

Panel Discussion : NIH AREA R15 grant

Friday February 12th
2021 - 12:00 pm (Central Time)



Dr. Eduardo Martinez-Ceballos is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and Chemistry at Southern University, Baton Rouge. He received his Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology in 2001 from Tulane University. After obtaining his degree, he worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Lorraine Gudas at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Dr. Martinez-Ceballos joined the Biology Program at Southern University in August 2007. In 2012, he became a tenured Associate Professor and was promoted to Full Professor in 2017. Since joining Southern University, Dr. Martinez-Ceballos has been fully engaged in research and has received funding from both the NIH (R15) and NSF. Currently, the main project in his laboratory focuses on the role of the Hoxa1 transcription factor on the differentiation of mouse Embryonic Stem (ES) cells along a neuroectodermal pathway. In humans, this transcription factor has been found to promote cancer progression. Thus, the long-term goal of Dr. Martinez-Ceballos' research is to elucidate and characterize the molecular mechanisms by which the Hoxa1 transcription factor exerts its function in both mouse ES cells and human cancer cells. This project is currently funded by the NSF through an Excellence in Research (EiR) grant until July of 2022. At Southern, Dr. Martinez-Ceballos has trained a number of graduate and undergraduate students in the areas of Stem Cell and Cancer research. To date, five PhD students, five Masters, and five undergraduate students have completed their thesis dissertations working under his direction. Currently, four students (graduate and undergraduate) work on different projects in his laboratory. Dr. Martinez-Ceballos expects that the results from his research will lead to a better understanding on the dual role played by Hoxa1 as director of both embryonic differentiation and cancer progression.

