

Marco Polo

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Aspiring MICROBIOLOGIST

- **Languages:** Fluent Spanish (verbal and written) and Basic French (verbal)
- **Leadership:** Large group facilitation, conflict resolution, and leading group meetings
- **Molecular Biology:** DNA and RNA purification; Gel electrophoresis; Primer design; DNA cloning; PCR; qPCR; RT-qPCR; Gibson assembly; conjugation; bacteriophage transduction; transformation
- **Immunological:** Flow cytometry; Immunofluorescence staining; Western blot; ELISA
- **Computing:** GraphPad Prism; MacVector; Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, and Teams); Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Drive, and Meet); Zoom; WebEx and Skype

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO (UIC), Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences; Minor in Psychology

GPA: 3.5/4.0; Dean's List 3/4 semesters

Expected August 2023

Honors College Student & Presidential Award Program Scholar

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

October 2021 - Present

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, UIC, Chicago, IL

Advisor: Josefina Mendoza, Ph.D.

- Develop and currently investigating a new project involving the role of chitinases produced by *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium during infection
- Generate 8 bacterial strains with specific gene deletions by molecular cloning, Gibson assembly, homologous recombination, transformation, and conjugation
- Establish *in vitro* tissue culture assays to investigate the interactions between *Salmonella* chitinases and intestinal epithelial cells
- Assist with three studies focusing on sequencing data manipulation through a bioinformatics workshop (R, RNA-seq and Next Generation Sequencing)

Biology Student Researcher

June 2021 - August 2021

Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Advisor: Dr. Troy Bell Smith, Ph.D.

- Selected to participate in a competitive summer research program (800+ applicants) in which students take courses and complete laboratory research projects to enhance research skills and abilities
- Studied the anti-cancer effects of derivatives of artemisinin (an antimalarial drug)
- Demonstrated proficiency in maintaining cell cultures and performing flow cytometry

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Orientation Leader (OL)

Feb. 2021 - Aug. 2021

New Student and Family Programs (NSFP), UIC, Chicago, IL

- Supported new students' transition to UIC (freshmen and transfers) during 33 orientation sessions by leading large group discussions about campus diversity, academic integrity, and using campus resources
- Interacted respectfully with students and families by sharing information about UIC life and services
- Assisted college advisors with facilitating group class registration (12+ students) by answering student questions and teaching students how to use UIC online systems

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Tutor

Feb. 2019 - May 2020

Little Village READS at Erie House, Chicago IL

- Trained 3 tutors on establishing rapport and creating strong relationships with child participants
- Facilitated challenging yet fun hands-on learning projects with 25+ 3rd graders (in person and virtually) in English and Spanish to promote literacy development in both languages