

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors in the order listed on Form Page 2. Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES.**

NAME Pita Garcia, Ignacio L.		POSITION TITLE Assistant Professor of Neurology	
eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login)			
EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
Tulane University	BS	06/97	Cell and Molecular Biology
University of Puerto Rico – Medical Sciences Campus	MD	06/01	Doctor in Medicine
Neurology Residency – University of Puerto Rico	Specialty	06/05	Neurology
Clinical Neurophysiology/Epilepsy Fellowship	Subspecialty	06/06	Clinical Neurophysiology Epilepsy

**NOTE: The Biographical Sketch may not exceed four pages. Follow the formats and instructions below.**

**A. Personal Statement**

The goal of the proposed research is to investigate the genetic factor that may influence pharmacoresistance in patients with childhood onset epilepsy. The goal of this study is to compare the allelic and genotypic distribution in a series of candidate genes, between a group of epileptic patients that respond to AED’s (responders) and a group of patients refractory to therapy (pharmacoresistant). I have a broad background and expertise in epilepsy field. I am currently the director of the only comprehensive epilepsy program in Puerto Rico that receives referrals of patients with pharmacoresistant epilepsy from the entire island. I have the expertise, leadership and motivation necessary to successfully carry out the proposed work. We have developed an excellent group of investigators with extensive expertise in child neurology, epilepsy and genetics.

As the principal investigator I will administer the project, collaborate with other researchers, and produce a peer-reviewed publications from this project. In addition I will identify patients that qualify for the study and provide collaboration integrating clinical data and information relevant to the research study. As a young investigator I have dedicated my first years in practice to build a subspecialty practice that will allow for the development of multiple research projects.

Role: PI

**B. Positions and Honors**

**Positions**

- Assistant Professor of Neurology, University Hospital, University of Puerto Rico, 2006-present
- Assistant Professor of Child Neurology, University Hospital, University of Puerto Rico, 2007-2009
- Neurology Faculty, University Hospital, University of Puerto Rico, 2006-present
- Director Epilepsy Program, University Hospital, University of Puerto Rico, 2006-present
- Director Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and Epilepsy Surgery Program, HIMA – San Pablo Caguas, 2009-present

## Honors

Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico House of Representatives) 2010  
(Recognition for his work in advancing the fight against epilepsy in Puerto Rico)  
Doctor's Choice Award, 2012

## C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications

Werz, MA, Pita I. Epilepsy Syndromes. Saunders. 2011

M. Koubeissi, S. Amina, I. Pita, G. Bergey, and MA Werz. Tolerability and Efficacy of Oral Loading of Levetiracetam  
*Neurology* 2008; 70: 2166-2170

H. Guiot, I. Pita, J. Bertran, G. Alfonso. Cytomegalovirus polyradiculomyelopathy in AIDS: a case report and review of literature. *PRHSJ* Vol 25, No. 4 p. 359.

I. Pita, A. Jelaso, and C. Ide, Ph.D. "IL-1 $\beta$  Increases Intracellular Calcium Through an IL-1 Type I Receptor Mediated Mechanism in C6 Astrocytic Cells." *International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience*, 1999, Vol. 17, No. 8, pp. 813-820.

## D. Research Support

2011-present I. Pita. Identification of Clinical and Genetic Factors Associated with Pharmacoresistance in Childhood-Onset Epilepsy.

2011-present A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter, Parallel-Group Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Brivaracetam in Subjects (16 to 80 Years Old) with Partial Onset Seizures

2011- present An Open-Label, Multicenter, Follow-up Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Brivaracetam Used as Adjunctive Treatment in Subjects Aged 16 Years or Older with Partial Onset Seizures

2011-present. J. Chapa, I. Pita Seizures outcomes and adverse effects following administration of bioequivalent vs. brand-name antiepileptic drugs (AED): a retrospective cohort study.

2009- present J. Arias, I. Pita. Heart rate variability in patients with epilepsy and non-epileptic events.

2008-2009 L. Román, I. Pita. Reliability in recognizing non epileptic seizures among nursing staff.

2005-2009 S. Amina, I. Pita, MA Werz. Tolerability and Efficacious Serum Concentrations of Levetiracetam Two Hours After Single 1500 mg Dose in Adult Epilepsy Patients.

2006- Present I. Pita, J. Kralewski. "Health Disparities in epilepsy patients: "Reforma" versus Private Health Insurance.