Pearl Jennine Quijada, PhD – *Curriculum Vitae*
Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, University of California, Los Angeles
Email: pquijada@g.ucla.edu

Education

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	START DATE MM/YYYY	END DATE *(or expected end date)* MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of California, San Diego and SDSU (Joint Program)	Ph.D.	09/2010	06/2015	Cell and Molecular Biology
San Diego State University (SDSU)	MS	08/2007	12/2010	Cell and Molecular Biology
University of California, Riverside	BS	06/2002	06/2006	Biology

Appointments

07/01/20 – Present *Assistant Professor,* Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology. University of California, Los Angeles.
Affiliations: Eli & Edythe Broad Stem Cell Research Center, Molecular Biology Institute, Molecular Cellular Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program, UCLA Cardiovascular Research Theme

07/01/20 – 06/30/21 *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine.* Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

08/01/19 – 06/30/20 *Research Assistant Professor of Medicine.* Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

10/01/15 – 07/31/19 *Postdoctoral Associate.* Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Advisor: Eric M. Small, Ph.D.

Research Interests

My research group is dedicated to understanding cell-cell interactions in the developing coronary vasculature, to promote angiogenesis and reduce cardiac fibrosis in the adult ischemic heart. During graduate school, I investigated how progenitor cells from the bone marrow and the heart contribute to mitigating cardiac damage and improving heart function after myocardial infarction. As a postdoctoral fellow, my focus shifted to studying epicardium-derived progenitor cells, precursors of cardiac fibroblasts and mural cells, such as pericytes, during the epicardial-to-mesenchymal transition (EpiMT). My research showed that disrupting the epicardium's EpiMT capacity reduced fibrosis in mouse models of ischemic injury and aging. I also discovered that axon and vascular guidance cues were highly enriched in epicardial progenitor cells and were downregulated after EpiMT ablation, leading to the accumulation of immature coronary cells. In my independent lab, we focus on two main themes: 1) discovering and studying epicardial-secreted factors and their effects on endothelial cells and fibroblast activation during development and ischemic cardiac repair, and 2) investigating cardiac pericytes, their natural role in maintaining vascular integrity, fibrosis, and inflammation, and the molecular mechanisms that promote their stabilization with microvasculature to reduce adverse ischemic cardiac remodeling. Our projects use advanced cell-lineage fluorescent tracking, conditional genetic knockout mouse models, single-cell transcriptomics, and clinically relevant adeno-associated viral delivery methods.

Honors and Awards

2024 Featured in the **"**Atlas of Inspiring Hispanic/Latinx Scientists"
2024 Elected Member of the 2024-2027 ISHR-NAS Early Career Investigator Committee
2021 International Society of Heart Research Young Investigator Award-Senior, 1st Place
2018 "People's Choice" Award Postdoctoral Showcase, University of Rochester Medical Center
2018 Outstanding Postdoctoral Mentor Award – University of Rochester Medical Center
2016 Poster Award at the University of Rochester Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Symposium
2016 Poster Award at GRC "Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms."
2015 American Heart Association, Cardiovascular Outreach Award
2015 International Society of Heart Research Young Investigator Award-Junior, Finalist
2012 President's Award (Oral Presentation Award), San Diego State University
2011 Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Scholarship
2011 Provost Award (Poster Presentation Award), San Diego State University

Fellowships

2016 NIH NHLBI F32 NRSA Fellowship (F32HL134206)
2016 Post-doctoral Fellowship, American Heart Association (16POST29640001)
2015 NIH NHLBI T32 NRSA Fellowship (T32HL066988)
2014 Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship
2014 NIH NHLBI F31 NRSA Fellowship (F31HL117623)
2013 Pre-doctoral Fellowship, American Heart Association (13PRE16690026)
2012 Rees-Stealy Research Foundation Fellowship
2010 NIH NHLBI Diversity Graduate Diversity Supplement

Travel Awards

2017 American Heart Association, New Investigator Travel Award
2016 American Heart Association, Abstract Travel Award
2013 American Heart Association, Minority Travel Grant

Research Support

Active

02/01/2025-11/30/2029 R01. ~$2.3 million in direct costs, "Regulation of angiogenesis by cardiac fibroblasts." Role: PI, Arjun Deb Co-I.

Recently Completed

07/01/22-06/30/24 LIFT-UP Pilot Award, NIH/NIDDK, $65,000 direct costs, "Pericyte proliferation regulates microvascular stability in response to tissue ischemia." Role: PI

07/01/22-06/30/23 UCLA Faculty Career Development Award, $11,500 direct costs, "Epicardial reprogramming for the treatment of coronary artery disease." Role: PI

07/01/22-06/30/23 UCLA Society of Hellman Fellows Program, $20,000 direct costs, "Elucidating cardiac pericyte response to ischemic heart disease." Role: PI

02/01/22-01/31/23 PRIDE FOCUS SRP Award, NIH/NHLBI, $21,296 direct costs, "Transcriptomic analysis of non-cardiomyocytes in the border zone of the infarcted myocardium." Role: PI.

07/01/21-06/30/22 UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center Innovation Award, $100,000 direct costs, "Regulation of cardiac developmental patterning by epicardial-derived progenitor cells." Role: Lead PI. Co-PI, Reza Ardehali.

