

# Department of Biology Seminar

Thursday, November 14  
Foster Hall 231

## SPEAKER

### Dr. Yamhilette Licon Muñoz

From the Brain Tumor Translational Laboratory, Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.



## *Translational studies of glioblastoma: challenges and approaches*

### Abstract:

Treatment of glioblastoma (GBM), the most common and aggressive malignant primary brain tumor in adults, is challenging due to its invasive potential, and poor response to standard-of-care treatments (i.e., surgery, radiation, and temozolomide). Biologically, GBM is very heterogeneous, which makes dissecting phenotypic and genetic characteristics at spatial and temporal levels extremely challenging. In collaboration with Neurosurgery teams at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, our laboratory collects tissue samples from GBM patients and generates cell cultures for research. We maintain these patient-derived cells in conditions that preserve the genotype and phenotype of the original tumor. This translational approach allows us to study different biological characteristics of GBM. For example, characterizing spatially distinct tumor microenvironments and understanding the mechanisms of treatment resistance.