

# Lorraine N. Vélez Torres, PhD, MPH

PO Box 784 Yauco, PR 00698 | [veleztorrel@vcu.edu](mailto:veleztorrel@vcu.edu) | 787-392-3493

## EDUCATION

- 2024 – Present **Virginia Commonwealth University, Massey Cancer Center, Richmond, VA, USA**  
*BRIDGE Postdoctoral Fellow*
- 2016 – 2023 **University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, PR**  
*Ph.D. in Microbiology*
- 2014 – 2015 **University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, PR**  
*Master's in Public Health (MPH) with concentration in Epidemiology*
- 2009 – 2014 **University of Puerto Rico- Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR**  
*Double B.S. in Industrial Microbiology and Biology*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2024 – Present **Postdoctoral Fellow, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)**
- BRIDGE Postdoctoral Fellow at VCU working under the mentorship of Dr. Jordan on biomarkers of inflammation and cardiotoxicity in premenopausal breast cancer patients.
- Aug – Dec 2016 **Epidemiologist, Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC)**
- Coordinated research efforts for the Youth Prevention Program (YPREV) study, worked in literature review of 5As intervention for tobacco use cessation aimed for both young men and a university environment, collaborated in administrative matters, helped in the creation of instrument development and design (scripts, flowcharts, surveys), and helped in writing and editing of reports/documents.
- Mar – Jul 2016 **Field Leader Epidemiologist, Coaí Inc**
- Worked in the Youth Prevention Program (YPREV) in the development of prevention strategies and evidence-based interventions for HIV and substance abuse in the MSM 18-24 years students of the UPR-Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) and communities in the western region of Puerto Rico.
  - My duties included to recruit and conduct field interviews at UPRM and surrounding communities, collaborated in research coordination efforts for YPREV in collaboration with Coaí Inc., UPRM, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC), data collection and management, collaborated in the development of an organizational strategic plan for continuum care and prevention of HIV, and participated in community outreach activities in Mayagüez and surrounding communities such as educational services, condom distribution, and others.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Nov – Present **Postdoctoral Research, Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University**
- BRIDGE postdoctoral fellow evaluating the role of inflammation and social determinants of health in coronary plaque formation in premenopausal breast cancer patients.
- Jun – Dec 2022 **Graduate Research, Mycology Laboratory and Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities RCMI, UPR-Medical Sciences Campus**
- Worked in side-project for the correlation of outdoor aeroallergens (fungal spores and pollen) with asthma-related cases, services (hospitalizations, emergency room visits, outpatient consults) and medicine/prescription use in San Juan and Caguas health regions. Worked in data organization, project design, variables selection and data interpretation.
- Aug 2018 – Present **Graduate Research, Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus**
- Worked in my research thesis in Mycology and Aerobiology of Allergens titled “Fungal Indoor Air Pollution in Water-Damage Homes after Hurricane María and Proinflammatory and Allergenic Potential of *Aspergillus* Species”.
  - Evaluated the long-term impact of Hurricane María in the airborne mycobiome of water-damaged and flooded homes in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- Laboratory techniques included volumetric air sample collections, fungal culture, fungal identification through microscopy and molecular techniques (DNA Extraction, ITS-2/B-Tubulin/Calmodulin PCR Amplification, Sanger Sequencing), and immunoassays for cytokine profile description (fresh human whole blood stimulations with *Aspergillus* spp. spores and cytokines measurements through ELISA and Multiplex technologies).

2018 – Present      **Graduate Research, Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus**

- Worked in side-project for the assessment of indoor mold amplification as risk factors for triggering children's asthma in a low-income community in Loíza, Puerto Rico. Collected volumetric air samples, cultured fungi, identified them to genus level through microscopy, organized data, analyzed data (MicrobiomeAnalyst and RStudio) and disseminated results through poster presentations.

Aug 2018 – Jun 2019      **Graduate Research, Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus**

- Worked in side-project for about the impact of Hurricane María on mold levels in the homes of Piñones, Puerto Rico. Collected volumetric air samples, cultured fungi, identified them to genus level through microscopy and data entry.

Aug 2018 – Jun 2019      **Graduate Research, Mycology Laboratory, Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus**

- Worked in EPA funded side-project for the characterization of fungal and bacterial biota by molecular and culture-based methods at homes with flooding events at the Martín Peña channel community in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Collected volumetric air samples, cultured fungi, identified them to genus level through microscopy and data entry.

Jun 2017 – Jul 2018      **Graduate Research, Molecular Diagnostics Research Laboratory, Centers for Disease and Control - Dengue Branch, San Juan, PR**

- Through this rotation I participated in several research projects including protocol development for arbovirus DNA library preparations for sequencing, optimization of molecular diagnostics assays for arboviruses, and basic bioinformatics.

Feb - Jun 2015      **Graduate Research, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus**

- Worked in the determination of the health status of the residents in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico by identifying the risk factors affecting their quality of life through a survey and statistical analysis.

Aug 2014 – Jun 2015      **Graduate Research, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus**

- Worked in the Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network (ECHORN) in the recruitment of participants for the study, obtaining the informed consent, carrying out the health questionnaire to participants and data entry.

Aug 2011 – May 2014      **Undergraduate Student, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez Campus**

- Worked in the project Antifungal Secondary Metabolite Production of Actinobacteria Associated with the Termite *Nasutitermes costalis* where I observed the production of antimycotic secondary metabolites in Actinobacteria that inhibit entomopathogenic fungus growth.
- Tested the antifungal capacity of Actinobacteria against *Candida albicans* and *Candida guilliermondii* through bioassays and growth curves of the yeast in the presence of Actinobacteria strains.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Vélez-Torres LN**, Bolaños-Rosero B, Godoy-Vitorino F, Rivera-Mariani FE, Maestre JP, Kinney K, Cavallin H. 2022. Hurricane María drives increased indoor proliferation of filamentous fungi in San Juan, Puerto Rico: a two-year culture-based approach. *PeerJ* 10:e12730 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.12730>

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

04/2023      **Advanced Image Analysis Hands-On Workshop using NIS-Elements Software, Molecular Sciences Research Center**

03/2023	<b>Image Analysis Using NIS Elements Software: Basic Concepts</b> , <i>Molecular Sciences Research Center</i>
12/2022	<b>Grant Writing Webinar Series</b> , <i>The Alliance</i>
10/2022	<b>How to Write a Scientific Manuscript Webinar</b> , <i>The Alliance</i>
10/2022	<b>Presentation Techniques Workshop</b> , <i>ASM FLMF</i>
09/2022	<b>Giving and Receiving Feedback Workshop</b> , <i>ASM FLMF</i>
09/2022	<b>Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Applications in Health Disparities Course</b> , <i>Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities RCMI</i>
08/2022	<b>Science Communication for Microbiologists Course</b> , <i>American Society for Microbiology</i>
07/2022	<b>Communicating Across Difference Workshops</b> , <i>The University of Texas MD Anderson</i>
08/2021	<b>Reclaiming STEM Workshop</b> , <i>Reclaiming Stem Institute</i>
06/2021	<b>YBDIC Science Communication Week Webinars</b> , <i>YBDIC</i>
04/2021	<b>Teaching Undergraduate Biology Course</b> , <i>American Society for Microbiology</i>
04/2021	<b>The Nuts and Bolts of Science Outreach Course</b> , <i>American Society for Microbiology</i>
04/2021	<b>Grant Writing Course</b> , <i>American Society for Microbiology</i>
02/2021	<b>Basic Aeroallergen Course</b> , <i>American Academy of Asthma Allergy and Immunology</i>
08/2020	<b>Share Your Research Course</b> , <i>iBiology</i>
08/2020	<b>Environmental Mixtures Workshop</b> , <i>Columbia University</i>
11/2020	<b>Writing in the Sciences Course</b> , <i>Stanford Online – Coursera</i>
12/2019	<b>Scientists Teaching Science Course</b> , <i>MBRS-RISE</i>
06/2019	<b>Microbe Academy for Professional Development Workshop</b> , <i>ASM</i>
06/2019	<b>Public Communications Workshop</b> , <i>MBRS-RISE</i>
06/2019	<b>Scientific Writing and Publishing Course</b> , <i>American Society for Microbiology</i>
05/2019	<b>Storytelling Workshop</b> , <i>Puerto Rico INBRE</i>
03/2013	<b>BioTalents AMGEN Biotechnology Manufacturing Training</b> , <i>UPRM</i>
05/2012	<b>Food Fermentation Workshop</b> , <i>USDA HAI Grant UPRM</i>
09/2010	<b>Large Scale Heterologous Expression and Purification of Hemoglobin in a Prokaryotic System Short Course</b> , <i>Industrial Biotechnology Learning Center (IBLC) UPRM</i>

