

# Zahavah Rojer

*they/them*

PhD Candidate

[zlr6@cornell.edu](mailto:zlr6@cornell.edu)

## Education

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### PhD (*in progress*)

August 2023 - Present

Hendry Lab, Cornell University

Department of Microbiology

### B.S. *Magna cum laude*

August 2019 - May 2023

Department of Microbiology, Cornell University

Thesis: "This Flower Ain't Big Enough for the Both of Us:  
*In-vitro* Competition Between Different Strains of Nectar-  
Associated *Acinetobacter* spp."

## Research Experience

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### Graduate Assistant Researcher

August 2023 - Present

Hendry Lab, Cornell University

Department of Microbiology

### Undergraduate Research Assistant

August 2020 - May 2023

Hendry Lab, Cornell University

Department of Microbiology

## Teaching Experience

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### Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2023 - Present

Laboratory in Genetics and Genomics, Cornell University

Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics

### Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Jan 2020 - May 2023

Laboratory in Genetics and Genomics, Cornell University

Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics

### Laboratory Preparation Assistant

Jan 2023 - May 2023

Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds, Cornell  
University

Department of Plant Pathology

## **Leadership**

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**Treasurer** Field of Microbiology Students, Cornell University  
September 2024 - *Present*

**Evaluations Chair** Expanding Your Horizons, Cornell University  
September 2024 - *Present*

**Editor-in-Chief** Kitsch Magazine, Cornell University  
August 2022 - August 2023

## **Community Outreach & Volunteering**

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**Workshop Leader** Expanding Your Horizons, Cornell University  
April 6, 2024 *Meals Made with Microbes* Workshop

## **Publications & Presentations**

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**Oral Presentation** Binghamton BGSO Symposium  
January 16, 2026 “Insect-pathogenic fluorescent *Pseudomonas* impacts aphid behavior and fitness”  
(Won Best Presentation in Species Interactions section)

**Poster Presentation** NEMPET Conference  
June 27, 2025 “Fluorescent Deception: Insect-pathogenic fluorescent *Pseudomonas* can create an ecological trap for aphids”

**Undergraduate Senior Thesis** Department of Microbiology, Cornell University  
May 2023 “This Flower Ain’t Big Enough for the Both of Us: *In-vitro* Competition Between Different Strains of Nectar-Associated *Acinetobacter* spp.”

**Poster Presentation** Cornell Institute of Host-Microbe Interactions and Disease  
March 1, 2022 “*In-vitro* competition between nectar-associated *Acinetobacter* spp.”

## Awards & Honors

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<b>Robert Mortlock Memorial Scholarship</b>	<b>NEMPET Conference</b>
May 2025	\$590 scholarship

<b>Ann S. and Robert R. Morley Student Research Fund</b>	<b>Cornell University</b>
May 2022	\$1,000 award

## Certifications & Training

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<b>Course Design Institute</b>	<b>Center for Teaching Innovation, Cornell University</b>
Spring 2024	Developing Learning Outcomes / Developing a Syllabus from Scratch / Designing Assessment of Student Learning

## References

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<b>Dr. Tory Hendry</b> Associate Professor, Microbiology	Cornell University <a href="mailto:th572@cornell.edu">th572@cornell.edu</a>
<b>Dr. Kristina Blake</b> Senior Lecturer, Genetics	Cornell University <a href="mailto:kab69@cornell.edu">kab69@cornell.edu</a>
<b>Dr. Heather Feaga</b> Assistant Professor, Microbiology	Cornell University <a href="mailto:haf54@cornell.edu">haf54@cornell.edu</a>

*Updated January 2026*