

Katherine Alejandra Miranda-Muñoz, Ph.D.

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Innovative and results-driven Biomedical Engineer with a Ph.D. and Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering, along with a Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship. Experienced in regulated preclinical and translational research, with specialized training in Clinical Research Coordination (CRC), Good Clinical Practice (GCP), FDA-regulated drug and medical device research, and clinical documentation practices through the CITI Program. Specializing in biomaterials, tissue engineering, biodegradable microneedle technology, and transdermal drug delivery for both human and animal health. Skilled in protocol compliance, data integrity, study coordination, regulatory documentation, and cross-functional collaboration within multidisciplinary biomedical environments. Experienced in leading preclinical studies, supporting technical and regulatory reporting, and contributing to research, prototyping, and translational development efforts. Adept at bridging the gap between academia, clinical research, and industry through product development, commercialization strategies, and market-driven innovation. Passionate about improving healthcare solutions by integrating evidence-based research with practical implementation, while contributing to high-quality clinical and translational research operations. Thrives in multicultural teams, driving collaboration, adaptability, and meaningful scientific and healthcare impact.

EDUCATION

- **PhD in Biomedical Engineering**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, August 2025
- **Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, May 2024
- **MS in Biomedical Engineering**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, December 2022
- **BS in Biomedical Engineering**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, May 2021
- **Technical Training and Certifications:**
 - Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) – CITI Program
 - Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for Clinical Trials with Investigational Drugs and Medical Devices (U.S. FDA Focus) – CITI Program
 - GCP for Clinical Investigations of Devices – CITI Program
 - Good Clinical Practice (ICH Guidelines) – CITI Program
 - GCP Social & Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research – CITI Program
 - Healthcare Innovation Sprint, University of Central Arkansas, May 2024
 - EMPOWER 3rd Cohort Accelerator Program, March 2024
 - NSF I-Corps Entrepreneurship Principles, July 2023
 - Arkansas Summer Research Institute (Data Science, Python, R), June 2023
 - Social & Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, July 2020

CLINICAL EXPOSURE & FIELD SUPPORT

Electrophysiology Lab Shadowing | Abbott |

December 2025

- Observed electrophysiology procedures, gaining direct exposure to catheter-based technologies and clinical sterile-field workflows.
- Gained insight into physician-technician interactions and real-time clinical decision-making during complex cardiac cases.
- Analyzed the integration of medical device hardware with clinical monitoring software in a live hospital environment.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

Post Doctoral Associate | Biomedical Engineering | University of Miami, McArthur Engineering Building

Supervisor: Dr. David A. Castilla-Casadiego

August 2025-Present

- Coordinated preclinical *in vivo* studies involving 15+ animal subjects under approved IACUC protocols, ensuring protocol adherence, accurate documentation, and timely sample/data collection.
- Managed study records, experimental logs, and regulatory documentation across 6+ concurrent translational research projects to support reproducibility, compliance, and audit readiness.
- Prepared and reviewed technical reports, scientific manuscripts, grant applications, and regulatory documentation supporting translational biomedical research and medical technology development.
- Oversaw daily laboratory operations, including equipment maintenance, workflow optimization, inventory management, and resource allocation to maintain study efficiency and research continuity.
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary engineering, clinical, and technical teams to advance biomaterials and drug delivery technologies toward translational and commercialization goals.
- Supported preclinical technical procedures by providing real-time troubleshooting, device operation support, and experimental coordination in laboratory settings.
- Reviewed experimental data, study documentation, and protocol records to ensure data integrity and compliance with institutional SOPs and research standards.
- Mentored undergraduate, graduate, and visiting student researchers in laboratory techniques, experimental design, data analysis, documentation practices, and research safety procedures.
- Served as instructor for Living Systems Engineering laboratory sessions, guiding students in biomaterials, tissue engineering, and laboratory methodologies while supporting student engagement and technical training.

