

Frank O. Aylward, PhD

Curriculum vitae

Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

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EDUCATION

- 2008-2013 PhD in *Microbiology*, Microbiology Doctoral Training Program, **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, WI. Awarded in August 2013.
- 2004-2008 B.Sc., double-major in *Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics* and *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, **University of Arizona**, Tucson, Arizona.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017- **Assistant Professor.** Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.
- 2014-2017 **Postdoctoral Researcher.** Advisor: Edward F. DeLong, Center for Microbial Oceanography Research and Education, **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**, Honolulu, HI.
- 2013-2014 **Postdoctoral Researcher.** Advisor: Edward F. DeLong, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA.
- 2008-2013 **PhD Candidate.** Advisor: Cameron Currie, Department of Bacteriology & Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC), **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, WI.
- 2006-2008 **Undergraduate Researcher.** Advisor: Howard Ochman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, **University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ.
- 2005-2006 **Undergraduate Researcher.** Advisor: Rick Michod, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, **University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ.

ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2021 VT College of Science nominee for the Blavatnik National Award for Young Scientists
- 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech
- 2019 Luther and Alice Hamlett Endowed Junior Faculty Fellowship
- 2019 Outstanding Research Award, Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech
- 2019 Simons Foundation Early Career Award in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution
- 2018 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship in Ocean Sciences
- 2012 International Society for Microbial Ecology Travel Grant (Copenhagen, DK)
- 2012 Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2011 Hopkins Microbiology Course Fellowship (Pacific Grove, CA)
- 2009 Honorable mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, NSF
- 2007 Van de Velde Undergraduate Research Scholarship, University of Arizona
- 2006 Galileo Circle Undergraduate Research Scholarship, University of Arizona

PUBLICATIONS

Full citation information can be found on [Google Scholar](#)

* Co-first author; # Graduate or Undergraduate mentee; ± Corresponding author.

Peer-reviewed original research articles

1. **FO Aylward**[±], M Moniruzzaman, AD Ha, EV Koonin. A phylogenomic framework for charting the diversity and evolution of giant viruses. *PLOS Biology*, 2021, 19(10).
2. ED Osburn, BD Badgley, BD Strahm, **FO Aylward**, JE Barrett. Emergent properties of microbial communities drive accelerated biogeochemical cycling in disturbed temperate forests. *Ecology*, 2021, 102(12).
3. ED Osburn, **FO Aylward**, JE Barrett. Historical land use has long-term effects on microbial community assembly processes in forest soils. *ISME Communications*. 2021, 1(48).
4. CA Martinez-Gutierrez[#] & **FO Aylward**[±]. Phylogenetic signal, congruence, and uncertainty across bacteria and archaea. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 2021. In Press.
5. ED Osburn, BD Badgley, **FO Aylward**, JE Barrett. Historical forest disturbance mediates soil microbial community responses to drought. *Environmental Microbiology*, 2021, 23(7).
6. AD Ha, M Moniruzzaman, **FO Aylward**[±]. High transcriptional activity and diverse functional repertoires of hundreds of giant viruses in a coastal marine system. *mSystems*, 2021, 6(4).
7. AK Boysen, LT Carlson, BP Durham, RD Groussman, **FO Aylward**, F Ribalet, KR Heal, AE White, EF DeLong, EV Armbrust, AE Ingalls. Particulate metabolites and transcripts reflect diel oscillations of microbial activity in the surface ocean. *mSystems*, 2021, 6(3).
8. S Karki[#], M Moniruzzaman, **FO Aylward**[±]. Comparative genomics and environmental distribution of large dsDNA viruses in the family *Asfarviridae*. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 2021, 12:657471.
9. **FO Aylward**[±], M Moniruzzaman. ViralRecall—a flexible command-line tool for the detection of giant virus signatures in ‘omic data. *Viruses*, 2021, 13(2):150.
10. M Moniruzzaman, AR Weinheimer[#], CA Martinez-Gutierrez[#], **FO Aylward**[±]. Widespread endogenization of giant viruses shapes green algal genomes. *Nature*, 2020, 58:141-145.
11. AR Weinheimer[#] & **FO Aylward**[±]. A distinct lineage of *Caudovirales* that encodes a deeply-branching multi-subunit RNA Polymerase. *Nature Communications*, 2020, 11(1): 1-9.
12. **FO Aylward**[±] & AE Santoro AE[±]. Heterotrophic thaumarchaea with small genomes are widespread in the dark ocean. *mSystems*, 2020, 5:e00415-20.
13. M Moniruzzaman, CA Martinez-Gutierrez[#], AR Weinheimer[#], **FO Aylward**[±]. Dynamic genome evolution and complex virocell metabolism of globally-distributed giant viruses. *Nature Communications*, 2020, 11(1): 1-11.
14. AM Linz, **FO Aylward**, S Bertilsson, KM McMahon. Time-series metatranscriptomes reveal conserved patterns between phototrophic and heterotrophic microbes in diverse freshwater systems. *Limnology and Oceanography*, 2020, 65:101-112.
15. ED Osburn, SG McBride, **FO Aylward**, BD Badgley, BD Strahm, JD Knoepp, JE Barrett. Soil bacterial and fungal communities exhibit distinct long-term responses to disturbance in temperate forests. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 2019, 10.

16. CA Martinez-Gutierrez[#] & FO Aylward[‡]. Strong purifying selection is associated with genome streamlining in epipelagic *Marinimicrobia*. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, 2019, 11 (10), 2887-2894.
17. BC Kolody, JP McCrow, L Zeigler Allen, FO Aylward, KM Fontanez, A Moustafa, M Moniruzzaman, FP Chavez, CA Scholin, EE Allen, AZ Worden, EF DeLong, AE Allen. Diel transcriptional response of a California Current plankton microbiome to light, low iron, and enduring viral infection. *ISME J*, 2019, 13(11): 2817-2833.
18. MJ Harke, FR Frischkorn, ST Haley, FO Aylward, JP Zehr, ST Dyhrman. Periodic and coordinated gene expression between a diazotroph and its diatom host. *ISME J*, 2019, 13(1):118-131.
19. EW Getz, SS Tithi, L Zhang, FO Aylward[‡]. Parallel evolution of genome streamlining and cellular bioenergetics across the marine radiation of a bacterial phylum. *mBio*, 2018, 9(5).
20. SS Tithi, FO Aylward, RJ Jensen, L Zhang. FastViromeExplorer: a pipeline for virus and phage identification and abundance profiling in metagenomics data. *PeerJ*, 2018, 12;6:e4227.
21. Luo E, FO Aylward, DR Mende, EF DeLong. Bacteriophage distributions and temporal variability in the ocean's interior. *mBio*, 2017, 8(6):e01903-17.
22. FO Aylward, D Boeuf, DR Mende, EM Wood-Charlson, A Vislova, JM Eppley, AE Romano, EF DeLong. Diel cycling and long-term persistence of viruses in the ocean's euphotic zone. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 2017, 114(43): 11446-11451.
23. DR Mende*, J Bryant*, FO Aylward*, JM Eppley, TN Nielsen, DM Karl, EF DeLong. Environmental drivers of a microbial genomic transition zone in the ocean's interior. *Nature Microbiology*, 2017, 2(10): 1367.
24. ST Wilson*, FO Aylward*, F Ribalet, B Barone, JR Casey, PE Connell, JM Eppley, S Ferrón, JN Fitzsimmons, CT Hayes, AE Romano, KA Turk-Kubo, A Vislova, EV Armbrust, DA Caron, MJ Church, JP Zehr, DM Karl, EF DeLong. Coordinated regulation of growth, activity and transcription in natural populations of the unicellular nitrogen-fixing cyanobacterium *Crocospaera*. *Nature Microbiology*, 2017, 2(9): 118.
25. EA Gontang, FO Aylward, C Carlos, TG del Rio, M Chovatia, A Fern, C-C Lo, SA Malfatti, SG Tringe, CR Currie, R Kolter. Major changes in microbial diversity and community composition across gut sections of a juvenile *Panchlora* cockroach. *PLOS ONE*, 2017, 12(5): e0177189.
26. DR Mende*, FO Aylward*, JM Eppley, TN Nielsen, EF DeLong. Improving environmental genomes via integration of metagenomic and single-cell assemblies. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 2016, 7:e143.
27. JA Bryant, FO Aylward, JM Eppley, DM Karl, MJ Church, EF DeLong. The influence of wind and solar radiation on microbial community diversity in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. *The ISME Journal*, 2016, 10(6):1308-1322.
28. FO Aylward, JM Eppley, JM Smith, FP Chavez, CA Scholin, EF DeLong. Microbial community transcriptional network dynamics are conserved across all three domains of life at ocean basin scales. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 2015; 112(17): 5443-5448.
29. MA Spero, FO Aylward, CR Currie, TJ Donohue. Phylogenomic analysis and predicted physiological role of the proton-translocating NADH:quinone oxidoreductase (complex I) across Bacteria. *mBio*, 2015; 5(6): e02077-14.
30. FO Aylward[‡], L Khadempour, DM Tremmel[#], BR McDonald, CD Nicora, S Wu, RJ Moore, DJ Orton, ME Monroe, PD Piehowski, SO Purvine, RD Smith, MS Lipton, KE Burnum-Johnson, CR Currie. Enrichment and broad representation of plant biomass-degrading enzymes in the specialized hyphal swellings of *Leucoagaricus gongylophorus*, the fungal symbiont of leaf-cutter ants. *PLOS ONE*, 2015; 10(8): e0134752.

