

## Biographical Sketch

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### **MELANIE ORTIZ ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA**

#### **Current Status**

B.S. Student  
Dept. of Biology, UPR-RP

**Email:** melanie.ortiz11@upr.edu

#### **Education**

2016-present UPR-Río Piedras  
2021 BS Integrative Biology (expected)



#### **Research Interests:**

Human beings have more microorganisms in their bodies than their actual cells. These organisms are pivotal to our health, and occasionally our diseases as well. As a researcher, I am interested in working with the microbiomes of several organisms, including humans. Microbiome studies may be the key to unlocking the great potential that these microorganisms have to offer in several scientific fields, including (but not limited to) forensic science. I want to uncover new ways we can use microbiome compositions in our favor in studies of pathogenicity and human time of death determination.

#### **Research Experience**

2019-present UPR-RP, Host-microbe interactions in coffee plantations, (mentor, Dr. Paul Bayman)  
2018-2019 UPR Molecular Sciences Research Center, Continuous Chiral Crystallization of Methylphenidate, (mentors, Dr. Torsten Stelzer, Dr. Vilmali Lopez)  
2018 (summer) Brown University, Effect of the host microbiome on bacterial antibiotic responses, (mentor, Dr. Peter Belenky)  
2017-2018 Brown University, Effect of climate change on plant ecosystem evolution, (mentor, Dr. Dov Sax)

#### **Honors**

2019-present Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Research Assistantship  
2018-2019 Puerto Rico Louis-Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PR-LSAMP) Research Assistantship  
2018 (summer) Leadership Alliance SR-EIP summer internship fellow at Brown University  
2016-2018 Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar  
2016 U.S. President's Gold Volunteer Service Award

#### **Presentations at Local Meetings**

2019 35<sup>th</sup> Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting, 53<sup>rd</sup> Junior Technical Meeting Mayaguez, PR  
2019 XII Colloquium for Women at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus.  
2019 9th Annual Conference for Climate and Society: Forensic Science at the Service of the Community at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus.  
2018 5th ASBMB Annual Research Symposium at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus.