



# Jacob L. Steenwyk

Ph.D. Candidate  
Evolutionary genomics  
jacob.steenwyk@vanderbilt.edu  
<https://jlsteenwyk.github.io>

## EDUCATION

<b>Present</b>	Ph.D. Candidate, Biological Sciences Advisor: Antonis Rokas GPA: 3.97	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>
<b>2016</b>	M.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Advisor: John G. Gibbons GPA: 3.98	<b>Clark University</b>
<b>2015</b>	B.A. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Advisor: Denis Larochelle Cumulative GPA: 3.84 Science GPA: 3.84	<b>Clark University</b>

## AWARDS

<b>2019</b>	Gilliam Predoctoral Fellowship, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
<b>2019</b>	Ann Bernard Martin Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, Vanderbilt University
<b>2019</b>	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, National Institutes of Health
<b>2019</b>	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Ford Foundation
<b>2019</b>	Graduate student travel grant, Vanderbilt University
<b>2019</b>	Curb Center Fellow, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University
<b>2018</b>	GENETICS Peer Review Training Program, Genetics Society of America
<b>2018</b>	Best poster award, Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology, Gordon Research Seminar
<b>2018</b>	Best poster award, Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology, Gordon Research Conference
<b>2018</b>	Best poster award, Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University
<b>2018</b>	T-shirt design contest winner, Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University
<b>2017</b>	Graduate student travel grant, Vanderbilt University
<b>2016</b>	Graduate student council travel awards, Clark University
<b>2015</b>	Summa cum laude, Clark University
<b>2014</b>	Summer research scholar, Bridging the gaps, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
<b>2013</b>	Global environmental microbiology scholar, Center for dark energy biosphere investigations, University of Southern California
<b>2011</b>	Jonas Clark Scholar, Clark University

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- DNA damage and repair
- Gene and genome evolution
- Evolution of technologically and medically significant fungi
- Phylogenetics and phylogenomics

## SOCIETIES

*Genetics Society of America, American Society for Microbiology, Mycological Society of America, Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science*

## FUNDING

<b>Howard Hughes Medical Institute</b>	Principal co-investigator (shared with Antonis Rokas), 09/19-09/22, Examining the loss of diverse DNA repair genes and long-term hypermutation in a lineage of budding yeasts, Gilliam Fellowship, Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, \$150,000
<b>National Institutes of Health</b>	Principal investigator, 08/19-08/22, Examining the loss of diverse DNA repair genes and long-term hypermutation in a lineage of budding yeasts, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31), \$88,128 (declined)
<b>Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow</b>	Principal investigator, 08/19-08/22, The consequences of aberrant cell cycle and DNA repair processes in budding yeast, Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, \$72,000 (declined)
<b>Curb Center ArtLab Fellow</b>	Principal investigator, 12/18-04/19, Bridging the gap between artist and scientist, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University, \$300

## INVITED TALKS

<b>2019</b>	Genetics Society of America, Early Career Scientist Seminar Series
<b>2019</b>	Gordon Research Conference, Molecular Mechanisms in Evolution, Easton, MA
<b>2019</b>	Gordon Research Seminar, Molecular Mechanisms in Evolution, Easton, MA (declined)
<b>2019</b>	Focal Point, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2019</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA
<b>2019</b>	Phylogenomics and Evolution Group, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
<b>2018</b>	ArtLab Seminar Series, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2015</b>	TedXClarkUniversity, Clark University, Worcester, MA

## CONTRIBUTED TALKS

<b>2019</b>	DNA Damage and Response Journal Club, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2019</b>	Research in Progress Seminar, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2019</b>	Biological Sciences Annual Retreat, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2019</b>	Science club at the library, Nashville Public Library, Nashville, TN
<b>2018</b>	Nashville Science Club, Jackalope Brewing Company, Nashville, TN
<b>2017</b>	Mycological Society of America, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
<b>2016</b>	Mycological Society of America, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
<b>2016</b>	Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference, Clark University, Worcester, MA

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

<b>2019-Pres.</b>	Olivia Zheng
<b>2018-Pres.</b>	Megan A. Phillips
<b>2018-2019</b>	Benjamin Buckman
<b>2018</b>	Devin G. Arrants

## WORKSHOP TEACHING

<b>2019</b>	Organizer and instructor, Values-based leadership, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2019</b>	Founder and instructor, 'A beginner's guide to making figures in R', Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
<b>2019</b>	Instructor, Workshop on Phylogenomics, Evolution and Genomics, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

