

Brief Biography

Pamela A. Padilla, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President of Research and Innovation

Professor Biological Sciences, Adjunct Associate Faculty Biomedical Engineering

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Pamela Padilla has over 20 years of experience in scientific research in the fields of genetics and cell biology. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center where she discovered regulatory mechanisms involved with stress responses and hypometabolic states. She uses genetic model systems to study how stress and nutrient overload impacts molecular and cellular functions, contributes to organ dysfunction, and impacts subsequent generations. Her research, continually funded by either National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health, has directly supported the projects of over 70 students. As an Associate Vice President of Research and Innovation and former Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, she is deeply involved with and committed to efficient research administration, effective program management, sound operations, fiscal responsibility, collaborative leadership, building partnerships, compliance and integrity, student training, and STEM diversity initiatives. As an academic administrator, she strives to support facilities and partnerships that propel faculty research, values research within many fields, and has a great interest in serving a Hispanic Serving Institute. In particular, Padilla has provided programs and mentorship to engage early career faculty with research development opportunities. Through her work with the non-profit SACNAS organization, as board member and President-elect, she was awarded an NIH training grant that support STEM diversity training across the nation. As a multigenerational native to New Mexico she understands the enormous opportunity and complex challenges within the land of enchantment.