

# Amanda C. Perofsky, Ph.D.

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## Education

- 2018      **PhD** in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, Section of Integrative Biology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX  
Dissertation: “Ecological, Evolutionary, and Behavioral Determinants of Gut Microbiomes in Malagasy Mammals”  
Advisor: Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers
- 2009      **B.Sc.** in Ecology, **B.Sc.** in Biology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
*Summa cum laude* with Highest Honors

## Research Positions

- 2018 –      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD  
Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies  
Supervisor: Dr. Cécile Viboud
- 2011      **Research Assistant**, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health and National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, Bethesda, MD  
Supervisor: Dr. Juliet R.C. Pulliam
- 2010 – 2011      **Post-Baccalaureate IRTA Fellow**, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD  
Adeno-Associated Virus Biology Section, Molecular Physiology and Therapeutics Branch  
Supervisor: Dr. John A. Chiorini
- 2009      **Research Assistant**, University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Park Disease Ecology Lab, Odum School of Ecology  
Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Park
- 2007 – 2009      **Honors Undergraduate Research**, University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Maerz Herpetology Lab, Warnell School of Forestry  
Thesis: “Improving abundance estimation for larval stream plethodontids”  
Research Mentor: Dr. John C. Maerz

## Publications

\*Indicates equal contribution

8. D.S. McBride\*, **A.C. Perofsky\***, J.M. Nolting, M.I. Nelson, A.S. Bowman. 2021. Tracing the source of influenza A virus zoonoses in interconnected circuits of swine exhibitions. *Journal of Infectious Diseases* jiaab122. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaab122
7. **A.C. Perofsky** and M.I. Nelson. 2020. Seasonal influenza: the challenges of vaccine strain selection. *eLife* 9: e62955. doi: 10.7554/eLife.62955
6. M.I. Nelson, **A. Perofsky**, D.S. McBride, B.L. Rambo-Martin, M.M. Wilson, J.R. Barnes, H. van Bakel, J.M. Nolting, A.S. Bowman. 2020. A heterogeneous swine show circuit drives zoonotic transmission of influenza A viruses in the United States. *Journal of Virology*. doi:10.1128/JVI.01453-20
5. C. Viboud, K. Gostic, M.I. Nelson, G.E. Price, **A. Perofsky**, K. Sun, N. Sequeira Trovão, B. Cowling, S. Epstein, D.J. Spiro. 2020. Beyond Clinical Trials: Evolutionary and Epidemiological Considerations for Development of a Universal Flu Vaccine. *PLOS Pathogens* 16(9): e1008583. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1008583
4. **A.C. Perofsky**, R.J. Lewis, L.A. Meyers. 2018. Terrestriality and bacterial transfer: A comparative study of gut microbiomes in sympatric Malagasy mammals. *The ISME Journal* 13, 50–63. doi: 10.1038/s41396-018-0251-5
3. **A.C. Perofsky**, R.J. Lewis, L.A. Abondano, A. Di Fiore, L.A. Meyers. 2017. Hierarchical social networks shape gut microbial composition in wild Verreaux’s sifaka. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 284:20172274. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2017.2274

2. E.J. Rakotomalala, F. Rakotondraparany, **A.C. Perofsky**, R.J. Lewis. 2017. Characterization of the tree holes used by *Lepilemur ruficaudatus* in the dry, deciduous forest of Kirindy Mitea National Park. *Folia Primatologica* 88:28-41. doi: 10.1159/000464406.
1. B.S. Berry\*, K. Magori\*, **A.C. Perofsky**, D. E. Stallknecht, A.W. Park. 2013. Wetland cover dynamics drive hemorrhagic disease patterns in white-tailed deer in the United States. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 49(3):501-509. doi: 10.7589/2012-11-283.

### Surveillance Reports

2020 – Modeling and technical support to South Africa’s National Institute for Communicable Diseases for their COVID-19 Private Consultations Excess Respiratory Encounters Report. [Reports](#) are updated on a bi-weekly basis.

