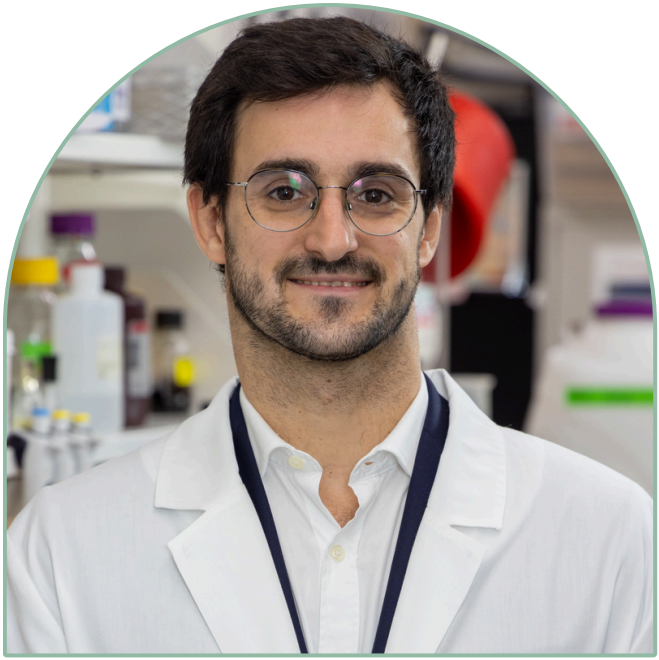
Postdoc Pride



Theo Andriot, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Theo Andriot is part of the Damien Pearse Lab, where his research focuses on developing cell-based therapies for spinal cord injury. Originally from France, Theo moved to Miami in January and brings not only his scientific expertise but also a love of sharing and discussing research–whether it's breaking things down for newcomers or diving deep into conversations with fellow scientists. Outside the lab, Theo has a unique hobby: collecting commercial goodies, earning him the playful nickname of "goodies researcher" among friends.

Postdoc Pride

Jamie Cooper, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Jamie Cooper is a researcher at The Miami Project whose work focuses on spinal cord injury, with a special interest in extracellular vesicles and their therapeutic and diagnostic applications. Originally from Liverpool, England (the home of The Beatles) Jamie completed a Ph.D. in cancer biology before transitioning into neuroscience. Outside of the lab, Jamie is known for an unbelievable knowledge of music trivia, once stepped into the boxing ring for a couple of amateur matches, and enjoys playing guitar.

Postdoc Pride

Eleanor Hay, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Eleanor Hay is a postdoctoral researcher in the Biology Department and an evolutionary ecologist who uses phylogenetic comparative methods to study biodiversity across the Tree of Life. Her past work explored how birds evolved their songs and diversified over time, while her current research examines how mutualisms influence evolutionary trajectories in a grass-endophyte system. Outside of research, Eleanor is a talented artist who loves to paint and draw, often weaving scientific illustration into her work to bring complex ideas to life.

Postdoc Pride

Meili (Mandy) Liu, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Meili (Mandy) Liu is part of the Sustainable Materials and Resilient Infrastructure initiative, where she studies carbon-neutral asphalt pavements. Her work focuses on using biochars derived from woody biomass and agricultural wastes, combining hands-on experiments with computational simulations like DFT and MD to design more sustainable materials. Outside of her research, Mandy has been playing tennis for seven years and enjoys life at home with her adorable cat.

Postdoc Pride

Ivenis Pita, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Ivenis Pita's research explores how both upper (<1000m) and deep (>1000m) ocean anomalies influence the weakening of the subtropical Overturning Circulation since 2004. By studying these large-scale ocean processes, Ivenis aims to improve our understanding of climate variability and long-term ocean circulation changes. Outside of research, Ivenis is an active member of the Rosenstiel Volleyball Group.

Postdoc Pride

Madina Sokolov, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Madina Sokolov (Makhmutova) is a postdoc in the Division of Endocrinology/Diabetes, where she studies how peripheral nerves influence glucose metabolism. She is the recipient of NIH F31 and F32 fellowships and is passionate about uncovering the cross-talk between the nervous system and diabetes. Outside the lab, Madina is a mom of four - yes, four! - having two kids during her Ph.D. and two during her postdoc. She likes to say she's been in "permanent multitasking training." She credits her mentor for providing guidance and flexibility in her academic journey, and her incredibly supportive family for making it possible to balance science with the joyful chaos of raising kids.

Postdoc Pride

Jordan Walker, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Jordan Walker's research focuses on the interactions between phages and their bacterial hosts in aquatic environments, using meta'omics techniques to better understand these complex dynamics. During their Ph.D., Jordan studied microbial resilience in estuaries, showing how Galveston Bay communities rebounded after Hurricane Harvey, how extreme cold and rainfall impacted Laguna Madre, and how oyster microbiomes and viromes can serve as indicators of water quality and environmental change. Now in Dr. Cynthia Silveira's lab, Jordan investigates how viral infections affect microbial communities that serve as proxies for early Earth ecosystems. This work explores how viruses may alter the geochemical signatures left behind, with implications for both understanding early life on Earth and the search for life on other planets. Outside the lab, Jordan is a proud dog lover with three rescued pups.

Postdoc Pride

Bradley Weiler, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Associate

Bradley Weiler studies the cellular functions and microbial ecology of coral holobionts to better understand coral health and disease. Bradley's work aims to shed light on the intricate relationships between corals and their microbial partners, offering insights that could help protect these vital ecosystems. Outside of research, Brad's love for microbiology spills over into the kitchen–he enjoys bread making and other Saccharomyces-inspired adventures.