

VALENTINA GRILLO ALVARADO

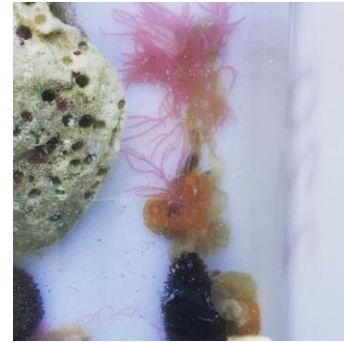
Current Status

Senior undergraduate student
Dept. of Biology, UPR-RP

Email: valentina.grillo@upr.edu

Education

2014-present UPR-Río Piedras
2019 B.S. Biology with emphasis in Cell
 and Molecular Biology (expected)



Research Interests:

The significant increase in average life expectancy during the 20th century is one of society’s greatest achievements. The development of appropriate vaccines and antibiotics has made this possible. However, life’s longer expectancy drew the attention towards degenerative diseases, that otherwise were not frequently seen, such as ALS, Alzheimer or Parkinson. Basic biology knowledge of developmental and regenerative mechanisms – regarding on how signaling interactions activate gene regulatory networks, and also alter pre-existing ones– still needs to be elucidated, since it may be relevant for refining existing regenerative therapies and to develop novel ones for the treatment of diseases as those mentioned above. I’m fascinated with the idea of harnessing knowledge from such cellular processes to contribute to the development of technologies that can help improve our lives and the health of our planet. From my scant research experience, I’ve narrowed my interests into 4 major subjects: (1) Stem Cells Biology and Regenerative Medicine (2) Drug & Gene Delivery (3) Biosensors (4) Developmental Biology

Research Experience

2016-present UPR-RP, Developmental Neurobiology and Regeneration (PI, Dr. José García)
2017 (summer) Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital, Cardiovascular Research, (PI, Dr. Ruhul Abid)

Athletics

2014-2017 UPR-RP, Athlete, Division II Swimming Team
2009-2013 Member of the Venezuelan National Swimming Team

Honors

2017-present Minority Access for Research Careers (MARC) Research Assistantship
2015-present Dean’s Honor List, 5 semesters
2014- 2017 Received full athletic scholarship, UPR-RP Swimming Team
2009- 2013 Member of the Venezuelan National Swimming Team

Presentations

2017 Brown Summer Research Symposium
2017 Leadership Alliance National Symposium (LANS)
2017 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)