UCLA Graduate Programs in Bioscience

Maximizing Success in the First Year

Wednesday's, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, Boyer 159

OBJECTIVE:

To enrich the academic experiences of incoming graduate students and to provide guidance on how to thrive during the first year of the PhD. The goals of these workshops are to: 1) discuss strategies for effectively integrating into the PhD program, lab, and department, 2) provide a space for sharing experiences with peers and 3) build community.

This series of workshops provides a space for reflecting, processing, growing and building community during the critical first quarter of your graduate experience. The first half of each meeting will be dedicated to discussing a specific topic as listed below, followed by group breakout sessions where we will speak informally about your experience with the topic.

DATE	**TOPIC**
Sept. 20th	"Resilience and Imposter Syndrome" and Research Rotation Evaluation
Oct. 11th	"Finding Potential Research Rotation Groups and Mentors"
Oct. 25th	"Managing Commitments"
Nov. 8th	"Managing Conflict"
Dec. 6th	"How to Choose a Lab and Managing the Mentoring Relationship"

Light lunch will be provided, please RSVP a week before the workshop at: http://uclagpbevents.eventbrite.com

FACILITATOR:

Diana Azurdia, PhD Email: dazurdia@mednet.ucla.edu
Office Hours: Please feel free to make an appointment at your convenience!

About the Facilitator:

Dr. Diana Azurdia is the Associate Director for Inclusion and Recruitment for Graduate Programs in Bioscience. She also directs the UCLA Bridge to the Doctorate and Entering Mentoring training programs and serves as the SACNAS Chapter Advisor. She has directed several programs that broaden participation in science, served as adjunct faculty in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department at CSU Los Angeles and performed postdoctoral research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, investigating the role of Wnt/beta-catenin signaling on histone modification and its role in metastasis and proliferation of triple-negative breast cancer cells. She earned her PhD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from UCLA, where she was a NIGMS Predoctoral Fellow (F31), and graduated with a B.S. in Biochemistry from CSU Los Angeles, where she was a NIH MARC trainee. Dr. Azurdia is a first-generation Guatemalan-American and the first in her family to attend college. She grew up in a low-income household with very limited resources and her first exposure to the idea that science could be pursued as a career came through the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program. As the beneficiary of broadening participation programs, she believes that initiatives that promote access to STEM degrees are important for equal representation of all identities in science, the creation of innovations that serve all communities and income equity. Consequently, Dr. Azurdia has devoted her career to promoting initiatives that serve those causes. Additionally, she attributes her ability to navigate her academic career to key mentors and therefore a major focus of her work centers on the propagation of effective mentoring of underrepresented individuals in STEM.