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## **EDUCATION**

2022 **Duke University**, PhD, Biology  
Dissertation: Vision and Light-Guided Behavior in Sea Urchins and Brittle Stars  
Major Advisor: Dr. Sönke Johnsen  
2016 **UCLA**, MS, Biology  
Master's Thesis: A Comparative Study of Sea Urchin Visual Ecology  
Major Advisor: Dr. Malcolm S. Gordon  
2009 **UCLA**, BS, Marine Biology

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Notar, JC**, Meja, B, and Johnsen, S. (2022). Testing Mechanisms of Vision: Sea Urchin Spine Density Does Not Correlate with Vision-Related Environmental Characteristics. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, icac119, doi: [10.1093/icb/icac119](https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icac119)  
Gordon, MS and **Notar, JC**. (2015). Can Systems Biology Separate Evolutionary Analogies (Convergent Homoplasies) From Homologies? *Prog. Biophys. Mol. Biol.* 117 (2015), 19-29. doi: [10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2015.01.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2015.01.005)  
**Notar, JC** and Gessow, J. (2009). Ecology of an intertidal leech: expanding the range of *Malmiana buthi*. Abstracts of the Annual Meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. *Bull. So. Cal. Acad. Sci.*, 108(2), 112. doi: [10.3160/0038-3872-108.2.70](https://doi.org/10.3160/0038-3872-108.2.70)

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (SELECTED)**

2021 **Jo Rae Wright Fellowship for Outstanding Women in Science** (\$5,000), The Graduate School, Duke University  
2021 **International Dissertation Research Travel Award** (\$3,000), The Graduate School, Duke University  
2021 **Grant-in-Aid** (\$1,000), Biology Department, Duke University  
2020 **Grant-in-Aid** (\$1,000), Biology Department, Duke University  
2019 **Lerner-Gray Grant for Marine Research** (\$3,106), Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History  
2019 **Grant-in-Aid** (\$1,000), Biology Department, Duke University  
2018 **Graduate Student Training Enhancement Grant** (\$3,332), Office of the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University  
2018 **Grant-in-Aid of Research** (\$700), Sigma Xi Society  
2017-21 **NDSEG Fellowship** (\$153,000), Air Force Office of Scientific Research, US Department of Defense  
2017 **Robert L. Fernald Endowed Fellowship** (\$3,500), Friday Harbor Laboratories,

University of Washington  
2015     **Research/Travel Award** (\$2,000), Department of Ecology and Evolutionary  
Biology, UCLA

#### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2021     **Honorable Mention, Mary Price Award for Best Student Presentation**  
Division of Invertebrate Zoology, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology  
Annual Virtual Meeting

2020     **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lightning Talk**  
Duke VisionFest 2020, Duke University

2019     **Dean's Award for Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Education**, as a member of  
the Biology Department's **Graduate Student IDEA Committee**, on behalf of the  
Ph.D. Program in Biology  
The Graduate School, Duke University

2016     **1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate Student poster**  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Biology Research Symposium, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary  
Biology, UCLA

2015     **Schechtman Teaching Award** for Outstanding Merit in Instruction  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

#### **RESEARCH POSITIONS**

2015     **Graduate Student Researcher**  
Gordon Laboratory, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

2014     **Research Assistant**  
Gordon Laboratory, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

2010-13     **Whale Photo ID Intern and Volunteer Researcher**  
Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, CA

2010     **Research Assistant**  
Shipe Laboratory, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

#### **FIRST-AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

(\* = POSTER)

2022     *Learning with a Decentralized Nervous System in the Brittle Star* Ophiocoma echinata  
Notar, JC, Go, M, and Johnsen, S  
International Congress of Neuroethology 2022, Lisbon, Portugal

2022     *Classical Conditioning in an Animal Without a Brain, the Brittle Star* Ophiocoma echinata  
Notar, JC, Go, M, and Johnsen, S  
Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting, San Jose, Costa Rica

2022     *Training Animals Without Brains: Brittle Stars Exhibit Associative Learning*  
Notar, JC, Go, M, and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Virtual Meeting

