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Education

PhD, The University of Arizona, 2007.

Major: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Jacobson, E. L.

MS, *High Honors*, Universidad de Chile, 2002.

Major: Molecular Biotechnology Engineering

Advisor: Minguell, J. M.

BS, *Honors*, Universidad de Chile, 2001.

Major: Molecular Biotechnology Engineering

Professional Positions

Deputy Director, Cancer Research Institute, UC Irvine. (2025-Present).

International Member, National Science and Technology Institute of Childhood Cancer Biology and Pediatric Oncology – INCT BioOncoPed, Brazil. (2024-Present).

Deputy Associate Director for Cancer Research Training & Education Coordination, UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. (2023-Present).

Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, UC Irvine. (2022-Present).

Associate Professor, Developmental & Cell Biology, UC Irvine. (2022-Present).

Member, Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, UC Irvine. (2014-Present).

Assistant Professor, Developmental & Cell Biology, UC Irvine. (2015-2022).

Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, UC Irvine. (2014-2022).

Postdoctoral Research Associate, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. (2009 - 2014).

Mentor: Michael A. Dyer

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Rhodes College. (2012).

Research Associate, Arizona Cancer Center, University of Arizona. (2007 - 2008).

Mentor: Elaine L. Jacobson

Research Associate, Niadyne Inc. (2007 - 2008).

Mentor: Elaine L. Jacobson

R&D Director and Co-Founder, Aureogenomics Ltda. (2001 - 2004).

Research Assistant, Gene and Cellular Therapy Program, Instituto de Nutrición y Tecnología de los Alimentos, Universidad de Chile. (2002 - 2003).

Teaching Assistant, Physical Chemistry, College of Science, Universidad de Chile. (1999 - 2001).

Research Technician, Cell and Molecular Biology Department, Universidad Católica de Chile. (1999 - 2000).

Professional Development Training

CIMER Facilitating Entering Mentoring. (February 23 – 27, 2026).

CIMER Entering Mentoring. (May 9, 2025).

Faculty Mentoring Academy, University of California, Irvine. (February 26, 2025).

Workshop, "Maximizing Graduate Student Success & Retention," School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of California, Irvine. (April 17 – May 8 2023).

Provost Leadership Academy, University of California, Irvine. (December 10, 2021 – May 13, 2022).

Inclusive Excellence Certificate Program, University of California, Irvine (2021 – 2022).

Minority Thriving University, Inclusive Excellence Course, University of California, Irvine. (January 6 – March 10, 2022).

Anti-Blackness in the United States, Inclusive Excellence Course, University of California, Irvine. (July 15 – September 9, 2020).

Summer Faculty Working Group, UCI Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, University of California, Irvine. (08-2018 – 04/2019).

Certificate in Engaged Instruction, UCI Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, University of California, Irvine. (08-2018 – 04/2019).

Workshop, "COACHing Strong Faculty in the Art of Strategic Persuasion," COACH. (October 12, 2016).

Workshop, "Becoming an Effective Mentor," University of California, Irvine, Irvine. (April 18, 2016 – May 23, 2016).

Professional Memberships

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy/ (2025 – Present).

American Association for the Advancement of Science. (2019 – Present).

American Association for Cancer Research. (2008 – Present).

Awards and Honors

Atlas of Inspiring Hispanic/Latinx Scientists (2024)

UCI Faculty Academy for Teaching Excellence Fellow (2022)

AACR Minority and Minority Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Award (2019)

AACR-Aflac Career Development Award for Pediatric Cancer Research (2018-2020)

NIH Pathway to Independence Award (2013 - 2017)
Postdoctoral Symposium, Third Place, St Jude Children's Research Hospital (2014)
CureSearch Children's Cancer Travel Award (2012)
Postdoctoral Professional Development Event, Best Poster Presentation Award (2011)
Arizona Cancer Center Travel Award (2006 - 2008)
Graduate and Professional Student Council Travel Award (2006)
Herbert E. Carter Travel Award (2006)
Association for Women Faculty Best Paper Award, University of Arizona (2005)
Tucson Mayor's Award: Honorary Citizen of Tucson (2004)
Fulbright Scholar (2003 - 2005)

RESEARCH

Publications

Book Chapters, Peer-Reviewed

14. Zocchi L, **Benavente CA**. (2018) DNA repair and epigenetic regulation in cancer (Ch. 18). *Molecular Medicines for Cancer: Concepts and Applications of Nanotechnology*. CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group. doi: 10.1201/9781315269214

Benavente CA, Dyer MA. (2015). Genetically engineered mouse and orthotopic human tumor xenograft models of retinoblastoma (Ch.15). *Methods in Molecular Biology* (Vol. 1267, pp. 307-17). New York: Springer Science+Business Media. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-2297-0_15.

Minguell JJ, Erices A, Conget P, Sierralta W, Rojas CV, Allers C, **Benavente CA**, Fierro F, Rivera F. (2002). Mesenchymal Uncommitted Stem Cells. *Mesenchymal stem cells biology and potential clinical uses. Ministerio de sanidad y consumo*. Madrid, Spain: Fundación Valenciana de estudios avanzados.

Journal Articles, Peer-Reviewed

29. Kizhedathu A, Nguyen A, Yu C, Moghareh S, Tran V, Mousaia P, Vertiz J, **Benavente CA**, Huang L, Lara-Gonzalez P. Cyclin B3 promotes timely mitotic progression and fidelity in cancer cells, *submitted to Science Advances*.

28. Gu Y, Suarez-Pizarro M, Chen CC, Wu J, Zocchi L, Suh S, Smith P, Cruz S, Tinoco R, **Benavente CA**. UHRF1 is critical for tumor-promoting inflammation and tumorigenesis in retinoblastoma. *bioRxiv [Preprint]*. (2025) doi: 10.1101/2025.03.02.641083. PMC11908184
*In final revisions at Oncogenesis

27. Loy CA, Gu Y, Kim SC, Mohagheghi MV, Trask NB, Suarez-Pizarro M, Wagar LE, **Benavente CA**, Trader DJ. From Probe to Prodrug: Immunoproteasome Activity as a Trigger for Disease-Selective Therapeutics. *Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy* (2026), 11(1):330. doi: 10.1038/s41392-026-02835-w. PMC13470457.

26. Kim A, Gopalakrishnan P, Suarez-Pizarro M, Chen CC, Umesh N, Mordant A, Barker NK, Herring LE, Suarez-Pizarro M, Kakati RT, Spanheimer PM, Emanuele MJ, **Benavente CA**. USP7 inhibition perturbs proteostasis and tumorigenesis in triple negative breast cancer. USP7 inhibition perturbs proteostasis and tumorigenesis in triple-negative breast cancer. *NPJ Breast Cancer* (2026), 12(1):107. doi: 10.1038/s41523-026-00974-5. PMC13473141.

