

## Jessica Montresor-Lopez

AY 2015-16 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

School of Public Health

Toxicology and Environmental Health program

Second year PhD student, RA



I have been a graduate research assistant for Dr. Robin Puett since I enrolled in the doctoral program in toxicology and for several semesters as an MPH student. During my assistantship, I have helped with research proposal development, managing and implementing research studies, preparing manuscripts and presenting scientific results. I have also played a key role managing Dr. Puett's large R01 grant and coordinating work among nine research sites. Through this experience and my involvement on other projects, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the foremost researchers in our field. Participating on study conference calls and

assisting with the development of manuscript proposals, I learned advanced epidemiologic methods and how to handle common challenges involved in conducting applied research. I have also assisted with several projects that were in the analysis phase, and I learned how to manage and analyze data in SAS. These skills have put me ahead of the curve in my classes (currently a 4.0 GPA), and enabled me to act as a peer mentor to fellow students and co-author a publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. On one project, I was given the lead for analyzing a dataset. With assistance from Dr. Puett and other collaborators, I prepared an abstract which was accepted for a talk at the 2013 International Society of Environmental Epidemiology Conference. I also submitted an abstract to the American College of Epidemiology and was given a travel award because my abstract was ranked second among all associate members.