

**Morgan A. Sammons, PhD**

Department of Biological Sciences  
University at Albany, State University of New York  
Life Sciences 2078  
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**EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy in Biology Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN	December 2010
Bachelor of Science in Biology University of Toledo, Toledo, OH	May 2005
Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry University of Toledo, Toledo, OH	May 2005

**EMPLOYMENT**

State University of New York at Albany Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences Associate Member, The RNA Institute	September 2016 - Present
University of Pennsylvania Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology	September 2010 - August 2016
Vanderbilt University Graduate Research Scientist, Department of Biological Sciences	September 2005 - August 2010

**PUBLICATIONS**

1. Reverdatto S, Prasad A, Belrose JL, Zhang X, **Sammons MA**, Gibbs KM, and Szaro BG (2021) Developmental and Injury-induced Changes in DNA Methylation in Regenerative versus Non-regenerative Regions of the Vertebrate Central Nervous System. *BMC Genomics*. 2022 Jan 04; 23(2) DOI: 10.1186/s12864-021-08247-0
2. Sarkar K, Kotb NM, Lemus A, McCarthy A, Martin ET, Camacho J, Iqbal A, Valm AM, **Sammons MA**, and Rangan P (2021) A feedback loop between heterochromatin and the nucleopore complex controls germ-cell to oocyte transition during *Drosophila* oogenesis. *bioRxiv*. DOI: 10.1101/2021.10.31.466575
3. Woodstock DL\*, **Sammons MA**, and Fischer M (2021) p63 and p53: collaborative partners or dueling rivals?. *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*. DOI: 10.3389/fcell.2021.701986

4. **Sammons MA**, Nguyen TT, McDade SS, and Fischer M. (2020) Tumor suppressor p53: From engaging DNA to target gene regulation. *Nucleic Acids Research*. DOI: 10.1093/nar/gkaa666
5. Belrose JL, Prasad A, **Sammons MA**, Gibbs KM, and Szaro B. (2020) Comparative Gene Expression Profiling between Optic Nerve and Spinal Cord Injury in *Xenopus laevis* Reveals a Core Set of Genes Inherent in Successful Regeneration of Vertebrate Central Nervous System Axons. *BMC Genomics*. 2020 Aug 5;21(1):540. DOI: 10.1186/s12864-020-06954-8
6. Bonenfant G, Meng R, Shotwell C, Badu P, Payne A, Ciota A, **Sammons MA**, Berglund JA, and Pager CT. (2020) Asian Zika virus isolate significantly changes the transcriptional profile and alternative RNA splicing events in a neuroblastoma cell line. *Viruses*. 2020 May 5; 12(5):E510. DOI:10.3390/v12050510
7. Naik AS, Lin JM, Taroc EZM, Katreddi RR, Frias JA, **Sammons MA**, and Forni P. (2020) Smad4 signaling establishes the somatosensory map of basal vomeronasal sensory neurons. *Development*. 2020 147: dev184036 DOI: 10.1242/dev.184036
8. Link AJ, Niu X, Weaver CM, Jennings JL, Duncan DT, McAfee KJ, **Sammons M**, Gerbasi VR, Farley AR, Fleischer TC, Browne CM, Samir P, Galassie A, and Boone B. (2020) Targeted identification of protein interactions in eukaryotic mRNA translation. *Proteomics*. 2020 Apr; 20(7)e1900177. DOI: 10.1022/pmic.201900177
9. Catizone AN\*, Karsli Uzunbas G\*, Celadova P, Kuang S\*, Bose D, and **Sammons MA**. (2020) Locally acting transcription factors are required for p53-dependent cis-regulatory element activity. *Nucleic Acids Research*. 2020 Mar 5 DOI: 10.1093/nar/gkaa147
10. Karsli Uzunbas G\*, Ahmed F\*, and **Sammons MA**. (2019) Control of p53-dependent transcription and enhancer activity by the p53 family member p63. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. DOI: 10.1074/jbc.RA119.007965
11. Lin-Shiao E, Lan Y, Welzenbach J, Alexander KA, Zhang Z, Knapp M, Mangold E, **Sammons M**, Ludwig KU and Berger SL (2019) p63 establishes epithelial enhancers de novo at critical craniofacial development genes. *Science Advances*. 2019 May 1; 5(5):eaaw0946. DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aaw0946.
12. Catizone AN\*, Good CR, Alexander KA, Berger SL, and **Sammons MA** (2019). Comparison of genotoxic versus non-genotoxic stabilization of p53 provides insight into parallel stress-responsive transcriptional networks. *Cell Cycle*. Apr;18(8):809-823. DOI:10.1080/15384101.2019.1593643
13. Lin JM, Taroc EZM, Frias JA, Prasad A, Catizone AN\*, **Sammons MA**, and Forni PE. (2018) The transcription factor Tfp2e/AP-2 plays a pivotal role in maintaining the identity of basal vomeronasal sensory neurons. *Developmental Biology*. 2018 June 19. DOI: 0.1016/j.ydbio.2018.06.007
14. Fraietta J, Nobles C, **Sammons MA**, Lundh S, Carty S, Reich T, Cogdill A, Wang Y, Gohil M, Kulikovskaya I, Nazimuddin F, Gupta M, Gee M, Liu X, Young R, Ambrose D, Jordan M, Marcucci K, Levine B, Garcia KC, Zhao Y, Kalos M, Porter D, Lacey S, Berger S, Bushman F, June C, Morrisette J, DeNizio J, Reddy S, Hwang Y, Everett J, Alexander K, Lin-Shiao E, Kohli R, Chen F, and Melnikhorst J. (2018) Disruption of TET2 Promotes the Therapeutic Efficacy of CD19-targeted T-cells. *Nature*. 2018 May 30. DOI: 10.1038/s41586-018-0178-z
15. Pauken KE, **Sammons MA**, Odorizzi PM, Manne SK, Godec J, Khan O, Drake AM, Chen Z, Sen D, Kurachi M, Barnitz RA, Bartman C, Bengsch B, Huang AC, Schenkel HM, Vahedi G, Haining WN, Berger SL, and Wherry EJ, (2016). Epigenetic stability of exhausted T cells limits the durability of reinvigoration by PD-1 blockade. *Science*. 354(6316): 1160-1165

