NHIT COMMUNITY HEALTH INNOVATION SUMMIT: PUERTO RICO 2026

— TITLE —

Innovation Driven by the Community. Patient-Informed Policies.

— UNIFYING THEME —

From Puerto Rico to Washington: The Voice of the Community for National Impact

— JOIN THE CONVERSATION —

#NHITSummit2026 · #FromPRtoDC · @DePRaDC

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

DURATION	TIME	PARTICIPANTS	DATE
7 Hours	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Multi-Sector Leaders	June 17, 2026

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

105 Carr. #21, Km 0.8, Bo. Monacillo · San Juan, PR 00927

Forward Center (3rd floor)

Convened by the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT®)
1629 K Street, NW, Suite 300 · Washington, DC 20006 · NHIT.org

SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The next era of health innovation is being written in real time, in genomics, precision medicine, AI-enabled care, remote patient monitoring, digital health platforms, and life sciences breakthroughs that are reshaping what's possible for patients and communities. The question is no longer whether this transformation arrives. The question is who designs it, who benefits from it, and who builds the economy it creates.

The NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit: Puerto Rico 2026 is built on a single bet: the next health economy will be strongest where these technologies meet community vision, where patients, providers, researchers, community leaders, and policymakers design innovation together, and where the Island becomes a national model for what community-led health innovation looks like in practice.

On June 17, the Summit brings together patients and patient advocates, caregivers, healthcare providers, researchers, community health workers, community leaders, innovators, public health experts, life sciences and pharmaceutical partners, and policymakers, not as audience and panel, but as co-architects of what comes next. The day is organized around four pillars: Community Voice & Trust; AI-Enabled Care & Digital Health; Clinical Research & Life Sciences Access; and AI-Ready Workforce. Together, they elevate patient experience, surface community priorities, and convert them into concrete recommendations: pilot pathways, workforce strategies, investment priorities, and policy positions Puerto Rico can carry into the national conversation.

This Summit advances the strategic partnership NHIT and PRST announced in September 2024, a joint commitment to drive economic development in Puerto Rico through community-led health innovation. Convened at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust, it is part of the NHIT Health Innovation Impact Tour and the bridge between insight and action: every recommendation, every commitment, and every cross-sector partnership formed in Puerto Rico on June 17 carries forward to the NHIT Legislative Summit on July 21 in Washington, D.C., where it helps shape the national investment, workforce, and access priorities that will define the next decade of community-driven health innovation. In doing so, the Summit advances NHIT's mission of reimagining health and modernizing care.

This Summit is not the destination — it is the bridge.

PURPOSE

The barriers are real and well-documented: clinical research that bypasses the populations it's meant to serve, digital tools that don't reach the communities most likely to benefit, coverage landscapes that

keep shifting, and innovation pipelines built without the input of the people they affect. What's changing is the convergence of AI, precision medicine, remote care, genomics, and community-led research that now makes it possible to close gaps that used to widen.

Puerto Rico sits at the center of that convergence: a federal Tech Hub, a maturing biotech and clinical research ecosystem, and communities already organizing around their own health future. This Summit exists to bring patients, caregivers, providers, researchers, community health workers, community leaders, innovators, public health experts, life sciences and pharmaceutical partners, and policymakers into one room, with Puerto Rico's voice at the center, to define what trusted, equitable, AI-enabled health looks like in practice, and to produce the recommendations the NHIT Legislative Summit will carry to Washington on July 21.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- **Center Community as Co-Designer:** Treat patient experience and community vision not as input to the process, but as the architecture of it. AI-enabled care, digital health, and clinical research designed with the people they're built for, not just for them.
- **Build the AI-Ready Workforce That Makes Innovation Real:** Develop scalable training pipelines through CHWs, Digital Navigators, telementoring, and public health partners, turning AI, precision medicine, and remote care into culturally competent practice on the ground.
- **Open Clinical Research and Life Sciences to the Communities They Serve:** Align research design, trial access, and life sciences innovation with the populations they're built for, with focused expansion of clinical trial participation in Puerto Rico.
- **Carry Puerto Rico's Voice into National Strategy:** Translate Summit insights, commitments, and partnerships into the agenda of the NHIT Legislative Summit on July 21, 2026, and the broader NHIT Health Innovation Impact Tour, so that what's imagined in Puerto Rico helps influence national priorities and shape our national impact.

THEMATIC PILLARS

CENTER	BUILD	OPEN	THROUGHOUT
Community Voice & Trust	**AI-Ready Workforce**	**Clinical Research & Life Sciences Access**	**AI-Enabled Care & Digital Health**

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 · 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM AST

8:30 AM
30 MIN

Registration & Welcome Coffee

Arrival, networking, and pre-Summit reception on the third floor of the Forward Center at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust.

9:00 AM
10 MIN

WELCOMING REMARKS

Welcome to Puerto Rico

Focus: Welcome from the Trust — frame the partnership, the venue, and Puerto Rico's role in driving community-led health innovation.

