

Steven E. Fiester, B.S., Ph.D.

www.linkedin.com/in/SteveFiester

Educational Background:

Ph.D. 2011 Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences (Physiology)
B.S. 2005 Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences (Zoology/Pre-medicine, summa cum laude)

Appointments:

Associate Graduate Faculty Status, 2026 - Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Chair: Lyndsay Rhodes, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, 2025 – Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Chair: Lyndsay Rhodes, Ph.D.
One Health Pre-Professional Programs Coordinator, 2025 – College of Arts and Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Dean: Clay Motley, Ph.D.
Clinical Associate Professor, 2024 – Florida State University, College of Medicine, Family Medicine Residency at Lee Health, Fort Myers, FL 33901, Program Director: Alfred Gitu, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor, 2024 – Florida State University, College of Medicine, Internal Medicine Residency at Lee Health, Cape Coral, FL 33990, Program Director: Maja Delibasic, M.D.
Visiting Faculty, 2024 – 2025 Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Department Chair: Charles Gunnels, Ph.D.
Research Faculty, 2024 – 2025 Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Department Chair: Charles Gunnels, Ph.D.
Research Professor, 2022 – Department of Chemistry, Furman University, Greenville, SC, Department Chair: Tim Hanks, Ph.D.
Clinical Associate Professor, 2022 – School of Health Research, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, Associate Vice President for Health Research: Windsor Westbrook Sherrill, Ph.D.
Without Compensation (WOC) Research Investigator, 2022 – Dorn Research Institute, Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, Columbia, SC, Executive Director: Christopher Wood, Ph.D.
Affiliated Pathology Faculty, 2018 – Department of Pathology, Prisma Health – Upstate, Greenville, SC, Department Chair: Dave Schammel, M.D.
Associate Professor, 2021 – 2023 Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (USCSOMG), Greenville, SC, Department Chair: William Roudebush, Ph.D.
Director, Research Strategy & Operations, 2020 - 2023 USCSOMG, Greenville, SC, Associate Dean for Research: Desmond Kelly, M.D.
Assistant Professor, 2017 – 2021, Department of Biomedical Sciences, USCSOMG, Greenville, SC, Department Chair: Rick Hodinka, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor, 2015 – 2017, Department of Biological Sciences, Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH, Department Chair: Paul Harding, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow, 2011-2015, Department of Microbiology, Miami University, Oxford, OH, Department Chair/Mentor: Luis A. Actis, Ph.D.
Graduate Assistant, 2007 – 2011, Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, OH, Program Chair: James L. Blank, Ph.D.
BSL-3 Facility Coordinator, 2005 – 2011, College of Public Health, Kent State University, Kent, OH, Dean of College of Public Health: Sonia Alemagno, Ph.D.
Research Assistant, 2005 – 2007, Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, OH, Advisor: Christopher J. Woolverton, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professorships, Lectureships and Faculty Statuses:

Adjunct Graduate Faculty, 2025 - 2026, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Chair: Charles Gunnels, Ph.D.
Adjunct Faculty, 2024, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL 33965, Department Chair: Charles Gunnels, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer, 2011, Department of Biology, University of Akron-Wayne College, Orrville, OH 44667, Supervisor: Alan J. Snow, Ph.D.

Certifications:

2022 UofSC Pipeline for Academic Leaders (PAL) Program
2020 Biosafety Level 2 for Labs: Principles and Practices
2019 American Heart Association Heartsaver® CPR AED Program
2019 Mental Health First Aid USA
2019 Saf-T-Pak Shipping Biological Materials Certification
2006 FEMA Train-the-Trainer workshop

Professional Affiliations:

Central New York Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, 2026 -
National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP), 2025 -
Southeastern Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (SAAHP), 2025 -
Florida Association of Advisors for Health Professions (FLAHP), 2025 -
Florida Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (FLASM), 2023 -
Connecticut (CT) Valley Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, 2023 -
South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (SC ASM)
- Lifetime Emeritus
SouthEastern Association for Clinical Microbiology (SEACM), 2018 - 2021
Microscopy Society of Northeastern Ohio (MSNO), 2009-2011
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 2009-2010
Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (OBASM), 2008-2017
Phi Beta Kappa (PBK), 2005 -
American Society for Microbiology (ASM), 2005 -
Golden Key International Honour Society, 2004 -

Professional Service:

Chair, ASM Branch Organization Subcommittee, 2026 –
Member, ASM Membership Committee, 2026 –
Founding Vice-President, Central New York Branch of the ASM, 2026 -

