

## PUERTO RICO PRIVATE SECTOR COALITION – GROUP BIO



**CARLOS RIVERA VELEZ, PhD, PE** Twitter @Industrialespr

Dr. Rivera Velez is the President of the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association. He currently serves as Vice President of Manufacturing and General Manager for the Edwards Lifesciences Manufacturing Operation in Puerto Rico and its counterpart of Medical Balloons in California. Previously, he has held executive positions at Johnson & Johnson, Allergan, Advanced Medical Optics, and Digital Equipment Corporation. Dr. Rivera Velez is also an entrepreneur. Dr. Rivera Velez holds a BS in Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez; Masters in Management and Technology from the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in History from the Center for Advanced Studies on Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.



**JOSE VAZQUEZ-BARQUET, MBA, PhD** Twitter @Camarapr

Dr. Vazquez-Barquet serves as Chairman of Board and President of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce. He is a partner developer of Subway Restaurants in Puerto Rico and Vice President of Operations. Dr. Vazquez-Barquet worked for 15 years in academia as Vice President of Finance, and Dean of Academic Affairs at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico. Prior to his experience in higher education and as an entrepreneur, Vazquez worked in senior finance positions in Kraft Foods in Philadelphia, and Lockheed Martin Aerospace in New Orleans. He served for five years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Vazquez-Barquet holds an MBA in Finance from the University of North Dakota and a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania.



**RAMON PEREZ BLANCO, CPCU, MBA, ESQ.** Twitter @hechoenpr

Mr. Ramon Perez Blanco currently serves as the President of the Puerto Rico Products Association. Mr. Perez Blanco is the President of Fulcro Insurance, a Hispanic owned brokerage firm with offices in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Florida and Georgia. He holds a Juris Doctor with a Certificate in Maritime Law from Tulane University Law School; a Masters Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Risk Management & Insurance, and a BBA with a Risk Management & Insurance major both from Georgia State University. He also holds the CPCU (Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter) designation.



**ZULMARIE URRUTIA VELEZ, CPA, ESQ, LLM** Twitter @colegiocpapr

Mrs. Urrutia Velez is the President of the Puerto Rico Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a Certified Public Accountant with over twenty years of experience in both local and multinational firms, including KPMG, Ernst & Young, and Procter & Gamble. Mrs. Urrutia Velez served as Director of Finance of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, and Assistant Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development & Commerce. Mrs. Urrutia Velez holds a Master of Laws (LLM) with Honors from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago; a Certificate in Business from *Instituto de Empresa* in Madrid; a Juris Doctor from the School of Law at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR); and Bachelors in Business Administration specialized in Accounting, Magna Cum Laude, University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras.



**FRANCISCO GARCIA, MEng., PE** Twitter @Industrialespr

Francisco Garcia is the Executive Director for the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association (PRMA). PRMA is the largest Private Sector Organization in Puerto Rico representing 1,200 members. Francisco is an Industrial Engineer with a Master degree in Management Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He has over 30 years of experience in manufacturing, as General Manager in Pall Biomedical and Cibavision a Novartis division. In both organizations he led an organization transformation process to enhance competitiveness and organization culture. He also has extensive experience in entrepreneurial development, managing business incubators and talent development projects in a regional economic development alliance, INTECO. He has been recognized twice as Puerto Rico's Distinguished Industrial Engineer twice, in 1983 and 1987. In 1992 he received from the PR Manufacturers Association the award "Hector Jiménez Juarbe" for contributions to Puerto Rico's manufacturing sector, being the youngest person to receive this award to date.



**WALESKA RODRIGUEZ, MBA** Twitter @Industrialespr

Ms. Waleska Rivera is the President of Danosa Caribbean, Inc., the region's leading waterproofing membranes manufacturer. She was Chairwoman of the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association (PRMA) from 2013 to 2015, she currently serves as President of the Association's Internationalization Committee leading a number of initiatives as part of PRMA's Strategic Hemispheric Agenda. Ms. Rivera holds a BA with honors in Accounting from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and an MBA in Industrial Management from Inter American University. Ms. Rivera has received a number of awards and recognitions including being named a Top 10 Business Leaders of Puerto Rico by Caribbean Business for the last three consecutive years. She is currently Secretary of the Board of the ICSSE-PR.



**CARLOS M. RODRIGUEZ** Twitter @Industrialespr

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez is the President for Vieques Air Link, Inc., the largest Puerto Rico regional airline of local capital. A successful self-made entrepreneur has founded four companies in the pharmaceutical laboratory equipment field between 1978 and 2005 when he sold all his businesses. In 2000 he developed a pioneer concept in the Americas for pharmaceutical grade cGMP warehousing and laboratory services in Puerto Rico. In 2009 he acquired a major interest in the airline he presides. Mr. Rodriguez holds an Associate Degree in Electronic Engineering and completed the Harvard Business School “OPM” Owners President Management program in 2005. He has served as PRMA Director with various Presidents including Mrs. Waleska Rivera and most recent with Dr. Carlos Rivera. Currently serving in PRMA Executive Committee representing the service industry. His experience includes founding a company in Mexico City in 1994. As a result, Mr. Rodriguez was named SBA National Exporter of the year in the year 2000.



**DOMINGO CRUZ VIVALDI, MSHA** Twitter @hospitalespr

Mr. Cruz Vivaldi is a board member of the Puerto Rico Hospital Association, the San Jorge Foundation, Pediatric Diabetes Foundation, and the Puerto Rico Poison Center. He is the Senior Vice President of Operations for Pavia Health, one the largest hospitals in Puerto Rico. Mr. Cruz Vivaldi holds a Master Health Services Administration from the University of Houston. He has received multiple awards including Children’s Hospital of the Year (five years in a row) from Buena Vida, the Quality Service Award from the Puerto Rico Products Association, the 20 Best Puerto Rico Employers (Nuevo Dia newspaper), and the Pavia Health Presidential Award, among others.