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AREAS OF RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Mixed glia, neuron, bacterial, viral
and fungi cultures
Immunohistochemistry
Tissue Embedding
Cryosectioning
Mice Bone Marrow Isolation
In situ hybridization
Hemagglutination
Single Cell Experiment
ELISA

Western Blot

DNA Extraction
DNA Purification
DNA Recombination
Colony Isolation
Mutagenesis
Conidial Suspensions
Transformation
Plaque assays

PCR, and qPCR

Electrophoresis
SDS-PAGE
Plasmid Isolation
Transfers and Spot-Testing
DGGE and TRFLP
Transfers and Spot-Testing
Plating

EDUCATION

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) June 2018- Present
♦ Major Neuroimmunology with minors in Clinical Neuroscience and Brain Imaging, Ph.D.
- University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) 2012-June 2018
♦ Double major in Industrial Microbiology and Biology
♦ Bachelor of Science
♦ Conferred
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain February-June 2016
○ International Student of the Faculties of Biology and Psychology
○ Erasmus Student Network Group (ESN Spain)
- Jose Collazo Colon High School in Juncos, PR 2009-2012
○ Advance group
○ Band: Clarinet and Alto Saxophone
○ CERT Team & Theater group

SPECIALIZED COURSE WORK

Interdisciplinary Approach for Neuroscience I

- ◆ Introduction to the breadth and inter-disciplinary nature of the field.
- ◆ Lectures on the evolution of the nervous system, and fundamental information about neural physiology, gene expression, behavior, transport processes in neurons, cognitive, behavioral and clinical neuroscience.

Biology of Neurons and Glia, Seminar

- ◆ This is a special topics class that is based in student research presentations and discussing critical new publications from the cell & tissue levels if organization.

Applied Statistical Methods I

- ◆ Use descriptive statistics and graphical methods to summarize data accurately
- ◆ Be able to design and analyze simple experiments
- ◆ Use inferential statistics to make valid judgments based on data
- ◆ Run common statistical analyses and interpret program outputs using statistical software, particularly R and SAS
- ◆ Gain an understanding of the role of statistics in science and develop a “healthy” skepticism towards journal articles and their results based on a sensible consideration of the statistical techniques employed.

Molecular Biology for Engineers

- ◆ Study of the fundamentals of cell composition, structure, and function, cellular signal transduction, and the relationship of defects in these areas to human diseases.
- ◆ Discussion of commonly used molecular biology techniques and the primary literature in which these techniques are applied to the solution of biomedical engineering problems.
- ◆ Describe how defects at the genetic level are translated into defective biological macromolecules responsible for altering cellular machinery and causing human disease.
- ◆ Examine how manipulation of the cell's molecular machinery can answer vital questions about cellular function and disease, and be able to apply these concepts to solve bioengineering problems.

Immunology & lab

- ◆ Defining innate immunity and describing the antimicrobial mechanisms present in the variants of it in humans.
- ◆ Recognizing and identifying cells that are involved in the immune process.
- ◆ Studying the physiology and morphology of white cells and the immune components of the inflammation.
- ◆ Comparing the structure and function of immunoglobulins and the existing methods for measuring immune response.
- ◆ Assemble the order of mechanisms in the activation of the complement system, and identify bioproducts with immunological activity.
- ◆ Explaining the immunological defect prevalent in the most common immunopathologies.

Biochemistry

- ◆ Describing the nomenclature, composition, structure, functions, chemical and physical properties, methods of isolation, purification and synthesis of macromolecules such as proteins, lipids, carbohydrates and nucleic acids.
- ◆ Explaining the general principles governing reactions catalyzed by enzymes: kinetics, reaction mechanisms and regulation.
- ◆ Describing DNA recombination techniques and their applications.
- ◆ Explaining the principles of bioenergetics and the processes of glycolysis, citric acid cycle, electron transport and oxidative phosphorylation.