### Fellowships

2017, 2018 UT-Austin Graduate School Summer Semester Continuing Fellowship  
 2014 – 2015 UT-Austin Graduate School Dean’s Prestigious Fellowship Supplement  
 2013 – 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (awarded in 2012)  
 2011 UT-Austin Integrative Biology Graduate Recruitment Fellowship  
 2010 – 2011 National Institutes of Health Post-baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award

### Research Support

2018 Research Exchange Grant, National Science Foundation IDEAS RCN (\$2800)  
 2015 Dissertation Improvement Grant, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, UT-Austin (\$8000)  
 2015 Research Grant, NSF BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (\$16,000); co-PIs: Amanda Perofsky, Lauren Meyers, Rebecca Lewis; project designed by Amanda Perofsky  
 2012 Small Research Grant, American Society of Primatologists (\$2000)  
 2012 Small Research Grant, International Primatological Society (\$1500)  
 2011 Startup Grant, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, UT-Austin (\$2000)

### Scholarships and Awards

2020 Fogarty International Center Group Merit Award “For outstanding modeling work to support the COVID-19 pandemic response domestically and internationally”  
 2020 Young Scientist Award, European Scientific Working group on Influenza (ESWI) Conference  
 2019 Fogarty International Center Distinguished Achievement Award “For outstanding efforts to forecast weekly influenza-like illness activity at 26 US military facilities”  
 2017 Network Modeling for Epidemics Course Fellowship, University of Washington  
 2017 Graduate Student Professional Development Award, College of Natural Sciences, UT-Austin  
 2014, 2015 Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling in Infectious Diseases (SISMID) Scholarship and Travel Award, University of Washington  
 2011 Meaningful Modeling of Epidemiological Data (MMED) Clinic Scholarship and Travel Award, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences  
 2010, 2011 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID) Conference Workshop Scholarship and Travel Award, Cornell University and University of California, Santa Barbara  
 2009 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) Scholar, University of Georgia  
 2008 Elected, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society  
 2008 NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Internship, University of Georgia  
 2007 Honors International Scholarship, University of Georgia (Field ecology course in Costa Rica)  
 2005 – 2009 Honors Program Charter Scholarship, University of Georgia  
 2005 – 2009 National Merit Scholarship, University of Georgia  
 2005 – 2009 Georgia HOPE Scholarship (full tuition)  
 2005 – 2009 Georgia Governor’s Scholarship (awarded to high school valedictorians)

### Scientific Meetings

#### “Impact of antigenic drift on influenza A/H3N2 vaccine effectiveness in the United States”

2021 NIH Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS) Annual Meeting (talk)

#### “Utilizing Respiratory Syndromic Surveillance Data to Monitor COVID-19 Activity in South Africa”

2020 National Institutes of Health COVID-19 Virtual Research Workshop (flash talk)

**“The impact of antigenic change on seasonal influenza epidemics”**

2020 European Scientific Working group on Influenza Virtual Conference (poster)

2019 Epidemics International Conference on Infectious Disease Dynamics, Charleston, SC (talk)

2019 Options X for the Control of Influenza, Singapore (talk)

2019 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, Princeton, NJ (poster)

**“Gut microbiome diversity across sympatric wild mammal populations of Madagascar reflects diet, habitat use, and host phylogeny”**

2018 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference, Austin, TX (talk)

**“Social network structure shapes gut microbial communities in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”**

2017 Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution Conference, Austin, TX (poster)

2017 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, Isla Vista, CA (poster)

2016 Annual Congress, NSF BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (talk)

2016 Integrative Biology Graduate Student Symposium, UT-Austin, Austin, TX (talk)

2015 Epidemics International Conference on Infectious Disease Dynamics, Clearwater Beach, FL (poster)

**“Socio-behavioral determinants of infectious disease transmission in a wild lemur population”**

2012 Integrative Biology Graduate Student Symposium, UT-Austin, Austin, TX (talk)

**Seminar Presentations**

2019 Influenza Interest Group, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD “The impact of antigenic change on seasonal influenza epidemics”

2018 Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD “Drivers of gut microbial composition and transmission within and among wild lemur populations”

2017 Bansal Research Group, Georgetown University, Washington, DC “Hierarchical social networks shape gut microbial composition in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”

2017 BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (virtual seminar) “Gut microbiome diversity across sympatric mammal populations of Madagascar reflects diet, substrate use, and host phylogeny”

2016 BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (virtual seminar) “Social networks shape gut microbial communities in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”

2016 Kirindy Mitea National Park headquarters, Belo Sur Mer, Madagascar. “Bacteria transmission dynamics among wildlife in Kirindy Mitea National Park”

2015 Department of Integrative Biology, UT-Austin, Austin, TX “Social networks shape gut microbial communities in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”

2012 Kirindy Mitea National Park headquarters, Morondava, Madagascar “Infectious disease transmission in a wild lemur population.”