31. **FO Aylward**[‡], G Suen, PHW Biedermann, AS Adams, JJ Scott, SA Malfatti, T Glavina del Rio, SG Tringe, M Poulsen, KF Raffa, KD Klepzig, CR Currie. Convergent bacterial microbiotas in the fungal agricultural systems of insects. *mBio*, 2014; 5(6): e02077-14.
32. EL Huang*, **FO Aylward***, Y-M Kim, B-JM Webb-Robertson, CD Nicora, Z Hu, T Metz, MS Lipton, RD Smith, CR Currie, KE Burnum-Johnson. The fungus gardens of leaf-cutter ants undergo a distinct physiological transition during biomass degradation. *Environmental Microbiology Reports*, 2014; 6(4): 389-395.
33. **FO Aylward**, KE Burnum, SG Tringe, C Teiling, DM Tremmel[‡], J Moeller, JJ Scott, KW Barry, CD Nicora, PD Piehowski, S Malfatti, SO Purvine, LA Goodwin, RD Smith, GM Weinstock, NM Gerardo, G Suen, MS Lipton, CR Currie. *Leucoagaricus gongylophorus* produces diverse lignocellulases for the degradation of recalcitrant plant polymers in the fungus gardens of leaf-cutter ants. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, 2013; 79(12): 3770-3778.
34. **FO Aylward**, BR McDonald, SM Adams, A Valenzuela, RA Schmidt, LA Goodwin, T Woyke, CR Currie, G Suen, M Poulsen. Comparison of 26 sphingomonad genomes reveals diverse environmental adaptations and biodegradative capabilities. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, 2013; 79(12): 3724-3733.
35. AS Adams*, **FO Aylward***, SM Adams, N Erbilgin, BH Aukema, CR Currie, G Suen, and KF Raffa. Mountain pine beetles colonizing historical, transitional, and naïve host trees are associated with a community of terpenoid-degrading bacteria. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, 2013; 79(11): 3468-3475.
36. MR Christopherson, G Suen, S Bramhacharya, KA Jewell, **FO Aylward**, D Mead, PJ Brumm. The genome sequences of *Cellulomonas fimi* and “*Cellvibrio gilvus*” reveal the cellulolytic strategies of two facultative anaerobes, transfer of “*Cellvibrio gilvus*” to the genus *Cellulomonas*, and proposal of *Cellulomonas gilvus* sp. nov. *PLOS ONE*, 2013; 8(1): e53954.
37. **FO Aylward**, KE Burnum, JJ Scott, G Suen, SG Tringe, SM Adams, GJ Starrett[‡], KJ Berry, LA Goodwin, MS Lipton, CR Currie. Metagenomic and proteomic insights into the fungus gardens of leaf-cutter ants. *The ISME Journal*, 2012; 6(9): 1688-1702.
38. G Suen, PJ Weimer, DM Stevenson, **FO Aylward**, J Boyum, J Deneke, C Drinkwater, NN Ivanova, N Mikhailova, O Chertkov, LA Goodwin, CR Currie, D Mead, PJ Brumm. The complete genome sequence of the *Fibrobacter succinogenes* S85 reveals a cellulolytic and metabolic specialist. *PLOS ONE*, 2011; 6(4): e18814.
39. G Suen, JJ Scott, **FO Aylward**, SM Adams, SG Tringe, A Pinto-Tomás, CE Foster, M Pauly, PJ Weimer, K Barry, LA Goodwin, P Bouffard, L Li, J Osterberger, TT Harkins, SC Slater, TJ Donohue, CR Currie. An insect herbivore microbiome with high plant biomass-degrading capacity. *PLOS Genetics*, 2010; 6(9): e1001129.
40. MD Herron, JD Hackett, **FO Aylward**, RE Michod. Triassic origin and early radiation of multicellular volvocine algae. *Proceedings of the National Academy Sciences, USA*, 2009; 106(9): 3254-8.

