

SJBSM JOURNAL



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KEY DATES

- June 24 - 27, 2019: MS1 Orientation
- June 28, 2019: MS1 White Coat Ceremony
- August 5 - 9, 2019: MS3 Orientation

MATCH CEREMONY 2019

By Cristina M. Casas Loyola, MS3

One of the most important and exciting days of a medical student's career took place this year on March 15, 2019: Match Day. It is on this day that those who officially matched in a residency program find out where it is that this journey takes them next.

The 2019 Match was the largest yet with a grand total of 64,789 applicants. There were 32,194 first-year residency positions (PGY-1), for which there were 58,229 applicants, and 2,756 advanced residency positions (PGY-2), for which there were 6,030 applicants.

Nationwide, 62.7% of US senior applicants were matched in a residency



SJBSM seniors pose for a photo after finding out where they matched!

program. At SJBSM, 89% of US senior applicants were matched into a residency program. Fourth year students of SJB were matched locally and into states such as Florida, Texas, New York, Wyoming, and California.

The ceremony took place at SJBSM, directed by Ms. Yaidy Cruz Cordero, Student Programs Director. Among laughter and tears of joy, alongside their family and loved ones, the fourth-year students received envelopes containing the site of their residency program.

San Juan Bautista School of Medicine is proud of its students and what they've accomplished, and wishes them success in this new chapter of their lives.

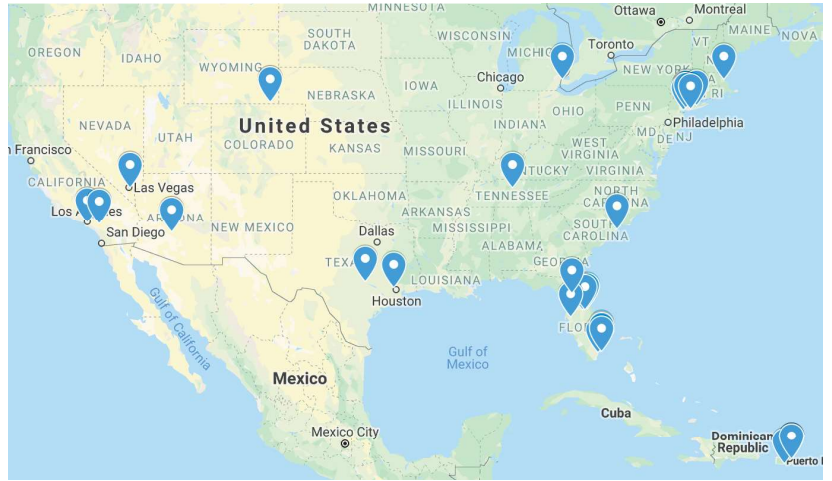
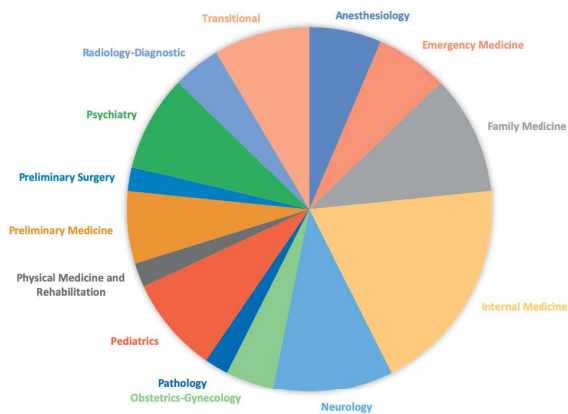
Special thanks to Kiara G. Rivera-Guevara, MS3, for the event photos.



Elizabeth Zipf, MS4 and Laura C. Rivera Dávila, MS4 are recognized for achieving the highest USMLE Step 1 scores in their class.

CLASS OF 2019 MATCH DATA

CLASS OF 2019 SPECIALTY DISTRIBUTION



San Juan Bautista School of Medicine graduating Class of 2019 specialty distribution and general geographical distribution.

- The 2019 Match was the largest yet with a grand total of 64,789 applicants.
- 58,229 applicants tried for one of 32,194 first-year (PGY-1) residency positions.
- 6,030 applicants tried for one of 2,754 advanced (PGY-2) residency positions.
- 62.7% of U.S. Senior applicants were matched with a residency program of their choice.
- 89% of SJBSM Seniors matched with a residency program of their choice.

MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS 2019

By Andrea Paola Pereira, MS1

On February 23rd, 2019, twenty of San Juan Bautista School of Medicine's students embarked on a medical mission trip to Honduras. They spent nine days serving underprivileged communities under the guidance of mission trip leaders Dr. Richard Paat and Dr. John Wells from the University of Toledo, as well as with other faculty members and medical residents from the institution.

Our students were assigned different tasks. Some of them participated in triage clinics, dental clinics, and other specialty clinics such as in OB/GYN and pediatrics. Other students served as educators in the Water Filter Program by orienting members of the community about water pollution and the use of water filters to avoid contamination of the water they ingested. Students also had the incredible opportunity to scrub in and observe a variety of procedures in the hospital.



SJB students pose for a group photo in Honduras.

Luis G. Sanchez, MS1, described his experience as "an incomparable tool to learn, reinforce, and apply basic medical knowledge to help those in desperate need. It was a humbling experience to be able to provide hope and happiness to others." Our institution is proud of all those students that had the initiative and took their time to provide and contribute their service throughout this mission trip.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2019

By [Kiara G. Rivera-Guevara, MS3](#)

After four long and arduous years, the end of an uphill battle that once ago seemed impossible to conquer, too daunting to even imagine, was finally here. The rain on Sunday, June 2nd, 2019 could not put a damper on the pomp and circumstance that took place at the "Sala Sinfónica Pablo Casals" of the "Centro de Bellas Artes de Santurce Luis A. Ferré" in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which joyously hosted the 40th Graduation Ceremony of the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine. Students from the Medicine program, the Public Health program, and the Nursing Program composed the SJB Graduating Class of 2019.

The ceremony was dedicated to Dr. Martha García for her unwavering vocation to teach. With kindness, dedication, and counseling, Dr. García made herself known and felt, always willing to help, teach, and advise.

