

**Bio for Mercedes Arana, Ph.D.**  
Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development  
**National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)**

Mercedes Arana was born and raised in Miami, Florida. She attended Florida State University as an undergraduate and headed back to Miami for Graduate School, earning a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She joined NIEHS in 2004 as an IRTA postdoctoral fellow, in the same lab group transitioned to a biologist role.

In 2023, she joined the Office of Fellows' Career Development (OFCD) her journey has come full circle. In a new role as director, she works across the many stakeholders' aisles to foster a collaborative spirit and contributing to the myriads of opportunities for the fellows' career advancements, ensuring that fellows gain training experiences, such that each is poised for independence regardless of career choice. She relishes the opportunities to mentor and guide, to advocate for and support the professional development of all fellows and students.