

Biographical Sketch

Valeria A. Santa_Meléndez

Current Status

PHD SEEKER

- Biology Mayor Candidate
- Dept. of Biology, UPR-Rio Piedras

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Current Research Interest

Valeria A. Santa-Melendez joined Dr. Riccardo Papa as part of RISE Program (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) to study the *Gene regulatory network of the Optix Transcription factor*. She is currently an undergraduate student majoring in biology at the University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras Campus with research interests in genetics, genomics, and genome engineering as well as pursuing a researcher career. Valeria have work in the Silva lab as part of Duke University's 2018 Summer Research Opportunity Program where study yeast strains and the multiple roles of distinct ubiquitin chains.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018 SUMMER	DUKE UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH INTERN (P.I. GUSTAVO M. SILVA, MENTOR: ANDREW W. GORMAN)
2016 – PRESENT	UPR-RIO PIEDRAS, UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER (P.I. RICCARDO PAPA, MENTOR: ANTHONY RIVERA)

HONORS

- 2016 – Honorary Girls Scout
- 2016 – High Honor Roll Ramon Vila Mayo High School

Next Encounter

- ABRCMS 2018