone Medina, MD	1996	María E. Gutiérrez Dorrington, MD Waldemar Torres Carlo, MD
1985	Pedro Marcucci Laboy, MD Angela Kervel González, MD Carlos Homs Rodríguez, MD	1997	Manuel Colón De Jesús, MD
1986	Carl Joseph Minniti, MD Jose Rodríguez Sanjuan, MD Hun Ku Kang, MD	1998	Cándido Anaya, MD
1987	Orlando López de Victoria, MD John C. Preston, MD Veronica Gipps Palacios, MD Winston R. Ortiz, MD	1999	Daniel Esteves, MD
1988	Eric M. Godreau Rodríguez, MD Mario Jacomino Cortijo, MD Jose J. Capella Marquéz, MD	2000	Sylvia Gutiérrez Rivera, MD Omar Colón, MD
1989	Gonzalo González Bonilla, MD Rolando E. Prieto Santos, MD	2006	Adam A. Ingraffea, MD
1991	Neville G. Pereyo Zequeira, MD	2011	Maried E. Aybar, MS
1992	Jorge Martínez Llorens, MD Walter J. Roche, MD		

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE



Glorimar Medina &
David Chafey

Glorimar Medina, MD, Class 2003, Anesthesiologist at University of Texas-Houston and David Chafey, MD, Class 2005, Chief Resident in Orthopedics at Baylor College of

Medicine, participated in a mission to Guatemala sponsored by Faith in Practice to perform orthopedic and ENT procedures among the poor population of that country. A total of 76 procedures were carried out by physicians from this Houston based group. Dr. Chafey plans to start a fellowship in trauma and complex reconstruction at Arizona. ■

Shirley Valdez, MD, Class 2005, will finish her residency in Neurology in Houston and will continue a fellowship at the University of Miami. Joseph Selem, MD, also from the 2005 Class, is finishing his residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Texas in Houston and will start a fellowship in oculo-plastics in Orlando, Florida. ■