

Yvett Sosa
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EDUCATION AND HONORS

Albert Einstein Medical College, Bronx, NY
Biomedical Science Graduate (Ph.D.) Program

September 2016 – Present

Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
Institute of Human Nutrition, Master of Science

September 2014

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
Bachelor of Arts: Major: Biology; Minor: Art & Art History

May 2012

S-STEM award (2008-2012), Dean's list (2011), Norway Extended Study (2011)

RESEARCH/LAB EXPERIENCE

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
Research Lab Technician
Supervisor: Myles Akabas, MD, PHD

August 2014 – August 2016

- Contributed to a research project investigating the Plasmodium vivax equilibrative nucleoside transporter as a target for antimalarial drug development.
- Worked in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline and tested a set of 210 compounds for their potency as antimalarial drug hits using different assays.
- Investigating the Plasmodium falciparum equilibrative transporter I as a potential target for drug development. Working on the identification of potential drug starting points through testing of compounds in parasite viability assays.
- Other skills include: molecular biology to develop transporter expression constructs, bacterial, yeast and malaria parasite culture work, performing compound activity studies in a variety of assays in 96- and 384-well format plates
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Columbia University, New York, NY
Graduate Research Project
Mentor: John Glendinning, PHD

January 2014 – August 2014

- Developed a simple method for glossopharyngeal nerve recordings using a tracheal cannula, pressurized flow system and metal probe.
- Microsurgery on mice (tracheotomy, tissue clearing, nerve isolation) using proper method of anesthetization.
- Collected data using AcqKnowledge recording program to record electrophysiological responses of the Glossopharyngeal nerve to lingual stimulation with gustatory stimuli.

California Cryobank, New York, NY
Laboratory Assistant
Supervisor: Mary Schalkoff, MD

August 2012- June 2013

- Tracked blood draws and urine GC/Chlamydia specimen testing intervals, ensured specimens were collected and submitted in a timely fashion; prepared blood/urine specimens for shipment to reference laboratory.
- Performed routine cleaning of laboratory equipment; conducted and accurately recorded routine lab quality control checks.
- Provided administrative support by answering phones, scheduling appointments, managing monthly invoices and company orders, filing and entering data into applicable company databases, conducted client consultations, and managed sperm banking clients.

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
Research Assistant
Mentor: Catherine Cardelus, PHD

Fall 2010– Spring 2012

- Maintained Professor Catherine Cardelus' Ecosystem Ecology lab in working order for students, ran laboratory machinery, and sterilized equipment.
- Prepared sample specimens of epiphytic plants collected from prior research through mortar and pestle grinding and Thomas Wiley Mill. Prepared solutions according to need.

Summer Research Assistant

Summer 2009

Mentor: Susan Morgan, PHD

- Investigated the sporulation rates of gram positive bacteria; *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, and *Bacillus cereus*.
- Employed technical skills to run lab machinery, such as autoclave (sterilizing) equipment or centrifuge.
- Learned how to prepare cell cultures and analyze them through cell plating, spectrometry, and microscopy.

La Selva Biological Station, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica

Summer 2010

Summer Student Research Assistant

Mentor: Catherine Cardelus, PHD

- Traveled to the Costa Rican rainforest and worked with a team of four students to conduct sample and data collection of canopy epiphytic plants using tree climbing techniques on two host tree species: *Lecythis ampla* and *Virola koschnyi*.
- Prepared and analyzed samples using different laboratory tests. Laboratory techniques included dry ash digestion using a muffle furnace for the determination of P, Ca, Mg, K, Na, Mn, Cu, Fe, Zn, and N in plant tissue and organic soil. Element analyzer sample processing to determine %N, %C, N & C stable isotope signature of foliar tissue and soil. Colorimetry using ascorbate assays and malachite green with a microplate reader. Post-processed elemental analyzer data.

PUBLICATIONS

Arora A, Deniskin R, Sosa Y, Nishtala SN, Kumar TRS, Henrich PP, Fidock DA, Akabas MH. Substrate and inhibitor specificity of the *Plasmodium berghei* Equilibrative Nucleoside Transporter Type 1 (PbENT1). *Mol Pharmacol*. 2016; 89(6):678-85.

Deniskin R, Frame IJ, Sosa Y, Akabas MH. Targeting the *Plasmodium vivax* Equilibrative Nucleoside Transporter 1 (PvENT1) for antimalarial drug development. 2016 *Int. J. Parasitol. Drugs & Drug Resistance*. 6:1-11.

Glendinning JI, Elson AET, Kalik S, Sosa Y, Patterson CM, Myers MG Jr, Munger SD (2015) Taste responsiveness to sweeteners is resistant to elevations in plasma leptin. *Chemical Senses* 40(4): 223-231

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

September 2014 – June 2014

Volunteer, The Butterfly Conservatory

Actively researched literature about different butterfly and moth species and gave exhibit tours to visitors.

Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY

January 2014 – August 2014

Wellness Student Representative

Organized events geared towards promoting healthy lifestyle

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

Summer 2011

Residential Academic Coach

- Fostered a mentorship relationship with incoming undergraduate students.
- Worked closely with professors to aid students in a Biological studies and Spanish course.

ALANA Ambassador

Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

- Responsible for the operation and planning of events directed to the larger Colgate Community to promote diversity and awareness on campus.

Pet Rescue - Non-profit animal rescue organization, New Rochelle, NY

Fall 2005 – Present

Volunteer

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: Fluent in Spanish, Conversational French, Basic German and Italian, Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Apple Logic, Biostatistics (Excel, R), GraphPad Prism, Research Grant Writing Certificate.