08/01/19-07/31/22 American Heart Association (19CDA34590003), $207,900 direct costs, "Restoring fetal angiogenic factors for the treatment of ischemic heart disease." Role: PI.

Research Grants as a Trainee

09/01/16-09/30/18 National Institutes of Health, NHLBI, F32 NRSA (F32HL134206). "Novel mechanisms of epicardium dependent cardiac repair." Role: PI.

07/01/16-08/31/16 American Heart Association, Founders Affiliate (16POST29640001). "Novel mechanisms of epicardium dependent cardiac repair." Role: PI.

10/01/15-06/30/16 National Institutes of Health, NHLBI, T32 NRSA (T32HL066988). Multidisciplinary Training in Pulmonary Research. Role: Postdoctoral Trainee.

03/01/14-08/31/15 National Institutes of Health, NHLBI, F31 NRSA (F31HL117623). "Nuclear CaMKIIδ Signaling in Cardiac Progenitor Cells." Role: PI.

12/01/12-05/31/15 Rees-Stealy Research Foundation Fellowship. "Cellular fusion of adult stem cells (CardioChimeras) enhances myocardial repair of the infarcted myocardium." Role: PI.

07/01/13-01/29/14 American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate (13PRE16690026). "Nuclear CaMKIIδ signaling in Cardiac Progenitor cells." Role: PI.

12/01/09-11/30/10 National Institutes of Health, NHLBI, Graduate Diversity Supplement. "Protecting Myocardium by Enhancing Mitochondrial Integrity." Role: PI.

Publications

*=Undergraduate student authors I mentored
#=Graduate student authors I mentored
$=Corresponding Author

Publications as an Assistant Professor

David Wong#, Matthew Tran*, Julie Martinez#, Itzetl Avila#, Adrian Arrieta, Kyle Kalindjian*, Elle Rathbun, Thomas Vondriska, Eric Small, **Pearl Quijada$**. Slit2-Robo Signaling Regulates Angiogenesis and Repair Following Myocardial Infarction. *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology.* 2026 Jan:210:28-42.

Zhen Li, Min Gu, Aline Zaparte, Xiaoming Fu, Kala Mahen, Marko Mrdjen, Xinmin S. Li, David Wong#, Aaron M. Gibson, Zeneng Wang, Christopher M. Taylor, David A. Welsh, **Pearl Quijada**, Catherine A. Makarewich, Stanley L. Hazen, David J. Lefer, J. Mark Brown, Thomas Eugene Sharp. Alcohol-induced gut microbial reorganization and associated overproduction of phenylacetylglutamine promotes cardiovascular disease. *Nature Communications.* 2024 Dec 30;15(1):10788.

Bisson JA, **Pearl Quijada**, Wang YT, Lighthouse JK, Helt JC, Kim E, Morrisey EE, Brookes PS, Small EM, Cohen ED. **(2024)** FZD2 inhibits YAP and prevents cell cycle reentry in adult murine cardiomyocytes. *bioRxiv*. https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.07.26.605158v1.abstract

David Wong#, Julie Martinez#, **Pearl Quijada$**. **(2024)** Exploring the function of epicardial cells beyond the surface. *Circulation Research*. 2024 Jul 5;135(2):353-371.

Pearl Quijada[1], Park S[1], Zhao P, Kolluri K, Wong D#, Shih K#, Fang K, Wang L, Tran M*, Rathbun E, Burgos Villar KN#, Garcia-Hernandez M, Pham T, Lowenstein CJ, Iruela-Arispe L, Carmichael ST, Small EM, Ardehali R. **(2023)** Cardiac pericytes mediate the remodeling response to myocardial infarction. *Journal of Clinical Investigation. 2023 May 15;133(10):e162188.[1]Co-first authors.*

- *Featured Webinar for the North American Vascular Biology Organization.*

https://members.navbo.org/calendar-of-events/details/journal-club-july-2023-920979

- *Commentary in the European Society of Cardiology.*

https://www.escardio.org/Working-groups/Working-Group-on-Development,-Anatomy-and-Pathology/Publications/who-s-who-a-similarities-game-in-the-context-of-the-myocardial-infarction

Postdoctoral Publications

Pearl Quijada, Trembley MA, Misra A[#], Myers JA, Baker C, Pérez-Hernández M, Myers JR, Dirkx RA Jr, Cohen ED, Delmar M, Ashton JM, and Small EM. **(2021)** Coordination of endothelial cell positioning and fate specification by the epicardium. *Nat Commun*. 2021 Jul 6;12(1):4155.

Burke RM, Dirkx RA Jr, **Pearl Quijada**, Lighthouse JK, Mohan A, O'Brien M, Wojciechowski W, Woeller CF, Phipps RP, Alexis JD, Ashton JM, Small EM. **(2021)**. Prevention of Fibrosis and Pathological Cardiac Remodeling by Salinomycin. *Circ Res*. May 28;128(11):1663-1678.

Pearl Quijada, Trembley MA, Small EM. **(2020)** The Role of Epicardium During Heart Development and Repair. *Circ Res*. Jan 31;126(3):377-394.

