



Recent organized trainings include Hands on Workshop: Basic Cell Culture Techniques.

## Ready for Research!

By Dr. Jose R. Rodríguez-Medina

A warm welcome to our readers on behalf of the Puerto Rico IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (PR-INBRE) Program entitled “Advancing Competitive Biomedical Research in Puerto Rico”. Our program is now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year in Puerto Rico and its second year at our new home in the UPR Medical Sciences Campus. Over this time, we have made a significant impact on our network of 17 universities, their students, and faculty through improvement of research infrastructure at their institutions, development of the faculty through competitive funding of research projects, and development of their students through mentoring programs in research and professional development. Evidence of our impact can be summarized by testimonials contributed by a successful young faculty member now working at UPR Rio Piedras, and an undergraduate student both of whom began their research careers under the PR-INBRE umbrella (*see Research Roadmap and Meet Our Trainees sections*).

If you are ready for research, we invite you to visit our website at <https://inbre.hpcf.upr.edu/>, and contact us if you have questions about the many opportunities you will find there. Best wishes from all of us at PR-INBRE.

## WHAT'S NEW

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### RESEARCH ROADMAP

Learn about Dr. Lisando Cunci's path towards research excellence

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### MEET OUR TRAINEES

Get to know our student researchers as they grow in their carriers as researchers

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### DID YOU KNOW...?

PR-INBRE has research instrumentation facilities to support local researchers

# Research Roadmap

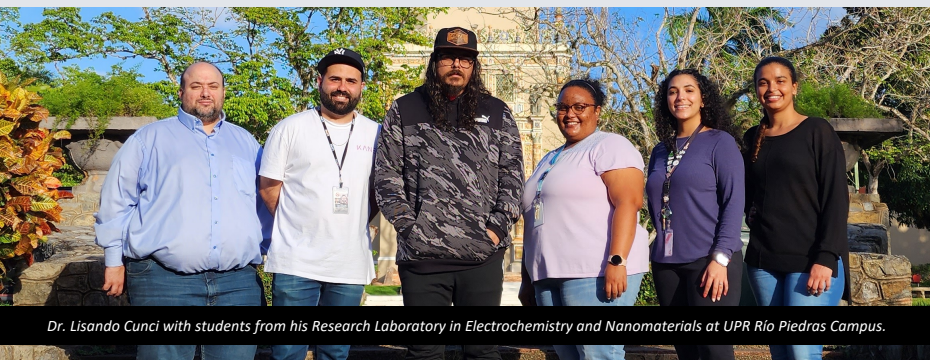
By Dr. Lisandro F. Cunci-Pérez

I learned about the possibility of doing research when I was an undergraduate student in Argentina. Constantly discovering something new through investigations was really exciting for me!

I switched majors to study Materials Sciences Engineering and started my path toward research. After my Ph.D. and Postdoc in Chemistry at the UPR Río Piedras campus, I was able to write my first research proposal. I was given the opportunity to start my independent research career thanks Universidad Ana G. Mendez, Gurabo Campus. After 8 years of serving this institution, I was offered a position as an Assistant Professor at the UPR-Río Piedras Campus, which I accepted.

Securing funding as a new researcher is not easy without seed funding and PR-INBRE was the most important help to jumpstart my research career. The support and guidance of PR-INBRE was instrumental in demonstrating my capability, competing against others and securing federal funding (NIH-R21 and NSF-SBIR).

I wish to be able to follow my mentors' path since they have had a great impact on the island. There is a lot of work to do, and we all need to work together to show our skills and bring more opportunities for our students and Puerto Rico.



Dr. Lisandro Cunci with students from his Research Laboratory in Electrochemistry and Nanomaterials at UPR Río Piedras Campus.

## Did You Know...? By Dr. Beatriz Zayas-Rivera

PR-INBRE has five research instrumentation facilities to support local researchers' activities. These five core research facilities can provide faculty, students and postdocs with training as well as access to state-of-the-art instrumentation. If you are in need of a specialist to provide analysis or training on cell toxicity, genomics, metabolomics or proteomics, feel free to contact us at [bzayas@uagm.edu](mailto:bzayas@uagm.edu).

## Meet Our Trainees

By Daviana B. Menéndez-Escalera



I was always interested in doing research during my undergraduate studies, so I volunteered to work in Dr. Loyda Méndez's Lab at Universidad Ana G. Mendez, Carolina Campus. I asked her if she could be my mentor and she said I would have to submit a proposal within a week deadline. It was the first one I had written, but with her support, I completed it and was accepted in the Junior Research Associates (JRAs) program sponsored by the PR-INBRE STCE Core. With Dr. Méndez as my mentor, I have become experienced in presenting my research at large conferences, such as ABRCMS, and taking courses and workshops through the program, all of which have given me the skills to grow as an investigator and continue my studies.