Amid the festivities that took place, Dr. Antonia Novello, the



From left to right: Alexandra Lozano San Miguel, MD; Michelle Márquez Rosario, MD; Enoc Martínez Morales, MD

first woman and the first Hispanic to become the Surgeon General of the United States (1990 -1993) gave an empowering speech that reverberated with each graduate.

At long last, the ceremony came to an end, and with it a chapter in the SJB Class of 2019 ended. A new beginning awaits tomorrow's healthcare providers. May their new adventures be filled with excitement and a positive outlook.

AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN, AS WHITE AS THE COAT

By [Kiara G. Rivera-Guevara, MS3](#)

The White Coat is a symbol of honesty, compassion, and professionalism that exemplifies the value of humanism as the core of health care. It is a rite of passage and one of the biggest milestones in the budding career of a future physician. It represents a commitment to the patient and the community.

This act of symbolism was evident on May 30th, 2019, when the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony was hosted. Luis Mejía, PhD gave an emotional speech during the ceremony, which called for resilience and careful maintenance of core humanistic values when faced with an ever changing, technology-based health care system.

The ceremony, which was dedicated to Dr. Raúl Ferrer for going above and beyond and always striving to put forth the best of himself to help out a student in need, was a spectacle to behold. The emotions running through the amphitheater



From left to right: Kelvin Díaz Pérez, MD; Karla Flores Pérez, MD; Enoc Martínez Morales, MD; Alejandro Ruiz Toledo, MD; Jhonatan Rivera Mora, MD

billowed out in tears of joy as each student was vested with the White Coat by the physician of their choosing.

This day marked one more step up the ladder for the leaders of tomorrow. May their futures be as bright as the White Coat that now hang off their backs!

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

By Melyorise Sepúlveda Chervony, MS1

There's no denying that diversity has a positive impact on educational institutions. SJB not only seeks to have a diverse community, but it also spares no effort in fostering an environment where all cultures can feel welcomed and appreciated. The yearly celebration of the International Cultural Festival aims to achieve this goal by recognizing and celebrating the cultures within the SJB community. The latest edition was celebrated in November 2018 with exhibits representing Cuba, India, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Peru, and New England. Each delegation had its own table emblazoned with its respective flag colors, full to the brim with delicious foods, and surrounded by smiling students excited to share their culture. The activity culminated with a contribution from the host, Puerto Rico: a troupe of "pleneros" that got the crowd moving to the traditional



Puerto Rican culture was celebrated at the international cultural festival.



India delegation (left to right): Mónica Santos, MS1, Ana Mustafa, MS1, Mayra González, MS1, and their captain Kavina Jani, MS1, who brought the saris all the way from India!

rhythms of "Bomba" and "Plena".

The event was also a competition, and choosing a winner was not easy. For perspective, one group dressed up in traditional clothing brought all the way from their mother country, India, while another group, the Dominican Republic, had their country's consul at their table. Ultimately the award went to the delegation of Cuba, formed by students with varying degrees of Cuban heritage.

Special thanks to Gabriel Sacarello, MS1, for the event photos.



Delegation of Cuba were the winners of the event!

GOOFY GAMES 2019

By [Andrea Paola Pereira, MS1](#)

As students, many of us need a break from the classes and the long hours of studying. Every year, the Student Council and the Dean of Student Affairs host San Juan Bautista School Medicine's annual "Goofy Games". This year, the event was held on Friday, March 29th. The school created a fun environment, and the students from nursing, public health, and medicine programs came together to compete against other classes and enjoy a full day of fun and games.



The Class of 2022 enjoys its first Goofy Games.



Class of 2020 were the winners of this year's Goofy Games!

The event consisted of a variety of games such as messy Twister, basketball tournament, obstacle course, hula hoop, dominoes, ping pong tournament, and tug of war. Throughout the day, each program had the chance to have their own sales spot, where they were given the opportunity to raise funds for their respective classes by selling pizza, tacos, candies, and beverages for those at the event. The tradition of these games was successfully preserved and enjoyed by the students and faculty at the school's campus. Congratulations to this year's 1st place, which was won by MS3, and to the 2nd and 3rd place, which was granted to MS1 and MS2, respectfully.

Special thanks to Gabriel Sacarello, MS1, Carolina Huertas, MS1, and Dalilah Reyes, MS3 for the event photos.



Gabriella Diaz, MS1, shows her talents at the hula hoop competition.



Students enjoy a game of messy Twister.

THIRD INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

By [Andrea Paola Pereira, MS1](#)

The Third Interdisciplinary Research Symposium was held at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine on February 28th, 2019. Numerous abstracts were received for this event from undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. This event was organized and hosted by the Latino Medical Student Association who worked together with San Juan Bautista School of Medicine's nursing, public health, and medicine programs.

Participants presented poster and oral presentations in the areas of basic, behavioral, clinical, and translational sciences. The symposium consisted of 73 investigators that represented institutions such as University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Medical Science Campus, Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC), Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU), CIMATEC, Universidad del Turabo, and San Juan Bautista School of Medicine (SJBSM).

This year's symposium had a very special guest, Dr. Carmen Zorrilla, who participated as plenary speaker and talked about the impact of biomedical research in public policy and public health. Dr. Zorrilla is a local and nationally recognized obstetrician gynecologist who has integrated her service with research in order to save thousands of lives of women and children.

Thanks to Dr. Estela S. Estapé, the Principal Coordinator of the event, David Sanchez, MS2, and the students Wendell Estrada, MS2, and Christina Amador, MS2, with the help of Maggie Gonzalez and Dr. Yaritza Inostroza-Nieves, this Symposium was a success.

"When different minds come together to share knowledge about science, public policy, and health care from multiple perspectives, it manages to accelerate the transformation of and contributions to health," said Dr. Estela S. Estapé, Director of SJBSM Research Center.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



Congratulations to the winners from San Juan Bautista School of Medicine: Nelson G. Castillo, MS2, Ken Malave, MS2, and Eric Paul Torres, MS2 (from left to right).

