

January 9, 2018

Greetings!

This past year was one of great challenges for our institution, as well as the island of Puerto Rico. We suffered through the emotional, physical, and financial burden of Hurricane María, including the lack of power and limited communications for a prolonged period of time. Many of our students, staff, and faculty were directly affected, as were the urban and rural communities of south central Puerto Rico. Given the tremendous need, our institution became a leader in relief efforts almost immediately. To date, we have impacted over 6,000 fellow Puerto Ricans with our support.

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the support provided during these difficult times. Your generous donations, comforting messages, and support for our faculty, students, researchers, and ongoing activities has been instrumental in our recovery.

I am proud to say that our Institution has stuck together through these uncertain times, personal losses, and many other constraints. We have grown together, and continue to celebrate each of our successes, and comfort each other during the difficult times. We have overcome many hurdles to maintain the level of academic, clinical, and scientific excellence that has always characterized us. In fact, we were the first university in south central PR to begin operations post María.

We have great expectations for 2018, but the recovery efforts are far from over. Many families are still lacking basic needs and the power grid is not fully restored. Mental health issues are rampant, and our team continues to visit rural areas on a weekly basis to assess depression, anxiety, and other emergent issues. As part of our commitment to serve, we are doing our best to help people rebuild physically and emotionally. As we continue to participate in relief efforts in south central Puerto Rico, as well as move forward with our scholastic and research activities, we cannot thank you enough for your continued support.

Warmest regards,



Kenira Thompson, Ph.D.
President, Ponce Research Institute