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EDUCATION

- 2010-2016 **University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus Aurora, CO**
PhD in Cell Biology, Stem Cells and Development
- 2008-2010 **University of South Carolina Columbia, SC**
Professional Science Master's in Biotechnology
- 2002-2007 **Universidad de Costa Rica San Jose, Costa Rica**
Bachelor degree in Biology

RESEARCH

- Sept 2016- **Laboratory of Ophir Klein, University of California San Francisco, CA**
Postdoctoral fellow
Investigating cell plasticity and mechanical signals that regulate the stem and progenitor cell pools in epithelial tissues.
- 2011-2016 **Laboratory of Linda Barlow, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus Aurora, CO**
Graduate student
Studying the role of Hh signaling and Sox2 in tongue epithelium regeneration.
- 2009-2010 **Laboratory of Dr. Rekha Patel, University of South Carolina Columbia, SC**
Lab assistant
Studying the molecular mechanisms of interaction between PKR, PACT and TRBP proteins, important for apoptosis and protein synthesis inhibition.
- Summer 2009 **TransTissue Technologies Berlin, Germany**
Lab intern
Studying human mesenchymal stem cell differentiation into chondrocytes, osteocytes and adipocytes for 3D scaffold-based treatment of joint injuries.
- Fall 2007 **National Biodiversity Institute (INBio) Heredia, Costa Rica**
Lab assistant
Extracting, preparing and testing plant components as anti-cancer treatments in collaboration with Harvard Medical School.
- Spring-Summer 2006 **Health Research Institute (INISA) San Jose, Costa Rica**
Research assistant
Studying mutations in patients with the neurodegenerative disease Charcot-Marie-Tooth.

HONORS

- 2020 Intersections Science Fellows Symposium Fellow
- 2020 Honorable Mention on the Next Generation Faculty Symposium
- 2019 Outstanding Short-Term Mentor Award for medical students at UCSF
- 2015 C. Werner and Kitty Hirs Travel Award
- 2013 Association for Chemoreception Sciences Travel Award

2012	Poster Award Winner at Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Regional Neuroscience Group
2011	Poster Award Winner at Annual Student Research Forum University of Colorado
2009	Gamma Beta Phi National Honors Society
2009	Golden Key International Honour Society
2008	Fulbright Scholarship
2008	Barsa Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

