

KIRK D. C. JENSEN, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Natural Sciences
University of California, Merced

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Merced, California

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EDUCATION MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biology, 2014

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Ph.D. Department of Microbiology and Immunology, 2008

LA JOLLA INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY
M.S. University of California, San Diego, 2000

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
B.S. Department of Biology, **Magna Cum Laude**, 1999

RESEARCH Associate Professor **2021-Present**
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED, Merced, CA
Research focus: Host immunity to *Toxoplasma gondii*, and how *Toxoplasma* virulence factors manipulate host immune responses

- Determined the majority of parasite-specific antibodies require intact GPI-anchors for recognition, and discovered a *Toxoplasma* glycosyl-transferase that promotes immunogenicity by adding a GalNAc to the GPI backbone (unpublished).
- Discovered that polymorphisms at a single locus derived from the collaborative cross that determines vaccine-induced immunity to *Toxoplasma* (unpublished).

Assistant Professor **2014-2021**
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED, Merced, CA
Research focus: Host immunity to *Toxoplasma gondii*, and how *Toxoplasma* virulence factors manipulate host immune responses

- Demonstrated *Nfkbid* is required for host immunity and B cell antibody responses to secondary infections with *Toxoplasma*.
- Identified an NLRP3-dependent, inflammasome-independent pathway that promotes CD8 T cell IFN γ responses to *Toxoplasma*.

Post-Doctorate Work **2008-2014**
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, MA
Advisor: Dr. Jeroen Saeij, Department of Biology (Currently UC Davis)
Research focus: Host immunity to *Toxoplasma*, and how *Toxoplasma* virulence factors manipulate host immune responses

- Demonstrated that most parasite strains actively evade the immunological memory response elicited by chronic infection or vaccination and this requires parasite expression of the ROP5 pseudokinase.
- Elucidated how two polymorphic parasite effector proteins, ROP16 and GRA15, determine macrophage activation, M1 vs. M2.
- Determined that the parasite ROP16 effector kinase dampens intestinal inflammation and promotes host resistance after oral infection.
- Explored the genetic basis for different macrophage responses to cytokine stimulation and parasite infection.

Graduate Thesis **2001-2008**
STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, Stanford, CA
Advisor: Dr. Yueh-hsiu Chien, Department of Microbiology & Immunology
Title: "*How Self Non-Self Discrimination Determines Two Pro-inflammatory Subsets of Lymphoid $\gamma\delta$ T cells: T $\gamma\delta$ - IFN γ s and T $\gamma\delta$ -IL-17s*"

- First description of how TCR- ligand engagement in the thymus generates two populations of cytokine producing $\gamma\delta$ T cells- an “antigen-experienced” IFN γ - and an “antigen-naïve” IL-17-producing $\gamma\delta$ T cell population.
- Determined that positive selection was not required for $\gamma\delta$ T cell thymic development by analyzing non-classical MHC1b T22/T10-specific $\gamma\delta$ T cells.
- Demonstrated that IL-17 producing $\gamma\delta$ T cells respond days earlier than Th17 cells, thereby exacerbating disease in the mouse model of multiple sclerosis.

Master’s Thesis

1998-2000

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, La Jolla, CA

Advisors: Dr. Eli Sercarz, Dr. Raja-Gabaglia, La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology (LIAI)

Title: “*In Search of a Peptide to Modify the Th2 Response Induced by LACK in the Model of Murine Leishmaniasis*”

- Elucidated the MHCII IA^d LACK 161-175 peptide register.
- Inferred that altered TCR-peptide contacts significantly change IFN γ and IL-4 production by *Leishmania*-specific CD4 T cells.

AWARDS

2020	Academic Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research , UC Merced
2020	Young Investigator Award for Outstanding Oral Presentation, 59 th Midwinter Conference of Immunologists
2017	Hellman Fellow
2015	“Best overall talk” Quantitative Systems Biology, Spring Retreat
2012-2014	Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
2009-2012	Postdoctoral Fellowship of the Cancer Research Institute (Irvington)
2003-2006	NRSA Institutional Pre-doctoral Training Grant
2001-2003	Stanford Graduate Fellowship, Smith Fellow
1999	Phi Beta Kappa Society