25. Gu Y, De La Torre JJ, Fazeli Y, Valenzuela JM, Guzman F, Tinoco R, **Benavente CA**. UHRF1 drives subtype-independent aggressiveness and immune evasion in small cell lung cancer through PRC2 interactions. *iScience*. 2026 Mar 24;29(4):115475. PMC13090669.

24. Kim A, **Benavente CA**. Oncogenic roles of UHRF1 in cancer. *Epigenomes* (2024), 8(3),26. PMC11270427
23. Gu Y, **Benavente CA**. Landscape and treatment options of shapeshifting small cell lung cancer. *J. Clin. Med.* (2024), 13(11), 3120. doi: 10.3390/jcm13113120. PMC11173155
22. Chen CC, **Benavente CA**. Exploring the Impact of Exosomal Cargos on Osteosarcoma Progression: Insights into Therapeutic Potential. *Int J Mol Sci* (2024) Jan 1;25(1):568. doi: 10.3390/ijms25010568. PMC10779183
21. Wu SC, Kim A, Gu Y, Martinez DI, Zocchi L, Chen CC, Lopez J, Salcido K, Singh S, Wu J, Nael A, **Benavente CA**. UHRF1 overexpression promotes osteosarcoma metastasis through altered exosome production and AMPK/SEMA3E suppression. *Oncogenesis* (2022) Sep 6;11(1):51. doi: 10.1038/s41389-022-00430-6. PMC9448786
20. Guzman F, Fazeli Y, Khuu M, Salcido K, Singh S, **Benavente CA**. Retinoblastoma tumor suppressor protein roles in epigenetic regulation. *Cancers* (2020) 12(10), 2807. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cancers12102807>. PMC7600434
19. Wang S, Drummond ML, Guerrero-Juarez CF, Tarapore E, MacLean AL, Stabell AR, Wu SC, Gutierrez G, That BT, **Benavente CA**, Nie Q, Atwood SX. Single cell transcriptomics of human epidermis reveals basal stem cell transition states. *Nature Communications* (2020) 11, 4239. <https://doi.org/10.1101/784579>. PMC7447770
18. Zocchi L, Wu SC, **Benavente CA**. Heavenly HELLS? – A potential new therapeutic target for retinoblastoma. *Oncoscience* (2020) 7:23-15. <https://doi.org/10.18632/oncoscience.502>. PMC7217136
17. Zocchi L, Mehta A, Wu SC, Wu J, Gu Y, Wang J, Suh S, Spitale RC, **Benavente CA**. Chromatin remodeling protein HELLS is critical for retinoblastoma tumor initiation and progression. *Oncogenesis* (2020) 9:25. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41389-020-0210-7>. PMC7028996.
16. Wu SC, **Benavente CA**. Chromatin remodeling protein HELLS is upregulated by inactivation of the RB-E2F pathway and is dispensable for osteosarcoma tumorigenesis. *Oncotarget* (2018) 9(66):32580-32592. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.25953. PMC6135699.
15. Zocchi L, Wu SC, Wu J, Hayama K, **Benavente CA**. The Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Inhibitor Flavopiridol (Alvocidib) Inhibits Metastasis of Human Osteosarcoma Cells. *Oncotarget* (2018) 9(34):23505-23518. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.25239. PMC5955096.
13. Aldiri I, Ajioka I, Xu B, Zhang J, Chen X, **Benavente CA**, Finkelstein D, Johnson D, Akiyama J, Pennacchio LA, Dyer MA. Brg1 coordinates multiple processes during retinogenesis and is a tumor suppressor in retinoblastoma. *Development* (2015) 142(23), 4092-106. 0950-1991. doi: 10.1242/dev.124800. PMC4712833.
- Benavente CA**, Dyer MA. Genetics and Epigenetics of Human Retinoblastoma. *Annual Reviews of Pathology: Mechanisms of Disease* (2015) (10), 547-562. doi: 10.1146/annurev-pathol-012414-040259.
12. Stewart E, Goshorn R, Bradley C, Griffiths LM, **Benavente CA**, Twarog NR, Miller GM, Freeman BB III, Bahrami A, Pappo A, Wu J, Loh A, Karlstrom A, Calabrese C, Gordon B, Tsurkan L, Hatfield J, Potter PM, Snyder SE, Thiagarajan S, Shirinifard A, Sablauer A, Shelat AA, Dyer MA. Targeting the DNA repair pathway in Ewing sarcoma. *Cell Reports* (2014) 9(3), 829-41. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2014.09.028. PMC4386669.

11. **Benavente CA**, Finkelstein D, Johnson DA, Marine JC, Ashery-Padan R, Dyer MA. Chromatin remodelers HELLS and UHRF1 mediate the epigenetic deregulation of genes that drive retinoblastoma tumor progression. *Oncotarget* (2014) 5(20), 9594-608. PMC4259422.

Benavente CA, McEvoy JD, Finkelstein D, Wei L, Kang G, Wang YD, Neale G, Ragsdale S, Valentine V, Bahrami A, Temirov J, Pounds S, Zhang J, Dyer MA. Cross-species genomic and epigenomic landscape of retinoblastoma. *Oncotarget* (2013) 4(6), 844-59. PMC3757242. (Journal cover).

Zhang J*, **Benavente CA***, McEvoy J, Flores-Otero J, Ding L, Chen X, Ulyanov A, Wu G, Wilson M, Wang J, Brennan R, Rusch M, Manning AL, Ma J, Easton J, Shurtleff S, Mullighan C., Pounds S, Mukatira S, Gupta P, Neale G, Zhao D, Lu C, Fulton RS, Fulton LL., Hong X., Dooling DJ, Ochoa K, Naeve C, Dyson NJ, Mardis ER, Bahrami A, Ellison D, Wilson RK, Downing JR, Dyer MA. A novel retinoblastoma therapy from genomic and epigenetic analyses. *Nature* (2012) 481(7381), 329-34. 0028-0836. doi: 10.1038/nature10733. PMC3289956.

***authors contributed equally to this work**

Benavente CA, Schnell SA, Jacobson EL. Effects of niacin restriction on sirtuin and PARP responses to photodamage in human skin. *PLoS one* (2012) 7(7), e42276. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0042276. PMC3409181.

Bermudez Y, **Benavente CA**, Meyer RG, Coyle WR, Jacobson MK, Jacobson EL. Nicotinic acid receptor abnormalities in human skin cancer: implications for a role in epidermal differentiation. *PLoS one* (2011) 6(5), e20487. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0020487. PMC3105069.

