

Biographical sketch

LILLIAM CASILLAS MARTINEZ

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Education

Summer 2005: Summer Faculty Workshop in Biodiversity and Forensic Genetics, Center for Applied Genetics and Technology. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

Summer 2004: Geomicrobiology Workshop, Marine Science Department. University of Connecticut, Avery Point, Connecticut.

Summer 1999: Microbial Diversity Course. Marine Biological Labs, Woods Hole, Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

1991-98: Ph.D. Microbiology. Molecular and Cell Biology Department, University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus, Storrs, Connecticut, 06269.

Graduate advisor: Dr. Peter Setlow (Ph.D.), University of Connecticut, Health Center.

1985-89: B.S. Industrial Microbiology. Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, 00708.

Experience

1999-Present: Associate Professor, Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Campus.

1998-99: Assistant Professor, Ecological Engineering Department, Autonomous University of the State of Puebla, México.

Synergistic activities

1. Active involvement in programs to train low income high school students in Science.
2. Ad hoc grant reviewer and member of MCB review panel for NSF (2002-present).
3. Development of a Continuous Education Certificate in *Industrial Biotechnology* for non mayors.
4. Design and implementation of courses in “*Introductory Geomicrobiology*” and “*Protein Analyses*”.
5. Organizer of Geomicrobiology Mini-Symposia, University of Puerto Rico (2002-2004) and Summer Workshop in Geomicrobiology at UConn, Groton.

Publications;

1. **Cantrell, S., Molina, M. and L. Casillas-Martinez.** Characterization of fungi from hypersaline environments of solar salterns using morphological and molecular techniques. *Mycological Research*. (Submitted).
2. **Casillas-Martínez, L., M., L., Gonzalez, Z., Fuentes, C. M., Castro, D., Nieves, C., Hernandez, W., Ramirez, J., Perez and P., T., Visscher.** 2005 Interrelations among communities, physiological structure and resulting mineralogy in the hypersaline mats of the Cabo Rojo salterns. *Geomicrobiol. J.* **22**:269-281.
3. **Casillas-Martinez, L., A. Drinks, B. Setlow, and P. Setlow.** 2000. Lack of a significant role of the PerR regulator in *Bacillus subtilis* spore resistance. *F.E.M.S. Microbiol.* **188**:203-208.
3. **Bsat, N., A. Herbig, L. Casillas-Martinez, P., Setlow, and J. D. Helmann.** 1998. *Bacillus subtilis* contains multiple Fur homologs: identification of the iron uptake (Fur) and the peroxide regulon (Per) repressors. *Mol. Microbiol.* **29**:189-198.
4. **Casillas-Martinez, L., and P. Setlow.** 1997. Alkyl hydroperoxide reductase, catalase, MrgA, and superoxide dismutase are not involved in resistance of *Bacillus subtilis* spores to heat and oxidizing agents. *J. Bacteriol.* **179**:7420-7425.

Awards and Grants

1. **National Science Foundation.** RUI-Microbial Observatories: Cabo Rojo Salterns Microbial Observatories. \$1.4M. 01/09/05 to 31/10/10.
2. **U. S. Department of Defense.** FY03-Department of Defense Instrumentation Program for Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Acquisition of a Biolog and upgrade for the Electron Microscopes at the UPR-Humacao. \$108,420. 01/10/03-01/10/04.
3. **National Science Foundation.** RUI-Microbial Observatories: Diversity of halophilic bacteria and geochemical signatures in a tropical solar saltern. \$608,000. 02/01/02 to 02/01/05.

Collaborators

Dr. Pieter Visscher (University of Connecticut, Groton), Dr. Peter Setlow (University of Connecticut, Health Center), Dr. Marirosa Molina (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Georgia), Dr. Jorge Santo Domingo (EPA, Cincinnati), Dr. Wilson Ramirez and Dr. Carlos Rios (University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez).