

# PHARMACOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE @ NJMS

"OUR INCLUSIVENESS IS INTENTIONAL BECAUSE EXCELLENCE REQUIRES A DIVERSE COMMUNITY..."

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## Jorge E. Contreras, PhD

Associate Professor with Tenure

I joined NJMS in 2010 supported by the Hispanic Center of Excellence and the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology. Here, I found a place that fostered and potentiated my career as an academician and scientist. I started my academic position as a non-tenure track faculty member. After obtaining two NIH R01 grants, I was promoted to a tenure-track position. My laboratory has been continuously funded by NIH since 2011, and funded by the New Jersey Commission on Brain Injury Research for several years. The positive academically nurturing environment in the Department has allowed me to serve as a regular member of an NIH Study Section, as well as on a journal editorial board and hold office in scientific societies. Today, after my promotion to associate professor with award of tenure, I am at an exciting point in my research career and thoroughly enjoying my work as well as training students and postdoctoral fellows.

## Paula Bartlett, PhD

Assistant Professor

I am extremely fortunate to have been supported in my research career in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience. My department from faculty to the student body is highly diverse with an amazing spirit of community and unity. As a woman, I have been supported free of gender bias as I have developed my research and transitioned from a postdoc to assistant professor. I believe my department provides an inclusive and diverse environment and this plays a major role in the success of all members of the department.



## Krista Blackwell, PhD

Assistant Professor

As an African-American woman, I consider it a privilege to serve as a faculty member in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience. My role as an educator and researcher has continually been supported by my department and the Office for Diversity and Community Engagement (ODACE). Through their support, I have been able to participate in professional development and leadership programs, in addition to advancing my role in course leadership at NJMS. I also have had the opportunity to interact with students of color not only in NJMS, but also in the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Dental Medicine. To be able to mentor students interested in science and health-related careers is one aspect of my job that I consider an honor. One of the most rewarding aspects of my career is, by far, when a student achieves academic success and accomplishes their ultimate career



## Jayashree Pain, PhD

Instructor

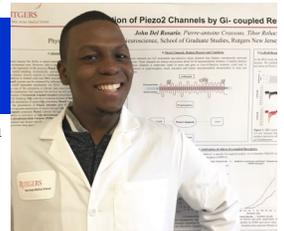
I was born and raised in Kolkata, India. After completing my PhD in Biochemistry, I came to the United States to pursue more research opportunities and a better life. I have been fortunate to call New Jersey Medical School my home for the past 15 years and become part of a community of internationally and culturally diverse scientists. In the Department of Cell Biology and

Molecular Medicine, I had the privilege to collaborate with several faculty members on various aspects of cardiac physiology. I then transitioned to the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience to work on iron-sulfur cluster biogenesis in mitochondria and cytoplasm. As a female immigrant researcher, I have felt respected and inspired by my colleagues and learned how to become a better scientist. I continue to be happy and comfortable in our university environment that truly promotes diversity and equality.

## John Del Rosario

PhD Candidate

As an African/Hispanic-Latino-immigrant from the Dominican Republic, the pursuit of a PhD in Science was not something one would see in the neighborhoods of Santo Domingo, where I grew up. At the age of 17 years old, I decided to embark on a journey to the United States in the quest for higher education. After successfully completing a bachelor and master, I decided to apply to the multidisciplinary PhD program in biomedical sciences. I hope that my experience at NJMS/SGS could serve as source of inspiration for other minority students that struggle to achieved their goals as biomedical scientists.



### About Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

**Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS)** is part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, one of the country's largest academic health centers. NJMS is dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community outreach. Some pertinent facts:

- NJMS has 20 academic departments and many world-renowned scientists and doctors.
- NJMS is located in Newark, NJ, where African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise more than 90 percent of the city's population and face many socioeconomic, educational, and health challenges.
- Underrepresented minorities made up 23 percent of the medical school's enrollment in 2017-2018.
- NJMS ranks in the 80th percentile for underrepresented minority graduates and 85th percentile for minority faculty, according to the 2017 AAMC Missions Management Tool.