

Biographical Sketch

Adriana Nicolle Vélez Avilés

Current status:

Undergraduate student

Dept. Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras

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**Education:**

2017-present, Cellular and Molecular Biology, UPR-Río Piedras

2015-2016 Biology with emphasis in Bio-medic, UPR-Aguadilla

Current Research Interests: My research has focused on the mechanism of disease, gene discovery, underpinnings of genetic expression, animal/cell culture modeling and therapeutic application in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis disease. My areas of interests enclose neurology and genetics, specifically molecular processes associated with genetic expression, involving cellular signaling and genetic codifications of malfunctioning proteins. Nonetheless, I would like to inquire more the association of microbiota and the function of the different organ systems within the human body.

Research Experience:

2017-present UPR-Río Piedras, Research Fellow (mentor, Dr. Orestes Quesada)

2017 (Summer) Northwestern University, Research Intern (mentor, Dr. Jessica Lowry)

2016 (Summer) UPR-Aguadilla, Research assistant (mentor, Dr. Robert Mayer)

Honors:

2017 Star Presenter of Northwestern University Summer Research Opportunity Program

2017 Summer Research Opportunity Program, Outstanding Performance Certificate

2017 Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Fellowship

2017 Elected participant "Getting You into Indiana University" program

2017 American Chemical Society-Chapter of Río Piedras

2016 Honor Enrollment Scholarship

2016 Deans Honor's List 2017

2016 American Chemical Society-Chapter of Aguadilla

2015 Elected participant "Life Leadership Weekend" program

2015 Honor Enrollment Scholarship

2015 Department of Education of Puerto Rico, Early Admission to the University Award

2015 Department of Education of Puerto Rico, Academic Excellence Student Award

Presentations at local meetings:

Avilés-Vélez, A., Badillo, F., Milán, W., Salazar, K. *Annotated checklist of Lepidoptera in Finca Nolla, Camuy Puerto Rico*. Summer Research Conference, University of Puerto Rico-Aguadilla, July 30, 2016.

Avilés-Vélez, A. Monography: *The Biology of Memory*. Psychology Conference. Department of Social Studies, University of Puerto Rico-Aguadilla. November 30, 2016.

Presentations at national meetings:

Avilés-Vélez, A. Research Article: *Target Intestinal Microbiota to Alleviate Disease Progression in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*. Journal Club, Dr. Siddique's Laboratory, Division of Neuromuscular Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. August 4, 2017.

Avilés-Vélez, A., Lowry, J., Dalton C., Charmchi Z., Siddique Teepu. *Investigating Copy Number Variations in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis-Causing Genes as a Rare Cause of Disease*. Summer Research Opportunity Program Forum. August 10, 2017.