

## Mariano Labrador

### Reason for Nomination

Dr. Labrador is a Hispanic minority who did his graduate work outside of the U.S. and is succeeding in his faculty position at UTK, as evidenced by previous NSF funding and very recent NIH R21 award. His dedication to recruiting minority students to his lab and his academic success suggest that he would be a great speaker to invite for the SEDS series.

### Academic Background

Dr. Labrador received his PhD in Genetics from Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Barcelona. As an associate professor at UTK, he studies chromatin structure and function to elucidate how chromatin organization mediates genome function in eukaryotic cells, a very exciting topic in the field of genetics at this time.

### Contribution to Diversity in Science

Dr. Labrador is committed to making research experience available to undergraduates, thus facilitating the process of learning, introducing them to the process of creating knowledge, and possibly enticing them to pursue a career in research. In addition, as part of the Hispanic minority himself, Dr. Labrador is committed to recruiting minority undergraduates to his research group, with the prospect of actively promoting the incorporation of underrepresented minorities into the scientific community.