

University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez
College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Nursing

Annual Report 2023-2024



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Director, Department of Nursing
June 30th, 2024

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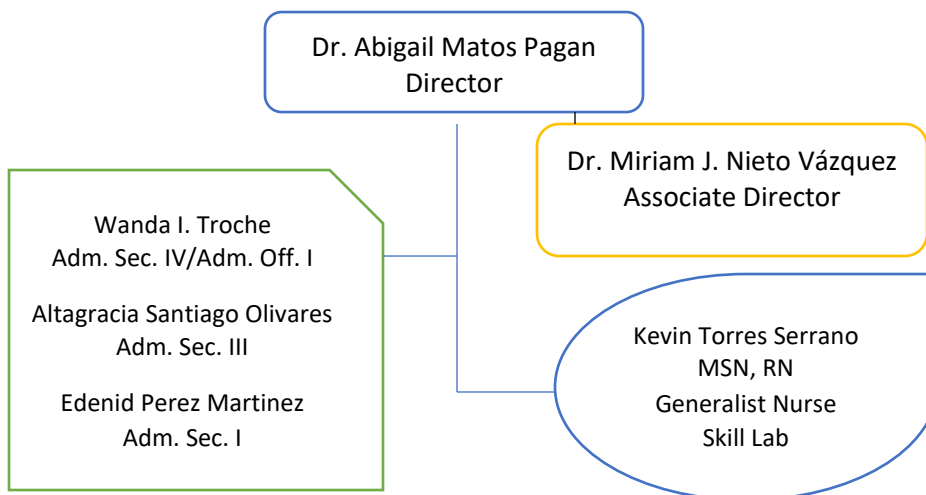
- I. General Information of the Dean's Office and Associated Units
 - a. Mission and Vision
 - i. Mission and Vision of the Department of Nursing

Mission: Prepare highly qualified Nursing professionals who participate in health promotion and maintenance, prevention, and management of illness, rehabilitation, and end of life care to a diverse society at all levels of healthcare delivery and contribute to health care public policies.

Vision: To prepare nursing professionals accountable, competent, and committed to improving the quality of life of the Puerto Rican and international society.

Organizational Structure

- ii. Organizational Chart of the Department of Nursing



II. Report on Initiatives, Activities, and Achievements in Accordance with the Strategic Plan

a. Executive Summary

During this past year, the Department of Nursing and its faculty have worked closely with planning to accomplish the strategic plan for the year 2023-2024. We have established a new Assessment Plan for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, the Middle States Accreditation Commission and the UPRM. The Nursing Program has maintained the highest educational standards, evidenced by the continuing reporting of the Board of Nursing Examinations in Puerto Rico of passing grades of 92-96% on first time test takers. We have also received self-report of passing grades from 80% of students who submit to the National Nursing Examination (NCLEX).

The faculty of Nursing has participated in increasing the revenues by providing Continuing Education to the Professional community, participating in Grants applications and innovative projects. This year the faculty worked very hard to complete a Master of Science in Nursing program with innovative specialties that are expected to gain a Grant from the Department of Justice, the National Institute of Health, and/or the Health and Human Services Grants program. To accomplish increased student interest in our Nursing Program, the Curriculum Committee is also working to include professional certifications and online courses. We have also increased orientation and recruitment activities in Elementary, Junior and High Schools with the Nursing Student Association and the Alumni and recruitment committee.

The Department of Nursing faculty has continued to participate in research and creative endeavors. National Organizations such as the American College of Cardiology- Cardiovascular Team Section has two members of the faculty in leadership positions. The same as the Sigma Theta Tau, International – Honor Society of Nursing - Epsilon Lambda Chapter is directed by the President of the chapter who is a member of the UPRM Nursing faculty. The International Association of Forensic Nursing has recognized the first and only certified forensic nurse examiner in Puerto Rico and a member of our faculty. The IAFN is supporting the graduate Forensic Nursing Specialty, first in PR and limited in US program.