2021     *A Living Shag Rug: Sea Urchin Spine Density Differs by Habitat and has Consequences for Vision*  
Notar, JC, Meja, B, and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Virtual Meeting

*Honorable Mention, Mary Price Award for Best Student Presentation, Division of Invertebrate Zoology*

- 2020 *Trends in Spatial Acuity Across the Sea Urchins\**  
**Notar, JC** and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Austin, TX
- 2020 *Sea Urchins: Sight Without Eyes*  
**Notar, JC**  
Duke VisionFest 2020, Duke University, Durham, NC  
*Second place, Lightning Talk Competition*
- 2019 *Sea Urchin Vision in Featureless vs. Spatially Complex Environments*  
**Notar, JC** and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL
- 2018 *Seeing without eyes: Exploring the visual ecology of sea urchins*  
**Notar, JC**  
Invited seminar, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of Florida, St. Augustine, FL
- 2018 *Do (Eyeless) Sea Urchins have Color Vision?*  
**Notar, JC** and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 *Future Directions in the Whole Body Eye of Sea Urchins: Effects of Phylogeny, Light Intensity, and Spine Density*  
**Notar, JC** and Gordon, MS  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2016 *A Comparative Study of Sea Urchin Visual Ecology\**  
**Notar, JC** and Gordon, MS  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Biology Research Symposium, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA  
*1st Place, Graduate Student Poster*
- 2016 *A Comparative Study of Sea Urchin Visual Ecology\**  
**Notar, JC** and Gordon, MS  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR

#### **CO-AUTHORED CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS**

(\* = UNDERGRADUATE MENTEE)

- 2021 *Insects go with the flow: A mathematical model of induced flow and cooling during flight*  
Meja, B\*, **Notar, JC**, and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Virtual Annual Meeting
- 2020 *Associative learning in the brittle star Ophioderma brevispinum*  
Go, M\*, **Notar, JC**, and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Austin, TX

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)**

- 2019-2022 **Certificate in College Teaching Program**  
The Graduate School, Duke University

- 2018 **Guest Lecture:** *Answering Biological Questions Using Circular Data and Analysis in R*  
Duke Data Expedition, Information Initiative @ Duke, Duke University
- 2012-22 **Graduate Teaching Assistant, Teaching Associate**  
Biology Department, Duke University<sup>1</sup>  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA<sup>2</sup>  
Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, UCLA<sup>3</sup>  
  
Courses include: Genetics & Evolution<sup>1</sup>, Animal Environmental Physiology<sup>2</sup>, Biology of Vertebrates<sup>2</sup>, Biology of Invertebrates<sup>2</sup>, Experimental Marine Invertebrate Biology<sup>2</sup>, Biology of Marine Tetrapods<sup>2</sup>, Field Marine Ecology<sup>2</sup>, Living Ocean<sup>2</sup>, Introduction to Ecology & Behavior<sup>2</sup>, Biology of Marine Tetrapods<sup>2</sup>, Advanced Experimental Statistics<sup>3</sup>

#### **MENTORSHIP (SELECTED)**

- 2021-22 **Trinity College Peer Mentoring Fellow**  
Duke Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University
- 2017 **Women in Science and Engineering Graduate Mentor**  
Biology Department, Duke University
- 2015-22 **Graduate Student Advisor** to undergraduate lab mentees  
Biology Department, Duke University  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

#### **SERVICE (SELECTED)**

- 2020-21 **Graduate Student Representative** on the faculty **AJED (Action for Justice, Equity, and Diversity) Committee**  
Biology Department, Duke University
- 2019-20 **Graduate Student Representative** on the faculty **Task Force on Graduate Admissions and Recruitment**  
Biology Department, Duke University
- 2016-21 **IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism) Committee**  
Biology Department, Duke University
- 2016-Present **Dive Control Board**  
Duke University

#### **OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (SELECTED)**

- 2018-19 **Exhibiting Scientist**  
Art of a Scientist, Duke University
- 2016-17 **Educator Outreach Liaison**  
Scientific Research and Education Network (SciREN) Triangle, Durham, NC

#### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB), Animal Behavior Society (ABS), Sigma Xi