COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY & REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

Is Pleased to Host

IDHALIZ FLORES, Ph.D.
Professor of Microbiology and Ob-Gyn
Department of Microbiology
Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences

“Dissecting the Molecular Biology of Endometriosis, One Gene at a Time”

“Since 2000, she has been director of the Molecular Biology Core Laboratory (MBCL), a centralized multi-user facility that provides infrastructure and technical support in molecular biology techniques for basic and clinical research. The MBCL provides access to highly sophisticated equipment and technical support in techniques such as automated DNA sequencing, Real Time PCR for quantification of gene expression, genetic linkage analysis, and mutational screening using DHPLC. This facility has helped promote the application of molecular biology to the various research projects in the institution and has facilitated research collaborations, resulting in a research environment of excellence at PSM. Dr. Flores has helped organize the first endometriosis patient support group in Puerto Rico. She has developed a series of educational seminars and workshops for patients and their relatives, and is a strong advocate for the public awareness of endometriosis as an important women’s health issue in the island and worldwide.”

Research Interests:

Differentiation of TNF-α pathways in intestinal endometriosis and Crohn’s disease. Co-Principal Investigator: CB Appleyard. (NIH-MBRS). The main goal of this study is to elucidate the pathophysiological role of TNF-α in a rat model of endometriosis and to identify molecular markers that can differentiate between the acute symptoms of intestinal endometriosis and those of Crohn’s disease exacerbations.

Molecular Biology and Genetics of Endometriosis. (NIH-RCMI) The objective of this study is to identify the genetic factors involved in the pathogenesis of endometriosis using molecular biology techniques including subtractive hybridization, DNA microarrays, and genetic linkage analysis. This project involves the identification of families with two or more affected members and also patients with sporadic disease.

Discovery of therapeutic and diagnostic gene targets for endometriosis using DNA microarray technology. The objectives of this study are to identify structural and functional genetic differences between endometriosis patients and controls by using DNA microarray technology.

Basic Epidemiology of Endometriosis in Puerto Rico. We conducted case-series and prevalence studies to evaluate menstrual cycle characteristics, age, reproductive events and life-style factors as risk factors for endometriosis and to determine the prevalence of this condition in our population. The objective of the cross-sectional or prevalence study is to study the distribution of endometriosis by age and basic gynecologic history in a random sample of women from Ponce, Puerto Rico by means of a short self-administered questionnaire.

Thursday, September 16, 2010
Van Andel Research Institute
1:30 pm
Conference Room 3104
Host: Dr. Asgi Fazleabas