

Non-linear career path: navigating through different STEM fields as a Latina Inventor Roselin Rosario-Meléndez

When Dr. Roselin Rosario-Meléndez first started college, she thought that she would be a dentist. However, her academic training and professional career had taken her through many different pathways in which she has been exploring and learning until finding her passion. Roselin has 15 years of research experience on chemical modification of surfaces, pharmaceuticals, polymer synthesis, *in vitro* and *in vivo* biomaterials testing, and cosmetics formulation. In her talk, Roselin will discuss the different STEM fields she has worked on and how she became an inventor in 43 patents. She will also talk about how her non-linear career path had prepared her to innovate and make bold professional decisions. Roselin will discuss the challenges and advantages of being a Latina in STEM and what she has learned about mentorship, self-advocating and prioritization.



Bio: Roselin Rosario-Meléndez, Ph.D. is a Polymer Chemist, Inventor and Women in STEM Advocate with background in multiple STEM fields. She obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey in 2008 and her Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry from Rutgers University in 2013. For her graduate work, Roselin developed new biomaterials for drug delivery applications and became an inventor in multiple patents. After earning her PhD, she worked for an ingredient supplier company for 2 years and in a cosmetics company for 6 years. As a cosmetic chemist Roselin formulated extreme wear makeup and was an inventor in 37 patent applications globally, she was able to see multiple formulas in the market. Her major contribution to the cosmetics field was the invention of Maybelline’s SuperStay Matte Ink, an extreme wear lipstick with

a comfortable feel. In April 2021 she decided to leave her job in the cosmetics industry to spend time with her family, refine her knowledge and look for an opportunity in which she can utilize her skills, experience and knowledge to make a significant impact in society. Roselin will soon be starting a new position in which she will use her polymer chemistry and formulation knowledge in biotechnology. Roselin is also AAAS If/Then Ambassador, a position she uses to elevate her passion for mentoring, diversity and outreach.