

# First Hospital Specializing In Medical Tourism to Be Built In Dorado

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With the aim of making Puerto Rico a major medical tourism center, private investors announced Monday construction of Dorado Beach Health, a \$107-million hospital which not only will offer high-tech medical treatment to local residents but will also be the first medical facility on the island focusing on attracting overseas patients.

The 20,000 square-foot hospital, which will offer treatment in multiple medical specialties, is slated to open in 2021 and will have 104 beds. The project is a joint venture between housing and hotel developer Federico Stubbe Jr., chief executive officer of PRISA Group; Dr. Carlos Blanco, owner of Doctors's Hospital Center chain; and health insurer Triple-S. Moreover, Johns Hopkins Medicine International will provide the hospital with clinical consulting and training for hospital staff as well as technology to monitor patients' treatment.

"This has the purpose of creating a new model of excellence in the treatment of patients, in a first-class hospital, as the



people of Puerto Rico deserve, and, furthermore, a facility designed since its conception to attract patients from all over the world," said Stubbe during a press conference in which he was accompanied by Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and Dorado mayor Carlos López Rivera.

Stubbe said he expects about 1,000 people to be employed in the construction of the facility, noting that close to 900 direct and indirect jobs will be created once the hospital opens.

Rosselló said construction of the hospital was a key step forward in mak-

ing Puerto Rico a "center for innovation" as well as a major medical tourism center in the region. He said the medical tourism sector can help reverse the downward trend in the island's population by attracting professionals and patients who may consider relocating here.

"The collaboration with Johns Hopkins makes this a symbol of innovation, development and research," said Rosselló, noting that the hospital's bilingual staff will give it an edge over other jurisdictions.

He said, moreover, that construction of the facility represents "an historic oppor-

tunity" to show how the island can build structures that are resistant to "the blows of Mother Nature" as climate change worsens, and export such knowledge to other jurisdictions that will be affected by climate change.

"This is a new era for our town of Dorado," said López Rivera, who praised the collaboration of the central government and the private sector in the fruition of the project.

Johns Hopkins Medicine International will provide telemedicine technology that will enable Dorado Beach Health Hospital doctors and patients access to the expertise of Johns Hopkins Hospital physicians.

"We are honored to collaborate with the leaders of Dorado Beach Health, sharing our experience in helping develop a new hospital that will contribute to advance health care of Puerto Ricans," said Dr. Charles Wiener, president of Johns Hopkins Medicine International.

The \$107-million price tag of the hospital will be financed in part by a \$58 million loan made by Popular, Inc. an another investment by the Commonwealth Employees Association (Aeela, by its Spanish acronym), Stubbe said.