

Morgan A. Sammons, PhD

Department of Biological Sciences
University at Albany, State University of New York
Life Sciences 2078
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Albany, NY 12222
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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 Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences Associate Member, The RNA Institute	September 2022 - Present
State University of New York at Albany Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences Associate Member, The RNA Institute	September 2016 - August 2022
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. Badu P, Baniulyte G, **Sammons MA**, and Pager CT (2024) Activation of ATF3 via the Integrated Stress Response Pathway Regulates Innate Immune response to Restrict Zika Virus. Revision at *Journal of Virology*
2. Fischer M, and **Sammons MA** (2024) Determinants of p53 DNA binding, gene regulation, and cell fate decisions. Under Review at *Cell Death and Differentiation*

3. Wiechens E, Vigliotti F, Siniuk K, Schwarz R, Schwab K, Riege K, van Bömmel A, Görlich, Bens M, Sahn A, Groth M, **Sammons MA**, Loewer A, Hoffmann S, and Fischer M. (2024) Backwards ahead: Cooperating convergent promoters. Revision Under Review at *Nature Genetics*
4. Sarkar K, Kotb NM, Lemus A, Martin ET, McCarthy A, Camacho J, Iqbal A, Valm AM, **Sammons MA**, and Rangan P (2023) A feedback loop between heterochromatin and the nucleopore complex controls germ-cell-to-oocyte transition during *Drosophila* oogenesis. *Developmental Cell*. DOI: 10.1016/j.devcel.2023.08.014
5. Baniulyte, G, Durham SA, Merchant LE, and **Sammons MA** (2023) Shared Gene Targets of the ATF4 and p53 Transcriptional Networks. *Molecular and Cellular Biology*. 2023 Aug 2;1-24. DOI: 10.1080/10985549.2023.2229225.
6. 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
7. 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
8. **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
9. 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
10. 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
11. 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
12. 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
13. 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
14. 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
15. 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.

16. 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
17. 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
18. 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 Melnhorst 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
19. 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
20. 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.
21. **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.
22. 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.
23. 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
24. **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.
25. 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
26. 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
27. 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.
28. **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.

29. **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.
30. 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.
31. **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
<i>Defining cis-regulatory networks controlling a core stress response</i>	(PI: Morgan Sammons)
Total award: \$1,765,488	

Completed Awards

National Institutes of Health, NIDCD, R01	2018-2023
<i>Molecular mechanisms controlling differentiation and circuit formation of the vomeronasal sensory neurons</i>	(Co-PI with Paolo Forni)
Total award: \$1,539,977	
National Institutes of Health, NIGMS, R15	2018-2022
<i>Molecular mechanisms regulating the establishment of cis-regulatory elements by the transcription factor p63</i>	(PI: Morgan Sammons)
Total award: \$450,000	
National Institutes of Health, NICHD, R15	2018-2021
<i>Role of Inductive Signals Released by Nasal Mesenchyme and Brain in Controlling Terminal Nerve Development and GNRH-1 Neuronal Migration</i>	(Co-PI with Paolo Forni)
Total award: \$450,000	
New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Board	2017
<i>Institutional Support for Spinal Cord Injury</i>	(Co-PI with Ben Szaro)
Total award: \$142,500	
American Cancer Society	2012-2014
<i>Postdoctoral Fellowship,</i>	(PI: Morgan Sammons)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

19th International p53 Workshop	2024
International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology / ICGEB	Trieste, Italy
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	2022
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Philadelphia, PA, USA
<i>Evolution and Core Processes in Gene Expression</i>	2022
ASBMB Symposium, Stowers Institute	Kansas City, MO, USA
18th International p53 Workshop	2020
Weizmann Institute of Science	Rehovat, Israel

Northeast Regional Meeting (NESDB 2020)	2020
Society for Developmental Biology, Marine Biological Laboratory	Woods Hole, MA, USA
<i>Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression</i>	2020
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meetings	Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA
<i>International p53/p63/p73 Workshop</i>	2019
Ruer Bokovi Institute	Dubrovnik, Croatia
<i>Evolution and Core Processes in Gene Expression</i>	2019
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Symposium	East Lansing, MI, USA
<i>Transcriptional Regulation by Chromatin and RNA Polymerase II</i>	2018
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Symposium	Snowbird, UT, USA
<i>Epigenetics and Chromatin</i>	2018
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meetings	Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA
<i>Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression</i>	2018
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meetings	Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA
<i>3rd Annual p53 Isoforms Conference</i>	2017
University of Bergen	Bergen, Norway
<i>Core Processes in Gene Expression</i>	2017
ASBMB Special Symposium, Stowers Institute	Kansas City, MO, USA
<i>Cancer Epigenetics</i>	2017
Keystone Symposia	Seattle, WA, USA

INVITED TALKS

<i>Fritz Lipmann Institute for Aging</i>	2023
Leibniz Institute, Jena, Germany	
<i>Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences</i>	2022
Cleveland State University	
<i>Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics</i>	2021
University of North Carolina - Charlotte	
<i>Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry</i>	2021
San Diego State University	
<i>RNA Collaborative Seminar Series</i>	2020
Hosted by the RNA Center Consortium	
<i>Department of Nanobioscience</i>	2020
SUNY Polytechnic University	
<i>Department of Biochemistry</i>	2019
Albert Einstein College of Medicine	
<i>Workshop for Interaction and Scientific Communication</i>	2017
Life Sciences Initiative, State University of New York at Albany	
<i>Cancer Research Center</i>	2016
School of Public Health, State University of New York at Albany	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee

BMC Molecular and Cell Biology, Briefings in Functional Genomics, Cancer Cell, Cell Cycle, Cell Death & Disease, Cell Reports, eLife, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Molecular Biology, Molecular Oncology, Nature Communications, Nucleic Acids Research, Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, Science, Wiley WIREs Systems Biology and Medicine

