



**Stephanie Torres Martinez**  
**Laboratory Research Fellow**

*Developing testing method for diagnosing Tuberculosis*

*“I applied for the Siemens Foundation-PATH Fellowship mainly because PATH assures that the advances in medicine benefit all, without the patient’s economic class working against them.”*

Stephanie completed an associate degree in science at Bellevue College in June, 2019 and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry at a four-year university.

When she began school, Stephanie wanted to become a veterinarian, so she began working at Redwood Animal Hospital to gain experience in the field of veterinary medicine. However, she soon found discovering and discussing pathogens more interesting than other aspects of her job. As a result, Stephanie has been consistently searching for additional opportunities to learn about diagnostics and prevention of bacteria, viruses and parasites.

Stephanie believes tackling hard questions through science is her calling due to her passion to understand the cause and effect of problems and their solutions. She wants to help find solutions to situations that impact the lives of many by entering the global health field because she feels everyone should have access to the progress made in health care.

Her chemistry professor, Arlene Williams, has been a source of inspiration throughout Stephanie’s academic career. Professor Williams made a subject that might be considered difficult approachable through explanations and patience. Since taking her classes, during difficult courses Stephanie has applied her technique of approaching a question in many ways until it is no longer intimidating.

The undergraduate research Stephanie has been part of at Bellevue College focused on learning more about a targeted bacteria and has provided her with the confidence to pursue the PATH Fellowship. As an undergraduate researcher she has learned to see research as a process and has gained experience learning new protocols and using new equipment. Stephanie sees learning how to be adaptive in order to efficiently solve problems as one of the most important benefits of her research experience.

The fight against various strains of viruses that are antibacterial resistant and multi-antibacterial resistant is something Stephanie believes will be the greatest challenge her generation will face.

Stephanie hopes that her PATH Fellowship will help her understand the process of diagnostics and help her identify the next educational step in her pursuit of a career as a pathology researcher.