

Amy K Webster, PhD

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

<i>Florida State University</i> Assistant Professor (tenure-track) Department of Biological Science	August 2024 – present Tallahassee, FL
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<i>University of Oregon</i> NIH F32 Kirschstein NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow (2023 – 2024) Postdoctoral Scholar (2021 – 2023) Institute of Ecology and Evolution Research Advisor: Patrick Phillips	June 2021 – August 2024 Eugene, OR
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EDUCATION

<i>Duke University</i> PhD, Genetics and Genomics Research Advisor: Ryan Baugh NSF Graduate Research Fellow	August 2015 – May 2021 Durham, NC
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<i>University of Georgia</i> BS, Genetics BS, Mathematics Research Advisors: Kelly Dawe, Daniel Promislow Cumulative GPA: 3.97/4.00, <i>summa cum laude</i> with highest honors Goldwater Scholar	August 2011 – May 2015 Athens, GA
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PUBLICATIONS (*equal contribution)

1. **Webster AK** and Phillips PC. 2025. Epigenetics and individuality: from concepts to causality across timescales. *Nature Reviews Genetics*.
2. (Preprint)
Webster AK, Willis JH, Johnson E, Sarkies P, Phillips PC. 2023. Epigenetic context predicts gene expression variation and reproductive traits across genetically identical individuals. *bioRxiv*. DOI: doi.org/10.1101/2023.10.13.562270.
3. **Webster AK** and Phillips PC. 2024. Heritable epigenetic variation facilitates long-term maintenance of epigenetic and genetic variation. *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*. 14(2). jkad287.
4. Jordan JM, **Webster AK**, Chen J, Chitrakar R, Baugh LR. 2023. Early-life starvation alters lipid metabolism in adults to cause developmental pathology in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Genetics*. iyac172.
5. **Webster AK**, Chitrakar R, Taylor SM, Baugh LR. 2022. Alternative somatic and germline gene-regulatory strategies during starvation-induced developmental arrest. *Cell Reports*. 41: 111473.
 - Submission selected for cover art
6. **Webster AK**, Chitrakar R, Powell M, Chen J, Fisher K, Tanny R, Stevens L, Evans K, Wei A, Antoshechkin I, Andersen EC, Baugh LR. 2022. Using population selection and sequencing to characterize natural variation of starvation resistance in *C. elegans*. *eLife*. 11:e80204.
7. Fry AL, **Webster AK**, Burnett J, Chitrakar R, Baugh LR, Hubbard EJA. 2021. DAF-18/PTEN inhibits germline zygotic gene activation during primordial germ cell quiescence. *PLoS Genetics*. 17(7): e1009650.
8. Lee D, Zdravljec S, Stevens L, Wang Y, Tanny RE, Crombie TA, Cook DE, **Webster AK**, Chitrakar R, Baugh LR, Sterken M, Braendle C, Félix MA, Rockman M, Andersen EC. 2021. Balancing selection maintains hyper-divergent haplotypes in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. 1-14.

9. Hibshman JD*, **Webster AK***, Baugh LR. 2021. Liquid-culture protocols for synchronous starvation, growth, dauer formation, and dietary restriction of *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *STAR Protocols*. 2(1).
10. **Webster AK**, Hung A, Moore BT, Guzman R, Jordan JM, Kaplan REW, Hibshman JD, Tanny RE, Cook DE, Andersen EC, Baugh LR. 2019. Population selection and sequencing of *C. elegans* wild isolates identifies a region on chromosome III affecting starvation resistance. *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*. 9(10). 3477-3488.
11. Jordan JM, Hibshman JD, **Webster AK**, Kaplan REW, Leinroth A, Guzman R, Maxwell CS, Chitrakar R, Bowman EA, Fry AL, Hubbard EJA, Baugh LR. 2019. Insulin/IGF Signaling and Vitellogenin Provisioning Mediate Intergenerational Adaptation to Nutrient Stress. *Current Biology*. 29. 2380-2388.
12. Kaplan REW, **Webster AK**, Chitrakar R, Dent JA, Baugh LR. 2018. Food perception without ingestion leads to metabolic changes and irreversible developmental arrest in *C. elegans*. *BMC Biology*. 16(112).
13. **Webster AK**, Jordan JM, Hibshman JD, Chitrakar R, Baugh LR. 2018. Transgenerational Effects of Extended Dauer Diapause on Starvation Survival and Gene Expression Plasticity in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Genetics*. 210(1), 263-274.
 - Chosen as a September 2018 Highlight in *Genetics*
 - Selected for the Marcy Speer Best Scientific Paper Award
14. Hibshman JD, Doan AE, Moore BT, Kaplan REW, Hung A, **Webster AK**, Bhatt DP, Chitrakar R, Hirschey MD, Baugh LR. 2017. *daf-16*/FoxO promotes gluconeogenesis and trehalose synthesis during starvation to support survival. *eLife*. 6.
15. Burton NO, Furuta T, **Webster AK**, Kaplan RE, Baugh LR, Arur S, Horvitz HR. 2017. Insulin-like signaling to the maternal germline controls progeny response to osmotic stress. *Nature Cell Biology*. 19(3), 252-257.
16. **Webster AK**, Cieszewski R, Promislow DEL. 2014. The Role of Age-Structure in the Optimal Germination Fraction of Seeds. *Mathematical And Computational Forestry & Natural-Resource Sciences (MCFNS)*, 6(1), 26-35 (10).

SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

2023 – 2024	National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA F32 Fellowship
2023	Professional Development Grant, University of Oregon Postdoctoral Association
2021	Jo Rae Wright Fellowship for Outstanding Women in Science, Duke University (declined due to graduation)
2020	Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (CARE), Duke University
2020	Grant-In-Aid, Duke Biology Department
2015 – 2020	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
2019	DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics, Genetics Society of America
2019	Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics Scholarship, University of Washington
2018	Marcy Speer Best Scientific Paper Award, Duke University
2017, 2019	Graduate School Conference Travel Award, Duke University
2015 – 2017	National Institutes of Health T32 Fellowship, Duke Program in Genetics and Genomics
2015	Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award, University of Georgia Genetics Department
2015	Cynthia Kenyon Outstanding Undergraduate Award, University of Georgia Genetics Department
2015	Joy P. Williams Science Award, University of Georgia Honors Program
2014	DAAD RISE Program, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics
2014	Goldwater Scholarship

2013 Hollingsworth Award, University of Georgia Math Department
 2012 SURE Program, Emory University
 2011 – 2015 Zell Miller Scholarship
 2011 – 2015 Charter Scholarship, University of Georgia

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2023 Visiting Scholar, University of Oxford
 ▪ Visit the lab of Dr. Peter Sarkies to present research and collaborate in the area of epigenetics and evolution

2022 – 2023 Women's Innovation Network, University of Oregon
 ▪ Selective program to receive individual mentorship in entrepreneurship and business strategy; participate in monthly seminars and social events

2019 Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, University of Washington
 ▪ Completed modules: 1) Statistical Genetics and 2) Association Mapping: GWAS and Sequencing Data
 ▪ Awarded competitive DeLill Nasser Award to attend

2018 – 2019 *GENETICS* Peer Review Training Program
 ▪ Selective program for early career scientists
 ▪ Completed formal peer review training curriculum and review manuscripts submitted to *GENETICS*

2018 – 2019 Preparing Future Faculty Program, Duke University
 ▪ Selective program for graduate students pursuing academic positions, including site visits and individual mentorship from faculty member at a partner university (NC State)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2022 Instructor of Record, BI410/510: Data Management and Visualization, University of Oregon
 • Course for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students to develop proficiency in using R for data visualization

Spring 2019 Guest lecture, GN703: Quantitative and Population Genetics, NC State University
 • Class taught as part of Preparing Future Faculty program

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

At Florida State University:

Doctoral Committee Member

Yu Fang (Cell and Molecular Biology, Fall 2024 – present)

Yacob Gebreab (Cell and Molecular Biology, Fall 2024 – present)

Zohre Panahidizjikan (Cell and Molecular Biology, Fall 2024 – present)

Rimil Guha Roy (Neuroscience, Fall 2024 – present)

Doctoral Student Laboratory Rotations

Madison DePeri (Spring 2025)

Bachelor's Student Research

Sophia Nicolini (Spring 2025 – present)

Ava Adriani (Fall 2024 – present)

Diana Chirila (Fall 2024 – present)

Elizabeth Hogan (Fall 2024 – present)

Onyinye Onyia (Fall 2024 – present)

At Duke University:

Bachelor's Student Research

Sophia Gomez (Spring 2019 – Spring 2020)

Darshan Gove (Summer 2016)

Shagun Vashisth (Spring 2017)

Angela Wei (Spring 2019 – Fall 2019, co-author on Webster et al. 2022a)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited External Seminars

2025	University of Florida, TBD for Spring 2025
2024	University of Kansas, Department of Molecular Biosciences: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2024	Florida State University, Department of Biological Science: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2024	Louisiana State University, Department of Biological Sciences: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2024	Syracuse University, Department of Biology: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2024	University of North Texas, Department of Biological sciences: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2023	Dartmouth College, Department of Biological Sciences: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2023	University of Mississippi, Department of Biology: "Epigenetic regulation underlies phenotypic variation and drives evolutionary trajectories"
2023	University of Oxford, Department of Biochemistry: "Epigenetic regulation underlying phenotypic variation and driving evolutionary trajectories"
2023	College of Idaho, Bioinformatics Seminar in the Department of Biology: "Inter-individual variation in gene expression underlies reproductive traits in isogenic <i>C. elegans</i> "
2022	Clemson University Center for Human Genetics, Virtual Symposium: "Integrating multiple sources of variation into the genotype-phenotype map"

Conference Talks

2024	The Allied Genetics Conference, Washington, DC: "Epigenetic context predicts gene expression variation and reproductive traits across genetically identical individuals"
2023	24 th International <i>C. elegans</i> Conference, Glasgow Event Campus, Glasgow, Scotland: "Inter-individual variation in gene expression underlies reproductive traits in isogenic worms"
2022	Population, Evolutionary, and Quantitative Genetics Conference (PEQG), Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA: "Heritable epigenetic variation facilitates maintenance of genetic variation"
2021	23 rd International <i>C. elegans</i> Conference: "Natural genetic variation in <i>irld</i> genes modifies insulin signaling to influence starvation resistance"
2020	Ecology, Evolution and Genomics of <i>C. elegans</i> and Other Nematodes Conference: "Uncovering natural genetic variation affecting starvation resistance using locus-specific population sequencing in <i>C. elegans</i> "

- 2019 Mechanisms and Evolution of Intergenerational Change Conference, Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, UK: "Transgenerational effects of extended dauer diapause on starvation survival and gene expression plasticity in *C. elegans*"
- 2019 22nd International *C. elegans* Conference, University of California, Los Angeles: "Population selection and sequencing of *C. elegans* wild isolates identifies a region on chromosome III affecting starvation resistance"

Local Invited Seminars and Talks

- 2021 Duke Genetics Recruitment: "Uncovering natural genetic variation in starvation resistance using population sequencing in *C. elegans*"
- 2020 Duke Genetics Student Seminar: "Uncovering natural genetic variation affecting starvation resistance using locus-specific population sequencing in *C. elegans*"
- 2020 Duke Genetics Recruitment: "Uncovering natural genetic variation in starvation resistance using population sequencing in *C. elegans*"
- 2019 Duke Genetics Student Retreat: "Population selection and sequencing of *C. elegans* wild isolates identifies genomic regions affecting starvation resistance"
- 2019 Duke Genetics Recruitment: "Transgenerational effects of early-life starvation on fitness and gene expression in *C. elegans*"
- 2018 Duke Population Biology Seminar: "Uncovering natural genetic variation in starvation resistance using population sequencing in *C. elegans*"
- 2018 Duke Development, Cell, and Molecular Biology Seminar: "Uncovering natural genetic variation in starvation resistance using population sequencing in *C. elegans*"
- 2018 Duke Genetics Student Retreat: "Transgenerational effects of extended dauer diapause on starvation survival and gene expression plasticity in *C. elegans*"
- 2018 Duke Genetics Recruitment: "Extended dauer diapause in *C. elegans* confers transgenerational starvation resistance"
- 2017 Duke Epigenetics and Epigenomics Seminar: "Proximal and transgenerational effects of long-term dauer diapause in *C. elegans*"
- 2017 Duke Development, Cell and Molecular Biology Department Seminar: "Transgenerational effects of long-term dauer arrest in *C. elegans*"
- 2017 Duke Genetics Student Retreat: "Regulation of gene expression during starvation in *C. elegans*"
- 2017 Duke Genetics Student Seminar: "Transgenerational effects of dauer arrest in *C. elegans*"
- 2015 CURO Symposium, University of Georgia: "Molecular and Genetic Analysis of the Ab10 Meiotic Drive Haplotype in Maize and Teosinte"
- 2014 CURO Symposium, University of Georgia: "Breaking Mendel's Laws: The Role of Abnormal Chromosome 10 in Meiotic Drive"

