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¡Conoce a la clase 2021 de la Academia Yale Ciencia! [1]

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¡Bienvenidos Becados 2021!

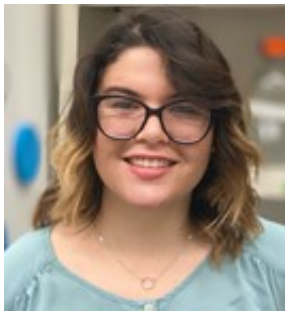
Lanazha Belfield is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Molecular and Ce
program with a concentration in Molecular Medicine and Translational Scienc
Medicine. Her passions include research, academia, and mentorship. She ea
in Biology with a minor in Physics from Winston-Salem State University as a
academic scholarship). While there she participated in various research progr
Ram Scholars and IBS-REU providing her with the tools and research experie
her PhD program. During her time at WSSU, she presented at numerous con
scientific communication and scientific exposure. To provide scientific exposu
graduate/professional school panels for WSSU students and provided elemer
students the opportunity to perform scientific experiments. She continues to p
during her graduate school career. She serves on her departmental executive
School Honors Grievance Committee. Her thesis work focuses on the glucoc
muscle wasting and recovery to improve the long-term functional outcomes o
term career goal is to become a professor at a predominantly undergraduate
students with the tools and opportunities to directly matriculate into graduate-
increasing scientific literacy and education in the minority community. In esse
improvement of student learning, the enhancement of student creativity, and
beyond the classroom setting.

Cristhian Calo is a fourth-year PhD candidate in the Department of Physiolo
Rico, Medical Sciences Campus. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Biotec
del Este in Puerto Rico. As an undergraduate, he worked elucidating hypotha
after exposure to anabolic steroids. Furthermore, he participated in the Summ
Program (SROP) at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, studying i
mild Traumatic Brain Injury. He is interested in the nervous system, especially
behavior. For this reason, in 2018, he joined the laboratory of Dr. Carlos Jimé
on substance dependence from an electrophysiological level. His research fo
properties and excitability of VTA's dopaminergic neurons after a cocaine Inte
this research, he also looks to elucidate if these changes are acquired during
may be related to the pathological learning process that underlies substance
career goal is to work at an academic institution as a principal investigator co
pathophysiology of degenerative diseases that involves the dopaminergic sys

Marjorine Castillo is a sixth-year Developmental Psychology doctoral studer University of New York (CUNY). She is also a Diversity Supplement Researcl State Psychiatric Institute through the Environmental influences on Child Hea Program NIH. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Psych CUNY. She was born in New York City and raised in Washington Heights, NY Republic). Her own experiences as the daughter of Dominican immigrants cu pursue a research career focused on how cultural experiences shape the me ethnically diverse youth and their families in the US. Current work includes he Y. Niwa's guidance, which explores acculturation from childhood to young ad psychological stress among Puerto Rican youth in the US and Puerto Rico. A Cristiane S. Duarte's leadership, examines the intergenerational relationship and their child's neurodevelopment and well-being among the racially, ethnica diverse ECHO cohorts. She enjoys teaching and mentoring students to devel and empower them to achieve their academic aspirations. Her long-term care become a tenure track university professor who utilizes a strength-based, inte framework in her teaching, mentoring, and research. Outside of academia, M and do arts and craft with her husband, family, and friends.

Crystal Colón Ortiz was born and raised in Puerto Rico and presently is a fo the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology at Columbia University Irving M Bachelor of Science degree in general biology from the University of Puerto R conducted studies in neuroscience. Afterward, she participated in the Postbac Education Program (PREP) at Case Western Reserve University, where she Johannes vonLintig, studying the biochemical basis of vitamin A production. C of Dr. Carol Troy, is focused on understanding the role of caspases in a retina injury. During her graduate trajectory, she has been awarded the NSF-Gradu Program, the Association for the American Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science, and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Trainee Professional Develo graduate journey of underrepresented minorities and to create a space for all about social injustices, Crystal co-founded and co-directs the Graduate Initiat Columbia. In the future, she aspires to be an established principal investigato institution. She also looks forward to mentoring underrepresented minorities a inclusive environment in STEM.