Poster Presentations Winners:

Basic Sciences

1st: **Camille Collazo**, CIMATEC

2nd: **Melanie E. Cruz**, PHSU School of Medicine

Clinical Sciences

1st: **Ken R. Malave**, SJBSM

2nd: **Eric Torres**, SJBSM

Translational Sciences

1st: **Valeria Martinez**, UPR School of Medicine

2nd: **Nelson G. Castillo**, SJBSM

Behavioral Sciences

1st: **Katiana Vazquez, Nicole Rivera, and Frank Zorrilla**, UCC School of Medicine

2nd: **Génesis N. Ayala López**, SJBSM

Oral Presentation Winners:

1st: **Jose L. Reyes**, UCC School of Medicine

2nd: **Moises García**, UPR School of Medicine

GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION 2019

By Cristina M. Font, MS3

San Juan Bautista School of Medicine held its annual Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction Ceremony at the school on April 24, 2019, organized by the Associate Deanship for Student Affairs and the SJBSM Gold Humanism Honor Society Chapter.

The Gold Humanism Honor Society is an organization created by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation that recognizes medical students and physicians who are exemplars of compassionate care and who serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine. Each year, third year medical students are chosen by their own classmates to be inducted into this prestigious honor society based on their demonstration of humanistic care.

Eight students and two faculty members were inducted to the Gold Humanism Honor Society this year:

Richard Paat, MD

Michelle Moringlane, MD

Koby Bonilla Fernández, MS3

Jonathan Casazola, MS3

Cristina M. Font, MS3

Michael Shang Kung, MS3

Santos R. Ortiz Comas, MS3

Dyanet Puentes, MS3

Dalilah Reyes de Jesús, MS3

Hazel Ann B. Roxas, MS3

The ceremony's honorary guest speaker was Dr. Richard Paat, who is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Toledo and serves on the faculty at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine. Dr. Paat is an internist and organizer of more



Dr. Richard Paat (far left) poses for a photo with the 2019 student Gold Humanism Honor Society inductees after the ceremony.

than 80 missionary trips to different underserved countries around the globe, during which he has served over 115,000 patients.

Dr. Paat and his team arrived in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico in September 2017 after Hurricane Maria to serve more than 1,000 patients in one of the cities most affected by the hurricane. This is where he met Dalilah Reyes de Jesús, MS3, who forged the connection between his team and our institution. Since then, Dr. Paat has worked with and helped train approximately 100 students from San Juan Bautista School of Medicine on mission trips in Puerto Rico and internationally.

Dr. Paat has dedicated his life to serving the world. He has received many honors for his missionary work, but he remains humble and continues to serve and educate students in humanistic qualities by actively involving them in his mission trips and activities.

It was a great honor to have Dr. Paat as both a speaker and inductee at the Gold Humanism Honor Society induction ceremony, which was attended by many of the students who have worked with him locally and abroad and consider him to be a mentor and role model.

Congratulations to Dr. Paat and to this year's inductees to the Gold Humanism Honor Society!

MEDICAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

These students published or gave presentations at conferences all over the United States and internationally, representing our school and showing off their hard work. Congratulations!

Koby Bonilla Fernández, MS3

Oral and poster presentation: *S-nitrosoglutathione Reductase Knock-out Mice Are Protected from Pulmonary Arterial Hypertensive Changes Following Neonatal Hyperoxic Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia*

2018 American Thoracic Society International Conference, San Diego, CA, May 22, 2018.

Danilea M Carmona Matos, MS3

Oral presentation: *Evaluating factors influencing Surgical Grand Rounds attendance*

Academic Surgical Congress 14th Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, February 6, 2019.

Poster presentation: *Characterization of somatostatin receptors (SSTRs) expression and anti-proliferative effect of somatostatin analogues in aggressive thyroid cancers*

Association of American Physicians (AAP) / American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) / The American Physician-Scientists Association (APSA) Joint Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2019.

Co-Moderator of the Surgery Oriented Careers Break Out Session for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Research Fellows Class of 2018-2019.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute End of Year Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 7, 2019.

Poster presentation: *Verrucarin A demonstrates anti-cancer properties in thyroid cancer cells via apoptotic pathways*

American Association of Endocrine Surgeons 40th Annual Meeting, Santa Monica, CA, April 7-9, 2019.

Benjamin A. González Burgos, MS2

Poster presentation: *Shining Light in the Shadows: Mental Health Assessment of Puerto Rico's Homeless in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria*

62nd PR-AFP Annual Convention: "Influences of Primary Care in Public Health", San Juan, PR, April 26, 2019.



Saúl Santiago, MS2, and Antonio Rodriguez, MS2 present their poster with Dr. Maricarmen Colon-Diaz, PhD, Chair of the Physiology & Pathology Department at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine. Their research poster was awarded third place out of 64 posters accepted for presentation at the Puerto Rico Clinical Research Summit: Connecting the World.

Lilliana Serrano Arroyo, MS3

Poster presentation: *Factors associated with fibromyalgia in Puerto Rican Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis*

Pan-American League of Associations of Rheumatology Congress (PANLAR 2019), Quito, Ecuador, April 29, 2019.

Cristina Casas Loyola, MS3

Poster presentation: *What do Puerto Rican Women 2017-2018 Look for in their Gyn Examiner*

SJB 3rd Interdisciplinary Research Symposium, Caguas, PR, February 28, 2019.

Puerto Rico Clinical Research Summit, San Juan, PR, May 9, 2019.

National Medical Association Region 1 Annual Conference, San Juan, PR, May 24, 2019.

MEDICAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

These students published or gave presentations at conferences all over the United States and internationally, representing our school and showing off their hard work. Congratulations!

Kiara C. Ortiz Camacho, MS2

Poster presentation: *Prevalence of Sarcopenia and Osteopenia in Older Veterans in Puerto Rico: Association with Functional and Clinical Assessment (Exercise Physiology/Whole Body Composition)*

62nd PR-AFP Annual Convention: "Influences of Primary Care in Public Health", San Juan, PR, April 26, 2019.

Laura Franqui Domínguez, MS4

Poster presentation: *Health Care Accessibility for Immigrants and Puerto Ricans Living in Santurce, Puerto Rico*

American Medical Women's Association Region 5 Meeting, Birmingham, AL, February 16, 2019, and **Caribbean Strong: Building Resilience with Equity Summit**, San Juan, PR, February 28, 2019.

Poster presentation: *Major Depressive Disorder, General Anxiety Disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorders in Puerto Ricans after Hurricane Maria*

Caribbean Strong: Building Resilience with Equity Summit, San Juan, PR, February 28, 2019.