Once again, the Department of Nursing has received a request for collaboration with the School of Nursing – Rutgers University. Three faculty members have been participating in the creation of partnerships with hospital administrators to provide opportunities of mentorship to new graduates entering the profession. The Rochester University Medical Center has visited the UPRM-Nursing program on three occasions this year to recruit students who will graduate from the program and those who are interested in participating in internships at Rochester Medical Center. The Administration of UPRM-Nursing is setting the objectives and goals for this opportunity.

b. Objective 1: To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment

- The Evaluation Committee carried out all the evaluations of courses, competencies assessment, and expected outcomes according to the requirements of the Accrediting Agency and expectations of excellence of the Program and institutional mission.
- The strategic research plan for the identification of external funds identified various opportunities that were not available at this time due to the lack of a graduate program in Nursing.
- The Curriculum Committee completed a proposal for a graduate program (MSN) and three specialties.
- The Personnel Committee completed the formative evaluations of contract faculty and the peer evaluation on class performance. To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students
- Integration of students in diverse clinical and community experiences.
- Students participating in the COOP received excellent ratings from employers (Mayagüez Medical Center, Bella Vista Hospital, Pavía Perea Hospital, RUM Medical Services).
- Community health promotion activities were incorporated into maternity, pediatrics, psychiatry, medical-surgical I-II, and community health courses.

c. Objective 2: To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students

- Collaborative agreements with the agencies that provide clinical experiences were reestablished and the requested changes were incorporated, such as a decrease in students per section.
- The Departmental Curriculum Committee actively worked towards a new curriculum with less credit hours, new courses and certifications.
- Collaborative agreements with University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester NY, is being completed to engage in clinical practice, students' internships and academic endeavors.
- Student Recognition Awards Day: to honor student's academic achievement and leadership (Sigma Theta Tau International- Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Student Association and College of Nursing Professionals of PR). The Laura Guillen Award was awarded for community service to one student during the ceremony.
- Nursing Student Association of UPRM – inducted new students and 9 students to the new board 2024-2025.

- The Sigma theta Tau, International (Honor Society of Nursing) inducted 18 students from UPRM Nursing, 15 from other universities and 8 Clinical Leaders from all hospitals.
- All faculty completed professional continuing education, maintained professional licenses to practice nursing and kept the legal requirement by the College of Professional Nursing in PR and the Board of Nursing.

d. Objective 3: To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue

- Continuing education courses were offered in flexible formats (face-to-face, modules and distance learning).
- Revenues from continuing education were invested in Meta Oculus virtual reality equipment to strengthen student skills and competencies through simulation.
- The Department of Nursing was recertified as a provider of Continuing Education for health professionals. It received approval from the Board of Professional Nursing, Technicians on Sonography and Xray, Pharmacy and other boards.
- Completed proposal for professional certifications in various areas of interest, for example: cardiovascular, forensic, Public Health. These professional certifications will increase and diversify the department's source of revenue.
- The faculty is providing CEU at hospital sites to facilitate the registration of the courses offered and comply with contractual agreements with affiliated agencies.

e. Objective 4: To implement efficient and expedient administrative procedures

- The official page of the Department of Nursing is kept updated <https://www.uprm.edu/enfermeria>
- Communication is maintained with alumni, users of the continuing education program, and visitors, through email, Instagram, Facebook, and the website.
- Workshops for administrative secretaries on stress reduction, increased communication skills and teamwork continued to be offered (one per semester).
- Meetings and committees are in person, alternative methods of communication with faculty and active students continue to be through the use of WhatsApp, chats, Meet, and Teams.

f. Objective 5: To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors

- Agreements with Rutgers University School of Nursing to continue a faculty project on Clinical preceptorship and leadership with affiliated agencies.
- A faculty member of the Department of Nursing, Dr. Gloribell Ortiz, was appointed as the Associate Dean of Students.
- Dra. Sheila Mercado presents at the Sigma Theta Tau, International Biennial Convention in San Antonio Texas.
- Dr. Miriam Nieto, Dra. Abigail Matos, Prof. Sandra Zapata and Kevin Torres Serrano presented at the Scientific Convention of the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico in San Juan PR. Team Cardiovascular Section.
- Dra. Abigail Matos, and Dra. Miriam Nieto were invited by the University of Valencia, Spain to collaborate with the second edition of the book “Enfermeras invisibles”. A chapter of the book will highlight the contributions of one of our faculty members as *Interpres mortis et moriendis*.
- Our Skill Lab Nurse, Kevin Torres, was certified as Cardiovascular Medicine and Board certified as Cardiovascular Nurse by the AACN.
- Prof. Sandra Zapata was certified as Doula of the dying by the University of Vermont. She continues to be a community consultant for the dying person, and family receiving praise for her excellent job from the family members.
- The faculty of the Department of Nursing embarked in a deep literature and evidence-based search to complete call courses for the master’s in science of nursing proposal which was completed by Prof. Sandra Zapata Casiano as part of a mandate from Arts & Sciences.
- The Department of Nursing will participate in the Toyota mobility challenge 2024 with a health mobility prototype.