Pearl Quijada, Misra A[#], Velasquez LS, Burke RM, Lighthouse JK, Mickelsen DM, Dirkx RA Jr, Small EM. **(2019)** Pre-existing fibroblasts of epicardial origin are the primary source of pathological fibrosis in cardiac ischemia and aging. *J Mol Cell Cardiol*. Apr;129:92-104. Featured Cover

Hilt ZT, Pariser DN, Ture SK, Mohan A, **Pearl Quijada**, Asante A, Cameron SJ, Sterling JA, Merkel AR, Johanson AL, Jenkins JL, Small EM, McGrath KE, Palis J, Elliott MR, Morrell CN. **(2019)** Platelet-derived β2M regulates monocyte inflammatory responses. *JCI Insight*. Mar 7;4(5)

Trembley MA, **Pearl Quijada**, Agullo-Pascual E, Tylock KM, Colpan M, Dirkx RA Jr, Myers JR, Mickelsen DM, de Mesy Bentley K, Rothenberg E, Moravec CS, Alexis JD, Gregorio CC, Dirksen RT, Delmar M, Small EM. **(2018)** Mechanosensitive Gene Regulation by Myocardin-Related Transcription Factors is Required for Cardiomyocyte Integrity in Load-Induced Ventricular Hypertrophy. *Circulation.* Oct 23;138(17):1864-1878.

Burke RM, Lighthouse JK, **Pearl Quijada**, Dirkx RA Jr, Rosenberg A, Moravec CS, Alexis JD, Small EM. **(2018)** Small proline-rich protein 2B drives stress-dependent p53 degradation and fibroblast proliferation in heart failure. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. Mar 26;115(15): E3436-E3445.

Goldberg-Smith P. **(2017)** Pearl Quijada: Enthusiastic Drive From Coast to Coast. *Circ Res*. Sep 1;121(6):599-600. Interview

Graduate Publications

Ebeid DE, Khalafalla FG, Broughton KM, Monsanto MM, Esquer CY, Sacchi V, Hariharan N, Korski KI, Moshref M, Emathinger JE, Cottage CT, **Pearl Quijada**, Nguyen JH, Alvarez R, Völkers M, Konstandin MH, Wang BJ, Firouzi F, Navarrete JM, Gude NA, Goumans MJ, Sussman MA. **(2021)** Pim1 Maintains Telomere Length in Mouse Cardiomyocytes by Inhibiting TGFβ Signaling. *Cardiovasc Res*. Jan 1; 117(1):201-211.

Broughton KM, Khieu T, Nguyen N, Rosa M, Mohsin S, **Pearl Quijada**, Wang BJ, Echeagaray OH, Kubli DA, Kim T, Firouzi F, Monsanto MM, Gude NA, Adamson RM, Dembitsky WP, Davis ME, Sussman MA. **(2019)** Cardiac interstitial tetraploid cells can escape replicative senescence in rodents but not large mammals. *Commun Biol*. 2:205.

Alvarez R Jr, Wang BJ, **Pearl Quijada**, Avitabile D, Ho T, Shaitrit M, Chavarria M, Firouzi F, Ebeid D, Monsanto MM, Navarrete N, Moshref M, Siddiqi S, Broughton KM, Bailey BA, Gude NA, Sussman MA. **(2019)** Cardiomyocyte cell cycle dynamics and proliferation revealed through cardiac-specific transgenesis of fluorescent ubiquitinated cell cycle indicator (FUCCI). *J Mol Cell Cardiol*. Feb;127:154-164.

Matsumoto C, Jiang Y, Emathinger J, **Pearl Quijada**, Nguyen N, De La Torre A, Moshref M, Nguyen J, Levinson AB, Shin M, Sussman MA, Hariharan N. **(2018)** Short Telomeres Induce p53 and Autophagy and Modulate Age-Associated Changes in Cardiac Progenitor Cell Fate. *Stem Cells.* Jun;36(6):868-880.

Liu N, Wang BJ, Broughton K, Alvarez R; Siddiqi S, Loaiza R, Nguyen N, **Pearl Quijada**, Gude N, Sussman MA. **(2017)** PIM1-Minicircle as a Therapeutic Treatment for Myocardial Infarction. *PLOS One*. 12(3).

Doroudgar S, **Pearl Quijada**, Konstandin M, Gude N, Toko H, Ornelas L, Thuerauf DJ, Glembotski CC, Sussman MA, Volkers M. **(2016)** S100A4 protects the myocardium against ischemic stress. *J Mol Cell Cardiol.* Oct 6;100:54-63.

Pearl Quijada, Salunga HT*, Hariharan N, Cubillo J*, El-Sayed Farid, Moshref M, Bala KM*, Emathinger J, De La Torre A, Ormachea L, Alvarez R, Gude NA, Sussman MA. **(2015)** Cardiac stem cell hybrids enhance myocardial repair. *Circ Res.* Sep 25;117(8):695-706.

Wade F, **Pearl Quijada**, Al-Haffar KMA, Awad SM, Kunhi M, Toko H, Marashly Q, Belhaj K, Stanford SM, Alvarez R, Liu Y, Colak D, Jordan MC, Roos KP, Al-Habeeb W, Sussman MA, Bottini N and Poizat C. **(2015)** Deletion of Low Molecular Weight Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase (Acp1) Protects Against Stress-Induced Cardiomyopathy. *J Pathol.* Sep 1;237(4):482-94.