16. Zhu, J, Dou, Z, **Sammons, MA**, Levine, AJ., and Berger SL. (2016) Lysine methylation represses p53 activity in teratocarcinoma cells. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 113(35):9822-7.
17. **Sammons, MA.**, Zhu, J, and Berger, SL. (2016). A chromatin-focused siRNA screen for regulators of p53-dependent transcription. *G3 (Bethesda)* 6(8), 2671-8.
18. Monteith, JA., Mellert, HS., **Sammons, MA**, Kuswanto, LA., Sykes, SM., Berger, SL., and McMahon, SB. (2016) A rare tumor-derived mutation in p53 provides pro-survival gain of function via induction of anti-apoptotic molecule TNFAIP8. *Molecular Oncology*. (8):1207-20.
19. Capell, B.C., Drake, A.M., Zhu, J., Shah, P.P., Dou, Z., Dorsey, J., Simola, D.F., Donahue, G., **Sammons, M.A**, Singh Rai, R., Natale, C., Ridky, T.W., Adam, P.D., and Berger, S.L. (2016). MLL1 is essential for the senescence-associated secretory phenotype. *Genes and Development*, 30: 321-336
20. **Sammons, M.A.**, Zhu, J., Drake, A.M., and Berger, S.L. (2015). TP53 engagement with the genome occurs in distinct local chromatin environments via pioneer factor activity. *Genome Research* 25, 179-188.
21. Zhu J, **Sammons MA**, Donahue G, Dou Z, Vedadi M, Geglik M, Barsyte-Lovejoy D, Al-Awar R, Katona B, Shilatifard A, Huang J, Hua X, Arrowsmith C, and Berger SL (2015) Gain-of-function p53 mutants co-opt chromatin pathways to drive cancer growth. *Nature*, 525 (7568):206-11
22. Dikovskaya, D, Cole J.J., Mason S.M., Nixon, C, Karim, S.A., McGarry, L, Clarke, W, Hewitt, R.N., **Sammons, M.A**, Zhu, J, Wu, H, Berger, S.L., Blyth, K, and Adams, P.D. (2015) Mitotic stress is an integral part of the oncogene-induced senescence program that promotes multinucleation and cell cycle arrest. *Cell Reports*. 12(9):1483-96
23. Mushrush, D.J., Koteiche, H.A., **Sammons, M.A.**, Link, A.J., McHaourab, H.S., and Lacy, D.B. (2011). Studies of the mechanistic details of the pH-dependent association of botulinum neurotoxin with membranes. *J Biol Chem* 286, 27011-27018.
24. **Sammons, M.A.**, Samir, P., and Link, A.J. (2011). *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Gis2 interacts with the translation machinery and is orthogonal to myotonic dystrophy type 2 protein ZNF9. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 406, 13-19.
25. **Sammons, M.A.**, Antons, A.K., Bendjennat, M., Udd, B., Krahe, R., and Link, A.J. (2010). ZNF9 activation of IRES-mediated translation of the human ODC mRNA is decreased in myotonic dystrophy type 2. *PLoS One* 5, e9301.
26. Elzie, C.A., Colby, J., **Sammons, MA.**, and Janetopoulos, C. (2009). Dynamic localization of G proteins in *Dictyostelium discoideum*. *J Cell Sci* 122, 2597-2603.
27. **Sammons, M.**, Wan, S.S., Vogel, N.L., Mientjes, E.J., Grosveld, G., and Ashburner, B.P. (2006). Negative regulation of the RelA/p65 transactivation function by the product of the DEK proto-oncogene. *J Biol Chem* 281, 26802-26812.

