

Aileen M. Garcia Vargas

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EDUCATION

University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, PR **2013-Present**
PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology

- MBRS-RISE Fellowship

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, PR **2008-2012**
B.S Biomedical Science

Honors: Summa Cum Laude

- The Department of Science and Technology medal for the Academic Excellence in Biomedical Science
- The Honor Program medal

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant **2015-Present**
University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus Comprehensive Cancer Center, San Juan PR

- A NIH funded research project focused on the role of biomarkers in recurrent prostate cancer.

Research Assistant **2012-2013**
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

- A mentored research project based on anoikis-resistant (AnR), breast cancer cell lines and the effect of the Nck1/eIF2 complex

Undergraduate Research Assistant **2011-2012**
Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, PR

- Developed a trial study based on Cadmium Chloride nanoparticles

Undergraduate Research Assistant **2011**
The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA
Department of Pharmacology

- A STEP-UP internship funded by the NIH-NIDDK a highly competitive Nationwide summer program
- A 10 week research project based on the effects of natural products on HL-60 cell lines (Leukemia)
- Applied numerous assays to the HL-60 cells such as flow cytometry, liposome extrusion and sizing, MTS treatments, IC-50 cell viability and synergy analysis, natural products screen, among others
- Worked and handled female athymic nude mice as a part of

a separate project involving weight gain.

PUBLICATIONS

West NW, Garcia-Vargas A, Chalfant CE, Park MA (2013). OSU-03012 Sensitizes Breast Cancers to Lapatinib-Induced Cell Killing: A Role for Nck1 but not Nck2. BMC Cancer, 13:256

Brown TJ, Garcia AM, Kissinger LN, Shanmugavelandy SS, Wang X, Cabot MC, Kester M, Claxton DF, Barth BM (2013) Therapeutic Combination of Nanoliposomal Saquinavir and Nanoliposomal Ceramide for Acute Myeloid Leukemia. J Leuk ,1:110

PRESENTATIONS

García-Vargas AM, Sanchez-Vazquez M, Rohena K, Martínez-Ferrer M. The Biological Role of BAT-1 in Prostate Cancer
Poster Presenter
The American Association of Cancer Research Annual Meeting (April 2016)

García-Vargas AM, Sanchez-Vazquez M, Rohena K, Martínez-Ferrer M. The Biological Role of BAT-1 in Prostate Cancer
Poster Presenter
The Annual Research Forum, San Juan PR (March 2016)

García-Vargas AM, Sanchez-Vazquez M, Rohena K, Martínez-Ferrer M. The Biological Role of BAT-1 in Prostate Cancer
Poster Presenter
The Second Annual Puerto Rico Cancer Research Meeting, San Juan PR (October 2015)

Brown TJ, Garcia AM, Tan SF, Kissinger LN, Feith DJ, Barth BM, Claxton DF. Improving the anti-AML efficacy of liposomal ceramide by targeting sphingolipid metabolism.
AACR 104th Annual Meeting Washington, DC (April 2013)

Garcia-Vargas A, Park MA, Chalfant CE. Mechanisms of Anoikis Resistance in Breast Cancer Cell Lines
Poster presenter at The Mid-Atlantic Research Symposium
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA (April 2013)

Garcia-Vargas A, Park MA, Chalfant CE. Mechanisms of Anoikis Resistance in Breast Cancer Cell Lines
Poster presenter at The Women's Health Day Symposium
Richmond, VA (April 2013)

Garcia-Vargas A, Park MA, Chalfant CE. Mechanisms of Anoikis Resistance in Breast Cancer Cell Lines

Poster presenter at The GSA Research Symposium

Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond, VA (April 2013)

Garcia-Vargas A, Park MA, Chalfant CE. Mechanisms of Anoikis Resistance in Breast Cancer Cell Lines

Poster presenter at The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)

San Jose, CA (November 2012)

Garcia AM, Fritz JL, Tran MA, Kester M, Barth BM. Ceramide-Regulating Nanotherapeutics for the Treatment of Drug Resistant Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Oral presenter at the Second Symposium of Investigation for Undergraduate Students

Carolina, PR (April 2012)

Garcia AM, Fritz JL, Tran MA, Kester M, Barth BM. Ceramide-Regulating Nanotherapeutics for the Treatment of Drug Resistant Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Poster presenter at The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)

St. Louis, MO (November 2011)

Garcia AM, Fritz JL, Tran MA, Kester M, Barth BM. Ceramide-Regulating Nanotherapeutics for the Treatment of Drug Resistant Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Oral and poster presenter at the National Institute of Health

Bethesda, MD (August 2011)

Garcia AM, Fritz JL, Tran MA, Kester M, Barth BM. Ceramide-Regulating Nanotherapeutics for the Treatment of Drug Resistant Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Poster presenter at the Pennsylvania State College of Medicine

Hershey, PA (August 2011)

HONORS AND AWARDS

• MBRS-RISE Fellowship, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, PR **(2015-2018)**

• Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Leadership Award **(2016)**

• The Basic Science Research Award, Richmond, VA **(2013)**

• The President's Cup Scholarship, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR **(2012)**

• STEP-UP Scholarship, The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA **(2011)**

• Who's Who Among Student's in the American Colleges and Universities **(2011)**

• The Travel Award for The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, St. Louis, MO **(2011)**

• Chancellor's List, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, PR **(2010-2012)**

- SMART Scholarship, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, PR **(2010-2011)**
- Dean's List, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, PR **(2008-2010)**
- Honor Roll Scholarship, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, PR **(2008-2012)**

MEMBERSHIPS

- Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Student Representative of Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Association- University of Puerto Rico Medical **(2015-Present)**
- Biomedical Science Representative of the School of Medicine Student Council **(2016-Present)**
- Member of the American Urological Association **(2016-Present)**
- Member of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus Choir **(2014-Present)**
- Member of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Association-University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus **(2013-Present)**
- Member of the American Association for Cancer Research **(2011-Present)**
- Secretary of the Biomedical Science Association- Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus **(2011-2012)**
- Member of Fun Science-Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus **(2011-2012)**
- Staff of the Student Council-Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus **(2010)**
- Honor Roll Program-Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus **(2008-2012)**

MEDIA

Garcia Vargas AM. Luciano Castillo: Winds of Innovation to Transform Energy Production and Engineering Education- CienciaPR, July 8th, 2015

Garcia Vargas AM. Idalia Ramos: Chronicles of a Women in Physics and Engineering- CienciaPR, October 7th, 2014

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Member of "Huellas de Amor y Esperanza" **(2016-Present)**
- Staff University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus Open House **(September 2016)**
- Graduate School Recruitment for High School Students **(March 2016)**
- University of Puerto Rico Expo **(January 2016)**
- Poster Judge, 2nd Cell and Molecular Biology Meeting **(November 2015)**
- Staff University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus Open House **(October 2015)**

- Staff University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus Orientation for High School Student (**June 2015**)
- CienciaPR Collaborator (**2014-Present**)
- Volunteer at “Amor que Sana” (**November 2011**)
- Presenter of: What is STEP-UP? (**October 2011**)
- The Mentor-Mentee Program (**August 2011-May 2012**)

REFERENCES

Available among request.