

**BIANCA LENNARZ**

**Alliance/Merck *Ciencia* Scholar Class of 2011**

**Studying neurobiology at the University of California Los Angeles**

**Interned at the UCLA Brain Research Institute**

Watching her mother, a nurse, care for a sick relative inspired Bianca to work in medicine. “I had watched her gradual decline everyday from when she was healthy until when she unfortunately passed away,” Bianca said.

Bianca is a pre-med student majoring in neurobiology at UCLA. Bianca said that being an Alliance/Merck *Ciencia* Scholar opened the door to an elite university and helped make her dream possible. “Without the scholarship, there is no chance I’d be able to go to my choice university,” she said. For over a year, Bianca has been conducting an independent project in the university’s neurophysics lab, mapping visual memory by recording neural activity in animals in response to brain stimulation.

Bianca anticipates her senior year, when she will complete her course work, research project and medical school applications, to be challenging. She knows her time management skills are one of her greatest assets. “I get things done when I need to get things done,” she said.

One of the things Bianca is most looking forward to as a doctor is facing a new challenge everyday. She said it will also be rewarding, once she’s earned her MD, “knowing that people are basically putting their trust in me to help them.”

Bianca is studying to take her MCAT exam and wants to serve in under-represented communities and possibly travel abroad. She hopes to give back to the world with the same spirit of generosity that The Alliance demonstrated by investing in her.