

# Paola Fonseca Romero

- Barrio las Croabas HC 867 BOX 21571, Fajardo PR, 00738 • Phone: 787-979-0085
- pfonseca3@email.uagm.edu • LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/paola-fonseca-romero-abc](http://www.linkedin.com/in/paola-fonseca-romero-abc)

## EDUCATION

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- BS** Bachelor of Science, Major Microbiology **Aug 2016- Present**  
Overall GPA: 3.90 Science GPA: 3.95  
University Ana G. Méndez, (UAGM)- Carolina Campus, P.R.
- HSD** High School Diploma **May 2016**  
Graduated Summa Cum Laude and as part of the Honor Roll  
Dr. Santiago Veve Calzada High School, Fajardo P.R

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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- AMSA Reproductive Health Scholars Program/  
Reproductive Justice Leadership Program **May 2020**
- 2020 National Puerto Rican Day Parade Scholarship (NPRDP)  
New York, United States **May 2020**
- Travel Awardee for ERN 2020, Washington D.C  
Emerging Research National Conference in STEM **Nov 2019**
- Travel scholarship for Society for the Advancement of Chicanos  
Hispanics and Native Americans in Science **Aug 2019**  
The National Diversity in STEM Conference- Honolulu, Hawai'i.
- Permanent Scholarship Fund with Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company **Jan 2018- Present**  
UAGM - Carolina Campus P.R.

## ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

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- Certificate of Honor roll **May 2020**  
UAGM – Carolina Campus
- Certificate of completion in the course: Bacterial Genomes: From DNA  
to Protein Function Using Bioinformatics **Apr 2020**  
Future Learn online
- Certificate of completion in the course: Antimicrobial Resistance **Apr 2020**  
in Bacterial Pathogens.  
Future Learn online
- Certificate of Bio talent on OncoImmuno Therapy Training **Mar 2020**

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Amgen program at University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez (UPRM)

- Certificate of completion: How to apply molecular biology in agriculture microbiology.  
Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce Puerto Rico **Mar 2020**
- Certificate of participation in the Symposium on Education and Career Evaluation in Stem  
Inter American University of Cupey, Puerto Rico **Oct 2019**
- Certificate of excellent completion in the Genomic Summer Research for Minorities. Department of Pediatrics - University of Utah **Aug 2019**
- Student Leadership program certificate: Leading Diverse Teams and a Healthy Lifestyle, UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- Student Leadership program certificate: Job Interviews and How to Market your Leadership Skills, UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- Student Leadership program certificate: How to Write an Attractive Resume, UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- Student Leadership program certificate: Making Ethical Decisions, UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- Student Leadership program certificate: Introduction to Leadership and its Styles, UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- Certificate of Honor roll  
UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- First Place Medal in the Knowledge Competition  
HSI-STEM Project, School of Science and Technology  
UAGM-Carolina Campus **Apr 2019**
- Certificate of Basic Life Support  
American Heart Association **Feb 2019**
- Certificate of recognition outstanding performance in the year Honors Program, UAGM – Carolina Campus **Apr 2018**
- Certificate of Honor roll **Apr 2018**

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Honors Program, UAGM – Carolina Campus

## INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

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Clinical Genetics and Bioinformatics Summer Program. **Aug 2020**  
Participated in a Five-day program with KECK Graduate Institute (KGI), where I learn about human genomics, genetic counseling, precision medicine and had laboratory components. Claremont, CA

Summer School for Innovative Approaches in Science. **Jun 2020**  
Participated in a one-week program that focused in methods to reduce an replace animal test in toxicology and biomedical science.  
Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, and the European Commission Joint Research Centre.