Senior Graduate Assistant | Biomedical Engineering | University of Arkansas, Ralph E. Martin Department of Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Dr. Jorge Almodovar

June 2021 – August 2025

- Led the development, optimization, and preclinical evaluation of biodegradable microneedle patches for veterinary drug delivery applications, supporting controlled meloxicam release through *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, and *in vivo* pharmacokinetic studies.
- Designed, fabricated, and characterized transdermal microneedle patch prototypes, collaborating with veterinarians, pharmaceutical scientists, and multidisciplinary engineering teams to advance translational biomedical research.
- Coordinated regulated preclinical studies involving 50+ animal subjects under approved IACUC protocols, ensuring protocol adherence, accurate documentation, and standardized data collection practices.
- Maintained compliance with institutional protocols, regulatory documentation practices, data integrity standards, and quality requirements across 5 years of regulated biomedical research activities.
- Led multidisciplinary collaborations across Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Animal Science departments to advance medical device development projects and maintain study timelines.
- Secured over \$6,000 in research funding through competitive fellowships and project proposals while managing multiple concurrent research initiatives and laboratory operations.
- Oversaw end-to-end development of biomaterial and microneedle platforms, including resource allocation, equipment maintenance, technical troubleshooting, and workflow optimization to support efficient project execution.
- Mentored and trained 35+ undergraduate, graduate, and research personnel on experimental procedures, technical protocols, safety practices, and standardized data collection methodologies.
- Coordinated onboarding and training activities for multidisciplinary research personnel to ensure consistent protocol execution and adherence to research standards.

- Served as a primary point of contact for cross-functional collaborators, supporting resolution of technical, operational, and protocol-related issues during study execution and product development activities.
- Supported 7 peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, and scientific presentations through rigorous data analysis, technical writing, documentation management, and maintenance of high standards for reporting accuracy and reproducibility.
- Published and presented research findings at national and international scientific conferences, effectively communicating complex technical results to academic, clinical, and commercialization-focused audiences.
- Mentored high school students through the Living Systems in Engineering Summer Academy (ESA) (2022–2023) and undergraduate researchers participating in the Honors Engineering Symposium (2023).

Research & Development Intern | Yaya Scientific | Biomedical Solutions, Franklin, Tennessee

Supervisor: Dr. Justin Baba

May 2024 – August 2024

- Contributed to the development of the ALINA platform, a real-time surgical imaging technology designed to visualize and identify nerves during surgery to help reduce nerve injury and improve surgical outcomes.
- Designed and implemented project timelines for the development and optimization of nerve tissue phantoms for biomedical imaging applications.
- Developed and refined fabrication protocols for tissue-mimicking phantoms used in fluorescence and hyperspectral imaging research.
- Utilized SolidWorks to design and 3D print custom components and fixtures supporting Hinalea imaging systems and experimental workflows.
- Applied Python for imaging analysis, data processing, and characterization of fabricated phantoms to support device evaluation and validation studies.
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary engineering and industry teams to align R&D activities with translational and commercialization objectives.
- Conducted material selection studies and risk assessments to improve fabrication reproducibility, imaging performance, and experimental reliability.

Commercialization Fellow | Science Venture Studio | Winrock International, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Supervisor: Katie Thompson

August 2023 – December 2023

- Served as a Commercialization Fellow, engaging with companies and providing research-driven market insights.
- Led market research projects evaluating commercialization opportunities for biomedical startups.
- Developed go-to-market strategies, identifying potential investors and regulatory pathways.
- Assisted startup teams in preparing successful grant proposals and securing funding.

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Chemical Engineering | University of Arkansas

Supervisor: Dr. David Castilla-Casadiegos

August 2019 – May 2021

- Conducted research on biodegradable microneedle patches for pain management in livestock.
- Developed experimental protocols, material characterization, and data analysis frameworks.

Undergraduate Mentor | University of Arkansas, PAPSS Pathways Mentoring, Graduate School, and International Education

June 2018 – August 2019

- Provided mentorship to undergraduate students, supporting academic and professional development.

- Assisted international and underrepresented students in navigating university resources and research opportunities.
- Conducted peer advising sessions focused on career development and graduate school preparation.
- Served as a Spanish Conversation Mentor at the University of Arkansas (2024).

Member: Sigma Xi the Scientific Research Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi (Arkansas, Alpha) the Engineering Honor Society, The Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), The Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), Volunteer Action Center, Gamma Eta Sorority, Inc. (GH), Panamanian Student Organization (PSO).

SKILLS

Project Management & Leadership

- Agile methodologies, milestone tracking, risk management, budgeting, team coordination, stakeholder communication.

Entrepreneurial & Commercialization Experience

- Business model development, customer discovery, funding acquisition (NSF I-Corps, Seed Funding).

