**Yale and UPR Strengthen Bonds to Curb Brain Drain**

The University of Puerto Rico (UPR) nailed down a series of agreements with the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) of the prestigious American university for the purpose of training the next generation of scientists in the country and providing more tools and resources for the development of research projects that create conditions conducive to prevent the brain drain in Puerto Rico, the Medical Sciences Campus reported today.

The delegation of Yale University was also received by the directors of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT) as part of their mission to turn the island into a global center to facilitate and promote clinical research.

"The idea of this collaboration is multifaceted. The goal is the development of the recently graduated College Faculty. We hope that they can go to Yale, acquire additional expertise in the area of research and acquire training so they can obtain independent research funds, with the purpose of becoming mentors to the new generation of researchers in Puerto Rico, "explained Dr. Marcia Cruz, principal investigator of the Puerto Rico Clinical and Translational Research Consortium (PRCTRC) and professor at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine.

The PRCTRC is a key element in efforts to understand, identify and address health disabilities in the Puerto Rican and Hispanic population. The mission is to create, develop and support infrastructure throughout the island.

The program is also devoted to the conduct of clinical and translational research focused on the health problems prevalent in the Hispanic population, conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular and HIV/AIDS.

"For these people who do not get on a plane and leave, there must be a source of support for them here, as there has to be a source of support for those studying outside of Puerto Rico to return; they are different resources so that in the end we can increase the number of individuals in the island that have the ability to do research and not lose human capital,” added Cruz.

Dr. Robert S. Sherwin, YCCI director and professor at the Yale School of Medicine, expressed that there is already a connection between the island researchers carrying out projects with YCCI researchers.

"We have already begun to strengthen bonds and I think we are committed to continue expanding them. The Puerto Rican scientists we have had at Yale have done very well and what we want is for them to return to the island with more training to become mentors. I really think we can develop a program that satisfies both institutions. We need young people so that the programs continue running, because it is precisely the excitement of young people for research that fuels the research and that helps us in the long term when they return to Puerto Rico," said Sherwin.

The Yale delegation also visited the PRSTRT, where they learned details of the development of the Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Trials PRSTRT program.

"Knowing the areas of opportunity for collaboration of the Trust for Science and Technology for the important work of clinical research carried out by Yale worldwide puts us in a privileged position. To receive them and understand the development of its comprehensive research work has been an important and fascinating experience for us in our project Consortium for Clinical Trials", expressed Lucy Crespo, CEO official of PRSTRT.

The Central University of the Caribbean and the Ponce School of Medicine are also part of PRCTRC.