## HONORS & AWARDS

2023	<b>Dean's List Award</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship
2023	<b>Research Excellence Award</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship
2023	<b>Honorable Mention</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship
2022	<b>CAD Video Selected</b> to be Featured on the National Research Mentoring Network Blog <a href="https://nrmnet.net/blog/2022/11/21/highlighting-mentee-mentor-collaborations-for-undergrad-research-programs-2022/">https://nrmnet.net/blog/2022/11/21/highlighting-mentee-mentor-collaborations-for-undergrad-research-programs-2022/</a>
2022	<b>Sponsorship for We Mean Business Women Empowerment Summit</b> , L'Oreal Caribe
2022	<b>ASM Future Leaders Mentoring Fellowship</b>
2021	<b>Travel Award ISIAQ</b> for Healthy Buildings 2021 America Conference
2021	<b>COVID-19 Science Communication and Living Expenses Grant</b> , Puerto Rico Science Technology and Research Trust
2021	<b>Robert I. Laurus Award (First Place in Poster Presentation)</b> , AAAS Caribbean Division
2021	<b>Honorable Mention</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship
2021	<b>ComSciCon-Atlanta 2021 Fellow (Virtual Conference)</b>
2020	<b>Student Leadership Award (Microbiology)</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship
2020	<b>Agents of Change in Environmental Justice Fellow</b> Spring Cohort (Apr – Dec 2021)
2020	<b>SOT Supplemental Training for Education Program (STEP) Awardee</b>
2020	<b>Second Place in Poster Presentation</b> , Category of Basic Sciences Research at the Fourth Interdisciplinary Research Symposium at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine, Caguas PR.
2019	<b>Academic Excellence</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship, UPR-MSU
2019	<b>ASM Research Capstone Fellowship Awardee</b>
2019	<b>ASM Travel Award</b>
2019 – Present	<b>NIGMS-RISE Graduate Fellow</b> , University of Puerto Rico – Medical Sciences Campus
2019	<b>Student Scholarship Awardee - Caribbean Strong: Building Resilience with Equity Meeting</b> ,
2018	<b>Yale Ciencia Academy (YCA) 2019 Fellow</b>
2018	<b>Academic Excellence</b> , Biomedical Sciences Deanship, UPR-MSU
2018	<b>Gold Star Member</b> , Graduate Students Association
2017	<b>Travel Award</b> , SYNERGI, Career Development Workshop, The Leadership Alliance (Brown University)
2016	<b>Ford Fund's STEM Scholarship</b> , Association of University of Puerto Rico Alumni and Friends Above (UPRAA)

2014	<b>Outstanding Presentation Awardee in Microbiology - Microbial Physiology</b> , ABRCMS
2014 – 2015	<b>RISE Program Undergraduate Fellow</b> , UPR-Mayagüez Campus
2014	<b>Research Excellence: Dr. Alejandro Ruiz Acevedo Award</b> , UPRM
2012-14	<b>Academic Excellence</b> , UPRM
2012	<b>Mentored Undergraduate Research Experience Summer Grant</b> , Puerto Rico Louis Stoke Alliance for Minority Participation (PR-LSAMP)

## PRESENTATIONS

- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, F.E. Rivera-Mariani and B. Bolaños. Poster Presentation. Pro-Inflammatory Potential of Spores of *Aspergillus* species Recovered from Water-Damaged and Flooded Homes After Hurricane María (2017) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. ASM Microbe 2022, Washington DC. June 2022.
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, B. Bolaños, F. Godoy-Vitorino, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney, F.E. Rivera-Mariani, & H. Cavallín. Oral Presentation. Contribution of Outdoor Air to Indoor Fungal Populations in the Aftermath of Hurricane María in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Healthy Buildings 2021 America (Virtual). January 2022.
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, B. Bolaños, F. Godoy-Vitorino, F.E. Rivera-Mariani, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney & H. Cavallín. Poster Presentation. Hurricane María drives increased indoor proliferation of filamentous fungi in San Juan, Puerto Rico. American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Caribbean Division Annual Meeting. November 2021.
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, B. Bolaños, F. Godoy-Vitorino, F.E. Rivera-Mariani, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney & H. Cavallín. Effect of Hurricane María on Fungal Communities in Water-Exposed Homes in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Poster Presentation. (Virtual). International Society for Microbial Ecology – Latin América. July 2021.
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, B. Bolaños, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney, F. Godoy-Vitorino, F.E. Rivera-Mariani & H. Cavallín. Submitted for Lighting Talk: Fungal Populations in Homes in San Juan, Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane María. Graduate Women in Science Annual Meeting (Virtual). June 2021.
- B. Bolaños & **L.N. Velez-Torres**. Oral Presentation: Contribution of Outdoor Air to Indoor Fungal Populations in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico Asthma Summit, Virtual Meeting. May 2021.
- **Lorraine N. Vélez-Torres**. Oral Presentation: Inflammatory and Allergic Responses during Fungal Asthma. Graduate Seminar MICR-8580, Microbiology Department of UPR-Medical Sciences Campus. 2019.
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, B. Bolaños, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney, F. Godoy-Vitorino, F.E. Rivera-Mariani & H. Cavallín. Poster Presentation: Hurricane María Leaves High Levels of Indoor *Aspergillus* Spores in Moisture Damage Homes in San Juan, Puerto Rico. American Society for Microbiologists Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. 2020. (**Conference Cancelled**).
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, B. Bolaños, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney, F. Godoy-Vitorino, F.E. Rivera-Mariani & H. Cavallín. Poster Presentation: Hurricane María Leaves High Levels of Indoor Mold Spores and *Aspergillus* Species in Moisture Damaged Homes in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
  - 40<sup>mo</sup> Foro Anual de Investigación y Educación (FAIE) del Recinto de Ciencias Médicas (RCM). San Juan, Puerto Rico. 2020. (**Conference Cancelled**).
  - 4th International Research Symposium, February 20, 2020. Caguas, PR.
- **Lorraine N. Vélez-Torres**. Oral Presentation: Characterization of Indoor Fungal Communities in Water-Damaged Homes. Graduate Seminar MICR-8580, Microbiology Department of UPR-Medical Sciences Campus. 2019.
- **L.N. Velez-Torres**, J. Reynoso, B. Bolaños, J.P. Maestre, K. Kinney, F. Godoy-Vitorino, F.E. Rivera-Mariani & H. Cavallín. Poster Presentation: Hurricane María Leaves High Levels of Indoor *Aspergillus*, Spores & Pro-Inflammatory Dust in Moisture Damage Homes in San Juan, Puerto Rico. American Society for Microbiologists Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California. 2019.
- Benjamín Bolaños, Enid J. García, Marielis Colón-Ramos, Rebecca Rodríguez, Rafael A. Martínez, Andrés Díaz-Ortiz, César Rodríguez, Tania Oyola and **Lorraine N. Velez-Torres**. Poster Presentation: Indoor Mold Amplification as a Risk Factor for Triggering Children's Asthma in a Low-Income Community in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico Clinical Research Summit: Connecting the World 2019.
- **Lorraine N. Vélez-Torres**. Oral Presentation: MALDI-TOF MS for Filamentous Fungi Identification. Graduate Seminar MICR-8580, Microbiology Department of UPR-Medical Sciences Campus. 2018.
- **Lorraine N. Vélez Torres**, Emmanuel Méndez and Matías Cafaro. Determination of the Inhibitory Capacity of Actinobacteria Against *Candida albicans* and *Candida guilliermondii*.
  - (Oral Presentation). 2014. 4<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium in Biology, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2014. XV Symposium of Mycology of the Puerto Rican Mycology Society, Turabo University at Gurabo, PR.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2014. SACNAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium: Science and Technology, Innovation Through Research at Luis de Celis Building, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2014. 7<sup>th</sup> NEA Science Day, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.

- (Poster Presentation). 2013. Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists 2<sup>nd</sup> Student Research Symposium: Passing the Torch of Research and Ethics to the Next Generation, UPR-Arecibo Campus.
- **Lorraine N. Vélez Torres**, Emmanuel Méndez and Matías Cafaro. Antifungal Secondary Metabolite Production of Actinobacteria Associated with the Termite *Nasutitermes costalis*.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2013. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) at Nashville, Tennessee.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2013. 37<sup>th</sup> ACS Senior Technical Meeting at Courtyard Marriot Aguadilla, PR.
  - (Oral Presentation). 2013. 3<sup>rd</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium in Biology, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2013. XVIII Sigma Xi Poster Day at Chemistry Building, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2013. XIV Symposium of Mycology of the Puerto Rican Mycology Society, UPR-Aguadilla Campus.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2013. 1<sup>st</sup> Puerto Rico Society of Microbiologists Symposium: Passing the Torch of Research and Ethics to the Next Generation, Inter American University of Puerto Rico.
  - (Poster Presentation). 2012. 5<sup>th</sup> NEA Science Day, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.
  - (Oral Presentation). 2012. 2<sup>nd</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium in Biology, UPR-Mayagüez Campus.

