

Diego Ploper



Diego Ploper knew from day one that he wanted to be a scientist. He was always amazed by nature, which reflected on his house always being full of reptiles, birds, and all sorts of creatures. He continued cultivating this interest in science at a university level high school, Gymnasium UNT. It was only natural for him to enter the School of Biochemistry, Chemistry and Pharmacy of the National University of Tucuman. Although graduating as a Chemist, taking almost all Biochemistry courses gave him a broader view of both the biological and chemical world. His performance permitted him to hold Undergraduate Teaching Assistantships in the Organic Chemistry Department. While in the department, he conducted research and held an Undergraduate Research Scholarship from the Research Council of the National University of Tucuman (CIUNT) from the Biological Chemistry Institute (INSIBIO). He was enlightened and inspired by many mentors and conducted research in microbiology and biophysics.

Diego has mainly been fascinated by the molecular mechanisms involved in the control of cell growth, differentiation, and genetic regulation -- especially in the early stages of development and in stem cell biology. He currently is pursuing his doctoral degree at the University of California, Los Angeles. The quality and diversity of research, and collaborative environment among UCLA faculty has made it an ideal environment for his graduate studies.

Diego looks forward to contributing to the understanding of cell growth mechanisms with the hope that someday they can be applied not only in the biomedical field, but to evolution and life in general. His ultimate goal is to be a scientist and gain experience, have his own research lab, and contribute to science education in Argentina.