Benavente CA, Jacobson MK, Jacobson EL. NAD in skin: therapeutic approaches for niacin. *Current Pharmaceutical Design* (2009) 15(1), 29-38. 1381-6128.

Benavente CA, Jacobson EL. Niacin restriction upregulates NADPH oxidase and reactive oxygen species (ROS) in human keratinocytes. *Free radical biology & medicine* (2008) 44(4), 527-37. 0891-5849. doi: 10.1016/j.freeradbiomed.2007.10.006. PMC2323356.

Benavente CA, Sierralta WD, Conget PA, Minguell JJ. Subcellular distribution and mitogenic effect of basic fibroblast growth factor in mesenchymal uncommitted stem cells. *Growth factors* (2003) 21(2), 87-94. 0897-7194.

Presentations Given

“Chromatin Remodeling and Cell Fate Plasticity in RB-Deficient Cancers,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Developmental and Cell Biology Seminar Series, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine, CA. (June 2026)

“UHRF1 as an epigenetic driver of tumorigenicity and immune evasion in triple negative breast cancer,” Pizarro, M.S., Kim, A., De La Torre, J.J., Chen, X., Tinoco, R., **Benavente, C.A. (Poster)**, American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. (April 2026).

“UHRF1 as the main driver of epigenetic reprogramming following RB1 inactivation,” **Benavente C., (Poster)**, Epigenetics Gordon Research Conference (GRC), Barcelona, Spain. (August 2025).

“Identifying therapeutic vulnerabilities in RB-deficient cancers,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Minority Science Program Seminar, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine, CA. (August 2025).

- “UHRF1 and epigenetic regulation in retinoblastoma progression,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Neurocirugia EPM, Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. (March 2025)
- “Identifying therapeutic vulnerabilities in RB-deficient cancers,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, CBiot, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. (March 2025)
- “UHRF1 as a therapeutic vulnerability in cancer,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, PPGFT, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. (March 2025)
- “Identifying therapeutic vulnerabilities in RB-deficient cancers,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Advances in Pediatric Cancer Investigation, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (March 2025)
- “Fostering a Welcoming Community in Higher Education,” **Benavente, C., (Panelist)**, 2025 Academic Lab Management & Leadership Symposium, Virtual. (February 2025)
- “Collab and Conquer: Teaming up for breakthroughs in cancer therapy,” Emanuele M., **Benavente C. (Speaker)**, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Pittsburgh, PA. (November 2024)
- “UHRF1 as a therapeutic vulnerability in osteosarcoma,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Children’s Oncology Group Osteosarcoma Biology Meeting, Webinar. (May 2024)
- “UHRF1 as a therapeutic vulnerability in cancers with RB pathway inactivation,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, 6th International RB Conference, Santa Cruz, CA. (April 2024)
- “Targeting UHRF1’s proteasomal destruction as a novel approach for small cell lung cancer treatment,” Gu Y., **Benavente C.A., (Poster)**, American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting 2024, San Diego, CA. (April 2024)
- “Suppression of the CPEB3 ribozyme modulate the progression of glioblastoma,” Chen, C., Wang, E., Tong, L., Nikan, M., Bota, D.A., **Benavente, C.A.**, Luptak, A., (Poster), American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting 2024, San Diego, CA. (April 2024)
- “Novel approached for therapeutic target identification in cancer,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS), Phoenix, AZ. (November 2023).
- “UHRF1 as a therapeutic vulnerability in cancers with RB pathway inactivation,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Pharmacology Seminar Series, College of Medicine, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. (October 2023).
- “La descarbonización de las cadenas de valor: una mirada desde la ciencia,” **Benavente, C., (Speaker)**, Webinar, Facultad de Ingeniería, Arquitectura y Diseño, Universidad San Sebastian, Chile. (August 2023).
- “UHRF1 overexpression supports a pro-tumorigenic immune environment that is essential for retinoblastoma formation,” Smith P., Zocchi L., **Benavente C.**, (Poster), Second JCA-AACR Precision Cancer Medicine International Conference, Kyoto, Japan. (July 2023).
- “Role of chromatin remodeler UHRF1 in retinoblastoma tumor formation,” Parker, S., Zocchi, L., **Benavente C.**, (Poster), UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA. (May 2023).
- “Triggering UHRF1 degradation by inhibiting USP7 in triple negative breast cancer,” Ly, M., **Benavente C.**, (Poster), UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA. (May 2023).

- "Identifying critical UHRF1 domains for osteosarcoma metastasis," Salazar, A., **Benavente C.**, (Poster), UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA. (May 2023)
- "UHRF1 as a therapeutic vulnerability in osteosarcoma," **Benavente C.**, (**Speaker**) MIB Agents OsteoBites webinar. (March 2023).
- "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Higher Education," **Benavente, C.**, (**Speaker**), 2023 Academic Lab Management & Leadership Symposium, University of California, San Diego, CA. (March 2023).
- "Identifying the UHRF1 domains critical in osteosarcoma metastasis," Martinez D., **Benavente C.** (Poster), 12th AACR-JCA Joint Conference: Breakthroughs in Cancer Research – Translating Knowledge into Practice, Maui, HI. (December 2023).
- "High UHRF1 contributes to increased osteosarcoma malignancy," **Benavente C.**, (Poster), Children's Hospital of Orange County Research Day 2022, Virtual. (November 2022).
- "Pediatric Cancers and Health Care Disparities," **Benavente, C.** and Pannunzio, N. (**Speaker**), Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA. (November 2022).
- "Identifying Therapeutic Vulnerabilities Downstream of the RB Pathway," **Benavente, C.** (**Speaker**), Minority Science Program Seminar, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine, CA. (November 2022).
- "Dissecting the role of the UHRF1 domains in osteosarcoma metastasis," Salazar A., **Benavente C.** (Poster), Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA. (November 2022).
- "Dissecting the role of the UHRF1 domains in osteosarcoma metastasis," Salazar, A., **Benavente C.**, (Poster) Minority Science Program Symposium, UCI, Irvine, CA. (September 2022)
- Virtual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Career and Life Panels Summer Series, **Benavente, C.**, (**Speaker**), California State University, San Marcos, CA. (July 2021).
- "Pediatric Cancers," **Benavente, C.**, (**Speaker**), 2021 Virtual Youth Science Fellowship Program, University of California, Irvine, CA. (July 2021).
- "Epigenetic Drivers in Cancers with RB Loss," **Benavente, C.**, (**Speaker**), The 2021 UCI Campus-Wide Symposium on Basic Cancer Research, UCI, Irvine, CA. (May 2021).
- "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Higher Education," **Benavente, C.**, (**Speaker**), 2021 Academic Lab Management & Leadership Symposium, UCSD, San Diego, CA. (March 2021).
- "Epigenetic Drivers in Cancers with RB Loss," **Benavente, C.**, (**Speaker**), UCSF Seminars in Biomedical Sciences, UCSF, San Francisco, CA. (February 2021).
- "Dissecting the role of UHRF1 functional domains in osteosarcoma metastasis," Singh S., **Benavente C.** (Author) American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting, Virtual. (February 2021).
- "Role of UHRF1 in tumorigenesis in osteosarcoma," Singh S., **Benavente C.** (Author) Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Research Conference, Virtual. (November 2020).