Pearl Quijada, Hariharan N, Cubillo J*, Bala KM*, Ormachea L, Bers DM, Sussman MA, Poizat C. **(2015)** Nuclear Calcium/Calmodulin-Dependent Protein Kinase II Signaling Enhances Cardiac Progenitor Cell Survival and Cardiac Lineage Commitment. *J Biol Chem*. Aug 31;290(42):25411-26.

Samse K, Emathinger J, Hariharan N, **Pearl Quijada**, Ilves K, Völkers M, Ormachea L, De La Torre A, Orogo AM, Alvarez R, Din S, Mohsin S, Monsanto M, Fischer KM, Dembitsky WP, Gustafsson ÅB, Sussman MA. **(2015)** Functional Effect of Pim1 Depends Upon Intracellular Localization in Human Cardiac Progenitor Cells. *J Biol Chem*. May 29;290(22):13935-47.

Gude N, Joyo E, Toko H, **Pearl Quijada**, Villanueva M, Hariharan N, Sacchi V, Truffa S, Joyo A, Voelkers M, Alvarez R, Sussman MA. **(2015)** Notch activation enhances lineage commitment and protective signaling in cardiac progenitor cells. *Basic Res Cardiol*. May;110(3):29.

Awad S, Al-Haffar KM, Marashly Q, **Pearl Quijada**, Kunhi M, Al-Yacoub N, Wade FS, Mohammed SF, Al-Dayel F, Sutherland G, Assiri A, Sussman M, Bers D, Al-Habeeb W, Poizat C. **(2015)** Control of Histone H3 Phosphorylation by CaMKII in Response to Hemodynamic Cardiac Stress. *J Pathol.* Mar. 235(4):606-18.

Pearl Quijada and Sussman MA. **(2015)** Circulating around the tissue: hematopoietic cell-based fusion versus transdifferentiation. (Editorial) *Circ Res.* Feb 13;116(4):563-5.

Hariharan N, **Pearl Quijada**, Mohsin S, Joyo A, Samse K, Monsanto M, De La Torre A, Avitabile D, Ormachea L, McGregor M, Tsai EJ, Sussman MA. **(2015)** Nucleostemin rejuvenates cardiac progenitor cells and antagonizes myocardial aging. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* Jan 20;65(2):133–47.

Pearl Quijada and Sussman MA. **(2014)** Making it stick: chasing the optimal stem cells for cardiac regeneration. (Review) *Expert Rev Cardiovasc Ther*. Nov;(11):1275-88.

Völkers M, Doroudgar S, Nguyen N, Konstandin MH, **Pearl Quijada**, Din S, Ornelas L, Thuerauf DJ, Gude N, Friedrich K, Herzig S, Glembotski CC, Sussman MA. **(2014)** PRAS40 prevents development of diabetic cardiomyopathy and improves hepatic insulin sensitivity in obesity. *EMBO Mol Med*. Jan;6(1):57-65.

Völkers M, Konstandin MH, Doroudgar S, Toko H, **Pearl Quijada**, Din S, Joyo A, Ornelas L, Samse K, Thuerauf DJ, Gude N, Glembotski CC, Sussman MA. **(2013)** mTORC2 protects the Heart from Ischemic Damage. *Circulation*. Nov 5;128(19):2132-44.

Konstandin MH, Völkers M, Collins B, **Pearl Quijada**, Quintana M, De La Torre A, Ormachea L, Din S, Gude N, Toko H, Sussman MA. **(2013)** Fibronectin contributes to pathological cardiac hypertrophy but not physiological growth. *Basic Res Cardiol*. Sep;108(5):375.

Völkers M, Toko H, Doroudgar S, Din S, **Pearl Quijada**, Joyo AY, Ornelas L, Joyo E, Thuerauf DJ, Konstandin MH, Gude N, Glembotski CC, Sussman MA. **(2013)** Pathological hypertrophy amelioration by PRAS40-mediated inhibition of mTORC1. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. Jul 30;110(31):12661-6.

Konstandin MH, Toko H, Gastelum GM, **Pearl Quijada**, De La Torre A, Quintana M, Collins B, Din S, Avitabile D, Völkers MJ, Gude NA, Fässler R, Sussman MA. **(2013)** Fibronectin is Essential for Reparative Cardiac Progenitor Cell Response Following Myocardial Infarction. *Circ Res*. Jul 5;113(2):115-25.

Din S, Mason M, Völkers M, Johnson B, Cottage CT, Wang Z, Joyo AY, **Pearl Quijada**, Erhardt P, Magnuson NS, Konstandin MH, Sussman MA. **(2013)** Pim-1 preserves mitochondrial morphology by inhibiting dynamin-related protein 1 translocation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. Apr 9;110(15):5969-74.

Khan M, Mohsin S, Avitabile D, Siddiqi S, Nguyen J, Wallach K, **Pearl Quijada**, McGregor M, Gude N, Alvarez R, Tilley DG, Koch WJ, Sussman MA. **(2013)** β-Adrenergic Regulation of Cardiac Progenitor Cell Death Versus Survival and Proliferation. *Circ Res*. Feb 1;112(3):476-86.

Mohsin S, Khan M, Toko H, Bailey B, Cottage CT, Wallach K, Nag D, Lee A, Siddiqi S, Lan F, Fischer KM, Gude NA, **Pearl Quijada**, Avitabile D, Truffa S, Collins B, Dembitsky W, Joseph Wu JC, Sussman MA. **(2012)**

Human Cardiac Progenitor Cells Engineered with Pim-1 Kinase Enhance Myocardial Repair. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. Oct 2;60(14):1278-87.

