

Puerto Rico partners on US HIV vaccine project

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Puerto Rico's governor says the island's largest public university is partnering with federal agencies to oversee a U.S.-funded project aimed at trying to develop a prophylactic vaccine for the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said Tuesday the University of Puerto Rico will work with the National Institutes of Health and other public and private agencies. Officials said 30 scientists and students will participate in the five-year project that will take place in three stages, starting with molecular research and development.

Garcia said NIH will invest \$1.1 million, while the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust will provide \$365,000 in matching funds to buy equipment.

The governor says the island has the necessary infrastructure for biotechnological projects and skilled local scientists.

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