- "UHRF1 Downregulation by Palbociclib Decreases Migration in Osteosarcoma," Salcido K., **Benavente C.** (Author) Society Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Annual Meeting, Virtual.(October 2020).
- "Evaluation on changes in transcriptional expression arising from genetic knockout of UHRF1 within retinoblastoma," Guzman F., **Benavente C.** (Author) Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Virtual. (September 2020).
- "UHRF1: Novel Osteosarcoma Therapeutic Target?" **Benavente C., (Speaker)** Minority Science Program Seminar, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine, CA. (July 2020).
- "UHRF1 as a therapeutic target in osteosarcoma," **Benavente C., (Speaker)** MIB Agents FACTOR Osteosarcoma Conference, Phoenix, AZ. (February 2020).
- "Role of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma and palbociclib's mechanism of action," Salcido K., **Benavente C.,** (Author) American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting (AAAS), Phoenix, AZ. (February 2020).
- "Integrating genomics and epigenomics for the identification of novel cancer therapeutics," **Benavente C., (Speaker)** Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA. (November 2019).
- "Investigating the domains of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma progression," Guzman F., **Benavente C.,** (Author) Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA. (November 2019).
- "Role of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma and its relationship with RB," Salcido K., **Benavente C.,** (Author) Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA. (November 2019).
- "Palbociclib decreases osteosarcoma migration through UHRF1 downregulation," Barrionuevo A., **Benavente C.,** (Author) Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA. (November 2019).
- "Role of UHRF1 in cancers with RB loss," **Benavente C. (Speaker)**, 5th International RB Conference, Charleston, SC. (September 2019).
- "Role of the RB/E2F pathway on the control of epigenetic processes during cancer development," **Benavente C. (Speaker)**, Biological Sciences Department, California State University, Long Beach, CA. (May 2019).
- "UHRF1: factor crítico en los procesos tumorales asociados con mutaciones en RB," **Benavente C. (Seminar)**, Health Research Institute La Fe, Valencia, Spain. (April 2019).
- "UHRF1 overexpression is a significant driver of tumor progression in RB-mediated cancers," Wu S, Zocchi L, **Benavente C.** (Poster) Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. (April 2019).
- "UHRF1 overexpression is a significant driver of tumor progression in RB-mediated cancers", Wu S, Zocchi L, **Benavente C.** (Poster) AACR Annual Meeting 2019, Atlanta, GA. (April 2019).
- "Exploring the role of UHRF1 and its effects on proliferation in osteosarcoma", Salcido K, **Benavente C.** (Author) Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Indianapolis, IN. (November 2018).

- "The Intersection of Minorities in Health", **Benavente C. (Workshop Panelist)**, 17th Annual UCI LMSA and SNMA Pre-Health Conference, Irvine, CA. (November 2018).
- "Role of the Rb pathway in epigenetic reprogramming in solid tumors", **Benavente C. (Seminar)**, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach, CA (October 2018).
- "Role of RB in Epigenetic Reprogramming During Tumorigenesis," **Benavente C., (Seminar)**, Minority Science Program, School of Biological Sciences, UCI, Irvine, CA. (April 2018)
- "Determining the role of UHRF1 and HELLS in tumor progression in osteosarcoma", Lopez J, **Benavente C.** (Author) AAAS Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. (February 2018).
- "Epigenetica en Cancer", **Benavente C. (Seminar)**, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile (December 2018).
- "Role of UHRF1 in tumorigenesis and metastasis of osteosarcoma", Wu S, **Benavente C.** (Author) Pediatric Cancer Research: From Basic Science to the Clinic, Atlanta, GA. (September 2017).
- "Role of RB in epigenetics reprogramming in pediatric solid tumors", **Benavente C. (Seminar)**, Montefiore Medical Center, University Hospital for Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY (September 2017).
- "Chromatin remodelers HELLS mediates the epigenetic deregulation of genes that drive retinal degeneration and retinoblastoma following Rb loss", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. Peer Reviewed. (April 2017).
- "Role of RB1 in Epigenetics During Development and Tumorigenesis", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. 3rd UCI-EWHA Joint Symposium, Seoul, South Korea. (January 2017).
- "Chromatin remodeler HELLS mediates the epigenetic deregulation of genes that drive retinal degeneration and retinoblastoma following Rb loss", **Benavente C.** (Poster) Fourth International RB Meeting, Columbus, OH. (September 2016).
- "Role of RB in Epigenetic Reprogramming During Tumorigenesis," **Benavente C., (Seminar)**, Minority Science Program, School of Biological Sciences, UCI, Irvine, CA. (September 2016)
- "Looking beyond the challenges: How to succeed in a STEM field," **Benavente C. (Keynote Speaker)**. Hispanic Heritage Month, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL. (September 2016).
- "Role of epigenetics in retinal degeneration and retinoblastoma", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Visual Systems Development, Gordon Research Conference, West Dover, VT. (August 2016).
- "Role of RB1 in Epigenetic Reprogramming During Tumorigenesis", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. 2nd UCI-EWHA Joint Symposium, Irvine, CA. (January 2016).
- "Chromatin remodelers HELLS and UHRF1 mediate the epigenetic deregulation of genes that drive retinoblastoma tumor progression", **Benavente, C.** (Poster) XXIX Sociedad de Biología Celular de Chile Annual Meeting, Puerto Varas, Chile. (November 2015).
- "Role of RB1 in epigenetic reprogramming during tumorigenesis", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Scientific Retreat, Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center, Irvine, CA. (May 2015).

- "Chromatin remodelers HELLS and UHRF1 mediate the epigenetic deregulation of genes that drive retinoblastoma tumor progression", **Benavente C.** (Poster) Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. (April 2015).
- "Role of RB in epigenetic reprogramming during retinal tumorigenesis". **Benavente C.**, Postdoctoral Professional Development Event, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. Peer Reviewed. (May 2014).
- "Chromatin remodelers HELLS and UHRF1 mediate the epigenetic deregulation of genes that drive retinoblastoma tumor progression", **Benavente C.** (Poster). Visual Systems Development, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. With Dyer, M. (May 2014).
- "Genomics and translational research for retinoblastoma", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Third International RB Meeting, Monterey, CA. (October 2013).
- "Role of RB in epigenetic reprogramming during retinal development and tumorigenesis", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Biomedical Research Forum St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. (July 2013).
- "Role of RB in epigenetic reprogramming during retinal tumorigenesis", **Benavente C.** Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. (Poster presentation). With Dyer, M. (April 2013).
- "Role of RB in epigenetic reprogramming during normal retinal development and tumorigenesis", **Benavente C.** Visual Systems Development, Gordon Research Conference, New London, NH. (Poster presentation). With Dyer, M. (August 2012).
- "Retinoblastoma genetic and epigenetic analysis: Is RB-mediated aneuploidy and chromosome instability species-specific?", **Benavente C.** New England Science Symposium, Boston, MA. (Poster presentation). With McEvoy, J., Dyer, M. (April 2012).
- "Retinoblastoma genetic and epigenetic analysis: Is RB-mediated aneuploidy and chromosome instability species-specific?", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Brain Club Seminar, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. (February 2012).
- "Retinoblastoma genetic and epigenetic analysis: Is RB-mediated aneuploidy and chromosome instability species-specific?", **Benavente C.** Pediatric Cancer Translational Genomics, TGen, Phoenix, AZ. (Poster presentation). With McEvoy, J., Dyer, M. (February 2012).
- "A role for epigenetic reprogramming in retinoblastoma tumorigenesis", **Benavente C.** Molecular Targets, AACR, San Francisco, CA. (Poster presentation). With McEvoy, J., Dyer, M. (November 2011).
- "Loss of activator E2Fs represses tumorigenesis in Rb mutant mice", **Benavente C.**, Dyer M.A., Postdoctoral Professional Development Event, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. (Poster). (March 2011).
- "Rb gene loss does not cause genome instability in retinoblastoma", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. Brain Club Seminar, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. (November 2010).
- "Characterization of the Chromatin Modifier that Regulates Rb Family Function during Mouse Retinal Development", **Benavente C.**, Ajioka I., McEvo J., Dyer, M.A. (Poster) Visual System Development, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. (May 2010).

- "Loss of activator E2Fs represses tumorigenesis in Rb mutant mice", **Benavente C.**, Dyer M.A. (Poster) Visual Systems Development, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy. (May 2010).
- "Role of chromatin modifiers in cell cycle exit and cellular differentiation during retinal development", **Benavente C.** Ajioka, I., Dyer, M.A. (Poster). Postdoctoral Professional Development Event, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. (March 2010).
- "Role of chromatin modifiers in cell cycle exit and cellular differentiation during retinal development", **Benavente C.** LII Annual Meeting of the Sociedad de Biología de Chile, Pucon, Chile. (Poster). With Ajioka, I., McEvoy, J., Dyer, M. (November 2009).
- "Myristyl nicotinate: Mechanisms and applications", **Benavente C. (Co-author)**. FASEB Summer Research Conference: NAD Metabolism and Signaling, Carefree, AZ. With Jacobson, E., Jacobson, M. (June 2009).
- "PARP(s) and SIRT(s) responses to UV damage in human skin: targets for cancer prevention", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. 17th International Symposium on Poly(ADP-ribosylation), Tucson, AZ. (May 2008).
- "Role of nicotinic acid receptors during skin differentiation", **Benavente C.** 17th International Symposium on Poly(ADP-ribosylation), Tucson, AZ. (Poster presentation). With Bermudez, Y., Meyer, R., Schnell, S., Botta, D., Jacobson, M., Jacobson, E. (May 2008).
- "SIRT(s) responses to UV damage in human skin: targets for cancer prevention", **Benavente C.** 99th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, San Diego, CA. (Poster presentation). With Schnell, S., Jacobson, E. (April 2008).
- "Nicotinic acid receptors as potential skin cancer prevention targets", **Benavente C.** 6th Annual AACR International Conference on Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research, Philadelphia, PA. (Poster presentation). With Bermudez, Y., Meyer, R., Botta, D., Jacobson, M., Jacobson, E. (December 2007).
- "Nicotinic Acid Receptors are Differentially Expressed in Human Skin", **Benavente C.** 2007 AHSC Frontiers in Biomedical Research Poster Forum, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. (Poster presentation). With Bermudez, Y., Meyer, R., Botta, D., Jacobson, M., Jacobson, E. (October 2007).
- "Cellular NAD status as a regulator of skin photodamage", **Benavente C. (Speaker)**. East Coast PARP Meeting, Quebec, Canada. (May 2006).
- "Cellular NAD Status as a Regulator of Skin Photodamage", **Benavente C.** 97th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, Washington, DC. (Poster presentation). With Wondrak, G., Jacobson, E. (April 2006).
- "Cellular NAD status as a regulator of skin photo-damage", **Benavente C.** Graduate and Professional Student Council Student Showcase, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. (Poster presentation). With Wondrak, G., Jacobson, E. (November 2005).
- "NAD and PARPs in Skin Cancer Treatment and Prevention, Newcastle Upon Tyne", **Benavente C. (Co-author)**. 16th Annual International Meeting on ADP Ribosylation Reactions, "PARP 2005: Bench to Bedside", Gateshead. With Jacobson, E., Wondrak, G., K Jacobson, M. (October 2005).

- "The Role of NAD in Skin Cell Genomic Stability", **Benavente C.** 66th Annual Meeting of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, St. Louis, MO. (Poster presentation). With Wondrak, G., Jacobson, M., Jacobson, E. (May 2005).
2. "The Role of NAD in Skin Cell Genomic Stability", **Benavente C.** Graduate Showcase of Women's Research of the Association for Women Faculty, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. (Poster presentation). With Wondrak, G., Jacobson, E. (March 2005).
1. "Subcellular distribution of bFGF in mesenchymal stem cells", **Benavente C.** XLV Annual Meeting of the Sociedad de Biología de Chile, Puyehue, Chile. (Poster presentation). With Minguell, J. (November 2002).

