

# **Ana Maria Porras**

**Assistant Professor at University of Florida**

Gainesville, FL, US

Using her background in tissue engineering and infectious disease, Ana Porras creates models of disease to study human-microbe interactions.

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## **Biography**

Ana Maria Porras is a bilingual biomedical engineer, researcher, and advocate for inclusive STEM. She leads the Tissue-Microbe Interactions Lab at the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, where her team engineers in vitro disease models to study human-microbe interactions in the context of the microbiome, infectious disease, and global health. They also develop multilingual and artistic strategies to engage communities locally and globally. As a co-founder of the Latinx in BME community, she champions the inclusion of women and Latinx individuals in STEM. Ana is an IF/THEN AAAS Ambassador and has been honored with a statue at the Smithsonian Institution. With her passion for collaboration and creating a more inclusive world, she continues to shape the future of biomedical engineering.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Inclusion in STEM, Science Art, Tissue Engineering, Heart Valve Disease, Microbiology, Gut Microbiome, Infectious Disease, Biomaterials, Bilingual Communication, Global Learning

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