

Abigail Berns

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Education

Smith College, Northampton MA

Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences May 2012 GPA: 3.8/4.0
Honors: Awarded STRIDE research scholarship with Dr. Steven Jackson

King's College London, School of Biomedical and Health Sciences, 1/2012-6/2012

Junior Semester Abroad

Research / Laboratory Experience

Research Fellow, Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, NIH, Bethesda, MD 8/2013-present

- Recipient of Intramural Research Training Award
- Manage care and treatment of 40 rats, including injection and assistance during MRI
- Quantitative analysis of experimental data
- Develop rat infection model for *Taenia crassiceps*
- Perform steriotaxic neurosurgery on rats to implant *Taenia crassiceps* metacystodes
- Design and present academic and experimental results

Research Assistant, Summer Research Fellows Program

Biology Department, Smith College 5/2011-12/2011

- Developed test to quantify biofilm formation of UTI-causing *E. coli*
- Trained and supervised first year research student

Community Health Experience

Intern, Communicable Disease Control Division, Boston Public Health Commission 6/2013-8/2013

- Adjusted state response survey to meet cultural needs of specific immigrant community during epidemiological investigation of an outbreak of foodborne illness
- Interacted with wide range of multi-ethnic, low-income patients while performing intake at free tuberculosis clinic
- Researched and created fact sheets for general public on pandemic influenza in infants and children
- Developed focus group oral questionnaire and written survey on community health practices surrounding pandemic flu

Intern, Clinical Serology Lab, Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NY 6/2012-8/2012

- Handled HIV-positive sera, confirming accuracy of rapid HIV kits
- Tracked confidential patient records for a New York State HIV study

Publication

White, C. A. L. Berns, and S. Smith 2012. Low temperature (15 °C) increases expression of biofilm-, cold-shock- and RpoS-dependent genes in *Escherichia coli*. *Microbiology*; 150: 130-142.

Leadership Experience

Co-Chair/Religious Co-Chair, Smith College Hillel 9/2010-5/2013

- Conducted weekly meetings, delegated board member responsibilities, coordinated communications, organized guest speakers and holiday events for 200 people