Pearl Quijada, Toko H, Fischer KM, Bailey B, Reilly P*, Hunt KD*, Gude NA, Avitabile D, Sussman MA. **(2012)** Preservation of myocardial structure is enhanced by pim-1 engineering of bone marrow cells. *Circ Res*. Jun 20;111(1):77-86.

Sussman MA, Völkers M, Fischer K, Bailey B, Cottage CT, Din S, Gude N, Avitabile D, Alvarez R, Sundararaman B, **Pearl Quijada**, Mason M, Konstandin MH, Malhowski A, Cheng Z, Khan M, McGregor M. **(2011)** Myocardial AKT: the omnipresent nexus. *Physiol Rev*. Jul;91(3):1023-70.

Fischer KM, Din S, Gude N, Konstandin MH, Wu W, **Pearl Quijada**, Sussman MA. **(2011)** Cardiac progenitor cell commitment is inhibited by nuclear Akt expression. *Circ Res*. Feb 24;108(8):960-70.

Borillo GA, Mason M, **Pearl Quijada**, Völkers M, Cottage C, McGregor M, Din S, Fischer K, Gude N, Avitabile D, Barlow S, Alvarez R, Truffa S, Whittaker R, Glassy MS, Gustafsson AB, Miyamoto S, Glembotski CC, Gottlieb RA, Brown JH, Sussman MA. **(2010)** Pim-1 kinase protects mitochondrial integrity in cardiomyocytes. *Circ Res*. Apr 16;106(7):1265-74.

Cottage CT, Bailey B, Fischer KM, Avitable D, Collins B, Tuck S, **Pearl Quijada**, Gude N, Alvarez R, Muraski J, Sussman MA. **(2010)** Cardiac progenitor cell cycling stimulated by pim-1 kinase. *Circ Res*. Mar 19;106(5):891-901.

Fischer KM, Cottage CT, Wu W, Din S, Gude NA, Avitabile D, **Pearl Quijada**, Collins BL, Fransioli J, Sussman MA. **(2009)** Enhancement of myocardial regeneration through genetic engineering of cardiac progenitor cells expressing Pim-1 kinase. *Circulation*. Nov 24;120(21):2077-87.

Bailey B, Izarra A, Alvarez R, Fischer KM, Cottage CT, **Pearl Quijada**, Díez-Juan A, Sussman MA. **(2009)** Cardiac stem cell engineering using the alphaMHC promoter. *Regen Med*. Nov;4(6):823-33.

Muraski JA, Fischer KM, Wu W, Cottage CT, **Pearl Quijada**, Mason M, Din S, Gude N, Alvarez R Jr, Rota M, Kajstura J, Wang Z, Schaefer E, Chen X, MacDonnel S, Magnuson N, Houser SR, Anversa P, Sussman MA. **(2008)** Pim-1 kinase antagonizes aspects of myocardial hypertrophy and compensation to pathological pressure overload. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. Sep 16;105(37):13889-94.

Gude NA, Emmanuel G, Wu W, Cottage CT, Fischer K, **Pearl Quijada**, Muraski JA, Alvarez R, Rubio M, Schaefer E, Sussman MA. **(2008)** Activation of Notch-mediated protective signaling in the myocardium. *Circ Res*. May 9;102(9):1025-35.

Scientific Presentations

<u>*Conference Symposia*</u>

2025: *Upcoming Speaker.* American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Endothelial Regulation of Cardiac and Systemic Metabolism as Mediators of Heart Disease. New Orleans, LA.
2025: *Upcoming Speaker.* American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Molecular Mechanisms of Cardiac Development. New Orleans, LA.
2024: *Speaker.* American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Systemic Approach for Heart Failure. Chicago, IL.
2024: *Speaker.* International Society of Heart Research. Metabolic Impact on Cardiac Disease. Long Beach, CA.
2024: *Discussion Leader.* International Society of Heart Research. Post-transcriptional Control of Gene Expression in Cardiovascular Health and Disease. Long Beach, CA.
2023: *Discussion Leader*. International Society of Heart Research. Cardiac Differentiation and Development. Madison, WI.
2022: *Speaker*. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Fibroblast and Fibrosis: From Molecular Mechanisms to Actionable Targets. Chicago, IL.
2021: *Discussion Leader*. International Society of Heart Research. Fibrosis in Heart Disease. Denver, CO.
2021: *Panel Speaker*. International Society of Heart Research. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Science. Denver, CO.
2021: *Speaker*. International Society of Heart Research. Young Investigator Competition (Senior). Denver, CO.
2019: *Speaker*. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Late-Breaking Science. Philadelphia, PA.

