

Alejandro Reyes

Since his first days at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia as a student of the Microbiology Program, Alejandro Reyes focused his studies on Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics. With his newly acquired skills, Alejandro was then able to design the first undergraduate introductory Bioinformatics course at the university and assistant teach while working towards the completion of his studies. Upon graduation, Alejandro continued to teach Bioinformatics while pursuing his Master's. In 2005, Alejandro's course was distinguished as one of the best courses offered by the Faculty of Sciences. Also during his Master's studies, his interest in Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology inspired him to take courses in Multivariate Analysis, Molecular Virology and Microbial Molecular Genetics – for which he received an overall perfect GPA of 5.0/5.0. By the completion of his program, Alejandro was awarded honors for his thesis and was published in the scientific journal *Developmental and Comparative Immunology*.

While still an undergraduate, Alejandro began working at the Corporación Corpogen; a non-profit research institute with an emphasis in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. During his 4 years working at Corpogen, he had an opportunity to complement and strengthen his theoretical knowledge with laboratory work by designing and standardizing very sensitive and specific molecular platforms. Alejandro's work with the bioinformatics analysis of comparative genomics in tuberculosis allowed for the identification of regions and genes that may eventually play important roles in pathogenesis; some of which are completely new areas of research. Alejandro's varied research at Corpogen allowed him to participate in eight different conferences, most of them international, where he presented the results of his research.

In addition to the experience Alejandro gained while researching at Corpogen, he held seminars (mainly in Real-Time PCR) as well as training sessions in bioinformatics in different cities in Colombia and Venezuela. Alejandro has been awarded several scholarships such as Colciencias Young Researcher (2006) and the Fulbright Science & Technology Award (2007) in recognition of his outstanding research and academic achievement. He is currently enrolled as a Fulbrighter in a Ph.D. program in Biological Science at Washington University.