**Teaching Experience**

Co-Instructor, Fogarty International Center-DIVERGE Training Workshop on RSV Genomics and Evolution, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. September 2019

Co-Instructor, Fogarty International Center-NICD Training Workshop on Infectious Disease Dynamics and Evolution, National Institutes of Communicable Diseases, Johannesburg, South Africa. December 2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Scientific Inquiry Across Disciplines (Freshman Signature Course), UT-Austin. Fall 2016 and Fall 2017

Guest Lecture (“Biological Networks and Social Network Analysis”), Introduction to Biological Statistics Course, Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, UT-Austin. November 2015

Guest Lecture (“Introduction to Networks”), Introduction to Biological Statistics Course, Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, UT-Austin. November 2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Social Networks and Infectious Diseases (Freshman Signature Course), UT-Austin. Spring 2013

**Mentoring Experience**

2012, 2016 Masters’ Student Training, Department of Animal Biology, University of Antananarivo. During my field seasons at Ankoatsifaka Research Station, I trained Malagasy graduate students (Elvis

- Rakotomalala and Safidy Rasolonjatovo) in field techniques, data collection, and specimen preservation and helped them to develop independent projects.
- 2010 – 2011 Student Training, National Institutes of Health. As a post-baccalaureate fellow in the Adeno-associated Virus Biology Section of NIDCR, I trained several undergraduate, dental, and medical students in molecular laboratory techniques.

### Science Communication, Outreach, and Advocacy

- 2020 Policy essay: [“The Use of COVID-19 Prediction Models in Guiding Policy Decisions”](#), “Science Policy for All” blog.
- 2019 – Member, NIH Science Policy Discussion Group (SPDG). The NIH SPDG is a fellow-led and run self-governing organization that brings together fellows with a shared passion for understanding the intersection of scientific research and legislative policy. In May 2020, led a discussion on economic and health policy related to COVID-19, with invited guest speaker Dr. Joel Zinberg, former General Counsel and Senior Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President.
- 2018 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) [Classroom Science Days](#) selected speaker, Austin, TX. Outreach lecture (“Meet the Lemurs”) to middle school students.
- 2017 Panel on STEM Public Engagement, NSF BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, Austin, TX
- 2016 Public Outreach Lecture (“Meet the Lemurs”), Science Under the Stars, Austin, TX. Media coverage: [The Daily Texan](#)
- 2016 “Researchers at Work” essay: [“How lemur social networks shape microbial transmission”](#), BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action.
- 2011 – 2018 Radio DJ and Science Talk Show Host, KVRX 91.7FM, UT-Austin, Austin, TX. Co-organizer and co-host of “They Blinded Me with Science,” a weekly educational talk show that interviews both UT-based and visiting researchers and reviews current science publications and news. Helped recruit guests, conduct interviews, and produce podcasts that are available for download on [Podbean](#) and iTunes.
- 2011 – 2017 Co-organizer and Volunteer, [Science Under the Stars](#), Austin, TX. Helped coordinate and promote a free monthly lecture series held at UT’s field laboratory that provides graduate students an opportunity to communicate ecological research to the greater public.

### Editorial Activities

- 2019 – Essay editor for [“Science Policy for All”](#) (science policy blog with contributors from the Washington, DC area)
- 2018 – Peer reviewer for *American Journal of Primatology*, *Animal Behaviour*, *BMJ Global Health*, *International Journal of Primatology*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Epidemics*, *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*, *The ISME Journal*, *Microbial Biotechnology*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Nature Communications*, *PLOS Computational Biology*

### Other Service

- 2020 Poster Judge, National Institutes of Health Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium.