

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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TELL US ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH

My research focuses on describing how collectively migrating epithelial cell collectives interact with non-migratory epithelial collectives. I primarily use wound healing assays to observe what happens when these fluid-like/migratory epithelia collide with solid-like/non-migratory epithelia. I have also been adapting a novel traction force microscopy protocol to observe the forces the cells exert on the ECM during these wound healing experiments. The cell lines I use have been modified to become migratory when chemically treated. The ability to turn on/off this migratory phenotype is what initially interested me about this project. My favorite part of this project is when I watch my time lapses of the cells migrating, it's mesmerizing to watch!

WHAT IS A FUN FACT THAT NOT MANY OF US KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I was a competitive Irish dancer for 11 years!

WHAT SUPERPOWER WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

Definitely teleportation.



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am from South Burlington, Vermont. My favorite class I took as an undergrad was cell migration, and I majored in biology. I volunteer at a local cat shelter on the weekends, and I have a cat named Johnny and a Pacman frog named Tobias, both are very silly! I love to cook and bake, especially any kind of loaf/bread (banana bread, pumpkin bread, etc.). I enjoy listening to podcasts; 'Radio Lab', 'If Books Could Kill', and 'You're Wrong About' are some of my favorites.

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND AND WHY?

I recommend Lab Girl by Hope Jahren. It's an inspiring memoir, quick read, very engrossing, and has interesting characters.