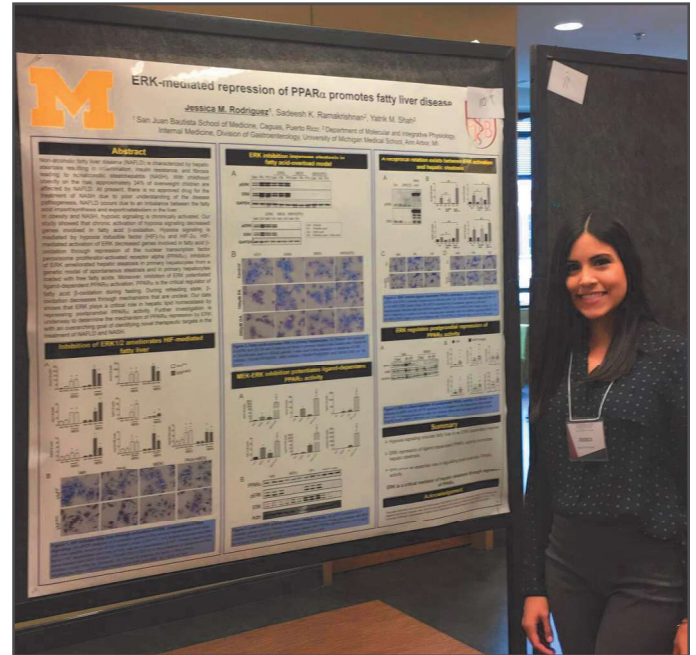
Poster presentation: *Punto de Esperanza Clinic, a Different Approach to Medical Education through Compassionate Service to the Underserved Communities in Santurce, Puerto Rico*

Caribbean Strong: Building Resilience with Equity Summit, San Juan, PR, February 28, 2019.

Jessica M. Rodríguez Hernández, MS2

Poster presentation: *ERK-mediated repression of PPAR- α promotes fatty liver disease*

American Medical Women's Association Region 5 Meeting, Birmingham, AL, February 16, 2019, and **American Physician-Scientists Association's 15th Annual Meeting**, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2019.



Jessica M. Rodríguez Hernández, MS2, presents her poster at the American Medical Women's Association Region 5 Meeting.

Dalilah Reyes De Jesús, MS3

Poster presentation: *New Pathogenic RSPH4A Variant in a Child with Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia*

39th RCM Research Annual Forum, San Juan, PR, April 11, 2019.

Antonio Rodriguez, MS2 & Saúl Santiago, MS2

Poster presentation: *Di-n-butyl phthalate (DBP) disrupts histone modifications in the uteri of exposed CD-1 mice*

Puerto Rico Clinical Research Summit: Connecting the World, San Juan, PR, May 9, 2019.

Jose Irizarry, MS2

Oral presentation: *Stimulation of Protein Disulfide Isomerase Activity by Activation of The Renin-Angiotensin System*

ENDO 2019 (Endocrine Society Convention), New Orleans, LA, March 23, 2019.

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to San Juan Bautista School of Medicine's most recent student award winners!



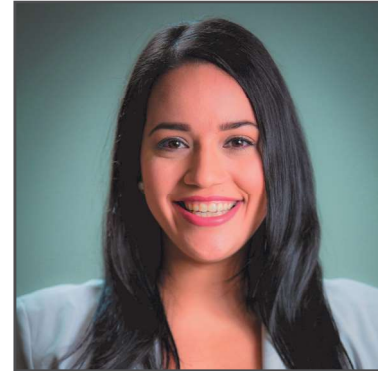
Koby Bonilla Fernández, MS3

2018 American Thoracic Society (ATS) Abstract Scholarship

Koby was awarded this scholarship by the Assembly on Pediatrics Program Committee Chair of the 2018 ATS International Conference in May 2018 for his abstract submitted for oral and poster presentations.

ATS Neonatal and Developing Lung Interest Group Honorable Mention

Koby's abstract was selected as one of the top ten abstracts submitted from young investigators on the Neonatal and Developing Lung field in May 2018.



Laura Franqui Domínguez, MS4

2019 Public Health Excellence Award

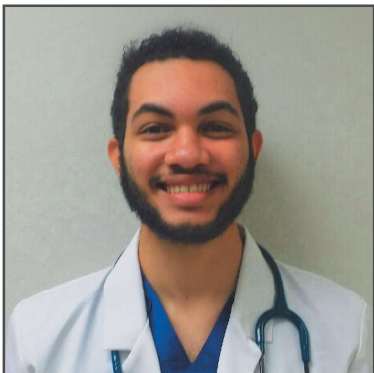
Laura was recognized by the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps for her efforts in the community to improve the health of minorities and underserved groups.

"Estudiante Ejemplar del Año"

Laura was named exemplary student of the year by the "Asociación de Médicos de Familia de Puerto Rico" in April 2019 for her effort in clinical rotations & the community.

Family Medicine Leads Scholarship

Laura was given this award in August 2018 for her interest in Family Medicine and commitment to providing patient-centered care.

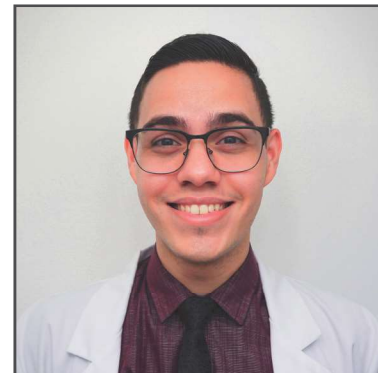


Edison Y. Martinez Monegro, MS1

RISE: Developing Future Leaders in Academic Medicine & Science

Edison was nominated by the associate Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Yolanda Miranda, to be the SJB and Puerto Rico representative in an AAMC seminar in Washington,

D.C., based on excellent academic standing, great professional skills, and willingness to positively impact the cultural and learning environment at the medical congregation.



Jonathan X. Rodriguez, MS2

American Academy of Neurology (AAN)'s Medical Student Diversity Scholarship

Jonathan was awarded this travel scholarship in January 2019 to participate in a 5-day directed leadership program, an experience which allows students to explore career options in the field of neurology and gain access to mentors during the 2019 AAN Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT SJBSM

These are San Juan Bautista School of Medicine's currently active student-led organizations. For more information on how to get involved, please contact the respective presidents for each group.

