

Young boricua scientists distinguished for outstanding research [1]

Submitted by [Edwin Rosado](#) [2] on 21 May 2014 - 10:55am



[2]

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CienciaPR celebrates the scientific talent in Puerto Rico. Here we share the successful stories of boricua brains that have excelled in conferences and receiving prestigious recognitions early in their careers. Share these stories using #cerebrosboricuas.

Students are distinguished as emerging scientists in science and engineering

Two students from the [University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus](#) [3] were recognized in the [Emerging Researchers National Conference](#) [4] in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in Washington, DC hosted by the [National Science Foundation](#) [5]. Giovanni Torres and Juan Irizarry were awarded in this conference for the scientific presentation about the research conducted at their home institution.

Giovanni Torres is a senior Civil Engineering student and won the 2nd place in the undergraduate category of Civil & Manufacturing Engineering. Juan Irizarry is a senior Biology student and won the 1st place in the undergraduate category of Cancer Biology. Both students are part of [The Applied Optimization](#) [6] research group at UPRM, lead by Dr. Clara Isaza and [Dr. Mauricio Cabrera Ríos](#) [7]. This conference brings students the opportunity of developing scientific communication skills and to prepare for scientific careers in a global workforce.

Dr. Reyna Martínez awarded with a prestigious career development fellowship

Dr. Reyna Martínez [8], member of CienciaPR volunteer team and a postdoctoral scientist at SUNY Upstate Medical University [9], has been awarded with the Grass Fellowship given by The Grass Foundation [10]. The fellowship of the Marine Biological Laboratory [11] in Massachusetts, supports independent research projects designed by scientists in the early stages of their career.

The fellowship will provide support to develop her research project including laboratory space, animals, equipment and other supplies for a summer in the prestigious MBL. Dr. Martínez will investigate how factors regulate retina degeneration and restrict its regeneration in a model organism. This experiments will be crucial to understand how factors may limit the regenerative capacitive of the nervous system.



Dra. Reyna Martínez received the Grass Fellowship

Dr. Angel Martí will receive the I-ASP New Investigator Award

The American Society for Photobiology [12] has awarded Dr. Angel Martí [13], currently Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Bioengineering at Rice University [14] in Houston, Texas, with the 2014 ASP New Investigator Award [15]. This recognition has been awarded since 1994 to recognize promising quality research in the fields of photomedicine, photobiology, photochemistry, and photophysics performed at a relatively early stage in an investigator's career.

The award will be presented at the 37th ASP annual meeting which will be held in San Diego, California, next June 14-19, 2014. Dr. Martí will present an award lecture at the meeting as part of the award process. The award is \$1,000 plus travel and a plaque.

Congratulations on your achievements!

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