



## **NeuroID Community Outreach Activity Class 2012**

*The Residence Senior Living*

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***External Evaluation: Neuroscience Research Opportunity to Increase Diversity UPR-RP***

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## The Residence Senior Living

The 2012 NeuroID student' class organized their first community outreach activity. The students visited the *The Residence Senior Living* in Guaynabo. This is an assisted living facility for seniors. The Residence provides care for seniors needing assistance with daily activities, as well as those with Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases.



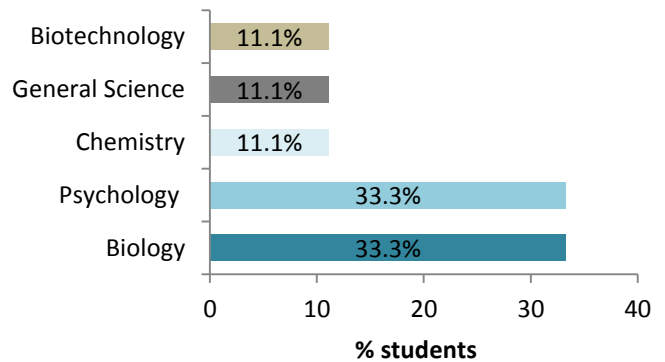
NeuroID Student Class 2012

## Evaluation Results

### Student Profile

Students' experience and satisfaction with the outreach activity was assessed using an online questionnaire. The SurveyMonkey.com website was used to design the instrument and allow students access to the questionnaire. There were a total of 9 participants. The majority of the students were female (77.8%) and, affiliated to the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. More than half of the students (66.6%) reported Biology or Psychology as their major (see Graphic 1).

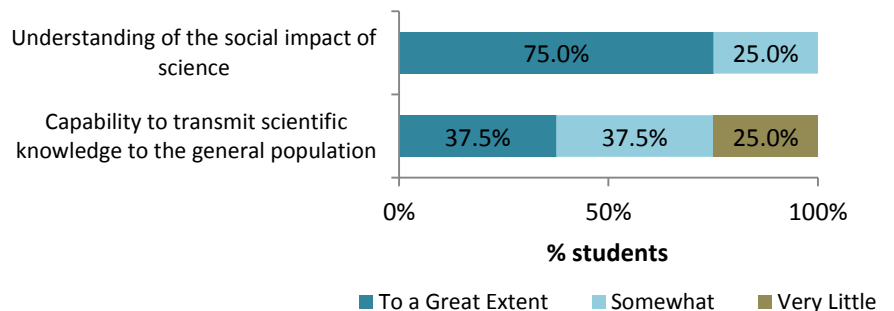
Graphic 1. Academic Concentration



### Self-Assessment

Students were asked to rate how the activity contributed to the improvement or advancement of their skills. The majority of the students (75.0%) reported that the activity fostered their *understanding of the social impact of science*. Moreover, approximately half of the students reported that the activity advanced their *skills to transmit scientific knowledge to the general population* (see Graphic 2).

Graphic 2. How the activity contributed to the improvement or advancement of ...?



*“The experience was excellent because we got to see people afflicted by the disease [that] our lab's are trying to study, spend time with them and also connect with them...”*

*NeuroID Student 2012*



# Experience

INTERACT ♦ CONNECT ♦ JOY

Students described their experience with the activity. All of the NeuroID students (100.0%) evaluated the activity as an excellent experience. Students mentioned the interaction with the elderly and the connection established among the NeuroID class as the reason for their satisfaction.



*“I am very satisfied with the community outreach experience because it gave us the opportunity to be in contact with people that needed the attention and .... the joy that we brought them”*

*“I am very satisfied with the community outreach activity because we participated together as a group to bring joy and affection to the elderly”*

*“I'm very satisfied because the goal was obtained [accomplished]. The interaction with [the senior] was very special to me”*

*“It was an amazing experience and I think as a group we got closer”*

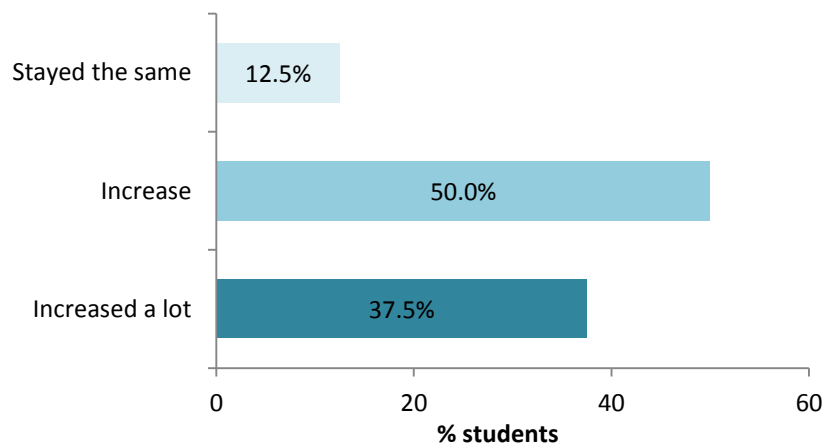


*“This activity made me realize why I’m doing research about Alzheimer’s disease and at the same time, the activity gave me reasons to keep working in that field”*

## Impact on Neuroscience Career

Students also evaluated the impact of the activity on their decision to pursue a Neurosciences career. After the activity, most of the students (87.5%) reported an “increase” or “increase a lot” in their willingness to continue a Neurosciences career (see Graphic 3).

**Graphic 3. How did the activity change your willingness to pursue a Neuroscience career?**



## Strengths and Participant Recommendations

Students provided input regarding strengths of the activity and areas for improvement. The interaction with the elderly, work as team, the joy and stories shared were the aspects that students most liked about the activity. Participants also mentioned the staff and facility as strength of the activity. Students recommended improving the time frame, the activity coordination and organization. They also suggested coordinating an activity for children. Some of the comments were: “have a little more time for the activity”, “be prepared with more scientific information about neurodegenerative diseases”, “Excellent”.

### The aspects students liked.....

*“Bring **happiness** and laughter to the elderly..”*

*“Worked **together** as a group..”*

*“...to be [in] **contact with people** that have neurodegenerative diseases..”* *“..the **staff** was helpful and approving..”*

*“The contrast between normal elders and **elders with Alzheimer's** disease”* *“.. **giving** other people a little time of entertainment”*

*“The **facilities** [were] very clean, spacious, and great service..”*

*“the elderly were kind, attentive and willing to **share their stories** and experiences..”*

*“...improved my capability of **transmitting scientific** knowledge to the **community**”*

*“...made me realize why I'm doing research and the importance of it...”*

## Center for Evaluation and Sociomedical Research

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