



**Fabiola D. Pagán Torres**

Is currently a rising senior at the University of Puerto Rico at the “Bayamón” Campus pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biology. She has passed through enrichment opportunities in different areas of science. During her senior year of high school, she started to get involved in research. Everything started by attending to the Pre-College Saturday Academy of the Ana G. Méndez System sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Here she was able to complete two pre-college level scientific investigations. After that, she had the opportunity to attend an internship at the University of Vermont, where she worked with Dr. Vigouroux. Over time, the opportunity of mentoring was given in the Saturday Research Academy. She applied the skills learned from her past mentors to the new generation of researchers. From that time through now, she has mentored over 30 students on what research is. Later on, another opportunity arrives to participate in the SNURF Program of the University Of Vermont under the guidance of Dr. Ballif. Here the research was focused on being able to study the protein called TLT1 more thoroughly. During this process, she acquired skills that are essential in molecular biology. From learning how to culture cells, do immunoprecipitation, SDS-Gels, and western blots. She also worked three years as a NASA Teacher Assistant in STARBASE, P.R., a STEM focus program of the Department of Defense. Her long-time goal in science is to acquire an M.D /Ph.D.