

Maria E. Velez-Hernandez, Ph.D.

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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Interim Associate Vice-President for Student Success- Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX, 2023-present.

Responsibilities: Directs operations, initiatives, and activities for the Center for Student Success. Develops, implements, and evaluates strategies that support increases in retention and graduation of undergraduate students. Oversees first year seminar, bridge programs, professional academic advising, the Writing Center, Pathways Academic Assistance Center, student mentors, and the Academic Collegiate Enhancement Program for at risk students. Manages externally funded projects and research. Supports the development of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Accomplishments: Fostered a collaborative environment where staff members are valued and heard. Implemented a new advising structure designed to holistically serve the undergraduate student population. Improved professional development opportunities for advisors. Designed a new rubric for evaluation of re-admission process for students on enforced withdrawal. Improved tutoring facilities to include high-tech equipment to facilitate the student-tutor experience. Enhanced communication among tutoring facilities across campus. PI on USDA- AgriCULTURE Program for \$275,000. PI on THECB Accelerate Student Success Implementation Grant for \$250,000.00. PI on Pilot Program to Address Learning Loss in South Texas to Improve Student Achievement, Department of Education for \$500,000.00. PI on HSI STEM and Articulation Grant, Department of Education Grant for \$5,000,000.00. Supervised funded projects to support a summer bridge program, tutoring services for schools in the area, and student support services to increase retention.

- Associate Dean College of Arts and Sciences Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX, 2021-2023.

Responsibilities: Primarily responsible for Undergraduate Program Initiatives and Research Initiatives. Review proposed curriculum & catalog changes. Serve as ex-officio to the College Curriculum Committee. Supervise final degree audits of graduation applications for UG students. Oversee undergraduate scholarships committee and awards. Hearing officer for undergraduate student complaints. Served as college liaison for Office of Sponsored Programs and managed limited submission procedures. Work with advisors for curriculum updates, policy changes and advising concerns. Coordinate UG Program Reviews for the College. Lead FTIC/Transfer Recruitment efforts. Review department schedule submissions. College liaison to Enrollment Management for UG admission appeals. Support and oversee UG component of Student Advisory Council. Review and approve teacher loads reports.

Accomplishments: Secured funding from THECB Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value for \$450,000. Improvements in communication between advisors and the College. Streamlined academic grievance processes for UG students. Developed and launched initiatives to support retention of COAS students. Designed a program to specifically support online students and faculty. Started a computer loaner program for COAS students. Improved consistency of Degree Works updates by advisors. PI on USDA- AgriCULTURE Program for \$275,000.

EDUCATION

PhD in Physiology	May 2012 University of Puerto Rico, MSC
Bachelor of Science in Biology	May 2001 University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Associate Dean College of Arts and Sciences, 2021-2023	Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX
Associate Professor in Biology, 2021-present	Texas A&M University-Kingsville, TX
Assistant Professor in Biology, 2015-2021	Texas A&M University- Kingsville, TX
Assistant Professor in Biology, 2014-2015	U. of Houston-Victoria, TX
Adjunct Faculty in Biology, 2013-2014	City University of New York- BMCC
Medical School Pharmacology Lecturer, 2013	State University of New York DMC
Post-doctoral Associate, 2012-2014	State University of New York DMC

FUNDED EXTERNAL GRANTS

Total: 6.5M
(W-written, M-managed)

- Accelerate Student Success Implementation Grant: Javelina Summer Bridge Program (M)
Source of Support: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Principal Investigator: M. Velez-Hernandez
Requested Budget: \$250,000
Period: September 30, 2022-September 30, 2023 (M- 3/1/23-8/31/23)
- Pilot Program to Address Learning Loss in South Texas to Improve Student Achievement.
Source of Support: Office of Postsecondary Education Higher Education Programs, Congressionally Funded Projects Program (Earmarks). (M)
Principal Investigator: M. Velez-Hernandez
Requested Budget: \$500,000
Period: September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023 (M-3/1/23-12/31/23)
- Hispanic Education Advising Remediation Teaching: HEART. (M)
Source of Support: Department of Education Title III, HSI STEM and Articulation Grant.
Principal Investigator: M. Velez-Hernandez
Requested Budget: \$5,000,000
Period: October 1, 2021-September 30, 2026 (M-3/1/23-present)
- Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value (W&M)
Source of Support: THECB
Principal Investigators: M. Velez-Hernandez, R. Laughlin
Requested Budget: \$450,000
Period: 9/1/2022-9/30/2022
- AgriCULTURE: Agriculture Connections to USDA: Lifestyle and Training of Undergraduates through Real world Experiences in Texas and Puerto Rico. (W&M)
Source of Support: National Institute on Food and Agriculture
Principal Investigator: M. Velez-Hernandez Co-PI's: S. Nelson and T. Machado Budget: \$275,000
Period: 9/1/2020- 8/31/2024
- Neurological, Learning and Memory Disorders in Drosophila Melanogaster (W&M)

Source of Support: Moxley Foundation
Principal Investigator: M. Velez-Hernandez, R. Bohm Budget: \$40,000
Period: 1/1/2020-12/31/2022

Funded Internal Grants (All W&M)

- Effects of Gut Microbiota and Inflammation on Courtship Behavior of *Drosophila* Source of Support: College of Arts and Sciences
Principal Investigator: M. Velez-Hernandez
Requested Budget: \$3,000
Period: 1/1/2020-5/31-2020
- Student Retention Grant: Early career research and mentoring of freshmen students: an approach to increase student engagement and community outreach.
Source of Support: Center for student success
Principal Investigator: Maria E. Velez Requested Budget: \$1,000
Period: Spring 2018
- Course Redesign: Experiential learning/research: Backyard brains in Functional Neuroanatomy Source of Support: Title V I-CARE
Principal Investigator: Dr. Maria E. Velez Budget: \$5,000
Time period: 1 year (Sep 2017-May 2018)
- Understanding Human Physiology
Source of Support: Service Learning Grant- Texas A & M University-Kingsville
Principal Investigator: Dr. Maria E. Velez
Budget: \$7,000
Time period: 1 year (Sep 2016-July 2017)
- Service Learning: New PhUn in Physiology
Source of Support: Service Learning Grant- Texas A & M University-Kingsville
Principal Investigator: Dr. Maria E. Velez
Budget: \$1,500
Time period: 7 months (Sep 2017-Dec 2017)
- Role of PKM on *Drosophila melanogaster* courtship behavior Source of Support: Texas Council Undergraduate Research Grant Principal Investigator: Dr. Maria E. Velez
Budget: \$5,000
Time Period: 7 months (Jan 2016- August 2016)

LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT

Seminar (writing intensive)	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Human Anatomy and Physiology II	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Learning in Global Context	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Research Projects in Biology	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Health Sciences Preparedness (Study Abroad)	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Understanding Human Physiology (Service Learning)	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
General Biology I (Honors Lecture)	Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Functional Neuroanatomy (Lecture and Lab)	Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Systems Neurobiology (Masters)

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

General Biology I

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

and University of Houston-Victoria

Human Physiology (Lecture and Lab)

University of Houston-Victoria

and City University of New York- BMCC

General Biology I (Lecture and Lab)

City University of New York- BMCC

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Appointments to Committees

<i>Committee (as CFSS Interim AVP)</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>4DX Development Committee</i>	2023-present	Use the 4DX framework to identify TAMUK's strategic priorities that will form the basis of our next strategic plan. Represent CFSS
<i>Academic Advisory Council</i>	2023-present	Discuss Academic Affairs projects, plans and challenges
<i>Acadeum Implementation. Committee</i>	2023-present	Monitor usage of Acadeum course sharing platform. Liaison to advising
<i>Admissions Committee</i>	2023-present	Evaluate acceptance appeals
<i>Caring Campus Launch Committee</i>	2024-present	Train our team on Caring Campus initiatives
<i>CFSS Advisory Board, Chair</i>	2023-present	Discuss topics related to CFSS
<i>Commencement Speaker Selection Committee, Chair</i>	2023-present	Coordinate commencement speaker selection
<i>Emergency Grant Committee</i>	2023-present	Evaluate emergency aid for TAMUK students
<i>SACS-COC QEP Development Committee</i>	2023-present	Develop and write QEP for SACS-COC reaffirmation
<i>Scholarship Appeal Committee</i>	2023-present	Evaluate scholarship appeals
<i>Student Software Committee</i>	2024-present	Evaluate current software usage
<i>THECB Developmental Advisory Board</i>	2023-present	Advise PI's for THECB grant for Developmental Math and English
<i>UNIV task force</i>	2022-2023	Represented CFSS to help design a new Freshmen Seminar Curriculum

<i>Committee (as COAS Assoc Dean)</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>COAS Advisors Committee</i>	2021-2023	Liaison between the advisors and the college
<i>COAS Recruitment</i>	2021-2023	Meet with COAS department faculty recruiters to create and follow up recruitment plan
<i>Curriculum Committee (Ex Oficio)</i>	2021-2023	Review Curriculum proposals for COAS
<i>Dean's Council (in rep of Dean)</i>	2021-2023	Represented Dean Guerrero
<i>Hispanic Heritage Month Committee</i>	2022	Help coordinate Hispanic Heritage events
<i>RNL group</i>	2022-2023	Represent the College on meetings with consultant
<i>Scholarship Appeal Committee</i>	2021-2023	Evaluate scholarship appeals
<i>Transcripted Certificates Committee</i>	2022	Create SOP for transcripted certificates
<i>UNIV Task Force</i>	2022-2023	Represented COAS to help design a new Freshmen Seminar Curriculum

<i>Committee(University)</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>Faculty Senator At Large for the C. of Arts and Sciences</i>	Fall 2019-2020	Attend meetings, relay information to faculty, work on senate committees.
<i>Faculty Senate Committee: Policy Revision Committee</i>	2020-2021	Evaluate changes to the Faculty Evaluation Process and documents
<i>McNair Scholars selection committee</i>	2019-2023	Candidate evaluation and interviews
<i>Biomedical Research Group</i>	2015-present	Grants proposal writing, develop TAMUK biomed research initiatives, evaluate research proposals for funding.

<i>Committee (Biology)</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>Recruiting committee</i>	Fall 2020-present	Develop and implement recruiting strategies.
<i>Biology Recruitment Strategies Committee</i>	Fall 2020-present	Develop new strategies for recruitment for Biology/Biomed programs.
<i>Biomedical Curriculum</i>	2017-present	Evaluate Biomedical Sciences curriculum and suggest changes.
<i>GTA Assistantships</i>	2016-present	Evaluate GTA candidates, recommend GTA's to chair of the department.
<i>Biology Faculty Search</i>	2016-present	Evaluate and interview candidates for faculty positions, attend candidates' seminars, recommend selected candidates to Chair and Dean

<i>Committee (Community)</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
President's Circle	2017-present	University donations, President's Circle activities; including the Without Limits Campaign and the Legacy Ball.
Christus Spohn Ambassador	2018-present	Learn about CHRISTUS Spohn programs and services, and health care issues affecting our South Texas community, serve as community advocates for the Health System, helping to answer questions and provide accurate information about the innovation and outreach occurring within CHRISTUS Spohn.
Kingsville Garden Club	2018-present	Stimulate cooperative interest in growing, to aid in the protection of wild flowers and birds, to study, in all its aspects, the art of gardening and flower arranging, to encourage civic planting.

National Organization committees

- Southwest Regional Society for Developmental Biology Meeting Education Session Chair: 2021
- APS- Central Nervous System Section- Member at Large: 2019 nomination

Faculty Advisor for Student Organizations

- SACNAS faculty mentor 2017-present
- WIMENS faculty mentor 2017-present

Guest Lectures

- Kastory Elementary School Science Day presenter Corpus Christi- 2017
- STEM day at the Texas Aquarium 2017
- Physiology Understanding (PhUn) Week 2016, 2017, 2018.
- McNair and President's Scholar mentor and guest speaker 2016, 2017, 2018

Scientific Judging

- Judge at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students ABRCMS Meeting in November 2015 & 2019
- Judge at the Annual Javelina Research Symposium 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019
- Judge at Santa Gertrudis Science Fair 2016
- Judge at KISD Science Fair 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Texas Academic Leadership Academy
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville College of Arts and Sciences Olan Kruse Award 2021
- Center for Teaching Effectiveness 2019 General Education Teaching Award.
- Selected as Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honor Society.
- Phi Kappa Phi Certificate of Appreciation for mentoring a research on an award winning student project. 2017 & 2018
- "Student organization advisor of the year 2014-2015"-University of Houston-Victoria
- "Top 5" Posters Winner University of Texas Learning and Memory Conference, 2011, University of Texas at Austin. *Inhibition of Protein kinase Mzeta (PKM ζ) in the mesolimbic system alters cocaine sensitization in rats.*
- Award for Investigation Excellence, Physiology Department, 2009. University of Puerto Rico, School of Medicine.
- Leadership Award, Physiology Department, 2009. University of Puerto Rico, School of Medicine
- Dean's Award for Outstanding Student in Physiology, 2007 and 2008. University of Puerto Rico, School of Medicine
- MBRS-RISE Pre-doctoral Fellow, 2006-2011 University of Puerto Rico, School of Medicine

