



Dr. Luz Cumba Garcia

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Dr. Luz Cumba Garcia is an immunologist working at the intersection of biomedical science, public policy, and science diplomacy. Currently, Luz is a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the Middle East Regional Cooperation (MERC) Program at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Her role involves contributing to the advancement of Arab-Israeli scientific collaboration and regional development through research grants facilitated by MERC. In the forthcoming year of her AAAS Fellowship, Luz will pivot to the Office of Mexican Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. Her active role as an Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) Science, Technology, and Policy (STeP) Science Diplomacy Fellow underscores her dedication to policy and diplomacy. Dr. Cumba Garcia's influence extends beyond her fellowship roles; she is a founding member of the Science Diplomacy Network in Latin America and the Caribbean and participated in several science diplomacy workshops, including the AAAS Science Diplomacy and Leadership Workshop, the AAAS/TWAS Science Diplomacy Course, and the InnScid SP Science Diplomacy School. Her academic background comprises a Ph.D. and M.S. in Immunology, alongside a B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology. Originating from San Juan, PR, she strives to champion advocacy, science communication, and community engagement.