

CienciaPR welcomes three new members to the team ^[1]

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The CienciaPR team is growing! Recently three new members joined us: Edmy Ayala Rosado, Dr. Liz Hernández Matías and Kimberly Massa Nuñez. Read below to learn a little more about them and the projects they will be working on. Welcome Edmy, Liz and Kim!

Edmy Ayala Rosado is a young independent Afro-Puerto Rican journalist from San Juan, and a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, specializing in social and political justice issues. In addition to having her own independent platform [3], she has collaborated with outlets such as The New York Times [4], Revista étnica [5], National Public Radio (NPR) [6] and the Center for Investigative Journalism [7]. Two of her passions are journalistic ethics and science. Edmy joins the CienciaPR team as a Science Communication Specialist, and will be working on various science communication projects related to COVID-19, in addition to supporting the implementation of integrated communication strategies for the organization. ***What excites her about working with CienciaPR?*** Edmy affirms that "the real battle for the future of our humanity is scientific. We have to make sure that citizens understand and respect science, for our collective well-being."

Dr. Liz Hernández Matías grew up in Lares, Puerto Rico and joins our team as a Senior Education Specialist. Since her college days, in addition to her studies and research, she was heavily involved in mentoring and education programs. Liz co-founded and co-directed the summer science program for high school students called "Ciencia en Acción" (Science in Action). Liz is entrepreneurial and equally passionate about science and education. While doing her Ph.D. in molecular biology at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, she decided that she would also independently specialize in science education research. She investigated how short research experiences influence the scientific identity of high school students. As a Senior Education Specialist for CienciaPR, Liz is in charge of coordinating and assess the impact of the Semillas de Triunfo (Seeds of Success) [8] program, a project that integrates mentoring, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) opportunities and leadership development to encourage Puerto Rico middle and high school girls to pursue STEM careers. ***What excites her about working with CienciaPR?*** "I am excited to work with the Puerto Rican youth. Help them visualize their goals and a plan to execute them. I'm excited to support the ideas of so many young people who are passionate about science," Liz told us.

Kimberly Massa Nuñez was born and raised in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She recently graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus with a bachelor's degree in political science and economics. Kim is an avid reader and is very interested in social justice, community development, and the analysis of public policy and austerity measures. Kim has been selected to work with CienciaPR for a year as part of her internship in the Program for the Empowerment and Retention of Agents of Change (PARACa, in Spanish) 2020-2021, from the organization Mentes Puertorriqueñas en Acción (MPA) in partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA. As part of her internship, Kim will be supporting CienciaPR in the areas of ??development, marketing, fundraising, and digital communications. ***What excites her about working with CienciaPR?*** Kim tells us that for her it is an opportunity to "make a community of experts more visible and support education and policy-making by working with people who know and master science. I'm also excited to work with a group of women in STEM."

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