

Natalie M. Meléndez-Vázquez

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Education

University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus August 2019- Present

PhD Student in Microbiology Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology

University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Campus June 2018

B.S. in Microbiology Magna Cum Laude Biology Department

Research Experience

Combination of Viroimmunotherapy and Microbiota Modulation to Treat Gastric Cancer

Mentor: Dr. Filipa Godoy-Vitorino September 2019- Present

Comparative analyses of foregut and hindgut bacterial communities in Slick Holsteins and Wild type Holsteins when fed totally mixed rations (TMR) diets in a tropical climate

Mentor: Dr. Filipa Godoy-Vitorino September 2019- Present

Antibacterial Effect of Essential Oils from Aromatic Medicinal Plants: an insight into specific bio-active components

Mentor: Professor Julia Vergara-Gómez August 2018- Mayo 2019

Isolation of Nematophagous Fungi to Control Nematodes Infections in Plantain Crops

Mentor: Dr. Francisco Fuentes-Rivera August 2017- May 2018

Metal Oxide Photocatalytic Destruction of Promazines

Mentor: Dr. Carmelo García-Ruíz January 2016- July 2017

Manuscripts

Ortiz-Colón¹, G., Ríos-Solís, C.¹ **Meléndez-Vázquez, N.**², Ruíz-Cortés, E.¹, Godoy-Vitorino, F.^{2*}, Comparative Analyses of Foregut and Hindgut Bacterial Communities in Slick and Wild Type Holsteins fed Totally Mixed Rations Diets in a Tropical Climate, Journal of Dairy Science (in prep)

Oral Presentations

Meléndez-Vázquez, N., Peña-Díaz, A., and Vergara-Gómez, J. (2019). *Antibacterial Effect of Essential Oils from Aromatic Medicinal Plants: an insight into specific bio-active components*, 53rd ACS Junior Technical Meeting, Mayagüez, PR May 4, 2019

Meléndez-Vázquez, N., Santos-Santiago, J., Caro-Baella, A. Malavé-Alicano, S., Nieves-Rosa, L., and Fuentes-Rivera, F. (2018). *Isolation of Nematophagous Fungi to Control Nematodes Infections in Plantain Crops*, 52nd ACS Junior Technical Meeting, Caguas, PR April 28, 2018



Poster Presentations

Meléndez-Vázquez, N.M., Ruiz-Cortés, E., Ríos-Solís, C.G., Ortiz-Colón, G., Godoy-Vitorino, F. (2020). *Comparative Analyses of Foregut and Hindgut Bacterial Communities in Slick and Wild Type Holsteins fed Totally Mixed Rations Diets in a Tropical Climate*, ASM Microbe 2020, Chicago, Illinois

June 18-22, 2020

Meléndez-Vázquez, N., Santos-Santiago, J., Caro-Baella, A. Malavé-Alicano, S., Nieves-Rosa, L., and Fuentes-Rivera, F. (2018). *Isolation of Nematophagous Fungi to Control Nematodes Infections in Plantain Crops*, ASM Microbe 2018, Atlanta, GA

June 7-11, 2018

Awards and Distinctions

Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholarship

August 2016- May 2018

Certificates

QIAGEN QIAcube Connect Training

February 2020

CITI Program: Health Information Privacy and Security (HIPS) for Clinical Investigators- Basic Course

September 2019

CITI Program: Biosafety/ Biosecurity Basic Training

September 2019

CITI Program: GCP- Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research- Basic Course

September 2019

CITI Program: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

August 2019

CITI Program: Human Research Biomedical Research- Basic Course

August 2019

Occupational Exposure to Pathogens Transmitted by Human Blood, University of Puerto Rico- Medical Sciences Campus

August 2019

Management of Regulated Biomedical Waste (DBR), University of Puerto Rico- Medical Sciences Campus

August 2019

Chemical Hygiene Plan: Handling, Storage, and Disposal of Chemical Waste, University of Puerto Rico- Medical Sciences Campus

August 2019

Safety Culture in Radiation Protection, University of Puerto Rico- Medical Sciences Campus

August 2019

Basic Course of American Sign Language I and II, Fajardo

June 2011



Skills

Responsible, punctual, respectful, and leadership skills

Proficient in Spanish, English, and basic American Sign Language

Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint

Microbiology Techniques: Microscopy, Micropipette handling, Membrane Filtration, Streaking, and Gram Staining

Molecular Techniques: DNA extraction, PCR, and Agarose Gel Electrophoresis

Biostatistical Programs: R, QIITA, QIIME2, MicrobiomeAnalyst, and MacQIIME1

Associations

Microbiology Students Chapter- Medical Sciences Campus August 2019- Present

Graduate Student Association- Medical Sciences Chapter August 2019- Present

American Society for Microbiology January 2018- Present

Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists August 2016- Present

The National Society of High School Scholars 2013- Present

Employment

Mentor at the UPRH Pilot Program of Mentorship. September 2016- May 2017

Worked part time helping and assisting college freshman and/or sophomores with understanding and adapting to the university environment. I offered general academic support and tutoring referrals to those who needed it. I also participated in planning meetings, extracurricular activities, and training activities on how to become an ideal mentor as well as establishing my responsibilities. A relationship of trust and respect was developed with the assigned students.



Volunteer Work

Student Guide in the Open House of the Biomedical Sciences Program of UPR-MSC	November 8, 2019
Volunteer in the exhibition <i>Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World</i>	October 16, 2019
4 th Educational Summit Puerto Rico STEM'S Up to the Challenge	March 7, 2018
Interpreter with NDMS DMAT Midwest-1 in Hurricane María Recovery	November 1-17, 2017
International Coastal Clean Up Day, Yabucoa	September 2017
Biology Activity of Puerto Rico Science Heroes	August 20, 2017
Building clean up of "Alianza Pro Desarrollo de Ceiba"(APRODEC), Ceiba	October 2016
2 nd Educational Summit Puerto Rico STEM'S Up to the Challenge	March 2016
International Coastal Clean Up Day, Yabucoa	September 2016
Ronald McDonald Foundation playroom at Ryder Hospital, Humacao	April 2016- July 2016
PREM "Explore Science: Zoom into Nano", Yabucoa	April 2016
Recycle area in "Festival del Tinglar", Luquillo	April 2016
Vision and Audiology Clinic for the Ronald McDonald Foundation	April 2016