Botany & lab

- ◆ Recognizing the most common anatomical organization patterns in leaves, roots and stems as well as the anatomical modifications that occur during primary and secondary plant growth.
- ◆ Studying the reproductive characteristics of the main groups of algae and of the main cuttings (divisions) of plants with living representatives. The student can identify any plant presented as belonging to one of the studied edges.

Statistical

- ◆ Summarizing a set of data and present them in tables, graphs, to calculate statistical measures based on the sample taken that allow him to draw conclusions from the population from which the sample was extracted.
- ◆ Learning about how to do statistically analyze data using the MINITAB and R.
- ◆ Applying Inferential Statistics techniques in make a research decision.

Clinical Microbiology and lab

- ◆ Immunology basics, etiology, pathogenicity, epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases, with emphasis on those of high incidence in Puerto Rico.
- ◆ Defined structural, physiological and genetic microbial groups.
- ◆ Designed a taxonomic scheme of microbial groups.
- ◆ Related microbial virulence structures.
- ◆ Attached the microorganisms studied with clinical syndromes.
- ◆ Used different methods for the isolation and identification of microorganisms studied.
- ◆ Conducted an epidemiological investigation.
- ◆ Proposed epidemiological measures to control outbreaks or epidemics.

Neurobiology and lab

- ◆ Graduate course which I took in the Universidad Complutense at Madrid, Spain.
- ◆ Studied molecular basis of interneuron communication. synaptic plasticity and variability, neural circuits, general organization of the central nervous system, and peripheral nervous systems, evolutionary aspects, main divisions of the central nervous system of vertebrates, spinal cord, cerebral cortex and brainstem structure, and cranial nerves.
- ◆ Learned about development and plasticity of the nervous system, early development nervous system, neurulation. inducing molecules. neural specification, and about neuron migration and exogenesis.
- ◆ Also studied behavior perception, motor functions modulation and control, neuroendocrine regulation, motivational systems and cognitive neurobiology.

Bacterial Genetic and lab

- ◆ Constructed an experiment for solve a problem using genetics in bacteria and presented the data that obtain.
- ◆ Studied the theory and experimental issues of transposons, plasmids, transcription, translation, transcription and translation fusions, DNA conformations, transformation using genetics techniques and in natural form, conjugation between bacteria, regulation and different systems for to fix DNA problems like SOS by *lexA*, photoreactivation, methyl directed mismatch repair and others.
- ◆ Bacteria transformation using different techniques as transposons and plasmid.
- ◆ Prepared all the solutions that we used in the lab.
- ◆ Worked with viruses, plants, fungus, anaerobic and aerobic bacteria.

Virology and lab

- ◆ Learned about behavior, replication and other important aspects of the viruses.
- ◆ Studied the different phases of the virus, lytic and lysogenic for to understand why the viruses are so complicated and really hard for to study.
- ◆ Infected different organisms, like plants and bacteria, for to study viruses that are specific.
- ◆ Cultivated viruses, passage of cancer cells using molecular biology techniques.
- ◆ Did research about important viruses in the world: Dengue, Ebola, Influenza H₁N₁, Flu, and others.

Medical Mycology and lab

- ◆ Learned about pathogenic fungus in humans, animals and other organisms and environmental fungus in the world, specifically in Puerto Rico.
- ◆ Studied the morphology and other distinct aspects about the most popular fungus like *Cryptococcus*, *Rhizopus*, *Cladosporium* and others.
- ◆ Studied the most popular antibiotics for to treat the fungus.
- ◆ Took samples of ambient fungus, identified it and unknown fungus.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

June 2018-
Present

Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- ◆ Assisting Researcher in Dr. Andrew J. Steelman's lab
 - Project focused on the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of the neuroimmunology of Alzheimer Disease (AD).
 - Study the particular role of the Immune System on AD pathogenesis.
 - Develop a knockout mice model to study the particular role of neuroinflammation in an upper respiratory infection and in Alzheimer's.
 - Role of NETs in Alzheimer Disease and in upper respiratory infections.
 - 10x Genomics analysis to understand genes changes after infection with H1N1 PR(8) flu through Single Cell RNA seq.
 - Mixed glia culture, bone marrow isolation, neutrophils isolation, flow cytometry, histology, bioinformatics, among others.

