

Kara Ann Tinker

550 Biological Sciences Building, University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602
(252) 414-8799 • katinker@uga.edu

Education:

Ph.D. Candidate 2012-present
Department of Microbiology
University of Georgia

B.S. in Biochemistry and Microbiology 2008-2012
Minor in Chinese Studies
North Carolina State University

Doctoral Research:

Graduate Student 2013-present
Dr. Elizabeth Ottesen, Microbiology Department, University of Georgia
Thesis Project: Effect of diet on the gut microbial community composition and transcriptional patterns of the American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*.

Relevant Experience:

- Maintain an in-house colony of American cockroaches
- Coordinated large (>80 locations) stream water sample collection events
- Conducted field work collecting coastal ocean water samples for metatranscriptomic analysis
- Developed in-house methods for 16S rRNA library preparation
- Organized a departmental graduate student bioinformatics training group

Undergraduate Research:

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Student Summer 2011
Dr. Samantha Joye, Marine Science Department, University of Georgia
Project: Assess the effect of the BP Oil Spill on microbial activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

Research Assistant 2010-2011
Dr. Allen Foegeding, Food Science Department, North Carolina State University
Project: Explore the role of caseins in controlling protein aggregation and understand differences between two types of molecular chaperones: small heat shock proteins and caseins.

Research Assistant Summer 2010
Dr. Stefan Franzen, Physical Chemistry Department, North Carolina State University and Zhejiang University
Project: Create molecular dynamic simulations of dehaloperoxidase (DHP) and DHP mutants as well as synthesize, purify, and analyze these mutants.

Oral Presentations:

“Taxonomic Stability of the Cockroach Gut Microbiota.” Symbiofest, University of Georgia. May 2016. (Scheduled)

“Taxonomic Stability of the American Cockroach Gut Microbiota.” Microbiology Department Student Seminar. University of Georgia. February 2016.

“Effect of Diet on the Gut Microbiome of the American Cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*.” Symbiofest, University of Georgia. May 2015.

“Characterizing the Gut Microbiome using the American Cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*, as a model organism.” Microbiology Department Student Seminar, University of Georgia. August 2014.

Poster Presentations:

Kara Tinker, Elizabeth Ottesen. “Taxonomic Stability of the American Cockroach Gut Microbiota.” University of Georgia, Department of Microbiology Recruitment Event. Athens, GA. February 2015.
Received Microbiology Recruitment Outstanding Poster Award

Kara Tinker, Elizabeth Ottesen. “Taxonomic Stability of the American Cockroach Gut Microbial Community.” Big Data Challenges in Life Sciences Symposium. Athens, GA. October 2015.

Kara Tinker, Elizabeth Ottesen. “Effect of Short- and Long-Term Diet Changes on the Gut Microbial Community Composition of the American Cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*.” Microbial Population Biology, Gordon Research Conference. Andover, NH. July 2015.

Kara Tinker, Elizabeth Ottesen. “Effect of Short- and Long-Term Diet Changes on the Gut Microbial Community Composition of the American Cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*.” Microbial Population Biology, Gordon Research Seminar. Andover, NH. July 2015.

Kara Tinker, Elizabeth Ottesen. “Effect of Diet on the Gut Microbial Community Composition of the American Cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*.” University of Georgia, Department of Microbiology Recruitment Event. Athens, GA. February 2015.

Kara Tinker, Melitza Crespo-Medina, Samantha Joye. “Changes in Microbial Activity in the Gulf of Mexico in Response to the BP Oil Spill.” State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS). Greenville, NC. November 2011.

Kara Tinker, Melitza Crespo-Medina, Samantha Joye. “Changes in Microbial Activity in the Gulf of Mexico in Response to the BP Oil Spill.” University of Georgia, Department of Microbiology Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Poster Session. Athens, GA. July 2011.

Kara Tinker, Allen Foegeding. “Casein as a Molecular Chaperone: The Ability of Casein to Control Protein Aggregation and Enzyme Activity.” North Carolina State University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Raleigh, NC. April 2011.

Professional Development:

- Member of the University of Georgia's Women in Science (WiSci) Organization, 2015-present
 - Treasurer, 2015-2016
- Member of the University of Georgia's Microbiology Graduate Student Association, 2012-present
 - Treasurer, 2014-2015
- Participant in the University of Georgia's Department of Microbiology's "Entering Mentoring" Workshop, Summer 2013
- Selected participant in University of Georgia's Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) Workshop, 2012-2013

Teaching Experience:

Microbiology and Health Care (MIBO2500L): Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Instructed six sections covering general laboratory techniques in experimental microbiology, with an emphasis on techniques relevant to health care fields. Responsibilities included writing concept checks, quizzes, and exams for the laboratory course.

Mentoring & Outreach:

- **Teaching Assistant** (2015) and **Mentor** (2013, 2015) for the University of Georgia Summer REU in Prokaryotic Biology
- **Member** of the Upper Oconee Watershed Network (UOWN) Science and Monitoring Committee, 2013-2015
- **Certified Monitor** in the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program, Spring 2013

Honors and Awards:

- University of Georgia Ph.D. Scholar of Excellence, 2012-present
- Selected participant in North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honors Program, 2009-2012
- Selected participant in North Carolina State University's University Scholars Program, 2008-2012

References:

- Dr. Elizabeth Ottesen, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, University of Georgia ottesen@uga.edu · (706) 542-9582