**2019** Instructor, Workshop on Genomics, Evolution and Genomics, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**2017-2019** Teaching Assistant, Introductory Biology Lab, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
**2016** Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Biostatistics, Clark University, Worcester, MA  
**2014-2015** Teaching Assistant, Cell Biology, Clark University, Worcester, MA

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

---

**2019** HHMI Investigators Science Meeting, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Bethesda, MD  
**2019** Gilliam Fellows Annual Meeting, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Bethesda, MD  
**2019** Molecular Mechanisms in Evolution, Gordon Research Conference, Easton, MA  
**2019** Molecular Mechanisms in Evolution, Gordon Research Seminar, Easton, MA  
**2019** 30<sup>th</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA  
**2019** Asperfest pre-meeting at 30<sup>th</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA  
**2018** Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology, Gordon Research Conference, Holderness, NH  
**2018** Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology, Gordon Research Seminar, Holderness, NH  
**2018** Department of Biological Sciences Annual Retreat, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
**2015** Bumpus Symposium, Clark University, Worcester, MA  
**2015** Traina Scholars Presentation, Clark University, Worcester, MA  
**2015** Summer Research Presentation, Clark University, Worcester, MA

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**2016-Pres.** Antonis Rokas Lab at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Doctoral Research. Evolution of medically and technologically significant fungi.  
**2015-2016** John Gibbons Lab at Clark University, Worcester, MA. Undergraduate and Master's Research. Copy number variation in the human pathogen, *Cryptococcus gattii*.  
**2015-2016** Robert Drewell Lab at Clark University, Worcester, MA. Undergraduate and Master's Research. Genome-wide methylation patterns in the social amoeba, *Dictyostelium discoideum*.  
**2014** Ite A. Laird-Offringa Lab at University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. Bridging the Gaps Summer Scholar. Mapping the autoimmune triggering epitope of *ELAVL4* in small cell lung cancer.  
**2013** John Heidelberg and Eric Webb Labs at University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. Global Environmental Microbiology Summer Scholar. Fresh and marine water microbial diversity.

## SERVICE

---

**2019-Pres.** Co-chair, Communication and Outreach Subcommittee, Genetics Society of America  
**2019-Pres.** Inclusion Coordinator, The Evolutionary Studies Initiative at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
**2019-Pres.** Graphic Illustrator, The Evolutionary Studies Initiative at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
**2019-Pres.** President, Inclusivity in Biosciences Association, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
**2018-Pres.** Volunteer Deputy, American Society of Microbiology Vanderbilt University Chapter, Nashville, TN  
**2017-Pres.** Educational outreach booth design and execution, MEGAMicrobe, Nashville, TN  
**2017-Pres.** Communications chair, Inclusivity in Biosciences Association, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

- 2017-Pres.** Member of the Dean of Graduate Student's survey quantitative analysis subgroup, Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2017-Pres.** Judge, Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
- 2019-2020** Co-chair, MEGAMicrobe, Vanderbilt Institute for Infections, Immunology and Inflammation, Nashville, TN
- 2018-2019** Vice President, Inclusivity in Biosciences Association, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2013-2019** Administrator and Owner, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry for Researchers and Students Group, LinkedIn
- 2019** Peer review workshop leader, 30<sup>th</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA
- 2018-2019** Vice President, Graduate Student Association, Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2018-2019** Vice co-chair, MEGAMicrobe, Vanderbilt Institute for Infections, Immunology and Inflammation, Nashville, TN
- 2017-2018** Secretary, Graduate Student Association, Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2017-2018** Scientific consultant, Little Harpeth Brewing, Nashville, TN
- 2017** Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, Volunteer Science Teacher, West End Middle School, Nashville, TN
- 2014-2015** Undergraduate Subcommittee for Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Faculty Search Committee, Clark University, Worcester, MA
- 2014-2015** Science Education Outreach Blogger, C-DEBI Sci-Curious Blog

## ART SHOWS

---

- 2020** Fire-Exhibition, Kefi Collective at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2019** Biomedical Sciences Winter Show, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2019** Focal point, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2019** Connecting the Dots, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2018** ArtLab opening reception, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2018** The Intersection between Art and Science, ArtLab, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

## MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

---

*Systematic Biology; Genome Biology and Evolution; BMC Genomics; Genetics; G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics; PLoS One; Molecular Genetics and Genomics; Young Scientists Journal; Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal*