\* denotes undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral trainees from the University at Albany

## GRANT FUNDING

### Active Awards

National Institutes of Health, NIGMS, R35

2020-2025

*Defining cis-regulatory networks controlling a core stress response*

Principal Investigator: Morgan Sammons

Total award: \$1,765,488

National Institutes of Health, NICHD, R15 2018-2021  
*Role of Inductive Signals Released by Nasal Mesenchyme and Brain in Controlling Terminal Nerve Development and GNRH-1 Neuronal Migration*  
Co-Investigator with PI: Paolo Forni  
Total award: \$450,000

National Institutes of Health, NIDCD, R01 2018-2023  
*Molecular mechanisms controlling differentiation and circuit formation of the vomeronasal sensory neurons*  
Co-Investigator with PI: Paolo Forni  
Total award: \$1,539,977

### Completed Awards

National Institutes of Health, NIGMS, R15 2018-2022  
*Molecular mechanisms regulating the establishment of cis-regulatory elements by the transcription factor p63*  
Principal Investigator: Morgan Sammons  
Total award: \$450,000

New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Board 2017  
*Institutional Support for Spinal Cord Injury*  
Co-investigator with PI: Ben Szaro, PhD

American Cancer Society  
Postdoctoral Fellowship 2012-2014  
Investigator: Morgan Sammons, PhD

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Evolution and Core Processes in Gene Expression* 2022  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Symposium, Stowers Institute, Kansas City, MO, USA  
*Abstract selected for full talk*

*Abstract selected for full talk* 18th International p53 Workshop 2020  
Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel  
*Meeting canceled due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic*

Northeast Regional Meeting (NESDB 2020) 2020  
Society for Developmental Biology, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, USA  
*Meeting canceled due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic*

*Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression* 2020  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meetings, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA

*International p53/p63/p73 Workshop* 2019  
Hosted by the Ruer Bokovi Institute in Dubrovnik, Croatia

*Abstract selected for full talk*

*Evolution and Core Processes in Gene Expression* 2019  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Symposium, East Lansing, MI, USA  
*Abstract selected for full talk*

*Transcriptional Regulation by Chromatin and RNA Polymerase II* 2018  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Symposium, Snowbird, UT, USA

*Epigenetics and Chromatin* 2018  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meetings, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA

*Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression* 2018  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meetings, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA

*3rd Annual p53 Isoforms Conference* 2017  
University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

*Core Processes in Gene Expression* 2017  
ASBMB Special Symposium, Stowers Institute, Kansas City, MO, USA

*Cancer Epigenetics* 2017  
Keystone Symposia, Seattle, WA, USA

#### **INVITED TALKS**

*Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences* 2022  
Cleveland State University

*Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics* 2021  
University of North Carolina - Charlotte

*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry* 2021  
San Diego State University

*RNA Collaborative Seminar Series* 2020  
Hosted by the RNA Center Consortium

*Department of Nanobioscience* 2020  
SUNY Polytechnic University

*Department of Biochemistry* 2019  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

*Workshop for Interaction and Scientific Communication* 2017  
Life Sciences Initiative, State University of New York at Albany

*Cancer Research Center* 2016

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Journal Referee

BMC Molecular and Cell Biology  
Briefings in Functional Genomics  
Cancer Cell  
Cell Cycle  
Cell Reports  
eLife  
Journal of Biological Chemistry (Member of Early Career Reviewer Board)  
Molecular Oncology  
Nature Communications  
Nucleic Acids Research  
Science  
Wiley WIREs Systems Biology and Medicine

### Proposal Referee

Seed Grant Review Panel, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University	2022
Israel Science Foundation (ISF), Grant Review	2022
Radiation Oncology-Biology Integration Network U54, NIH Center for Scientific Review	2022
Molecular Genetics A Study Section, NIH Center for Scientific Review	2021
Israel Science Foundation (ISF), Grant Review	2021
Cancer Etiology Study Section, NIH Center for Scientific Review	2020
National Science Centre, Poland, Grant Review	2020
National Science Foundation (NSF), Grant Review	2020

## DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

### Department Service

Biology Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Chair	2022-2023
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Chair	2022-2023
Trainee Session Judge, RNA Institute Symposium	2022
Graduate Admissions Committee	2021-2022
Graduate Recruitment Committee	2021-2022
Personnel and Appointments Committee	2020-2021
Bioinformatics Faculty Search Committee	2019-2020
Graduate Programs Assessment Committee	2019-present
Personnel and Appointments Committee	2018-2019
MCDN PhD Program Curriculum Committee	2018-2019
Director of Biology Department Seminar Series	2017-present
Graduate Admissions Committee	2017-18
Stem Cells and Regeneration Faculty Search Committee	2017-18
Graduate Admissions Committee	2016-17
Katherine Vario Scholarship Committee	2016