2019: *Panel Speaker*. AHA Basic Cardiovascular Sessions Early Career Workshop. Boston, MA.
2018: *Speaker*. International MADS Box Conference. Lake Placid, NY, USA.
2018: *Poster*. Gordon Research Seminar/Conference. Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms. New London, NH.
2018: *Speaker*. International Society of Heart Research. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
2017: *Poster*. Basic Cardiovascular Sciences, American Heart Association. Portland, OR.
2016: *Poster*. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. New Orleans, LA.
2016: *Poster*. Gordon Research Seminar/Conference. Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms. New London, NH.
2016: *Discussion Leader.* Gordon Research Seminar. Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms. New London, NH.
2015: *Poster*. Basic Cardiovascular Sciences, American Heart Association. New Orleans, LA.
2015: *Speaker*. International Society of Heart Research, Young Investigator Finalist (Junior). Seattle, WA.
2014: *Speaker*. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Chicago, IL.
2014: *Speaker*. Gordon Research Seminar/Conference. Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms. New London, NH.
2013: *Speaker*. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Late-Breaking Basic Science. Dallas, TX.
2012: *Poster*. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Los Angeles, CA.
2012: *Poster*. Basic Cardiovascular Sciences, American Heart Association. New Orleans, LA.
2011: *Poster*. La Jolla-International Cardiovascular Research Conference. La Jolla, CA.

Extramural Seminars
2025: *Speaker*. Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. Willowbrook, CA.
2024: *Speaker*. California State University, Fullerton. Fullerton, CA.
2019: *Speaker*. Weill Cornell Cardiovascular Seminar Series. New York, NY.
2015: *Speaker*. Mount Sinai Cardiovascular Research Institute Seminar. New York, NY.
2015: *Speaker.* Fondation Leducq Project Meeting "Cellular and Molecular Targets to Promote Therapeutic Cardiac Regeneration," Université Pierre et Marie Curie. Paris, France.
2012*: Speaker.* California State University Student Research Competition. Long Beach, CA.

Intramural Seminars
2024: *Discussion Leader*. Cardiovascular Theme Symposium. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2024. *Speaker*. Molecular Biology Institute, MBIDP: Journey Talk.
2024. *Speaker*. CURE at UCLA.
2023. *Discussion Leader.* UCLA Broad Stem Cell Institute 19th Annual Stem Cell Symposium.
2022. *Speaker.* Cell & Developmental Biology, Molecular Biology Institute Seminar. UCLA. Los Angeles. CA.
2021: *Discussion Leader*. Cardiovascular Theme Symposium. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2021: *Speaker.* Broad Stem Cell Research Institute Work-In-Progress Meeting. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2021: *Speaker*. Molecular Biology Institute Faculty Seminar Series. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2021: *Speaker*. Vascular Training Grant Seminar Series. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2020: *Speaker*. Molecular, Cell, and Integrative Physiology Faculty Seminar Series. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2020: *Speaker*. IBP Masters Student Physiological Sciences Orientation. UCLA. Los Angeles, CA.
2018: *Speaker*. Postdoctoral Showcase, University of Rochester Medical Center. Rochester, NY.
2016: *Poster*. Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Symposium, University of Rochester. Rochester, NY.
2015: *Speaker*. University of Rochester Cardiovascular Research Institute Seminar. Rochester, NY.
2012: *Speaker*. Student Research Symposium, San Diego State University. San Diego, CA.
2011: *Poster.* Student Research Symposium, San Diego State University. San Diego, CA.

Webinars
2023. *Speaker*. North American Vascular Biology. "Cardiac pericytes mediate the remodeling response to myocardial infarction."
2022: *Speaker.* UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center. "Regenerative Medicine Unlocked: Discoveries & Strategies for Heart Disease Treatments."

Teaching
Undergraduate Teaching
- PHYSCI 109-Cellular and Molecular Insights into Cardiovascular Development and Disease
    - Winter 2023. 20 students. Course Rating, mean=8.5, median=9; Instructor Rating, mean=9, median=9 (9-point scale).

- Winter 2025. 22 students. Course Rating, mean=8.82, median=9.00; Instructor Rating, mean=8.45, median=9 (9-point scale).

- PHYSCI 111B-Foundations in Physiological Science
  - Spring 2021. 212 students. Cardiovascular Physiology Module (3 weeks) with Drs. Stephanie Correa, Walter Metzner, and Claudio Villanueva. Course Rating, mean=7.9, median=8; Instructor Rating, mean=7.98, median=8 (9-point scale).
  - Spring 2023. 205 students. Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physiology Module (3 weeks) with Drs. Stephanie Correa and Claudio Villanueva. Course Rating, mean=8.27, median=9; Instructor Rating, mean=8.15, median=9 (9-point scale).
  - Spring 2024. 233 students. Cardiovascular Module (3 weeks) with Drs. Stephanie Correa and Claudio Villanueva. Course Rating, mean=8.4, median=9; Instructor Rating, mean=8.24, median=8 (9-point scale).
  - Spring 2025. 224 students. Cardiovascular Module (3 weeks) with Drs. Stephanie Correa and Claudio Villanueva. Course Rating, mean=7.82, median=8; Instructor Rating, mean=8.02, median=8 (9-point scale).

- PHYSCI 189-Advanced Honors Seminar
  - Spring 2025. 7 students. Course Rating, mean=9, median=9; Instructor Rating, mean=9, median=9 (9-point scale).

