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📍 Mérida, Yucatán

Skills

Molecular diagnostics (RT-PCR, arbovirus detection)
Wildlife and vector surveillance
Field sampling (birds, rodents, bats, mosquitoes)
Database management
Microsoft Office Suite
Problem-solving
Teamwork
Strong communication skills

Languages

Español
Native

English
Advance

Laura I. López Apodaca, PhD

Professional Profile

Veterinarian (DVM) with a Master's and PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the Autonomous University of Yucatán (UADY). My academic trajectory has focused on interdisciplinary research on mosquito-borne diseases.

I have experience in the molecular detection of arboviruses (Alphavirus, Flavivirus, and Orthobunyavirus) and have collaborated in surveillance and detection projects at the animal-human interface in rural and peri-urban ecosystems. My work integrates mosquitoes, wildlife vertebrates, and human populations in vulnerable communities within a socio-ecological framework.

Professional Experience

Associate Researcher

"Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FMVZ), UNAM
2023 - presente

Project: "Socio-ecosystems and Emerging Viruses in the Yucatán Peninsula"

- Monitoreo de aves, roedores, murciélagos y mosquitos
- Diagnóstico molecular
- Bases de datos

Field Technician

CIR "Dr. Hideyo Noguchi", UADY

2016

"Project: Aplicación de metagenómica en la vigilancia y detección de arbovirosis con potencial emergente y reemergente en comunidades vulnerables de alto riesgo"

- Monitoreo e identificación de aves

Education

2019-2023. PhD in Agricultural Sciences

Campus de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias - UADY

2016-2018. MSc in Agricultural Sciences

Campus de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias - UADY

2006-2011. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (DVM)

Campus de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias - UADY

Research Internship

2013. Conservation Genetics Laboratory. School of Biology, University of Costa Rica

Laboratory Head: Dr. Andrea Chaves

- Training in molecular diagnostic techniques

Science Communication

2024. Museo de la Luz, DGDCUNAM

Public lecture: "From Here to There: Diseases, Humans, and Animals"

Mérida, Yucatán.

2025. Museo de la Luz, DGDCUNAM

Participation in the Ecosalud Fair (interactive educational activities for upper primary school children)

Scientific Publications

2023. "Mosquito fauna in the mangroves of Yucatan, Mexico, and identification of Alphavirus RNA",

García-Rejon JE, Tzuc-Dzul JC; López-Carrillo KY, Cigarroa-Toledo N, Cetina-Trejo RC, Chi-Chim WA, Talavera-Aguilar LG, **López-Apodaca LI**, y Baak-Baak CM. Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association, 39(2):000–000. doi: 10.2987/22-7102.

2022. "Molecular survey of Zika virus in the animal-human interface in traditional farming", López-

Apodaca LI, Zarza H, Zamudio-Moreno E, Nuñez-Avellaneda D, Baak-Baak CM, Reyes-Solis GC, Torres-Chablé OM, Peláez-Ballestas I, Roiz D, Suzán G, Roche B, y Machain-Williams CI. Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 9:1057686. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2022.1057686.

Conference Presentations

2025. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Tropical Biology and Conservation for a Sustainable World: Merging Diverse Approaches, Actors and Local Knowledge. Junio 30 - July 4, Oaxaca, México. **61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation.**

Oral presentation: "Mosquito dispersal and human perception: An interdisciplinary exploratory study of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico". Autores: **Laura López-Apodaca**, Mitsuri Pacheco-Zapata, Roger Arana-Guardia, Carlos Machain-Williams, David Roiz, Omar García-Suárez, Ulrike Beisel, Carsten Wergin, Gerardo Suzán.

2022. Asociación Chagas con Ciencia y Conocimiento, la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán y el Instituto de Investigación para el Desarrollo. Octubre 22-28, Mérida, Yucatán. **6º Congreso Internacional de Vectores Triatominae y de Trypanosoma cruzi.**

Oral presentation: "Arbovirosis desatendidas y potencialmente emergentes". Autores: López-Apodaca LI. y Machain-Williams CI.

2018. Asociación Mexicana de Mastozoología, A.C. **XIV Congreso Nacional de Mastozoología. Octubre 15-19, Mérida, Yucatán.**

Oral presentation: "Evidencia de Leptospira spp. en Desmodus rotundus y ganado bovino en un rancho de Yucatán, México". Autores: **López-Apodaca LI**. Caraveo L. Hernández-Betancourt S. y Machain-Williams C.

2014. Asociación Mexicana de Medicina de la Conservación, KALAANKAB. **III Congreso Internacional de Ecología de Enfermedades y Medicina de la Conservación. noviembre 20-23, Mérida, Yucatán.**

Oral presentation: "Detección del virus del dengue en murciélagos de tres municipios de Yucatán, México". Autores: **López-Apodaca LI**. Chaves A. Monge O y Suzán G.

Courses and Workshops

2024. German Latin-American Center for Infection and Epidemiology Research and Training (GLACIER). **Taller: "GLACIER One Health Sampling Workshop" noviembre 4-6. Mérida, Yucatán.**

2023. ICMR- Vector Control Research Centre. **Taller: "Introductory Population Genetics: from data to inference" septiembre 12-15, Puducherry, India.**

2014. Pennsylvania State University. **"Epidemics – The Dynamics of Infectious Diseases" enero-febrero, Curso en línea.**