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

2016 – Present **Microbiology Chapter UPR-MS**  
 2016 – Present **MSC Graduate Students Association (AEG)**  
 2016 – Present **Puerto Rico Microbiologists Society**  
 2016 – Present **American Society for Microbiology (ASM)**  
 2019 – 2020 **American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)**  
 2019 – Present **Society of Toxicology (SOT)**  
 2019 – 2020 **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**  
 2019 – 2020 **Puerto Rico Mycology Association**  
 2020 – Present **Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)**  
 2021 – Present **Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)**

### **LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH**

11/2022 – Present **Mentor**, L’Oreal for Girls in Science (FGIS) – Puerto Rico  
 09/2022 Co-Author with mentor Dr. Benjamín Bolaños Op-Ed Column in ENDI.  
<https://www.elnuevodia.com/opinion/punto-de-vista/proliferan-los-hongos-en-las-casas-inundadas-por-huracanes/>

08/2022 – Present **Volunteer PenPal STEM Professional** of Letters to a Pre-Scientist Program.  
 07/2022 **Mentor**, Communicating Across Difference Research and Workshop.  
 06/2022 **Interviewed** about latest publication for Descubre tu UPR Volume 8.  
<https://www.upr.edu/estudian-por-primera-vez-en-puerto-rico-y-el-caribe-el-efecto-de-los-desastres-naturales-en-el-crecimiento-de-hongos/>

06/2022 Podcast Co-Host with AOC Fellow, “Dr. Carlos Rodríguez Díaz on Infectious Diseases and Social Justice”. <https://www.ehn.org/infectious-disease-justice-2657340095.html>

04/2022 **Elevator Pitch Moderator**, GWIS-PR Brunch & Pitch Tea Party.  
 04/2022 **Judge**, ABRCMS ePoster Symposium for emerging Scientists.  
 03/2022 **Guest Speaker**, Agents of Change in Environmental Justice Science Snippet #6 “Lorraine N. Vélez-Torres on Fungal Spores in Puerto Rico”.  
<https://youtu.be/Iv17eIQ5tqk>

03/2022 **Interviewed** at “Jueves de #CienciaBoricua” on Radio Isla 1320AM “¡Qué es la que hay! Program”. Minute 15-23.  
[https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-gh2ie-11c11f3?utm\\_campaign=w\\_share\\_ep&utm\\_medium=dlink&utm\\_source=w\\_share](https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-gh2ie-11c11f3?utm_campaign=w_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=w_share)

01/2022 **Guest Speaker**, Agents of Change in Environmental Justice Podcast “Lorraine Vélez-Torres on Respiratory Health in Puerto Rico”. <https://www.ehn.org/puerto-rico-hurricane-2656403059.html>

12/2021 **Moderator** of Financial Planning Workshop, GWIS-PR.  
 12/2021 **Author**, Essay “The hidden culprit stealing people’s breath in Puerto Rico” published in Environmental Health News. <https://www.ehn.org/puerto-rico-hurricane-2655887289.html>

11/2021 **Volunteer** of Thanksgiving Food Drive for Women Victims of Abuse, “Fundación Alas a la Mujer” & GWIS-PR.

11/2021 **Guest Panelist**, Science Communication Panel for TriBeta UPRM.

11/2021 **Moderator** Distinguished Reactor Panel, AAAS Caribbean Division Annual Meeting.

11/2021 **Moderator** 3rd speaker (Dr. Kinney), Mini-Symposium Microbiome: From the Environment to Human Disease.

09/2021 **Mentor** of CienciaPR Seeds of Success Program “If/Then” Edition.

07/2021 – 02/2022 **Communications Manager**, Organizing Committee ComSciCon-Atlanta 2022.

06/2021 **Guest Speaker**, Tips on how to give a great oral presentation at Programa de Verano Fundación García Rinaldi. Event organized by Fundación García Rinaldi.

06/2021 **Evaluation Committee Member**, CienciaPR Seeds of Success Program.

04/2021 **Guest Speaker** for Vistazo A La Ciencia at Simposio de la Mujer en las Ciencias. Event organized by UPR-Río Piedras.