## POPULAR SCIENCE ARTICLES

---

- (1) An outlaw yeast thrives with genetic chaos – and could provide clues for understanding cancer growth, *The Conversation*, May 21, 2019.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Preprints

- (2) Mead, M.E.\*, A.T. Borowsky\*, B. Joehnk, **J.L. Steenwyk**, X.-X. Shen, A. Sil, & A. Rokas (2019). Recurrent loss of *abaA*, a master regulator of asexual development in filamentous fungi, correlates with changes in genomic and morphological traits. (\*Equal contributors) bioRxiv. doi: 10.1101/829465
- (1) **Steenwyk, J.**, J. St. Denis, J. Dresch, D. Larochelle, & R. Drewell (2017). Whole genome bisulfite sequencing reveals a sparse, but robust pattern of DNA methylation in the *Dictyostelium discoideum* genome. bioRxiv. doi: 10.1101/166033

## Peer Review Published

- (20) Bastos, R.W., C. Valero, L.P. Silva, T. Schoen, M. Drott, V. Brauer, R. Silva-Rocha, A. Lind, **J.L. Steenwyk**, A. Rokas, F. Rodrigues, A. Resendiz-Sharpe, K. Lagrou, M. Marcet-Houben, T. Gabaldon, E. McDonnell, I. Reid, A. Tsang, B.R. Oakley, F. Loures, F. Almeida, A. Huttenlocher, N.P. Keller, L. Ries, G.H. Goldman (2020). Functional characterization of clinical isolates of the opportunistic fungal pathogen *Aspergillus nidulans*. mSphere: *in press*.
- (19) Rokas, A., M.E. Mead, **J.L. Steenwyk**, N.H. Oberlies, & G.H. Goldman (2020). Evolving moldy murderers: *Aspergillus* section *Fumigati* as a model for studying the repeated evolution of fungal pathogenicity. PLoS Pathogens. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1008315.
- (18) Knowles, S.L., M.E. Mead, L.P. Silva, H.A. Raja, **J.L. Steenwyk**, G.H. Gustavo, A. Rokas, & N.H. Oberlies (2020). Gliotoxin, a known virulence factor in the major human pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus*, is also biosynthesized by the non-pathogenic relative *A. fischeri*. mBio. doi: 10.1128/mBio.03361-19.
- (17) Libkind, D., D. Peris, F.A. Cubillos, **J.L. Steenwyk**, D.A. Opulente, Q.K. Langdon, N. Bellora, A. Rokas, & C.T. Hittinger (2020). Into the wild: new yeast genomes from natural environments and new tools for their analysis. FEMS Yeast Research. doi: 10.1093/femsyr/foaa008.
- (16) Rokas, A., M.E. Mead, **J.L. Steenwyk**, H.A. Raja, & N.H., Oberlies (2020). Biosynthetic gene clusters and the evolution of fungal chemodiversity. Natural Product Reports. doi: 10.1039/C9NP00045C.
- (15) Bodinakku, I., J. Shaffer, A.B. Connors, **J.L. Steenwyk**, E. Kastman, A. Rokas, A. Robbat, B. Wolfe (2019). Rapid phenotypic and metabolomics domestication of wild *Penicillium* molds on cheese. mBio. doi: 10.1128/mBio.02445-19.
- (14) Mead, M.E.\*, H.A. Raja\*, **J.L. Steenwyk**, S.L. Knowles, N.H. Oberlies^, & A. Rokas^ (2019). Draft genome sequence of the griseofulvin-producing fungus *Xylaria flabelliformis* strain G536. (\*Equal contributors; ^Senior authors) Microbiology Resource Announcements. doi: 10.1128/MRA.00890-19.
- (13) **Steenwyk, J.L.** & A. Rokas (2019). treehouse: a user-friendly application to obtain subtrees from large phylogenies. BMC Research Notes. doi: 10.1186/s13104-019-4577-5
- (12) Labella, A.L., D.A. Opulente, **J.L. Steenwyk**, C.T. Hittinger, & A. Rokas (2019). Variation and selection on codon usage bias across an entire subphylum. PLoS Genetics. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1008304
- (11) **Steenwyk, J.L.**, X.-X. Shen, A.L. Lind, G.H. Goldman, & A. Rokas (2019). A robust phylogenomic timetree for biotechnologically and medically important fungi in the genera *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*. mBio. doi: 10.1128/mBio.00925-19
- (10) **Steenwyk, J.L.**, D. Opulente, J. Kominek, X.-X. Shen, X. Zhou, A.L. LaBella, N.P. Bradley, B.F. Eichman, N. Čadež, D. Libkind, J. DeVirgilio, A.B. Hulfachor, C.P. Kurtzman, C.T. Hittinger^, & A. Rokas^ (2019). Extensive loss of cell cycle and DNA repair genes in an ancient lineage of bipolar budding yeasts. (^Senior authors) PLoS Biology. doi: 10.1371/journal.pbio.3000255
- (9) Ries, L.N.A., **J.L. Steenwyk**, P.A. de Castro, P.B.A. de Lima, F. Almeida, L.J. de Assis, A.O. Manfiolli, A. Takahashi-Nakaguchi, Y. Kusuya, D. Hagiwara, H. Takahashi, X. Wang,