Genomic Summer Research for Minorities (GSRM) Utah, USA **May-Aug 2020**  
Returning Fellow sponsored by the MD/PhD Program School of Medicine  
Department of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases  
Virtual seminars due to COVID-19

Genomic Summer Research for Minorities (GSRM) Utah, USA **May-Aug 2019**  
Department of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases  
Mentor: Anne Blaschke MD, Ph.D.  
Co-mentors: Shannon Nielsen BS, Nicole Pershing MD, PhD and Hillary Crandall MD, PhD

Researched to understand the epidemiology of complicated pneumonia in children and identify the common bacterium's involved in respiratory problems in children and adults. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was identified to be the most present in children detected with the Multiplex PCR.

- Assisted weekly meetings in the Primary Children's Hospital, Utah
- Shadowing in the clinic
- Presented oral and poster presentations.
- Participated in professional workshops.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS

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### Student Associations

- STEM HISPANIC STUDENT SOCIETY, UAGM, Carolina campus
  - President
  - Vice-president
  - Public relation specialist

**Jan 2020**  
**Aug 2019**  
**Aug 2018**

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- American Medical Student Association (UAGM-AMSA Chapter) Sep 2019
- UAGM Association Honor Program Student Representative for the School of Science & Technology Jan 2019
- Mic-Chap- Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologist Aug 2018

## **Professional Membership**

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Apr 2020
- SACNAS Undergraduate Student 1-year Membership Jun 2019
- American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Aug 2018
- Puerto Rico Society of Microbiology (PRSM) Aug 2018

## **PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE**

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- Presentation of University Motivation Apr 2020  
Provided a virtual presentation about my academic experience, summer internship, science research, scholarships and programs outside the university for incoming freshmen students in the Minority Engineering and Science Improvement Program (MESIP).

### **Poster: Diagnostic utility of multiplex PCR-based assay on pleural fluid of children with parapneumonic empyema**

- 2020 NHGRI Research Training and Career Development Penn Museum, Philadelphia (Virtual) Mar 2020
- Emerging Research National Conference in STEM (ERN) Feb 2020
- The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) Anaheim, California Nov 2019
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Honolulu, Hawai'i. Oct 2019

### **Oral: Diagnostic utility of multiplex PCR-based assay on pleural fluid of children with parapneumonic empyema**

- Summer Symposium University of Utah Aug 2019

## **CONFERENCE ATTENDED**

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- Society for Developmental Biology 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting **Jul 2020**  
Advancing the field of developmental biology online
- The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC) **Apr 2020**  
Genetics Society of America- Online
- Seventh Student Research Symposium: Passing the Torch of **Oct 2019**  
Research and Ethics to the Next Generation Society of Microbiology  
Universidad Interamericana -Recinto Metropolitano, Cupey P.R

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND SHADOWING

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- Weekly lab meetings **July 2019-Aug 2019**  
Assisted to weekly meetings with the fellows of the Primary Children's Hospital and had the chance to observed when they discuss patient's diagnostic, alternatives for a better treatment and peculiarities of some of those cases.
- Shadowing in Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital **Jul 2019**  
Approximately 12 hours, Department Infectious Diseases  
Anne Blaschke MD, Ph.D. Attended rounds and visited patients
- Shadowing in Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital **Jul 2019**  
Approximately 6 hours ICU- Hillary Crandall MD, Ph.D.  
Observed procedures including dialysis, internal jugular operations, learn the procedures when a patient is diseased and visited patients.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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- Mentor in the Minority Science and Engineering **Jan 2020- Present**  
Improvement Program (MSEIP)  
UAGM – Carolina Campus  
Director: Dra. Nydia Rodríguez-Bonano  
This federal program provides grants that offers long range improvement in science education.
- Undergraduate Research in Environmental Microbiology **Aug 2018-Jan 2019**  
Mentor: Dr. Karlo Malavé-Llamas/ Dean of Science and Technology Academic Division  
Researched and study *vibrio spp* in different environments in coastal areas.  
UAGM – Carolina Campus
- Symposium of mobilization of STEM education: towards **Mar 2019**  
transdisciplinary visions, competence and neuroscience

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Supervisor: Jose Cabrera and Ruth Cruz  
Usher and helping with catering in the activity  
UAGM – Carolina Campus

