



# Robert M. Berne CVRC Seminar

The Robert M. Berne Cardiovascular Research Center Presents

**Pearl Quijada, PhD**

**Affiliation:**

Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, University of California, Los Angeles



**Regulation of Vascular Function by Cardiac Mesenchymal Cells**

My research group focuses on cell-cell interactions in the developing coronary vasculature to enhance angiogenesis and reduce cardiac fibrosis after ischemic heart damage. We investigate epicardium-derived progenitor cells during the epicardial-to-mesenchymal transition and their effects on fibrosis, as well as the role of cardiac pericytes in maintaining vascular integrity and reducing adverse remodeling. Our projects employ advanced techniques, including cell-lineage tracking, conditional genetic knockout models, single-cell transcriptomics, and viral delivery methods.

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**Thursday February 26, 2026**

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM  
MR5 3005**

**\*\*Refreshments served\*\***

Hosted By: Jeff Sacuerman, PhD & Shayn Peirce-Cottler, PhD