Member, ASM Branch Advisory Council, 2025 -
Reviewer, United Kingdom Research and Innovation Funding Service, 2025 -
Community Reviewer, Frontiers in Bacteriology Editorial Board, 2025 -
Social Media Coordinator, FLASM Leadership Council, 2024 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, International Journal of Clinical Practice, 2024 -
Member, FLASM Leadership Council, 2023 –
Member, Executive Board, CT Valley Branch of the ASM, 2023 -
Vice-President, CT Valley Branch of the ASM, 2023 - 2026
Immediate Past President, SC ASM, 2023 – 2025
Chair, SC ASM Nominating Committee, 2023 - 2025
Regional Planning Coordinator, ASM Region I, 2022 -
At-Large Member, ASM Branch Organization Subcommittee, 2022 -
Review Editor, Frontiers in Bacteriology Editorial Board, 2022 - 2025
Chair, Extramural Funding Working Group, CURE Drug Repurposing Collaboratory (CDRC), 2022 -
Guest Editor, Pathogens, 2022-2026
Guest Editor, Antibiotics, 2022-2026
Proposal Reviewer, National Science Centre, Poland, 2022
Member, AAMC Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS), 2022 – 2023
Reviewer, Prisma Health Transformative Seed Grants, 2022 – 2023
Reviewer, ASM Young Ambassador applications, 2021 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Current Microbiology, 2021 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Pathogens, 2021 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, 2021 –
Reviewer Board, Microorganisms, 2021 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Vaccines, 2021 –
President, SC ASM, 2021 - 2023
Chair, SC ASM Executive Committee, 2021 – 2023
Chair, SC ASM Program Committee, 2021 – 2023
Chair, SC ASM Award Committee, 2021 - 2023
Member, SC ASM Nominating Committee, 2021 – 2023
Member, SC ASM Membership Committee, 2021 - 2023
Member, Prisma Health Scientific Advisory Council, 2021 - 2023
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Antibiotics, 2020-
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Biomolecules, 2020-
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Clinical Case Reports, 2020-
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Future Microbiology, 2020-
Member, SC ASM Executive Committee, 2020 - 2023
Conference Co-chair, Fall Meeting of SCBASM, 2020
Member, Prisma Health Rapid Innovation Task Force, 2020 - 2023
Guest Editor, International Journal of Molecular Sciences, 2020
Vice-President, SC ASM, 2020-2021
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Scientific Reports, 2019 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology, 2019 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, PLoS ONE, 2019 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Microbial Pathogenesis, 2019 -

Ad-hoc Reviewer, Frontiers in Microbiology, 2019 –
Reviewer, ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators abstracts, 2019 -
Reviewer, ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship applications, 2019 -
Faculty Advisor, USCSOMG Student Chapter of ASM, 2019 - 2023
Member, SC ASM Communications Committee, 2019 - 2021
Member, SC ASM Program Committee, 2019 - 2023
ASM Young Ambassador (SC), 2019 - 2021
Ad-hoc Reviewer, BMC Microbiology, 2018 -
Ad-hoc Reviewer, Journal of Biological Education, 2018 -
Editorial Board Member, Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education, 2018 -
Reviewer, Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education, 2018 -
Reviewer, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2018
Proposal Reviewer, American Evaluation Association, 2018
Microbial Biology Panelist, National Science Foundation, 2016, 2019

University Service:

Advisor, Pre-Medical Club, Florida Gulf Coast University, 2025-
Advisor, Pre-Society at FGCU, Florida Gulf Coast University, 2025-
Advisor, Pre-Health Pathways Society, Florida Gulf Coast University, 2026-
Member, Laboratory Technician III Search Committee, Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2026-
Co-Chair, Assistant Professor Search Committee (Human Biology) Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2025-2026
Member, Southwest Florida Medical Education Taskforce, 2025 -
BSL-3 Representative, UofSC Institutional Biosafety Committee, 2023 –
Member, UofSCSOMG Appointment and Promotion Committee (Biomedical Professional Track), 2022 – 2023
Microbiology Longitudinal Thread Leader, 2022 - 2023
Chair, UofSCSOMG Research Program Manager Search Committee, 2022
Member, UofSC Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Council, 2022
Chair, ASPIREinG Grant Review Committee, 2022
Member, UofSC Institutional Biosafety Committee, 2021 –
Member, Executive Expanded Leadership Team, 2021 – 2023
Co-Chair, UofSCSOMG Research Strategic Planning Taskforce, 2021-2022
Member, Honor and Professionalism Council/Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee Taskforce, 2021 – 2022
Member, LCME Junior Faculty Site Visit Committee, 2021
Member, LCME Assessment Self-Study Committee, 2021
Reviewer, UofSC ASPIRE Track I grants, 2021
Vice-Chair, USCSOMG Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee, 2020 – 2023
Member, USCSOMG Space Committee, 2020 - 2023
Chair, USCSOMG Research Space Allocation Subcommittee, 2020 - 2023
Member, USCSOMG Admissions Committee, 2020 - 2023
Member, USCSOMG Chair Search Committee, Department of Biomedical Sciences, 2020
Member, USCSOMG Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee, 2019 - 2023
Member, USCSOMG Admissions Evaluation Committee, 2019 - 2023

