

Fundación Intellectus

ANNUAL REPORT
2023





Message from OUR PRESIDENT

Since its creation in 2014, Fundación Intellectus has existed to serve the wellbeing of Puerto Ricans. As we enter our tenth year, we take a moment to reflect on our achievements to date and the path we have yet to travel. Originally known as the Ponce Health Science Education Foundation, in its beginnings, Fundación Intellectus served its mission by awarding scholarships to medical students at the Ponce School of Medicine, in honor of our legacy. As a member of the first graduating class of this Institution, my commitment to supporting our future doctors is personal.

Over time, our programs have expanded to focus on three main areas:

- Addressing the shortage of doctors practicing medicine on the island.
- Fostering scientific and health research carried out in Puerto Rico.
- Promoting prevention as a key tool for health and well-being.

During 2023 we were a source of support for 16 medical students from the main medical schools in Puerto Rico, through full and partial scholarships to cover their tuition costs and thus reduce the financial uncertainty that so many young doctors face upon reaching graduation with mountains of debt.

Additionally, we provided support to 7 nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the physical and mental health of Puerto Ricans through prevention and research.

Finally, we provided scholarships to 29 students and health professionals to conduct, publish and present scientific and medical research with the potential to positively impact the health of Puerto Ricans.

There is no doubt that improving the health of Puerto Ricans is a challenge that we need to address as a country, and that requires the collaboration and coordination of multiple sectors. For our part, at Fundación Intellectus, we are prepared and determined to make our resources available in the pursuit of a healthier Puerto Rico, better prepared and better equipped to care for the health of its citizens.

Dr. Francisco Javier Cerra

16
Scholarships
for medical
students



7
Grants for
non-profit
organizations

29
Scholarships to
conduct, publish
and present
research





MISSION

Promote the development of individuals and organizations dedicated to the education and research of the physical and mental health of Puerto Ricans

VISION

To be the leading entity that promotes knowledge and prevention in Puerto Rico as transforming elements in health.

Investment IN OUR HEALTH

Since our inception in 2014, Fundación Intellectus has positively impacted the health of our island.

\$3,266,668

TOTAL HISTORICAL
INVESTMENT

\$374,677

2023 TOTAL
INVESTMENT



Addressing the shortage of DOCTORS

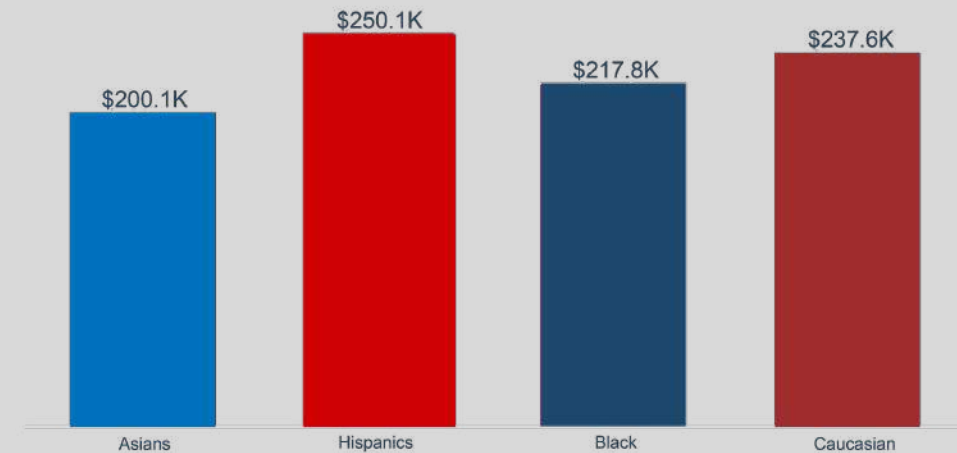
**PUERTO RICO ONLY HAS 10,500 DOCTORS TO SERVE A
POPULATION OF OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE. THE SHORTAGE OF
DOCTORS IN OUR COUNTRY IS A CHALLENGE THAT NEEDS TO BE
MET URGENTLY.**



The high costs associated with completing a career in medicine has been identified as one of the main reasons why so many young Puerto Rican doctors choose to practice medicine outside of Puerto Rico.

For this reason, Fundación Intellectus grants two scholarships destined to partially cover the tuition costs of outstanding Puerto Rican medical students who study at one of the Island's four main schools of medicine.

