PROJECT ABSTRACT
Hispanic Center of Excellence, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (UPR) School of Medicine, San Juan, P.R. América Facundo, Ph.D. (787) 758-2525 ext.1868 america.facundo@upr.edu Grant Funds Requested for 2017-2022 (5 years): $3,416,581. Target URM: HISPANIC. Target Audience: Students and Faculty. The UPR School of Medicine (UPR-SOM), only public medical school in Puerto Rico, with 99% Hispanic students, is committed to recruit, train, and retain students and faculty to strengthen the national capacity to produce quality, culturally-competent, Spanish/English bilingual physicians. Approximately 35% of the graduates of the UPR-SOM move from Puerto Rico (PR) to the U.S. each year, adding nearly 40 new, English/Spanish bilingual, Board-Certified physicians to the pool serving Hispanics in the continental U.S. The UPR-SOM will continue to train students and faculty in the knowledge, skills and sensitivity required to work with the diversity of Hispanics and other under-represented minorities (URM). The UPR-SOM will address the seven COE Legislative Purposes as follows: 1. Competitive Applicant Pool: Impact 500 Hispanic public high school and college students from disadvantaged backgrounds with potential to study medicine or other health professions, through the “Medicine and other Health Professions Clubs” in 10 public high schools located in health professionals shortage areas in PR. They will receive financial aid orientation, counseling, pertinent workshops, exposure to research, and to the UPR Medical Sciences Campus. 2. Student performance: Enhance and offer a preparatory summer program for 35 newly admitted students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the UPR-SOM, impacting 175 MD students over 5 years. Follow up through the academic year with tutorials prior to exams and other support services to increase the retention and graduation rate, so that they will offer appropriate medical services to Hispanics and other URM patients in need. 3. Faculty Development: Impact a minimum of 200 UPR-SOM faculty members across five years with training on Hispanic disparities, social determinants of health, and cultural competence, to create a multiplying effect by incorporating this critical knowledge in their clinical practice and in the MD and Residents’ curriculum at the UPR-SOM. Training will be offered in already compulsory time slots in various clinical departments. The UPR-SOM will also enhance the inter-institutional COE Consortium on Minority Faculty Development. 4. Information Resources, Clinical Education, Curricula, and Cultural Competence: Impact approximately 500 MD students (100 to 115 per year) over five years by enhancing the inclusion of health disparities, social determinants of health, and cultural competence in the MD curriculum, across basic and clinical courses, with special focus on Hispanics and other URM. 5. Faculty/Student Research: Provide structured training in research knowledge and skills to increase the number of faculty and students that will engage in research on Hispanic health issues and health disparities, impacting 350 students and four faculty. Participants will receive the required supports to present in professional forums and publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journals, adding to the body of knowledge that will help reduce health disparities affecting Hispanics and other URM. Both faculty and students will receive stipends. 6. Student Training in Providing Health Care Services: Impact approximately 360 junior MD students (90 to 105 per year) across 5 years by incorporating into the 3rd year Internal Medicine compulsory rotation the community-based supervised experience in Community Primary Care Health Centers remote from the main campus, serving Hispanic patients from disadvantaged backgrounds, increasing knowledge and skills to address Hispanic health disparities. 7. Stipends: The UPR-SOM will provide stipends to students and faculty in COE Legislative Purposes 2 and 5 for the projects and activities described above.