

UBALDO M. CÓRDOVA-FIGUEROA, Ph.D.

Dr. Ubaldo M. Córdova-Figueroa is the executive vice president for Academic Affairs and Research at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). Córdova-Figueroa is a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and an adjunct professor in the Department of Physics, the Bioengineering graduate program, and the Computing and Information Science and Engineering graduate program at the UPR Mayagüez (UPRM) campus. Prior to becoming executive vice president, Córdova-Figueroa held the position of Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Creative Endeavors at UPRM. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust of Puerto Rico since August 2019.

As executive vice president, Córdova-Figueroa focuses on furthering the strategic plan of the University, particularly in the areas of academic innovation, digital transformation, research, and entrepreneurship. Córdova-Figueroa works in alignment with the strategic plan of the President, Jorge Haddock, to transform the UPR in a University that prepares students for the XXI Century jobs. His efforts to date have resulted in attaining funding to further different initiatives such as the ASTRE Center (\$10M), an infrastructure initiative that will take place at the Molecular Science Research Center of the UPR, funded by the US Economic Development Administration (US EDA). He also coordinated the BLUEi initiative, another US EDA funded project (\$9.6M) where the foundations of the Ocean Economy in the US Caribbean will be developed as well as insertion of the University (UPR is co-applicant) in furthering a chapter of the Recovery Plan for Puerto Rico.

As a researcher, Córdova-Figueroa is the co-leader of a recently awarded NSF EPSCoR Track 1 grant amounting to \$20M. During the past years, he has received grants from NSF and other federal agencies amounting to over \$1.3M, including the NSF CAREER award. He is an expert in theoretical and simulation methods. His research lab addresses problems in fluid mechanics and interfacial phenomena. Currently, Córdova-Figueroa has a research team of 8 members.

Córdova-Figueroa has an M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology, and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from UPRM. He has been author or co-author in over 20 publications. Among these, three were published in Soft Matter and highlighted in the front and back covers.