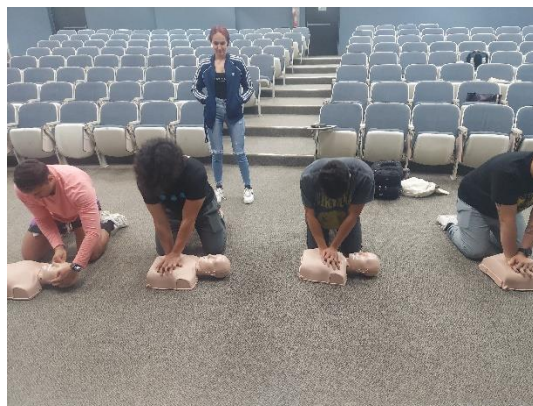
g. Objective 6: To impact our Puerto Rican society

- The faculty of Nursing continues to participate in health fairs, conferences and educative activities for the community related to cardiovascular health, forensic nursing, maternal and child health and mental health.
- The faculty of Nursing and students are offering community presentations to elderly homes and agencies related to health care.
 - Cardiovascular patient
 - Alzheimer care
 - Dementias
 - Diabetes
 - Risk for falls
- Dr. Sheila Mercado is providing orientation in public policy projects and other Senate proposals that impact the profession of nursing.


h. Objective 7: To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity

- The committee of promotion and recruitment continues visiting high schools in the western area of PR to promote the nursing program to interested students.
- The Department of Nursing and its faculty actively participate in UPRM activities where the school pride is enhanced.

Faculty offering CPR to students at UPRM



CONVENTION **2024**



**MESSAGE FROM
CARDIOVASCULAR TEAM PRESIDENT
OF THE ACC, PUERTO RICO CHAPTER**

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome you to the ACC-PR Annual Convention. This gathering of dedicated professionals in the field of cardiovascular care promises to be a significant occasion filled with knowledge sharing, networking opportunities, and the celebration of technological advancement in cardiovascular care. We aim to present engaging presentations and fruitful collaborations that will further elevate the standards of cardiovascular care. Together we will explore the latest research, cutting-edge technologies and best practices that are shaping the future of heart health.

As we learn, connect, and inspire one another, let us renew our commitment to excellence and to our shared goal of improving health outcomes for patients around the world. May this convention be a source of inspiration, innovation, and camaraderie that pushes us forward in our collective mission to combat cardiovascular diseases or be a difference at the end of life.

I will be pleased to greet you again and invite those who are not members of the Cardiovascular Team to join the American College of Cardiology- Puerto Rico Chapter and be part of the leading group in cardiovascular care.

Abigail Matos Pagan, DNP, MS, APRN, NHDP-BC, AACCC, RN
President 2023-2026
ACC-Cardiovascular Team

CONVENTION **2024**

FRIDAY APRIL 21, 2023
Location: Ibarito Room, Mezzanine Floor

PROGRAM

7:00am
Registration and Continental Breakfast at the Exhibits

8:00 AM **Welcome remarks**
Abigail Matos Pagan, DNP, ANPC, RN- CVT
Section President

8:15 - 8:40 AM **Focus on Prevention to lower cardiovascular disease global burden**
Abigail Matos, DNP, AACCC, RN
Miriam Nieto, PhD, AACCC, RN

8:45- 9:15 AM **Stroke prevention in subclinical AFib**
Hilton Franqui, MD, FACC

9:20- 9:45 AM **Where are we on the anti-obesity WAR to benefit CV Health**
Miriam Nieto, PhD, AACCC, RN

9:50- 10:15 AM **12 Lead EKG Challenge Part I**
Kevin Torres, MSNs, CCRN, CMC, CV-BC, RN

