



February 23, 2023

**Dr. Aidsa I. Santiago Román**  
**Department of Engineering Sciences and Materials**  
**University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus**

Dear Dr. Santiago,

As Director of the Institutional Review Board of the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez Campus, I have considered your Renewal Application for the project titled **Recruiting, Retaining, and Engaging Academically Talented Students from Economically Disadvantaged Groups into a Pathway to Successful Engineering Careers** (Protocol Num. 20180602).

After evaluating the merits of your request, I have determined that your continuing research agenda does not alter any of the criteria that led to the project's approval. For this reason, we renew your projects IRB approval under Category 7 of 45.CFR.46.110. Your renewal is effective today and expires on February 22, 2024. We remind you that our approval does not exempt you from complying with other institutional and governmental requirements related to your research topic and/or funding source.

Federal regulations demand that our office supervise all active research projects. We consider a research project to be active if participants are still being recruited or if recruitment has ceased but data gathering and analysis are not yet complete. If you anticipate that your project will be active beyond the approval expiration date, we ask that you submit an application of extension no later than one month before your approval expires.

Any modifications or amendments to the approved protocol or its methodology must be reviewed and approved by the IRB before they are implemented, except in cases where the change is necessary to reduce or eliminate a potential risk for participants. The IRB must be informed immediately if an adverse event or unexpected problem arises related to the risk to human subjects. The IRB must likewise be notified immediately if any breach of confidentiality occurs.

We appreciate your commitment to uphold the highest standards of human research protections and remain.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Betsy Morales Caro**  
**Dean of Academic Affairs**