	**Bianca Espinosa** is a fifth-year Chemistry PhD candidate at the University of National Science Foundation GRFP fellow, and a National Institutes of Health Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry in 2016 from California State University, as a medicinal chemistry undergraduate researcher. Now as a graduate stude biology, her research centers on developing covalent, small molecule probes diverse pathologies from cancer to COVID-19. Beyond her research interests commitment to increasing college retention of underrepresented students thro establishment of a scholarship for minorities in STEM. In her personal life, Bia and fostering rescue dogs.
	**Jose J. Gorbea Colón** is a fifth-year biochemistry and molecular biophysics University of Pennsylvania. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biology at the Piedras campus. During his undergraduate career, Jose was awarded an NIH an NIH BP-ENDURE fellowship (2015-2017), and now, as a graduate student Graduate Research Fellowship in 2019. As an NSF fellow, his current researc focuses on elucidating the structural and mechanistic bases underlying transc Jose is also passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in aca with the Office for Research in Diversity Training at Penn and student organiz SACNAS Chapter, which he Co-Chaired in 2019-2020. Outside of academia, gardening, martial arts, scientific illustration, and photography.
	**Casey Imperio** is a sixth-year PhD candidate in the Psychology: Behavioral a Program at CUNY The Graduate Center. She earned both her undergraduate Psychology at James Madison University, where her research focus was on f and younger adults. She also spent time in an animal research lab working w current research focuses on the neural basis of metamemory processes in ep Specifically, she uses a form of non-invasive brain stimulation, called transcra (tDCS), in attempts to elucidate the role of the prefrontal cortex in metamemo Her hope is that this research will lay the foundation for treatments using tDC and memory issues. Casey loves mentoring undergraduate and master's stud to become researchers in the fields of cognitive psychology and neuroscience avid cook and likes to play video games with her husband and hang out with

	**Amanda Christine Maldonado** is a fourth-year doctoral candidate at the Uni (UIC) in the Medicinal Chemistry Program. She is originally from Miami, Florid Associates of Arts (Chemistry) from Miami Dade College. She received her B Chemistry, with a focus in organic synthesis, as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar f University. Recently, she was awarded the T32 NIH Fellowship to aid in her r Products and Women's Health. Her doctoral dissertation will focus on elucida of a fungal metabolite in high-grade serous ovarian cancer. This work will hel of therapeutics approved for use in high-grade serous ovarian cancer. Her oth how metabolites produced from cyanobacteria may play a role in decreasing serous ovarian cancer and screening novel Natural Products that may have b Outside of her research, Amanda serves as the President for the Society for A Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Graduate C with the ChickTech Organization to engage middle and high school girls in tec Amanda's long-term interests lie in women's health, community engagement, minority participation in STEM fields. She loves to work out and go hiking in th enthusiastic foodie.
	**Jose Ortiz** is a sixth-year doctoral candidate in Biology at the Irell & Manella Sciences at the Beckman Research Institute within the City of Hope National recipient and originally from Tijuana, Mexico. Jose obtained his undergraduat and Developmental Biology (MCDB) at the University of California – Los Ange UCLA, Jose completed his thesis work studying latent HIV establishment and infection in patients undergoing antiretroviral treatment. He then entered grad doctoral Ford Fellowship award in 2016. At the Beckman Research Institute, Dr. Hsun Teresa Ku to study pancreas organ development and regeneration Jose studies the role of Trefoil factor 2 (Tff2) during mammalian pancreas org new mechanisms regulating the production of insulin-producing beta cells. Du was admitted into the Future Leaders Advancing Research in Endocrinology After completing his PhD, Jose plans to pursue post-doctoral training in the fi His career goal is to work at an academic institution as a Professor and mente Outside the lab Jose enjoys painting, running, and exploring bars and restaur

	**Jailenne I. Quiñones-Rodriguez** earned her Bachelor of Science in Biomedi of Puerto Rico – Ponce. In 2015, she joined the Biomedical Sciences Gradua Central del Caribe – School of Medicine, where she is currently a PhD candid Anatomy and Cell Biology. Due to her research interest and background, Jail Research Associate from Puerto Rico IDeA Network Biomedical Research Ex PhD, she graduated with honors from a master's degree in Anatomy and Bior interest in human anatomy and neuroanatomy has led her to coordinate, instr students with interest in surgical field through a project called “Mastering Ana promotes an integration of clinical anatomy research and teaching to peers. J transferring modern fixation technology to electron microscopy. Her goal is to the highest magnification while localizing proteins with the outmost accuracy immunocytochemistry. These advances are applicable and of interest for all a electron microscopy and immunogold localization of proteins. One of her long become an academic scientist to conduct research in reverse translational hu and surgical problems are identified and focused on anatomical studies. As a been actively involved in several outreach initiatives with the goal to commun first-generation scientist herself, raise her voice for underrepresented minoriti
	**Jelissa Reynoso García** is a fourth-year PhD candidate in Microbiology at th Rio Piedras Campus (UPR-RP). Jelissa is a first-generation college student v She earned a bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Sciences with honors at t undergraduate studies, she completed an undergraduate thesis under the me studying the rainfall chemistry in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She also served as a University of Vermont, collaborating in the project “Total Phosphorus and Tota by Bioretention Systems.” These experiences reinforced her interest in scient to pursue a PhD degree. Since her doctoral admission under the guidance of investigates fungi in paleomicrobiological samples as a mean to inferring the Caribbean cultures. Her work in this project led her to be a recipient of the Ou the American Society for Microbiology (2018). Currently, she is a doctoral trai fellowship. In addition to her doctoral dissertation, she has worked as a resea studying the high levels of fungi, spores, and pro-inflammatory dust after Hurr investigations, she serves as the President of the Microbiology Student Chap goal is to become a scientist and educator that promote women and underrep pursuing sciences careers. Jelissa also enjoys books, arts, museums, travel,

