

## Almaris N. Alonso, Ph.D.

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### CURRENT POSITION

2009-Pres. **Food and Drug Administration** – Winchester Engineering and Analytical Ctr.  
Winchester, MA: Interdisciplinary Scientist – Microbiologist  
Representative of the Office of Regulatory affairs Committee for the  
Advancement of FDA Science

2009-Pres. **Harvard Medical School**, Longwood Ave. Boston, MA  
Post doctoral Research Associate  
Dept. Microbiology and Immunobiology

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### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

2009-Pres. **Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Harvard Medical School**  
Dept. Microbiol & Molec. Genetics. Advisor: Dr. Darren Higgins  
Research in *Listeria monocytogenes* biofilm formation on cellulose substrates, gene  
expression and the effects of sanitizers and irradiation C<sup>60</sup> in biofilm formation.

May 2007 **Ph.D. in Microbiology**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Advisor: Susan B. Leschine  
Award: The 2007 UMass-Amherst Women Who Make a Difference Award

May 1999 **M.S. Biology**  
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus  
Mycology, Ecology, Physiology & Microbiology  
Advisor: Dr. Sonia Borges

May 1996 **B.S. Industrial Microbiology (Magna Cum Laude)**  
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

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### CAREER EXPERIENCE

**Jan 2009- Present INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENTIST - MICROBIOLOGIST / BIO-EFFECTS  
Food and Drug Administration** *Food and Drug Administration - Winchester Engineering and  
Analytical Center/, Winchester MA*

- Working with food microbiology / Alert – Food Defense, FDA inspections, special investigations and regulations. Working with food samples (imports, environmental samples, method validation, and proficiency tests). Mobile Lab assignments, International Inspections (training completed / Inspection pending assignment). Working with change request (CR), Deviation Reports (DR), Validations, Non-conformance reports (NCR), Food and Drug and Cosmetic Act., Project Management Certification (In progress).
- **Representative of Office of Regulatory affairs for the FDA Committee for the Advancement of FDA Science 2011.**

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## PHARMACEUTICAL / INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- 2000-2002 Sr. SCIENTIST II: *Abbott Diagnostics Labs., Barceloneta, PR*
- 1999-2000 QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST: *Johnson & Johnson Company*

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2003-2007 TEACHING ASSISTANT (Graduate Program)  
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 1999-2001 PROFESSOR  
University of Puerto Rico – Arecibo Campus
- 2000-2002 PROFESSOR  
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo
- 1996-1999 TEACHING ASSISTANT (Graduate Program)  
University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez Campus

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2010: Time off award –Presented by: Brian Baker- FDA-WEAC director and Gail Costello New England Regional Director for managing and coordinate the Undergraduate Interns Program at FDA – New England Region.
- 2009: National Role Model Award recipient from Minority Access and Human Health Services. Tenth National Role Model Conference, Washington, DC Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- 2008: Participant of the Nanotechnology Summer Institute at UMass Amherst, Summer 2008
- 2007: Presidential Award: Society for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science (SACNAS)
- 2007: “Women Who Make a Difference Award” at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- 2007: Speaker at Georgia Tech Graduate Student Symposium. March 15-17, 2007.
- 2006: Invited speaker at Biofilms II conference: Attachment and detachment in pure and mixed cultures Leipzig-Halle, Leipzig Germany on March 22-24, 2006.
- 2006: RT-PCR training at the University of Connecticut.
- 2006: Advancing Science Serving Society (AAAS) Board for Education Committee.
- 2006: American Physiological Society (APS) –Writing and Reviewing for Scientific Journals.
- 2005-06: Microbiology Student Group at UMass– ASM Chapter; Treasurer
- 2005: Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Educational award recipient.
- 2005: Gordon Research Conference: Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship.
- 2004-06: Elected SACNAS Board of Directors representative.
- 2004: Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation grant recipient.
- 2004: Oral presentation first prize recipient in Environmental Microbiology at SACNAS on October 2004 national conference, Austin, Texas.
- 2004: Participant of Techniques for Biofilm Analyses at University of Concepcion, Chile. Workshop sponsored by Montana State University –Center for Biofilm Engineering and National Sci. Foundation.
- 2002 and 2006: Fellowship Recipient of Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Scientific Journal publications:

Alonso, A.N., P.J. Pomposiello and S.B. Leschine. 2008. Biofilm formation in the life cycle of the thermophilic actinomycete *Thermobifida fusca*. *Biofilms Journal* 3: 1-10.