August 2015-
June 2018

Undergraduate Researcher at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez

- ◆ Assisted principal investigator Dr. Nannette Diffoot Carlo in the Molecular Virology and Tissue Engineering lab (MVTE).
 - Project focused on detection of the *Egr-4* in human brain tissue with and without Alzheimer's disease using immunohistochemistry and other molecular biology techniques.
 - Funded by the Puerto Rico IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, HHMI, MARC-U Star Program and by the Puerto Rico Post Hurricane Maria Aid for Researchers Grant Program offered by the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust in partnership with the AAAS Caribbean Division, Ciencia Puerto Rico and Society for Neuroscience.
 - Emphasizes understandings of deeper neuroplasticity, cells differentiation and migration at different stages of degeneration.
 - Studying *Egr-4* possible variation at different levels of Alzheimer degeneration associated with inefficiency of neuroplasticity.
 - DNA Extraction from human brain tissue and qPCR is performed to confirm results.
 - Mentoring fifth undergraduate researcher students and organizing journal clubs, lab meetings and biosafety conferences.
 - Expected publication by 2018.

March-
June 2016

Undergraduate Researcher at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

- ◆ Assisted principal investigator Dr. José Antonio Portellano Pérez in his Neuropsychology Lab
 - NEUROPRE development, a test model which can help to understand neuropsychology aspects of a potential patient, specially children.
 - Worked on data tabulation and biological analysis.

August-
December 2016

Undergraduate Researcher at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez

- ◆ Assisted principal investigator Dr. Félix Román in biofuel and glycerol bioconversion lab.
 - Worked with glycerol bioconversion using anaerobic bacteria isolated from coolant and glycerol samples.
 - Isolation of bacteria that can ferment glycerol and convert it to ethanol or other products even more useful than glycerol.
 - Potential data will be used to establish a bioconversion business.

- June 2015-
August 2015 Intern at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI
- ◆ Collaborated with Dr. Charles Ide (PI) and Dr. Bharti Katbamna (co-PI) on project exploring pathway signaling related to eye regeneration.
 - Worked with *Bmp4* antibody in Albino *Xenopus laevis* eye dorsal expression at early stages, Stages 20's and 30's/
- January 2015-
May 2015 Undergraduate Researcher at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez
- ◆ Assisted principal investigator Dr. Luis Rios in the Anaerobic Solutions lab.
 - Identified the abundance of populations of *Enterococcus* in samples of various water bodies and water plant treatment.
 - Used biochemical techniques for identifying these and isolated pure colonies of different organisms conducting genetic analysis on these.
- June 2014
August 2014 Intern at Sanford Research Institute in Sioux Falls, SD
- ◆ Worked on Dr. Haotian Zhao's project focusing on the establishment of a molecular core laboratory in Sanford's facilities.
 - Did tissues preparation, PCR, qPCR, cell transformation by heat shock, electrophoresis gel and other molecular techniques.
 - ◆ Worked in Dr. Mary Kinkel's research about the requirement of retinoic acid for *wnt1* expression during hindbrain patterning in zebrafish embryos between 17-19 hours post fertilization.
 - Did *in situ* hybridization for the embryos, worked with *hnf1ba*, *mafa*, *cyp26a1* and *wnt1* probes and worked with different kinds of microscopes.
- January 2014-
December 2014 Undergraduate Researcher in University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez
- ◆ Dr. Monica Alfaro in Microcrustaceans in Puerto Rico's mesophotic coral reef lab
 - ◆ Identified taxonomically zooplanktons (copepods, amphipods, isopods, etc.)

