

ALICIA PÉREZ-PORRO

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APPOINTMENTS

92Y's Women inPower Fellowship Program

2018 Fellow

New York, NY

January 2018

- A 12-month, cross-sector fellowship program for high-potential women who focus on social impact within their respective industries

Homeward Bound Project for Women in Science

2018 Team member

Worldwide / Antarctica

April 2017 – present

- The second of an anticipated 10 cohorts on a 12-month leadership program for women in science to influence policy and decision-making as it shapes our planet

Association for Spanish Scientist in the US (ECUSA)

Board member – NY chapter

Founding Chair – Commission for Women in STEM (MECUSA)

Board member – DC chapter

Washington, DC

2017 - present

2016 - present

2015 - 2016

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Research associate

Washington, DC

2015 - present

- Under the supervision of Dr. Allen G. Collins

Harvard University

Visiting Scholar

Cambridge, MA

2009 - 2014

- Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, Dept. of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
- Under the supervision of Dr. Gonzalo Giribet

EDUCATION

University of Barcelona

Ph.D. Advisors: María Jesús Uribe & Gonzalo Giribet; Tutor: Susanna Lopez-Legentil

Barcelona, Spain

September 19th, 2014

- Thesis: Transcriptomics along a sponge life cycle

University of Barcelona

MS in Biodiversity; Advisor: María Jesús Uribe

Barcelona, Spain

2010

- Thesis: Reproduction of *Hemimycale columella* (Demospongiae: Poecilosclerida): embryo development and larval ultrastructure

Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)

BS in Biology

Barcelona, Spain

2008

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Mobility scholarship

9th World Sponge Conference Committee

2013

- Received one of six merit-based scholarships to attend the 9th World Sponge Conference (Perth, Australia)

Predocctoral Fellowship Research Personnel Training Program

2008 - 2012

Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation

- Conducted thesis research at the Center for Advanced Studies in Blanes (CEAB-CSIC) and the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University under the direction of Dr. Maria Jesus Uriz (CEAB-CSIC) and Dr. Gonzalo Giribet (Harvard University)

The Smithsonian Women's Committee Fellowship

2007

Smithsonian Institute

- Received full merit-based fellowship for STRI sponge course in Panama

Mobility Grant

2005 - 2006

Autonomous University of Barcelona

- Received merit-based all-inclusive grant for one year of study at the University of Costa Rica

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

7. Sharma P, Kaluziak S, **Pérez-Porro AR**, González VL, Hormiga G, Wheeler WC, Giribet G (2014) Phylogenomic interrogation of Chelicerata reveals systemic conflicts in phylogenetic signal. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 31:12, 3206-3215.
6. Fernández R, Laumer CE, Vahtera V, Libro S, Kaluziak S, Sharma PP, **Pérez-Porro AR**, Edgecombe GD, Giribet G. (2014). Evaluating topological conflict in centipede phylogeny using transcriptomic data sets. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 31:6, 1500-1513.
5. **Pérez-Porro AR**, Navarro-Gómez D, Uriz MJ, Giribet G (2013) A NGS approach to the encrusting Mediterranean sponge *Crella elegans* (Porifera, Demospongiae, Poecilosclerida): transcriptome sequencing, characterization and overview of the gene expression along three life cycle stages. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 13:3, 494-509.
4. Riesgo A, Andrade SC, Sharma P, Novo M, **Pérez-Porro AR**, Vahtera V, González VL, Kawauchi GY, Giribet G (2012) Comparative description of ten transcriptomes of newly sequenced invertebrates and efficiency estimation of genomic sampling in non-model taxa. *Frontiers in Zoology* 9, 33. [Highly accessed]
3. **Pérez-Porro AR**, González J, Uriz M (2012) Reproductive traits explain contrasting ecological features in sponges: the sympatric poecilosclerids *Hemimycale columella* and *Crella elegans* as examples. *Hydrobiologia* 687, 315-330.
2. Riesgo A, **Pérez-Porro AR**, Carmona S, Leys SP, Giribet G (2011) Optimization of preservation and storage time of sponge tissues to obtain quality mRNA for next-generation sequencing. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 12, 312-322.
1. Uriz MJ, Gili JM, Orejas C, **Perez-Porro AR** (2011) Do bipolar distributions exist in marine sponges? *Stylocordyla chupachups* sp. nv. (Porifera: Hadromerida) from the Weddell Sea (Antarctic), previously reported as *S. borealis* (Loven, 1868). *Polar Biology* 34, 243-255.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Alicia Pérez-Porro** & '500 Women Scientists NYC' (2017) Why Women Drop out of Science Careers: It's always been a big problem—here's what we can do about it. **Scientific American**, Voices —<https://goo.gl/Hg9NsA>

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES

Sponges in a changing ocean

Conservation Biology & Psychology MA Course, Hunter College (CUNY)

November 2017

Transcriptomics along a sponge life cycle

Genetics Institute, National University of Colombia (Bogotá, Colombia)

August 2013

Gene expression along the life cycle of the Mediterranean sponge *Crella elegans* (Demospongiae, Poecilosclerida)

Center for Advanced Studies of Blanes (Girona, Spain)

November 2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Pérez-Porro AR, Uriz MJ, Giribet G, 2013. The stress of reproduction: gene expression along the life cycle of the Mediterranean sponge *Crella elegans* (Demospongiae, Poecilosclerida). **9th World Sponge Conference** (Perth, Australia). (Oral presentation, ARPP)

Torruella G, Mallo D, **Pérez-Porro AR**, Leys S, Ruiz-Trillo I, Giribet G, Riesgo A, 2013. Phylogenomics reveals polyphyly of haploscleromorph clades and provides insight into the early evolution of sponges. **9th World Sponge Conference** (Perth, Australia). (Poster, AR)

Pérez-Porro AR, Uriz MJ, 2011. Ultrastructure of the reproductive elements of two poecilosclerids (*Hemimycale columella* and *Crella elegans*) sharing habitat in the Mediterranean Sea. **2nd International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology** (Cambridge, USA). (Oral presentation, ARPP)

Pérez-Porro AR, González J, Garí A, Uriz MJ, 2010. Life cycle and larval ultrastructure of two Mediterranean Poecilosclerids species sharing habitat. **8th World Sponge Conference** (Girona, Spain). (Poster, ARPP)

CONFERENCES

ATTENDANCE

10 th World Sponge Conference (Galway, Ireland)	2017
2 nd Joint Meeting of Spanish Scientists in US. MIT, Cambridge MA	2017
9 th World Sponge Conference (Perth, Australia)	2013
2 nd International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology (Harvard University, Cambridge MA)	2011
8 th World Sponge Conference (Girona, Spain)	2010
2 nd Symposium of Association for Aquatic Mammals (KETÉ) (A. A. M.) (UAB, Spain)	2004
1 st Symposium of Association for Aquatic Mammals, (UAB, Spain)	2003

ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

1 st Joint Meeting of Spanish Scientists in US. Georgetown University, Washington DC	2015
2 nd International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology. Harvard University, Cambridge MA	2011
8 th World Sponge Conference. Girona, Spain	2010

CHAIR

'Mujer y espíritu emprendedor' round table

- 2nd Joint Meeting of Spanish Scientist in US. MIT, Cambridge MA 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Marine and Coastal Situation for Central America Consultant

Costa Rica

2007 – 2008

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University

Invited Teacher's Assistant to the sponge lab; Biology and Evolution of Invertebrate

Cambridge, MA

2010 & 2011

CEAB-CSIC

Mentor to Janina González (undergraduate student) on underwater sponge sampling, histology and TEM techniques

Blanes, Spain

2009-2011

Mentor to Andrea Garí (undergraduate student) on underwater sponge sampling and histology techniques

2009-2010

Zoology Department, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Teacher's Assistant; Zoology

Barcelona, Spain

2004 – 2007

Cosmocaixa Science Museum

Lecturer on Zoology, Physics and Microbiology topics

Barcelona, Spain

2004 – 2007

OUTREACH AND SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION INVITED LECTURES AND EVENTS

The Story Collider

Personal stories about science: Power (New York, NY) —<https://goo.gl/RTmjD1>

December 2017

#SkypeWithAScientist

Cypress Park High School (Cypress, TX)

December 2017

Sponges

Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony —<https://www.improbable.com/ig/24-7/> - 2017

September 2017

Sponges in a changing ocean

500 Women Scientists-NYC (NY, USA)

July 2017

Alice in Scienceland: Adventures of a Woman in Science

Community College of Baltimore County (MD, USA)

April 2016

November 2015

MEDIA APPEARANCES

El Huffington Post — <https://goo.gl/KcN2co>

December 2017

500 Women Scientists #MeetAScientist blog post —<https://goo.gl/ziyEii>

November 2017

The female Scientist —<https://goo.gl/ec5sXf>

September 2017

E-visibility (ECUSA YouTube channel) —<https://youtu.be/nXzu27DHxz8>

January 2017

'8aldia' (8TV News) —<http://www.8tv.cat/8aldia/tag/alicia-perez-porro/>

November 2016

Magazine (La Vanguardia), 'Científicos en la élite' —<https://goo.gl/GyOG6k>

January 2013

YoDona (El Mundo), 'Jóvenes españolas a la conquista –científica– de América'

December 2011

El Periódico, 'Jóvenes españolas a la conquista –científica– de América'

December 2011

El Periódico, 'Una nueva especie de esponja recibe por nombre *Stylocordyla chupachups*' —<https://goo.gl/NjW19X>

September 2010

MEMBERSHIPS

500WS – *500 Women Scientists*

www.500womenscientists.org

2017

AAAS – *American Association for the Advancement of Science*

www.aaas.org

2016

ISRS – *International Society for Reef Studies*

www.coralreefs.org

2016

AWIS – <i>Association for Women in Science</i> www.awis.org	2015
WDHOF – <i>Women Divers Hall of Fame</i> www.wdhof.org	2015
ECUSA – <i>Españoles Científicos en Estados Unidos (Association for Spanish Scientists in the US)</i> www.ecusa.es	2015

LANGUAGES

English: Full professional proficiency

Spanish: Native speaker

Catalan: Native speaker

French: Basic