

## Birnbaum visits Northeastern SRP partner in Puerto Rico

NIEHS/NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., visited the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Medical Sciences Campus Feb. 4 to discuss the importance of transdisciplinary research in the environmental health sciences. [Braulio Jimenez, Ph.D.](#), a lead researcher in the Northeastern University Superfund Research Program (SRP) human subjects and sampling core, located at UPR, coordinated the talk.

During Birnbaum's visit, she gave a lecture on "Future Research at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences," where she discussed the Northeastern SRP Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT) program. The PROTECT program, supported with NIEHS SRP funding, studies exposure to environmental contamination in Puerto Rico and its contribution to preterm birth.

Birnbaum highlighted the PROTECT program as an excellent example of transdisciplinary research that not only identifies treatments, but also works to understand and communicate preventative measures. Birnbaum also focused on the need to better understand the interaction between chemical and physical environmental factors, and the potential synergistic effects individuals are subjected to with a number of exposures.

Birnbaum previously highlighted PROTECT program research in a February 2011 [Statement for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works' Hearing on Drinking Water Contaminants](#). For more information about the Northeastern SRP and Birnbaum's talk, visit the [PROTECT website](#). Read the Spanish language [story](#) in the digital periodical *El Vocero*.



Birnbaum discussed transdisciplinary research such as work supported by PROTECT as a key driver in public health that not only identifies treatments but also preventive measures. (Photo courtesy of El Vocero and Dennis Jones)



UPRMC lecture host Jimenez (Photo courtesy of Braulio Jimenez)

["NIEHS hosts workshop for ..." - previous story](#) [» next story - "Summer intern earns national ..."](#)

[March 2013 Cover Page](#)

[Back to top](#)

The Environmental Factor is produced monthly by the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\)](#), Office of Communications and Public Liaison. The content is not copyrighted, and it can be reprinted without permission. If you use parts of Environmental Factor in your publication, we ask that you provide us with a copy for our records. We welcome your [comments and suggestions](#).

Director of Communications: [Christine Bruske Flowers](#) | Writer-Editor: [Eddy Ball](#) | Science Editor: [Robin Arnette](#)

