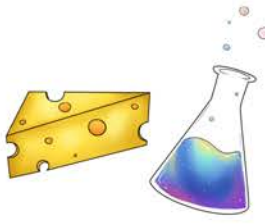


Tiny Heroes



Story by: Dr. Stephanie Vargas
Illustrated by: Danae Solis

Some people jokingly call me Cinderella... not because I'm a princess or blonde, actually all the opposite



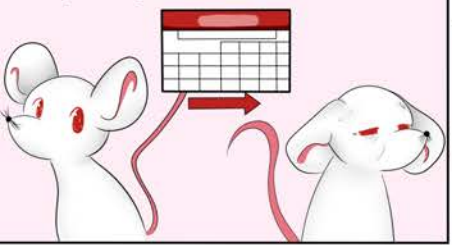
They nicknamed me Cinderella because I spend more time with mice than with people



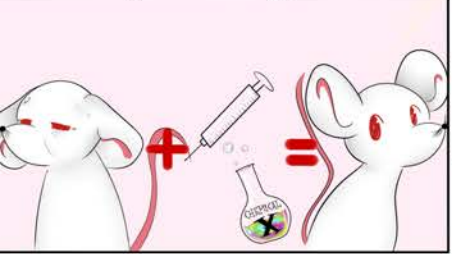
So it comes as no surprise when they ask me:



You see... I work with motor neuron diseases... and my mice get weaker with time!



To avoid this from happening, I treat them with our experimental drug



So one beautiful day in March I was testing the strength of my mice...



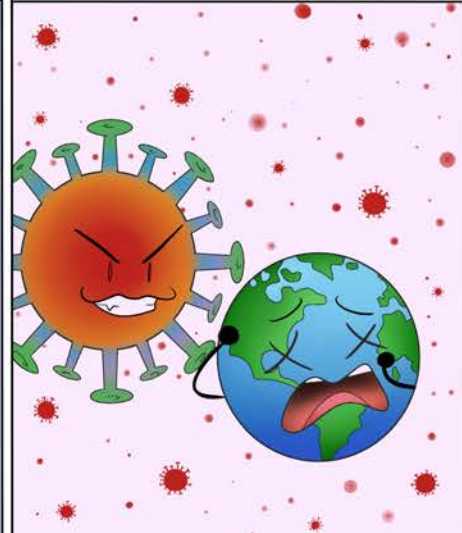
Suddenly we received the terrible news! We were no longer allowed to work in our labs!



Scared for my mice I urgently injected them



The virus was spreading globally



Difficult decisions needed to be made...



I love my animals (and my research) so much I didn't have to think it twice!



Following all the security measures... I proceeded to take care of all the mice



And although it was difficult to take care of hundreds of mice... at least I got to see mine



The world stopped! Months passed by! But there was HOPE and we remained STRONG



Thanks to thousands of front line workers, We received great news!



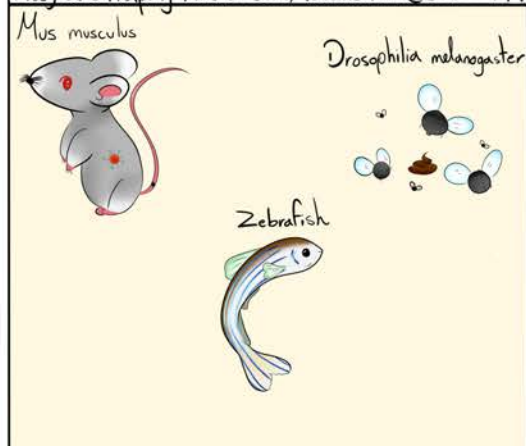
And today I'm back with them, continuing the search for a treatment for motor neuron diseases



I know I might sound insensitive considering all the human lives that we lost...



But I believe research animals deserve our gratitude because BEFORE, DURING and AFTER the pandemic they have helped generate knowledge... As you read this, they are helping find a cure/vaccine for COVID-19!



My "Re-opening the lab life" is great because I'm back with my mice... And this is how I tell them

