Emmanuel J. Rivera-Rodríguez is a second year Ph.D. candidate student at Brandeis University. He studies sleep and how it is affected by genetic changes in the brain. He completed his undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Puerto Rico, where he researched sleep, learning and memory using insect models that included fruit flies, honey bees and wasps.

During his talk, he will be share his journey as a first-generation student going into scientific research and what it means to him—particularly as a Hispanic student—to pursue graduate studies so far from home.