

Juan Ricardo Luna
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College of Science Chemistry
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
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Education

The University of Texas at El Paso – Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry: in progress

- Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Skye Fortier
- Funding: Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (G-RISE) fellowship, National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (GEM) fellowship, NuChemE Pipeline Grant

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley – Master of Chemistry: 2021

- Major: Chemistry
- Funding: SMART STEM (SSTEM) graduate scholarship, Stars scholarship

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley – Bachelor of Chemistry: 2018

- Major: Chemistry
- Minor: Biology
- Funding: SSTEM scholarship, University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) Scorpion Scholar scholarship

Publications

1. Asiel Mena, **Juan R. Luna**, Frank MacGregor, Elizabeth Noriega Landa, Alejandro Metta-Magaña, Wen-Yee Lee, and Skye Fortier, Photoinduction Cleavage of Strained N-C Bond in an Iron Complex Supported by Super-Bulky Amidinate and Guanidinate Ligands, *Inorganic Chemistry* **2024**, 63 (12), 5351-5364. DOI: 10.1021/acs.inorgchem.3c03953
2. **Luna, J.**; Alcoutlabi, M.; Fletes, E.; Morales, H.; Parsons, J.G., Vanadyl Phthalocyanine as a Low-Temperature/Low-Pressure Catalyst for the Conversion of Fructose to Methyl Levulinate. *Molecules* **2025**, 30, 2065. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules30092065>
3. Bandaranayake, S.; Schrader, P.; Chen, G.; Tan, L. Z.; Shivanna, M.; Stavila, V.; **Luna, J. R.**; Ramasesha, K., Phonon-mediated ultrafast dynamics in self-assembled monolayers of 4-mercaptobenzoic acid on gold. *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics* **2026**, 28 (14), 8531-8540. <https://doi.org/10.1039/d5cp04826e>

Intellectual Property

- Detecting and Separating Rare Earth Metal Mixtures, **Luna, J. R.**; Fortier, S.; Provisional Patent Submission, 08/2023, Application No. 63/578,871

Fellowships, Internships and Awards

- G-RISE fellowship
The University of Texas at El Paso
Appointed title: Research Assistantship
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health – National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Primary Investigator: Dr. Renato Aguilera, 2021
- GEM fellowship
The University of Texas at El Paso
Appointed title: Research Assistantship
Sponsor and internship host: LAM Research Corp., 2023
- Minority Serving Institutions Internship Program (MSIIP) acceptance
Appointed title: Intern
Sponsor: National Nuclear Security Administration in the U.S. Department of Energy
Internship Host: Sandia National Lab
Primary Investigator: Dr. Krupa Ramasesha

Works in Progress

- Investigating rare earth element identification and separation using a metallochelate

Conference and Invited Presentations

- **Luna, J.R.**, Separation of Rare Earth Elements Using a Novel Metallochelate. *American Chemical Society (ACS) National Spring conference, GEOC division, the Advancing Resource Recovery for Critical Minerals*. Atlanta, GA. March 22-26, 2026.

Research Grants

- NuChemE Pipeline: Research and Workforce Development Grant
Awarded to: New Mexico State University
Sponsor: Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, DE-EM0005312
Award: \$4.8 million
3-year award period
Appointment title: Research Assistantship through sub-award to the University of Texas at El Paso and Dr. Skye Fortier
Primary Investigator: Dr. Catherine Brewer

Memberships in Associations and Institutional Affiliations

- G-RISE fellow
- GEM fellow
- NNSA-MSIIP / ORISE intern
- American Chemical Society member