	**Isabel Rojas-Ferrer** was born and raised in Puerto Rico and possesses a do specializing in cognitive and behavioral ecology. She has a BSc in industrial r University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, where she studied the rhythmic meter o guidance of Dr. David Logue. During her undergraduate years, she interned a Study of Animal Behavior (CISAB) at the University of Indiana- Bloomington w with Dr. Emilia Martins. She then completed her MSc in ecology, evolution, an University of Missouri-Saint Louis where she focused her thesis on bee memo modelling under the advisership of Dr. Aimee Dunlap. Isabel has recently com University of Ottawa, Canada, where she worked with Dr. Julie Morand-Ferro causes of individual variation in animal decision-making. Currently, Isabel has as a research assistant at the Caribbean Primate Research Center with Dr. L Isabel has collaborated with Soapbox Science, the Journal of Animal Ecology order to bring awareness to mental health, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Isa by her Belgian Shepherd mix dog, Vito.
	**Sofia Romero** is a fourth-year PhD candidate in the Microbiology Doctoral Tr on molecular virology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She earned he University of California, Santa Cruz majoring in Molecular, Cell, and Developm Sofia's dissertation focuses on understanding the subcellular trafficking dynam Core protein during replication and packaging of viral genome by single-mole as live, and fixed cell techniques. In addition to research, Sofia works to advo equitable science academy for students from diverse backgrounds and was re Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society member. Recently, Sofia coach for her local Science Olympiad competition where she taught high scho of virology. After her PhD, Sofia aims to continue advocating for underrepresen to improve science-to-public engagement.
	**Mitchell R. Sanchez Rosado** is a third-year doctoral candidate at the Univer Sciences Campus. He earned his undergraduate degree in biology with a min University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. As an undergraduate, his research wor investigating the efficiency of antimicrobial products against different strains o quality assessment after Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. His current researc that both age and social adversity can have on immune function and respons academia, Mitchell enjoys trips to the beach, cooking, and talking about sport

	**Ana Vazquez-Pagan** is a rising-third-year PhD candidate at the St. Jude Gra Sciences at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. After moving from her hor Rico, Ana earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in French fr Boston, Massachusetts. During her time at Northeastern, Ana participated in op) program where she worked with Drs. Jens Boch and Thomas Reinard at Biotechnology in Germany. There, she studied the production of recombinant Wolffia Australiana, which has high potential as a bioreactor. For her second Farber Cancer Institute under the mentorship of Dr. Wilfred Ngwa and Dr. Ro explored combining the radiosensitizing effect of gold nanoparticles with the D Nano Talazoparib, a liposomal formulation of the PARP inhibitor, Talazoparib Ana prepared to embark towards a PhD, she felt called to explore other scien research focuses on better understanding how influenza virus infection can ca high-risk populations and why that happens. More specifically, she wants to d knowledge on why pregnant women are at an increased risk of developing se how infection results in adverse fetal outcomes. Outside of academia, Ana en hiking with her dog Buddy.
	**Kirsten Verster** is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Integra California – Berkeley. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Zoology at Univ always intrigued and excited by the diversity and abundance of insects in her and went to graduate school to learn more about how they evolved. For her d the lab of Dr. Noah Whiteman studying how horizontal transfer of toxin genes evolution of insects. Kirsten and collaborators discovered that toxin-encoding bacteria or viruses into the genomes of fly and aphid species. Interestingly, th genes may play a role in protecting these insects from deadly parasitoid wasp Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and recently won the Extraor Extraordinary Times award for her approach to remote pedagogy during the C career goal is to build a research and education program that incorporates he and functional genomics. Outside of lab, Kirsten is enthusiastic about Latin da

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