Average Medical School Debt by Race



Source: AAMC

\$235,827

Average total cost of
Medical School

\$58,968

Average annual cost of
Medical School

INCREASE IN ANNUAL COST, MEDICAL SCHOOL





SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

MD PHSU

\$203,918

Total Funds Awarded in 2023

Total Scholarship Recipients : 10

The MD PHSU Scholarship was established to provide financial support for talented students by partially covering tuition costs at Ponce Health Sciences University.

Stephanie Sánchez, MD PHSU Scholarship 2019

"Receiving the support of Fundación Intellectus was a key element for the success in my medical school career at Ponce Health Sciences University. Thanks to the trust placed in me I also managed to carry out one year of research in Dermatology at Brigham and Women's Hospital. My family and I are very grateful to Fundación Intellectus for the extraordinary support and for believing in my potential. Thank you for helping me achieve my dream of making a Match in Dermatology!"



MD COMMUNITY

\$30,000

Total Funds Awarded in 2023
Total Scholarship Recipients: 6

The MD Community Scholarship was created with the purpose of recognizing medical students who demonstrate a strong commitment to the health of their communities. The scholarship consists of economic aid to cover partial tuition costs. In 2023, 6 students received the MD Community Scholarship.

Gerson G. Santiago González, MD Community Scholarship 2022

"Community service has instilled in me the awareness that medicine, beyond its scientific aspect, is fundamentally about humanity. These different experiences have taught me that being a good doctor is a balance between being a person aware of science and having the understanding that human and social elements play a fundamental role in achieving the recovery of health and prevention in our Puerto Rican populations."





SCHOLARSHIPS

TO SUPPORT SCIENCE STUDENTS



THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE'S HEALTH

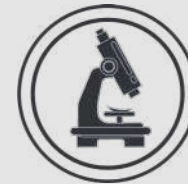
depends on more of our youth choosing and succeeding in careers in the fields of science and health.

For this reason, part of our annual scholarship budget is destined to support high school students who want to participate in summer programs focused on health and science, and graduate students who are preparing to take the MCAT test and apply to medical school.



DURING 2023,

we awarded scholarships to 4 students in these areas.



\$475

SCIENCE CAMP
SCHOLARSHIP



\$4,000

MCAT
SCHOLARSHIP

SCIENCE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Amelimar Maldonado Echevarría, Scholarship Recipient 2022–2023

"I dream of studying medicine and becoming a future doctor, and having the opportunity to be a role model who teaches girls that science is for brave women and that we are willing to revolutionize the field."

This scholarship has been more than just financial support; it has been an aid in the path towards my dreams and aspirations. It has given me the confidence to believe in myself and my ability to contribute to the field of science. I feel that I have a responsibility to honor this opportunity and do my best to give back everything that has been given to me."

PROMOTING **scientific research** **in Puerto Rico!**

Medical and scientific research is the basis on which great advances in the fields of health and technology are achieved. Every year, students, doctors and Puerto Rican scientists on the Island, lead and participate in important research that contribute to the development of new medicines, therapies and technologies that directly and indirectly impact the physical and mental health of Puerto Ricans.

