

Cancer Prevention and Control (CAPAC) Research Training Program Information Packet

Application Deadline: January 16, 2022 at 11:59 pm (AST)

(We recommend requesting reference letters well in advance of the deadline)

The Cancer Prevention and Control (CAPAC) Research Training Program is led by Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz and Dr. Guillermo Tortolero-Luna, of the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC), San Juan, Puerto Rico, with support from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant (1R25CA240120-03).

Visit us at <http://www.cccupr.org/programas/capac-training-program/>

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Research being performed in Puerto Rico provides an opportunity to advance knowledge of cancer risk, and cancer prevention and control between Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations in the United States (US).

The Cancer Prevention and Control (CAPAC) Research Training Program at the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC) aims to increase the pool of master's degree students (public health or biomedical sciences program), other health professions students (e.g. Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, etc.), and recent graduates from these programs to pursue a doctoral degree and/or a career in cancer prevention and control research with a focus on Hispanic health and health disparities. The long-term goal of this Program is to contribute to the development of the next generation of successful cancer control researchers with cultural sensitivity to the Hispanic population.

The program will recruit participants from all racial/ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds to participate in a hands-on research experience in a Hispanic population and cultural environment. Participants will be matched to a mentor based on their research interest in basic, clinical, and population-based research.

Overall, 25 participants will be recruited every year to participate in the program. This 10-week full-time (40 hours a week) research experience will be scheduled for every summer; activities will include their participation in a research project and complementary educational and professional skill building activities. Upon application and evaluation of the request, the program will support a maximum of 10 participants to extend their research experience for up to 15 weeks (40 hours a week). The official languages of the program will be English and Spanish; although mostly all educational seminars/workshops will be in English.

What can the CAPAC Research Training Program offer to its Participants?

The CAPAC Research Training Program will provide a research experience in health disparities research in a Hispanic underserved population. Having a scientific experience in Puerto Rico will give participants access to research topics of relevance in this population, including social determinants of cancer (e.g., socioeconomic status, type of health insurance, and geographic residence), infection related cancers, and quality and outcomes of cancer care, among others. The program will also expose participants to the Puerto Rican/Hispanic culture and cancer control activity in the island. This research experience will not only increase their knowledge of cancer prevention and control among Hispanics, but also will increase their skills in conducting research in Hispanic populations. Furthermore, CAPAC will prepare participants with the necessary skills to advance their careers in cancer prevention and control. The program represents an opportunity to contribute to the development of the next generation of cancer prevention and control professionals and to improve the health of the Hispanic population.

TIMELINE

November 1, 2021	Application period starts
January 16, 2022 (11:59 pm AST)	Application period ends (final due date)
January 17, 2022 – January 21, 2022	Internal evaluation by the CAPAC coordinator to check completion of each application submitted
January 24, 2022 – February 25, 2022	Class of 2022 selection process
March 4, 2021	Applicants are informed of application status
March 11, 2021	Deadline for students selected to confirm their space within CAPAC
May 31, 2022 - August 5, 2022	CAPAC Research Training Program (10 wks.)
May 31, 2022 - September 9, 2022	CAPAC Research Training Program (15 wks.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

Successful applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- Master level students (from public health or biomedical sciences programs), * Health professions students (i.e., Medicine [MD], Dental Medicine [DMD], Pharmacy [MSc or PharmD], Nursing [MSN or DNP], etc.), * OR persons that have recently graduated from any of these programs (within the past 12 months).
- ≥ 2.8 grade point average
- Two letters of recommendation
- Research experience
- Excellent written and communication skills in English
- Basic knowledge of Spanish language is highly recommended
- US citizen or US legal resident

*Students must have completed 1st year of master's program by the start of the CAPAC program. **Current doctoral students (PhD or DrPH) OR those already accepted into doctoral programs (PhD or DrPH) will not be eligible.** The top 35 applicants will complete a telephone interview in English and Spanish, to assess their oral communication skills.

No Discrimination

The UPRCCC does not discriminate on individuals on the bases of sex, race, color, age, national origin, political or religious ideas, gender, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, civil status, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or because of being a victim or be perceived as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or stalking. This policy complies with federal statutes under Title IX, as amended, and related the institutional policies of the UPRCCC.

LEADERSHIP

CAPAC is directed by Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz (Program Director) and Dr. Guillermo Tortolero-Luna (Associate Director), investigators at the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences in the UPRCCC. A team of faculty from participating academic institutions is actively involved in all phases of planning and implementation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Participants will be matched, based on their experience and research interests, to researchers performing cancer prevention and control research in Puerto Rico. These researchers will be their mentors during their participation in the program and will oversee the hands-on research experience of the participants. The primary sites for student mentorship will be the UPRCCC (Research building and its hospital) and the UPR Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSU) (both located in the San Juan Medical Center, within walking distance of each other). Additional sites collaborating with the CAPAC Research Training Program include the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras Campus (UPR-RP), Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) in Bayamón, Puerto Rico and Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) in Ponce, Puerto Rico. The UPR-MSU is in the same Medical Center as the UPRCCC, the UPRCCC Hospital is located 3 minutes away (driving) from the UPRCCC Research building, UPR-RP is located 20 minutes away (driving) from UPRCCC Research building, UCC is located 40 minutes away (driving) from UPRCCC Research building and PHSU is located 50-60 minutes away (driving) from UPRCCC Research building.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

The CAPAC application will be submitted through the REDCap link included in the CAPAC website. Before submitting the application, please verify the materials against the checklist.

