



[About Us](#) [Team Members](#) [Initiatives](#) [Publications](#)



EQUIPO EPI-NET



Dra. Eida Castro, PsyD, MSc

Principal Investigator (PI) - Period 1
Co-Investigator (Period 2)

Role Description: As the Principal Investigator, Dr. Castro brings her expertise in behavioral sciences and public health to every component of Epi-Net. Her research interest focus on behavioral oncology research projects that address the intersections of: mental health, stress, social-environmental adversity, natural disasters, COVID-19 pandemic, access to cancer supportive care and cancer health outcomes.



EPI NET

Epidemiologic Intelligence Network



[About Us](#)

[Team Members](#)

[Initiatives](#)

[Publications](#)

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Dra. Melissa Marzán, MPH, DrPH

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) - Period 1
Co-Principal Investigator In-Kind (Period 2)

Role Description: As the Co-PI of Epi-Net, Dr. Marzán, leads every aspect of the project. Dr. Marzán has vast experience in developing interventions that focus on serving underserved populations and minority groups. She is also part of several research interventions that focus on improving the health of the Puerto Rican population.



[About Us](#) [Team Members](#) [Initiatives](#) [Publications](#)



EQUIPO EPI-NET



Dra. Vanessa Rivera Amill, PhD

Principal Investigator (PI) - Period 2

Role Description: As the Principal Investigator, Dr. Rivera brings her expertise in molecular sciences and public health to every component of Epi-Net. Her research interest focus on immunology, infectious diseases, and genetics. Dr. Rivera has vast experience researching HIV/AIDS, SARS-CoV-2, and arboviruses.



EQUIPO EPI-NET



Cynthia Cortés, MSW, LCSW, TAC, & TFC

Project Manager

Role Description: Providing support to the Principal Investigators with all the administrative processes of the project to ensure that strategies, goals, and objectives are met. Assists project leaders with progress reports and budget management, oversees regulatory compliance issues, and appropriately addresses functional, quality, and timeline issues.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



**Dra. Luisa Morales,
MPH, PhD**

Co-Investigator and
Leader of EpiNet Testing Component

Role Description: Leads the COVID-19 testing and prevention epidemiological activities to increase COVID-19 testing uptake and prevention practices among socially vulnerable communities in PR.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



**Dra. Iris Martínez,
MPH, PhD**

Community Engagement Co-Leader

Role Description: Dr. Martínez leads the community education component in Epi-Net. Her team develops COVID-19 health promotion and prevention interventions.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Dra. Kamalich Muñiz-Rodríguez,
MPH, DrPH

Data Manager, Data Core Co-Leader

Role Description: Works directly with Field Team, ensuring successfulness of the data recollection process. Leading the data collection team in collaboration with RADx-UP Coordination and Data Collection Center (CDCC) to build the RADx Data Hub, a National Resource of research data from RADx, helping investigators and public health workers in the understanding of the Pandemic's impact.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Luis A. Arroyo Andújar, **MPH, MA**

Quantitative Core Team Leader

Role Description: Duties in the Epi-Net project focused in the information content analysis gathered through Community Leader's interviews. Assist in providing workshops and capacitation with the aim to undergo qualitative research, data transcription, interviews and data analysis.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Natasha Torres, BBA, MPH

Field Team Director

Role Description: Oversees all Epi-Net activities in the field. The field director will be in charge of the evaluation of the Epi-Net implementation and will supervise the field-work team (Research assistants, Research Nurse) and support community leaders' partners.