10:15- 10:30 AM Coffee Break and Exhibit Viewing

10:35- 11:10 AM **12 Lead EKG Challenge Part II**
Kevin Torres, MSNs, CCRN, CMC, CV-BC, RN

11:15 - 12:00 AM **Artificial Intelligence in Cardiology**
Ariel González, MD, FACC

12:00- 1:30 PM LUNCH

1:30 -2:00 PM **UPDATE on Robotics for cardiac interventions**
Ismael Ortiz, MD, FACC

2:00 - 2:30 PM **Updates in pharmacologic treatments for obesity**
Kyle Melin, PharmD, BCPS

CONVENTION **2024**

PROGRAM

2:30 - 3:00 PM **The role of anti-inflammatory medications in cardiovascular disease**
Kyle Melin, PharmD, BCPS

3:00- 3:30 PM Coffee Break and Exhibit viewing.

3:30 - 4:00 PM **CVT Section updates**
Abigail Matos, DNP, AACCC, RN
Miriam Nieto, PhD, AACCC, RN

4:30 - 6:30 pm **Welcome Reception at the Exhibit Hall**

SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024

8:00-8:15 AM **Welcome Remarks**
Miriam Nieto, PhD, AACCC, RN- CVT
Section Secretary

8:30- 9:00 AM **Commotio Cordis or sudden cardiac dysrhythmia**
Abigail Matos, DNP, ARNP, AACCC, RN

9:00 - 9:30 AM **Recent advances in congenital heart defects**
Carla Rodriguez, MD, FACC

9:30- 10:00 AM **Fluids or vasopressors in unstable hemodynamics**
Kevin Torres, MSNs, CCRN, CMC, CV-BC, RN

10:00-10:30 AM Coffee Break and Exhibit Viewing

10:30-11:00 AM **Advances in drugs, ablation and devices for cardiac arrhythmias**
Hilton Franqui, MD, FACC

11:00-11:30 AM **Focus update on the Guidelines for Heart Failure**
Francisco Merced, MD, FACC

11:30 -12:00 AM **Gender Differences in arrhythmias**
Helder Hernandez, MD, FACC

12:00-1:30 Lunch

CONVENTION **2024**

PROGRAM

1:30-2:00 PM **Review of Guidelines: Cardiac Surgery Advance Life Support**
Kevin Torres, MSNs, CCRN, CMC, CV-BC, RN

2:00-2:30 PM **Advances in Heart Failure Transplantation**
Juan J. Nieves, MD, FACC

2:30-3:00 PM **Physiologic process at end of life: when and what to do**
Sandra Zapata, MSN, RN

3:00-3:30 PM **Interprofessional and family communication at end of life**
Sandra Zapata, MSN, RN

3:30 - 4:00 PM **CVT Section updates**
Abigail Matos, DNP, AACCC, RN
Miriam Nieto, PhD, AACCC, RN

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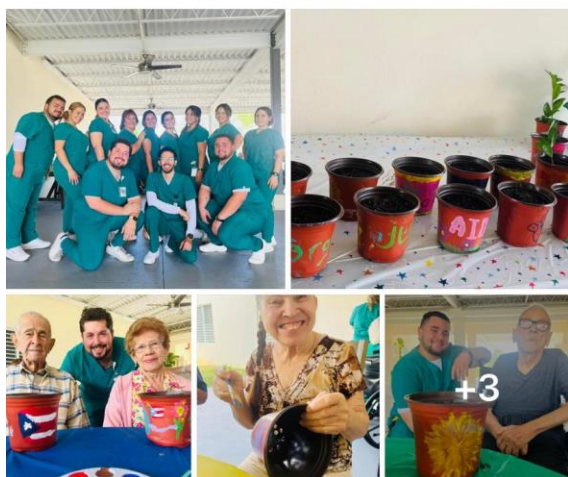


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💚 ✨ El jueves 11 de abril de 2024, los estudiantes de la [Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Mayaguez](#) del Departamento de Enfermería, estuvieron sembrando plantas junto a los residentes. Agradecemos su labor y dedicación hacia los Adultos Mayores. 💚 ✨



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Students activities Casa Linda: elderly home.



Honor society of Nursing New Board 2024. President: Dr. Sheila Mercado



Student recognition from the Leones Organization



New Board of the association of student nurses 2024.



Capping ceremony 2024



Faculty participation in 2024 Commencement Ceremony UPRM