- J. Obar, A. Rokas, & G.H. Goldman (2019). Nutritional heterogeneity among *Aspergillus fumigatus* strains has consequences for virulence in a strain- and host-dependent manner. *Frontiers in Microbiology*. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2019.00854
- (8) Mead M.E., S.L. Knowles, H.A. Raja, S.R. Beattie, C.H. Kowalski, **J.L. Steenwyk**, L.P. Silva, J. Chiaratto, L.N.A. Ries, G.G. Goldman, R.A. Cramer, N.H. Oberlies, & A. Rokas (2019). Characterizing the pathogenic, genomic, and chemical traits of *Aspergillus fischeri*, the closest sequenced relative of the major human fungal pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus*. *mSphere*. doi: 10.1128/mSphere.00018-19
  - (7) Knowles, S.L., H.A. Raja, A.J. Wright, A.M.L. Lee, L.K. Caesar, N.B. Cech, M.E. Mead, **J.L. Steenwyk**, L.N.A. Ries, G.H. Goldman, A. Rokas, & N.H. Oberlies (2019). Mapping the Fungal Battlefield: Using *in situ* Chemistry and Deletion Mutants to Monitor Interspecific Chemical Interactions between Fungi. *Frontiers in Microbiology*: doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2019.00285
  - (6) Eidem, H.R., **J.L. Steenwyk**, J. Wisecaver, J.A. Capra, P. Abbot, & A. Rokas (2018). integRATE: a desirability-based data integration framework for the prioritization of candidate genes across heterogeneous ‘omics and its application to preterm birth. *BMC Medical Genomics*. doi: 10.1186/s12920-018-0426-y
  - (5) Shen, X.-X.\*, D.A. Opulente\*, J. Kominek\*, X. Zhou\*, **J.L. Steenwyk**, K.V. Buh, M.A.B. Haase, J.H. Wisecaver, M. Wang, D.T. Doering, J.T. Boudouris, R.M. Schneider, Q.K. Langdon, M. Ohkuma, R. Endoh, M. Takashima, R. Manabe, N. Čadež, D. Libkind, C.A. Rosa, J. DeVirgilio, A.B. Hulfachor, M. Groenewald, C.P. Kurtzman^, C.T. Hittinger^ & A. Rokas^ (2018). (\*Equal contributors; ^Senior authors). Tempo and mode of genome evolution in the budding yeast subphylum. *Cell*. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2018.10.023
  - (4) Segal, E.S., V. Gritsenko, A. Levitan, B. Yadav, N. Dror, **J.L. Steenwyk**, Y. Silberberg, K. Mielich, A. Rokas, N.A.R. Gow, R. Kunze, R. Sharan, & J. Berman (2018). Gene Essentiality Analyzed by In Vivo Transposon Mutagenesis and Machine Learning in a Stable Haploid Isolate of *Candida albicans*. *mBio*. doi: 10.1128/mBio.02048-18
  - (3) **Steenwyk, J.L.** & A. Rokas (2018). Copy number variation in fungi and its implications for wine yeast genetic diversity and adaptation. *Frontiers in Microbiology*. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2018.00288
  - (2) **Steenwyk, J.** & A. Rokas (2017). Extensive Copy number variation in fermentation-related genes among *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* wine strains. *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*. doi: 10.1534/g3.117.040105
  - (1) **Steenwyk J.L.**, J.S. Soghigian, J.R. Perfect, & J.G. Gibbons (2016). Copy number variation contributes to cryptic genetic variation in outbreak lineages of *Cryptococcus gattii* from the North American Pacific Northwest. *BMC Genomics*. doi: 10.1186/s12864-016-3044-0