

NOVEMBER 2015

HELLO WORLD



Jordi Perez Mariano, PhD, is a senior scientist at SRI International. It takes a lot of skills to be a scientist. You need to be a researcher, a problem-solver and sometimes a jack-of-all trades. It doesn't hurt to know something about chemistry and botany, too – especially when you are improving the process for producing biocrude oil from algae. Staying in good shape is also important, as you never know when you might need to wade in water full of algae in the SRI Wave Tank. Algae requires "reactors" to grow – not nuclear reactors, but various tubes or bags that cause the algae to react and grow, and somebody has to fish them out!

To stay in shape, Jordi's goal is to run around the world. Always the researcher, he logs his miles, hoping to someday reach the 25,000 mile goal, and he is about a third of the way there. He has run nine marathons so far. When Jordi was in high school in Spain, his father was running a marathon. Taking up the challenge, Jordi set a goal to beat his father's time of 2:59. It took three marathons to achieve that goal – with a time of 2:58. Logging about 1,500 miles a year, when in training, Jordi runs about 40 to 50 miles a week.

Slowing his pace a bit, Jordi backpacked on the John Muir trail, trekking 300 miles from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney in about two weeks.

He is also quite the gardener – about a quarter of one of the SRI greenhouses is being used to grow algae. Using a pressure cooker, he creates oil that can be mixed, dissolved, emulsified, and refined into fuel. It's not enough to power a car (yet) but probably enough to oil a squeaky hinge on a door. Other projects include various technologies for solar cells and scaling up a system to capture CO₂ in coal-fired power plants. The solar technology has been licensed to multiple industrial partners all over the world, and the CO₂ capture plan has four team members running tests around the clock.

Running is less important these days, as he enjoys his five-week-old daughter, Mariona. He likes the credit union because it is unique – it is the only financial institution he has been able to walk by wearing a lab coat while carrying experiments (he jokingly said this with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face – I understand that he is very careful and always puts safety first). With his name on five patents, it's clear he knows how to handle chemicals properly.

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Jordi – thanks for the stories!

Steve Bowles
CEO/CFO

47

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