- Microbiology and Chemistry Peer Tutor for the federal Project HSI- STEM **Nov 2018- May 2019**  
Supervisors: Jose Cabrera and Ruth Cruz  
Tutor students and offered technical support to the professional counselor.  
UAGM – Carolina Campus
- Anatomy and Physiology Tutor **Feb 2017- Sep 2018**  
Supervisor: Flabia Benjamin.  
Tutor students  
UAGM – Carolina Campus

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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- Ricky Martin Foundation (RMF)- Donation of clothes **Jul 2020**  
Volunteering in organizing more than 100 boxes in clothes given by Old Navy where they donated for women, men, children and infants. This experience helped develop excels skills by organization every clothing by size, color and how to work fast with small groups due to covid-19.  
Contact hours: 12hrs
- Liberty Foundation **Jan 2020**  
Volunteering in giving 900 emergency bags with medicine and personal necessities for families affected with the earthquakes. Yauco and Guanica, Puerto Rico  
Contact hours: 10hrs
- Hogar Sueño de Amor **Nov 2019**  
Calle Reverendo Domingo Marrero Navarro, San Juan P.R Volunteering in a Nursing home for elders.  
Contact hours: 8hrs
- Para la Naturaleza- Care of medicinal plants **Aug 2019**  
Volunteered to help with the maintenance of a variety of medicinal plants, where I learned to identify them and about their uses as remedies for health care.  
Hacienda Buena Vista, Ponce P.R.  
Contact hours: 5hrs
- Para la Naturaleza- Archaeological Laboratory **Aug 2019**  
Aided in the processing of archaeological materials, to help recover the legacy of the first settlers of our island.

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Medio Mundo and Dagao, Ceiba P.R

Contact hours: 4hrs

- **Ricky Martin Foundation (RMF) Gala “Libertad”** **Apr 2019**  
The Foundation’s mission is to eradicate human trafficking. The event was supported by important local figures from politicians, to artists and athletes, as well as from private companies, who contributed to the cause. One of my responsibilities was to be a “runner” helping maintaining organization in the event.  
Convention Center, San Juan, P.R.  
Contact hours: 10hrs
- **Orphanage Hogar Del Nino Manuel Fernandez** **Apr 2019**  
Volunteered as part of a group, where we gave an orientation about STEM careers and did hands on experiments with the children.  
San Juan, P.R  
Contact hours: 3hrs
- **Certified of volunteer in the educative campaign for plagiarism.** **Mar 2019**  
Helped on the educational activities and participated in the march  
UAGM-Carolina Campus  
Contact hours: 2hrs
- **Lab assistant in the Preparations Laboratory** **Jan-May 2019**  
Assisted in preparing materials for different laboratory courses, such as solutions, inventory of bacteria, bacterial growth, handling of chemicals, and maintenance of equipment and general materials.  
UAGM - Carolina Campus  
Contact hours: 40hrs
- **Para la Naturaleza-Planting Native Trees** **Jan 2019**  
Worked with a group of volunteers planting about fifty native trees scattered around in the forest.  
Fajardo, Puerto Rico  
Contact hours: 8hrs
- **University Adventure (Open House)** **May 2018**  
Aided in guiding high school students interested in the institution throughout the different Schools  
UAGM – Carolina Campus
- **Tree Nurseries** **Nov 2018**

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Worked consisted on planting trees in the beach and forest, arranging bags of soil, transplanting trees to sherds and removing damaged plants.

Fajardo, P.R.