FUNDING

2021-2022	3R01AI137126-04S1 (Supplement) to support diversity in biomedical research Ms. Posada) “ <i>New requirements for immunity to parasitic pathogens - when vaccines work and why they fail</i> ”
2019-2021	R21 AI145403 (PI - Jensen) “ <i>Using the Collaborative Cross to Discover New Requirements for Vaccine-Induced Immunity to T. gondii</i> ”
2018-2023	R01 AI137126 (PI - Jensen) “ <i>New requirements for immunity to parasitic pathogens - when vaccines work and why they fail</i> ”
2019-2020	R15 AI131027-01A1S1 (Supplement) to support diversity in biomedical research - Mr. Rodriguez) “ <i>Masters of immunology- how Toxoplasma gondii directly manipulates T cell activation</i> ”
2019	Senate Committee On Research (COR) Faculty Research Award (UC Merced) (Co-PI Jensen)
2018-2021	R15 AI131027 (PI - Jensen) “ <i>Masters of immunology- how Toxoplasma gondii directly manipulates T cell activation</i> ”
2017	Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) seed grant (UC Merced) (PI - Jensen)
2017	Hellman Fellowship (PI - Jensen)
2015	Senate Committee On Research (COR) Faculty Research Award (UC Merced) (PI - Jensen)

PUBLICATIONS

Juan C. Sanchez-Arcila, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**. Forward genetics in Apicomplexa biology: the host side of the story. *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*, 12:878475; 2022.

Juan C. Sanchez-Arcila, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**. Parasites: Eviction notice served on *Toxoplasma*. *eLife* 2022; 11:e7624.

Scott P. Souza, Samantha D. Splitt, Juan C. Sanchez-Arcila, Julia A. Alvarez, Safuwra Wizzard, Jessica N. Wilson, Zheng Luo, Nicole Baumgarth, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**. Genetic mapping reveals *Nfkbid* as a central regulator of humoral immunity to *Toxoplasma gondii*. *PLOS Pathogens*, 17(12): e1010081; 2021. See **Research Spotlight in Trends in Parasitology**, 38(4) 272-73; 2022.

Genevieve N. Mullins, Kristen M. Valentine, Mufadhil Al-Kuhlani, Dan Davini, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, Katrina K Hoyer. T cell signaling and Treg dysfunction correlate to disease kinetics in IL-2R α -KO autoimmune mice. *Scientific Reports*. 2020 Dec 15;10(1):21994.

Angel K. Kongsomboonvech, Felipe Rodriguez, Anh L. Diep, Brandon M. Justice, Brayan E. Castellanos, Ana Camejo, Debanjan Mukhopadhyay, Gregory A. Taylor, Masahiro Yamamoto, Jeroen P. J. Saeij, Michael L. Reese, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**. Naïve CD8 T cell IFN γ responses to a vacuolar antigen are regulated by an inflammasome-independent NLRP3 pathway and *Toxoplasma gondii* ROP5. *PLOS Pathogens*;16(8):e1008327; 2020.

April C. Apostol, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, Anna E. Beaudin. Training the Fetal Immune System Through Maternal Inflammation—A Layered Hygiene Hypothesis. *Frontiers in Immunology*, 11(123), 2020.

Samantha D. Splitt, Scott P. Souza, Kristen M Valentine, Brayan E. Castellanos, Andrew B Curd, Katrina K Hoyer, **Kirk D. Jensen**. PD-L1, TIM-3, and CTLA-4 blockade fail to promote resistance to secondary infection with virulent strains of *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Infection and Immunity*, 86(9): e00459-18; 2018. **Selected by the editors to be a Research Spotlight**: *Infection and Immunity*, DOI: 10.1128/IAI.00548-18.

Kirk D. Jensen. Antigen Presentation of Vacuolated Apicomplexans - Two Gateways to a Vaccine Antigen. *Trends in Parasitology*, 32(2):88-90; 2016.

Musa A. Hassan, **Kirk D. Jensen**, Vincent Butty, Kenneth Hu, Erwan Boedec, Pjotr Prins, Jeroen P. J. Saeij. Transcriptional and Linkage Analyses Identify Loci that Mediate the Differential Macrophage Response to Inflammatory Stimuli and Infection. *PLOS Genetics*, 11(10):e1005619; 2015.

Kirk D. C. Jensen*, Ana Camejo*, Mariane B. Melo, Cynthia Cordeiro, Lindsay Julien, Gijsbert M. Grotenbreg, Eva-Maria Frickel, Hidde L. Ploegh, Lucy Young, Jeroen J. P. Saeij. *Toxoplasma gondii* Superinfection and Virulence during Secondary Infection Correlate with the Exact ROP5/ROP18 Allelic Combination. *mBio* 24;6(2); 2015. *Co-first authors.

Musa A. Hassan, Vincent Butty, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, and Jeroen P. J. Saeij. The genetic basis for individual differences in mRNA splicing and APOBEC1 editing activity in murine macrophages. *Genome Research*, 24(3):377-89; 2014.

Ana Camejo, Daniel A. Gold, Diana Lu, Kiva McFetridge, Lindsay Julien, Ninghan Yang, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, Jeroen P. J. Saeij. Identification of three novel *Toxoplasma gondii* rhostry proteins. *International Journal for Parasitology*, 44(2):147-60; 2014.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Kenneth Hu, Ryan J. Whitmarsh, Musa A. Hassan, Lindsay Julien, Diana Lu, Lieping Chen, Christopher A. Hunter, Jeroen P. J. Saeij. *Toxoplasma* rhostry kinase ROP16 promotes host resistance to oral infection and intestinal inflammation only in the context of the dense granule protein GRA15. *Infection and immunity*, 81(6): 2156-2167. **'Article of significant interest' selected by the editors, see Research Spotlight: Infection and Immunity, 81(6): 1859; 2013.**

Mussa A Hassan, Mariane B. Melo, Brian Haas, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, Jeroen P. J. Saeij. De novo reconstruction of the *Toxoplasma gondii* transcriptome improves on the current genome annotation and reveals alternatively spliced transcripts and putative long non-coding RNAs. *BMC Genomics*: 13:696; 2012.

Sebastian V. Winter, Wendy Niedelman, **Kirk D. Jensen**, Emily E. Rosowski, Lindsay Julien, Eric Spooner, Kacey Caradonna, Barbara A. Burleigh, Jeroen P. J. Saeij, Hidde L. Ploegh, Eva-Maria Frickel. Determinants of GBP Recruitment to *Toxoplasma gondii* Vacuoles and the Parasitic Factors That Control It. *PLOS One* 6(9): e24434; 2011.

Mariane B. Melo*, **Kirk D. C. Jensen***, and Jeroen P. J. Saeij. *Toxoplasma gondii* effectors are master regulators of the inflammatory response. *Trends in Parasitology*, 27(11):487-95; 2011. *Co-first authors.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Yiding Wang, Elia D. Tait Wojno, Anjali J. Shastri, Kenneth Hu, Lara Cornel, Erwan Boedec, Yi-Ching Ong, Yueh-hsiu Chien, Chris A. Hunter, John C. Boothroyd, and Jeroen P. J. Saeij. *Toxoplasma* Polymorphic Effectors Determine Macrophage Polarization and Intestinal Inflammation. *Cell Host & Microbe*

9(6): 472-483; 2011. **Comments in: Cell Host & Microbe 9(6): 445-447; 2011.**

Emily E. Rosowski, Diana Lu, Lindsay Julien, Lauren Rodda, Rogier A. Gaiser, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, Jeroen P.J. Saeij. Strain-specific activation of the NF-kappaB pathway by GRA15, a novel *Toxoplasma gondii* dense granule protein. *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 208(1):195-212; 2011.

Michael S. Kuhns, Andrew T. Girvin, Lawrence O. Klein, Rebecca Chen, **Kirk D. C. Jensen**, Evan W. Newell, Johannes B. Huppa, Björn F. Lillemeier, Morgan Huse, Yueh-hsiu Chien, K. Christopher Garcia, and Mark M. Davis. Evidence for a functional sidedness to the $\alpha\beta$ TCR. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 107(11): 5094-5099; 2010.

Kirk D. C. Jensen*, Sunny Shin*, Yueh-hsiu Chien. $\gamma\delta$ Intraepithelial lymphocytes of the small intestine are not biased toward thymic antigens. *Journal of Immunology*, **Cutting Edge**, 182(12): 7348-7351; 2009. *Co-first authors.