04/2021 **Guest Speaker**, Micro Week - Path to the PhD. Event organized by Sociedad Estudiantil de Microbiología Industrial (SEMI) UPR-Mayagüez.

02/2021 **Organizer** of Inspiring Women in Science Panel with GWIS-PR.

02/2021 **Guest Panelist** of Passport to Science Event by Science and Heels.

01/2021 **Judge** of Scientific Art Competition in honor to Dr. Jennifer A. Doudna. Event organized by Puerto Rico Outstanding Undergraduate Diversified (PROUD) and STEAM 100x35.

11/2020 **Guest Lecturer**, Mycology Introduction Presentation for Microbiology Course Nursing Students, Ana G. Méndez University Cupey Campus, San Juan, PR.

09/2020 – Present **Co-Founder & Vice-President** of Graduate Women in Science Puerto Rico (GWIS-PR) Chapter.

08/2020 – 04/2021 **Mentor** of middle school student for CienciaPR’s “Semillas de Triunfo” Program. Participant of García Rinaldi Foundation’s Summer Program, serving as a mentor of the Research Component, leading group L in a research proposal of the topic: Fungal Spores as Triggers of Asthma and Allergic Rhinitis in Puerto Rico.

Summer/2020

05/2020 – Present **Co-Founder & Mentoring Director** of “Vistazo A La Ciencia” a science communication page that aims to discuss current relevant science topics to the public in general by inviting experts in the area, collaborating with other similar groups, and foment minority participation. <https://www.facebook.com/vistazoalaciencia/>

04/2020 **Guest Speaker** in Facebook Live video of Econo Gate 5 and the Healthy Path Market answering questions about Epidemiological and Microbiological facts of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. <https://www.facebook.com/econogate5HPM/videos/2932359310143510/>

04/2020 **Author/Writer**, Op-Ed Column for “El Nuevo Día” Newspaper: “Aguas Usadas como Herramienta de Vigilancia contra COVID-19”. <https://www.elnuevodia.com/opinion/columnas/aguasusadascomoherramientadevigilanciaparacovid19-columna-2561563/>

03/2020 – Present **Volunteer** answering COVID-19 related questions for the “Ask a Scientist Tool” from the National Science Policy Network.

02/2020 **Guest Panelist** in “Panel de Mujeres en STEAM” from Latinas in STEAM group where I talked about my experience as a graduate student in Microbiology.

10/2019- 02/2020 **Mentor** of High School student in her Science Fair Project titled “Is Fungal Spore Concentration Affecting Indoor Air Quality in School Facilities?”. She won the first place at her school and at the Metropolitan Science Fair, Microbiology Section.

10/2019 **Organizer** of the Smithsonian Institution Exhibition: “Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World”. We provided flu shots, inaugural presentations on the history and epidemiology of Influenza in Puerto Rico, guided tour of the exhibition, and outreach activities with lunch for middle school students.

08/2019 **STEM representative (“Borinqueña”)** and provided a guided tour and demonstration of the Mycology Laboratory in the program “Semillas del Triunfo”. This a project to bring middle school and / or high school girls to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and empower them to practice their skills of leadership and become STEM ambassadors in your communities.

04/2019 **Educator/Speaker** of Mycology Presentation for Montessori Level 2 students at Delia Dávila Pagán School in Toa Baja, PR. Science Education Program, CienciaPR.

04/ 2019 **Speaker** of Microbiology and Research Presentation to students from the Hispanic Center of Excellence of the School of Medicine.

11/2018 **Organizer** of Gifts Recollection for the Operation Christmas Child Movement. Microbiology Department of UPR-MSU.

11/2018 **Speaker** of Microbiology Presentation for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School in San Juan, PR.

09/2018 – 05/2019 **President** of Microbiology Chapter RCM.

05/2018 **Facilitator** of the Microbiology Department for the Exposure to Medicine & Biomedical Sciences activity for the Hispanic Center of Excellence of the UPR- School of Medicine.

- 2017 **Facilitator** for the Biomedical Sciences Open House of UPR-MSU.
- 2014 **Volunteer** visits for children admitted at the Pediatric Unit of San Antonio Hospital at Mayagüez, PR. Bringing balloons, toys and support to hospitalized children and their families.
- 2014 **Presenter** for middle school students about the Microbiology study and research field, defining Microbiology and its career options. Mayagüez, PR.
- 2014 **Volunteer** at the CAP cancer awareness activity at Mayagüez, PR.