



**Olga Rodríguez de Arzola, MD, FAAP**

Dean of the School of Medicine  
Ponce Health Sciences University

Dr. Olga Rodríguez de Arzola is Professor of Pediatrics and Dean of the Ponce Health Sciences University School of Medicine (PHSU-SOM). She completed her medical education and pediatric specialty at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, initiated her professional career as general pediatrician at the town of Guayanilla, PR in 1986, her academic career as faculty of the Pediatric Residency Program of the Ponce University Hospital (PHU) in 1993 and faculty member of Ponce School of Medicine (PSM) in 1995. Her high-quality clinical services and strong organizational and administrative skills qualified her to be appointed Graduate Medical Education Director and Director of the Transitional Year (TY) Program of the PUH. As GME director she obtained the reaccreditations for the institution and the TY Residency Program, developed a new program in Emergency Medicine and initiated the request for a new Surgery program that was authorized July 2013. Within the PSM she was Chair of Pediatrics, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Dean of Health Sciences. As Associate Dean she developed PSM strategic plans and led the self-studies for the reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. During April 2012, she completed a Fellowship in Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) and was designated Interim President and Dean of the PSM. As President and Dean, she implemented measures to stabilize the finances of the institution, streamline institutional processes, enhance the quality of the education offered, and set the foundation for a prosperous future for PSM. Under her leadership, PSM underwent a change of ownership in which the name of the institution changed to Ponce Health Sciences University effective September 2014. Dr. Rodríguez was designated Dean of the PHSU-SOM, having been in that position for eleven consecutive years. Under her leadership the school enhanced the teaching and learning experiences of all students in the SOM through the installation of modern technological equipment, the implementation of the flipped-classroom teaching and learning modalities, and the building of the new academic tower for the institution. She established new clinical campuses at Mayaguez and the Metro Area. The newest campus, a four-years campus, was launched at St. Louis, Missouri, in August 2022. As president of the Regional Academic Medical Center of the Southwest she has enhanced the collaboration with affiliated clinical sites throughout Puerto Rico and has been able to increase available residency program positions for Puerto Rico medical students. Most recent achievements include new Urology and Dermatology residency programs beginning July 1, 2023.

She is Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics since 1987, was President of the Puerto Rico Chapter during 2005 to 2007 and board member until July 2023.

Dr. Rodríguez de Arzola has been recognized as distinguished women in medicine by the Puerto Rico Hospital Association (2018), received an Association of American Medical Colleges Award (2019) for the work done by the School of Medicine during the 2017 hurricanes, received a recognition for her leadership in improving the health of Hispanics by the National Hispanic Medical Association (2019), and received the Excellence in Pediatrics Dr. Juan F. Jimenez Emeritus Recognition Award, during the 70th Puerto Rico Pediatric Society Congress in 2023.

She is board member of Intellectus Foundation, board member of the Puerto Rico Medicine Hall of Fame, commissioner of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and member of the National Academic Affiliations Council of the VA.