Speakers: Lucy Crespo, CEO, Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

9:10 AM
10 MIN

OPENING REMARKS

From Community Voice to National Impact

Focus: Set Summit vision and frame the three-pillar platform connecting Puerto Rico to national policy.

Speakers: Luis Belén, CEO, NHIT

9:20 AM
45 MIN

FIRESIDE CHAT

Reimagining Health: Modernizing Care for the AI Economy

Moderator: Lucy Crespo, CEO, Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust

Featured Speakers:

1. **Donna Christensen, MD**, Former U.S. Congresswoman, Former Delegate, U.S. Virgin Islands
2. **Melissa Furlow**, Executive Healthcare Director, Genentech
3. **Kenira J. Thompson, PhD, MBA**, President, Ponce Research Institute

10:05 AM
50 MIN

PANEL 1

From Lab to Barrio: Making AI and Life Sciences Matter to Patients

Moderator: Noé E. Crespo, PhD, Associate Director, Parallel18

Panelists:

1. **Angel Hoyos**, CEO, Diversia Health
2. **Alejandro Méndez**, CEO, Vantheon
3. **Brenda T. Padilla Pérez**, Executive Director, Asociación Puertorriqueña de Diabetes

10:55 AM
50 MIN

PANEL 2

Community-Driven Public Health and Clinical Research

Moderator: Amarilys Silva-Boschetti, PharmD, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI)

Panelists:

1. **María Cristy**, VP, Cancer Control and Public Policy, American Cancer Society
2. **Vivian Colón-López**, Senior Investigator, Cancer Control and Population Sciences, University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC)
3. **Oscar Soto-Raíces, MD**, President, Fundación FER

11:45 AM
45 MIN

BREAK

Lunch & Networking

Networking lunch. Tables open for cross-sector conversations.

12:30 PM
50 MIN

PANEL 3

Preparing the Clinical and Public Health Workforce for AI-Enabled, Community-Centered Care

Moderator: Mariangellys Rodríguez, PhD, Associate Director, Operations & Strategy, Puerto Rico Public Health Institute (PRPHI)

Panelists:

1. **Zulma J. Robles Figueroa**, Community Health Worker, COSSAO Utuado & Puerto Rico Public Health Institute
2. **Manuel Rodríguez Martínez, PhD**, Profesor, UPR-Mayagüez
3. **Héctor García, MPH**, Director Programa Informática y Tecnología en Salud, Asociación de Salud Primaria
4. **Orvil Martínez, MD**, Centro de Medicina Avanzada

1:20 PM
90 MIN

DYNAMIC / INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY

The Community Voice: Co-Designing Puerto Rico's Health Innovation Future

Moderator: Angiemille Latorre, Co-Founder & Chief Button Pusher, Seriously Creative

Two pre-recorded case study videos surface specific community challenges and opportunities. Between videos, the room works in cross-sector sprints to co-design solutions — converting expert knowledge into actionable recommendations the Summit can carry forward.

Community Case Study Videos:

1. **Tanisha Gasper Clemente**, Executive Director, PAYE
2. **Francisco "Tito" Valentín**, President, COSSAO · Community-led health and access perspective

2:50 PM
10 MIN

CLOSING REMARKS

From Puerto Rico to National Policy: What Happens Next

Speaker: Marianyoly Ortiz, PhD, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Public Health Institute

3:00 PM
60 MIN

Networking

Where the day's connections become lasting partnerships, turning shared conversations into cross-sector collaboration that carries Puerto Rico's voice forward.

PIPELINE TO ACTION

NHIT EVENTS — PIPELINE TO ACTION

NHIT Congressional Roundtable — May 12, 2026

Baltimore Roundtable — May 22, 2026

NHIT Community Health Innovation Summit: Puerto Rico 2026 — June 17, 2026

NHIT Legislative Summit — July 21, 2026

Insights, recommendations, and cross-sector commitments generated at this Summit will directly inform the agenda and policy priorities of the NHIT Legislative Summit.

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HOST

National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT®)

Established in 2008, NHIT engages underrepresented populations in the development and use of health information technology (HIT) to support and sustain health transformation and economic mobility. NHIT's work is grounded in five pillars: Workforce, Innovation, Policy, Research, and Community.

CO-HOST

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust (PRST)

Established under Public Law 214-2004, the Trust is a private, non-profit organization fostering Puerto Rico's participation and job creation in the global knowledge economy. It invests in, facilitates, and develops capabilities advancing the Island's economy and citizen well-being through R&D, science and technology, public health, and innovation. PRST was designated a federal Tech Hub in 2023 to lead the PRBio Tech Hub. Its initiatives include PRPHI (Public Health Innovation — telehealth), PRCCI (Comprehensive Clinical Research — precision medicine), and BioLeap (health-tech entrepreneurship).