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

- September 2018 Invited Talk at UPRM about Neuroplasticity in Alzheimer Disease
- September 2018 Graduate Student Association Research Spotlight Invited Presentation, UIUC
- June 2018 NIH, NIGMS Seventh Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence at Washington, D.C.
- May 2018 Undergraduate Research Symposium in Biology, Genetic Category, UPRM
- March 2017 Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez
- April 2016 Neurobiology Presentation, Universidad Complutense at Madrid, Spain
- October 2015 Beta-Ships Presentation at UPRM
- August 2015 Western Michigan University Research Symposium, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- December 2014 Anaerobic Solution Lab Final Presentation at UPRM
- October 2014 Science Week at UPRM
- August 2014 Sanford Health Research at Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- July 2014 EPSCoR REU Research Symposium at Pierre, South Dakota

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

- August 2018-
Present Neuroscience Student Organization (NSO)
- ◆ Member of the Neuroscience Student Organization from the Neuroscience Program at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.
- September 2016-
June 2018 α-Helix Biomedical Research Society
- ◆ First President and one of the co-founders.
 - ◆ Student organization for students who are interested in biomedical research.
 - ◆ Collaborations with UPRM labs and various industries from Puerto Rico.
 - ◆ Coordination of fundraiser activities, conferences and symposia.
 - ◆ Helping students to identify internships and research opportunities.
- August 2014-
June 2017 Pre-Medical Student Association (CPM)
- ◆ Student organization for Future Doctors at the UPRM.
 - ◆ Participate in academic and social activities, take part in community service.
 - ◆ Engage in more than 10 hours of community service per year, serve as active member, help coordinate activities.
 - ◆ Help with sales, maintenance of the organization, and commitment of the association.
- August 2012-
2015 Industrial Biotechnology Student Association (AEBI)
- ◆ Student Association in UPRM for students that are interested in working in industries or applying for Grad-School.
 - ◆ Chapter Development Manager and part of the Support Team in 2013-2014.
 - ◆ Vice-Presidents of External Relationships in 2014 to 2015.
 - ◆ Worked in planning social and academic activities.
 - ◆ Did community service associate with cancer activities, beach cleaning, shoes and clothes collection, and other community services activities.
 - ◆ Coordinated visits to different companies, conferences, chasing in labs, design directive shirt and member's t-shirt and activities for gain funds.
 - ◆ Participated of Job Fair activities representing the association.
 - ◆ I am in contact with many international and local associations, such like Soul 4 Soles, Operation Christmas Child, American Cancer Society, Scuba Dogs, Sacnas, Be the Match, among other.
- 2011-2012 Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP)
- ◆ Scientific Research with Turabo University.
 - ◆ Learned and did water and air sampling techniques.
 - ◆ Worked with pH, fecal coliforms, phosphate, nitrate and dissolved oxygen concentration in the water samplings
 - ◆ Did a posters and oral presentations.
 - ◆ Did different surveys for the community.

- July 2011 NASA Minority Forum
- ◆ NASA Forum of Cleveland State University where we were part of conferences about sciences, engineering, technology, meteorology and aerospace problems and met about university.
 - ◆ Represented Turabo University in Puerto Rico in this forum.
 - ◆ Taught to others minority students about the Puerto Rican Culture: food, music, art and history
- June 2011 BETTeR IC+ 2011
- ◆ Biotechnology and Scientific Summer Camp in UPRM.
 - ◆ Learned about, nanoscience, bioinformatics, marine and environmental biotechnology, microbiology, astronomy, bioprospects, and genetic engineering
 - ◆ Worked in teams, did future plans about community service and of a business project, made a poster, composting, a home garden, hidroponic garden, opened a fish, and others things.
- May 2011 Experimenta con PREM/ Experiment with PREM
- ◆ Is a short camp about Nanoscience, Physics and Technology.
 - ◆ Worked with the polymers nanofibers fabrication using electrospinning.
 - ◆ Learned about zinc oxide nanofibers, numeric simulations of compounds materials and resistances and some physics techniques.
 - ◆ Did polymers nanofibers, fabricated devices and gas sensors
 - ◆ Prepared scientific presentation and essays in UPR-Humacao.
- July 2010 Michigan Tech Summer Camp/ Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
- ◆ Scientific Summer Camp.
 - ◆ Worked under the supervision of Dr. Ramana Pidatala, learned basic genetic engineering and biotechnology techniques.
 - ◆ Prepared bacteria colonies, worked with plasmid isolation, green fluorescent protein purification, bioinformatics, and electrophoresis.
 - ◆ Learned about genetic engineering basics techniques.
 - ◆ Taught to my instructors and classmates a little of Spanish and about Puerto Rico's culture.
- 2010-2012 Scientific Research Fair
- ◆ Science Fair in Aquatic Microbiology Area.
 - ◆ Worked with the diversity of the diatoms in the Puerto Rico's beaches and Juncos' dump for establish and compare the microorganisms in base with the environment.
 - ◆ Learned microbiological techniques and worked with three different professionals in Microbiology and Environmental Biology.
 - ◆ Prepared posters and present data.