§: Co-first authors

1. McKinley, K. L. §, **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.** § and Klein, O. D. (2020). Tools and Concepts for Interrogating and Defining Cellular Identity. *Cell Stem Cell* 26, 632–656.
2. Halpern, K. B., Massalha, H., Zwick, R. K., Moor, A. E., **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.**, Rozenberg, M., Farack, L., Egozi, A., Miller, D. R., Averbukh, I., Harnik, Y., Weinberg-Corem, N., de Sauvage, F. J., Amit, I., Klein, O. D., Shoshkes-Carmel, M. and Itzkovitz, S. (2020). Lgr5+ telocytes are a signaling source at the intestinal villus tip. *Nat Commun* 11, 1936.
3. **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.** and Barlow, L. A. (In Press). Disassembling Taste: Peeling and Dissociation of Adult Lingual Epithelium to Achieve Single Cell Suspensions for Use in Cell Sorting and High-Throughput Analysis. In *Methods in Molecular Biology, Craniofacial Biology* (ed. Michon, F.).
4. Sharir, A., Marangoni, P., Zilionis, R., Wan, M., Wald, T., Hu, J. K., Kawaguchi, K., **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.**, Epstein, L., Harrington, K., Pagella, P., Mitsiadis, T., Siebel, C. W., Klein, A. M. and Klein, O. D. (2019). A large pool of actively cycling progenitors orchestrates self-renewal and injury repair of an ectodermal appendage. *Nat. Cell Biol.* 21, 1102–1112. *Journal cover picture
5. **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.** §, Fazio, E. N. §, Nattiv, R. §, Good, H. J., Wald, T., Pest, M. A., de Sauvage, F. J., Klein, O. D. and Asfaha, S. (2019). Atoh1+secretory progenitors possess renewal capacity independent of Lgr5+ cells during colonic regeneration. *EMBO J.* 38, 238.
6. **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.**, Seidel, K., Gross, L., Golden, E. J., Jacquez, B., Klein, O. D. and Barlow, L. A. (2018). SOX2 regulation by hedgehog signaling controls adult lingual epithelium homeostasis. *Development* 145, dev164889.
7. McKinley, K. L., Stuurman, N., Royer, L. A., Schartner, C., **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.**, Delling, M., Klein, O. D. and Vale, R. D. (2018). Cellular aspect ratio and cell division mechanics underlie the patterning of cell progeny in diverse mammalian epithelia. *Elife* 7, 19. *F1000Prime Recommended
8. Zou, W. Y., Blutt, S. E., Zeng, X.-L., Chen, M.-S., Lo, Y.-H., **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.**, Klein, O. D., Shroyer, N. F., Donowitz, M. and Estes, M. K. (2018). Epithelial WNT Ligands Are Essential Drivers of Intestinal Stem Cell Activation. *Cell Reports* 22, 1003–1015.
9. Chukwurah, E., Willingham, V., Singh, M., **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.** and Patel, R. C. (2017). Contribution of the two dsRBM motifs to the double-stranded RNA binding and protein interactions of PACT. *J. Cell. Biochem.* 119, 3598–3607.
10. **Castillo-Azofeifa, D.**, Losacco, J. T., Salcedo, E., Golden, E. J., Finger, T. E. and Barlow, L. A. (2017). Sonic hedgehog from both nerves and epithelium is a key trophic factor for taste bud maintenance. *Development* 144, 3054–3065.
11. **Castillo, D.** §, Seidel, K. §, Salcedo, E., Ahn, C., de Sauvage, F. J., Klein, O. D. and Barlow, L. A. (2014). Induction of ectopic taste buds by SHH reveals the competency and plasticity of adult lingual epithelium. *Development* 141, 2993–3002. *F1000Prime Recommended
12. Singh, M., **Castillo, D.**, Patel, C. V. and Patel, R. C. (2011). Stress-induced phosphorylation of PACT reduces its interaction with TRBP and leads to PKR activation. *Biochemistry* 50, 4550–4560.

EXTERNAL TALKS

Apr 2020	NIDDK Intestinal Stem Cell Consortium
Apr 2019	Institute for the Biology of Stem Cells University of California Santa Cruz
Aug 2018	Gordon Research Seminar and Conference, Tissue Niches and Resident Stem Cells in Adult Epithelia
Oct 2018	NIDDK Intestinal Stem Cell Consortium
Sept 2015	4th Annual Retreat of the Colorado Skin Research Program
Mar 2014	Society for Developmental Biology Southwest Regional Meeting
Apr 2013	The Association for Chemoreception Sciences Meeting

TEACHING AND MENTORING

2020	Mentor, Yearlong Inquiry Program for Medical Students (YIP) at University of California San Francisco
2019	Mentor, Summer Explore Program for Medical Students at University of California San Francisco
2017-2011	Mentor, Graduate Student, Tetrad Program at University of California San Francisco Teaching Assistant, Core Course “Building a Cell-Cell Structure and Function” (IDPT 7813) at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2022	Organizing Committee, Gordon Research Seminar on Tissue Niches and Resident Stem Cells in Adult Epithelia
2020	HHMI BioInteractive Spanish Editor
2020	Volunteer, Thanksgiving Outreach at San Francisco Bayview neighborhood
2019	Volunteer, Serve Your City at Los Cerritos Elementary School
2015	Mentor, Undergraduate Neuroscience Training Program (BRAiN) for underrepresented minorities
2015	Admission Committee, Cell Biology, Stem Cells and Development Program
2013-2014	Organizing Committee, Cell Biology, Stem Cells and Development Program Annual Retreats
2012	Mentor, Explore Careers Program for Central American High School Students sponsored by Fulbright

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2019-	Member of Society for Developmental Biology (SDB)
2019-	Member of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
2020-	Member of International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR)