I am an integrative physiologist interested in how alcohol and other drugs of abuse affect the way our bodies respond to stressful challenges.

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Patricia Molina, M.D., Ph.D.

One of my research questions:
What are the organ systems that are affected by chronic alcohol abuse and how do these make progression of disease worse under different conditions?

Technology I use:
My research involves how alcohol and other drugs of abuse affect the way our bodies respond to stressful challenges like trauma or infection. In my research I use animals, flow cytometry, western blot, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), Radioimmunoassay (RIA), immunohistochemistry, biochemistry, behavioral, and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to explore these effects.

My most exciting discovery:
Repeated exposure to the most potent psychoactive components in marijuana decreases early mortality from an HIV-like infection.

To be a scientist, you need:
1. Organizational skills
2. Creativity
3. Multitasking abilities
4. Excellent communication skills

I knew I wanted to be a scientist when...
I found how much more there was to learn about the body than what I had learned in medical school. I enjoyed the search for, discovery of, and building of knowledge that took place on a daily basis in the laboratory. I loved understanding what was behind a patient’s clinical manifestation of disease.

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