Peer-reviewed review articles

1. **FO Aylward**. The coevolutionary history of the microbial planet. Invited Crystal Ball review for *Environmental Microbiology Reports*, 2020.
2. **FO Aylward**, CR Currie, G Suen. The evolutionary innovation of nutritional symbioses in fungus-growing ants. *Insects*, 2012; 3(1): 41-61.

Genome announcements (editorial review only)

1. **FO Aylward**, DM Tremmel[#], GJ Starrett[#], DC Bruce, P Chain, A Chen, KW Davenport, C Detter, CS Han, J Han, M Huntemann, NN Ivanova, NC Kyrpides, V Markowitz, K Mavrommatis, M Nolan, I Pagani, A Pati, S Pitluck, C-L Wei, LA Goodwin, T Woyke, CR Currie. Complete genome of *Serratia* sp. strain FGI 57, a strain associated with leaf-cutter ant fungus gardens. *Genome Announcements*, 2013; 1(2): e00239-12.
2. **FO Aylward**, DM Tremmel[#], DC Bruce, P Chain, A Chen, KW Davenport, C Detter, CS Han, J Han, M Huntemann, NN Ivanova, NC Kyrpides, V Markowitz, K Mavrommatis, M Nolan, I Pagani, A Pati, S Pitluck, C-L Wei, LA Goodwin, T Woyke, CR Currie. Complete genome of *Enterobacteriaceae* bacterium strain FGI 57, a strain associated with leaf-cutter ant fungus gardens. *Genome Announcements*, 2013; 1(1): e00238-12.

