

PARTICIPANTS



Anne Cawley dissertation was on the experiences of Latino students in developmental mathematics at a community college. She also consider mathematics instruction in community college classrooms and how that incorporates underrepresented minority students.



Bill Hoese is a Professor of Biology at California State University Fullerton. Since 2002 he has served as the Director of an undergraduate research-training program in ecology, called the Southern California Ecosystems Research Program. This program has trained over 80 students in ecology and environmental biology, and over 90% have pursued graduate degrees or careers in biology. He has also been involved in designing curriculum for introductory level biology majors that provides experiences in field-based settings (e.g., rocky intertidal and local deserts). He is interested in academic and social factors that promote student engagement in biology.



Caroline Sabol is from Los Angeles Valley College.



Jazmir Hernandez is from Moorpark College.



Jennifer Lundmark is from California State university, Sacramento



Dr. Jorge Iniguez earned a Ph.D. in Biological sciences from UC Irvine, and an undergraduate degree in cell and molecular biology from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). He has served as an instructor at CSUN and Pasadena City College (PCC). Dr. Iniguez is improving student success by providing research opportunities at PCC. His peer-reviewed publications facilitated a partnership with CSUN that brought the NIH BUILD PODER program to the biology department at PCC. He has received over \$90,000 in scholarships and fellowships and plans to use his persuasive writing skills to provide additional funding for the project. He has experience working with students from diverse backgrounds and is committed to providing equitable access for all students to achieve personal development, critical thinking, information literacy and literacy competence.



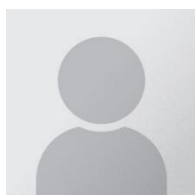
Julie Fogarty is from California State University, Sacramento



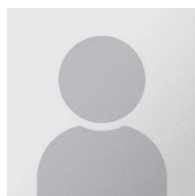
Luz Shin is from the Los Angeles Valley College.



Maria Elena de Bellard lab is interested in the mechanisms that govern the migration of neural crest cells and its derivatives (Schwann cells and melanocytes) under many angles. With the help of highly driven undergraduates my lab has been able to develop new methods for studying neural crest cell migration in vitro and has set a reputation as a place to learn cell and neural crest biology/development among colleagues. Among many, we developed a substrate choice assay for live imaging neural crest cells as they delaminate and encounter guidance molecules. We are one of the few labs that studies trunk neural crest migration in vitro and in vivo. My lab has been studying the role of attractants (NRG1, NGF and GDNF) and repellants (Slits) using a varied set of in vivo, in vitro and in silico experimental approaches that range from electroporation of live embryos to cultures of neural crest cells on microchips. Our newest project is the application of these in vitro methods to study Melanocytes and Schwann cell migration, with the goal of learning why these two cells have such different migratory capabilities. For this purpose my lab has started to replicate our successful migration study-model of neural crest cells to Melanocytes vs melanomas, neural crest cells vs Schwann cells garnering enough supporting data to continue these experiments.



Martha House is from Pasadena City College.



Melody Lewis is from South Mountain Community College.



Merri Lynn Casem is a professor and acting chair in the Department of Biological Science at California State University, Fullerton. As an alumna from the department, she appreciates the life-changing impact quality instruction in science can have on students. In addition to her training in cellular and molecular biology, Merri Lynn has extensive experience in curriculum development and biology education research.



Mike Chao is from California State University San Bernardino.



Miriam Hartman is from Pasadena City College



Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, a Hispanic, first-generation college graduate, is a geoscientist and science educator whose work focuses on opening pathways and facilitating the participation of those traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. She obtained her BS in Geoscience from the University of Arizona, MS in Geoscience and PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University. During SACNAS 2008 Dr. Watts' dissertation, *Broadening Participation of Native Americans in the Earth Sciences*, was inspired by Native leaders from the Arctic Polar region who described environmental changes and asked students for their help. Nievita realized there was something she could do. She is a founding member of the Geoscience Alliance. After a Postdoc at Purdue University she became Director of Academic Programs at NSF Science and Technology Center for Coastal Margins Observation & Prediction at Oregon Health & Science University. There she developed an Environmental Public Health track for the School of Public Health and ran the graduate programs. Dr. Watts, a McNair Scholar, then became Director of the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Northern Iowa. McNair Scholars are first generation students from low income backgrounds, or underrepresented minority students who have a strong desire to obtain a PhD. Nievita is currently Director of the Indian Natural Resources, Science & Engineering Program (INRSEP) + Diversity in STEM at Humboldt State University. INRSEP+ staff mentor STEM students who are traditionally underrepresented in their fields through their degrees and on to graduate school or the STEM workforce.



Nilay V. Patel, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Cell Biology, Department of Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton Email: npatel@fullerton.edu Phone: (657) 278-2483 Dr. Nilay V. Patel received his doctoral degree from the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, S.U.N.Y at Stony Brook. His thesis research focused on how genes affect certain behaviors by modulating cellular responses in the basal ganglia. He was a NRSA post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Neurogerontology at University of Southern California, where he studied how anti-inflammatory effects of 60% caloric restriction can attenuate Alzheimer's Disease-like neuropathology in transgenic mice. As a Beckman Research Fellow at the City of Hope National Medical Center, he designed drugs that were selective activators of LXR β , and their potential to ameliorate Alzheimer's Disease symptoms. Dr. Patel is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Science at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). His research at CSUF has focused on drug discovery projects relevant to Alzheimer's Disease, stem cell research, and cancer biology. The current research projects aim to discovery how an FDA-approved drug niclosamide reduces cell proliferation. Dr. Nilay Patel has been a leader in development of stem cell training program. He was one of the first educators to develop stem cell laboratory course for undergraduate students (starting in 2007). This course was the cornerstone for the CIRM-funded Bridges to Stem Cell Research program, which has trained undergraduates in stem cell research (since 2010) through seven-month of coursework followed by paid, full-time, internships.



Omayra Y. Ortega is an assistant professor of mathematics & statistics at Sonoma State University in Sonoma County, California. She earned her Ph.D. (2008) and an M.S. (2005) in applied mathematics and computational sciences from the University of Iowa, where she also was awarded her Masters of Public Health. She earned a B.A. in music and in pure mathematics from Pomona College in 2001. Dr. Ortega has directed the Mathematical Epidemiology Research Group (MERG), an undergraduate research group, since 2007. Her scholarly interests reflect her expertise in mathematics: mathematical and computational biology, mathematical epidemiology in developing countries, infectious disease epidemiology, and the participation of women and minorities in sciences. Regarding the latter, she has organized an annual Sonia Kovalesky High School Mathematics Day at several institutions including the University of Iowa, ASU's West campus, Pomona College, and Sonoma State University in recognition of the day's namesake, Sonia Kovalevsky, who was one of the first women to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics.



Sara Kinsey is from South Mountain Community College



Scarlet Sarkissian is from Los Angeles Valley College



Sean Walker started his education at Tyler Junior College and wanted to major in biology but they made him major in Chemistry. He earned his BS degree in Chemistry from University of Texas at Tyler and his MS and PhD degrees in Zoology from Miami University (Ohio). His post-doctoral training was done at the University of Lethbridge in Southern Alberta. During his BS and MS degrees his research focused animal behavior, herpetology, and behavioral toxicology. His PhD and post-doctoral work concentrated on the evolutionary and behavioral ecology of crickets and spiders. He joined the California State University Fullerton faculty in 2003 and was promoted to Professor in 2013. He has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Department of Biological Science and is currently Interim Associate Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.