2009-2011

Robotic Club Alliance

- ◆ Robotic Club with an alliance between Turabo University & Michigan Tech University (MTU).
- ◆ Worked with PVC pipes and learn basic techniques of electrical engineering and technology.
- ◆ Participated in the construction of an aquatic robot capable of make pictures at different deeps in water bodies and with different mechanisms for to determinate the water quality.
- ◆ Presented in Turabo University of Puerto Rico and in MTU.
- ◆ Was the Secretary and then the Marketing Manager of the student club.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

August 2017-
June 2018

STEM for Teens

- ◆ Co-founder of the Program through Alpha Helix Biomedical Society.
- ◆ Program focused to expose high school students to STEM experiments and oriented them about the different opportunities in the field.
- ◆ Train undergraduate students to perform experiments and work with high school students
- ◆ Impacted school from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, with more than 200 students reached.
- ◆ Wrote grant proposal for Industries in order to cost the experiments, stablishing collaborations with the Pharmaceutical Industry Association (PIA), Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb and let on discussion with other companies.

April 2018

Wow! That's Engineering

- ◆ One day Workshop focused on students from 7 to 13 years where they were expose to biomedicine and engineering project develop by ourselves.
- ◆ More than 130 students were impacted.
- ◆ Collaboration between Society of Women in Engineering (SWE) and Alpha Helix Biomedical Society (AHBS).

2013- June 2018

Be the Match

- ◆ Not-profit Association that is responsible for finding people with bone marrow compatible to people who need it.
- ◆ Registered for be a possible donor of bone marrow in 2013.
- ◆ Bone Marrow Donor in 2015.

2010- June 2018

Tutor for Primary and Secondary Students

- ◆ Offered tutorials in Biology, Mathematics, History, Spanish and English classes to different students who have not money for paid for a teacher.
- ◆ Helped with Scientific Projects, and explain how they need do assignments, which the teacher gives.

2013

Laguna Cartagena's Reforestation in Lajas, P.R.

- ◆ College eco- friendly activity for to create awareness about the environment.
- ◆ Contributed to plant trees in Federal Reservation with other student's association.

- 2012-2013 Undergraduate counselor
- ◆ Helped to inform freshmen students in University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM).
 - ◆ Oriented about student associations and organized activities for stress relief.
 - ◆ Offered information about College's life, and helped with the adaptation in campus and with the classes.
- 2012-2014 Relay for Life
- ◆ Was part of the organization committee.
 - ◆ Helped to gain money for the American Cancer Society.
 - ◆ Walked and donated hair as solidarity with cancer patients.
- 2012-2014 Beach Cleaning
- ◆ Cleaned trashes of Punta Santiago beach in Humacao, PR with a group of Rotary International in 2012.
 - ◆ Cleaned trashes of "El Mani" beach in Mayaguez, PR with AEBI.
 - ◆ In "El Mani" found Biohazard wastes and was part of the initiation of a research that "Junta de Calidad Ambiental (JCA)" is realizing for find the origin of these wastes.
 - ◆ Some links about the findings:
 - ✓ <http://www.metro.pr/locales/jca-investiga-desperdicios-biomedicos-en-playa-de-mayaguez/pGXmiz!UE2DiGEqDcnc/>
 - ✓ <http://woratv.com/index/continuan-vistas-publicas-sobre-desperdicios-biomedicos-en-bahia-de-mayaguez/>
- 2012/ 2014 "Dona lo que pesas" and "Pulgadas de amor"
- ◆ Monetary and hair collection for help cancer patients, directly and indirectly.
 - ◆ Donated hair collected for Steven Antony Foundation.
- 2011-2012 Interac Group
- ◆ Club for high school studentes that follow Rotary International visión, create a better society.
 - ◆ Contributed to polio eradication and provided activities to create awareness about social and environmental problems.
- 2009-2012 Labor for Dominican Republic
- ◆ Collected clothes and needed items for send it to poor communities in Dominican Republic, as Ocoa and "La Barquita".

