

*University of Puerto Rico  
Mayagüez Campus  
Deanship of Arts & Sciences*



## *Annual Report 2022-2023*

DEPARTAMENT OF NURSING

*Submitted by:  
Dr. Abigail Matos Pagan  
Director*

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*June 27, 2023*

## *Content index*

Executive Summary .....	4
Mission, Vision of the Department of Nursing .....	5
Organization structure .....	5
Faculty .....	6
Strategic planning and assessment.....	7
Vanguard in education .....	7
Contribution to the sources of income of the institution .....	8
Administrative processes.....	9
Research and creative activities.....	9
Conferences and presentations by request.....	10
Projects offered by internal expertise .....	11
Impact on Puerto Rican Society .....	12
Photos of activities.....	12

## *Executive Summary*

The Department of Nursing has maintained a robust program in its academic management, development of professional skills, and community service, even with a substantial reduction in its operating budget. The commitment of its faculty to the program, student, community, and profession can be seen in the learning results obtained and the high participation in community services. The support of the College of Arts and Sciences has allowed that, even with the tax reduction, it is possible to recruit competent and specialized personnel who contribute to the development of the student as General Nurses and comply with administrative procedures. During this 2022-2023 academic year, the Department of Nursing, with its faculty and students, has continued to contribute to the well-being of our communities by offering community health fairs to control COVID-19, monkey pox and other infectious diseases. Faculty has been actively participating in educational activities for the prevention and screening of diseases. Several professors contributed as volunteers to the Puerto Rico Department of Health, the Federal Department of Health, and private and for-profit and non-profit entities (Gerontological Society of Puerto Rico, American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico, and American Heart Association, among others). Others participated in activities at clinical practice centers and offered continuing education at hospitals in the western area to professional nurses.

The Department's metrics show that during the 2022-2023 academic year, multiple research management activities and creative work were achieved. These activities led to interdisciplinary collaborative interests with universities in the United States, where it is located, Perdue Global University, Washington State University, and Connecticut State College.

The most significant achievement of the Department of Nursing was its reaccreditation by the Nursing Education Accreditation Commission (ACEN) until 2030 (most years granted to a nursing program); the Nursing examination board pass is 98%, exceeding the national PR level at 65%, and national and local recruitment visits by various private and federal agencies and health organizations to our 2023 graduating students.

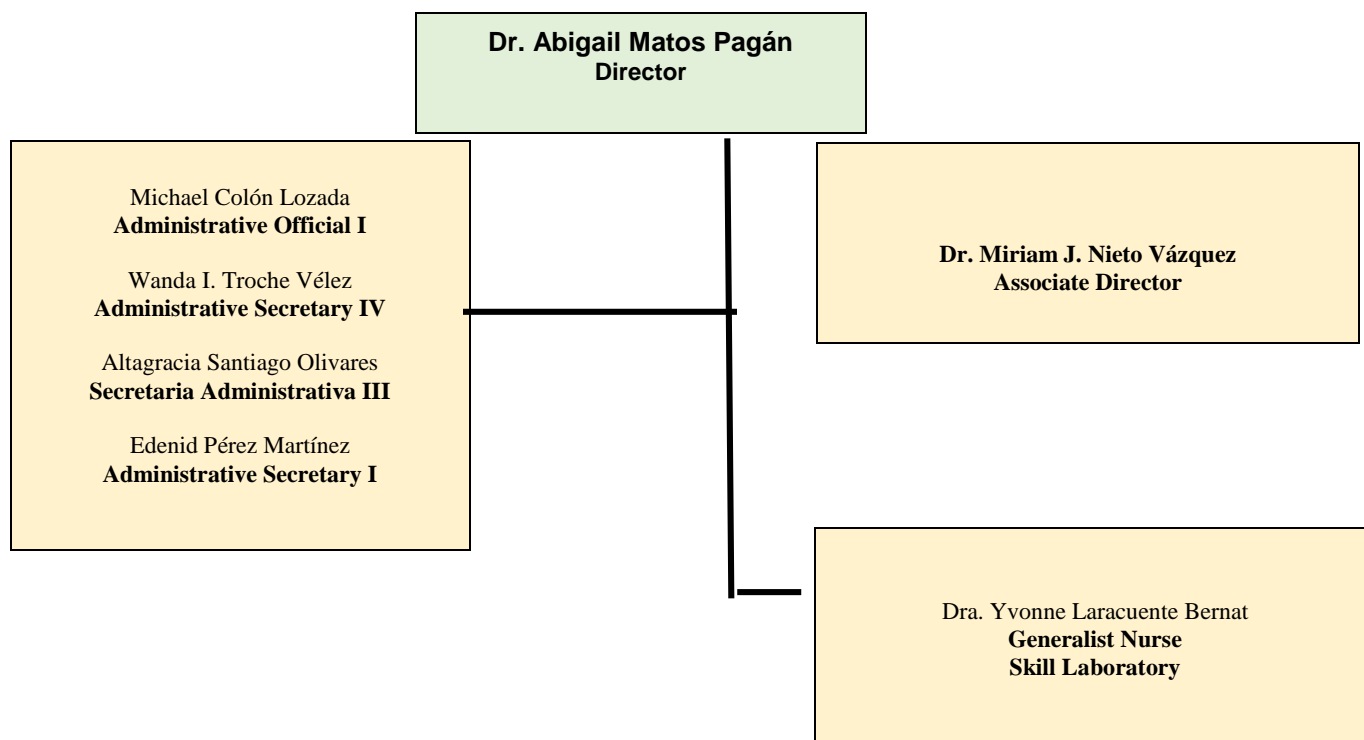
### *Vision of the Department of Nursing*

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

### ***Mission of the Department of Nursing***

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

## ***Organizational Structure of the Department of Nursing***



## *Faculty, (Permanent, temporary and partial) 2022-2023*

### **First semester 2022-2023**

Elba Caballero Cardona  
Madeline Delgado Caraballo  
Wanda Irizarry Justiniano  
Jovana Manzanares González  
Abigail Matos Pagan  
Rose M. Méndez Avilez  
Lourdes Méndez Cruz  
Sheila Mercado Morales  
Lizbeth Román Sanoguet  
Miriam J. Nieto Vázquez  
Gloribell Ortiz Ríos  
Solangie Pagan Lugo  
Marilyn Pérez Valentín  
Lourdes E. Ramírez Acevedo  
Wilson Rodríguez Mercado  
Xaymara L. Tirado García  
Clara Valderrama Fuquen  
Sandra Zapata Casiano

### **Second semester 2022-2023**

Elba Caballero Cardona  
Madeline Delgado Caraballo  
Wanda Irizarry Justiniano  
Jovana Manzanares González  
Abigail Matos Pagan  
Rose M. Méndez Avilez  
Lourdes Méndez Cruz  
Lizbeth Román Sanoguet  
Sheila Mercado Morales  
Carmen Y. Muniz García  
Miriam J. Nieto Vázquez  
Gloribell Ortiz Ríos  
Solangie Pagan Lugo  
Lourdes E. Ramírez Acevedo  
Wilson Rodríguez Mercado  
Xaymara L. Tirado García  
Clara Valderrama Fuquen  
Sandra Zapata Casiano

***To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment***

- The nursing program completed its self-study report to the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing.
- The reaccreditation of the Department of Nursing was postponed by ACEN due to the Pandemic and rescheduled for November 1-3, 2022. The Department of Nursing updated its self-study up to 2022.
- The Department Evaluation Committee carried out all the evaluations of courses, competencies, 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 was worked on, and a committee was established.
- The expected results of the courses and the perspective program are maintained with the design of the syllabi and significant changes in the provision of health services and academic programs.
- The Curriculum Committee established its plan to accelerate curricular work on certifications and credit reduction.
- The Evaluation Committee completed all courses evaluations for 2022-2023, affiliated agencies evaluation, satisfaction with the program of graduating students' evaluation and a pilot to measure outcomes of Student learning outcomes by levels of competencies.
- 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***

- The program of Nursing received the continuing accreditation for eight more years by ACEN on April 2023 final report.
- 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 are incorporated into maternity, pediatrics, psychiatry, medical-surgical I-II and community health courses.
- About 17 students completed the BSN Program in December 2022, and 27 students in May 2023.

- Collaborative agreements with the agencies that provide clinical experiences were reestablished and requested changes were incorporated, such as a decrease in students per section and negative tests for COVID19.
- Departmental committees were actively working towards a new curriculum with less credit hours, new courses and certifications.
- Collaborative agreements with University of Washington-School of Nursing, is being explored to engage in research, students exchange and academic endeavors.
- Electronic skills strategies developed by the lab nurse have been used by students with great success and acceptance.
- Student Recognition Night: Recognition was offered 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 night of achievement held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 in the Department of Nursing.
- Nursing Student Association of UPRM – inducted new students and 9 students to the new board 2023-2024.
- 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.

*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 and awaits approval by other Boards of health professionals.
- Began preparing professional certifications in various areas of interest, for example: cardiovascular, forensic, end-of-life care. These professional certifications will increase and diversify the department's source of revenue.
- Review of the Nursing Graduate Program proposal.

