



Miguel Velasco
Laboratory Research Fellow

Assessing diagnostic tests to support malaria elimination

"I believe that healthcare is a fundamental human right, no matter where a person is or who they are, and by pursuing a fellowship in STEM and global health I hope to assist in the development of viable cost-effective treatments to make healthcare accessible to underserved and vulnerable communities across the globe."

Miguel is pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, expecting to graduate in 2021.

After enrolling in an introductory chemistry laboratory course at Carleton, Miguel's interest in chemistry was piqued. Throughout the course, he learned a variety of new lab techniques and how to operate advanced lab equipment. He credits the content taken away from chemistry courses for providing him with a different perspective through which to describe natural processes.

One of the people who has most inspired Miguel is his older sister, Adriana, who is currently enrolled in a Physician Assistant Program. With her inquisitive nature, academic tenacity and careful attention to detail, Adriana has inspired Miguel throughout his academic career and continues to inspire him to be a more effective scientist.

The Genetics laboratory course he took at Carleton has helped Miguel develop valuable lab skills to prepare him for his PATH project, and he is excited about the career development opportunities and professional interaction with his mentors and other STEM experts.

Combating the rising cost of healthcare is the greatest challenge Miguel feels his generation is facing. He feels that profitability of treatments has become a priority for medical researchers and professionals with a reduction in altruism. The rising healthcare costs make routine medical visits difficult for financially insecure families, and Miguel sees this as an important issue to be confronted in order to ensure that all people, regardless of who they are, have access to basic healthcare.

Although he aspires to a career as a medical doctor, Miguel would also like to continue doing research in the future and hopes his experience at PATH will help prepare him for his career and in the development of novel medicines and vaccines to treat degenerative diseases.