
ESMERALDA CASAS-SILVA, Ph.D.

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CAREER GOAL

Life science professional seeking a consulting position that will allow me to leverage my biomedical science expertise, leadership, and communication skills to have a direct impact on health-focused enterprise and innovation.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SUMMARY

Over 15 years of research experience in biomedical sciences. Strong interpersonal, data analysis and problem-solving skills. Experienced team leader in small to large multi-disciplinary projects. Ability to deep-dive into new subjects and quickly develop a strong understanding. Ability to communicate complex information verbally and in writing to audiences of varied professional and lay backgrounds. Skilled at managing complex high-profile stakeholder relationships and formation of strategic partnerships and alliances.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Sciences, *University of California San Diego* 2005-2011
School of Medicine, San Diego, California

Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences, *University of California Irvine* 1993-1998
Irvine, California, Honors in Research

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Cancer Institute (NCI) -Rockville, MD 2016-present
Health Scientist

AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow

- Lead team of 20 inter-departmental NCI staff and contractors to implement strategies for engaging health practitioners and cancer patients in a new 5-year, \$30 million longitudinal biobanking project
- Advise on clinical data management, biospecimen collection and consent strategies as well as protocol development and governance for the Cancer Moonshot Biobank
- Lead planning for NCI's upcoming Clinical Trials and Social Media Workshop. Wrote and presented successful proposal to NCI leadership presiding over the Cancer Moonshot's \$1.8 billion budget. Along with 15 cross-disciplinary experts, plan budget and venue logistics for 200 workshop attendees. Recruited speakers from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, FDA, national clinical trials networks, as well as tech entrepreneurs, patient advocates and patient-centered organizations such as the Metastatic Breast Cancer Project and PatientsLikeMe. Following the workshop, a white paper will be published on best practices for improving education and awareness of clinical trials through social media

Chair, AAAS Entrepreneurship and Innovation Affinity Group

- Forge relationships and collaborations with entrepreneurs and business experts in Washington D.C. including representatives from White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, The U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Commerce, SciStarter, FedTech, and others. Within 2 months, organized the first of six “Meet an Entrepreneur” events

The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) -San Diego, CA

2011-2016

Postdoctoral Researcher

- Designed biological assays using molecular biology, metabolomics and gene expression techniques to characterize breast cancer progression using cancer patient tumor cells isolated at difference stages of disease progression
- Presented research at local symposia and national conferences
- Elected President and Vice-President of TSRI’s postdoctoral association. Served 3000 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over 3 years. Mobilized volunteers and organized vendor shows to raise \$60,000 yearly budget. Planned professional development and social events including inaugural Lighting Talk and Open Mic competitions

University of California School of Medicine -San Diego, CA

2005-2011

Graduate Student Researcher

- Used gene editing and molecular biology techniques to identify master gene regulators that play a role in promoting the spread of breast cancer
- Presented research at national conferences
- Published findings in Cancer Research

Howard Hughes Med-into-Grad Fellow

- 3-month program to expose scientists to clinical settings in their field of expertise
- Attended clinical grand rounds, tumor boards and patient case histories, accompanied oncologists in inpatient and outpatient settings
- Completed medical courses on pharmacology, histology, and patient interactions

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies -San Diego, CA

2002-2005

Research Assistant

- Used gene delivery techniques to study genetic mechanisms that control spinal cord development
- Published four papers in high-impact scientific journals including Science Magazine and Genes & Development

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **FedTech** Sep-Nov 2017
Entrepreneurship program with courses on commercialization of federal technologies, innovation, lean startup methodology, venture funding. Weekly immersion in hands-on customer discovery. Canvased biomarker diagnostic market and networked with field experts. Presented and delivered final customer discovery results and next steps to commercialization for members of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
- **MicroMBA certification, UCSD Rady School of Management** June-July 2016

Mini-MBA course with lectures on business strategy, corporate finance, business analytics, financial decision analysis, marketing, and leadership

LANGUAGES

English (Native), Spanish (Professional working proficiency)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Casas E, Kim J, Bendesky A, Ohno-Machado L, Wolfe CJ, Yang J. Snai2 is an essential mediator of Twist1- induced epithelial mesenchymal transition and metastasis. *Cancer Research*. 2011 Jan;71(1):245-54PMCID: PMC3025803
2. Yeo M, Lee SK, Lee B, Ruiz EC, Pfaff SL, Gill GN. Small CTD phosphatases function in silencing neuronal gene expression. *Science*. 2005 Jan;307(5709):596-600
3. Lee SK, Lee B, Ruiz EC, Pfaff SL. Olig2 and Ngn2 function in opposition to modulate gene expression in motor neuron progenitor cells. *Genes Dev*. 2005 Jan;19(2):282-94
4. Lee SK, Jurata LW, Funahashi J, Ruiz EC, Pfaff SL. Analysis of embryonic motoneuron gene regulation: derepression of general activators function in concert with enhancer factors. *Development*. 2004 Jul;131(14):3295-306
5. Song MR, Shirasaki R, Cai CL, Ruiz EC, Evans S, Lee SK, Pfaff SL. T-Box Transcription Factor Tbx20 Regulates a Genetic Program for Cranial Motor Neuron Cell Body Migration. *Development*. 2006. Dec33(24):4945-55

MEDIA

1. Featured: Career girls Biomedical Scientist
<http://www.careergirls.org/careers/biomedical-scientist>
2. Featured: Global Fund for Women IGNITE campaign 2015
<http://ignite.globalfundforwomen.org/gallery/careergirls>
3. NPR Source of the Week:
<https://sources.npr.org/esmeralda-casas/>
4. FedTech customer discovery final recommendations:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IReN9-Z4sb69m3UyeGwKZAqB62yFoC>