About our educational system

- Costa Rica has 5 public universities:
  - Universidad de Costa Rica
  - Instituto tecnológico de Costa Rica
  - Universidad Nacional
  - Universidad Estatal a Distancia
  - Universidad Técnica Nacional
Our institution

- Founded in 1940
- 27,450 students
- 6 Headquarters (Central, Pacific, Atlantic, North, South and West)
- #544 QS Top University Rankings
Institutional Main Pillars

- Teaching
- Research
- Community Outreach
Research

• University with the largest investment in research in the country
  • Engineering Arts
  • Social Sciences
  • Food Sciences
  • Health Sciences
    • Neurosciences Center
    • Clodomiro Picado Institute
    • CIHATA
    • INISA
    • INIFAR
    • CIET
Internationalization

• OAICE (Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation)
• More than 47 cooperative alliances with countries around the world
  • University of Georgia
  • University of Mississippi
  • Texas A&M
  • University of Kansas
  • Michigan State University
  • Iowa State University
  • Texas Tech University (2022-2026 School of Musical Arts)
What we do in the Biochemistry Department
Our research team

Gabriela Azofeifa, Ph.D.
Elvira Salas, Ph.D.
Natalia Ortiz, Ph.D.
Adrián Pinto, Ph.D.
Silvia Quesada, Ph.D.
Ernesto Vargas, Ph.D.
Georgina Gómez, Ph.D.
Catalina Murillo, M.S.

Lorena Torres,
Lab Technician
Our facilities

General lab
Animal research
Cell Culture
Molecular Biology
Microbiome
Current research:

1. Evaluation of the beneficial potential of polyphenols and other bioactive compounds derived from foods and natural products from Costa Rica

2. Determination of the biological activity of extracts obtained from medicinal plants and various synthetic bile salts

3. Cancer
   2. Butiric acid as an enhancer of drugs used in gastric and liver cancer
   3. Impact of legume derived dietary fiber on the development of colorectal cancer and modulation of the intestinal microbiota.
   4. Induced immune modulation after chemotherapy treatment in several cell lines: breast, glioblastoma and lung.

4. Biochemical characterization of lionfish (*P. volitans*) venom from the Costa Rican Caribbean
Current Research:

5. Evaluation of nutritional status and adequate consumption of macro and micronutrients in the Latin American population.

Cross-sectional study carried out in a representative sample of the urban population of eight Latin American countries including Costa Rica, with the objective of evaluating the relationship between diet quality, physical activity and sociodemographic variables with the risk of obesity in this population.

2023: Costa Rica National Science Award
Dra. Georgina Gómez Salas

Estudio Latinoamericano de Nutrición y Salud