- Continue seeking external funds through proposals to NIH, NINR, NSF, Johnson & Johnson, HRSA, ANA, etc.
- Faculty begins to integrate into their syllabi activities recommended by the Institute of Medicine in its report *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030*.
- The recruitment and retention of students committee accomplished 3 open houses, orientations and a virtual online open house on October, 11, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 and February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### ***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 used through the use of WhatsApp, chats, Meet, and teams.

#### ***To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors***

- Agreements with the University of Washington, School of Nursing to start a project on global warming and its impact on health, student exchange and collaborative funds to get involved in community education activities, research and socio-cultural experiences.
- A faculty member of the Department of Nursing is being appointed as the institutional epidemiologist.
- Dra. Sheila Mercado presents at the International Education Summit, Chile – “*Educating Generation Z*”
- *Dr. Miriam Nieto presents at the Scientific Convention of the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico – in San Juan PR. Team Cardiovascular Section “Care of the geriatric patient with heart failure”.*
- *Dr. Abigail Matos presents at the Scientific Convention of the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico- in San Juan PR Team Cardiovascular Section “Inoca vs. Minoca”*
- Dra. Abigail Matos, Dra. Miriam Nieto, were appointed President and Secretary Treasurer of the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico Cardiovascular Team.



- Working towards collaborative agreements for research and creative work:
  - a. *Purdue Global, Virtual reality nursing skills (Nursing Administration)*
  - b. *Westfiel State University College of Nursing: Collaborative agreements towards cultural and student Exchange.*
- Recertification of Basic Life Support and CPR First Aid Instructors, and AED by American Heart Association.
- Dr. Solangie Pagan Lugo reviewed 17 abstracts for the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo in Atlanta, GA 2023.
- Webinar Sexual Transmission Infections offered by Dr. Solangie Pagan Lugo, Epidemiologist Northeast Caribbean AIDS Education and Train Center UPR RCM. April 28, 2023.
- Dr. Sheila Mercado presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Research Interamerican Division (5CIDIA). Wednesday, march 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Her topic was on promotion and safety of fall quality of assessment.
- Faculty participation in the Health fair of Ferries del Caribe, Dominican Republic. March 2023. Professors and students participated offering health promotion activities.
- Faculty participation in promotion of mental health in local elementary and high schools
- Publication of article by Dr. Sheila Mercado: *Role of the professional nurse in public policy*. VestigiumUAA, Vol. 8, No1. 2022.

### *To impact our Puerto Rican society*

#### **Conferences offered to the community by request**

- Educational Healthfair  
*Sharing love and health – Rural community outreach program, Aguadilla PR*
- Health promotion – Rincon, PR.
- Masis School – Presentation on ITS and consequences, Añasco, PR
- Health promotion, safety and quality of fall prevention – Dr. Sheila Mercado – Bella Vista Hospital
- Professors offered professional conferences to staff of older adults' institutions during the year.
- Students and professors offered health promotion activities to local schools, older adults center, department of education and health fairs for the community.

#### **Internal projects by subject matter experts:**

- Puerto Rico Association of Alzheimer and other Related Disorders collaborative presentations
- Head Start & Early Head Start Health Advisor Committee- Hormigueros, PR
- Doctoral dissertation and *Evidence Based Practice Projects-*

- American College of Cardiology- Puerto Rico Chapter
- Departamento de Educación, Escuela Vocacional de Mayagüez – HIPAA
- Colegio de Profesionales Enfermería de PR, leadership appointments in chapter section boards like, education, disaster, forensic, advanced practice.
- Coalition of Nurses for Communities in Disaster (CONCID)
- Epidemiology, UPRM
- Peer Review ACEN

#### Activity that impact our Puerto Rican Society

- Community Initiative: mayo 6, 2023

Food drive for the fight against HIV. World day against AIDS,  
November, 30 2022



Preventive health fair  
RUM  
November 10, 2022



Student recruitment activity

October 21, 2022





Pharma solutions

12:29 PM ✓✓



12:30 PM ✓✓

Monkey Pox presentation  
UPRM  
August 26, 2022



RCM Vital – Healthfair collaboration with the Medical Science Campus- April, 2023



Induction of new board of the Nursing Student Association 23-24



Project "Esperanza a la vida"





Labor without pain Course



Federico Degetau Elementary School

Health assessment and health education to pediatric population





Federico Degetau Elementary School



Pre-school UPRM – educative activity on health benefits of starting exercise early in life.



Health Fair – Ferries del Caribe at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Students and Professors providing health promotion activities. March 2023.



Health promotion at Elderly Center La Milagrosa.

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