

RICK BIENKOWSKI

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EDUCATION

- Emory University**, Atlanta GA 2010-2016 (Expected)
- PhD Candidate in the lab of Dr. Kenneth Moberg, Genetics and Molecular Biology Program
- University of New York, Stony Brook**, Stony Brook NY 2007-2009
- BS, Biochemistry
- Cornell University**, Ithaca NY 2002-2006
- BS, Biological and Environmental Engineering

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- NIH Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award** 2014-Present
- Scored in top 8% of submitted proposals (Project #:1F31HD079226)
- T32 Genetics and Molecular Biology Training Grant Award** 2010-2013
- Awarded to the top 2 students in each incoming class based on academic achievement

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Emory University**, Department of Cell Biology 2010-Present
- Graduate Research Assistant**, laboratory of Dr. Kenneth Moberg
- Co-mentored by Dr. Anita Corbett
 - Dissertation: *The evolutionarily conserved RNA-binding protein dNab2 interacts with the Fragile-X protein homolog and regulates protein expression in Drosophila neurons*
 - Planned, designed and executed experiments for multiple studies using techniques including PCR, qPCR, western blotting, immunofluorescence, cell culture, and RNA-seq
 - Utilized genetic techniques in *Drosophila* including the FLP-FRT system, MARCM, and imprecise excision to generate stocks and perform experiments
 - Wrote and edited scientific articles, standard operating protocols and successful grant proposals
 - Regularly presented research findings at internal lab meetings and at national scientific conferences
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine**, Department of Neuroscience, Bronx NY 2009-2010
- Research Assistant**, laboratory of Dr. Vytautas Verselis
- Studied the role of a connexin hemichannel in hereditary skin disease and hearing loss
 - Identified that the patient mutation AV40 in Cx26 leads to the formation of hemichannels that are insensitive to regulation by changes in pH or by Zn²⁺

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Emory University**, Department of Biology, Atlanta GA 2015
- Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Human Genetics
- Presented weekly lectures and led class discussions for a class of 30 students
- Emory University**, Department of Biology, Atlanta GA 2012
- Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Developmental Biology,
- Graded assignments, tests, and led class discussions for a class of 20 students

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Engineer**, Roux Associates, Islandia NY 2007
- Designed components of a soil vapor extraction system to remove methane gas from a 17 million gallon underground oil spill in Greenpoint, Brooklyn
- Engineer**, Kleinfelder Associates, Bohemia NY 2006-2007
- Performed pilot studies and analyzed data for the design of groundwater treatment systems

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- Member**, Emory GIVE 2015-present
- Participated in food drives and deliveries among other community outreach programs
- Treasurer**, Emory Advanced Degree Consulting Club 2015-2016
- Managed financial planning and reimbursements for student organization's \$6,000 budget
- Recruitment Committee Member**, Genetics and Molecular Biology 2012-2013
- Organized and coordinated recruitment events to highlight Emory's academic and student culture

PUBLICATIONS

Bienkowski, R, Rha, J, Banerjee, A, Rounds, J. et al. *The evolutionarily conserved RNA-binding protein dNab2 interacts with the Fragile-X protein homolog and mediates translational repression in Drosophila neurons*. Cell Reports, **In revision**

Kelly, SM, **Bienkowski, R** et al. *The Drosophila ortholog of the Zc3h14 RNA binding protein acts within neurons to pattern axon projection in the developing brain*. *Developmental Neurobiology*, 2016

Sanchez HA, **Bienkowski R**, Slavi N, Srinivas M, Verselis VK. Altered inhibition of Cx26 hemichannels by pH and Zn²⁺ in the A40V mutation associated with keratitis-ichthyosis-deafness syndrome. *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 2014

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Bienkowski, R, Kelly, S., Corbett, A, and Moberg, K. *A Drosophila model of inherited intellectual disability: Identifying neuronal RNAs and proteins that interact with the polyadenosine RNA binding protein dNab2*. Neurobiology of Drosophila Conference 2013 (Cold Spring Harbor)

Bienkowski, R., Wigington, C., Corbett, A.H., and Moberg, K.H. The ARE RNA-binding protein fne and the polyadenosine RNA-binding protein dNab2 interact to regulate steady-state RNA levels in a fly model of human intellectual disability. DSAC Student Research Symposium (Emory University)

Bienkowski, R.S., Wigington, C., Corbett, A.H., and Moberg, K.H. (2012) *Interactions between the HuD homolog fne and the dNab2 polyadenosine RNA binding factor in a fly model of human intellectual disability*. 53rd Annual Drosophila Research Conference (Chicago, IL)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Software Skills: Tuxedo Suite tools for RNA-Seq (Bowtie, TopHat, Cufflinks), GraphPad Prism, R, EndNote, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel

REFERENCES

Kennth Moberg
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