

Mikayla Clark

☎ (865) 773-2631

✉ mclark58@vols.utk.edu

🌐 www.linkedin.com/in/mikaylamclark

Summary

Having earned my M.Sc. and returned to research, I am now eagerly seeking a Ph.D. program to further expand my scientific knowledge and hands-on laboratory skills. My ideal program would be interdisciplinary in nature allowing me to continually explore the many aspects of biology and its related fields as applied to pressing environmental issues. My previous research and educational experiences have fueled my passion for science and discovery, and I would love the opportunity to help better understand and protect the vital ecosystems and coastal infrastructure that keep this planet alive.

Education

Sep. 2019 – Mar. 2021 University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany
– International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) of Marine Microbiology (MarMic) Program
– M.Sc. in Marine Microbiology
– Thesis: “Investigating the capacities of four marine fungal isolates to utilize carbohydrates as a sole carbon source”

Aug. 2013 – May 2017 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
– B.S. in Microbiology with honors
– Chancellor’s Honors Student
– Thesis: “Effects of the Cdc42 GEF, Gef1, on Cytokinetic Ring Constriction”

Experience

Nov. 2021 – Present Research Associate, Center for Agricultural and Synthetic Biology (CASB), University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK)

Sep. 2020 – Mar. 2021 Master’s Thesis Project: “Investigating the capacities of four marine fungal isolates to utilize carbohydrates as a sole carbon source”

Aug. 2018 – Aug. 2019 Outreach Specialist, KBase Project, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)

May 2018 – Aug. 2018 Systems Biology Post-Bachelor’s Research Intern, KBase Project, ORNL

Nov. 2017 – Apr. 2018 Laboratory Accessioner, Laboratory Corporation of America

Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2016 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Project: “Effects of the Cdc42 GEF, Gef1, on Cytokinetic Ring Constriction”

June 2015 Research Poster Presenter at the 2015 TN-Score Conference, UTK Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology (BCMB)

Mar. 2014 – Dec. 2016 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Das Lab, UTK Department of BCMB

Publications/Presentations

Pfotenhauer, AC., Reuter, DN., **Clark, M.**, Schimel, TM., Lenaghan, SC. (2023). “Novel synthetic plant transcription factors from the *Penicillium citrinum* compactin pathway.” [Accepted in Plant Cell Reports].

Clark, MM., & Lenaghan, SC. (2023). “Unrealized Potential: Biotechnology of *Cassiopea* spp.” [Manuscript in preparation].

Pfotenhauer, AC., **Clark, M.**, Snyder, S., Stewart, CN Jr., Lenaghan, SC. (2023). “Next generation viral expression/repression vectors for plant synthetic biology.” [Manuscript in preparation].

Chivian, D., Jungbluth, S., Dehal, P., Wood-Charlson, E., Canon, R., Allen, B., **Clark, M.**, Gu, T., Land, M., Price, G., Riehl, W., Sneddon, M., Sutormin, R., Zhang, Q., Cottingham, R., Henry, C., Arkin, A. (2022). “Metagenome-assembled genome extraction and analysis from microbiomes using KBase.” *Nature Protocols*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41596-022-00747-x>

Wei, B., Hercyk, B. S., Mattson, N., Mohammadi, A., Rich, J., DeBruyne, E., **Clark, M. M.**, Das, M. (2016). “Unique spatiotemporal activation pattern of Cdc42 by Gef1 and Scd1 promotes different events during cytokinesis.” *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, 27(8), 1235–1245. <http://doi.org/10.1091/mbc.E15-10-0700>

Certifications

Apr. 2023 – Master Diver, NAUI Worldwide

Nov. 2022 – Rescue Diver, NAUI Worldwide

July 2019 – Advanced Open Water Diver, NAUI Worldwide

Nov. 2016 – EANX Diver, NAUI Worldwide

Oct. 2016 – Open Water Scuba Diver, NAUI Worldwide