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My name is Alexandre Neves and I am a PhD-level scientist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a naturalized US citizen originally from Brazil. I first came to Seattle to perform my PhD research and have not yet been able to escape the allures of the Pacific Northwest. While I have varied career goals, I am currently focusing on a career that combines teaching, curriculum development and science communication/ outreach. In line with these interests, I became a Science Communication Fellow at the Pacific Science Center wherein I developed this activity based on my research, that leverages fruit flies to understand how the brain develops from a small number of stem cells.

In addition, because 75% of human disease genes have a counterpart in the fly, we can use sophisticated genetic tools and their rapid life cycle to understand how genes control brain development as well as what goes wrong in human neurological disorders.

As both a scientist and educator, I teach diverse students, I train future scientists and I am working towards making the scientific workforce more inclusive. Thus, my work individually and the collective work of the scientific community in Washington, all greatly contribute to the economic development of the area.

I am interested in learning more about how evidence-based policymaking works in in the Washington legislature, such as the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative, that is working with a number of different states to implement an innovative evidence-based policymaking approach. I am also interested in knowing more about what type evaluation metrics are in place to assess whether or not funded programs achieve their intended outcomes.