

MARIA ISABEL ROJAS M.

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Education

- M.S. Candidate. Cell and Molecular Biology. San Diego State University. 2015-Present
- Bachelor of Science, major in Biotechnology, minor in Microbiology, sub specialization in Scenic Arts, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, (USFQ) Ecuador, Scholarship awarded by the University. Magna Cum Laude. May 2006-February 2012.
- International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBO), SEK International School, graduated with honors. Quito, Ecuador. 2005.

Publications

- Rojas, M.I.; Barragán, V.; Trueba, G.; Hornstra, H.; Pearson, T.; Keim, P. 2012. "Detection of *Coxiella burnetii* in bovine milk in Ecuador". *AVANCES*.
- Leon, R.; Ortega, L.; Gualapuro, M.; Morales, F.; Rojas, M.I.; Espinel, M. 2014. "Identification of Diptera, Nematocera of medical interest in the areas surrounding the Toachi Pilatón Hydroelectric Dam". *AVANCES*.

Presentations

- "II National Meeting on the Investigation of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine". June 2012
- "Symposium: Science from Young Scientists to Young Scientists ". Quito, Ecuador. February 2011

Professional, Laboratory, Research Experience

- Researcher: "Long-term sustainability of water resources and biodiversity under scenarios of climate change in the Napo watershed, Ecuador", PEER Project, USAID-NFS, United States. Ecuador. 2015.
- Laboratory and field technician: "Evolutionary and Ecological Variability in Organismal Trait Response with Altitude and Climate", EVOTRAC Project funded by the National Science Foundation, (Collaboration: Cornell University, University of Colorado, University of Nebraska, USFQ) United States - Ecuador. 2013-2015.
- Teacher of the Molecular Biology Laboratory. School of Medicine, USFQ. Ecuador. Fall 2013.
- Biotechnology Analyst of the "Project on Implementation of National Biosafety Framework". UNDP-GEF, Ministry of Environment. Quito, Ecuador. 2012.
- Researcher: "Detection of *Coxiella burnetii* in bovine milk using TaqMan Real-Time PCR at the Microbiology Institute Laboratory" Institute of Microbiology, USFQ, Quito, Ecuador, in collaboration with the Center for Microbial Genetics and Genomics of Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, USA. 2011-2012.
- Researcher: "Molecular Characterization of the *mcr* Gene on a Population of Methanogenic Bacteria", Grant awarded by Institute of Microbiology, USFQ, Quito, Ecuador. 2008-2010.
- Tutor and demonstrator for Tropical Diseases (Medical Entomology), Plant Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering and Molecular Markers Laboratory Practicals USFQ, 2008-2010 respectively.
- Teaching Assistant for the courses of General Biology and Biosphere, USFQ, 2008-2010.
- Medical assistant at the Simssee Klinik (physiotherapy facility). Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr (FSJ) Programme, Bavarian Red Cross, Munich, Germany, 2005-2006.

Practical Experience

- Cell culture, PCR, Real Time PCR, diagnosis and characterization of HPV, Rotavirus, Norovirus, Adenovirus, Picobinavirus, Herpesvirus, Dengue virus, Hanta virus, Influenza virus, School of Biosciences, Universidad de la Republica, Montevideo, Uruguay. 2010.
- Real Time PCR for the diagnosis and characterization of microorganisms. Applied Biosystems Training. School of Biosciences, Universidad de la Republica, Montevideo, Uruguay, 2010.
- Analysis and diagnosis of HPV in rural areas of Ecuador. Institute of Microbiology, USFQ, 2008

Other

- Wellcome Trust Images collaborator (tropical disease vectors and pathogens).