AWARDS

Certificates

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2018 | Neurohistopathology Hands-On Workshop Speaker at UPRM |
| 2018 | Biomaterials Two Day Hands-On Workshop Speaker at UPRM |
| 2018 | Research Quick Talk Speaker at UPRM |
| 2018 | Undergraduate Research Symposium in Biology, Genetic Category, UPRM |

2016	Fundamentals of Orthopedic Biomechanics Workshop
2015	Beta-ships
2014-2015	Health Conferences
2015	CPM Initiated Member
2015	Community Service Hours with CPM
2015	Leadership in CPM
2014	Honor Student
2013-2015	AEBI Initiated Member
2012	Summer Workshop in Biotechnology
2012	Talent Search
2012	ENDE Participation
2011-2012	Scientific Fair Participation
2011-2012	Interact Club
2011-2012	MSEIP/ scientist award BETTeR IC+ Participation
2011	PREM Participation
2011	BETTeR IC+ Participation
2011	Artistic Work and Creativity
2011	Band Participation
2010	Community Labor to Geriatric Foundation of Caguas
2010	Dr. Garcia Rinaldi Foundation
2010	Robotic Club Alliance
2010	Michigan Tech University Summer Camp Participation
2001-2012	School's Honor Society

Special Recognitions

2018	Puerto Rico IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Graduation and Lab Coat Ceremony at University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus
2018	Focus Student 2018: Georgia Tech University
2017	ASPIRE Student 2017: Invited by the Neuroscience Program University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2017	PRINBRE Undergraduate Junior Research Award (Funded by NIH/NIGMS Award Number 5P20GM103475)
2017	President of President of Alpha Helix Biomedical Research Society
2016	NEUROPRE Student Researcher (Spain)
2015	President on Be the Match On Campus UPRM
2014-2015	Vice-President of External Relationships of AEBI
2013-2014	Chapter Development of AEBI
2013	Freshman of the Year in AEBI
2013	Support Team in AEBI
2013	Initiated member in AEBI
2012	Academic Excellence
2012	Student Model
2012	Citizen Model of the District of the Las Piedras, PR
2012	Rotary International Award
2012	"Club de Leones" Award
2012	Community service Award
2012	Talent Search Excellence Award
2012	Nominated in the category of Health in the ENDE Awards of the newspaper "El Nuevo Dia"
2011-2012	5 Awards in Scientific Fair

Professional Memberships

August 2018- Present	Neuroscience Student Organization
September 2016- June 2018	Alpha Helix Biomedical Society
August 2014- Present	Circulo de Pre-médicos (CPM) "Pre-Medical Circle"
August 2012- August 2015	Asociación de Estudiantes de Biotecnología Industrial (AEBI) "Biotechnology Student Association"

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Knowledges

- ◆ Basic knowledge with Image J, Minitab and R Stats Programs.
- ◆ Significant protocol, proposal and grant drafting experience.

Communication

- ◆ Full professional proficiency in Spanish and English.
- ◆ Elementary proficiency in Italian.

Others

- ◆ Ability to work in teams or independently with high capacity for leadership.

REFERENCES

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