






# Dr. Ana Karen Velázquez Sánchez



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## LANGUAGES

- Spanish Native
- English Proficient, Toefl iBT
- German Intermediate, B1.1 Carl Duisberg
- Japanese Novice, A1.1 Hamburger Volkshochschule

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Fellowship Doctoral studies**  
Aug 2017 – Sep 2021  
Awarded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT)
- Fellowship Master studies**  
Oct 2012 – Sep 2014  
Awarded by the Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT)
- International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM 2019) – Team Hamburg gold award**

## TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

- Mathematics of life: modelling molecular mechanisms 202**  
12-16 Sep 2022  
EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute, virtual workshop
- PIER Startup Bootcamp I: "Design Thinking"**  
08 Apr 2022
- Young Entrepreneur in Science: From Potential to Prototype**  
20 May 2022
- "From PhD to Innovator"**  
09-10 Jun 2022  
Partnership for Innovation, Education and Research of DESY and Universität Hamburg

## INTERESTS

- Multidisciplinary research
- Synthetic biology, biomedicine, RNA therapeutics
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning
- Sailing and music

Due to my Ph.D. studies, in addition to my computer science qualifications, I have acquired molecular biology knowledge, laboratory/experimental skills, and modeling and simulating molecular mechanisms. I have experienced the systems development cycle, including quality assurance, using a range of programming languages and development tools. Specializing in synthetic and systems biology, passionate about multidisciplinary projects and learning.

## EDUCATION

- Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften** with honors (1.0, *magna cum laude*) **Oct 2017 - Dec 2021**  
*Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) co-affiliated with Hamburg University (UHH).* Germany.  
Dissertation: "Design and implementation of molecular circuits for mitigating genetic diseases"
- Master of Science in Computer Science** **Oct 2012 - Oct 2014**  
*Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education at Ensenada (CICESE).* Mexico.  
Dissertation: "Logic gates based on DNA strand displacement"
- Bachelor of Computer Science** **Aug 2007 - Oct 2012**  
*Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC).* Mexico.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Postdoctoral associate (synthetic and systems biology)** **Jan 2022 - Dec 2022**  
*AG Ignatova, Hamburg University (UHH).* Germany.  
Tasks: experimental research, mathematical modeling, and simulations, data analysis, generating plots and images, preparing manuscripts for publication, teaching
- Guest Research Scientist (PhD student)** **Oct 2017 - Dec 2021**  
*Algebraic Engineering Group, Institute of Embedded Systems (TUHH) and AG Ignatova, Hamburg University (UH).* Germany.  
Tasks: research and development of molecular circuits toward the mitigation of genetic diseases, kinetic modeling, simulations, and experimental research.
- Scientific applications software developer** **Jan 2015 - Jul 2017**  
*The Gulf of Mexico Research Consortium (CIGoM).* Mexico.  
Project "Data base and management system for oceanographic expeditions"  
Tasks: Development of data management platform for multidisciplinary scientific data
- Research assistant** **Nov 2014 - Dec 2015**  
*Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education at Ensenada (CICESE).* Mexico.  
Project "Cellular computation models and their application to the design of biomolecular logic circuits"  
Tasks: Development of full adder based on DNA strand displacement
- Internship in Software Quality Assurance (SQA)** **Dec 2010- Dec 2011**  
*Navico Marine Electronics R&D.* Mexico.  
Project "Reengineering process: tracking of software defects"  
Tasks: Software testing and issue tracking, scripting for automation of test cases
- Working student: Ambient Intelligence App developer and trainer** **Aug 2010 – Dec 2010**  
*Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC).* Mexico.  
Projects "Development of Applications on Ambient Intelligence in Support of Non-pharmacological Treatment of the Elderly" and "Introduction to informatics and media for senior adults"  
Tasks: Development of Serious games on tactile surfaces, production of teaching/didactic materials for the course, and course trainer.

## SKILLS

### Programming, software, and libraries

- Programming languages: Python, R, Java, C#, Matlab, HTML5, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL, C++
- Figure preparation: Photoshop
- Molecular thermodynamics prediction: ViennaRNA, NUPACK
- Molecular simulations: COPASI, VisualDSD, SimBiology
- Graphs and plots: Ggplot2, matplotlib, Seaborn, Origin
- Web development: Laravel, Bootstrap, October CMS, JQuery
- Formats: XML, SBOL
- SQA: Jyra
- Text processing: LaTeX, Microsoft Office

### Molecular biology lab techniques

- Fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS)
- Microbiology, e.g. culture, golden gate assembly (GGA) cloning, DNA/RNA extraction
- Microplate assays
- RNA isolation and northern dot blots
- PCR (RT-PCR)
- Electrophoresis (e.g. SDS-page)

### General

- Coding and computer skills
- Data analysis and design
- International work experience
- Writing and communication (scientific articles writing, scientific talks, workshop organization, teaching)
- Problem-solving, attention to detail, critical thinking, fast learning
- Organization (e.g. project planning and management, workshop organization) and creativity (e.g. figures and data representation)

## REFERENCES

- Prof. Dr. Zoya Ignatova, Group Leader AG Ignatova Lab (UHH)**  
zoya.ignatova@uni-hamburg.de
- Prof. Dr. habil. Karl-Heinz Zimmermann, Group Leader Algebraic Engineering (TUHH)**  
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