

## Student Profile

### Luiz F M Passalacqua – Pharmacological Sciences PhD Program



#### Your Time at UCI

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

*I always wanted to do research and help solving some of the biomedical problems that affect human kind.*

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

*When I got the offer letter from UCI, I was thrilled and felt that I was wanted by UCI. They made sure I was respected and equal to everyone else.*

If you are conducting research, how would you explain your research and its significance to your grandparent?

*RNA molecules have several roles in cell, from being the messenger for protein synthesis to regulation of gene expression. They are versatile and still a lot is unknown about them. We try to understand how these molecules regulate gene expression and how we can use them to better understand the physiology of cells.*

What are your hobbies/passions outside of research?

*I enjoy spending time with my family, playing soccer, tennis, and guitar. Also, whenever it is possible, traveling around.*

#### Reflections

What are you most proud of accomplishing (so far) in your graduate program?

*Passing the advancement exam. It was a hard process of preparation, but very rewarding when you do a good job.*

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI to date?

*Making friends. A good environment is crucial!*

What advice do you have for a new graduate student in your program?

*Don't be afraid of asking. Ask around, ask for help, ask for advice. People are willing to help and this will make your life much easier.*

## **Career**

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

*That's hard. Not sure yet, but hopefully doing something I am passionate about and research related.*

How do you hope to make a difference?

*I hope I can help myself and others to find the right path for the professional and personal goals of life.*