

**Janeth J. Peña Awarded**  
**Latin American and Iberian Institute**  
**Ph.D. Fellowship for 2014–2015**



Janeth J. Peña was awarded a Ph.D. Fellowship from the Latin American and Iberian Institute (LAI) at UNM. This Fellowship provides a living stipend and tuition costs to benefit graduate research toward completion of graduate training. Janeth studies a fresh water snail *Biomphalaria glabrata* from South America that transmits the parasite *Schistosoma mansoni*, a flatworm that causes infectious disease in humans. Her research aims to learn why the snail has not one, but two different proteins (hemoglobin and hemocyanin) that may carry oxygen for respiration. Understanding the unique biology of *B. glabrata* can provide insight into the persistence of this snail in nature and may help to develop control strategies against transmission of *S. mansoni* infections and contribute to improved well-being of Latin American populations.

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