Angelica Riojas, PhD, is an American Heart Association (AHA) SFRN Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Her research focuses on complex cardiometabolic diseases, particularly among populations historically underrepresented in biomedical research. Her current project investigates the molecular effects of chronic psychosocial stress on cardiac function in patients who have undergone chemotherapy, with the goal of developing more effective therapies, especially for women.

Dr. Riojas earned her PhD in Molecular Medicine and Translational Science at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Before pursuing her doctorate, she completed a BS in Biology and an MS in Biochemistry at Texas State University. Her passion for genetics and translational research is evident in her work, which bridges basic science and clinical applications with a focus on precision medicine and healthcare equity. Prior to her current role, Angelica was selected as a NIH-funded Translational Science Training (TL1) Scholar at UT Health San Antonio, where she studied the effects of maternal diet during pregnancy on the metabolism of offspring in non-human primate models. This work reflects her commitment to understanding complex disease mechanisms and improving health outcomes through early intervention strategies.

Beyond her research, Dr. Riojas is deeply committed to science communication, STEM outreach, and diversity advocacy. A long-standing member of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), she is dedicated to increasing representation in STEM fields. Looking ahead, Dr. Riojas aims to lead her own laboratory, where she can mentor the next generation of scientists and continue her research to advance equity in precision medicine.