Contracts, Grants and Sponsored Research

Grants

Active

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Proteasome-associated functions of UHRF1 in cancer," Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) – Faculty Seed Grant Program, \$85,000 (D) (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "UHRF1 as a novel regulator of proteasome function and tumor cell fitness," Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center – 2026 Anti-Cancer Challenge Pilot Projects, \$46,725 (D) (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Co-Principal Investigator), "Immunoproteasome-mediated release of MMAE as a prodrug strategy for SCLC treatment," Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center – 2025 Anti-Cancer Challenge Pilot Projects, \$60,000 (D) (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

Previous

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Harnessing the ubiquitin system as a therapeutic approach in SCLC," American Lung Association, \$200,000 (T) (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Exploiting USP7 inhibitors as a therapeutic approach in osteosarcoma," Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center – 2022 Anti-Cancer Challenge Pilot Projects, \$60,000 (T) (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Role of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma and its relationship to RB," NIH/NCI – National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute, \$1,374,045 (D) (June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2024).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Role of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma," American Cancer Society – RSG, \$660,000 (D) (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Harnessing the ubiquitin system as a therapeutic approach in TNBC," American Cancer Society – TLC, \$30,600 (D) (February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "UHRF1 as a therapeutic target of osteosarcoma," Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Pilot Project Award, \$40,000 (D) (February 1, 2019 – January 1, 2020).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Role of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma," American Association for Cancer Research – Aflac Inc, \$100,000 (D) (July 1, 2018 – June 31, 2020).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Role of UHRF1 in osteosarcoma and its relationship to RB," American Cancer Society - IRG, \$90,000 (D) (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Genome instability and epigenetic deregulation in retinoblastoma and osteosarcoma," NIH - National Institutes of Health, \$731,825 (D) (September 13, 2014 - November 30, 2017).

Benavente, Claudia Andrea (Principal Investigator), "Genome instability and epigenetic deregulation in retinoblastoma and osteosarcoma," NIH - National Institutes of Health, \$205,148 (D) (September 13, 2013 - August 31, 2015).

Professional Service

Journal Article Reviewer: British Journal of Cancer; Nature Genetics; Cancers; Molecular Cancer Research; Scientific Reports; Clinical Cancer Research; EBioMedicine; Oncotarget; OncoTargets and Therapy; Cancer Management and Research; International Journal of Molecular Sciences; Neurochemical Research; Genes, Chromosomes and Cancer; PLoS ONE; Experimental Eye Research, Brain Research; Life Sciences Alliance

Co-Chair, Minisymposium on Targeted Therapies, American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting. (April 2026).

NIH, Standing Member GRIC Study Section. (September 2023-2027).

NIH, Standing Member CE Study Section. (September 2022-2023).

NIH, Ad hoc MONC Study Section Reviewer. (March 2022).

iScience, Editorial Advisory Board Member. (April 2024-Present).

iScience, Academic Editor. (May 2021 – 2024).

NIH, Ad hoc CE Study Section Reviewer. (June 2021).

NIH Special Emphasis Panel, Ad hoc Scientific Reviewer. (March 2021).

NIH, Ad hoc DMP Study Section Reviewer. (March 2021).

American Association for Cancer Research, Pediatric Cancer Research Grants Scientific Review Committee (October 2020 – September 2022).

American Association for Cancer Research, AACR-AstraZeneca START Grants Scientific Review Committee (October 2020 – April 2022).

NIH, Ad hoc CE Study Section Reviewer. (October 2020).

Swiss National Science Foundation, Ad hoc grant reviewer, Berns, Switzerland. (January 2019).

NIH, Ad hoc CAMP Study Section Reviewer. (December 2018).

ANID/CONICYT, Grant Reviewer, Santiago, Chile. (November 2018 – Present).

Cogent Medicine, Editor. (October 2016 – April, 2018).

FONDEF-ANID/CONICYT, Reviewer, Santiago, Chile. (August 2015 - Present).

Postdoctoral Association Council, Vice-Chair Career Development, Memphis, TN. (July 2012 - July 2014).

RedCiencia.org, Deputy International Director (USA). (2009 - 2012).

Bionexa, Regional Director (USA). (2007 - 2009).

Expanding Your Horizons Conference/Women in Science and Engineering, Career Panelist. (2007).

CSI Science Camp, Staff and Lecturer. (2006 - 2007).

Graduate Interdisciplinary Department Programs Advisory Council, Student Representative. (2006 - 2007).

Graduate and Professional Student Council, Student Representative, The University of Arizona. (2005 - 2007).

TEACHING

Teaching Innovations and Curriculum Development

New Training for Faculty, "Optimizing Mentoring Relationships"

New Course, "Principles of Pharmacogenomics", PHMD 212.

New Course Lectures, "Cancer Pharmacogenomics", PHRMSCI, 279.

New Course Lectures, "Cancer Therapeutics", PHRMSCI, 279.

New Course Lectures, "Cancer Biology", PHRMSCI, 279.

New Course, "Pharmacogenomics and Epigenetics", PHRMSCI, 163.

New Course, "Pharmacogenomics and Epigenetics", PHRMSCI, 263.

Special Pedagogical Activities

Guest Lecture, Minority Science Programs, (August 7, 2025)

Guest Lecture, Minority Science Programs, (November 3, 2022)

Guest Lecture, Minority Science Programs, (July 31, 2020)

Guest Lecture, BIO25, (February 28, 2019)
BIO25 Biology of Cancer lecture on Pediatric Cancers

Guest Lecture, Minority Science Programs, (April 19, 2018)

BUILD Workshop: Cell migration, Invasion, and Wound Healing, California State University Long Beach, (April, 2018).

Guest Lecture, BIO25, (March 1, 2018)
BIO25 Biology of Cancer lecture on Pediatric Cancers

Guest Lecture, BIO25, (March 2, 2017).
BIO25 Biology of Cancer lecture on Pediatric Cancers

Guest Lecture, Minority Science Programs, (September 29, 2016).

Guest Lecture, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, (May 2016).

Guest Lecture, Department of Developmental & Cell Biology Seminar, (April 2015).

Doctoral Committee

March 2026 - Present, Shawn Vinogradsky, Member
September 2025 - Present, Robert A. Zepeda, Member
July 2025 - Present, Sabrina Calderon, Member
September 2025 - Present, Alexa Lu, Member
September 2024 - Present, Nneamaka Iwoki, Member
September 2023 - Present, Marina Suarez Pizarro, Mentor
Fulbright scholar
September 2023 - 2026, Cody A. Loy, Member
September 2023 - 2025 Gregory Mun-Sum Tong, Member
June 2023 - 2025, Gregory Mun-Sum Tong, Member
July 2021 - 2025, Daniel Martinez, Mentor
IMSD scholar and T32 fellow
Danny is currently the Strategic Program Manager at the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at UC Irvine
June 2021 - 2022, Eric Labachyan, Member
August 2020 - 2024, Ahhyun (Ashley) Kim, Mentor
Ashley is currently a postdoc at UCSD
June 2020 - 2025, Yijun Gu, Mentor
Vertex fellow
Yijun is currently a Research Scientist at Amphastar NDRC
June 2019 - 2021, Saad Mohammad, Member
June 2019 - 2023, Brendan Finicle, Member
June 2019 - September 2019, Diana Carreno, Mentor
May 2018 - 2021, Victor Pham, Member
October 2016 - 2021, Rachel Chow, Member
June 2016 - 2019, Riann Egusquiza, Member
May 2015 - 2019, Stephanie Wu, Mentor
Stephanie is currently a postdoc at St Jude Children's Research Hospital
June 2015 - 2017, Julius Edson, Member
October 2015 - 2016, Klebea Carvalho, Mentor

Doctoral Candidacy Committee

June 2023, Melissa Folkerts, Advancement Committee
June 2023, Jasmine Sakr, Advancement Committee
June 2023, Vince Su, Chair Advancement Committee
June 2023, Gregory Mun-Sum Tong, Chair Advancement Committee
May 2023, Melissa Folkerts, Advancement Committee

October 2022, Sebastian Piombo, Advancement Committee
September 2022, Esau Medina, Advancement Committee
June 2022, Lamees Alhassen, Advancement Committee
May 2022, Phan Phu, Oversight Member
July 2021-May 2022, Alexandra Rogers, Advancement Committee
June 2021, Sammy Alhassen, Advancement Committee
May 2021, Daniel Essayan, Oversight Member
July 2020, Dora Kadish, Oversight Member
June 2019, Saad Mohammad, Advancement Committee
June 2019, Menglu Han, Advancement Committee
May 2019, William Thomas, Oversight Member
September 2018, Annee Wildgoose, Advancement Committee
May 2018, Eric Tournay, Oversight Member
March 2018, Ali Nikoomanzar, Advancement Committee
November 2017, Daniel Huh, Oversight Member
October 2016 - Present, Miles Kubota, Oversight Member
July 2015, Guilherme Duarte Ramos Matos, Oversight Member
June 2015, Julius Edson, Oversight Member
May 2015, Mikhail Konev, Oversight Member

Predissertation Committee

2026 – Maria Luiza L. de Oliveira, Preliminary Exam Committee
2025 – Gassan Filimban, Preliminary Exam Committee
2024 – Arjun Nair, Preliminary Exam Committee
2024 – Peter Ellsworth, Preliminary Exam Committee
2023 – Noah Wechter, Preliminary Exam Committee
2022 – Ambrocio Sanchez, Preliminary Exam Committee
2022 – Jessie Luu, Preliminary Exam Committee
2020 – Kyleen Castro, Chair of Preliminary Exam Committee
2020 – Anna Andronico, Chair of Preliminary Exam Committee
2018 – Giulia Giammo, Preliminary Exam Committee
2018 – Brendan Finicle, Preliminary Exam Committee

Master's Thesis Committee

September 2025 – May 2026, Randy Peña, Biotechnology Management Master, Mentor
April 2025 – September 2025, Karthik Suryanarayanan, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Mentor
January 2020 - June 2020, Samar Riaz, Biotechnology Management Master, Mentor
Samar is currently an Associate Lifesciences Consulting at Charles Rives Associates

Clinical Fellowship Committee

July 2021 - June 2023, Sarah Sahib, Mentor
Sarah is currently a hematologist/oncologist at Valley Children's Specialty Medical Group
July 2016 - June 2018, Aditi Mehta, Mentor
Aditi is currently the Associate Medical Director at Atara Biotherapeutics

Directed Individual/Independent Study

April 2016 - December 2016, David Panek, Mentor
David graduated as an M.D. from UCI

Undergraduate Research Supervision

January 2025 – Present, Rossana Awad, Mentor
MARC scholar

September 2024 – Present, Raina Haque, Mentor
UROP grant awardee

March 2023 – June 2024, Abigail Yihui Qian, Mentor
Currently at University of Washington, PharmD student

September 2021 – June 2023, Arturo Salazar, Mentor
MARC Scholar
Currently at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Ph.D. student

September 2021 – September 2023, Parker Smith, Mentor
Beckman Scholar
UROP Grant Awardee

June 2021 – June 2023, Joshua (Mateo) Valenzuela, Mentor
Bridges to Baccalaureate Scholar, MARC Scholar
Currently at Harvard University, Ph.D. student

May 2021- August 2021, Sahar Kabiri, Mentor
IMSD Scholar

April 2021 – June 2024, Mona Ly, Mentor
UROP Grant Awardee, SURP Grant Awardee
Currently at UCSF, PharmD student

April 2021 – May 2022, Josephine Chan, Mentor
UROP Grant Awardee

April 2021 – June 2021, Juan Perez, Mentor

June 2019 – September 2019, Ana Barrionuevo, Mentor
BRIDGES Scholar

April 2019 – June 2022, Frederick Guzman, Mentor
MARC Scholar, IMSD Scholar
Currently at Johns Hopkins University, Ph.D. Student

January 2019 - June 2021, Sarah Singh, Mentor
MARC Scholar, MSP Program, UROP Grant Awardee
Currently at Scripps, Ph.D. Student

January 2019 - June 2021, Kelsey Salcido, Mentor
MARC Scholar, IMSD Program, BRIDGE Program, UROP Grant Awardee
Currently at University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. Student

September 2018 - March 2021, Yazamin Fazeli, Mentor
UROP and SURP Grant Awardee
Currently at Cleveland Clinic, M.D. student

January 2018 – March 2021, Meagan Khuu, Mentor
UROP Grant Awardee
Currently at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, M.D. student

September 2017 - June 2019, Aleen Atikian, Mentor
UROP and SURP Grant Awardee
Currently at UCLA, Nursing Program

January 2017 - June 2019, Yijun Gu, Mentor
Honors Research, UROP and SURP Grant Awardee
Currently at UCI, Ph.D. student

September 2017 - January 2018, Metta Beshay, Mentor
Currently a hip-hop artist

September 2017 - September 2018, Sylvia Cruz, Mentor
Honors Research
Currently at UC Davis, M.D. student

January 2017 - June 2018, Annie Jeon, Mentor
UROP Grant Awardee
Currently at University of North Carolina, Pharm.D. student

January 2017 - June 2018, Kristy Huynh, Mentor
UROP Grant Awardee

Received her Pharm.D. from UCSD
January 2017 - July 2018, Sara Akhlaghi, Mentor
UROP Grant Awardee
Currently at California University of Science and Medicine, M.D. student
September 2016 - June 2018, Jocelyn Lopez, Mentor
Excellence in Research Awardee, MARC Scholar, UROP Grant Awardee
Received her Ph.D. from UCSF
March 2016 - June 2017, Josselyn Peña, Mentor
MARC Scholar
Currently at Stanford University, Ph.D. Student
September 2015 - June 2017, Kyle Tran, Mentor
Received his Pharm.D. from UCSF
June 2015 - June 2017, Uyen Tran, Mentor
Received her Pharm.D. from UT Austin
March 2015 - June 2017, Erin Yamanaka, Mentor
Received her Pharm. D. from to UCSD
September 2016 - December 2016, Walee Rashid, Mentor
January 2016 - December 2016, Austin Stills, Mentor
Received her Pharm.D. from University of Southern California
September 2015 - December 2016, Ashley Hadweh, Mentor
Received her Pharm.D. from University of Southern California
September 2015 - March 2016, Kayla Simonson, Mentor
Licensed CPA
January 2015 - June 2015, Ani Rupenian, Mentor
Received her Pharm.D. from University of Southern California