Member, USCSOMG Faculty Search Committee, 2017 - 2022

Member, USCSOMG Faculty Development Committee, 2017-2020

Member, USCSOMG Student Affairs Committee, 2017-2019

Graduate Student Representative, Assistant Professor Search Committee (Molecular Mechanisms of Health and Disease) Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2010

Graduate Student Representative, Assistant Professor Search Committee (Microbial Ecology) Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2007

Community Service:

Vice-President, The Harborage Homeowners' Association, Fort Myers, Florida, 2025-2026

Board of Directors, The Harborage Homeowners' Association, Fort Myers, Florida, 2024-

Project Manager, Clubhouse and Amenities Committee, The Harborage Homeowners' Association, Fort Myers, Florida, 2023 -

Member, Clubhouse and Amenities Committee, The Harborage Homeowners' Association, Fort Myers, Florida, 2023 -

Member, East Walnut Hills Assembly, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2015-2017

Instructor, Northeast Ohio Research Education Medicine Alliance, Kent State University College of Arts and Science, 2011

Specialist, Medical Reserve Corp Specialist, Portage County, Ohio, 2008-2011

Appointed Judge, Science Fair, Lippman Jewish Community Day, Akron, Ohio, 2007

Teaching Experience:

Assistant Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2025 –

- MCB 3020C: General Microbiology. A study of the structure, function and genetics of microorganisms, their relationships in natural and controlled environments emphasizing pathogenic bacteria and their hosts. Laboratory includes isolation, identification and culture techniques of microorganisms and their properties.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- MCB 4203C/6932: Pathogenic Microbiology. The biological basis of infectious diseases including a selection of bacterial infections, the principles of the host-parasite relationship as well as the pathogenic characteristics and virulence factors of microorganisms will be studied. The course material will be integrated with laboratory activities.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 4930/6932: Infectious Diseases. Infectious diseases including a selection of bacterial, fungal, protozoal and helminth infections will be studied. Host-pathogen interactions, pathogenic characteristics and virulence factors of these pathogens will be discussed.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 4910C: Senior Project I: Research. A hybrid format focusing on both hands-on research as well as intensive academic writing including the systematic literature review, clinical case report, research article and/or other type of scientific article.
 - ***Instructor of record***

- BSC 4911: Senior Project II: Presentation. The presentation of scientific data is enforced using findings from Senior Project I: Research. Data collection and interpretation continue to further build the research project.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 4900: Dir Ind Study/Research in Bio. Individual study by students under the direction of a faculty mentor based upon a topic mutually agreed upon by the student and faculty mentor.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 1930L: Seminar in Medicine I. Introduction to the pre-professional health sciences track for freshman Biology majors with emphasis on academic success strategies, professional development, shadowing and clinical experience planning, and creating a four-year academic and co-curricular plan.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 2930L: Seminar in Medicine II. Preparation for sophomores to aid in preparation of professional school applications. Students craft personal statements, prepare CVs/resumes, request and manage letters of recommendation, and practice interview techniques. Additional focus on application timelines, gap year planning, and financial readiness for application and transition to professional school. Students will also explore careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, physician assistant studies, and other health professions.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 6972: Master's Thesis Research. A comprehensive and advanced course designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct independent, high-quality research in the field of biology. This course emphasizes the development of critical thinking, experimental design, and data analysis skills, preparing students to contribute meaningfully to the scientific community.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 6900: Independent Study Biology. Independent study and/or research under direct supervision of a faculty mentor. Topic of study will be determined and agreed upon between the student and faculty member.
 - ***Instructor of record***

Guest Lecturer, Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2026-

- ISC 3120: Scientific Process. Interdisciplinary seminar course that prepares students for scientific careers by teaching the philosophy, ethics, and practice of research. It focuses on creating research proposals, critically reviewing scientific literature, and developing testable hypotheses in fields like biology, chemistry, and environmental science.

