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School: College of Arts and Sciences
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This proposal would invite two distinguished speakers, Dr. Gregorio Valdez, assistant professor, and Dr. Audra van Wart, graduate program director, for a two-day symposium focused on promoting tested, diversity-enhancing practices in graduate training. Current research has shown that two types of diversity are currently under-represented in both graduate training and academia more broadly: 1) ethnic diversity at the level of faculty\(^1\), and 2) employment diversity that expands the notion of the types of jobs our trainees consider and explicitly examines the proficiencies they need to be competitive for both academic and non-academic options\(^2\). For the symposium, Drs. Valdez and van Wart will speak to both of these issues, with the goals of increasing the successful advancement and participation of a diverse faculty in STEM disciplines.

\(^1\)Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America’s Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine 2011

\(^2\)BEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training) is an effort by 17 institutions to explore ways of improving biomedical career development. A fraction of biomedical PhDs will take a tenure-track faculty position, so training programs are developing innovated approaches to prepare students and postdocs for a range of career options. These approaches are funded by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund and are experimental in nature.
I am proposing to host a symposium that promotes diversity as a means to improving the academic environment for graduate students, post-docs, and junior faculty. This proposal is motivated by research showing that more diverse teams can come up with more effective solutions than less diverse teams with more expertise in the given problem. To promote diversity, I will host a symposium centered around two outside speakers, Dr. Gregorio Valdez and Dr. Audra van Wart from the Carilion Institute at Virginia Tech, with complementary expertise in promoting diversity.

Dr. Gregorio Valdez received his PhD under the mentorship of Dr. Simon Halegoua at Stony Brook University. He then went on to train with Dr. Joshua Sanes, the Jeff C. Tarr Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology & Paul J. Finnegan Family Director of the Center for Brain Science, during his post doc at Harvard University. He is currently an assistant professor at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute with two other Virginia Tech appointments in the Biological Sciences in the College of Science and in Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine. His lab works to identify molecules that can protect synapses from the ravages of age and age-related disorders. Dr. Valdez is a highly successful under-represented minority (URM) in the up-and-coming-field of Neural Engineering. At UM, while graduate student diversity is high, faculty diversity lags behind, therefore Dr. Valdez could provide a valuable role model for URM graduates and post-docs.

Dr. Audra van Wart received her PhD under the mentorship of Gary Matthews at Stony Brook University. She went on to train with Dr. Mriganka Sur, the Newton Professor of Neuroscience & Director of the Simons Center for the Social Brain, during her post doc at the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She then served for three years as an associate scientific editor at the premier Cell Press neuroscience journal, Neuron. She is currently the Director of Education and Training at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute. She is also PI on one of only seventeen national grants from the NIH that aim to serve as experiments in Broadening Experience in Scientific Training by extending standard graduate and post-doctoral career training to include non-academic jobs without lengthening time to achieve research goals. Dr. van Wart would give a talk about effective strategies identified by BEST programs and lead a workshop on setting career goals for students, post-docs and junior faculty.

Based upon the highly popular and well-subscribed Neuroscience Graduate Program and recently formed Neural Engineering Institute at the University of Miami, there would be substantial interest in a research seminars, mentoring opportunities, and the career workshop with both Drs. Valdez and van Wart.


As an associate professor, one of my professional goals is to improve outcomes for graduate students, post-docs, and junior faculty at the University of Maimi. The symposium I am proposing to host with this SEEDS You Choose grant would invite two outside speakers, Drs. Gregorio Valdez and Audra van Wart from the Carilion Institute of Virginia Tech to participate in a symposium focused on enhancing graduate training. In 2013, their graduate program became one of the seventeen sites selected by the National Institutes of Health to develop programs aimed at Broadening Experience in Scientific Training (BEST). The goal of these programs is to educate trainees about non-academic career options without negatively impacting their research (and creating a potential conflict of interest with their mentors) and/or extending the time it takes them to obtain their degrees. BEST programs were awarded based on innovative ideas that have been implemented and assessed in parallel at the seventeen sites to determine a range of effective strategies that broaden experience in scientific training. By bringing these speakers to UM as part of a symposium focused on graduate training, I hope that we can discuss programs that might work at the University to enhance both the research training experience and career outcomes.
**Budget:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honoraria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Travel</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$450</td>
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Total $2,500

**Budget Justification:**

**Honoraria:** Two honoraria of $150 are requested for invited speakers, Drs. Valdez and van Wart, for a total of $300.

**Air Travel:** based on Google flights, I estimate roundtrip airfare between Roanoke and Miami will be ~$400 and since both Drs. Valdez and van Wart will be traveling, that will total $800.

**Hotel Accommodations:** To provide lodging during the symposium, I request three nights at a hotel (husband and wife pair so can share a room) ~$150 x 3 = $450.

**Venue:** Previously, I hosted a symposium at the Wesley Center which was no cost but I have set aside $500 to pay for the venue.

**Food:** During mentoring sessions and the career workshop, funds for refreshments and snacks are requested totaling ~$450.
Julia E. Dallman
Tenured Associate Professor of Biology
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(a) PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/University</th>
<th>Major/Field of Study</th>
<th>Degree &amp; Year(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>BA 1987-1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY</td>
<td>Molecular Neuroscience</td>
<td>1998-2003</td>
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(b) APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor with tenure University of Miami, Coral Gables Miami, 2016-present.
Assistant Professor, University of Miami, Coral Gables Miami, 2007-2016.
NIH NINDS Career Grant recipient, Research Assistant Professor (mentor Paul Brehm), Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, 2004-2007.

(c) PRODUCTS

Five Most Relevant to Current Project. (undergraduates are indicated by an asterisk*)


5 additional:

SEEDS You Choose Grant 2017/18

PI: Dallman

NSF-style Biography


(d) SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

SEEDS You Choose Award Recipient
1. My colleague Isaac Skromne and myself organized a zebrafish symposium to raise awareness among faculty on campus and at neighboring institutions of the newly minted CAS Zebrafish facility. World renowned outside speakers were Dr. Cecilia Moens and Dr. Florian Engert. In addition to SEEDS, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Biology Department, Pentair Aquatic Eco-systems, the Neuroscience Graduate Program, and the Society for Developmental Biology also helped to sponsor this event. Attendees included researchers from other institutions around South Florida that serve a diverse student body.

Outreach: Communicating Science
2. I team-teach a civic engagement class with Jim Virga in School of Communications. Students learn about neuroscience as they make documentaries about local stories pertaining to Autism. By making documentaries, students participate in science outreach as well as lending a face and human story to scientific facts.

Broadening the representation of those traditionally under-represented in science:
3. As a cancer survivor and K01 recipient, I was recently honored as one of thirteen profiled for NIH NINDS Diverse paths to Success https://www.ninds.nih.gov/About-NINDS/Workforce-Diversity/Success-Stories
4. HHMI Summer Scholars Program My lab hosted a pair of high school students, Sonali from a private school and Wilhelgyne from a public high school so that they could participate in an eight-week-long research project. (Summer 2014) Since then, Wilhelgyne has been awarded a Posse scholarship to attend Hamilton College and Sonali became a University of Miami Cane in Fall 2015.
5. Chemistry/Biology REU Summer Program-During summer 2016 I hosted Stephanie Morales from Puerto Rico, who tested a fluorescent serotonin mimic that she synthesized in Dr. James Wilson’s lab, for its localization in zebrafish. During summer 2017, I hosted Will Scudder from Dallas Texas, who tested a caged benzodiazepam synthesized in Francisco Raymo’s lab in Chemistry for its ability to alter zebrafish behavior.