

Carmen D. Zorrilla, M.D.

Dr. Carmen D. Zorrilla graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in 1978. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University Hospital in the same institution in 1982. She has worked as a faculty member of the OB-GYN Department for the past 21 years. She started as an Instructor and was promoted to Assistant, Associate, and then Full Professor, a position she held since 1998. She is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Academy of HIV Medicine. She established the first longitudinal clinic for Women Living with HIV in Puerto Rico in 1987. It evolved as a consequence of a universal prenatal HIV screening program established in 1987 at a time when no treatments were available for HIV. Dr. Zorrilla and her colleagues believed there were benefits in knowing the HIV serostatus, particularly during pregnancy.

She participated in the PACTG 076 as one of the first 10 pilot sites and was instrumental in changing the public health policy in PR towards making available the ZDV to all pregnant women living with HIV. One accomplishment for which Dr. Zorrilla feels proud is the zero transmission rate of HIV infection among the more than 350 infants born to pregnant women living with HIV who received treatment at her clinic. The last infected infant was born in September of 1996.

She has participated in diverse clinical and behavioral research projects for women living with HIV and has many publications. She is currently the Co-PI for the PR site of the Women and Infants Transmission Study (WITS), PI for the Longitudinal Women's HIV Clinic, (sponsored by the Research Centers for Minority Institutions- RCMI), for the PACTG protocol 386, and for several other clinical trials as well. She is also the PI for the Empowerment intervention study for women with HIV as well as for women with breast cancer.

Currently she is involved in the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) as the PI for the PR site and for the PR Comprehensive Center for the Study of HIV Disparities (PR-CCHD). She has been a consultant for diverse national and international organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI) and others. She has participated in scientific and planning committees of several national and international meetings.

She was the first female Ob-Gyn trained in PR to be selected as an oral examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in recognition of her academic achievements. More recently (in May 2004), she was named as a "Local Legend" by the American Women's Medical Association (AMWA) and the National Library of Medicine as part of a project called "Changing the Face of Medicine" co-sponsored by both institutions.