Kirk D. C. Jensen and Yueh-hsiu Chien. Thymic maturation determines $\gamma\delta$ T cell function, but not their antigen specificities. *Current Opinions in Immunology*, 21(2):140-145, 2009.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Eli Sercarz, Cluadia Raja-Gabaglia. Altered peptide ligands can modify the Th2 T cell response to the immunodominant 161-175 peptide of LACK (Leishmania homolog for the receptor of activated C kinase). *Molecular Immunology* 46(3): 366-374; 2009.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Xiaoqin Su, Sunny Shin, Luke Li, Sawsan Youssef, Sho Yamasaki, Lawrence Steinman, Takashi Saito, Richard M. Locksley, Mark M. Davis, Nicole Baumgarth and Yueh-hsiu Chien. Thymic Selection Determines $\gamma\delta$ T Cell Effector Fate: Antigen-Naive Cells Make Interleukin-17 and Antigen-Experienced Cells Make Interferon γ . *Immunity* 29(1): 90-100; 2008. **Comments in: Immunity 29(1): 3-5; 2008; Research Highlights: Nature Reviews Immunology 8, 574-575, 2008.**

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Kirk D. C. Jensen*. *Nfkbid-dependent B cell responses to Toxoplasma gondii - new interactions revealed by a genetic screen*. 59TH MIDWINTER CONFERENCE OF IMMUNOLOGISTS, January 2020, Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA. *Awarded a Young Investigator Award for Outstanding Oral Presentation.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *The naïve CD8 T cell IFN γ response is intersected by multiple T. gondii effectors and the host's inflammasome*. 15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TOXOPLASMOSIS & T. GONDII BIOLOGY, June 2019, Decameron Panaca, Quindío, Columbia.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Immunity to Toxoplasma gondii - new interactions revealed by genetic screens*. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, Parasitology seminar series. June, 2019, Philadelphia, PA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Immunity to Toxoplasma gondii - A Host-Parasite Perspective*. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, HOST-PATHOGENESIS, seminar series. February, 2019, UC Davis, Davis, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Immunity to Toxoplasma gondii - A Host-Parasite Perspective*. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, CENTER FOR COMPARATIVE MEDICINE, seminar series. December 2018, UC Davis, Davis, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *How to Hack the Immune System - A Parasite's Perspective*. SAINT EDWARDS UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, seminar series. March 2018, Austin, TX.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *When vaccines work and why they fail - How Toxoplasma gondii virulence factors and host genetics intersect cells of the adaptive immune system*. AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGISTS, Northern California Chapter, Yearly Meeting. December 2017, UC Davis, Davis, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Toxoplasma gondii - A Parasite's Understanding of Adaptive Immunity*. CALIFORNIA STATE, FRESNO, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, seminar series. October 2016, Fresno, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Toxoplasma* superinfection through *ROP5/ROP18* and its potential impact on strain diversity. 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TOXOPLASMOSIS & T. GONDII BIOLOGY, June 2015, Gettysburg, PA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Toxoplasma Gondii* a Master Regulator of Host Immunity. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Department of Microbiology seminar series, May 2014, Honolulu, HI.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Toxoplasma Gondii* a Master Regulator of Host Immunity. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED, SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Division of Molecular & Cell Biology seminar series, March 2014, Merced, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Toxoplasma Gondii* a Master Regulator of Host Immunity. HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology seminar series, October 2013, Boston, MA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. *Toxoplasma Gondii* a Master Regulator of Host Immunity. LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, Department of Biological Science seminar series, October 2013, Loma Linda, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Ana Camejo, Mariane B. Melo, Cynthia Cordeiro, Gijs M. Grotenbreg, Lucy Young, Jeroen P. J. Saeij. Atypical Strains of *Toxoplasma Gondii* Can Evade the Immunological Memory Response. MOLECULAR PARASITOLOGY MEETING XXIV, September 2013, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Ana Camejo, Mariane B. Melo, Cynthia Cordeiro, Gijs M. Grotenbreg, Lucy Young, Jeroen P. J. Saeij. Atypical Strains of *Toxoplasma Gondii* Can Evade the Immunological Memory Response. WOODS HOLE IMMUNO-PARASITOLOGY (WHIP) 17th ANNUAL MEETING, April 2013. Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen, Emily E. Rosowski, Diana Lu, Lindsay Julien, Lauren Rodda, Rogier A. Gaiser, Jeroen Saeij. Two Polymorphic *Toxoplasma* Proteins Determine Strain-Specific Modulation of the Host Inflammatory Response. MOLECULAR PARASITOLOGY MEETING XXI, September 2010, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. The Misunderstood Lymphocyte, How 'Self Non-Self Discrimination' Determines the Pro-Inflammatory Response of $\gamma\delta$ T Cells. TORREY PINES INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR STUDIES seminar series, June 2008, La Jolla, CA.