Contact hours: 8hrs

- **Liberty Helping Hands** **Mar 2017**  
Helped people of Puerto Rico affected by hurricane Maria. Among my responsibilities were handing out new clothes and food, and aiding them connect to the internet that the trucks provided, so they could communicate with other family members.  
Contact hours: 9hrs
- **Ceiba Municipality** **Sep 2017**  
Assisted on distributing school materials such as back packs, books and pencils to children of my hometown.  
Contact hours: 5hrs
- **Ricky Martin Foundation - Golf Tournament** **Sep 2016**  
An event that donates money to human trafficking and educate about its existence through research and community initiatives, anchored in the defense of children and youth rights.  
Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Puerto Rico Golf & Beach Resort  
Rio Grande, P.R  
Contact hours: 14hrs
- **Ricky Martin Foundation -Tau Beach Soccer Jam** **Nov 2016**  
Worked on the registration of the event and helped kids between the ages of 7 to 21 play soccer at the beach.  
Carolina, P.R.  
Contact hours: 10hrs
- **Trace of Love** **Nov 2016**  
Prepare and organize boxes with academic materials for children in Africa. The initiative was created by one of my professors of Environmental Science.  
UAGM – Carolina Campus  
Contact hours: 4hrs

## WORKSHOP

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- **How to Stand Out During Virtual Interview** **Jul 2020**  
MedSchoolcoach.com  
Renee Marinelli MD  
Director of Advising

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- 2020 Graduate School and Professional Mini-Expo **Jul 2020**  
Applying to Graduate School in the Era of COVID-19  
David Kieda, PhD – Dean Graduate School at the University of Utah  
  
How to Ace your MD-PhD Application? - Interactive panel with students  
Janet Bassett – Manager, MD/PhD Program, University of Utah
  - An Interview with Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett: **May 2020**  
STEM Excellence at the Forefront of Combatting COVID-19  
American Association for The Advancement of Science
  - Math with Legos **Apr 2020**  
Eco Exploratory Webinar: Science Museum of Puerto Rico by Lorna Salamán,  
MS, BSc, Eco Exploratory Educator.
  - The biology of coronaviruses **Apr 2020**  
Eco Exploratory Webinar: Science Museum of Puerto Rico by Erick R. Pérez Jiménez, NIH-  
PREP Scholar, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2019 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students Nov 2019**
- Our Mysterious Immune System: Is There an On/Off Switch o.
  - Dr. Hossam Ashour, Hatem A. Elshabrawy
  - M.D.-Ph.D., Is it Right for Me? o Dr. Juanita L. Merchant
  - Adapting an Evolutionary Model for Microbiota Studies: Diversity Matters o Dr. Kat Milligan-Myhre
  - The Impact of Heterogeneity in Cancer Genome Science o Dr. John D. Carpten

## LANGUAGES

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- **English:** Advanced listener, speaker and writer.
- **Spanish:** Native Language

## COMPUTER SKILLS

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- Data base search with R program
- Microsoft Office
- Zoom platform
- Slack platform
- Microsoft Teams

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## LABORATORY TECHNIQUES

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- Broth and Agar medium preparation
- Management of blood pathogens and BSL2
- Running and analyzing clinical samples
- Serial dilution
- Western Blot test
- Microorganisms identification with Bio-Log
- Bacterial Colony Forming Unit count
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Biofire
- Gram staining
- Sterilization techniques
- Kirby-Bauer test

## LABORATORY CERTIFICATIONS

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- Certificate of COVID-19 Back to Campus Research **Aug 2020**
- Certificate of Biomedical Research Investigators and Key Personnel University of Utah **Apr 2019**
- Certificate of Biosafety training for Faculty and other Researchers CITI program **May 2019**
- Certificate of Biosafety training for Student Researcher CITI program **May 2019**
- Certificate IRB training for faculty/student/ researchers in biomedical Research- CITI program **Oct 2018**
- Certificate of Health Information Privacy and Security CITI program **Oct 2018**
- Certificate of Good Clinical Practice for Trials Involving Drugs- CITI program **Oct 2018**
- Certificate of RCR for Faculty/ Students and Researchers In Social & Behavioral Research- CITI program **Oct 2018**

## HOBBIES

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- Reading
- Going to the beach
- Yoga
- Volunteering
- Traveling and learning new things
- Open water diving

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