Wilfredo Colón

Wilfredo "Freddy" Colón is a Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Associate Dean of Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He obtained his BS degree in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, and his Ph.D. degree in Chemistry from Texas A&M in 1993. He then worked in the field of protein folding at Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, as an NSF Minority Postdoctoral Fellow until 1997. Colón joined Rensselaer as an Assistant Professor in 1997 and his current research is focused on understanding the biological and pathological roles of protein stability/ hyperstability in protein function, misfolding, and self-assembly, including amyloid formation. Throughout his career, Colón has been involved in leading summer outreach activities for providing research opportunities to high school or undergraduate students, especially to those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2008 and 2009 Colón served as a NSF rotator Program Director shared between the Division of Chemistry (CHE) and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB). At the NSF, he played a leadership role in facilitating the review of proposals at the chemistry-biology interface, and in the creation of a new CHE program, *Chemistry of Life Processes*. Among his honors are the NSF CAREER Award, Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, Elected Fellow of the AAAS, and the 2011 American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences.