

MSU Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award (PERA) Awardees, 2018

Dr. Omayma Alshaarawy received her MBBS degree with specialization in Medicine and Surgery from School of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt. She worked as a primary care physician and a clinical pathologist until 2010 before moving to USA to pursue her doctoral studies in Epidemiology from West Virginia University. After earning her Epidemiology PhD in 2013, she began her postdoctoral training at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in Michigan State University as a NIH/NIDA T32 postdoctoral scholar till 2015. She worked as a visiting scholar and taught fundamentals of epidemiology in Department of Epidemiology at Indiana University School of Public Health. Since, she has been a research associate in the MSU in the Epidemiology department, where she investigates the effects of cannabinoids on disease using pre-clinical biomarkers and epidemiological models.

Dr. Alshaarawy has authored 16 peer-reviewed articles, including 11 during her time at MSU. She was awarded K99 grants for her work in MSU and is a principal investigator (PI) of the project. The K99 training combines epidemiological studies, and pre-clinical rodent studies that she is currently conducting at the lab of Dr. L.Karl Olson, the co-sponsor of the K99 award at the department of Physiology. She has received NIDA Director's and MSUPDA travel award. Dr. Alshaarawy also received American Diabetics Association young investigator travel grant and NIH cardiovascular and pulmonary disease training grant.

Dr. Alshaarawy is actively involved in teaching and mentoring many undergraduate students and helping them to pursue career in Epidemiology. She made sure that the student's effort is credited appropriately by getting them published in reputed peer-reviewed journals of the field.

Her PI, Dr. James C. Anthony, said that "I place Dr. Alshaarawy in the very top tier of NIH postdoctoral fellows I have supervised since 1981. She brings her own creative and independent research ideas and puts them into action". We are proud to award Dr. Omayma Alshaarawy with the 2017-2018 Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award. Congratulations.

Dr. Caleb Trujillo received his Bachelor's Degree in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology from University of Colorado at Boulder in 2009. He completed his doctoral program in Biological Sciences at Purdue University in 2015. Now, Dr. Trujillo works as a postdoctoral research associate in the area of science education at Michigan State University, where he develops a cross-disciplinary framework for systems thinking in undergraduate biology students.

Dr. Trujillo has published 9 publications in total, including one in Science Advances in 2018. He has 4 invited talks and has more than 35 presentations in national and international conference and meetings. In addition, he has received 4 travel awards from different organizations and, while at Purdue, earned outstanding leadership and governance awards from Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

Dr. Trujillo has mentored 6 undergraduate students at MSU to help them organize their research ideas, analysis and presentation of data. Three of his students have been awarded first place in educational research poster at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum. He has also worked with more than 110 middle school students to help them understand science and science writing.

His PI, Dr. Tammy Long, mentioned that "His approach revealed that much of what we knew about systems thinking was biased toward a small education research community that was, for the most part, relatively disconnected from other fields that were not only larger, but also better integrated with one another" We are proud to award Dr. Caleb Trujillo with the 2017-2018 Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award. Congratulations.



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