

# Sarah Kathleen Lucas

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## Education

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- 2014 – present     **Ph.D. Candidate, University of Minnesota**  
Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology (MICaB) Doctoral Program  
Thesis advisor: Ryan Hunter, Ph.D.  
Anticipated Graduation: Spring 2020
- 2010            **B.S. Microbiology, The Pennsylvania State University**  
**Minor:** Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

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## Research and Professional Experience

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- 2011 – 2014     **Research Associate, J. Craig Venter Institute, Rockville, MD**  
Laboratory of Karen Nelson, Ph.D., Genomic Medicine Group  
Overview: Microbiome studies involving multiplexed 16S rDNA sequencing library construction from a variety of environmental samples (e.g. stool, soil, urine, dust)
- 2009 – 2010     **Undergraduate Research Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University**  
Advisor: Pamela A. Hankey Giblin, Ph.D.  
Overview: The murine receptor tyrosine kinase Stk and its role in macrophage regulation, inflammation and in leukemic development.

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## Teaching Experience and Professional Training

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- Summer 2017     **MBL Intensive Course: Strategies and Techniques for Analyzing Microbial Population Structure (STAMPS)**  
A selective intensive course at Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, for training in the computational analysis of microbial communities.
- Fall 2015, 2016     **Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota**  
**MICB 3301 “Biology of Microorganisms” laboratory course**  
Overview: I conducted twice-weekly lectures introducing the theory, application, and methodology of basic microbiological techniques.
- Writing Across the Curriculum: Teaching With Writing Workshop (2015)**  
Center for Writing, University of Minnesota  
Training in instruction of undergraduate science courses, with focus on responding to student writing, evaluating writing assignments, creating rubrics, and identifying, preventing, and reporting plagiarism.

## Publications

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- 2019 Valentini, TD\*, **SK Lucas\***, KA Binder\*, LC Cameron, J Motl, JM Dunitz, RC Hunter. Bioorthogonal non-canonical amino acid tagging reveals translationally active subpopulations of the cystic fibrosis lung microbiota. *In Review*. \*Authors contributed equally to this work
- Lucas SK**, RA Itabiyi, E Feddema, HC Boyer, RC Hunter. Anaerobic mucin degradation as a bacterial community phenotype associated with chronic rhinosinusitis pathogenesis. *in prep*.
- 2018 Vangay P, AJ Johnson, TL Ward, GA Al-Ghalith, RR Shields-Cutler, BM Hillman, **SK Lucas**, L Beura, EA Thompson, LM Till, R Batres, B Paw, SL Pergament, P Saenyakul, M Xiong, AD Kim, G Kim, D Masopust, EC Martens, C Angkurawaranon, R McGready, PC Kashyap, KA Culhane-Pera, D Knights. US Immigration Westernizes the Human Gut Microbiome. [Cell](#), 175(4), pp.962-972.e10
- Choi, Y, A Banerjee, S McNish, KS Couch, MG Torralba, **S Lucas**, A Tovchigrechko, R Madupu, S Yooseph, KE Nelson, VK Shanmugam, AP Chan 2018. Co-occurrence of Anaerobes in Human Chronic Wounds. [Microbial ecology](#), pp.1-13.
- 2017 **Lucas, SK**, R Yang, JM Dunitz, HC Boyer, RC Hunter, 2018 (Published online August 2017). 16S rRNA gene sequencing reveals site-specific signatures of the upper and lower airways of cystic fibrosis patients. [Journal of Cystic Fibrosis](#), 17(2), pp.204-212.
- 2016 Sismaet HJ, A Banerjee, S McNish, Y Choi, M Torralba, **S Lucas**, A Chan, VK Shanmugam, and ED Goluch. Electrochemical detection of Pseudomonas in wound exudate samples from patients with chronic wounds. [Wound Repair Regen](#) 2016; 24(2):366-72
- 2015 Shankar J, MH Nguyen, MM Crespo, EJ Kwak, **SK Lucas**, KJ McHugh, S Mounaud, JF Alcorn, JM Pilewski, N Shigemura, et al. Looking beyond respiratory cultures: Microbiome-cytokine signatures of bacterial pneumonia and tracheobronchitis in lung transplant recipients. [Am J Transplant](#) 2015; 16(6):1766-78
- 2013 Yeoman CJ, SM Thomas, MEB Miller, AV Ulanov, M Torralba, **S Lucas**, M Gillis, M Cregger, A Gomez, M Ho, et al. A multi-omic systems-based approach reveals metabolic markers of bacterial vaginosis and insight into the disease. [PloS One](#) 2013; 8(2):e56111
- 2012 Fouts DE, R Pieper, S Szpakowski, H Pohl, S Knoblach, M-J Suh, S-T Huang, I Ljungberg, BM Sprague, **SK Lucas**, et al. Integrated next-generation sequencing of 16s rDNA and metaproteomics differentiate the healthy urine microbiome from asymptomatic bacteriuria in neuropathic bladder associated with spinal cord injury. [J Transl Med](#) 2012; 10(1):174

## Presentations

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- 2019 **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Microbiome Meeting (Poster)**  
**Abstract:** Anaerobic mucin degradation as a bacterial phenotype associated with chronic rhinosinusitis pathogenesis. **Authors:** Lucas SK, RA Itabiyi, E Feddema, HC Boyer, RC Hunter
- ASM Microbe 2019 (Talk/Poster)**  
**Abstract:** Anaerobic mucin degradation as a bacterial phenotype associated with chronic rhinosinusitis pathogenesis. **Authors:** Lucas SK, RA Itabiyi, E Feddema, HC Boyer, RC Hunter  
**Abstract:** Bioorthogonal non-canonical amino acid tagging reveals translationally active subpopulations in the cystic fibrosis lung microbiota. **Authors:** Valentini, D. **SK Lucas**, LC Cameron, J Motl, JM Dunitz, RC Hunter