Travel Awards

- Center for Teaching effectiveness Travel Award 2018
Location: Atlanta, GA
Sponsor: CTE
- ABRCMS Judge Travel Award, ABRCMS Meeting 2015
Location: Seattle, WA
Sponsor: ABRCMS
- SPINES Travel Award to attend SPINES and Society for Neurosciences 2015 Meetings
Location: Chicago II
Sponsor: SPINES
- Behavior, Biology and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction, 2012-13

Location: San Antonio, TX

Sponsor: University of Texas Health Science Center

- IBRO Society for Neuroscience, 2011
Location: Florence, Italy
Sponsor: International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)

MEMBERSHIPS

- Golden Key Honorary Member (2020-present)
- Women In Math Engineering aNd Sciences at TAMUK (WIMENS): Founding faculty advisor (2017-present)
- Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Sciences (SACNAS) : faculty advisor (2017-present)
- TAMUK Graduate Faculty (2016-present)
- International Drug Abuse Research Society (2010-present)
- American Physiological Society (2008-present)
- Society for Neurosciences (2006-present)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journal articles

- Johnson, R; Galloway, C; **Velez-Hernandez, M E** *Characterization and Classification of Castoff Spatter from Kitchen Knives*. Biomedical Journal of Scientific & Technical research. 2021 Jul 37;(4): 29534-29539
- Velasquez-Martinez MC, Santos-Vera B, **Velez-Hernandez ME**, Vazquez-Torres R, Jimenez- Rivera J, *Alpha-1 Adrenergic Receptors Modulate Glutamate and GABA Neurotransmission onto Ventral Tegmental Dopamine Neurons During Cocaine Sensitization*. Int J Mol Sci. 2020 Jan 25;21(3)
- Garcia R, Salcedo C, Laughlin R, **Velez-Hernandez ME**, *Effects of high uracil diet-induced gut dysbiosis on courtship behavior in drosophila*. Texas J. of Sci 2020 72(1): Article 2
- Troutwine B, Park A, **Velez-Hernandez ME**, Lew L, Mihic SJ, Atkinson N, *SF654A and K558Q Mutations in NMDA Receptor 1 Affect Ethanol-Induced Behaviors in Drosophila*. Alcohol Clin Exp Res. 2019 Dec;43(12):2480-2493.
- Vaquer-Alicea ADC, Vázquez-Torres R, Devarie-Hornedo M, Vicenty-Padilla JC, Santos-Vera B, María-Ríos C, **Vélez-Hernández ME**, Sacktor T, Jiménez-Rivera CA *LTP in the VTA participates in the neuroadaptive signal necessary to induce NAc synaptic plasticity after cocaine administration*. Neuroscience. 2019 Jul 1;410:316.
- **M. E. Vélez-Hernández**, E. Padilla, F. Gonzalez-Lima, C.A. Jiménez-Rivera, *Cocaine reduces cytochrome oxidase activity in the prefrontal cortex and modifies its functional connectivity with brainstem nuclei*. Brain Research. January 2014
- **M. E. Vélez-Hernández**, Rafael Vázquez-Torres, Maria C. Velasquez-Martinez, Lincoln Jiménez, Frankie Báez, Todd C. Sacktor and Carlos A. Jiménez-Rivera: *Inhibition of Protein kinase Mzeta (PKMζ) in the mesolimbic system alters cocaine sensitization in rats*. Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research. July 2013.
- Bermery Santos-Vera, Rafael Vázquez-Torres, Hermes G. García-Marrero, Juan M. Ramos- Acevedo, Francisco Arencibia-Albite, **María E. Vélez-Hernandez**, Jorge D. Miranda and Carlos Jiménez-Rivera. *Cocaine sensitization increases Ih current channel subunit 2 (HCN2) protein expression in structures of the Mesocorticolimbic System*. Journal of Molecular Neuroscience. May 2013.
- Carlos A. Jiménez-Rivera, Johnny Figueroa, Rafael Vázquez, **María E. Vélez-Hernandez**, David Schwarz,

Francisco Arencibia and María C. Velázquez. *Presynaptic Inhibition of Glutamate Transmission by Alpha-2 Receptors in the VTA*. European Journal of Neurosciences, January 2012.

- Mikhail Inyushin, Francisco Arencibia-Albite, Rafael Vazquez- Torres, **María E. Vélez- Hernández**, Carlos A. Jimenez-Rivera. *Alpha-2 noradrenergic receptor activation inhibits the hyperpolarization-activated cation current (I_h) in neurons of the ventral tegmental area*. Neuroscience. January 2010.

Non-refereed publications

- **Maria E. Velez- Hernandez**: USDA AgriCULTURE 2022-book
- **Maria E. Velez- Hernandez**: USDA AgriCULTURE 2021-book
- **Maria E. Velez- Hernandez**: Puerto Rico Study abroad 2019- book
- **Maria E. Velez- Hernandez**: Puerto Rico Study abroad 2018- book
- **Maria E. Velez- Hernandez**: Puerto Rico Study abroad 2017- book

Refereed abstracts

- **M. E. Vélez-Hernández**, R. Vázquez-Torres, M.C. Velázquez-Martínez, J.R. Nieves- Meléndez, N.G. Sánchez- Díaz, GJ. Quirk, TC. Sacktor, C.A. Jiménez –Rivera *Protein kinase Mzeta inhibitor (ZIP) alters cocaine sensitization initiation and expression and decreases AMPA/NMDA ratio in VTA DA*. Society for Neurosciences Meeting, 2011.
- **M. E. Vélez-Hernández**, R. Vázquez-Torres, M.C. Velázquez-Martínez, J.R. Nieves- Meléndez, N.G. Sánchez- Díaz, TC. Sacktor, C.A. Jiménez-Rivera *Protein kinase Mzeta inhibitor (ZIP) erases addiction memories*. 2011 IBRO World Conference, 2011
- **M. E. Vélez-Hernández**, R. Vázquez-Torres, M.C. Velázquez-Martínez, TC. Sacktor, C.A. Jiménez-Rivera. *Protein kinase Mzeta inhibitor (ZIP) alters cocaine sensitization initiation and expression and decreases VTA AMPA/NMDA ratio*. University of Texas Austin Conference on Learning and Memory, 2011
- **M. E. Vélez-Hernández**, R. Vázquez-Torres, M.C. Velázquez-Martínez, J.R. Nieves- Meléndez, N.G. Sánchez- Díaz, GJ. Quirk, TC. Sacktor, C.A. Jiménez –Rivera. *Protein kinase Mzeta inhibitor (ZIP) alters cocaine sensitization and decreases VTA AMPA mediated currents*. Society for Neurosciences Meeting, 2010

Student refereed abstracts

- Laura Lopez, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. Reporting COVID cases within Kleberg County. Experimental Biology 2022, Philadelphia, PA and TAMU Pathways, College Station, TX
- Lauren Esqueda, Richard Laughlin, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. *Rearing Axenic Drosophila melanogaster to Assess Courtship Behavior*. ABRCMS 2019, Anaheim California.
- Hector Lopez, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. *Physiology Understanding Week at Texas A&M University-Kingsville: a Retrospective Study*. Experimental Biology Meeting 2019, Florida.
- Roger Garcia, Rudolf Bohm, Richard Laughlin, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. *Effects of Gut Disbiosis and Inflammatory Response on Courtship Behavior of Drosophila* SACNAS 2018.

- Camila Salcedo Rudolf Bohm, Richard Laughlin, **Maria E. Velez Hernandez** *Optimization of Hematoxylin and Eosin Protocol to Determine the Effects of Gut Dysbiosis and Inflammatory Response on Morphology of Drosophila Gut*. SACNAS 2018.
- Ronald Williams, **Maria E. Velez**. *PhUn overview of the Cardiovascular system*. Experimental Biology 2017.
- Rachel Johnson, **Maria E. Velez**. *Physiology Understanding Week (PhUn Week), First time in Kingsville, Texas: The immune system*. Experimental Biology 2017
- Hector Lopez, **Maria E. Velez**. *Cardiovascular System Explained on the Bases of Sports, taught by Undergraduate students majoring in Biomedical Sciences or Biology*. Experimental Biology 2017
- Amanda Joanna Gonzalez, **Maria E. Velez**. *Learning the Cardiovascular System can be PhUn*. Experimental Biology 2017
- A. Vaquer- Alicea, R. Vazquez-Torres, B. Santos- Vera, C. Maria-Rios, A. Montiel- Reamos, M. Devarie, **M.E. Velez-Hernandez**, T.C. Sacktor, C.A. Jimenez-Rivera. *Effects of PKM ζ inhibitor (ZIP) on the initiation and expression of cocaine sensitization* Society for Neuroscience Meeting, 2015.
- M. C. Velasquez-Martinez, **M.E. Vélez-Hernández**, B. Santos-Vera, A. Vaquer-Alicea, R. Vazquez-Torres, C.A. Jimenez-Rivera, *Alpha-1 adrenergic receptor modulation of ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons: role in cocaine sensitization*. Society for Neuroscience Meeting, 2014