Guest Lecturer, Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2025-

- BSC 2930L: Seminar in Medicine II. Provides a discussion and problem-solving format of contemporary topics in medicine with reviews of the literature and volunteer participation in the community as a part of service learning.

Visiting Faculty, Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2024-

- BSC 4930/6932: Infectious Diseases. Infectious diseases including a selection of bacterial, fungal, protozoal and helminth infections will be studied. Host-pathogen interactions, pathogenic characteristics and virulence factors of these pathogens will be discussed.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- BSC 4910C: Senior Project I. A hybrid format focusing on both hands-on research as well as intensive academic writing including the systematic literature review, clinical case report, research article and/or other type of scientific article.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- MCB 3020C: General Microbiology. A study of the structure, function and genetics of microorganisms, their relationships in natural and controlled environments emphasizing pathogenic bacteria and their hosts. Laboratory includes isolation, identification and culture techniques of microorganisms and their properties.
 - ***Instructor of record***
- MCB 4203C/6932: Pathogenic Microbiology. The biological basis of infectious diseases including a selection of bacterial infections, the principles of the host-parasite relationship as well as the pathogenic characteristics and virulence factors of microorganisms will be studied. The course material will be integrated with laboratory activities.
 - ***Instructor of record***

Adjunct Faculty, Florida Gulf Coast University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2024-

- MCB 3020C: General Microbiology. A study of the structure, function and genetics of microorganisms, their relationships in natural and controlled environments emphasizing pathogenic bacteria and their hosts. Laboratory includes isolation, identification and culture techniques of microorganisms and their properties.

Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, Department of Biomedical Sciences, 2017 - 2023

- GMED-G810: Academic Medicine Research Elective. The Academic Medicine Research Elective provides an opportunity to last year medical students to participate in an ongoing project with a researcher from the Health Sciences Center at Prisma Health.
 - ***Elective Director***
- GMED-G770/G870: Novel Coronavirus/Contemporary Pandemics Elective. Through readings, online modules, and virtual discussions with basic science and clinical faculty, students have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of SARS-CoV-2 and other contemporary pandemics, as well as its effects on patients and the healthcare system.
 - ***Elective Director***

- GMED-G650: Defenses and Responses. A multidisciplinary course that integrates immunology, pathology and pharmacology to elucidate the mechanisms by which the body responds to a variety of stressors (e.g. infectious organisms) and the pathophysiological conditions that may result from these responses.
 - **Lecturer**
- GMED-G660: Biomedical Principles of Infectious Disease and Therapy. A course that focuses on human infectious diseases and their treatments for medical students.
 - **Module Director**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Miami University Middletown Campus, Department of Biological Sciences, 2015-2017

- BIO 171: Human Anatomy and Physiology. A course that focuses on the structure and function of the human body including basic cellular principles, embryology, the reproductive system, the endocrine system and the nervous system.
- MBI 111: Microorganisms and Human Disease. A lecture course that discusses microorganisms and the human diseases they cause, with particular emphasis on the impact of these relationships on the development of human societies - past, present, and future.
- MBI 161: Elementary Medical Microbiology. A lecture and laboratory course that is designed for students interested in characteristics and activities of microorganisms and their relation to health and disease.
- MBI 361: Epidemiology. A lecture course that focuses on the epidemic nature, etiology, and characteristics of infectious and organic diseases, and methods used to analyze their control within the framework of environmental and population variables.

Senior Lecturer, University of Akron-Wayne College, Department of Biology, 2011

- Biology 3100:103: Natural Science: Biology lecture and lab. A lecture and lab course that fulfilled part of the general education science requirement for non-science majors in which students were introduced to the major concepts governing living organisms using lectures and hands-on group laboratory exercises.

Instructor, Northeast Ohio Research Education Medicine Alliance (NEOREMA), 2011

- NEOREMA laboratory. A laboratory course that discussed basic microbiology concepts and techniques. This course was offered as part of the NEOREMA collaboration between the Cleveland Clinic, Cuyahoga Community College and Kent State University which was launched to increase the participation of under-represented groups within the biomedical sciences.

Graduate Assistant, Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2005-2011

- BSCI 30140: Cell Biology laboratory. A course for biology majors that investigated cellular physiology with an emphasis on the relationship between cellular structure and function. The laboratory section covered molecular biology techniques including electrophoresis, microscopy and PCR.

- BSL-2 and BSL-3 workshops. Workshops designed for biosafety professionals, researchers and laboratorians to enhance individual knowledge and meet the scientific, regulatory, biocontainment, biosafety, and engineering challenges associated with working in a biocontainment facility. Topics covered in these workshops included an introduction to microbiology and biosafety, principles of biosafety and biocontainment, the biological risk assessment process, laboratory sterilization and disinfection, emergency planning and response, laboratory regulations, standards and guidelines, biocontainment and laboratory security, agents of bioterrorism and hands-on sessions using laboratory equipment.
- BSCI 30171: General Microbiology laboratory. A biology majors' course that covered the fundamental principles of microbiology and of microorganisms, including their structure, physiology, genetics, pathogenicity, classification and mechanisms of cultivation and control. The laboratory discussed basic microbiological techniques.

Lecture Aide, Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2008

- BSCI 10002: Life on Planet Earth lecture. A course for non-science majors that surveyed the breadth of life on Earth and included discussions of the unique ecology and survival strategies of animals, plants and microbes in their natural habitats.

Guest Lecturer, Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 2005-2011

- BSCI 50143: Eukaryotic Cell Biology. A biology graduate level course which surveyed the structure and function of eukaryotic cells, including recent advances in research technology.
- BSCI 40174/50174/70174: Immunology. A course for senior biology undergraduates and biology graduate students that surveyed mammalian host responses to self and non-self with emphasis on the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which innate and acquired immunity result.
- BSCI 30171: General Microbiology. A biology majors' course that covered the fundamental principles of microbiology and of microorganisms, including their structure, physiology, genetics, pathogenicity, classification and mechanisms of cultivation and control.
- BSCI 20021: Basic Microbiology. A course designed primarily for nursing majors that covered the basic principles of microbiology, specifically, the direct relationship on the health and well-being of man impacted by microorganisms.
- BSCI 20020: Biological Structure and Function. A course for nursing majors that emphasized the physiochemical and cellular basis of organ-system structure, function and development.
- BSCI 10002: Life on Planet Earth. A course for non-science majors that surveyed the breadth of life on Earth and included discussions of the unique ecology and survival strategies of animals, plants and microbes in their natural habitats.
- BSCI 10001: Human Biology. A course for non-science majors which focused on studying the scientific method, genetics, reproduction, development, disease, nutrition and physical fitness in humans.

ACT Testing Center Staff, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine

- Served as a test center assistant responsible for the proctoring of ACT examinations.

Fellow Research Supervision (*denotes publication coauthor, †denotes presentation coauthor):

Prisma Health Upstate Department of Medicine/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (2021-present)

Patrick Kent†

Medical Student Research Supervision (*denotes publication coauthor, †denotes presentation coauthor, §denotes Summer Research Scholars Fellowship recipient):

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (2017-present)

Janet Basinger*	Kristan Abernathy*	Ben Wagner*†
Jessica Bigner*†	Daniel Lee*	Samuel Lee
Connor Evins*	Campbell Hathaway†	Connor Horne§
Noah Schammel*	Kyleigh Connolly	Elias Wheibe†
Elena Roberts*	Brionna Bennett§	Ryan Ellis*

Graduate Student Research Supervision (*denotes publication coauthor, †denotes presentation coauthor):

Florida Gulf Coast University (2025-)

Eduarda Kffuri Goncalves* Meg Gunderman

University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health (2019 - 2023)

Brianna Tennie

Medical Student Academic Coaching

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (Class of 2021)

Andrew Larson	Brent Sinopoli	Lindsey Ina	Margaret Huggins
Arielle Houston	Matt Churitch	Billy Weibley	Tyler Seckel

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (Class of 2020)

Mary Caldwell	Tyler Fleming	John Hanna	Abbey Stoker
Kiersten Rule	Zach Waldman	Ben Bailes	Drew Myers
Erika Richardson			

Undergraduate Supervision (*denotes publication coauthor, †denotes presentation coauthor):

Florida Gulf Coast University (2024 – present)

Lily Jensen*†	Mia Petrucci*	Luis Ramos*†	Elizabeth Walls*
Steven Eskander*	Megan Murray*†	James Noyes*	Allison Seibert*†
Lyla Ribeiro*	Sam McDuffie*†	Dylan Luu	Peter Brancato
Matt Camina	Barbara Sanchez	Oliver Long	Jay Wells
Emily Chiarella	Leah Furudi	Nori Heteyi	Alexis Tzilinis
Colin Hilton			

University of South Carolina (2020 - 2023)

Katherine McCain (Magellan Mini Grant - \$800)

Furman University (2019-)

Elizabeth Hogue (Furman Internship Scholarship - \$2500)

Lauren Bracken (Furman Internship Scholarship - \$2500)

Miami University Middletown Campus (2015-2017)

Regina Crane

William Dugger

Robert White

Miami University (2011-2015)

Amber Beckett*[†]

Mary Carrier*[†]

Robert Schmidt*[†]

Kyle Bobey

Sarah Geiger*[†]

Nathaniel Buzenski

Maeva Metz*[†] (*Awarded Goldwater and Astronaut Scholarships*)

University of Akron-Wayne College (2011)

Tony Miller

Kent State University (2005-2011)

Nolan Brown

Simon Evangelista*

Ben Millard

Alvin Das

Elizabeth Carlisle

Maria Benoy

Sahil Pandya

Andrea Teodosiu

Salvatore Coppola

Jonathon Wilson

Publications (48 to date, Google Scholar h-index = 15):

Refereed Scientific Contributions (#denotes medical student, *denotes undergraduate student, §denotes graduate student, [†]denotes authors contributed equally)

LA Ramos* and **SE Fiester** (2026). Virulence factors of the facultative pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Pathogens*, In preparation.

GM Traglia*, S Montaña*, A Baraka*, JE Reddic, JF Meredith, **SE Fiester** and MS Ramirez (2026). Genomic diversity of *Acinetobacter* clinical isolates from a large southeastern United States hospital system. *Antibiotics*, In preparation.

C Hathaway[#], SGM Eskander[§], JC Noyes*, JW Fulcher, CMG Schammel and **SE Fiester** (2026). *Aspergillus* otitis externa with persistent tympanic membrane perforation in a young immunocompetent patient. *Access Microbiology*, 8(4) 001083-v5. <https://doi.org/10.1099/acmi.0.001083.v5>

EK Goncalves^{§†}, LA Ramos*[†], A Seibert*, LM Ribeiro*, SL McDuffie*, MC Murray* and **SE Fiester** (2026). *Acinetobacter baumannii*: challenges presented by a drug-resistant pathogen. *Frontiers in Bacteriology*, 4 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbrio.2025.1734537>

E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], ME Ward, CMG Schammel, JT Grier and **SE Fiester** (2025). First responders and mental health intersection: what a case of suicide could teach us. *International Paramedic Practice*, 15(3) 81-87. <https://doi.org/10.12968/ippr.2025.0021>

AT Sadek[#], Y Verma[#], A Shidhaye[#], N Bhatnagar^{*}, HC Meltzer[§], E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], C Lui^{*}, C Gutiérrez^{*}, B Arivett, R Relich, L Actis, **S Fiester**, MS Ramirez and J Grier (2025). Macrophage cellular and transcriptional responses to infection with necrotizing fasciitis-causing multidrug resistant isolates of *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *The Journal of Immunology*, 214(Supplement 1) 828-829. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jimmun/vkaf283.2244>

EK Goncalves[§], WF Penwell, **SE Fiester** (2025). Combating the growing threat of *Acinetobacter baumannii* resistance. *Antibiotics*, 14(7), 694. <https://doi.org/10.3390/antibiotics14070694>

LE Jensen^{*}, MC Murray^{*}, E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], ME Ward, CMG Schammel, JT Grier and **SE Fiester** (2025). First responders and patients with suicidal ideation. *Journal of Paramedic Practice*, 17(7) 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.12968/jpar.2025.17.7.CPD1>

E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], ME Ward, CMG Schammel, JT Grier and **SE Fiester** (2024). First responders and mental health intersection: what a case of suicide could teach us. *Journal of Paramedic Practice*, 17(4) 144-150. <https://doi.org/10.12968/jpar.2023.0034>

M Ryan[#], M Stroud^{*}, Z Buchanan^{*}, A Rojas^{*}, MP Knapp[#], A Okinaga^{*}, T Connell, **S Fiester**, S Arce, JT Grier (2023). The immunomodulatory effects of *E. coli* heat-labile enterotoxins on the respiratory immune response. *The Journal of Immunology*, 210(Supplement 1) 156. <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.210.Supp.156.14>

E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], RF Relich, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier (2022). Investigation of drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence factors implicated in intracellular survival within differentiated THP-1 cells, *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, 158(Supplement 1) 132. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqac126.281>

RC Ellis[#], EK Roberts[#], JT Grier and **SE Fiester** (2022). *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections that are resistant to treatment: warning signs from the COVID-19 pandemic. *Future Microbiology*, 17(17) 1345-1347. <https://doi.org/10.2217/fmb-2022-0153>

MH Hyche^{*}, P Kent, CMG Schammel, M Devane, **SE Fiester**, M Call and J Knight (2022). Closing the brief case: *Tropheryma whippelii* infection resulting in neurological symptoms. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 60(8) 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1128/jcm.01595-21>

MH Hyche^{*}, P Kent, CMG Schammel, M Devane, **SE Fiester**, M Call and J Knight (2022). The brief case: *Tropheryma whippelii* infection resulting in neurological symptoms. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 60(8) 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1128/jcm.01478-21>

MA Knapp[#], TA Johnson[#], MK Ritter[#], RO Rainer, **SE Fiester**, JT Grier, TD Connell and S Arce (2021). Differential binding of *E. coli* enterotoxins LT-IIa, LT-IIb and LT-IIc to human B and T cell subsets identifies a potential use as adjuvants in cancer immunotherapy, *Cancer Immunology Research*, 9(Supplement 2) 24. <https://doi.org/10.1158/2326-6074.TUMIMM20-PO024>

MA Knapp[#], TA Johnson[#], MK Ritter[#], RO Rainer, **SE Fiester**, JT Grier, TD Connell and S Arce (2021). Immunomodulatory regulation by heat-labile enterotoxins and potential therapeutic applications. *Expert Review of Vaccines*, 20(8) 975-987. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14760584.2021.1945449>

ZC Overton-Hennessy*, AM Devane, **SE Fiester**, N Schammel[#], CMG Schammel and JW Fulcher (2021). Ruptured splenic artery pseudoaneurysm causing hemorrhage into a pancreatic pseudocyst. *The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, 43(1) 76-80. DOI: 10.1097/PAF.0000000000000717

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LA Ramos*, EC Walls*, MS Petrucci*, WF Penwell, EJ Ohneck, LA Actis and **SE Fiester** (2025). Growth and polarization of A549 human alveolar epithelial cells as a model to study biofilm formation in *Acinetobacter baumannii*. In *Methods in Molecular Biology: Dynamics of Bacteria-Mucus Interactions* (pp. 35-44). New York, NY: Humana Press. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-0716-4627-4_3

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Presentations (98 to date, [#]denotes medical student, ^{*}undergraduates, [§]graduate students, [†]indicates invited presentations):

JR Musselman[#], A Vereen*, E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], **S Fiester**, G Beltran[#], J Meredith, J Grier. Post-Transport Evaluation of Bacterial Load and Antimicrobial Resistance in Ambulances at a South Carolina Regional Hospital, ASM Microbe 2026, June 2026.

J Barron[#], L Bracken*, D Altomare, H Ji, M Shtutman, **SE Fiester** and J Grier. Measuring transcriptional changes in human lung epithelial cells infected with *Acinetobacter baumannii* with dual-RNA sequencing, ASM Microbe 2026, June 2026.

MC Murray*, JT Grier and **SE Fiester**. *Acinetobacter baumannii* gene expression under iron limitation, Eagle X, April 2026.

-First place for undergraduate research in the College of Arts and Sciences at Eagle X in the field of biology

AJ Seibert*, LA Ramos*, WJ Stark, CG Kubista, TA Whitaker, J Meredith, F Cioffi, LM Cernick, BC Goess, and **SE Fiester**. Significance of a modified siderophore on *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* growth, Eagle X, April 2026.

SL McDuffie*, LM Ribeiro*, CMG Schammel and **SE Fiester**. *Burkholderia cepacia* complex sinonasal infection following Hurricane Helene, Eagle X, April 2026.

S Friedman*, M Camina*, L Rhodes and **S Fiester**. Evaluating M9 Minimal Media Cytotoxicity in A549 Cells to Support Preclinical Development of Novel Antimicrobial Agents, Eagle X, April 2026.

[†]**SE Fiester**, L Logsdon, R Fleeman and S Keating. Panel Discussion: Bridging the gap by navigating undergraduate and graduate transitions into microbiology related career fields, FLASM Annual Meeting 2026, March 2026.

LE Jensen*, LA Ramos*, WJ Stark*, CG Kubista*, TA Whitaker*, J Meredith, F Cioffi, LM Cernick, BC Goess and **SE Fiester**. Modified siderophore as an effective inhibitor of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli* growth, Symposium of Undergraduate Research and Internship (SURI), December 2025.

K Gedikoglu[#], J Noyes*, S Eskander[§], DP Schammel, AM Devane, **S Fiester** and CMG Schammel. *Nocardia africana* of the CNS: A rare and puzzling entity, USCSOMG Research Symposium, November 2025.