Proposal Referee

Oak Ridge Associated Universities/Nazarbayev University, Grant Review	2023
Seed Grant Review Panel, Health Disparities, SUNY Downstate	2023
Genetics of Health and Disease, Study Section, NIH Center for Scientific Review	2023
Oak Ridge Associated Universities/Nazarbayev University, Grant Review	2022
Seed Grant Review Panel, SUNY Downstate	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

Strategic Planning Committee, Biological Sciences, Chair	2023-2024
Trainee Session Judge, RNA Institute Symposium	2023
Departmental Honors Program Director, Biological Sciences	2023-Present
Director of Undergraduate Programs, Biological Sciences, Chair	2023-Present
Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Biological Sciences, Chair	2022-2023
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Biological Sciences, Chair	2022-Present
Trainee Session Judge, RNA Institute Symposium	2022
Graduate Admissions Committee, Biological Sciences	2021-2022
Graduate Recruitment Committee, Biological Sciences	2021-2022
Personnel and Appointments Committee, Biological Sciences	2020-2021
Bioinformatics Faculty Search Committee	2019-2020
Graduate Programs Assessment Committee, Biological Sciences	2019-2022
Personnel and Appointments Committee, Biological Sciences	2018-2019
MCDN PhD Program Curriculum Committee, Biological Sciences	2018-2019
Director of Biology Department Seminar Series	2017-2023
Graduate Admissions Committee, Biological Sciences	2017-18
Stem Cells and Regeneration Faculty Search Committee	2017-18
Graduate Admissions Committee, Biological Sciences	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

Nominating Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council	2023-2024
CAS New Student Welcome Day Department Representative	2023
Speaker and BIO Department Representative, Accepted Student Open House	2023
College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council, Chair	2022-2023
Honors College Curriculum Committee	2022- Present
College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council, Vice Chair	2021-2022
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, Department Representative	2020-2022
Workshop for Interaction and Scientific Collaboration (WISC) Organizer	2017
Bioinformatics/Center for Functional Genomics User Workshop	2017

TEACHING

At the University at Albany, SUNY

<i>ABIO 524</i> , Advanced Molecular Biology, 21 students	Spring 2024
<i>ABIO 524</i> , Advanced Molecular Biology, 18 students	Spring 2023
<i>ABIO 329</i> , Genetics of Human Disease, 137 students	Fall 2022
<i>ABIO 524</i> , Advanced Molecular Biology, 21 students	Spring 2022
<i>ABIO 329</i> , Genetics of Human Disease, 116 students	Fall 2021
<i>ABIO 524</i> , Advanced Molecular Biology, 35 students	Spring 2021
<i>ABIO 329</i> , Genetics of Human Disease, 142 students	Fall 2020
<i>ABIO 524</i> , Advanced Molecular Biology, 22 students	Spring 2020
<i>ABIO 329</i> , Genetics of Human Disease, 136 students	Fall 2019
<i>UFSP 110</i> , Living Learning Community, 28 students	Fall 2019
<i>ABIO 681</i> , Seminar in MCDN, 14 students	Spring 2019
<i>ABIO 524</i> , Advanced Molecular Biology, 13 students	Spring 2019
<i>ABIO 329</i> , Genetics of Human Disease, 96 students	Fall 2018
<i>UFSP 110</i> , Living Learning Community, 26 students	Fall 2018
<i>ABIO 329</i> , Genetics of Human Disease, 74 students	Fall 2017
<i>UFSP 110</i> , Living Learning Community, 25 students	Fall 2017

At the University of Pennsylvania

<i>BIOL 493</i> , Epigenetics of Human Disease, 14 students	Spring 2015
<i>BIOL 493</i> , Epigenetics of Human Disease, 11 students	Spring 2014

MENTORING

Doctoral

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

Masters in Biological Sciences

Devere Knight	2022 - Present
Jhosped Dufflart, MS	2021 - 2022

Masters in Forensic Sciences

Andrew Ropheal, MS	2022 - 2023
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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, PhD	2019 - 2023
Anwasha Sarkar, PhD	2019 - 2022
Ali Ropri, PhD	2020 - 2022
Pheonah Badu	2020 - Present
Raghu Katreddi, PhD	2020 - 2023
Jesus Frias	2020 - Present
Nick Mathias	2022 - Present
Joey Tavarez	2023 - Present
Dylan Ehrbar	2023 - Present

Masters Thesis Committee Service

Connor Duffy, MS	2017 - 2019
Hannah Shippas, MS	2021 - 2022
Kavya Chegireddy, MS	2021 - 2022
BMS MS Program, University at Albany	
Pearl De Veer, MS	2021-2022
Quetsia Jean-Baptiste	2024-Present

PhD Rotation Students

Nick Lane	2023-2024
Kate Hayes	2023-2024
Noah LaFever	2022-2023
Kathryn Piper	2022-2023
Esperanza Rosas	2022-2023
Nicole Traver	2020-2021
Afrooz Golestanian	2020-2021
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

Mya Moriconi, UAlbany Biology	2021 - 2024
Michael Bratslavsky, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2021 - 2023
Owen Zon, UAlbany Biology, Honors College Thesis Committee Member	2021 - 2022
Daniel Koskas, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2020 - 2022

Lauren Merchant, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2019 - 2021
Kate Sazon, UAlbany Biology, Honors College	2018 - 2022
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

Division for Research and Economic Development Faculty Award for Scholarly Work	2023
Division for Research and Economic Development Faculty Award for Grant Activity	2022
Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award Outstanding Nominee	2021
American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow	2012
Vanderbilt Graduate Fellow	2005