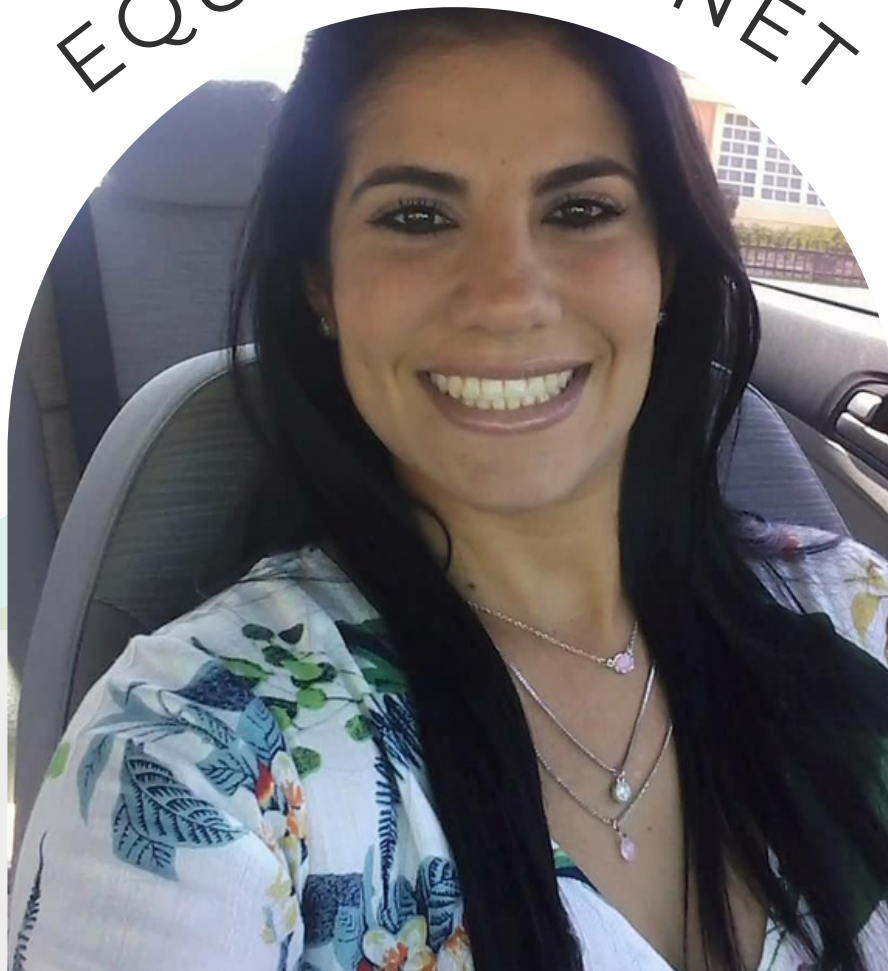
EQUIPO EPI-NET



Alexandra Aponte Valentín,
MSN, RN
Research Nurse

Role Description: In charge of performing molecular tests (PCR), performs serological tests on positive patients and administers COVID-19 vaccines. Responsible for testing data documentation, elaboration of reports, and delivery of results of these tests.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Carmen Vega Figueroa,
BSN-RN, CPR & ACLS

Research Nurse

Role Description: Perform molecular tests (PCR), and serological tests on positive patients and administers Covid-19 vaccines. Impact disadvantaged communities, providing health-related services within the project.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Gina M. Sánchez Cruz,
BS, MHA, MS, DrPh(c)
Research Assistant

Role Description: Main contact with Community Leaders in impacted municipalities via Epi-Net. Other responsibilities are related to the information compilation with surveys and questionnaires as part of the Testing and Vaccine Assessments.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Omayra Colón-Pérez,
BSW, MSW(c)
Research Assistant

Role Description: In charge of making contact with citizens in the communities, guiding, educating, and empowering them to carry out the endless activities corresponding to Testing and Vaccination Assessments as preventive measures against COVID-19. She carries out the work of public relations within the project, to maintain close ties between the communities offering quality of life to fellow citizens.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Jahdai Santiago, **BA, SME**

Research Assistant

Role Description: Organize work logistics and inventory. Conduct project assessments interviews and support the team's effort during events. Maintain updated inventory, promotion distribution, and sample runner during field events.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Natalia Martínez-Torres,
BS, Sec. Ed. Cert., MPH(c)
Research Assistant - Period 1

Role Description: Content developer to communicate details of events, project's aims, and overall media for press coverages. Designs and implements educational interventions, assisting the Community Engagement Co-Leader with logistic planning. Point-person to volunteers in mass-events for the project.

EQUIPO EPI-NET



Natalia M. Vera Jiménez,
BS, MPH(c)

Research Assistant - Period 1

Role Description: Support and collaborate with team members throughout Community, Testing, and Vaccine Assessment. Assist in the participant's orientation process as primary prevention strategies during COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition, provide support in documentation and list creation for results delivery.