American Medical Association, Andrew R. Blundell

American Medical Society of Sport Medicine, Luis E. Román & Luis X. Mayol

American Medical Women's Association, Cristina M. Font

American Physician Scientists Association Puerto Rico Chapter, Emile R. Vieta Ferrer, Yonatan Carl, & Marina Stukova

Anesthesiology Interest Group, Ediricardo Rodríguez & Alyssa Gonzales

Cardiology Interest Group, Pedro Colón Ortiz

Christian Medical and Dental Association, Maite Iglesias

Christian Student Association, Alessandro Ávila

Curitas Pal Barrio, Pedro Rodríguez

Dermatology Interest Group, Andrew R. Blundell

Emergency Medicine Interest Group, Santos R. Ortiz Comas

Family Medicine Interest Group, Michelle Márquez

Infectious Diseases Interest Group, Moisés Cintrón & Adriana Gordon

Internal Medicine Interest Group, Alexandra Lozano

Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med-Peds) Interest Group, Yadier Brito Cuas

Latino Medical Student Association, Wendel Estrada Piñero

LGBTQ and Allied Health Professionals Student Association, Jonathan Casazola & Lisete Mole

Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group, Gabriel Ruiz, Daniel Almodovar, & Michelle Zaydlin

Med Students for the Elderly, Cristina Diaz

Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group, Paola Colón

Oncology Interest Group, Keishla Garcia

Ophthalmology Interest Group, Emile R. Vieta Ferrer

Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine Interest Group, Christina Amador & Enoc Martínez

Pathology Interest Group, Juliara Ortiz & Normarie Herrera

Paws Impacting Lives in the Medical Community, Rosa L. Frias

Pediatrics Interest Group, Keishla Gonzalez

Por Una Sonrisa Community Health Clinics, Carolina E. Guerrero Díaz & Dalilah Reyes

Psychiatry Interest Group, Gerardo Collazo

Public Health Student Society, Leyshla Hernández

Radiology Interest Group, Kelvin Díaz Pérez

SHINE Student Health in New Experiences, Vicente J. Covas

SJB Meditative Movement Club, Kavina Jani & Casey Gilman

SJB Student Council, Dalilah Reyes

Student Interest Group in Neurology, Fabiola Rodríguez García

Surgery Interest Group, Yensea Costas

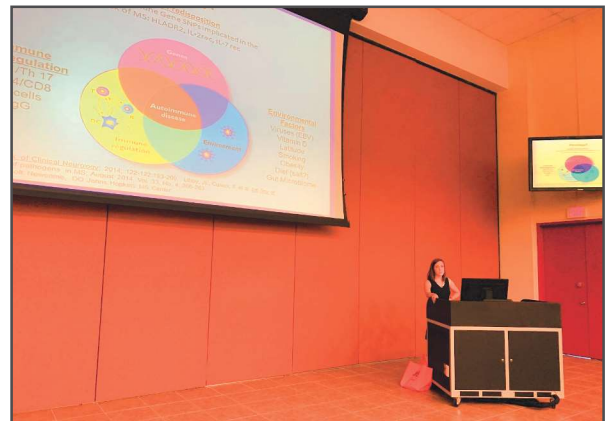
Wilderness Medical Society, Zachary Vega

THE NATIONAL MS SOCIETY VISITS SJBSM

By Lorena M. Figueredo Rivas, MS3

This past January, one of our amphitheatres was filled with first- and second-year medical students, who, driven by their passion for neurology and medicine in general, were eager to learn about research opportunities for the summer and beyond. The Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) was pleased to welcome Ms. Sarah Kurtz, team member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), to our school. The reason: MS Research Orientation.

After an excellent introduction on the topic of multiple sclerosis and its interdisciplinary approach, the speaker invited all students to apply to the NMSS four-week clinical mentorship program, through which accepted applicants are exposed to the comprehensive medical management of MS, while under the tutelage of expert physicians. Special guest Francine L. Tait, MS2 talked about her own experience as a Puerto Rican medical student selected for the NMSS research mentorship.



Ms. Sarah Kurtz spoke at SJBSM, representing the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The event was a total success! The audience acquired an extensive understanding of the clinical management of MS and its prevalence among the Hispanic population, and many of our first-year students took advantage of the opportunity by applying to the summer program. We look forward to sharing their anecdotes as student scientists next year!

SJB JOINS THE #METOO MOVEMENT

By Cristina M. Casas Loyola, MS3

The "Me Too" movement is a widespread movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault in the workplace. At SJBSM, there is an established policy known as "Policy related to mistreatment of students in the teacher-student relationship". Dr. Yolanda Miranda, Dean of Student Affairs recognizes its importance: "Said policy establishes confidentiality and due process of fair investigation for prompt resolution." The Dean of Student Affairs, together with OBGYN



Students of SJB show support for the #MeToo movement

and Women's Health and the American Medical Women's Association, joined the movement on December 28, 2018, to support the students.

NEWEST STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

American Medical Society of Sport Medicine

For more information, contact Luis E. Román at luisrs@sanjuanbautista.edu or Luis X. Mayol at luismv@sanjuanbautista.edu.

Pathology Interest Group

For more information, contact Juliara Ortiz at juliaraos@sanjuanbautista.edu, or Normarie Herrera at normariehr@sanjuanbautista.edu

HOW CAN STUDENTS & FACULTY REPORT MISTREATMENT?

The following is an excerpt from SJBSM's **Policy Related to Mistreatment of Students in the Teacher-Student Relationship**:

Student concerns: Students may address situations in which they feel that they have been the object of inappropriate behavior at various levels. At the most basic level, the most effective way to handle a situation may be to address it immediately and non-confrontationally. Oftentimes, a person is simply unaware that his/her behavior has offended someone, or even if aware, will correct the behavior appropriately if given the opportunity to do so in a way that is not threatening. If such a request is not successful, or the person repeats the behavior, or the student does not feel comfortable speaking directly to the teacher about his/her conduct, it may be helpful to discuss behavioral instances with Course Coordinators or Department Chairs. Students may choose to speak to their respective Associate Deans for advice and counsel about these issues. These officers may offer additional suggestions for resolving the matter informally. If no satisfactory solution is reached after these discussions or the student does not feel comfortable speaking to these individuals, he/she may bring the matter formally to the attention of the School Administration. The avenues for this are more formal and reporting varies depending upon the status of the reporting individual.