Shore Scholarship Committee	2017-2018
World of Biology - Living-Learning Community Faculty Advisor	2017-2020

**College and University Service**

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council	2022-2023
Vice Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council	2021-2022
NSF Project SAGES Internal Grant Reviewer	2021-2022
College of Arts and Sciences FRAP-B Program Reviewer	2021
College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council	2020-Current
Workshop for Interaction and Scientific Collaboration (WISC) Organizer	2017
Bioinformatics/Center for Functional Genomics User Workshop	2017

**TEACHING**

<i>Genetics of Human Disease, ABIO 329</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2022 137 students
<i>Advanced Molecular Biology, ABIO 524</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Spring 2022 21 students
<i>Genetics of Human Disease, ABIO 329</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2021 116 students
<i>Advanced Molecular Biology, ABIO 524</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Spring 2021 35 students
<i>Genetics of Human Disease, ABIO 329</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2020 142 students
<i>Advanced Molecular Biology, ABIO 524</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Spring 2020 22 students
<i>Genetics of Human Disease, ABIO 329</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2019 136 students
<i>Living Learning Community, UFSP 110</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2019 28 students
<i>Seminar in MCDN, ABIO 681</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Spring 2019 14 students
<i>Advanced Molecular Biology, ABIO 524</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Spring 2019 13 students
<i>Genetics of Human Disease, ABIO 329</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2018 96 students

<i>Living Learning Community, UFSP 110</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2018 26 students
<i>Genetics of Human Disease, ABIO 329</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2017 74 students
<i>Living Learning Community, UFSP 110</i> Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany	Fall 2017 25 students
<i>Epigenetics of Human Disease</i> Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Pennsylvania	Spring 2015 14 students
<i>Epigenetics of Human Disease</i> Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Pennsylvania	Spring 2014 11 students

## MENTORING

### Doctoral Students

Allison Catizone, PhD	2017 - 2020
Serene Durham, PhD	2018 - 2022
Dana Woodstock	2019 - Present
Abby McCann	2021 - Present
Jhosped Dufflart	2021 - Present

### Postdoctoral Trainees

Gizem Karsli Uzunbas, PhD	2017 - 2019
Gabriele Baniulyte, PhD	2021 - Present

### Professional Employees

Faraz Ahmed, Bioinformatics Specialist	2017-2019
Aparna Prasad, Research Scientist	2020-2021

### Doctoral Dissertation Committee Service

Alicia McCarthy, PhD	2016 - 2020
Jamie Belrose, PhD	2017 - 2020
Nicholas Moskwa, PhD	2018 - 2022
Amber Altrieth	2019 - Present
Anwasha Sarkar, PhD	2019 - 2022
Ali Ropri, PhD	2020 - 2022
BMS PhD Program, University at Albany	
Pheonah Badu	2020 - Present
Raghu Katreddi	2020 - Present
Jesus Frias	2020 - Present
Nick Mathias	2022 - Present

### Masters Thesis Committee Service

Connor Duffy, MS	2017 - 2019
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Hannah Shippas, MS	2021 - 2022
Kavya Chegireddy, MS	2021 - 2022
BMS MS Program, University at Albany	
Pearl De Veer	2021-2022

### PhD Rotation Students

Kathryn Piper	2022
Esperanza Rosas	2022
Nicole Traver	2021
Afroz Golestanian	2021
Michelle Urman	2020-2021
Sawyer Hicks	2019-2020
Angelina Giorgio	2018-2019
Jesus Frias	2018-2019
Deneice Brown	2017-2018
Frank Jenkins	2016-2017
Philip Bender	2016-2017
Shane Breznak	2016-2017

### Undergraduates

Michael Bratslavsky, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2022 - Present
Owen Zon, UAlbany Biology, Honors College Thesis Committee Member	2022 - Present
Mya Moriconi, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2021 - Present
Daniel Koskas, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2020 - Present
Lauren Merchant, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2019 - 2021
Kate Sazon, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2018 - Present
Chelsi Riley, UAlbany Biology	2018 - 2019
Sylvia Kuang, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2017 - 2019
<i>2019 Glenn L. Bumpus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research</i>	
Matthew Cacciola, UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2018
Sarah Soliman, UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2018
Taylor Mellow UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2018
Kegan Shreffler, UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2018
Sajana Chandrawansa UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2017
Aleyna Nur Sarap, UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2017
Merlyn Ramirez, UAlbany Biology	2016 - 2017

### HONORS

Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award Outstanding Nominee	2021
American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow	2012
Vanderbilt Graduate Fellow	2005