

# Gabriel Figueroa Torres

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## EDUCATION

**New York University Abu Dhabi**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Expected Graduation: May 2017

Bachelor of Science in Biology, GPA: 3.811

**United World College Costa Rica**, San Jose, Costa Rica

Graduated: May 2013

International Baccalaureate Diploma, IB score: 39

## PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

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**NYU School of Medicine, Spatial Epidemiology Lab**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

*Research Assistant*

August 2016 – Present

- Assisting in development of a number of studies including Abu Dhabi-based study addressing impact of neighborhood-level variables on obesity rates in Emirati communities
- Assisting in review of epidemiology papers to be published by lab

**NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bronx Center for Health Equity**, New York City, US

*Intern*

June – August 2016

- Researched on strategies used by major soda companies to market products to minorities and delivered recommendations on how to exploit those strategies to broadcast public health messages
- Designed and developed content of toolkit handbook with information on how to implement policy changes that contribute to healthier beverage environment in offices
- Developed surveying and observational tools to assess current attitudes and practices within organizations that contribute to soda consumption in offices

**Medhen Social Center – M.O.R.E (Medhen Orphan Relief Effort)**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*Student Volunteer*

March 2014, April 2015, July –August 2015

- Designed and developed content for 25 year report on the structure and work of the center that could be used by academic and donor audiences
- Trained MSC's staff members on how to integrate an Excel based database for the management of information of the center's beneficiaries
- Collaborated with the MSC's financial department on automatizing the generation of periodic reports to be delivered to government and foreign NGO partners

**NYUAD Public Health Think Tank 2015**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

*Member of Organizing Team*

April 2014 – November 2015

- Developed program and study curriculum on diabetes and obesity in the context of the UAE for participants attending to NYUAD's 2015 PHTT
- Reached out to health professionals and academics within and outside the UAE to attend conference

## MEDICAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Idaghdour Lab of Environmental Genomics**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

*Researcher*

August 2015 – Present

- Conducting research on development of a city-scale molecular profile of DNA found in surfaces at public spaces in Abu Dhabi
- Developed a Capstone research proposal aiming at: 1) determining the distribution, taxonomic composition and relative abundance of the microbiome at three distinct urban areas within Abu Dhabi through metagenomic targeted 16S rRNA sequencing, 2) determining how seasonal variation affects this distribution, and 3) determining the spatial distribution and frequency of drug resistance alleles in Abu Dhabi

- Conducting epigenetic research on host DNA methylation patterns during blood stage malaria infection

**Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

*Research Assistant*

June 2015-August 2015

- Conducted research with doctoral and post-doctoral students on tuberculosis detection and treatment, leprosy detection, use of immunofluorescence techniques to assess the effectiveness of treatments against HIV, and histopathology
- Carried out an intensive training in the use of Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting in the context of HIV research
- Carried out an attachment to ALERT's Clinical Trial Lab and ALERT's pediatric unit focusing on child-care related challenges in Ethiopia

**NYUAD Public Health Research Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

*Research Assistant*

February –May 2015

- Assisted in research looking at the AGE/RAGE biochemical pathways which modulate diabetes complications
- Carried out intensive training on cell culturing techniques in hyperglycemia conditions, western blotting, ELISA and real time PCR

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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**Royal Academy for the Blind, Amman, Jordan**

*Volunteer*

February – May 2016

- Planned and developed art oriented workshops for kids with visual impairments aged 5-14 aimed at creating a dynamic and relaxing learning environment for kids living in the academy
- Participated in a short training with the German Jordanian University Vision Training Center on development of educational activities for kids with visual impairments

**ADvocacy Mohamed Bin Zayed Labor Camp initiative, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

*Initiative leader*

August 2013-Present

- Developed and implemented ESL, healthcare, active lifestyle, and theatre curriculums tailored for migrant communities at Abu Dhabi
- Developed series of training workshop for volunteers on use of arts for therapeutically purposes
- Awarded the NYUAD 2010 Fund grant for 2015 – 2016 period for the development of a community garden at the MBZ Labor Camp aiming to the strengthening of ties between the different nationalities represented in the camp

**Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation, San Jose, Costa Rica**

*Initiative leader*

August 2011-May 2013

- Developed curriculum and workshop series address socio-economic challenges in La Carpio neighborhood through the use of arts for "Art Intervention la Carpio" initiative
- Developed curriculum and workshop series addressing health and environmental challenges in La Carpio, San Jose through awareness raising, community environmental planning, and community intervention at neglected green sites

**ENVIRONMENTAL WORK**

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**Green Youth Majlis – Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

*Coordinator of network*

February – November 2015

- Developed organizational and institutional structure of a city-scale student led environmental network
- Directed network of 100+ students from different universities on planning and implementation of initiatives addressing sustainability issues in Abu Dhabi

**SKILLS**

**Language:** Spanish, Native Fluency; English, Fluent; Arabic, Fluent; German, Beginner  
**Computer:** MS Excel, VBA for Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe In Design, End Note