



CENTER FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
WEARABLE
TECHNOLOGIES

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Lisandro F. Cunci



Please join me in congratulating Dr. Lisandro Cunci, faculty member of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras (UPR-RP), and researcher/collaborator at the Center for the Advancement of Wearable Technologies (CAWT). His proposal, titled “Development of a Novel Neuropeptide Y (NPY) - Sensitive Microelectrode to Detect Endogenous NPY Release,” has been awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Project (Ro1) Grant.

Dr. Cunci’s Ro1 project aims to develop a novel microelectrode capable of detecting endogenous NPY release. NPY, a potent molecule with anxiolytic properties, is released in the hippocampus and plays a role in various stress-related behaviors, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, there is currently no analytical method that can measure neuropeptides in the brain with a temporal resolution of less than one second due to the limited understanding of the chemical conditions during NPY production. The Ro1 project’s measurement strategy aligns with the research conducted at the CAWT for developing skin-related wearable biosensors.

An Ro1 grant, one of the most prestigious funding mechanisms for health-related research in the United States, is typically awarded to investigators conducting independent, high-quality research in fields like biology, medicine, and public health. These grants support projects with significant scientific potential. Among the ten NIH single-principal investigator (PI) Ro1 grants that have been awarded to research faculty from academic institutions (non-medical) within our Jurisdiction, Cunci’s is the first since 2013 and the first ever from a Chemistry faculty researcher. Prior to joining UPR-RP, he was affiliated with the Department of Chemistry and Physics at the School of Science and Technology of the Universidad Ana G. Mendez, Gurabo Campus (formerly known as Universidad del Turabo), from 2015 to 2023.

Since 2019, Cunci has served as the principal investigator of three CAWT exploratory grants, two of which are part of an integrative effort. He is also a member of the CAWT’s Task Force.

We are looking forward to Cunci’s contributions as a leader in competitive WT research in our Jurisdiction and, once again, we extend our congratulations to him on this remarkable achievement!

¡Enhorabuena!

Dr. Arturo J. Hernandez-Maldonado
Director of the Center for the Advancement of Wearable Technologies

