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**Laura DOMINGUEZ DUENAS**

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**Home Country**  
Mexico

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**Degree**  
Post-Doctorate in Biophysics

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**Expertise**  
Biophysics

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**Research Focus**  
Protein Aggregation

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**Host University**  
Boston University, United States

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**Fellowship Awarded**  
2012

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Laura Dominguez Duenas was born, and went to secondary school, in Mexico City.

Laura studied chemistry at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City, where she was encouraged to conduct research and become a scientist. She went to graduate school at the UNAM Institute of Biotechnology in Cuernavaca, where she studied for a Masters degree in Biochemistry, focusing on the molecular dynamics of the transition between the two states of glucosamine-6-phosphate deaminase. She was selected by the UNAM Academic Excellence Support Program to represent the school as an exchange student at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), United States, where she completed her Master's studies. Laura then returned to Mexico City to start PhD studies at the UNAM School of Medicine, where she was selected to represent UNAM as an exchange student at Boston University, United States. She completed her PhD in 2011.

The objective of Laura's postdoctoral research is to exploit the growing power of computer simulations to help understand the causes and mechanism of protein aggregation inside cells. Knowledge of the detailed process of protein aggregation is crucial for understanding the development of illnesses such as amyloidosis and neurodegenerative disease, how and why aggregation occurs, and what could be done to prevent it.

Laura's goal is to become a Professor at UNAM, which she considers to be the most prestigious university in Mexico.