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Mayagüez, where he was a MARC U\*STAR Scholar. He completed his Ph.D. at New York University – Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, in the lab of Dr. Martin Blaser. There he studied the molecular mechanisms used by bacteria that live on humans to persist in that environment. While at NYU, Edgardo was the Co-Chair and founding member of the NYC Minority Graduate Student Network, an organization dedicated to providing professional resources to minority scientists-in-training in the city of New York. For four years he was the graduate student coordinator of SURP at NYU-Sackler. After a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Harvard followed by years of working in the biotechnology industry in Boston, Edgardo returned to higher education at John Jay. He recently was awarded a New York State Education Department-Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) grant. With this grant he has developed new programs at John Jay that provide academic support and professional development skills to science students that are part of underrepresented groups in science. Edgardo is a Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholar and a Life Member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).