

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Cohort VII Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows



"There is no doubt that the Bridge to the Doctorate Program is significantly contributing to the preparation of the next generation of scientist in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. Mainland increasing the nation's pool of well prepared, competent scientist with diverse views. In august 2009 twelve new fellows (Cohort VII) joined the community of 70 fellows that have received a BD fellowship. We continue to support all areas of scientific research with special emphasis on the emerging fields of nanoscience and nanotechnology."

Dr. Manuel Gomez, PI



The University of Puerto Rico is the flagship institution of higher education in the island; the major producer of Hispanic STEM baccalaureate degrees in the U.S., and the main source of Hispanic PhD's in science and Engineering. The College of Natural Sciences at UPR Rio Piedras offers Bachelor's degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, General Sciences, Mathematics, and Physics; Master's degrees in Biology, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and PhD degrees in Biology, Chemical Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science and Mathematics. On the other hand, the UPR School of Engineering is the main and largest school of engineering in Puerto Rico, and ranks 13th in undergraduate enrollment among universities in the U.S.; 18th in the number of undergraduate degrees awarded, and 3rd in the number of degrees awarded to women. Thirty five percent of the Engineering majors are women.

Bridge-to-the-Doctorate Coordinator

Prof. Javier Figueroa is the Assistant Coordinator of the PR-LSAMP Program and the BD Program Coordinator. His field of specialization is Biology and Ecology. He has conducted research in Population Biology, biogeographical distribution and systematics of the Order Odonata in neotropical environments with emphasis in the Greater Antilles.

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Milena Bobea



Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Mathematics (2009)
Graduate Major: Physics
Career Goal: Obtain a MS in Physics and pursue a Ph.D. while continuing to do research in nanotechnology and functional nanomaterials.



Gilmarie Santos

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Chemistry (2009)
Graduate Major: Chemistry
Career Goal: Obtain a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry and continue research in atmospheric science.

Adriana Rivera

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Chemistry (2009)
Graduate Major: Physical Chemistry
Career Goal: Complete my Ph.D. in Material Sciences, pursue a career in the academia and serve as role model for future generation of scientists.



Carlos Noguera

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Chemistry-Biology (2009)
Graduate Major: Biochemistry
Career Goal: Obtain my Ph.D. focused on novel clinical treatments to treat HIV disease; continue postdoctoral studies and become a well prepared professor as well as a researcher.



Jessenia Laguna



Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Biology (2009)
Graduate Major: Neurobiology
Career Goal: Obtain my Ph.D. and become a professor/researcher in molecular and cellular basis of cognition.



Cindy Figueroa

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Chemistry (2009)
Graduate Major: Chemistry
Career Goal: Obtain my Ph.D. and work in an international setting as a research scientist.

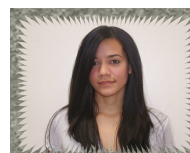
Gloriell Cardona

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Cayey
BS Degree in Mathematics (2009)
Graduate Major: Applied Mathematics
Career Goal: Obtain my Ph.D. and become a researcher and professor who motivates students to pursue graduate studies in my field.



Natalie del Hoyo

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Chemistry (2009)
Graduate Major: Biochemistry
Career Goal: Obtain a Ph.D. to become a researcher and professor in the area of ion-channel lipid interactions and ion-channel related disorders.



Sergio Sierra



Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Mayaguez
BS Degree in Chemical Engineering (2009)
Graduate Major: Chemical Engineering
Career Goal: Obtain a MS degree in the area of functional nanomaterials and continue graduate studies to obtain a Ph.D. in Chemical/Material Engineering, focusing on nanomaterials characterization.



Stephanie Montalvo

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras
BS Degree in Physics (2009)
Graduate Major: Physics
Career Goal: Obtain a MS in Physics concentrating in Material Sciences; Obtain a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering and perform research combining the two disciplines.

Sylmar Santos

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Humacao
BS Degree in Marine Science (2006)
Graduate Major: Fresh Water Ecology
Career Goal: Obtain a Ph.D. and become a researcher in the area of tropical fish ecology and environmental planning.



Zally Torres

Undergraduate Institution: UPR-Humacao
BS Degree in Industrial Chemistry (2009)
Graduate Major: Biochemistry
Career Goal: Obtain my Ph.D. and become a researcher in the industry or academia.

