

Education

The University of Arizona PhD in Cancer Biology	2022 – Present
The University of Arizona Bachelor of Science in Microbiology Summa Cum Laude	2020 – 2022
Paradise Valley Community College Associates in Science with High Distinction	2016 – 2019

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant Advisor: Noel Warfel, PhD Cancer Center, University of Arizona	2022 – Present
Undergraduate Research Assistant, UROC-PREP Program Faculty Mentor: Koenraad Van Doorslaer, PhD BIO5 Institute, University of Arizona <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed novel recombinant HPV16 genomes to visualize the transition from early to late gene expression during the viral life cycle	2021 – 2022

Presentations

- Flores, C.** (2024) *Characterizing 3-MC: A selective inhibitor of hypoxia resistant tumor cells*
- Oral Presentation at Cancer Biology GIDP Student Research Colloquium, University of Arizona, September 26th, 2024
 - Poster presentation for Arizona Biological and Biomedical Sciences Joint Retreat, Tucson, AZ, December 6th, 2024
- Flores, C., Chauhan, S., Clements, A., Liou, H., Keller, E., Cress, A., Rogers, G., Miranti, C., Warfel, N.** (2024) *PIM1 promotes cell adhesion-mediated drug resistance by increasing mitophagy and oxidative stress.*
- Abstract submission December 2023
 - Poster presentations for American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 9th, 2024
- Flores, C.** (2023) *Identifying Hypoxia Targeting Compounds in Prostate Cancer*
- Oral Presentation at Cancer Biology GIDP Student Research Colloquium, University of Arizona, October 19th, 2023
- Flores, C.** (2021) *Tracking the HPV Lifecycle Using a Recombinant Genome*
- Poster presentation at Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium Poster Sessions, University of Arizona, August 9th, 2021
 - Oral Presentation at Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium Colloquia, University of Arizona, August 6th, 2021

Publications

Chauhan, S., Casillas, A., Vizzera, A., Liou, H., Flores, C., Snider, A., Snider, J. and Warfel, N. (2025) *Hypoxia induced lipid droplet accumulation promotes resistance to ferroptosis in prostate cancer*

- Manuscript published in *Oncogene*

Clements, A., Casillas, A., Flores, C., Liou, H., Toth, R., Chauhan, S., Sutterby, K., Deshmukh, S., Wu, S., Xiu, J., Farrell, A., Radovich, M., Nabhan C., Heath, E., McKay, R., Subah, N., Centuori, S., Wheeler, T., Cress, A., Rogers, G., Wilson, J., Recio-Boiles, A. and Warfel, N. (2025) *Inhibition of PIM kinase in tumor-associated macrophages suppresses inflammasome activation and sensitizes prostate cancer to immunotherapy*

- Manuscript published in *Cancer Immunology Research*

Flores, C., Chauhan, S., Clements, A., Liou, H., Keller, E., Cress, A., Rogers, G., Miranti, C., Warfel, N. (2024) *PIM1 promotes cell adhesion-mediated drug resistance by increasing mitophagy and oxidative stress.*

- Abstract published in *Proceedings of the AACR*

Chauhan, S., Casillas, A., Vizzera, A., Clements, A., Liou, H., Flores, C., Prevost, C., Kashatus, D., Snider, A., Snider, J. and Warfel, N. (2023) *PIM1 drives lipid droplet accumulation to promote proliferation and survival in prostate cancer*

- Manuscript published in *Oncogene*

Jackson, R., Rajadhyaksha, E., Loeffler, R., Flores, C. and Van Doorslaer, K. (2023) *Characterization of 3D organotypic epithelial tissues reveals tonsil-specific differences in tonic interferon signaling*

- Manuscript published in *Plos One*

Jackson, R., Rajadhyaksha, E., Flores, C., and Van Doorslaer, K. (2022) *HPV16's differentiation-dependent viral lifecycle in 3D oral epithelial*

- Abstract published in 2022 IMB Symposium

Flores, C. (2021) *Tracking the HPV Lifecycle Using a Recombinant Genome*

- Abstract published in the *Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium 2021 Abstract Review*

Invited Speaker

Maximizing Access to Research Careers Graduate Student Panel **2024**
University of Arizona

Cancer Center Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Student Panel **2023**
University of Arizona

“A Day in the Life of a Graduate Student” UROC Alumni Panel **2022**
University of Arizona

“Success in STEM” Alumni Panel **2021**
Paradise Valley Community College

“Reflecting on Postdoc Mentoring: A Students Perspective” **2021**
University of Arizona

Professional Experience

Teaching Assistant

2023-Present

Foundations in Cancer Biology, University of Arizona

Tutor

2018 – 2020

Learning Support Center, Paradise Valley Community College

- Supported students in microbiology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology, and anatomy
- Developed personalized strategies to support students through course curriculum and reinforce study habits

Supplemental Instructor

2020

College Algebra, Paradise Valley Community College

- Prepared lessons outside of the classroom to reinforce material taught in class
- Developed additional practice material for students, including practice problems, practice exams, and homework strategies
- Supported the transition to online learning and support during onset of COVID-19 pandemic

Guest Relations Lead

2013-2016

PFCB, Inc

Academic Service

Mentoring ABBS students Program (MAP) Co-Coordinator

2023 - Present

Arizona's Biological and Biomedical Sciences (ABBS) Graduate Program
University of Arizona

- Mentor incoming first year PhD students
- Assign mentor/student pairs
- Lead student panels and networking events

Peer Mentor

2021 – 2022

Arizona's Science, Engineering, and Math Scholars Program
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Arizona

- Mentor 5 incoming community college transfer students
- Facilitate one-on-one meetings with each student 6 times per semester for the 2021-2022 academic year

Peer Mentor

2018 – 2019

Fundamental Chemistry
Paradise Valley Community College

- Mentor Fundamental Chemistry course for three semesters, mentoring over 150+ students and volunteering 300+ hours
- Designed study material, practice sessions, and mock exams

Awards, Recognitions, and Honors

Amgen University of Arizona Fellow

2025

Amgen, South San Francisco
University of Arizona

Cockrum Innovation in Translation Award

2025

University of Arizona

College of Medicine Graduate Teaching Fellowship University of Arizona	2024
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Membership	2023 – Present
Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Scholar University of Arizona	2022 – Present
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honors Convocation Academic Achievement with the Highest Distinction, 2020-2021	2021
Centennial Achievement Award Nominee University of Arizona	2021
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium PREP Scholar University of Arizona	2021-Present
Johnny Wing and Rose Don Scholarship University of Arizona	2021-2022
Margaret Bilson Scholarship University of Arizona	2021-2022
American Seed Trade Association Scholarship University of Arizona	2021-2022
Arizona's Science, Engineering, and Math Scholar University of Arizona	2020-Present
Dean's List with Distinction University of Arizona	2020-2021
C.R. Krimminger Scholarship University of Arizona	2020-2021
<i>"Moment in Science"</i> Award Nominee Outstanding Physical Science Student Outstanding Life Science Student Paradise Valley Community College	2020
Employee of the Year PFCB, Inc	2016