

## SPEAKER BIO

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Post-doctoral Scholar

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Mary was born and raised in Veracruz, Mexico. She attended Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico where she received a BS in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. After completing college, she came to the US to learn English at Bridgewater College in Virginia and then moved to James Madison University in Virginia to complete her MS in Biology. Her mentor at JMU encouraged her to apply to a PhD program and she entered the Pharmacology PhD program at the University of Kentucky where she studied the alpha1-adrenergic receptors and their implication in cardiovascular disease. After completing her PhD, she started the first of two postdoctoral training experiences at the University of Kentucky. The primary focus of her first postdoc was the study of the thin filament protein troponin, which serves as a molecular switch involved in the regulation of cardiac muscle function. Currently, she is completing her second postdoctoral training with Dr. Francisco Andrade in the Department of Physiology. Her research focuses on respiratory and craniofacial muscle glucose metabolism and mitochondrial function. Her work has led to publications in peer-reviewed journals, a book chapter, and multiple presentations at international scientific conferences. She has also been involved in teaching, both as a mentor and supervisor at the University of Kentucky and as a Biology instructor at Eastern Kentucky University.

Mary's long-term goal is to become an independent investigator in academia. She would like to combine her research and teaching abilities to become a successful scientist and mentor. She is particularly passionate about outreach programs to increase the number of underrepresented groups in science. She recently founded the first SACNAS (Society for Advancing Chicanos and Native Americans in science) chapter at the University of Kentucky to provide mentorship and guidance to students so that they can successfully complete their degrees.

TITLE OF TALK:

## **“ MUSCLE MITOCHONDRIA ARE NOT CREATED EQUALLY”**

**Description:** A physiological look at mitochondrial differences in the diaphragm and muscle of the eye.