

**Hon. Rafael Rodríguez Mercado**  
**Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Health**

Rafael Rodríguez-Mercado, MD, FACS, has been serving as Secretary of the Department of Health of Puerto Rico since January 2017. He served as Chancellor of the Medical Sciences Campus since October, 2009. He received medical school and residency training in Neurosurgery at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, and fellowship training by Dr. L.N. Hopkins at the University of New York, Buffalo. Dr. Rodríguez is Associate Professor in Neurosurgery, Director of the Neuroendovascular Fellowship Training Program, and Director of the Neuroendovascular Surgery Program at the School of Medicine, the only program of its kind in the Caribbean Basin. A Diplomate of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons, he has served as visiting professor, as well as guest speaker in local, national and international meetings. Dr. Rodríguez has received several awards from national neurosurgical and interventional neuroradiology societies for his contributions. He also received the Zenith Prize from the Chamber of Commerce of Puerto Rico. His research interests focus on endovascular animal laboratory models. He serves as Board Member of various institutions, including the Puerto Rico Cardiovascular Center; the University Hospital; the Puerto Rico Medical Center; the Puerto Rico Trust for Science, Technology and Research, and the Diabetes Center of Puerto Rico (President).