

# EPIC Seminar Series

## How a Random Walk Through College Can Lead to a Lifetime of Science Exploration

"Many scientists and engineers never went to college to go into STEM. I was one of the undergraduate students that entered college with little interest in STEM and no clear idea of what career I wanted in the future. Not knowing the answers to these questions and not knowing how my passions in life equated to a future career was very nerve racking. This pressure was amplified by familial pressures and my fellow students that seemed to know their fate. I will briefly discuss my path through early college and how I narrowed my focus and the ways you may also narrow your focus. Along our random walk and talk, I will discuss what material science is, show examples of the wonderful materials found in nature and present the work of my team in DNA templated nanoclusters and polymers for regenerative medicine and vaccine delivery."

Dr. Martinez is a native of the southwest and calls the Four Corners "home." From an outdoorsy family, Jen has always been inspired by nature. That inspiration of wanting to understand the natural world has led to lab discoveries in nanoclusters and vaccines, Jen received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Utah, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Santa Barbara. Prior to joining NAU, Jen was a Deputy Director (founding) for the Institute for Materials Science and a staff scientist within the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Jen is privileged to have been honored as a AAAS and Kavli Fellow and has received the PECASE, Los Alamos Fellows Research Prize and more!



**Jennifer Martinez, PhD**

Director of iMIRA!,  
Professor,  
Dept. of Applied Physics  
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**Wednesday,  
October 21, 2020  
5:30-6:30 PM**

**[Zoom Link](#)**

**Password: EPIC**

