

# WCX Quarterly



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## Upcoming Events

### WCX initiative



Presents

#### Stories & Science with Dr. Carla Prado



December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
12pm EST  
Via Zoom

Carla Prado, PhD, RD, FCAHS  
Professor, University of Alberta  
CAIP Chair in Nutrition, Food & Health  
Director, Human Nutrition Research Unit

Join us in December as we welcome **Dr. Carla Prado** for our inaugural *Stories & Science* seminar. Dr. Prado will share her path to success in her career and her exciting ongoing work.

Everyone is welcome to attend this seminar, and we encourage your support of Dr. Prado for this new seminar series.

[Register Here.](#)

Stay tuned for spring seminar announcements!



## Celebrating your recent achievements



### Publications

- A review from the lab of **Dr. E. Angela Murphy** highlights our current understanding of microbial changes in cancer cachexia and how they may contribute to adipose and skeletal muscle wasting. DOI: [10.1152/ajpcell.00327.2024](https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpcell.00327.2024)
- **Dr. E. Angela Murphy** is senior author on new & exciting work showing that in preclinical cancer cachexia, there are impairments in lipid droplet size and localization in murine skeletal muscle, and provides evidence that these changes likely contribute to metabolic changes in cachectic skeletal muscle. DOI: [10.1152/ajpcell.00345.2024](https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpcell.00345.2024)

### Awards & other announcements

- **Dr. Nikita Bhalerao**, a Postdoc at UMass Medical School, Received the 2024 Hopper-Belmont Inspiration Award for *"Analysis of metabolic changes aimed at mitigating cachexia-associated metabolic perturbations"*. Read more about Dr. Bhalerao and her exciting ongoing work [here](#). Congratulations!
- **Dr. Kristin Gumpfer-Fedus**, a postdoc at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, received an National Cancer Institute Loan Repayment Program Award, titled, *"Mechanisms and modulation of fatty acid metabolism in obesity and cachexia in PDAC"*. Way to go, Kristin!

### Spotlight: Dr. Francielly (Fran) Morena-Clark



Dr. Morena-Clark is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Her full interview is inspiring: [read it here.](#)

### Some highlights from our interview with Dr. Morena-Clark:

An achievement she is most proud of: *"The strong supportive relationships I've built with women in our field"*, which ultimately contributed to her success in securing competitive funding for her postdoctoral work.

One of Fran's career goals is to *"help create a scientific community that is safe, inclusive, and values diverse perspectives"*

When we asked Fran how we can change the landscape for underrepresented genders in science: *"To foster real change, we must help people unlearn exclusionary notions and nurture a culture that celebrates the potential and success of all communities"*

*"To me, increasing diversity in science means building a culture that doesn't just respect different backgrounds and perspectives, but actively cultivates them"*

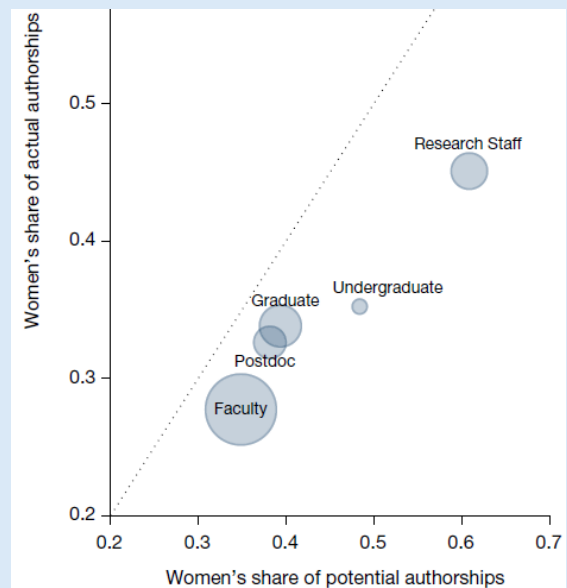
### DEI in the news

#### Women are credited less in science than men

"There is a well-documented gap between the observed number of works produced by women and by men in science, with clear consequences for the retention and promotion of women. The gap might be a result of productivity differences, or it might be owing to women's contributions not being acknowledged. Here we find that at least part of this gap is the result of unacknowledged contributions: **women in research teams are significantly less likely than men to be credited with authorship.**"

#### Ross et al. *Nature* 2024

Left: Figure 1. Women are less likely to be named authors on any given document in all fields and at all career stages.



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## Important links & resources

**Upcoming meeting:** [Society for Cachexia and Wasting Disorders](#), December 6-8 in Washington, DC, USA. Stay tuned for info about a WCX meetup.

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**WCX members:** [Submit your recent achievements to be highlighted in our next newsletter](#)

**Know someone with wisdom to share?**  
[Nominate a speaker for a WCX-sponsored event](#)

**Not a part of the WCX community?**  
[Register here to join!](#)

**Looking for a job or mentorship opportunity?**  
[Access the WCX network](#) (network members only; access request required)

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