

TV CORE

NOVEMBER 2024

Monthly Newsletter



NICOLE GRANADOS

Nicole grew up in Holtville, CA, a small agricultural city in the Imperial Valley known as the "Carrot Capital of the World." After high school, she attended her local community college before transferring to UC San Diego in 2021, where she now calls San Diego home. Family is central to Nicole's life, and she is thrilled her younger sister recently began college at SDSU, allowing them to stay close.

With three years of research experience, Nicole is excited to join the lab as an HIV Research Technician. Her passion for HIV/AIDS research began in high school, inspired by the struggles faced by gay men during the 1980s AIDS crisis. This experience motivated her to pursue a career in public health and research, and this position allows her to combine both interests. She is eager to gain hands-on experience in blood processing and DNA extraction and looks forward to attending a Last Gift autopsy to further develop her skills as she works toward becoming a clinical laboratory scientist.

Outside the lab, Nicole enjoys crafting, DIY projects, and making polymer clay earrings. She loves trying new activities like sewing and spending time with family and friends.

Welcome to TV CORE, Nicole!

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The study "**Viral and Immune Risk Factors of HIV Rebound after Interruption of Antiretroviral Therapy**" examines virologic and immunologic factors influencing HIV rebound after antiretroviral therapy (ART) interruption, finding that early ART initiation reduces rebound risk by limiting the viral reservoir and preserving immune function. Higher levels of pre-ART HIV RNA, total HIV DNA, and active HIV transcription correlated with faster rebound, as did greater proportions of terminally differentiated CD8⁺ T cells, effector CD4⁺ T cells, and activated/exhausted T-cell subsets, particularly in early-treated individuals. The strongest predictors of rebound were total HIV DNA and terminally differentiated CD8⁺ T cells. These findings highlight the importance of early ART and personalized approaches targeting virologic and immunologic factors to achieve sustained remission.

LOOKING FORWARD

Reminders: Last orders of 2024 on 12/9
Holiday Potluck on 12/16

December 1 marks World AIDS Day, a global observance dedicated to raising awareness about the AIDS epidemic and honoring the memory of those who have lost their lives to the disease.

From **December 23- January 3**, SD CFAR admin offices are closed for winter holidays.

December 25th is Christmas Day.

December 31st is New Years Eve.

LUANA REBELLO

Luana was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and moved to the United States at the age of 16 to pursue her studies. She has lived in San Diego for a little over two years and is still enjoying exploring the area. Currently working as an SRA1, Luana has always had a deep interest in laboratory work. Growing up, her parents owned a clinic, and because their work did not involve sensitive or hazardous materials, they often brought her along. These early experiences inspired her fascination with the field, which seemed incredibly exciting to her as a child.

During her college years, Luana participated in the NSF REU program, where she conducted her own research and gained exposure to the work of others. This enriching experience further solidified her passion for research. Her current position marks her first job in the field, and she plans to return to school to explore the various paths within science and decide on her future direction.

Outside of work, Luana shares her home with her cat, Cali, who is both affectionate and notoriously vocal, often serving as her early-morning alarm clock. She enjoys trying new activities and has recently been exploring San Diego's restaurants and attractions with her boyfriend. Her adventures have included attending a baseball game, visiting the Grand Canyon, sailing, and hiking.

Luana loves to read, especially with good snacks in hand, and has recently taken up cooking as a hobby. She has started a personal recipe book to keep track of her favorite dishes.

Welcome to TV CORE, Luana!



TRY SOMETHING NEW

This holiday season, consider participating in winter activities perfect for the cold! Whether you are ice skating at Hotel Del in Coronado, sipping hot chocolate from Maya Moon Collective, or seeing the parade of lights pass by on Sunday, December 8 or 15th in the San Diego Bay, there are plenty of options to make the holiday season cozy and bright.

Additionally, check out the newly re-opened (on Dec 6) botanical building at Balboa Park. The grand re-opening comes after 3 years of being closed to the public for renovations.

SHOUTOUT!

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to Pinyi (11/5) and Aleks (11/7)!

Highlighted as our people of the month this month are our two new technicians! Please give Nicole and Luana a very warm welcome if you have not yet met them!

Congratulations to Karole Ignacio on her promotion to lab manager at the ACTRI. She will still maintain her role as Last Gift autopsy captain.

Additionally, Dem will be splitting his time between the TV Core and being Dr. Smith's administrative assistant. Thank you, Dem!