



Derek M. García Almedina

derek.garcia@upr.edu



Personal Statement: I have always been drawn to the wonders and enigmas of nature, my curiosity always getting the best of me. I believe that in order to leave a positive footprint on the world, I should first strive to understand it. This is the reason why I am currently a 4th year Chemistry major, hoping to conduct graduate studies as an MD/PhD student, with a PhD in pharmacology.

Education:

2013 - present: University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus

2018 – Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry (expected)

Research Experience:

2014-present: UPRRP, Analytical, Environmental and Organic Chemistry, (mentor, Dr. Liz M. Díaz Vázquez)

2016 (summer): Weill-Cornell Medical – Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Organic Chemistry, (mentor, Dr. Derek S. Tan).

Presentations:

- REU and PRCEN Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium (2015) – San Juan, Puerto Rico (poster presentation)
- 4th Annual Retreat and Assessment Activity of the Puerto Rico Center for Environmental Neuroscience (2015) – San Juan, Puerto Rico (poster presentation)
- TechConnect World Innovation Conference & Expo (2016) – Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (oral presentation)
- Junior Technical Meeting (2016) – Ponce, Puerto Rico (poster presentation)
- Leadership Alliance National Symposium (2016) – Connecticut, U.S.A. (oral presentation)

Honors:

- Highest Index of Entry (IGS) at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus for the year 2013.
- Dean's List - 2014, 2015.
- Assistant Researcher with the Puerto Rico Center for Environmental Neuroscience (PRCEN)- 2015 to 2016
- ACCESS summer research fellow at Weill-Cornell Medical (2016)
- Assistant Researcher with the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) – 2016 to present.