Technical & Research Skills

- Biomedical Imaging & Diagnostics: Experience in tissue phantoms, biomaterials, and imaging system optimization for advanced diagnostics.
- Clinical Training & Education: Experience in designing and delivering training protocols for clinicians and technical staff.
- Clinical Research & Regulatory Skills: Clinical Trial Coordination, Protocol Compliance, Clinical Documentation, Regulatory Documentation, GCP & ICH Guidelines, FDA-Regulated Research, Source Documentation Review, Data Integrity & Verification, Study Coordination, Site Communication
- Customer Discovery & Stakeholder Engagement: Skilled in market analysis, structured interviews, and stakeholder collaboration to define user requirements.
- Entrepreneurial Mindset: Skilled in business model development, value proposition creation, and commercialization strategies.
- Project Management & Team Collaboration: Experienced in cross-disciplinary collaboration, research planning, and milestone tracking.
- Technical Writing & Communication: Advanced ability to develop research manuscripts, technical documentation, and grant proposals.
- Material Characterization Techniques: Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM), and Fluorescent Confocal Microscopy.
- Cell Culture & Biological Techniques: Experience in culturing Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells, layer-by-layer assembly, molding, cryosectioning (H&E staining), and electrospinning (nanofibers).
- *In vivo* Studies:
 - Blood sample collection (venipuncture technique)
 - Aseptic surgical procedures (dissection, preservation, and handling)
 - Anesthesia and euthanasia procedures
- Spectral Imaging & Analysis: Experience with Hialeah Camera Mini VIS and VIS systems for advanced imaging.
- 3D Printing & Fabrication: Skilled in prototyping and device fabrication using Bambu Lab 3D printers.
- Software & Programming: Skilled in MATLAB, Python, SolidWorks, Onshape, and Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Microneedle Patch Development for Veterinary Applications (PhD Research)

- Managed a 4-year research project from concept to in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo testing, ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements.
- Coordinated funding applications.
- Led team meetings, defined milestones, and supervised undergraduate researchers.

AnimalHealth Innovator (Entrepreneurial Project)

- Developed a business model for a veterinary drug delivery system, winning the Seed Funding Pitch Competition (\$6,000 award) and recognized as a Finalist in The Arkansas Governor's Cup.
- Conducted market analysis, customer discovery, and regulatory planning.

Nerve Tissue Phantoms | Internship Research Development at YAYA Scientific

- Coordinated development and optimization of nerve tissue phantoms for surgical imaging applications.
- Collaborated across multidisciplinary teams to improve fabrication workflows and material performance.

SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS & RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- **Microneedle Patch Development for Veterinary Applications (Ph.D. Dissertation)**
 - Designed, fabricated, and optimized biodegradable microneedle patches for veterinary drug delivery.
- **Entrepreneurial and Biomedical Device Development**
 - **AnimalHealth Innovator:** Led customer discovery and commercialization strategy for a veterinary drug delivery platform.
 - **Supervisors:** Dr. Sarah Goforth & Dr. David J. Hinton
 - **Green Energy Backup for Intensive Care Units:** Developed an alternative energy backup system for critical care medical settings.
 - **Supervisor:** Dr. Mostafa Elsaadany
- **Tissue Phantoms and Biomedical Imaging**
 - **Nerve Tissue Phantoms:** Developed phantom fabrication protocols, integrating 3D printing (SolidWorks), spectral imaging (Hinalea cameras), and Python-based data analysis.
 - **Supervisors:** Dr. Justin Baba & Stephan Gorgey
- **Biomedical Engineering Senior Design**
 - **Sock Buddy:** Designed and prototyped an assistive medical device for lower limb support using biomedical design principles.
 - **Supervisor:** Dr. Morten Olgaard Jensen

AWARDS & HONORS

- Doctoral Student Presentation Travel Grant in the amount of \$1,100. August 2024.
- College of Engineering Graduate Fellowships: Department of Biomedical Engineering and Reginald R. 'Barney' & Jameson A. Baxter Graduate Fellowship in the amount of \$1,000. August 2024.
- Winner of the Honor Project. *Healthcare Innovation Sprint at the University Central of Arkansas*. Awarded for outstanding innovation and development of MedicAi, a project focused on enhancing healthcare solutions through artificial intelligence. May 2024.
- Finalist, The Arkansas Governor's Cup - Graduate Division. Recognized for AnimalHealth Innovator, an initiative aimed at advancing veterinary drug delivery. This competition highlights the best student-led startups in Arkansas, bringing finalists to Little Rock for the final round. April 2024.