Internship/Postbac/High School Programs

June 2025 – May 2026, Subodh Niroula, CURE-Cancer Mentor
Subodh is currently a PhD student at Penn State
Summer 2025, Hailey Nguyen, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Summer 2024, Ashley Catalan, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Summer 2024, Elyse Tran, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Elyse is currently an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley
September 2023 – December 2023, Justine Gunderman, Supervisor
Justine came on an internship for her M.Sc. in Molecular Biology at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany.
Summer 2022, Micayaela Hodge, UC-HBCU Access to Careers in Engineering and Science Mentor
Micayaela is currently a masters student in Regenerative and Stem Cell Technologies at Johns Hopkins University
Summer 2022, Alondra Lopez, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Summer 2019, Isabella Alcaraz, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Isabella is currently an undergraduate student at UCLA
Summer 2018, Allan Argelagos, Postbac Mentor
Allan received a M.Sc. from UCI
Summer 2017, Luis Rizo, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Luis went on to graduate from UC San Diego
Summer 2016, Bryanna Perez, UCI CRI Science Youth Fellowship Program Mentor
Bryanna went on to graduate from UC Berkeley
October 2014 - December 2015, Sanam Rashid, Postbac Mentor
Sanam graduated with a Pharm.D. from UCSF

SERVICE

Department Service

Assistant Professor Search Committee Chair, Pharmaceutical Sciences (September 2023 – July 2024).

Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Program in Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee (July 2022 - Present).

College of Health Sciences Medical Scientist Training Program Admissions Committee (July 2022 - Present).

Exploring Implicit Bias: Awareness to Action Facilitator (January 2022 - 2024).

School of Biological Sciences MARC Program Selection Committee (April 2021).

School of Biological Sciences Steering Committee for the Minority Science Programs (January 2021 – June 2022).

PharmD Admissions Committee Member. (September 2020 - June 2021).

Pharmaceutical Sciences Representative to the College of Health Sciences Executive Committee. (September 2019 – 2024).

Pharmaceutical Sciences Admissions Committee Member. (2014 - Present).

Biological Sciences Admissions Committee Member. (2018 - 2020).

Search Committee for Assistant Professor searches (September 2018 - June 2020).

Search Committee for Teaching Professor search (May 2018 - June 2018).

Faculty Promotion Drafting Committee Member, ad hoc. (2017 - Present).

PharmSci Catalyst Program. (2017 - 2019).

PharmSci Student-Faculty Mentorship Program Mentor. (September 2016 - September 2017).

Department Drafting Committee Member. (August 2015 - October 2015).

Faculty Workload Committee Member. (January 2015 - April 2015).

Tenure Review Committee Member. (November 2014 - January 2015).

University Service

UC Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (April 2023 – March 2028).

Deputy Associate Director for Cancer Research Training & Education Coordination for the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (September 2023 – present).

UCI Faculty Academy for Teaching Excellence (FATE) for the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (November 2022 - October 2023).

UCI-CHOC Research Workgroup Committee (August 2022 - Present).

Cancer Research Training and Education Committee Steering Committee (October 2019 - Present).

American Cancer Society-Institutional Research Grants Steering Committee (October 2019 - Present).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Member for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (October 2019 - Present).

T32 Subcommittee for Recruitment and Diversity (January 2020 - Present).

Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE) Mentor. (August 2017 - August 2020).

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant reviewer. (September 2019 - Present).

College of Health Sciences Website Committee. (July 2019 – June 2022).

Search Committee for Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. (May 2018 – November 2018).

Minority Science Program, mock interview training. (2018 - Present).

Medical Student Training Program Admissions Interviewer. (2017 - Present).

Search Committee for Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion Member. (August 2016 - March 2017).

Research Seed Funding Program Reviewer. (May 2016).

Professional Service

American Cancer Society Indigenous Community Health Equity Ambassador Collective Learning & Training, Speaker, Los Angeles, CA. (July 2026).

External Reviewer, Tenure file for Ivy League. (July 2026).

Anti-Cancer Challenge, Kickoff Poster Session, Irvine, CA. (May 2026).

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, Co-Chair for minisymposium on Targeted Therapies, San Diego, CA. (April 2026).

Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Judge for student's presentations (2 days). (November 2022, 2023 and 2024).

Anti-Cancer Challenge, Kickoff Poster Session, Irvine, CA. (May 2024).

American Cancer Society Moonshot Summit Panelist, Los Angeles, CA. (March 2024).

Anti-Cancer Challenge, Interview on childhood cancer research for fundraising video, Irvine, CA. (August 2022).

Anti-Cancer Challenge, Research Reception, Irvine, CA. (August 2022, August 2023).

Girl STEAM Day, CSU Dominguez Hill, CA. (February 2023).

American Cancer Society Health Equity Documentary. (September 2022).

Mendiburu Magic Foundation, Lab Tour and informational session, Irvine, CA. (April 2022).

Skype a Scientist, Victoria Community School visiting teacher, San Ysidro, CA. (February 2022).

American Cancer Society, Real Men Wear Pink Hawaii kick-off event, virtual, Hawaii, HI.
(October 2021).

Kure it Cancer Research, Cancer Researcher "Meet and Greet" and private Lab Tour, Irvine, CA.
(March 2020).

Kure it Cancer Research, Cancer Researcher "Meet and Greet" and private Lab Tour, Irvine, CA.
(January 2020).

Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Judge for student's
presentations (November 2019).

Kure it Cancer Research, Cancer Researcher "Meet and Greet" and private Lab Tour, Irvine, CA.
(August 2019).

American Cancer Society, Lab Tour, Irvine, CA. (July 2019).

Guest Speaker, American Cancer Society Reception, Costa Mesa, CA. (July 2019).

Closing Ceremony Speaker, Inland Empire Relay for Life (fundraiser for the American Cancer
Society), Ontario, CA. (June 2019).

Opening Ceremony Speaker, Orange County West Relay for Life (fundraiser for the American
Cancer Society), Mission Viejo, CA. (June 2019).

Workshop Panelist, 17th Annual UCI LMSA and SNMA Pre-Health Conference, Irvine, CA.
(November 2018).

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Lab Tour, Irvine, CA. (August 2017).

Guest Speaker, UCI Homecoming, Irvine, CA. (February 2017).

Panelist, 50th Anniversary UCI Homecoming, Irvine, CA. (2015).