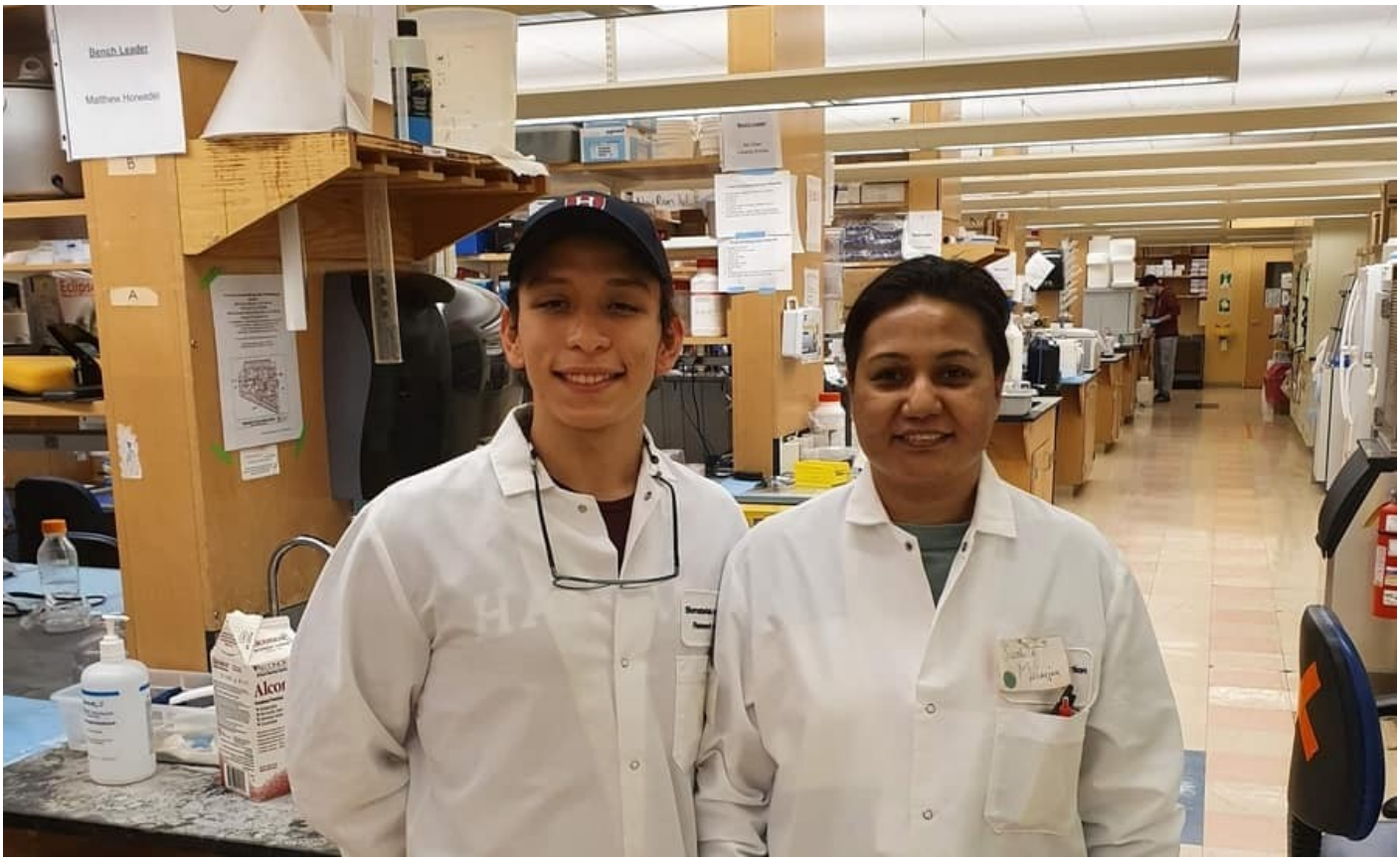
Tec student in tissue bioprinting residency at Harvard

*“We are working with **intestinal cells** to see how the COVID-19 virus affects them,” said David Hernández, a* **Biomedical** student who is currently undertaking a **residency at Harvard***.*

The student from the **Tec’s Guadalajara** campus took the opportunity to work in a laboratory focused on Microprinting: a field related to the **bioprinting of physical tissues** and biological compounds.

*“There are 12 of us in my laboratory, mostly people with doctorates and graduate degrees. Curiously, **only the 2 Mexicans** are undergraduates,”* Hernández said.



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David explained that he works with ***both Brigham And Women's Hospital*** and ***Harvard Medical School***.

Both are laboratories affiliated with ***Partners Health Care***, an organization dedicated to the teaching of science and medicine.

"We are developing a ***'chip' that simulates heart movement*** *by means of vacuum pumps, among other things,"* added the student, who is also working on another 10 projects.

"You learn a little about all the techniques, and you also give support because people often don't know how to do what you do."

The power of teamwork

Hernández commented that the laboratory's **main strategy** is based on **collaboration by all team members**.

*"**Every day, you learn something different**. Each of the researchers works on different studies.*

*"You learn a little about all the techniques, and **you also give support** because people often don't know how to do **what you do**,"* shared the student.

David explained that his supervisor is Sushila Maharjan, Director of Research into **Bioscience and Biotechnology in Nepal**, with whom he develops all his projects.

In turn, he helps with the review of **scientific research** articles, including: ***An open-source handheld extruder loaded with pore-forming bioink for in situ wound dressing.***

The article is published on ***ScienceDirect***, an academic research and information platform.


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David explained that there are people and researchers from all over the world, but **the Mexicans stand out** among them.

"My supervisor says that she likes Mexicans very much, because we are hard workers: we like what we do, we enjoy what we do, and ***we do it well.***

"My first day in the laboratory was the first of February," Hernández recalled, as his residency was initially only going to be for **6 months**.

However, as a result of both his **performance and initiative**, **Yu Shrike Zhang,** the principal researcher, suggested extending the stay.

"My supervisor and researcher asked me: ***'What can we do to make you stay?'*** *I had to take some classes and I spoke with my degree coordinator,"* said David.

The student explained that his supervisor suggested taking classes that would be given digitally, which benefited him now that the semester is both **virtual and flexible.**

It is important to note that, on several occasions, David had the best grade average in his degree, which helped him to be selected for the **residency program at Harvard**.

David does not have a set return date; he hopes to continue developing projects and working on them until that time comes.

*“We all do what we can, within our capabilities. We’re all making an effort. You have to let **your work speak for itself**,”* David concluded.

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