Graduate Teaching

- Spring 2021. MCDBIO 224-Molecular Basis of Vascular Biology (Course Chair Dr. Reza Ardehali)
  - Vascular Development and Angiogenesis I (Synchronous 75-minute lecture)
  - Vascular Development and Angiogenesis II (Synchronous 75-minute literature discussion)
- Spring 2023. M272-BSCRC Course in Stem Cells (Course Chair Dr. Bill Lowry)
  - Cardiac Development, Regeneration, and Disease. 100-minute lecture and discussion.
- Spring 2023. C234-Ethics and Accountability in Biomedical Research (Course Chair Dr. Lynn Talton)
  - Discussion of research misconduct. Sixty minutes as a discussion leader of a small (n=11) course.
- Winter 2024. M262-Molecular Mechanisms of Human Diseases II (Course Chair Dr. Xia Yang)
  - Coronary Vasculature Development, Angiogenesis and Disease (75-minute lecture)
  - Discussion Leader for Review of Primary Research Article (90-minute literature discussion)
- Winter 2025. M262-Molecular Mechanisms of Human Diseases II (Course Chair Dr. Xia Yang)
  - Coronary Vasculature Development, Angiogenesis and Disease (75-minute lecture)

Mentoring Activities

Postdoctoral Trainees

David Wong	2025-2026. Current working as a scientist in Biotech.

PhD Trainees

David Wong	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. T32 in Vascular Biology (2022-2023) and Muscle Cell and Pathophysiology Programs (2023-2025). Eureka Scholarship (2023-2024), and Asrican Sophie & Jack Awardee (2025-2026). 2021-2025.
Julie Martinez	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Competitive Edge Scholar and Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellow. T32 in Muscle Cell and Pathophysiology Programs (2025). AHA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (2026). 2023-
Jenny Cheng	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Rotation Student Spring 2023.
Itzetl Avila	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Rotation Student. Winter 2024.
Ava Bignell	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Competitive Edge Scholar. Rotation Student. Summer 2024.

Besma Chaudry	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Competitive Edge Scholar. Rotation Student. Summer 2024.
Juliet Alfaro	Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Fall 2025.
Hayden Hausman	Molecular biology Interdepartmental Doctoral Program. Winter 2026.

Jingyan He Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. Winter 2026.

PhD Dissertation Committees

Natalie Gehred	Thomas Vondriska Lab, Molecular Biology Interdepartmental Ph.D. Program. 2021-2025.
Pranav Kannan	Rachelle Crosbie Lab, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. 2022-2025.
David Wong	Chair, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. 2023-
Yesica Mercado-Ayon	Samantha Butler Lab, Molecular Biology Interdepartmental Ph.D. Program. 2021-
Jia Tan	Steven Mittelman Lab, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. I also served as a reviewer for the Written Qualifying Exam. 2023-
Jenny Cheng	Xia Yang Lab, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. I also served as a reviewer for the Written Qualifying Exam. 2024-
Maya Cornejo	Carla Koehler Lab, Biochemistry, Molecular and Structural Biology Ph.D. Program. 2024-
Julie Martinez	Chair, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Ph.D. Program. 2025-

MS Trainees

Kevin Shih	Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2020-2022.
Julie Martinez	Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2021-2023.
Jiajia Liu	Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2025.
Jamie Lee	Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2025.
Halle Villalobos	Biostatistics MS Program. 2025-
Daniela Montero	Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2025-

MS Thesis Committees

Kevin Shih	Chair, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2020-2022.
Jenny Cheng	Xia Yang Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2021-2022.
Julie Martinez	Chair, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2021-2023.
Bryanna Chavez	Amy Rowat Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2022-2023.
Roza Kirmizi	Xia Yang Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2022-2023.
Weronika Budek	Ed van Veen Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2022-2023.
Norayr Arabatlian	Rachelle Crosbie Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2024.
Jasmine Louie	Patricia Phelps Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2024.
Michelle Ma	Krysten Ryder Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2025.
Jiajia Liu	Chair, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2025.
Jamie Lee	Chair, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2023-2025.
Andrea Simonian	Amy Rowat Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2024-2025.
Louise Lin	Patricia Phelps Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2024-2025.
Donovan Nelson	Rachelle Crosbie Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2025-
Sera Shahbazian	René Packard Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2025-
Elle Nawrocki	David Walker Lab, Integrative Biology and Physiology MS Program. 2025-

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Matthew Tran	Physiological Sciences Major. 2021-2022. Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research at the UCLA Research Showcase and 3rd Place Poster Prize for IBP Poster Day. Attending Medical School at UC Irvine.
Amy Lefley	Physiological Sciences Major. 2021-2022. Attending Physician Assistant Program.
Jessica Tsui	Physiological Sciences Major. 2022-2022. Attending Medical School in Chicago.
Nyaradzai Muchaka	Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology Major, Biomedical Research Minor, African American Studies Minor, HHMI Pathways to Success Scholar. 2021-2023.

