



OVERCOMING COVID-19 BARRIERS THROUGH A HYBRID COURSE IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN PUERTO RICO

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ABSTRACT

The interdisciplinary course: Clinical and Translational Research(CTR) I: Introduction and Principles (INTD 5998) responds to the need to provide undergraduate and graduate students of higher education institutions in Puerto Rico (PR), the knowhow in CTR. INTD 5998 is a two-credit course, designed in the hybrid modality, as part of the institutionalization of the University of Puerto Rico of Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSC) and Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) Cooperative Title V Project. The course presents the main concepts underlying the performance of CTR through lectures, workshops, and presentations. It was offered from January to May in 2020 and 2021, in a virtual modality responding to the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This distance learning mode provided greater accessibility to students from distant geographic areas, including students from other UPR campuses; and allowed for continuity to the teaching and learning process. The learning management system Blackboard Ultra and MS Teams were used as alternative platforms. 100% of the students (n=22) who completed the course indicated that the course was a good learning experience, it helped them increase their knowledge in CTR, it met their expectations, and that they would recommend other students to take it. The students were representative of all geographical areas of Puerto Rico. INTD 5998 offers a valuable interprofessional experience to those who wish to enter into clinical and translational research. Sponsored by US Department of Education Grant number: P031S160068

INTD 5998 COURSE

Workshops

Presentations

Objectives

- Explain the concept and historical development of clinical and translational research.
- Describe the characteristics of a clinical and translational researcher.
- Deliver an effective scientific presentation
- Manage bibliographic databases and library resources
- Write a research question
- Design a career development plan
- Understand regulations that protect human subjects in translational research
- Understand the mentor-mentee relationship (mentee)

Lectures

Research Teams

METHODS

INTD 5998 COURSE

Clinical and Translational Research I: Introduction and Principles

2 elective credits
(54 contact hours)

Hybrid modality

Course Description

This is a multidisciplinary course created for undergraduate and graduate students. Through hybrid modality (face-to-face and distance learning sessions), this course exposes students to the main concepts underlying the performance of clinical and translational research, through lectures, workshops and presentations. The course discusses topics such as history and definition of clinical and translational research, identification of attributes of a clinical researcher, and the intersection of the health professions and research questions. Additional topics include: individual development plan, human subject's protection, responsible conduct of research, mentor-mentee relationship and clinical and translational environment. The students conclude the course with an electronic portfolio as a basic for their development as researcher.

Institutionalization UPR-MSC

January to May 2020

- Face to face and synchronous sessions
- 9 students from UPR-MSC

January to May 2021

- 100% virtual modality
- 13 students from different campuses of UPR

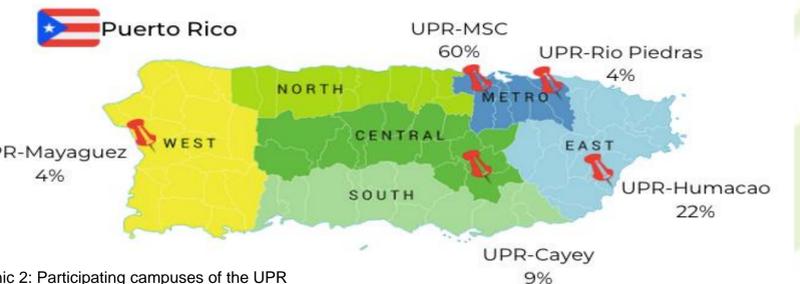
RESULTS

100%

- Had a good learning experience
- Helped them increase their knowledge in CTR
- Met their expectations
- Would recommend other students to take the course



Graphic 1: Course Evaluations



Graphic 2: Participating campuses of the UPR

CONCLUSION

The INTD 5998 course offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate students (UgS) and graduate students (GS) to get started in Clinical and Translational Research (CTR). The Conferences are offered by valuable professionals in CTR field, such as CTR researchers who share their experiences with students. The virtual modality allows the participation of students of distant geographical points from where the academic course is offered. This has been one of the indicators of success of the INTD 5998 course in these times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project of Title V MSC-UCC has continued and will continue with its outlined objectives of the incursion of UgS and GS in CTR.