

Valentina Pérez García

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EDUCATION

Ana G. Méndez University (UAGM), Gurabo, Puerto Rico
Bachelor of Science in Biology

January 2022 – May 2026

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Intern

May 2025 - August 2025

Ocean Data Lab, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Research Advisor: Dr. Shima Abadi

- Analyzed long-term hydrophone datasets to quantify marine soundscapes and anthropogenic noise.

Research Intern

June 2024 - August 2024

Tracy Lab, Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, Baltimore, MD
Research Advisor: Dr. Allison Tracy

- Conducted oyster disease diagnostics and biostatistical analyses linking biodiversity to reef health.

Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) Volunteer

June 2024 - August 2024

Zohar Lab, Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, Baltimore MD
Mentor: Matthew Stromberg, PhD Candidate

- Operated RAS equipment and conducted Atlantic salmon handling and health assessments.

Lead Researcher

August 2024 - Present

Delgado Lab, Ana G. Méndez University, Gurabo, Puerto Rico
Research Advisor: Hector Delgado Rodríguez, MS

- Lead quantitative research on lichen diversity and ecosystem relationships in coastal wetlands.

Research Assistant Intern

June 2023 - August 2023

Paleoecology Lab, Ana G. Méndez University, Gurabo, Puerto Rico
Research Advisor: Dr. Jose Rosario

- Performed soil geochemistry analyses of historical mangrove sediment cores.

Student Researcher

January 2023 - August 2024

Mercado Lab, University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus
Research Advisor: Dr. Alex Mercado

- Supported restoration of *A. cervicornis* through passive acoustic monitoring in coral reefs.
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PUBLICATIONS

Velázquez-Alvarado, J., **V. Pérez-García**, J. S. Tellechea, J. T. Backstrom and A. Mercado-Molina. 2025. Lack of Consistent Diurnal Trends in Acoustic Metrics from Restored Coral Reefs. *Gulf and Caribbean Research* 36 (1): 71-88. <https://doi.org/10.18785/gcr.3601.16>

GRANTS

American Geophysical Union Student Travel Grant

December 2025

Travel grant (\$1,000) to support travel expenses to the Ocean Science Meeting 2026.

Our Shared Ocean – Mobility and Travel Grant 2025 by the Irish Aid

November 2025

Travel grant (€1,629) to support travel expenses to the Ocean Science Meeting 2026.

Undergraduate Student Research Fellowship by The Torrey Botanical Society

May 2025

Won a 1st place research materials grant (\$1,500) to support research expenses.

Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Research ROUSS NSF Grant

January 2025

Received an undergraduate stipend (\$800) and research material grant (\$200) for academic and research support.

PRESENTATIONS

Impact of Environmental Variation on Pest and Parasite Patterns in Eastern Oysters (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) in Chesapeake Bay. Ocean Science Meeting (OSM) in Glasgow, Scotland. Poster. Accepted.	February 26, 2026
Evaluating Lichen Diversity Value in Arecibo, Puerto Rico's Coastal Mangrove Forest. NDiSTEM Sacnas Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Poster.	October 31, 2025
Impact of Environmental Variation on Pest and Parasite Patterns in Eastern Oysters (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) in Chesapeake Bay. Out for Undergrad (O4U) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Poster.	September 20, 2025
Impact of Environmental Variation on Pest and Parasite Patterns in Eastern Oysters (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) in Chesapeake Bay. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Awarded Best Poster by ESA-LAC Chapter. Poster.	August 14, 2025
Characterizing Ambient Sound in Saratoga Passage, Washington USA. 5th Acoustical Society of America (ACS) Summer Intern Research Day. Oral.	August 1, 2025
Phonic Richness Daily Variation in Shallow Water Reefs Under Restoration at Culebra, Puerto Rico. Annual Research Symposium at the Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS) at Stony Brook University, New York, USA. Poster.	April 17, 2025
Evaluating Lichen Diversity Value in Arecibo, Puerto Rico's Coastal Mangrove Forest. SACNAS UPRRP 2nd Local Conference, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. Poster.	March 8, 2025
Environmental Variation Impact on Co-Infections in the Eastern Oyster (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>). 23rd IMET Summer Intern Research Day, Baltimore, Maryland. Oral.	August 8, 2024
Phonic Richness Daily Variation in Shallow Water Reefs Under Restoration at Culebra, Puerto Rico. Symposium of Coral Reefs Week host by Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico. Oral.	June 4, 2024
Phonic Richness Daily Variation in Shallow Water Reefs Under Restoration at Culebra, Puerto Rico. 57th ACS Junior Technical Meeting (JTM), Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Oral.	April 20, 2024
Phonic Richness Daily Variation in Shallow Water Reefs Under Restoration at Culebra, Puerto Rico. XXI UAGM Research Meeting, Cupey, Puerto Rico. Oral.	April 19, 2024
Phonic Richness Daily Variation in Shallow Water Reefs Under Restoration at Culebra, Puerto Rico. SACNAS UPRRP Local Conference, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. Awarded 2nd place in Environmental Science Category. Poster.	March 9, 2024
Phonic Richness Daily Variation in Restored Coral Reefs in Culebra, Puerto Rico. Ocean Sciences Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Poster.	February 20, 2024
Acoustic Diversity In Coral Reefs Under Restoration In Culebra, Puerto Rico. Symposium of Coral Reefs Week, Caguas Center for Science and Technology (CSA), Caguas, Puerto Rico. Poster.	June 10, 2023
Acoustic Diversity In Coral Reefs Under Restoration In Culebra, Puerto Rico. Symposium of XX UAGM Research Meeting, Carolina, Puerto Rico. Poster.	April 21, 2023

AWARDS

SACNAS Student Travel Award (Ohio, USA)	October 2025
Out for Undergrad (O4U) Travel Grant (Minnesota, USA)	September 2025
SEEDS Undergraduate Student Travel Award (Baltimore, USA)	August 2025

Sonar and ROV Workshop Scholarship - Northwestern Michigan College (Michigan, USA)	June 2025
BEACHES Visiting Program - Northeastern University (Boston, USA)	June 2025
SEEDS ESA Field Trip Scholarship- University of Virginia LTER (Virginia, USA)	May 2025
Getting You Into IU Indianapolis Institute Visiting Program (Indiana, USA)	April 2025
Visit NC State Visiting Program - The Graduate School (North Carolina, USA)	November 2024
ASLO Multicultural Program Travel Award (New Orleans, USA)	February 2024

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Language: Fluent in English and Spanish.

Laboratory & Molecular Techniques: PCR, gel electrophoresis, histology, microscopy, spectrophotometry, microbiological plating and culture growth.

Field & Environmental Techniques: Fish handling; water quality testing; SONAR and multibeam systems; hydrophone deployment and analysis; operation and field support of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs); Rod Surface Elevation Table (RSET) measurements; biodiversity assessments.

Computational Skills: Proficient in RStudio, MATLAB, Python, ArcGIS, and LaTeX.

Team Awards: UAGM Science & Mathematics Competition: 1st Place (2024); 3rd Place (2025)

Leadership: President of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Chapter (2024- Present) , and Student Council Representative (2024 - 2025).

Professional Memberships: Acoustical Society of America, American Chemical Society, Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, SACNAS, Torrey Botanical Society.

Mentorship: Mentored 16 undergraduate researchers, delivered 12 undergraduate-level lectures, and supported academic and application reviews.

Research Interests: Ocean Technology | Conservation Ecology | Fisheries Science | Habitat Restoration |