Faculty concerns: If a teacher feels that a student has inappropriate behavior, it is likewise most effective to address the situation immediately and non-confrontationally. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, the teacher should contact the course coordinator. To discuss the matter, they must contact the corresponding Associate Dean.

Anonymous reports: If a student and/or faculty member does not feel comfortable speaking directly to school officials, they may report the inappropriate behavior anonymously through the SJB Student Hotline by filling out the Incident report at:

<http://www.sanjuanbautista.edu/student-life/sjb-student-hotline.html>

To read the entire policy, please see: <http://www.sanjuanbautista.edu/sjb/institutional-policies.html>

PAWS IMPACTING LIVES IN THE COMMUNITY

By Lorena Figueredo Rivas, MS3

In the afternoon of February 9th, 2019, students from SJBSM visited The Pet Village with the goal of helping the staff of this animal shelter with cleanup duties and pet care. In addition, they provided donations for the dogs and cats, which included all sorts of items, from canned foods to toys and paper towels. This Village is an open-air, no-kill shelter that works as a non-profit organization, and survives based on contributions from animal lovers who are willing to go the extra mile.

The PAWS chapter at SJB was able to contribute significantly to The Pet Village in order to reciprocate the love that the furry beings provide us and the patients so unconditionally. Led by the chapter president, Rosa L. Frías, MS1, students were able to play with the dogs, clean their cages, and assist with their training activities by teaching the pets how to walk on a leash and giving them treats. It was a very successful event, where future physicians and their four-legged friends shared a wonderful afternoon together.

In addition to this great accomplishment, therapy dogs from PAWS have continued to help SJBSM students who strive toward a healthier and happier community. During this past semester, canines and volunteers went “hand-in-paw” through Puerto Rico gifting smiles and reassurance to those who



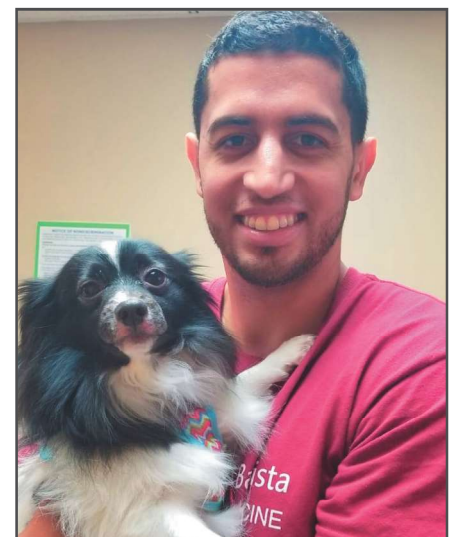
SJB first-year students Frances Cintrón, Lisandris Dominicci, and Stephanie M. Riera volunteered with therapy dogs at Hospital San Lucas in Ponce, PR.

needed it most. Among the places visited were the Health South Rehabilitation Hospital in San Juan and Hospital San Lucas in Ponce.

Our medical school was also pleased to welcome therapy dogs! Right after the first exams of the Spring semester, the puppies made an honorable entrance in order to cheer up the sleep-deprived students, and they did not fail to do so. The visit, authorized by the Student Council and Administration, had such an incredible turnout that it has been requested for a second occasion!



SJB students visited the Health South Rehabilitation Hospital in San Juan with some furry friends.



Alan Marquez, MS1, participated in the volunteer efforts by Paws Impacting Lives in the Community at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Center in San Juan.

SJB IN THE COMMUNITY

Students at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine are very active in the community. Here are some of the events at which students participated this year. Thank you for all of your hard work in community service!



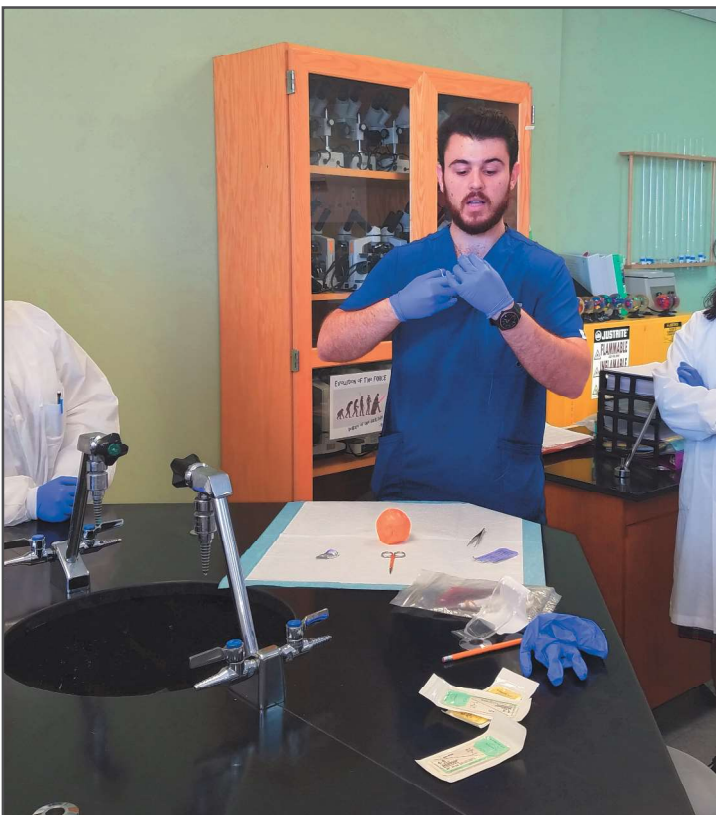
In January, members of the Christian Student Association participated in the "Punto de Esperanza" clinic, which brought medical services to people in need at the "Iglesia Alianza Cristiana y Misionera de Santurce".



In February, members of the student organization Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Interest Group volunteered at "Centro Cultural del Municipio de Mayaguez" to provide health services and administer vaccines.



On April 28th, SJB third-year students Koby Bonilla and Dalilah Reyes participated in the annual CardiDay at "Parque Central de San Juan".



Santos R. Ortiz Comas, MS3, participates in the suture workshop offered to students of the "Escuela Especializada en Ciencias y Matemáticas CIMATEC".