- 2018 **North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference (Talk/Poster)**  
**Workshop:** Microbial Ecology of the CF Airways  
**Abstract:** Mucin as a nutrient source for *Staphylococcus aureus* in vitro and in cystic fibrosis associated chronic rhinosinusitis. **Authors:** Lucas SK, J Flynn, RA Itabiyi, JM Dunitz, HC Boyer, RC Hunter
- Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference – MMPC (Trainee Talk/Poster)**  
**Abstract:** Anaerobic mucin degradation as a bacterial phenotype associated with chronic rhinosinusitis. **Authors:** Lucas SK, J Flynn, RA Itabiyi, JM Dunitz, HC Boyer, RC Hunter
- International Society for Microbial Ecology – ISME17 (Poster)**  
**Abstract:** Anaerobic mucin degradation as a bacterial phenotype associated with chronic rhinosinusitis. **Authors:** Lucas SK, J Flynn, RA Itabiyi, JM Dunitz, HC Boyer, RC Hunter
- 2017 **University of Minnesota Cystic Fibrosis Research Collaborative Meeting (Talk)**  
**Title:** Microbial communities associated with chronic rhinosinusitis in cystic fibrosis.
- ASM Microbe 2017 (Poster)**  
**Abstract:** Bacterial Diversity in the Human Paranasal Sinuses Associated with Chronic Rhinosinusitis. **Authors:** Sarah K. Lucas, Robert Yang, Ali Nicholson, Jordan M. Dunitz, Holly C. Boyer, Ryan C. Hunter
- 2016 **MICaB Student Seminar (Talk)**  
**Title:** Sinus and lung microbial communities provide insights into chronic sinusitis in cystic fibrosis patients
- Center for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Translational Research (CIDMTR) Seminar (Talk)**  
**Title:** Research in Progress: A comprehensive analysis of microbial communities in the upper and lower airways of cystic fibrosis patients
- Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference (MMPC) (Poster)**  
**Abstract:** 16S sequencing reveals site-specific signatures of the paranasal sinuses and lower airways of cystic fibrosis patients. **Authors:** Sarah K. Lucas, Robert Yang, Ali Nicholson, Jordan M. Dunitz, Holly C. Boyer, Ryan C. Hunter
- ASM Microbe 2016 (Poster)**  
**Abstract:** 16S sequencing reveals site-specific signatures of the paranasal sinuses and lower airways of cystic fibrosis patients. **Authors:** Sarah K. Lucas, Robert Yang, Ali Nicholson, Jordan M. Dunitz, Holly C. Boyer, Ryan C. Hunter
- Mayo Clinic Microbial Ecology Retreat: Integrating Microbial Ecology and Evolution in Human Microbiome Health Research (Talk)**  
**Title:** Microbial ecology in cystic fibrosis
- 2015 **Telluride Science and Research Center Workshop: Cystic Fibrosis: Ecology, Evolution, and Eradication (Talk)**  
**Title:** The microbiome of cystic fibrosis associated chronic rhinosinusitis

## Awards and Fellowships

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- 2019 **Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2019-2020 Academic Year)**  
Competitive stipend and travel fellowship awarded by the UMN Graduate School to PhD candidates in their final year of studies.
- Microbial and Plant Genomics Institute (MPGI) Travel Award**  
Amount awarded: \$400. For travel to ASM Microbe 2019.
- 2018 **MICaB CGS Student Service Award**  
Annual graduate program award in recognition of student embodiment of MICaB scholarly and service values.
- 2017 **Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology Travel Award**  
Amount awarded: \$1000
- NIDCR/NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (F31).** Title: The role of mucin degradation by anaerobic bacteria in *Staphylococcus aureus* pathogenesis in chronic rhinosinusitis.
- Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology Student Service Award**  
In recognition of outstanding contributions to the MICaB graduate program and for promoting program excellence.
- Outstanding Performance Award for Teaching Assistants – Fall 2016** (finalist)  
Annual college-wide award recognizing teaching assistants who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and/or other instructional activities. Nominations are voluntarily made by undergraduate students.
- 2016 **Minnesota Craniofacial Research Training (MinnCResT) Predoctoral Fellowship (September 2016 – December 2017)**  
A National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR/NIH) T32 predoctoral training fellowship. A three-year fellowship granting a full stipend and financial research support.
- 2015 **Peter Salamon Award for Young Scientists**  
Travel Award for the Telluride Science and Research Center Workshop - Cystic Fibrosis: Ecology, Evolution, and Eradication.

## Professional Organizations/Community Outreach

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- 2019 **Twin Cities Microbiome Club – Co-Founder**  
A regional club was established in the Summer of 2019 with the intent to create a unifying group for microbiome researchers, both academic and industry, in the Twin Cities and surrounding area. Future events will include a journal club, seminar series, happy hours, and public engagement events.

2018, **High School Science Fair Judge, Animal Sciences, Biomedical Sciences** (Participate annually)  
2017 Twin Cities Regional Science Fair, Minneapolis, MN

**Market Science Event Organizer, Medical Microbiology**

Midtown Farmers Market table for community education on basic medical microbiological concepts.

**American Society for Microbiology (ASM), 2011 - Present**

**Graduate Women in Science (GWIS), Xi Chapter, 2016**