- Seed Funding Pitch Competition, AnimalHealth Innovator in the amount of \$2,000 to assist with customer discovery, market research, prototype design, and testing. December 2023.
- Graduate & Professional Student Congress Travel Grant in the amount of \$750. September 2023.
- LatinXinChE Travel Award in the amount of \$1,000. September 2023.
- Winrock Internationals Science Venture Studio commercialization fellowship with a \$5,000 stipend. August 2023.
- College of Engineering Graduate Fellowships: Department of Biomedical Engineering and Carolyn Clark and Harold Langston Endowed Graduate Fellowship in the amount of \$1,500. August 2023.
- BMEG Community and Student Engagement Fellowship in the amount of \$2,000. August 2023.
- National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps. STEAM Training in Entrepreneurship Principles (STEP) I-Corps Site program in the amount of \$3,250 to assist with customer discovery, market research, prototype design, and testing. July 2023.
- Exceptional Ph.D. student. The Kaneaster and Ruth Lindley Hodges Entrepreneurial Fellowship in the amount of \$22,000 per year. Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship. May 2023.
- First place in the Engineering Division for the Undergraduate Research Week Poster Competition: ***Design, Characterization, and modeling of a Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management strategy for Use in Cattle.*** April 2021.
- Outstanding member of the Panamanian Student Organization. University of Arkansas. Fayetteville, 2018.
- Honor Scholarship. 'IFARHU-SENACYT Undergraduate Excellence Scholarship' in the amount of \$190,000 for 5 years. Panama, 2016.
- Honor Certificate. 'Outstanding Academic Performance as a High School Student. Technological University of Panama. Panama, 2015.
- Honor Certificate. 'Outstanding Academic Performance as a High School Student' University of the Isthmus. Panama, 2015.
- Diploma of Honor Don Guillermo Andreve. First Place of Honor in Secondary Education (Valedictorian). Panama, December 2014.

WORK AND RESEARCH INTEREST

- Clinical Research and Translational Biomedical Engineering.
- Clinical Trial Coordination and Regulatory Compliance for Medical Devices and Drug Delivery Systems.
- Clinical Research Project Management and Cross-Functional Research Coordination.
- Clinical Specialist and Field Support Roles for Biomedical and Medical Device Technologies.
- Medical Device Development, Validation, and Commercialization.
- Electrophysiology and Advanced Medical Technologies for Interventional and Surgical Applications.
- Ophthalmic and Imaging-Based Biomedical Technologies.
- Polymeric Biomaterials for Clinical, Therapeutic, and Diagnostic Applications.
- Microneedle and Transdermal Drug Delivery Systems for Veterinary and Human Applications.
- Controlled Release and Targeted Drug Delivery Technologies.
- Tissue Phantoms for Biomedical Imaging, Surgical Guidance, and Device Validation.
- Preclinical Research and In Vivo Study Coordination under Regulatory Standards.
- Biomaterial-Based Platforms for Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering.
- Cell and Tissue Engineering for Translational and Therapeutic Applications.
- Cell-Material Interactions and Biomaterial Surface Engineering.
- Biomolecular Engineering for Advanced Therapeutic and Diagnostic Systems.
- Technology Commercialization, Entrepreneurship, and Research Development in Biomedical Innovation.

- Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration across Biomedical Engineering, Clinical Research, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

1. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Tsai, T.C., Powell, J.G., & Almodóvar, J. (2026). Advances in veterinary drug and vaccine delivery: from conventional delivery methods to innovative transdermal approaches. *Drug Delivery and Translational Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13346-026-02105-w>
2. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Tsai, T.C., Riddle, J.L., He, K., Blaney, L., Powell, J.G., & Almodóvar, J. (2025). Systemic drug delivery in pigs using biodegradable microneedle patches. *RSC Pharmaceutics*. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D5PM00203F>
3. Rey-Sanchez, M.J., **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Morton, L.D., Rodriguez-Rivera, G.J., & Castilla-Casadio, D.A. (2025). Lyophilized drug reservoir-integrated hydrogel-forming microarray patches for transdermal delivery of isoniazid and pyridoxine hydrochloride as a strategy to treat latent tuberculosis. *Annals of Translational Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.21037/atm-25-120>
4. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Midkiff, K., Woessner, A., Afshar-Mohajer, M., Zou, M., Pollock, E., Gonzalez-Nino, D., Prinz, G., Hutchinson, L., Li, R., Kompalage, K., Culbertson, C.T., Tucker, R.J., Coetzee, H., Tsai, T., Powell, J., & Almodovar, J. (2024). A multicomponent microneedle patch for the delivery of meloxicam for veterinary applications. *ACS Nano*. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsnano.4c08072>
5. Castilla-Casadio, D.A. *, **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.***, Roberts, J.L., Crowell, A.D., Gonzalez-Nino, D., ...& Almodovar, J. (2022). Biodegradable microneedle patch for delivery of meloxicam for managing pain in cattle. *PLOS ONE* 17(8): e0272169.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0272169>
6. Haseli, M., Castilla-Casadio, D.A., Pinzon-Herrera, L., Hillsley, A., **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Sivaraman, S., Rosales, A.M., Rao, R.R., & Almodovar, J. (2022). Immunomodulatory functions of human mesenchymal stromal cells are enhanced when cultured on HEP/COL multilayers supplemented with interferon-gamma. *Materials Today Bio*, 100194.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mtbio.2021.100194>
7. Castilla-Casadio, D. A., Carlton, H., Gonzalez-Nino, D., **Miranda-Muñoz, K. A.**, Daneshpour, R., Huitink, D., ... & Almodovar, J. (2020). Design, Characterization, and Modeling of a Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management Strategy for Use in Cattle. *Materials Science and Engineering: C*, 111544.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.msec.2020.111544>

PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

1. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.** (*Postdoctoral Associate*), Almodovar, J., & Castilla-Casadio, D.A. (2025). Biodegradable microneedle patches for analgesic delivery in swine: influence of drug properties. Poster presentation at the College of Engineering Research Symposium, University of Miami. March 2025.
2. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Midkiff, K.A.,...& Almodovar, J. (2024). A multicomponent microneedle patch for the delivery of meloxicam for veterinary applications. Poster presentation at the Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). November 2024.
3. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Midkiff, K.A.,...& Almodovar, J. (2024). Comprehensive Evaluation of Biodegradable Microneedle Patches for Veterinary Drug Delivery: In Vitro and In Vivo Studies. Oral presentation at the Chemical Engineering Society (AIChE). October 2024.
4. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Midkiff, K.A.,...& Almodovar, J. (2024). Comprehensive Evaluation of Biodegradable Microneedle Patches for Veterinary Drug Delivery: In Vitro and In Vivo Studies. Oral presentation at the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). October 2024.

5. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Midkiff, K.A.,...& Almodovar, J. (2023). A multicomponent microneedle patch for the delivery of meloxicam for veterinary applications. Manuscript in preparation. Oral presentation at the Chemical Engineering Society (AIChE). November 2023.
6. **Miranda-Muñoz, K.A.**, Midkiff, K.A.,...& Almodovar, J. (2023). A multicomponent microneedle patch for the delivery of meloxicam for veterinary applications. Manuscript in preparation. Oral presentation at the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). October 2023.
7. **Miranda-Muñoz K. A.**, Castilla-Casadio D. A., Powell J., Greenlee L., Almodovar J. Design, Characterization, and modeling of a Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management strategy for Use in Cattle. Oral presentation at the Society for Biomaterials (SFB). April 2022.
8. **Miranda-Muñoz K. A.**, Castilla-Casadio D. A., Powell J., Greenlee L., Almodovar J. Design, Characterization, and modeling of a Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management strategy for Use in Cattle. Poster presentation at the LatinX in Chemical Engineering Twitter Conference: Poster Competition (virtual). September 2021.
9. **Miranda-Muñoz K. A.**, Castilla-Casadio D. A., Powell J., Greenlee L., Almodovar J. Design, Characterization, and modeling of a Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management strategy for Use in Cattle. Oral presentation at the National Undergraduate Research Week: Poster Competition (virtual). April 2021.
10. **Miranda-Muñoz K. A.**, Castilla-Casadio D. A., Powell J., Greenlee L., Almodovar J. Design, Characterization, and modeling of a Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management strategy for Use in Cattle. Oral presentation at the LatinX in Biomedical Engineering Symposium (virtual). March 2021.
11. Castilla-Casadio D. A., **Miranda-Muñoz K. A.**, Powell J., Greenlee L., Almodovar J. Construction and Characterization of Biodegradable Chitosan Microneedle Patch for Transdermal Delivery of Meloxicam as a Pain Management Drug Approach for Use in Cattle. Oral presentation at the AIChE Annual Meeting (Virtual). November 2020.
12. **Miranda-Muñoz K. A.**, 'Technology within Everyone's Reach'. Department of Mechanical Engineering, Technological University of Panama. Carried out in David, Chiriquí - Republic of Panama, from September 28 to October 2, 2015.

LANGUAGES

- **Spanish:** Fluent
- **English:** Proficient

REFERENCES

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