Martín Roldán, MS3 and president of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Interest Group, interviews a patient at the health fair at Plaza de Recreo de Arecibo.

PR ANNUAL STUDENT AND RESIDENT EM REGIONAL MEETING

By Cristina M. Font, MS3

The Puerto Rico Annual Student and Resident Emergency Medicine Regional Meeting was held on March 22, 2019 at the Terra Cotta Convention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Medical students, residents, and attending physicians from all over Puerto Rico were in attendance for this event, which was the perfect networking opportunity for students who are interested in Emergency Medicine. The event allowed them to meet residents and attendings from different Emergency Medicine programs in Puerto Rico, not only to establish connections, but also to learn about the process of applying to residency in Emergency Medicine and to hear a physician's perspective on their career in Emergency Medicine.

"It is of utmost importance for us, as medical students, to seek out environments in which we are out of our 'comfort zone',"



SJB students pose for a photo at the Emergency Medicine Meeting.

said Santos Ortiz, MS3 and President of the Emergency Medicine Interest Group. "That was the purpose of our activity: to expose us to the challenges of communication and networking through a simple, social evening. From what I saw that night, our purpose was met."

SJB PARTICIPATES IN GHHS SOLIDARITY WEEK

By Ana V. Menéndez Bermúdez, MS3

Their mission is to "infuse the human connection into healthcare", and in their journey to accomplish this mission, the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) celebrated their 4th Annual Solidarity Week: Solidarity for Compassionate Patient Care, during the week of February 11-15, 2019. The objective was to represent solidarity in the context of patient care through the words *courage*, *commitment*, *competence*, *respect*, *collaboration*, and *humanism*. This year, all chapters were also encouraged to recognize veterans with solidarity through the Veterans Gold Health Initiative.

San Juan Bautista School of Medicine participated in this year's Solidarity Week, kicking it off with a wellness activity with participation from the school community. Students and faculty put their creativity and artistic skills to the test to create beautiful, inspiring, and motivational cards for our veterans. These postcards were handed out by students on Valentine's Day to veteran patients at the VA Hospital. This



José Alvarado, MS3, Koby Bonilla, MS3, and Professor Grisel Burgos show off their beautiful crafts.

was followed by activities to promote kindness as one of our chapter goals, by challenging participants to do simple acts of kindness with a "kindness wheel". Finally, Dr. Pérez-Pabón, a GHHS member and Advisor for the SJBSM GHHS Chapter, led a discussion on the meaning of solidarity in the healthcare system, where students shared their ideas and opinions on this topic. Congratulations on a great initiative!

PUNTO DE ESPERANZA TURNS ONE!

By Melyorise Sepúlveda Chervony, MS1

This past January, Punto de Esperanza Clinic, an initiative spearheaded by students Laura Franqui, MS4 and Alessandro Ávila, MS4, celebrated its first year anniversary. The clinic was born from a desire to bring primary care services to underserved people in Santurce. For the past year, the clinic has worked in partnership with the church "Alianza Cristiana y Misionera de Santurce" to achieve exactly that. In addition, the clinic offers SJB students the opportunity to get hands-on clinical experience by working at the clinic, which is held every third Saturday morning at the church premises.

The clinic is now more than an initiative; it is a fully-fledged program that has the support of the SJB Community Medicine Department and the eager participation of students from first to fourth years. Laura and Alessandro have graduated, but Punto de Esperanza Clinic will remain as part of the school's community outreach programs. Their passion and dedication



Fourth-year students Alessandro Ávila and Laura Franqui celebrate the one year anniversary of Punto de Esperanza Clinic.

to this project has been admirable. Laura and Alessandro want to express their gratitude to Prof. Burgos, Dalixis Rivera, Psy.D, Dr. Ninci Llanos, Dr. Victor Sanchez, and the over fifty SJB students that have participated in the clinic over the past year. Without them, Punto de Esperanza Clinic might not be here today.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

By Cristina Diaz Marty, MS3

Our school hosted an exhibition that demonstrated that the healing arts greatly contributes to the understanding of one's own feelings and the complexity of others' points of view. During this unforgettable event we heard stories and music from colleagues who suffer diseases themselves and explained how they have fought them and currently feel empowered.

Every wall had art that expressed different life battles. "Life with a chronic autoimmune disease shouldn't limit your adventures," said Elimarys Pérez, SJB Class of 2009. Even the story that had a tragic end was finished with a motivational message. This was the story of Jacob's mother whose son, our dear classmate, passed away but became our new angel. We will forever remember her words: "Every life has a story; every life well-lived is a story that never ends".



At the art exhibition, topics such as fear and depression were expressed, as well as comments from survivors that explain what they do to never give up in life.

Painting for the exhibition cleans our mind, but being there and learning from everyone's experiences helps us leave with the motivation to be the best version of ourselves, never give up, and continue exploring our paths. Starting Monday, June 24, the exhibition will be available in the SJBSM library for everyone to enjoy. Special thanks to Dr. Yocasta Brugal and Dr. Martha García for making this a significant and unforgettable event for all of the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine family.

FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to San Juan Bautista School of Medicine's most recent faculty award winners!



Yaritza Inostroza, PhD

Basic Science Research Award

Dr. Inostroza was recognized by the NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease at the Network of Minority Health Research Investigators 16th annual workshop for her presentation, *Endothelin-1 Regulates Molecules of the Major Histocompatibility Complex: Role in Sickle Cell Disease*.



Linda Laras, MD

2018 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award

The San Juan Division honors Dr. Linda Laras. The law enforcement community in Puerto Rico recognizes Dr. Laras as one of the top sexual assault forensic experts on the island. She has worked on large-scale crime prevention efforts, focusing on sexual violence and assault awareness, and she created a center to provide comprehensive forensic clinical services to victims of sexual violence.



Martha García, MD, MSc

Newest appointed member of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Student Affairs (GSA) and Group on Educational Affairs (GEA)

Dr. García, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Virtual Education Specialist, has been invited to be a member of the AAMC's GSA and GEA Constituent Collaborative Project Working Group on writing narrative feedback for the Medical Student Performance Evaluation.



Irvin Maldonado, PhD

Hispanic Health Leadership Award

Dr. Maldonado, Dean of Academic Affairs, was recognized by the National Hispanic Medical Association at their 23rd Annual Conference in Arlington, VA. Dr. Maldonado received his award on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Annual Leadership Gala.

INTEGRATION TO ADVANCE TRANSLATION: SEMINAR SERIES

Carmen Zorrilla, MD is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and currently the Principal Investigator of the University of Puerto Rico Clinical Trials Unit (UPR-CTU), a merge of clinical trials units including the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (IMPAACT), the Adult Clinical Trials Unit (ACTG) and the University of Puerto Rico Mentoring Institute for HIV and Mental Health sponsored by National Institute of Mental Health. She has received numerous distinctions for her pioneer work in HIV and contributions to science such as the American Medical Student Association Raising Our Voices: Women Leaders in Medicine Award and a distinction from the Puerto Rico HIV Treaters Association.



Carmen Zorrilla, MD

Research Interests:

Public Health, Public Policy, Women's Health



Lourdes E. Soto de Laurido, EdD

Research Interests:

Asthma, Community Engagement

Lourdes E. Soto de Laurido, EdD is Professor & Director of the Research Institute for Global Health Promotion and Health Education (IIPESAG) and Principal Investigator/Director of Hispanics in Research Capability Endowment (HiREC) at the School of Health Professions, Medical Sciences Campus, University of Puerto Rico. She has vast experience in moving from community engagement to community-based participatory research to advance translational research and eliminate health disparities, with a focus on asthma.

Ángel López-Cándales, MD is Professor, Chief of the Cardiovascular Medicine Division and Program Director of Cardiology Training at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. He is a recognized academic cardiologist with ample experience in myocardial remodeling and clinical studies using advanced echocardiographic algorithm methods to redefine right ventricular function. Dr. López-Cándales is a prolific scientific writer with over 100 publications in peer review journals, chapters, and reviews, and he has mentored numerous medical students, residents, and fellows in their pathways to become successful physicians.



Ángel López Cándales, MD

Research Interests:

Myocardial Remodeling, Echocardiography

INTEGRATION TO ADVANCE TRANSLATION: SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Karen Martínez, MD, MSc is a practicing child psychiatrist and Associate Professor in the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. She is the Scientific Director of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSC) post-doctoral Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research. She is founder and director of the Center for the Study and Treatment for Fear and Anxiety at the UPR-MSC, where service, research, and training are integrated.



Karen Martínez, MD, MSc

Research Interests:

Psychiatry, Fear, Trauma, Anxiety



José Manautou, PhD

Research Interests:

Pharmacology, Drug-Induced Hepatotoxicity

José Manautou, PhD is Assistant Dean of Research and Graduate Education and Professor of Toxicology at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. He serves as director of the Center for Biochemical Toxicology and is among the most sought-after associate thesis advisors in his department. His research group has been employing transcriptomic and system biological approaches to identify novel genetic determinants of susceptibility to drug-induced hepatotoxicity.

SAFE HOSPITAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

On April 10, 2019 the SJBSM Puerto Rico Health Justice Center (PRHJC) was pleased to share the successful development and implementation of the SJBSM Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Hospital outreach project for community hospitals. These initiatives are co-sponsored by external grants from Victim of Crimes Act and Violence Against Women Act, both from the Department of Justice.

The PRHJC founder and director, Dr. Linda Laras, said in a press conference, "At SJBSM we are committed to working together with local and federal agencies and community programs to address sexual violence as a health problem."

During this activity, we were joined by the SJBSM President/Dean Dr. Yocasta Brugal, Secretary of the Justice Department Honorable Wanda Vázquez, the Women's Advocate Honorable Lersy Boria, and the Secretary of the Health Department Honorable Dr. Rafael Rodríguez-Mercado. Other confirmed guests were Dr. Beatriz Zayas, Director of the Forensic Science Institute, and Secretary of Family Services, Honorable Glorimar Andujar, among other distinguished guests, including judges and legislators.

SJBSM will provide SAFE Hospitals with forensic equipment to improve the forensic medical exam. Additionally, SJBSM will begin a 24/7 helpline for sexual violence victims.

FEATURED ALUMNUS

By Andrew Blundell, MS3

Dr. Elimarys Pérez graduated *summa cum laude* from San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in 2009. She completed her Internal Medicine-Pediatrics combined residency at the University of South Florida (USF), where she became chief resident. She is a board member of USF Health Nicaragua, a community initiative with high impact in Central America. Additionally, she was actively involved in community activities related to the Hurricane Maria crisis and recovery.

Dr. Elimarys Pérez is a testament to the principles of excellence and service instilled at SJBSM. Her continued success is encouraging to current and future medical students, and her selflessness in serving others is an inspiration to us all. As you have always done, keep up the spectacular work! You make us very proud.



Dr. Elimarys Pérez currently serves as Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida.

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTER

The SJBSM Institutional Research Committee (IRC) is an Internal Advisory Committee of the SJBSM Research Center (RC). It was constituted to provide significant support to the institutional leaders and RC director in the establishment of policy, evaluation of outcomes, and dissemination of information to the faculty, students, and the community in general. The IRC aims to encourage quality research and scholarly productivity, and foster the development of multi-disciplinary research endeavors and collaborations. Currently, the IRC is made up of 8 members, including the RC director, Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences, IRB Chair, two faculty members including an active researcher (PhD) & a clinical faculty member (MD), two RC representatives, and a student representative. The student representative serves for one year; we acknowledge and appreciate the outstanding work and commitment of Mr. Andrew Blundell who represented the students in this role during 2018-2019.

The IRC Committee meets at least bi-monthly or monthly, depending on the issues in the agenda, and submits an annual report to the President/Dean and Committee on Quality Improvement (CQI) on research productivity at the institution. One of the official policy documents that the IRC developed and was approved by the SJBSM President/Dean was the Guideline for Submission of Peer-reviewed Publications. The IRC designed this guideline using the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors criteria as the model to facilitate decision-making regarding authorship and acknowledgments. The IRC is available for consultation if, in the process of deciding authorship for a manuscript, a research group cannot reach an agreement. The IRC looks forward to being of help in facilitating and motivating teams of students and faculty to publish in peer-reviewed journals as an essential component of their professional careers.

SJBSM
JOURNAL

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