Book chapters

1. **FO Aylward**. Identifying virus-like regions in microbial genomes using Hidden Markov Models. In: **Case Studies in Systems Biology**, 2021, pp. 263-270. Springer, New York, NY.
2. G Suen, JJ Scott, **FO Aylward**, CR Currie. The Microbiome of Leaf-cutter Ant Fungus Gardens. In: de Bruin, F.J. ed., *Handbook of Molecular Microbial Ecology, Volume 2: Metagenomics in Different Habitats*, 2011, pp. 367-380. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ, USA.
3. G Suen, **FO Aylward**, SC Slater, BS Goldman. From Genetics to Genomics. In: Maloy, S., Hughes, K.T., Casadesus, J. eds., *The Lure of Bacterial Genetics: A Tribute to John Roth*, 2010, pp. 257-266. American Society for Microbiology Press, Washington, D.C., USA.

Articles with mentees published in non-refereed undergraduate research compilations

1. DP Delet[#], **FO Aylward**, CR Currie. Interactions Between Actinobacteria and Other Microorganisms Present in the Fungus Gardens of Leaf-cutter Ants. Integrated Biological Sciences Summer Research Program (IBS-SRP) Research Journal, 2010
2. JA Montalvo[#], **FO Aylward**, G Suen, A Valenzuela, CR Currie. Characterizing Lignocellulose-Degrading Microbes from the Fungus Gardens of Leaf-Cutting Ants. Integrated Biological Sciences Summer Research Program (IBS-SRP) Research Journal, 2009.

GRANTS, CONTRACTS, & RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Reverse chronological order

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2021-2022 | Co-PI, CALS Strategic Plan Advancement 2021 Integrated Internal Competitive Grants Program , with Biswarup Mukhopadhyay (PI), and co-PIs Reza Ovissipour and Scott Lowman (\$59,800).
"Efficient anaerobic digestion of food waste to methane". |
| 2020-2022 | Co-PI, John Lee Pratt Animal Nutrition Program , with Michael Persia (PI), John Mauer, and Eric Wong (\$125,000)
"Nutritional modulation of the microbiome as a strategy for antibiotic-free poultry production using a smart farm approach." |
| 2019-2022 | PI, Luther and Alice Hamlett Endowed Junior Faculty Fellowship (\$30,000) |

- 2019-2022 PI, **NSF Infrastructure Innovation for Biological Research**, with co-I Liqing Zhang (\$555,496) “Innovative Software and Databases to Leverage RNA Polymerase as a Phylogenetic Marker in Metagenomic Data”.
- 2019-2022 PI, **Simons Foundation Early Career Award in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution** (\$624,000). “Revealing the Tempo and Mode of Prokaryotic Genome Evolution in the Ocean”.
- 2018-2020 PI, **Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship in Ocean Sciences** (\$65,000)
- 2018-2020 PI, **Virginia Tech ICTAS Junior Faculty Award**, with co-I Liqing Zhang (\$80,000) “Leveraging Metagenomic ‘Big Data’ for the Discovery of Novel Microbial Diversity in the Biosphere”.

SERVICE

Service at the International Committee for the Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)

2021-Present Study group chair, *Imitervirales*

Ad Hoc Academic Reviewing

Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology, Archives of Virology, Bioinformatics, BMC Genomics, Communications Biology, Current Opinion in Virology, Diversity, Ecological Entomology, Environmental Microbiology, Frontiers in Microbiology, Genome Biology and Evolution, Gut Microbes, The ISME Journal, Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, Journal of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, mBio, Microbial Ecology, Microbiome, Microorganisms, Molecular Ecology, mSystems, Nature, Nature Communications, Nature Methods, Phage: Therapy, Applications, and Research, PLOS Computational Biology, PLOS ONE, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Science Bulletin, Scientific Reports, Virus Evolution, Water Science and Technology.

Editorial Service

Editorial Board Member, *International Society of Microbial Ecology Journal (ISMEJ)* (2021-), *Environmental Microbiology & Environmental Microbiology Reports* (2018-)

Review Editor: *Frontiers in Microbiology, Frontiers in Marine Science, Frontiers in Fungal Biology, Frontiers in Virology.*

Conference Organization

Flash talk coordinator, ASM Microbe, 2018.

Graduate Student Coordinator: Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center annual retreat planning committee (May 2011).

University Service at Virginia Tech

- 2021-2022 Committee member, Biological Sciences Executive Committee
- 2021 Committee member, for the review of Academy of Integrated Science Collegiate Faculty.
- 2020 Reviewer, Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) Junior Faculty Award Program (13 4-page grants)
- 2019 Committee chair, Global Change Center Seed Grant Program (4 2-page grants)
- 2019 Committee member, Luther and Alice Hamlett College of Science Fellowship review committee (14 applications)
- 2019 Outreach presentations at Blacksburg Community High School to promote the Systems Biology program at Virginia Tech
- 2018 Oral presentation judge for Virginia Tech Research Day
- 2018 Guest Presenter, Biological Sciences Alumni Advisory Board Meeting

2018-Present Systems Biology Curriculum Committee member

PRESENTATIONS

External seminars are bolded

October 21st, 2021	ASM Ambassadors Early Career Program, keynote speaker [Virtual Presentation].
February 24 th , 2021	Genetics, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology seminar series, Virginia Tech [Virtual Presentation].
February 12 th , 2021	Virginia Tech Life Sciences Seminar Series [Virtual Presentation].
January 15th, 2021	Metagenomics Forum [Virtual Presentation], hosted by Francisco Rodriguez-Velera, Universidad Miguel Hernandez, Spain.
November 4th, 2019	Department of Microbiology seminar series, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
October 2nd, 2019	Department of Biological Sciences seminar series, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
September 24th, 2019	Department of Biological Sciences seminar series, University of Virginia.
July 18th, 2018	Computer and Information Sciences Research Colloquium, Virginia Military Academy.
November 28 th , 2017	Microbiology Seminar series, Virginia Tech.
November 13 th , 2017	Biochemistry Department seminar series, Virginia Tech.
March 3rd, 2017	American Society for Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Honolulu, HI.
December 1 st , 2016	Department of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech.
September 12th, 2016	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, University of Arizona.
June 18th, 2016	ASM Microbe, Boston, MA.
April 20th, 2016	Ecosystem Genomics Initiative, University of Arizona.
April 6th, 2016	Molecular, Cellular, and Biomedical Sciences, University of New Hampshire.
March 3 rd , 2016	Department of Oceanography, University of Hawaii at Manoa.
February 9th, 2016	Biology Department, Utah State University.
January 12th, 2016	Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences, NC State University.
August 19th, 2012	International Society for Microbial Ecology meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark.
May 17 th , 2011	Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center annual retreat, South Bend, IN.

TEACHING

University Courses Taught at Virginia Tech

As primary instructor

Systems Biology 2025, Introduction to Systems Biology I (3 CR)	Fall 2017
Systems Biology 3035, Systems Biology of Genes and Proteins I (4 CR)	Fall 2019
Systems Biology 3036, Systems Biology of Genes and Proteins II (4 CR)	Spring 2018, 2019, 2020

As co-instructor

Microbial Community Analysis GRAD6895, Analysis of Microbiome Data	Spring 2019
Systems Biology 2025, Introduction to Systems Biology I	Fall 2018, 2019
Systems Biology 2026, Introduction to Systems Biology II	Spring 2019, 2020

Workshops

2016 *Instructor, Oceanography and Geobiology Environmental 'Omics workshop sponsored by the NSF-funded EarthCube program. Topic: Introduction to metagenome assembly and analysis. Hosted by the University of Hawaii at Manoa.*

Guest lectures

2018 Population Genomics, FREC 5164. Topic: Microbial Genomics.
2017 Quantitative Ecology, BIOL 6004. Topic: Microbial Ecology.
2016 Oceanography 750. Topic: Marine Microbiology. UH Manoa.
2011 Microbiology 551. Topic: Ecological genomics. UW-Madison.
2010 Agronomy 375. Topic: Microbial genomics. UW-Madison.

Teaching Assistantships

2010-11, '13 *Teaching Assistant. Microbiology 450, UW-Madison*
2009 *Teaching Assistant. Microbiology 301 Laboratory, UW-Madison*

STUDENTS, POSTDOCS, AND PERSONNEL ADVISED

Postdocs

Mohammad Moniruzzaman 2018-Present
Anh D Ha 2019-Present

Graduate Students (PhD unless otherwise noted)

Alaina Weinheimer 2018-Present
Carolina Martinez-Gutierrez 2018-Present
Sangita Karki 2020-Present
Claudia Perez (MS) 2021-Present
Roxanna Farzad (MS) 2021-Present
Nitin Nair (MS) 2018-2020

Undergraduate Students

Major

Josh Stanton Biology, '23
Nick Anderson Systems Biology, '22
Riley Wilson Systems Biology, '22
Meagan Todd Systems Biology, '20
Ashleen Harris Systems Biology, '20
Gavin Mucker Systems Biology, '20
Eric Getz Biological Sciences, '18

Graduate Committee Membership (PhD unless otherwise noted)

Ernie Osburn (Biological Sciences) 2017-2021
Korin Jones (Biological Sciences) Current
Reem Aldaihani (Computer Science) Current
Ramya Nandigam (MS) (Computer Science) Current
Guadalupe Reynoso (Biological Sciences) Current
Bela Khairunisa (Genetics, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology) Current
Jeffrey Marano (Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health) Current

Paul Risteca (Biological Sciences)
Hollyn Franklin (Biological Sciences)

Current
Current

OTHER OUTREACH & MENTORSHIP

Mentorship

- 2010-2013 Mentor to three undergraduate Microbiology majors (Daniel Tremmel, Gabriel Starrett, and Austin Lynch), as well as a visiting MS student (Thiruvankadam Shanmugam). Several of these students subsequently appeared as co-authors on peer-reviewed journal articles.
- 2009, 2010 Mentor for David Pagan-Declet and Jorge Montalvo ('09 and '10, respectively), students in the Integrated Biological Science Summer Research Program (IBS-SRP), Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center. Both students were undergraduates at the University of Puerto Rico and subsequently published their work in undergraduate research journals (*see Publications section*).
- 2009 Mentor to a participant in the Research Experience for Teachers Program hosted by the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center. This program provided research experience to elementary school teachers in the greater Madison area. I assisted in developing a bioenergy-related research project and the design of curricula for middle-school science classes.
- 2007, 2008 Peer Mentors Program, Department of Biochemistry, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. In this program I mentored freshmen Biochemistry majors for one year.

Outreach

- 2018 Guest speaker at the Blacksburg High School College Research event. Topic: The Systems Biology program at Virginia Tech.
- 2017- Open-access bioinformatics tutorials available on the Protocols.IO.
Link: <https://www.protocols.io/researchers/frank-aylward>
- 2010 Speaker for the Monona Grove Energy Fair, UW-Madison People Program, UW-Madison Microbiology Club, and the UW-Madison Biological Sciences Preview Weekend, which are all programs focused on broadening participation in biological sciences from high school or undergraduate students.
- 2006-2008 Ambassadors program, Department of Biochemistry, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. In this program I participated in outreach activities spreading awareness of scientific careers and opportunities to high school students.

SOFTWARE AND COMPUTATIONAL RESOURCES

- ViralRecall** Tool for identifying signatures of giant viruses in genomic data
<https://github.com/faylward/viralrecall>
- ncldv_markersearch** Tool for generating multi-locus phylogenies of giant viruses
https://github.com/faylward/ncldv_markersearch

Giant Virus Database Database with genomic, phylogenetic, and taxonomic resources for giant viruses
<https://faylward.github.io/GVDB/>

markerfinder Tool for identifying phylogenetic marker genes and producing multi-locus phylogenies of bacteria and archaea
<https://github.com/faylward/markerfinder>