Non refereed student abstracts

- Roger Garcia, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**: *Effect of Gut Dysbiosis and inflammatory response on courtship behavior of drosophila*. Texas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Austin, TX. Roger was selected to represent TAMUK at 2018 Texas Research Day.
- Feyisayo Edalere, Eric Palacios, Rudolf Bohm, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. *Study of behavioral defects in Drosophila melanogaster through courtship*. 8th Undergraduate Javelina Research Symposium (Third place winner) and Texas A & M Pathways Research Symposium 2016. (Third place winner). 9th Undergraduate Javelina Research Symposium (Second Place winner) Phi Kappa Phi forum 2017. 2017 Research day at the Capitol.
- Eric Cardona, Nolan Trevino, Rudolf Bohm, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. "Imitation of Gabaergic Nerve Expression. 8th Undergraduate Javelina Research Symposium, 9th Undergraduate Javelina Research Symposium (Third place winner), Phi Kappa Phi forum 2017.
- Rachel Johnson, **Maria E. Velez- Hernandez**, *Characterization and Classification of Castoff Spatter from Kitchen Knives*, 9th TAMUK Javelina Research Symposium.
- Savannah Stroman, **Maria Hernandez-Velez**, Richard Laughlin. *Testing of Antibiotic Treatments on Acne-causing Bacteria*. 9th TAMUK Javelina Research Symposium.
- Srikanth Reddy Guntaka, Eric Cardona, Feyisayo Edalere, Eric Palacios, Shruthi Chempati, Rudolf Bohm, **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**. *Memory analysis of Drosophila melanogaster through courtship suppression assay*. Texas A & M Pathways Research Symposium 2016

- Vaquer-Alicea, A., Vazquez-Torres, R.; Santos-Vera, B., María-Ríos, C, Montiel-Ramos, A., Quiñones, H, **Velez-Hernández, M**, Sacktor, T and Jiménez-Rivera, C. *PKC α expression in the Ventral Tegmental Area, Nucleus Accumbens, Prefrontal Cortex, and Hippocampus of cocaine sensitized rats*. Molecular and Cellular Cognition Society Meeting, 2014.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Refereed)

State

- **Maria E. Velez Hernandez**, *Inhibition of protein kinase Mzeta (PKM ζ) in the mesolimbic system alters cocaine sensitization*, Behavior, Biology and Chemistry, Translational Research in Addiction Conference, San Antonio TX. March 2012

National

- Health Sciences Immersion for Academic Success: New Model for HACU Partnerships. **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**, HACU 2018
- *LTP and Drug Addiction*. Molecular Cellular Cognition Society Annual Meeting, University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras Campus. May 2009
- *LTP and Drug Addiction*. Universidad Central de Bayamon Annual Retreat. June 2009

ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Non-Refereed)

Local

- **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**, Center for Teaching effectiveness: Course redesign. Using Backyard Brains to teach neuroscience 2022
- **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**, *Health Sciences Preparedness through Academics, Service and Culture A Study Abroad in Puerto Rico*, Symposium on Teaching and Learning through Study Abroad. TAMUK, Kingsville, TX, 2019
- **Maria E. Velez-Hernandez**, *Physiology Understanding (PhUn) Week: a Service Learning Activity*, TAMUK High Impact Practice Conference. March 31 2017.
- **Maria E. Velez Hernandez**, “New Faculty Investment Program in Biology”: NFIP Faculty Showcase 2017.

State

- **Maria E. Velez Hernandez**, *Innovative Solutions to Javelina Challenges*, TAMUK Leadership Conference Speaker-Kingsville, TX. September 2016
- **Maria E. Velez Hernandez**, *Protein kinase Mzeta (PKM ζ) role in cocaine sensitization*, University of Houston-Victoria TX, USA. March 2014