Documents:	Observation:
<input type="checkbox"/> Official undergraduate and graduate academic transcripts	*Must be sent by your institution, see more details instructions below.
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of graduate degree diploma	Applies only for recent graduates. Please submit a copy of your graduate degree diploma in lieu of faculty advisor certification.
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Good Standing for those students enrolled in a MD or DMD program	Label the document as follows: LGS_Name of student
<input type="checkbox"/> Certification of student status	Applies only for current students. Once you submit your CAPAC application form through the link provided in the CAPAC website, an automatic email will be sent to your faculty advisor, who will certify your status as a current student in a master's degree program or in a health professional program (e.g., Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, etc.). Certification must be submitted NO LATER THAN January 16, 2022 (11:59pm AST).
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter of recommendation (LOR) and CAPAC Recommendation Form from two faculty members and/or research mentor	Once you submit your application form, an automatic email will be sent to your recommenders. The recommenders must submit a recommendation letter and the CAPAC Recommendation Form NO LATER THAN January 16, 2022 at 11:59 pm (AST).
<input type="checkbox"/> Resume or Curriculum vitae	Be sure you include information about health-related employment and/or research experience, scientific publications (if any), and scientific presentations (oral and/or poster presentations). Also, include academic awards and honors received (e.g., award/honor title, award institution, and issued date). Label the document as follows: Resume_Name of student
<input type="checkbox"/> A 1-page essay in English, narrative form, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font and 1-inch margins. In the essay, applicants will describe their: 1) research interests, 2) long-term goals, and 3) how these are related to cancer prevention and control research.	Label the document as follows: Essay_Name of Student

An application cannot be evaluated unless ALL the necessary documents above are received. To be eligible for selection, all application materials must be submitted **NO LATER THAN January 16, 2022 at 11:59 pm (AST)**.

***You may include copy of your student academic transcript with your CAPAC application form at the time of application. Nonetheless, official academic transcripts must be sent by your institution to our email (capac@cccupr.org) or mailed to:**

Centro Comprensivo de Cáncer de la UPR
Attention: Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz (CAPAC Program)
P.O. Box 363027, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-3027

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The program will consist of the following activities:

➤ **Orientation day**

The Program will start with a one-day orientation for the students and the administration of baseline evaluation surveys. Participation in the Orientation Day is mandatory.

➤ **Hands-on research experience (40 hours per week)**

Students will be matched to a mentor based on their research interest in cancer prevention and control research. Standard working hours will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

➤ **Educational activities**

Participants will engage in a program that will include seminars and workshops that have been tailored to strengthen their professional and research skills. Participation in all the educational activities is mandatory.

➤ **Scientific Day**

At the end of the summer program, participants will present, in poster format, their work in a scientific day. This activity will provide an opportunity for participants to socialize and network with faculty members and researchers, residents, clinical and research fellows, and students from the participating institutions. Participation in the Scientific Day is mandatory.

➤ **Tracking and follow-up:**

Participants will be required to complete an exit evaluation survey and commit to participate in follow-up surveys to track and document their status and progress toward their scientific productivity, academic and career development.

STUDENT STIPENDS

Travel. Up to \$600 will be available for travel expenses of participants outside Puerto Rico. This funding will cover round-trip air transportation of participants to Puerto Rico and back to their home.

Housing. Participants will receive a housing allowance for up to \$1,000 to partially cover housing expenses. This incentive will be available to all participants. Participants will be responsible of their housing arrangements, although, the program will provide recommendations. For those in need of housing, we highly recommend staying at *Plaza Universitaria*, student residence buildings, located in front of the UPR Río Piedras Campus in San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Plaza Universitaria* is 6 minutes away (walking) from *Universidad* Train Stop. The ride to *Centro Médico* from *Universidad* is about 6 minutes (add about 15-20 minutes waiting time). From *Centro Médico* Train Stop to UPRCCC or UPRMSC is approximately 8

minutes walking. Train Fee is \$3.00 round-trip. *Plaza Universitaria* consists of three buildings that hold up to 198 students per building. Amenities include:

- Study space with wireless internet and 55" tv (one per floor)
- Kitchen (one per floor)
- Washer
- Dryer
- Air conditioner
- Microwave
- Fridge
- Security cameras in every hallway
- Fingerprint entry system

For more information visit *Plaza Universitaria-Residencia* on Facebook: (https://www.facebook.com/Plaza-Universitaria-Residencias-529555730428099/?ref=page_internal).

Selected students will inform the CAPAC team if they are interested in this apartment complex and type of room (one room or two-room apartment). This information is necessary to determine availability of apartments for the CAPAC group.

Research and education. Up to \$1,000 per participant will be available for research and education expenses (E.g., laboratory materials, and publication costs). The research mentor will identify the research materials needed for his/her trainee before the starting date.

Subsistence. Students will receive an incentive of \$15 per hour (40 hours per week) for their summer work. It is imperative that participants work in their assigned institution, under direct supervision of mentor. Standard working hours will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CAPAC STAFF MEMBERS:

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