

# Juanita Limas

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## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D., Pharmacology</b> , Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC	<b>2021 (exp.)</b>
<b>M.S., Biomedical Sciences</b> , Barry University, Miami, FL	<b>2009</b>
<b>B.S., Biochemistry (Honors) &amp; B.A., Spanish</b> , University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	<b>1999</b>

## OVERALL SUMMARY

- Communicated research via 6 peer-reviewed publications; 8 research talks, 8 poster presentations at conferences
- Authored 6 grants (both Spanish/English) securing funding for research & projects totaling \$250,000+
- Organized/coordinated 8 projects focusing on diversity in STEM, mental health, & sustainable ag / women's empowerment
- Extensive science teaching experience (4,000+ students) at both the community college and 4-year university levels, including both lecture and lab formats using cadaver models and other anatomical models
- Mentored 2 undergraduate and 4 graduate students in lab techniques as well as career development
- Engaged in science communication outreach activities to 8 K-12 classrooms in US in both English and Spanish
- Created multi-disciplinary task forces of 10+ individuals surrounding wellbeing & mental health in graduate school, both at the national level (Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)) as well as local level (my PhD department)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC** **2016 – present**
- Managed 7 projects using flow cytometry, RNAseq, radioactive assays, whole genome imaging, immunoblotting, immunofluorescence, etc., resulting in 6 peer-reviewed publications
  - Collaborated with 30+ scientists on multi-disciplinary, multi-functional projects to assemble complex scientific content resulting in 2 grants
  - Supervised, trained, and mentored 6 undergraduate and graduate students delegating duties on various projects
- Assistant Professor, Kirkwood Community College (KCC) & St. Petersburg College (SPC)** **2009 – 2016**
- Created all teaching materials, including all assessments (quizzes, tests, lab practicals, clicker quizzes) for both lecture and laboratory courses using human cadaver models
  - Taught anatomy, physiology, microbiology, nutrition, and biology courses to 4,000+ students
  - Participated in faculty meetings and search committees for new faculty members and new dean for department
- Crisis Corps Volunteer, Consultant for United Nations & Gov't of Panamá, Hospital del Niño** **2007**
- Worked as a consultant of the Panamanian government and the United Nations (UN) to create database of children in Panamá affected by HIV/AIDS
  - Developed computer tracking system with pharmacological & geographical data of areas hardest hit by HIV/AIDS
  - Served as liaison between Peace Corps Panamá (US State Dept) and Ministry of Health (Panama)
- Peace Corps Volunteer, Nicaragua, Central America (Community Health Education)** **2000 – 2002**
- Taught 5 health classes in the schools with total of 500+ students, as well as formed adolescent girls-groups
  - Administered vaccines, Vitamin A treatments, and assisted with bi-annual national vaccination campaigns
  - Created disaster preparedness committee in my village and was asked by Peace Corps Nicaragua to travel across the country helping other Peace Corps volunteers create similar committees in their sites
  - Wrote grant to secure funding and managed construction of latrines and a community well in village

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC** **2020 – present**  
*Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Gilliam Fellow*
- Organized 87 HHMI Gilliam Fellows worldwide in a Call to Action to address mental health issues in grad school
  - Initiated HHMI Gilliam National Mental Health Advisory Committee/Community of Practice to implement systemic changes to HHMI Gilliam Fellowship program addressing challenges minority graduate students face
  - Designed symposium format for annual HHMI Gilliam Fellows meeting centered around minority mental health

- Task Force Founder on Mental Health and Wellbeing, UNC Department of Pharmacology **2019 – present**
- Assembled and led task force in dept. to reorganize website including mental health resources for students, faculty, staff, and postdocs
  - Collaborated with department in 1<sup>st</sup> annual Mental Health Awareness Week to assemble speakers and events
  - Created first Student Seminar Series committee inviting diverse scientists to deliver weekly seminars to department

- Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity/Development (IMSD) **2016 – present**
- Co-Chair of symposium on Diversity in STEM, contacting guest speakers, planning sessions, and balancing \$20,000+ budget
  - Organized abstracts for posters for research sessions & facilitated advertisement planning and food for 5 events
  - Served as a cohort leader for recruitment of new PhD students to IMSD program, calling ~ 25 prospective students and alleviating fears about graduate school
  - Started new Peer Mentoring program recruiting 45 participants (24 new minority PhD students paired with 21 senior graduate students) for monthly check-ins, professional development workshops, skill and team building exercises

- Founding Chapter President, Soc. for the Adv. of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Am. in Science (SACNAS) **2016 – 2018**
- Created and funded Lunch 'N' Learn series inviting minority professors to give 9 monthly seminars on their research and their trajectory into science
  - Applied for and received \$2,000+ funding for 9 events over the course of 2 years for supplies, food, and speaker fees
  - Delegated responsibilities for Leadership Board consisting of Social Media Chair, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

- Assistant Professor, Anatomy & Physiology, Kirkwood Community College** **2014 – 2016**
- Faculty Campus Director, Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)
- Created program on campus serving 60+ underrepresented minority (URM) students in STEM
  - Networked with PIs and universities in US to place students in summer research experiences (REU) opportunities
  - Maintained and balanced \$100,000+ budget & assisted with grant renewal through National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Faculty Advisor, International exchange to Quito, Ecuador **2015**
- Led group of 14 pre-med/pre-nursing students to Quito, Ecuador for 2 weeks in rural/urban medical clinics
  - Secured \$5,000 in funding to offset expenses for students, allowing costs to be significantly reduced
  - Students delivered presentations of their experience to friends, family, and Kirkwood Community College administration following their return to the US

- Collaborative Learning Days Diversity Track **2014**
- Wrote proposal to VP of Student Affairs (and was granted permission) to create a day of diversity/inclusion workshops during regular yearly in-service workshop.
  - Coordinated with 16 different faculty from various departments to give workshops on diversity/inclusion for 2-day workshop [2014 Collaborative Learning Days Diversity Track \(video is about my idea to organize workshop\)](#)
  - Contracted production of video for Center for Teaching and Learning that chronicled the workshop and faculty/staff behind the scenes

## **COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE (selected)**

- Featured on University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill website: **2019 – present**
- [May, 2020: Sustainable Scholarship Discussion with UNC libraries](#)
  - [November 2019: UNC Research Week \(featured online\)](#)
  - [March 2019: Women in STEM feature \(UNC video\)](#)
  - [January 2019: Women in Science Wednesday \(featured online\)](#)

## **INTERESTS, SKILLS & HOBBIES**

*Interests:* Minority affairs, mental health, graduate student education, policy/leadership, Peace Corps advocacy

*Skills:* Extensive experience using programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Illustrator, Prism, FCS Express, R, & ImageJ; bilingual (Spanish & English)

*Hobbies:* Hiking, ziplining, reading, biking, traveling, camping