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KEY COMPETENCIES

Infectious-Disease
Modelling & Data
Analysis

Public-Health Project
Leadership

Science Communication
& Writing

Stakeholder Engagement
& Partnerships

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native)
English (Fluent)
German (Fluent)
Dutch (Intermediate)
Arabic (Beginner)

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Founder & Writer – Her
Body Out Loud

Contributor – FemTech
Germany e.V.

Volunteer – Mothers in
Science

Paola Carrillo-Bustamante, Ph.D

Scientist | Writer | Public Health Innovator |
Femtech Advocate

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Biomedical engineer and scientist with over 10 years of experience in infectious-disease modelling, data analysis, and international project leadership.

After a decade in research and global health, I am now focusing on women's health and femtech innovation – combining scientific rigor, data fluency, and writing to bridge the gap between evidence, technology, and lived experience.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Head of Office for WHO Hub Partnership
Robert Koch Institute | Oct 2023 - Oct 2025

Led coordination between RKI and the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, managing multidisciplinary teams and stakeholders across research, policy, and innovation. Designed collaboration frameworks aligning institutions and organized high-profile events to foster knowledge exchange.

Head of Theoretical Vector Biology / Senior Research Project Manager
Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin — Jun 2017–Oct 2023

Directed international research on mosquito-borne diseases and disease-transmission dynamics, integrating mathematical modelling, and laboratory data. Secured €80,000 in funding to initiate a collaboration initiative in Ecuador, enabling the installation of a scientific framework and capacity-building. Efficiently coordinated and managed 2 international, cross-functional projects during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring seamless collaboration and achieving the successful completion of objectives.

Senior Research Project Manager
Heidelberg University — May 2015–Jun 2017

Conducted computational analyses of Lassa virus and HIV, leading to peer-reviewed publications and mentoring of early-career researchers.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

FOUNDER & WRITER: HER BODY OUT LOUD

A bilingual (EN/ES) blog combining storytelling and science to close the awareness gap in women's health.

VOLUNTEER - FEMTECH GERMANY E.V.

Contributed to national market analysis of the femtech landscape in Germany.

VOLUNTEER - MOTHERS IN SCIENCE

Coordinated partnerships and designed return-to-work workshops for women in STEMM.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Authored public articles for Lab Times, interviewing scientists and translating research into accessible stories. Speaker at 50+ international conferences. Author of 12+ scientific publications.

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Computational Biology

Utrecht University, 2015

Diplom-Ingenieur (M.Sc. equivalent) in Electrical Engineering

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, 2009

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming in C++ and R · Statistics · Microsoft Office, OS X · Design & Implementation of laboratory protocols (SOPs)

CERTIFICATIONS

Leadership, Science Communication, Gendered Research

Falling Walls Foundation

Fit for Teaching

Heidelberg University

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Intensive Track Female Science Talents – Falling Walls Foundation, 2021

Klaus-Tschira Boost Fund (€80,000) – Klaus-Tschira Foundation, 2019

Best Oral Presentation – International Meeting of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine, 2018

Full DAAD Scholarship for University Studies (€60,000) – 2003–2009