Lauren Lee	Biology Major. 2023. LAEP Work-Study Scholar. Former Lab Assistant I in the Quijada Lab. Attending Veterinary School at UC Davis.
Helen Thome	Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology Major. 2022-2023.Biomedical Research Minor,
Rebecca Li	Biochemistry Major. 2021-2024. Former Lab Assistant I. Attending Medical School at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.
Niki Golchini	Human Biology and Society Major. 2022-2024. LAEP Work-Study Scholar.
Christian Arambula	Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics Major. 2023-2025. UCLA-Caltech MSTP Richard Morgan Undergraduate Fellowship Scholar. LAEP Work-Study Scholar.
Daniela Montero	Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology Major and Education Minor. 2023-2025. UCLA PEERS, LAEP Work-Study, BURST, and LAMP Scholar. Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research at the UCLA Research Showcase. Currently a Master's student in IBP.
Kevyn Clark	Biochemistry Major. 2023-2025. Biomedical Research Minor. Attending Medical School at the University of Virginia.
Kyle Kalindjian	Computational and Systems Biology Major. Biomedical Research Minor. 2023-2025. Bruins-In-Genomics (B.I.G.) Summer and Undergraduate Research Scholar. Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research at the UCLA Research Showcase. Currently a Master's student at NYU Langone Medical Center.
Ana Hernandez	Biology Major. 2023-2025. UCLA CIRM COMPASS Scholar.
David Yang	Physiological Sciences Major. 2024-2025
Sydney Zheng	Public Health Major. Undergraduate Research Fellows Program Scholar (2026). 2024-
David Haidari	Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology Major. 2025-
Jenna Koerner	Physiological Sciences Major. 2025-
Braylen Gonzalez	Physiological Sciences Major. 2025-
Minh-Chau Pham	Physiological Sciences Major. 2025-

Staff

Maya Cornejo	Laboratory Assistant II. 2021-2022. Currently a UCLA Ph.D. Student in Biochemistry, Molecular, and Structural Biology.
Matthew Tran	Laboratory Assistant II. 2022-2023. Attending Medical School at the University of California, Irvine.
Kevin Shih	Staff Research Associate II. 2022-2024.
Kamal Kolluri	Staff Research Associate I. 2023. Attending Medical School at Washington University at St. Louis.
Julie Martinez	Staff Research Associate I. 2023. Currently a UCLA Ph.D. in the Molecular Cell and Integrative Physiology Program.
Lauren Lee	Laboratory Assistant I. 2023-2024. Attending Veterinary School at the University of California, Davis.
Rebecca Li	Laboratory Assistant II. 2024-2025. Attending Medical School at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.
Eunice Han	Laboratory Assistant I. 2025. Currently an undergraduate at the University of Rochester.
Daniela Montero	Staff Research Associate I. 2025. Currently a Master's Student in IBP.
Kyle Kalindjian	Staff Research Associate I. 2025. Currently a Master's Student at NYU Langone Medical Center.
Jamie Lee	Staff Research Associate I. 2025.
David Yang	Staff Research Associate I. 2026-
Jiajia Liu	Staff Research Associate I. 2026-

Service

Professional

- Manuscript Reviewer for *Cells*, *Hearts*, *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, *Communications Biology, Stem Cell Translational Medicine,* and *Circulation Research*.
- 2025. Reviewer for the NIH/NHLBI Cardiovascular Differentiation and Development Study Section
- 2025. Reviewer for the American Heart Association Fellowship, Molecular Signaling Study Section
- 2025. Reviewer for the NIH/NHLBI Therapeutic Development and Preclinical Studies Study Section
- 2025. Selected as a member of the *Circulation Research* Editorial Board
- 2024-Present. Early Career Investigator Committee Member, International Society of Heart Research
- 2023. Reviewer for the American Heart Association Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Cardiology 3.
- 2023-2024. American Heart Association Basic Cardiovascular Sciences, Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA), Reviewer.
- 2018. Chair of the 2018 Gordon Research Seminar: "Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms."

UCLA

- Graduate Affairs Committee (Chair Dr. Amy Rowat), Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology. 2020-2024.
- Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (Chair Dr. Elaine Hsiao), Faculty Advisor, Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology. 2021-2023.
- Selection Committee (Designee for Dean of Life Sciences, Dr. Tracy Johnson), Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research. 2021.
- Broad Stem Cell Research Center Executive Committee Member (Program Director Dr. Bill Lowry). 2021-Present.
- Cardiovascular Research Theme Retreat Organizing Committee (Program Director Dr. Arjun Deb). 2021-Present.
- Chicano Research Studies Center, Faculty Advisory Committee (Chair Dr. Joshua Guzmán). 2021-Present.
- Faculty Organizing Committee for the 2023 Broad Stem Cell Research Center Stem Cell Symposium. 2022.
- Faculty Search Committee for the Hispanic Serving Institution Initiative Tenure Track Assistant Professor in ISG and IBP. 2022.
- Faculty Search Committee for Tenure Track Faculty Recruitment to the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine. 2023.
- Undergraduate Research Showcase Dean's Prize Reviewer 2023-2025.

Service Associated with Inclusivity

Symposia/Panels

- Panelist. Equity and Inclusion in Science. International Society of Heart Research Meeting. September 2021.

UCLA

- *Speaker*. UCLA Society for The Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science. Lunch with Professors Series. May 2021.
- *Participant*. AAAS Stem Equity Achievement Change Workshop Series. July 2021-December 2021.
- Member of the Anti-Racism Task Force (Chair Dr. Stephanie Correa), Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology. 2021-Present.
- Completion of Implicit Bias Training and the Faculty Search Briefing. August 2022.
- New Faculty Teaching Engagement: Foundations for Equitable and Inclusive Teaching and Interrupting Bias in Course Design through CAT. August 2022.
- HHMI & UCLA Inclusive Excellence Institute. Hosted by the Dean of Life Sciences, Dr. Tracy Johnson. March 2023.
- Completion of the CEILS Becoming an Anti-racist Educatory Conversation (IBP-hosted) Workshop. April 2023.