Posters

- 2023 2nd Annual Oregon Postdoc Research Symposium, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR: "Epigenetic context predicts gene expression variation and reproductive traits across genetically identical individuals"
- 2022 Aging, Metabolism, Stress, Pathogenesis, and Small RNAs in *C. elegans* Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison: "Alternative somatic and germline gene-regulatory strategies during starvation-induced developmental arrest"
- 2020 The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC): "Gene expression analysis and temporal ablation of AMA-1/PoIII show that transcriptional regulation supports survival deep into starvation"

2019	Mechanisms and Evolution of Intergenerational Change Conference, Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, UK : "Transgenerational effects of extended dauer diapause on starvation survival and gene expression plasticity in <i>C. elegans</i> "
2019	22 nd International <i>C. elegans</i> Conference, University of California, Los Angeles: "Transgenerational effects of extended dauer diapause on starvation survival and gene expression plasticity in <i>C. elegans</i> "
2018	Population, Evolutionary, and Quantitative Genetics Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison: "Ancestral life history and natural genetic variation shape starvation survival in <i>C. elegans</i> "
2017	21 st International <i>C. elegans</i> Conference, University of California, Los Angeles: "Transgenerational effects of long-term dauer arrest"
2016	Aging, Metabolism, Stress, Pathogenesis, and Small RNAs in <i>C. elegans</i> Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison: "Understanding persistent effects of L1 arrest, dauer arrest, and dietary restriction in the context of a fluctuating environment"
2014	Plant Center Retreat, University of Georgia: "Abnormal Chromosome 10 Exhibits Meiotic Drive in <i>Zea mays parviglumis</i> "
2014	CURO Symposium, University of Georgia: "Breaking Mendel's Laws: The Role of Abnormal Chromosome 10 in Meiotic Drive"
2012	Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Symposium, Emory University: "Characterization of <i>sig-1</i> -mediated Transgene Desilencing in <i>C. elegans</i> "

ACADEMIC SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND MENTORING

2019 – present	Peer review manuscripts for <i>Genetics</i> , <i>G3</i> , <i>STAR Protocols</i> , <i>Ecology and Evolution</i> , <i>Nature Communications</i>
2021 – present	Goldwater Scholar Community Mentor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual mentoring of three undergraduate students who are interested in careers in science
2021 – 2024	University of Oregon Postdoctoral Association (UOPA) Committee, Secretary (2021 – 2022), Webmaster (2022 – present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan social and professional development events Manage UOPA website Facilitate application process for awards
2023	Poster judge for the 24 th International <i>C. elegans</i> conference
2023	Poster judge for Graduate Research Forum at the University of Oregon
2022	Poster judge for quantitative genetics posters at the 2022 Population, Evolutionary, and Quantitative Genetics conference
2015 – 2019	Volunteer with Duke Outreach in Genetics and Genomics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SciTech Expo NC Museum of Natural Science (2018) Duke Alumni Weekend (2016, 2018) Creekside Elementary Science Night (2018) NC Elementary Science Olympiad (2017) "Lean In" Women in Science NC School of Science and Math (2017) DNA Day 5K (2016, 2017) Little River Elementary Science Night (2016) Campout Carnival at Duke (2015, 2016) Museum of Life and Science (2016)

2018 – 2020	Duke Genetics Distinguished Lecture Series Committee Member
2017, 2019	Duke Genetics Retreat Committee Member
2015 – 2016	Duke Genetics Recruitment Committee Member
2015	<p>Georgia Governor's Honors Program, Resident Assistant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed as a resident assistant for talented high school students (rising juniors and seniors) full-time for a month-long program • Designed educational seminars about gaining research experience as an undergraduate
2011 – 2015	MathCOUNTS Outreach, Member (2011-2012), Head Coach (2012-2014), Executive Board (2014-2015)
2012 – 2015	Journal of Young Investigators, Associate Editor (2012-2013), Biology Research Editor (2013-2015)