Alonso, A., S. Borges and C. Betancourt. 1999. Mycotic flora isolated from the digestive tract of *Onychochaeta borincana* (Oligochaeta, Glossoscolecidae). *Pedobiologia* 43: 901-903.

### Dissertation Publication (Ph.D.) University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Alonso, A.N.** 2007 Cellulose degradation and biofilm formation in the developmental life cycle of the cellulolytic actinomycete *Thermobifida fusca*. ProQuest digital dissertation. 134 pgs. AAT 3275796

### Thesis Publication (M.S.) University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez

**Alonso, A.N.** 1999. Estudio micológico del tubo digestivo y del suelo donde habita *Onychochaeta borincana* (Oligochaeta: Glossoscolecidae). ProQuest digital dissertation (wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations). 79 pages. AAT 1395523.

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## ABSTRACTS PUBLICATIONS

**Alonso, A.N.**, P. Regan and D. Higgins. 2011. Understanding Survival Strategies by *Listeria monocytogenes*. Boston Bacterial Meeting – FDA Scientific Fair, Rockville, MD. Summer 2011.

**Alonso, A.N.**, P. Regan and D. Higgins. 2011. Understanding Survival Strategies by *Listeria monocytogenes*. Boston Bacterial Meeting – Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Summer 2011.

**Alonso, A.N.**, P. Regan and D. Higgins. 2010. Biofilm formation and survival mechanisms of *Listeria monocytogenes*. Boston Bacterial Meeting – Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Summer 2010.

**Alonso, A.N.** and S.B. Leschine. 2007. Biofilm formation in the Life Cycle of the Cellulolytic Actinomycete *Thermobifida fusca*. ASM Biofilm meeting 2007, Quebec, Canada pg. 50.

**Alonso, A.N.** and S.B. Leschine. 2006. Biofilm formation by the thermophilic and cellulolytic actinomycete *Thermobifida fusca*. *Biofilms*. 22: 266. Biofilms conference Leipzig, Germany.

S.B. Leschine and **A.N. Alonso**. 2006. Biofilms on biotic surfaces: a link in the carbon cycle on early earth. *Origins of life and evolution of biospheres*. 36 (3): 340-1. ISSOL / Astrobiology conference Beijing, China.

**Alonso, A.N.** and S.B. Leschine. 2005. Exopolysaccharide Production by the Cellulolytic Actinomycete *Thermobifida fusca* During Biofilm Development on Cellulose. SACNAS National Conference 2005, Vol 2. D62, pg. 170. SACNAS National Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Alonso, A.N.** and S.B. Leschine. 2005. Exopolysaccharide Production by the Thermophilic Cellulolytic Actinomycete *Thermobifida fusca* during Biofilm Production on Cellulose. Gordon Research Conference: Cellulases and Cellulosomes. Proctor Academy, Andover, NH.

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## **NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS**

Alonso, A.N. 2007. Giving something back to your community: My Leadership Vision. SACNAS News Spring 2007 edition pgs. 16-18.

Alonso, A.N. 2007. Want to be a sponsor for a K-12 teacher workshop proposal? El Pueblo Latino Newspaper, a publication from The Republican. 226 ed. Pg. 7.

Alonso, A.N. 2007. Exitosa participación de estudiantes en SACNAS 2006. El Pueblo Latino Newspaper, a publication from The Republican. 220 ed. pg. 18.

Alonso, A.N. 2006. Conference to support minorities in science. Daily Hampshire Gazette. July 22-23, pg. A6 Weekend Gazette.

Alonso, A.N. 2006. SACNAS: Un vehículo para tu educación universitaria. El Pueblo Latino Newspaper, a publication from The Republican. 190 edition pg. 7.

Alonso, A. 1997. Plantas carnívoras en el Colegio?. Contacto Colegial (3) No. 3 pg. 3.

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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

·AOAC International · Sigma Xi: The Scientific Honorary Research Society ·American Society of Microbiology (ASM) ·Association for Women in Science (AWIS) ·Society for Hispanic and Professional Engineers (SHPE) ·Soc. for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science (SACNAS).

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## **LICENSES / HOBBIES**

PADI License (professional scuba diver license), certified as Professional First Responder (medical responder). Hobbies: swimming, SUP boarding, kayaking, hiking, skiing, snowboarding, jogging, bicycling, draw, paint and read.