

# AGENDA

## 1st Microbiome Symposium

February 28, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Beach Resort

San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Location:** *Salon de Mar Ballroom*

8:30 – 9:30 AM	<b>REGISTRATION</b> Poster mounting opens
9:30 – 9:50 AM	<b>WELCOMING REMARKS - 1st PR Microbiome Symposium</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, PhD – PI and Program Director, COBRE PR-CMS (5 min)</li><li>Zayira Jordán-Conde, PhD - President, University of Puerto Rico (5 min)</li><li>Myrna L. Quiñones Feliciano, MD, JD - Chancellor, UPR RCM Campus (5 min)</li><li>Debora H Silva, MD, Dean UPR School of Medicine</li><li>Victor M. Ramos Otero, MD – Secretary of Health of Puerto Rico (5 min)</li></ul>
9:50 – 10:10 AM	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> Filipa Godoy-Vitorino, PhD, University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine <b><i>Powering Discovery: The Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences</i></b> (20 min)
10:10 – 11:05 AM	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Dr. María Domínguez-Bello, Rutgers University <b><i>Early Microbiome Disruptions</i></b> (45 min + 10 min Q&A)
11:05 – 11:20 AM	<b>COFFEE BREAK / Poster mounting</b> [ <i>Salón del Mar Ballroom Lobby</i> ]
11:20 – 11:55 AM	<b>SPECIAL INVITED SPEAKER</b> Dr. Keith Crandall, George Washington University Title: <b><i>Genomic Language Models for Microbiome Characterization, Antibiotic Resistance Detection, and Biosynthetic Gene Cluster Analysis</i></b> (30 min + 5 min Q&A)
11:55 AM – 12:30 PM	<b>SPECIAL INVITED SPEAKER</b> Dr. Ana Maldonado-Contreras, University of Massachusetts Title: <b><i>You Are What Your Microbes Eat: Diet and Immune Modulation</i></b> (30 min + 5 min Q&A)
12:30 – 12:55 PM	<b>YOUNG SCIENTIST ORAL PRESENTATION</b> Title: <b><i>Microbial Regulation of Viral Therapeutics and Cervical Disease Pathogenesis: Harnessing Microbes for Anti-Cancer Strategies</i></b> Dr. Natalie Meléndez-Vázquez, UPR Medical Sciences Campus (15 min + 5 min Q&A)
1:00 – 2:20 PM	<b>LUNCH BREAK &amp; GROUP PHOTO</b> [ <i>Sirena Restaurant Buffet or beach</i> ]



<p><b>2:20 – 3:20 PM</b></p>	<p><b>STUDENT FORUM – FUTURE OF MICROBIOME SESSION</b>  <b>Selected student Lightning Talks</b>  <b>Flash Talk 1 — 10 min</b>  Speaker: Luis H. Pagán Rivera, UPR Medical Sciences Campus  Title: <i>Gut microbiome modulation by tamoxifen following spinal cord injury in male and female rats</i></p> <p><b>Talk 2 — 10 min</b>  Speaker: Yilmaz Berk Koru, UPR Rio Piedras Campus  Title: <i>The role of gut microbiota on the development of behavioral circadian rhythm and clock system maturation in honeybees (Apis mellifera)</i></p> <p><b>Flash Talk 3 — 10 min</b>  Speaker: Edgardo L Rosado Ramos, UPR Mayagüez Campus  Title: <i>Characterization of the gut microbiome in wild Eretmochelys imbricata (Hawksbill Sea Turtle) nesting females and neonates in Mona Island, Puerto Rico</i></p> <p><b>Flash Talk 4 — 10 min</b>  Speaker: Anelisse Dominicci-Maura, UPR Medical Sciences Campus  Title: <i>Anal microbial signatures associated with concurrent anogenital HPV infection</i></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A Section (5 min)</b></p> <p><b>Elevator Pitches – Postdocs, Residents and Grad Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie Reinoso Arnaldi, BS UPR Rio Piedras Campus (3 min)</li> <li>• Juliana M. Serrano-Rodríguez UPR Comprehensive Cancer Center (3 min)</li> <li>• Laura S. Bermúdez-Martínez Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine (3 min)</li> <li>• Paula Cruz Vázquez, UPR Medical Sciences Campus (3 min)</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:20 – 4:20 PM</b></p>	<p><b>POSTER SESSION &amp; JURY REVIEW</b>  <b>COFFEE BREAK [Salón del Mar Ballroom]</b></p>
<p><b>4:20 – 5:15 PM</b></p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE: FUTURE OF MICROBIOME [Salón del Mar Ballroom]</b>  <i>Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, Keith Crandall, Ana Maldonado-Contreras, Janet Jansson, Martin J. Blaser</i>  Moderator: Filipa Godoy-Vitorino</p>
<p><b>5:15 – 6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSE UP, POSTER AWARDS &amp; NETWORKING RECEPTION [Salón del Mar Ballroom Exterior]</b></p>

