

Rodolfo Salido Benítez

4th Year Graduate Student

Lab PI/Mentor: Professor Rob Knight

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Environmental monitoring of human disease through indoor surface swabs

Studying indoor surface micro-organisms can reveal a lot about the inhabitants of a building. Rodolfo researches environmental monitoring for human pathogens such as pandemic viruses or antibiotic resistant bacteria in built environments ranging from public schools in San Diego to the International Space Station.

Aspirational goal-

Bridge accessibility to state-of-the-art sequencing technologies for developing nations with rich environmental biodiversity and poor research funding.

Did you enjoy school as you were growing up? What kind of student were you?

I have always enjoyed school, but I used to get in trouble for behavior when growing up. I was the student that performed well academically but tended to be distracted and cause distractions.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life and why?

My family. I've seen them overcome plenty of obstacles and they inspire me to do the same.

What did you love to spend time doing as a kid that you don't do any more? How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?

I used to spend hours playing video games but lately I rarely do so. Now I spend hours browsing, sharing, and cataloging music.



OUR
STORIES

If you were to be globally recognized for anything, what would you want it to be and why?

I would like to be globally recognized for my ideas. However, I haven't decided on the material form of those ideas. Perhaps a startup? Maybe my contributions to the literature?

Favorite place and/or thing to do in San Diego?

I like to enjoy daytime at the beach (surfing, snorkeling, and diving), and at nighttime I like to dance in the crowd of a house or techno music show.