Kirk D. C. Jensen. The Shaping of the $\gamma\delta$ TCR Repertoire. 2006 $\gamma\delta$ T CELL CONFERENCE, March 2006, Salk Institute, San Diego, CA.

PUBLICITY

UC Merced News Room, "B Cell Study Indicates Promising Direction for Anti-parasitic Vaccines", February 1, 2022.

<https://news.ucmerced.edu/news/2022/b-cell-study-indicates-promising-direction-anti-parasitic-vaccines>

UC Merced Magazine, "Having Coffee with Kirk Jensen", pg. 15, Spring 2016.

https://issuu.com/ucmerced/docs/uc_merced_magazine_spring_2016

Merced Sun Star, Fresno Bee, Modesto Bee, Central Valley Business Times, "UC Merced research discovers increased dangers from parasite", February 24, 2015.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/living/health-fitness/article11118875.html>

http://www.fresnobee.com/2015/02/24/4396020_uc-merced-research-discovers-increased.html?rh=1

<http://www.modbee.com/news/article11126027.html>

<http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=27822>

"Top of Mind" with Julie Rose, live interview on BYU radio originally aired April 2, 2015.

<http://www.byuradio.org/episode/2cc69e79-38ee-496b-bda1-b4aad17278cd?playhead=2383&autoplay=true>

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, Fall 2019, 2020 **Human Parasitology** (BIO 123)
Fall 2016, 2018, 2021, Spring 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, Summer 2021 **Molecular Immunology** (BIO 151)
Fall 2016, 2018, Spring 2018, 2019 **Molecular Immunology Lab** (BIO 151L)
Fall 2017, 2019, Spring 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021 **Upper Division Undergraduate Research** (BIO 195)

Guest Lecturer

UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA, MERCED
Spring 2015, 2017 **Microbial Pathogenesis** (BIO 122)
Spring 2016 **Advanced Molecular Immunology** (QSB 295)

MENTORSHIP

Current Research Mentor, role PI

UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA, MERCED, School of Natural Sciences
August 2019 – Current: **Postdoctoral scientist**, Juan Camilo Sanchez-Arcila, Ph.D.
October 2020 – Current: **Postdoctoral scientist**, Ferdinand Njume, Ph.D.
August 2018 – Current: **Ph.D. candidate**, Julia Alvarez
August 2021 – Current: **Ph.D. pre-candidate**, Laura Garcia-Lopez
September 2021 – Current: **Undergraduate researcher**, Arlon Wizzard
September 2021 – Current: **Undergraduate researcher**, Rachel Szymanski
June 2022 – Current: **Undergraduate researcher**, Gabriela Ceron
June 2022 – Current: **Undergraduate researcher**, Litzy Lemus
June 2022 – Current: **Undergraduate researcher**, Sahil Malhi
June 2022 – Current: **Undergraduate researcher**, Ahmadzakaria Arjmand

Past Research Mentor, role PI

UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA, MERCED, School of Natural Sciences
2020-2022: Undergraduate Researchers, Senior Research Associate 1, Jasmine Posada
Current: **Ph.D. pre-candidate, UC Irvine**
2020-2022: Co-advised Ph.D. Graduate, April Apostol (co-mentored, Dr. Beaudin)
Current: **Custom Application Scientist, Becton and Dickinson**
2020-2022: Undergraduate researcher, Mary (Mindy) Fernandez
Current: **Ph.D. pre-candidate, UC Davis**
2020-2021: Undergraduate researcher, Cieanna Vongsa
Current: **Senior, UC Merced**
2020-2021: Undergraduate researcher, Alex Jeronimo
Current: **Senior, UC Merced**
2016 -2021: Ph.D. Graduate, Dr. Scott Souza
Current: **Research Analyst, Becton and Dickinson**
2019 -2021: Undergraduate researcher, Brook Wilson
Current: **Undergraduate, UC Merced.**
2019 -2021: Undergraduate researcher, Jennifer Eggleston
Current: **Lab Assistant, LakePharma, Inc.**
2015 -2020: Ph.D. Graduate, Angel Kongsomboonvech
Current: **Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University, School of Medicine**
2017 – 2020: Undergraduate researcher, Senior Research Associate 1, Felipe Rodriguez
Current: **Ph.D. candidate, UC Davis**
2019 –2020: Undergraduate researcher, Safuwra Wizzard
Current: **Ph.D. pre-candidate, UT South Western**
2019 –2020: Undergraduate researcher, Darian Galvez
Current: **Health Screener, Ascend Staffing**
2017 – 2019: Masters Graduate, Jessica Wilson
Current: **Ph.D. candidate, UC Merced**
2015 – 2017: Masters Graduate, Samantha Splitt
Current: **Senior Research Associate Flow Cytometry, Precision For Medicine**
2015 – 2017: Undergraduate researcher, Brandon Justice
Current: **Research Associate II, Metagenomi**
2015 – 2017: Undergraduate researcher, Brayan Castellanos
Current: **Research and Development Scientist (advanced), Agilent Technologies**
2015 – 2017: Undergraduate researcher, Anh Diep

