

# Group on Women in Medicine and Science Lunch and Learn Seminar

December 14, 2016 • 12:00-1:00 p.m. • Onyiuke Dining Room

Hosted By:

Marja Hurley, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics  
Institutional Designee, AAMC, Group on Women in Medicine and Science



*Guest Speaker*

## **Dr. Annabelle Rodriguez-Oquendo, M.D.**

Professor of Cell Biology and the Linda and David Roth Chair of Cardiovascular Research  
at the University of Connecticut Health Center in the Center of Vascular Biology

***“Annabelle Rodriguez is the  
Name of My Cleaning Lady”***

Dr. Rodriguez-Oquendo conducts basic science research in the area of lipid metabolism, with a particular emphasis on aspects of lipoprotein scavenger receptor class B type I (SR-BI) in atherosclerosis and infertility. In mice, deficiency of SR-BI is associated with higher HDL cholesterol levels, but paradoxically with increased risk for atherosclerosis and female infertility. Utilizing in vitro and ex vivo approaches Dr Rodriguez's laboratory was the first to demonstrate that two human SR-BI gene (SCARB1) variants were significantly associated with subclinical atherosclerosis and incident cardiovascular disease in men and women, and with infertility in women. Since joining the University of Connecticut Health Center in 2012, Dr. Rodriguez-Oquendo has patented and licensed a

novel blood biomarker for dysfunctional HDL cholesterol and other chronic inflammatory diseases. This novel patent has been licensed to Lipid Genomics, which is a company founded by Dr. Rodriguez-Oquendo. Lipid Genomics is now a member of the UConn Technology Incubator Program located at 400 Farmington Avenue. In October 2013 Dr Rodriguez-Oquendo was awarded Scientist-of-the-Year by Great Minds in STEM in recognition of her work in the area of genomic medicine and SCARB1. Dr. Rodriguez-Oquendo was recently recognized by the Connecticut Technology Council as a Woman of Innovation Research Innovation and Leadership, as well as by the American Heart Association with a Special Recognition Award.

– A discussion to follow on balancing a successful academic work-life career. –

**RSVP required by emailing [Rollins@uchc.edu](mailto:Rollins@uchc.edu) or call: (860) 679-3484.**

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