

## **Bilcag Akgun** Postdoctoral Associate

### Field of Study *Genomics of Alzheimer's Disease*



#### **What impact do you want your research to have?**

We performed the Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) in Peruvians, a 4-way admixed population (Amerindian, European, African, and East Asian) that is underrepresented in genetic studies. The results of our research will contribute to the reduction of health inequality by emphasizing the importance of the participation of underrepresented populations in genetic studies.

#### **What inspired you to pursue your area of research?**

In particular, we aim to find new genetic loci in different populations about Alzheimer Disease and develop population-specific accurate risk calculation models based on both genetic and social determinants of health. My biggest inspiration is that these risk calculation models are likely to be used clinically in the near future to assess the risk of Alzheimer's Disease.

#### **What is most exciting about your research?**

In our study, we discovered a new genetic risk locus in the Peruvian population and supported the relevance of this region with different functional evidence

#### **What makes your research unique?**

Our study is unique in terms of the new Alzheimer Disease genetic risk locus we have discovered in the Peruvian population with a large Amerindian ancestral background.

#### **What are your plans after finishing your postdoc at the University?**

After PostDoc, I would like to continue working as a scientist involved in more comprehensive projects at the University of Miami