In
2023
we awarded

29
scholarships for
science and health
research projects

PUBLICATION
SCHOLARSHIP

\$4,207

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIP

\$22,502

CONFERENCE
SCHOLARSHIP

\$5,000

SEXUAL VIOLENCE
RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIP

\$4,550

HEALTH RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIP

\$55,600

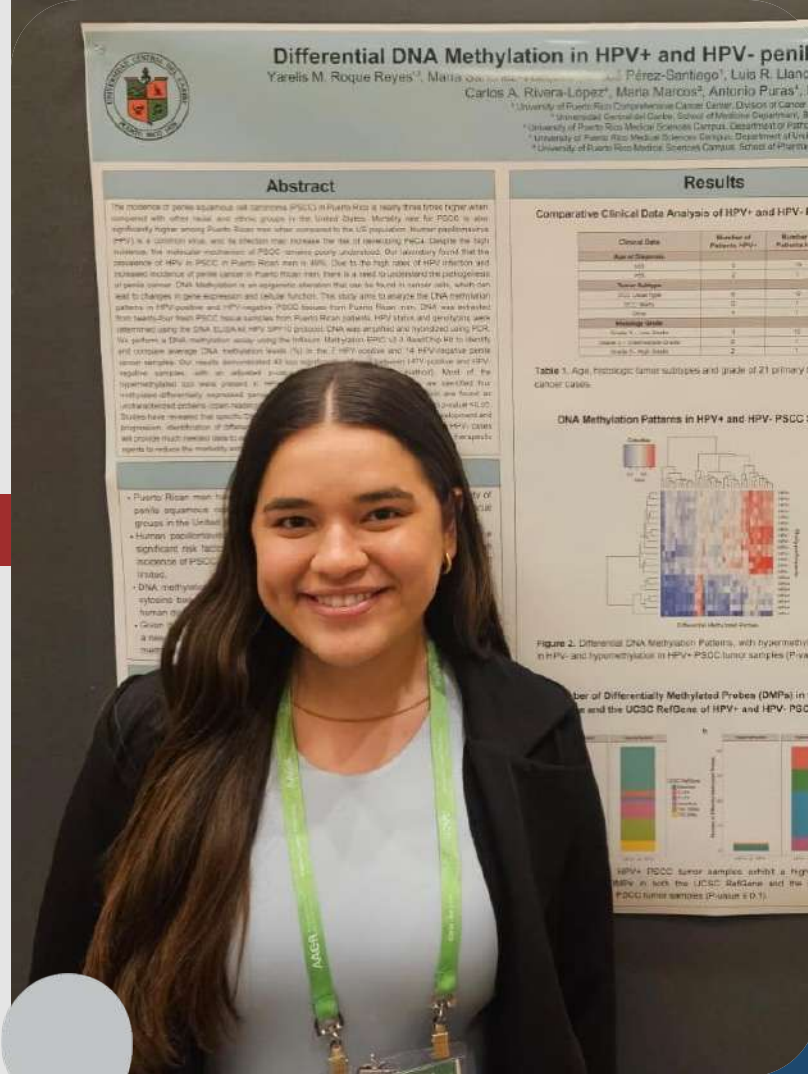
2023 Scholarships
**TO ENCOURAGE
RESEARCH**



CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Yarelis Roque Reyes, Scholarship 2023

“Attending the conference “The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved - AACR” marked a significant beginning in my career, since it was my first experience presenting as a first-year medical student at the Universidad Central del Caribe. The opportunity to participate in this event allowed me to know and understand, in a more profound way, the complex problems faced by minority communities in the health field. As a future professional interested in research and committed to recognizing disparities in medical conditions that affect minorities, mainly in Puerto Rico, I feel the responsibility to share the existing disparity with the scientific community in the incidence of penile cancer in our Island. Attending this event was a transformative experience that gave me more tools to continue my path in search of a future in which health and well-being are universal rights for all.”



Prevention is **KEY**

The reality of our current health system in Puerto Rico underscores the necessity of prevention as a vital tool for maintaining public health. To promote public health initiatives, every year Fundación Intellectus allocates a portion of its budget to support nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention of mental and physical illnesses.



During 2023, WE SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

1

Ponce Research Institute

Support for a prevention initiative in the San Lucas Medical Residence program to improve understanding of preeclampsia disease among pregnant patients.

Grant: \$1,500

2

Health Career Collaborative Academy

Second donation to the Health Career Collaborative Academy program which promotes the study of health and sciences among high school students.

Grant: \$3,700

3

Ponce Health Sciences University Scientific Journal

Donation to create an open-access indexed scientific journal at Ponce Health Sciences University.

Grant: \$23,125

We awarded \$43,000 + IN DONATIONS

TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT IMPACT
OUR HEALTH SYSTEM.

4

UCC · Urban Medicine

Support to the Universidad Central del Caribe organization aimed at continuing their offer of health clinics around the Island as well as community-based research.

Grant: \$5,000

5

Enlace Volunteering Group

Women's health services offered at the event "Clínica de la Mujer Metro".

Grant: \$3,600

6

POPZE Project

Support for the ProSOLEAR study (Study of Life Experiences, Adversity and Resilience) on the consequences of adversity in pregnant women. It forms part of the Pediatric Outcomes of Prenatal Zika Exposure Project.

Grant: \$1,500

7

UPRP Biotech Summer Experience

Summer program offered to high school students at the University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus.

Grant: \$5,000

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BETTING ON OUR **STUDENTS'** **SUCCESS**

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