
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Adolfo Lara

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Microbiologist and Postdoctoral Researcher

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Houston - Downtown	B.S	05/2013	Biology
Richard Gilder Graduate School - American Museum of Natural History	Ph.D.	10/2018	Comparative Biology
University of Florida	Postdoctoral	Ongoing	Evolutionary Genomics

A. Personal Statement

Growing up in Mexico and subsequently making the shift to living in the U.S.A., I developed a familiarity transcending boundaries. Growing up in a new environment I found myself surpassing beyond my language barrier, cultural barrier, and previously intended aspirations. I carried this into my academic upbringing where I seized numerous opportunities to develop my expertise in working at the intersection of emerging disciplines, parallel to growing up in the intersection of two cultures. This upbringing and my scientific interest led me to earn my Ph.D. in Comparative Biology from the Richard Gilder Graduate School in the American Museum of Natural History, combining neuroscience and evolutionary biology to unravel questions about the origin of nervous system using genetic sequencing methods. Now, as a Microbiologist in the Houston Health Department, I use those same genetic sequencing skills to produce high quality data used in public health policy decisions. Through this, I have been able to appreciate science beyond the biology and the impact of human actions – a pillar of my science outreach philosophy.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

2019–2020 Science Educator, The Health Museum, Houston, TX
2020–2021 Microbiologist III, Houston Health Department, Houston, TX
2021– Microbiologist IV, Houston Health Department, Houston, TX
2021– Molecular Biologist, PAE, Houston, TX
2022– Remote Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Florida, FL

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2008–2013	Member, Scholars Academy, University of Houston-Downtown
2008–2009	Member, Leeuwenhoek Society, University of Houston-Downtown
2008–2010	Member, Health Professions Organization, University of Houston-Downtown
2009–2010	Treasurer, Leeuwenhoek Society, University of Houston-Downtown
2009–2013	Peer-Led Team Learning Math Tutor, PLTL, University of Houston-Downtown
2010–2011	Vice-President, Health Professions Organization, University of Houston-Downtown
2010–2012	MARC Scholar, NIH, University of Houston-Downtown
2010–2013	Peer Mentor, Scholars Academy, University of Houston-Downtown
2014–2017	NSF GRFP Fellow, Richard Gilder Graduate School, New York City

Honors

2010	MARC Scholar, NIH, University of Houston-Downtown
2014	NSF GRFP Fellow
2018	Travel Scholarship Award for Cnidofest 2018
2023	Travel Scholarship Award for APHL 2023
2024	Travel Scholarship Award for APHL 2024

C. Contribution to Science

C..1 Publications

Lara A., Simonson B. T., Ryan J. and Jegla T. (2023). "Genome Scale Analysis Reveals Extensive Diversification of Voltage-Gated K+ Channels in Stem Cnidarians." *Genome Biology and Evolution*. 15:3 (doi: 10.1093/gbe/evad009).

Sanchez E., Gonzalez E., Moreno D., Cardenas R., Ramos M., Davalos A., Manllo J., Rodarte A., Petrova Y., Moreira D., Chavez M., Tortoriello A., Lara A., Gutierrez B., Burns A., Heidelberger R., and Adachi R. (2019). "Syntaxin 3, but not Syntaxin 4, is required for mast cell regulated exocytosis, where it plays a primary role mediating compound exocytosis". *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. 294: 3012-3023. (doi: 10.1074/jbc.RA118.005532).

Schreiber H.L. IV, Koirala M., Lara A., Ojeda M., Dowd S.E., Bextine B. and Morano L. (2010). "Unraveling the First *Xylella fastidiosa* Subsp. *Fastidiosa* Genome from Texas". *Southwestern Entomologist* 35(3): 479-483. (doi: 10.3958/059.035.0336).

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

2026356 Frischer (PI) 09/01/22–Ongoing

EAGER: Exploration of evolutionary mechanisms across multiple scales

The goal of this study is to compare the evolutionary mechanisms within novel species.

Role: Co-Investigator