Current: **Ph.D., UC Merced**

2016 – 2017: Undergraduate researcher, Andrew Curd

Current: **Research Associate, Vera Therapeutics, Inc.**

2015 – 2016: Laboratory Assistant 1, Tina Truong

Current: **Ph.D. candidate, UC Davis**

2014 – 2015: Senior Research Associate 1, Marie True

Current: **Laboratory Director, FESA Labs**

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Department of Biology

2010 Master's candidate, Erwan Boedec

Current: **Technical Manager INSERM, University of Paris Diderot**

2009-2011 Undergraduate researcher, Kenneth Hu

Current: **Postdoctoral Scientist, UCSF**

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

2003-2007 High school and undergraduate researcher, Luke Li

Current: **Physician in Psychiatry, US Air Force**

2005 Undergraduate researcher, Neal Vora

Current: **Product Manager, Carvana, CA**

2005 Undergraduate researcher, Ramy El-Diwany

Current: **Surgery Resident, Johns Hopkins Hospital and Baltimore**

Current Thesis Committee Member

Morgan Quail, Ph.D. candidate

Oscar Davalos, Ph.D. candidate

Ambarish Varadan, Ph.D. candidate

Christi Waer, Ph.D. candidate

Nadia Delgadillo Miranda, Ph.D. candidate

Susana Tejeda-Garibay, Ph.D. candidate

Bailey-J Sanchez, Ph.D. pre-candidate

Past Thesis Committee Member

Craig Ennis, Ph.D. 2021

Ashley Valle Arevalo, Ph.D. 2021

Thaddeus Seher, Ph.D. program 2015- 2021

Genevieve Mullins, Ph.D. 2021

Clement Laksana, Masters 2021

Diego Lopez, Ph.D. program 2018 - 2020

Kathryn Fischer, Ph.D. 2020

Kristen Valentine, Ph.D. 2019

Manish Thiruvalluvan, Ph.D. 2018

Seung Bum Park, Ph.D. 2015

Su-Chen Hung, Ph.D. 2016

Phuong Bui, Masters 2016

Shahrukh Syed, Masters program 2017

TRAINEE AWARDS

Julia Alvarez	"Best Poster Award" , 16th International Toxoplasma Congress, Riverside, CA, 2022
Laura Garcia-Lopez	"Miguel Velez Fellowship" , University of California, Merced, 2022-23
Julia Alvarez	"AAI Oral Presentation Award for Second Best Talk" (out of 39). Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2022
Juan Sanchez-Arcila	"Burroughs Wellcome Travel and Registration Award for Selected Abstracts" Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2022
Julia Alvarez	"Burroughs Wellcome Travel and Registration Award for Selected Abstracts" Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2022
Laura Garcia-Lopez	"International Cytokine & Interferon Society (ICIS) Young Investigator Travel Award" , Midwinter Conference of Immunologists, 2022

