

Name: Itzel Palacio Jara
Birthdate: March 4, 2003
Birthplace: Managua, Nicaragua
Citizenship: Nicaraguan

FIELD OF INTEREST

Undergraduate student of Biomedical Sciences, interested in drug design and understanding the functioning of the nervous system with a pharmacological approach.

EDUCATION

University of the Sacred Heart, Santurce, San Juan PR
Bachelor in Sciences, Biomedical Sciences
Minor: Pre-Pharmacy
January 2022 – Present

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan PR
The Institute of Neurobiology
Undergraduate Student

October 2023 – Present

Technical Expertise:

- Laboratory techniques: commercial and primary cell cultures and tissue fixation.
- Molecular biology and biochemical techniques, including recombinant DNA, heterologous expression systems, protein purification, and crystallization.

Ongoing Projects:

- Polypharmacology: Structure-activity relationship studies and structure-based drug design of drugs that simultaneously target nicotinic receptors and monoamine transporters using heterologous expression systems and computational chemistry.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & LICENSES

2024 – Present Student Fellowship NeuroID Program– *Neuroscience Research Opportunities to Increase Diversity*, University of Puerto Rico, National Institutes of Health, P.I. Dr. José E. García

2023 NIEF-ESTEMS–*Scientific Internship*, Neuroimaging and Electrophysiology Facility, Molecular Science Research Center, University of Puerto Rico

TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

Summer 2023	NIEF-ESTEMS– <i>Scientific Internship</i> , Neuroimaging and Electrophysiology Facility, Molecular Science Research Center, University of Puerto Rico
2024 – Present	Student Fellowship NeuroID Program– <i>Neuroscience Research Opportunities to Increase Diversity</i> , University of Puerto Rico, National Institutes of Health, P.I. Dr. José E. García

OTHERS

Languages: Spanish and English

Additional Training/Continuing Education:

- *Health Information Management*, Department of Continuing Education of Santurce, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 2023
- *Basic Life Support Provider*, American Heart Associations, April 2023

Community Work:

- *Virtual Service-Learning Trip and Workshop*, MedLife, April 2023