Juan Sanchez-Arcila	"Molecular Cell Biology (MCB) Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research" , University of California, Merced, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, 2021
Julia Alvarez	"Burroughs Wellcome Travel and Registration Award for Selected Abstracts" American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), 2020
Angel Kongsomboonvech	"Presidents Dissertation Year Fellowship" from UC Merced, 2020-2021
Julia Alvarez	"Travel Award for Selected Abstracts for Oral Presentation" Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2020
Julia Alvarez	"Honorable Mention" NSF Predoctoral Fellowship (GFRP), 2019
Scott Souza	"Travel Award for Selected Abstracts for Oral Presentation" Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2019
Angel Kongsomboonvech	"Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship" from the School of Natural Sciences, 2017-2018
Angel Kongsomboonvech	"AAI Young Investigators Award for Outstanding Oral Presentation" Woods hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2018
Scott Souza	"AAI Young Investigators Award for Outstanding Poster Presentation" Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology Meeting (WHIP), Woods Hole, MA, 2018
Felipe Rodriguez	"Honorable Mention" Poster Presentation in the Immunology section at the 43rd Annual West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference, St. Mary's College, 2018
Felipe Rodriguez	"High Honors" Poster Presentation, UC Leads Conference, UC Santa Barbara, 2018
Julia Alvarez	"Best Poster" UC Merced Research Week, 2018
Felipe Rodriguez	"Best Poster" UC Merced Research Week, 2018
Brandon Justice	"2nd Place Poster Presentation" 18th Annual Microbiology Student Symposium, UC Berkeley, 2017
Anh Diep	"Best Talk" Microbiology and Immunology section, 42nd Annual West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference, Santa Clara University, 2017
Samantha Splitt	"Honorable Mention" NSF Predoctoral Fellowship (GFRP), 2016

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Quantitative Systems Biology (QSB) Graduate Program

Chair of Admissions (inaugural chair) and QSB Executive Committee Member 2015-2018

School of Natural Sciences Service

2015-Present, **Chair 2017-Present**, Senate Awards Nominating Committee, Molecular and Cell Biology

Faculty Search Committee Full Professor in Immunology 2020-Present

Faculty Search Committee Infectious Disease 2019

Faculty Search Committee Immunology 2016

Faculty Search Committee Infectious Disease 2016

Molecular and Cell Biology Case analyses 2020, 2021

Guest speaker to raise support for the "Faculty Research Fund" 2015

Biology Major Assessment Committee (PLO5) 2015

University

Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI), Executive Committee, 2020 - Present

Advisory committee Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry (SCIF) 2015- Present

Faculty Panel - Academic Workshop Series, Graduate Division, 'How to write a research statement', 2020

Faculty Panel - Advice on Graduate School Admissions, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center (UROC), UC Merced, June 2018

Lab tours and ad hoc speaking for the Board of Trustees, UC Merced 2015, 2016

Fiat Lux - Faculty reception and roundtable with Fiat Lux scholars, UC Merced 2018

HHMI-sponsored student-faculty dinner "What's your story", UC Merced 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Editor

Associate Editor, Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology, Host-Parasite section, 2018-Present

Journal Editor, special collection, invited

Editorial Board, *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*, Host-Parasite section, special collection, "Toxoplasma gondii-Host Interactions: A Story of Immune Attack and Parasite Counterattack", 2018-2019

Council Member

Elected, Council of the Midwinter Conference of Immunologists, 2020 - 2025

NIH Review Panel

(IDM) Integrated Review Group (IRG), ZRG1 IDM-S (83) 2020

Journal Referee, ad hoc

eLife 2021, 2022

Cell Reports 2015

Scientific Reports 2015

PLOS Genetics 2016

European Journal of Immunology 2016

PLOS Pathogens 2019, 2020, 2021

Trends in Parasitology 2019

iScience 2019

Frontiers in Immunology 2019, 2021

Infection and Immunity 2020, 2021, 2022

mBio 2020

Parasite Immunology 2021

Microbial Pathogenesis 2021

Session Chair

Chair (Session, Innate Immunity) 16th International Toxoplasma Congress, Riverside, CA, 2022

Chair (3rd Session), Woods Hole Immunoparasitology (WHIP) Meeting, Woods Hole, MA, 2022

Moderator (Oral Poster Presentation Session), Midwinter Conference of Immunologists, Asilomar, CA, 2020

Chair (7th Session, Host-Pathogen), 15th International Toxoplasma Congress, Decameron Panaca, Quindío, Columbia, 2019

Chair (7th Session), Woods Hole Immunoparasitology (WHIP) Meeting, Woods Hole, MA, 2018

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Lecture for the **Annual Academic Decathlon Lecture Day**, Madera Unified School District 2017

Dinner With A Scientist (DWAS), Merced City School District 2017

Lab Tours, Peterson Elementary School 2017

Basketball Head Coach (Upwards, Merced), 3rd - 4th grade 2017, 2020; 5th - 6th grade 2018, 2019

ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Guest Musician - Violinist, Songs of Spring, GLOBAL ARTS STUDIES PROGRAM, UC MERCED, SPRING RECITAL, April 2018, Merced Multicultural Arts Center (MAC), Merced, CA