G Holler[#], EK Goncalves[§], **S Fiester**, J Meredith and CMG Schammel. Two Rare *Acinetobacter* Isolates in a Single Institution: *A. soli* and *A. seifertii*, South Carolina Society of Pathologists Annual Meeting, September 2025.

K Gedikoglu[#], J Noyes*, S Eskander[§], DP Schammel, AM Devane, **S Fiester** and CMG Schammel. *Nocardia africana* of the CNS: A rare and puzzling entity, South Carolina Society of Pathologists Annual Meeting, September 2025.

SE Fiester[†]. One Health Pre-Professional Programs, Eagles Excel in Biology, August 2025.

SE Fiester[†]. Characterizing virulence factors in *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Eagles Excel in Biology, August 2025.

LA Ramos*, WJ Stark*, CG Kubista*, TA Whitaker*, J Meredith, F Cioffi, LM Cernick, BC Goess and **SE Fiester**. Modified siderophore as an effective inhibitor of *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* growth, Eagle X, April 2025.

Y Verma[#], AT Sadek[#], EM Wheibe[#], HA Melzter[#], K Connolly[#], RF Relich, LA Actis, MS Ramírez, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Macrophage transcriptional responses to intracellular infection by necrotizing fasciitis-causing *Acinetobacter baumannii* and type strains, ASM Microbe 2025, June 2025.

AT Sadek[#], Y Verma[#], A Shidhaye[#], N Bhatnagar*, HA Melzter[#], E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], C Liu*, CR Gutiérrez*, BA Arivett[§], RF Relich, LA Actis, **SE Fiester**, MS Ramírez and JT Grier. Macrophage cellular and transcriptional responses to infection with necrotizing fasciitis-causing multidrug-resistant isolates of *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Immunology 2025 The American Association of Immunologists Annual Meeting, May 2025.

[†]**SE Fiester**. *Acinetobacter baumannii* infection and novel treatments, Florida Gulf Coast University, February 2025.

C Evins[#], **S Fiester**, C Sutton, S Withers, JT Grier and CM Schammel. Community-acquired, extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing and extensively drug-resistant *Escherichia coli* in a 28-year-old pyelonephritis patient lacking risk factors, Society of General Internal Medicine 2024 Southern Regional Meeting, February 2024.

AT Sadek[#], EM Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], C Liu*, CR Gutiérrez*, BA Arivett, RF Relich, LA Actis, **S Fiester**, MS Ramírez and JT Grier. Resistance properties and host immune cell entry of necrotizing fasciitis *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolates, ASM Microbe 2023, June 2023.

MR Ryan[#], MC Stroud*, ZM Buchanan*, AR Rojas*, MP Knapp[#], A Okinaga*, TO Connell, **SE Fiester**, S Arce and JT Grier. The immunomodulatory effects of *E. coli* heat-labile enterotoxins on the respiratory immune response, Immunology 2023 The American Association of Immunologists Annual Meeting, May 2023.

E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], RF Relich, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Investigation of drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence factors implicated in intracellular survival within differentiated THP-1 cells, American Society for Clinical Pathology, September 2022.

MC Stroud*, AR Rojas*, MP Knapp[#], A Okinaga*, TD Connell, **SE Fiester**, S Arce and JT Grier. The effects of type II heat-labile enterotoxins on human respiratory-specific immune responses, ASM Microbe, June 2022.

M Muqri*, K McCoy*, A Okinaga#, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Investigating the Antiviral and Antibacterial Response in CRISPR Cas9-Mediated Knockdown of Interferon Induced Protein 35 (IFI35) in a Human Lung Epithelial Cell Line, 2022 Spring Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, April 2022.

-First Place in Undergraduate Category.

E Wheibe#, K Connolly#, R Relich, **S Fiester** and JT Grier. Investigation of drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence factors implicated in intracellular survival within differentiated THP-1 cells, Mid-Atlantic Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting, February 2022.

MC Stroud*, AR Rojas*, MP Knapp#, A Okinaga*, TD Connell, **SE Fiester**, S Arce and JT Grier. The effects of type II heat-labile enterotoxins on human respiratory-specific immune responses, Mid-Atlantic Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting, February 2022.

E Wheibe#, K Connolly#, RF Relich, SE Fiester and JT Grier. Investigation of drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence factors implicated in intracellular survival within differentiated THP-1 Cells, Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum, January 2022.

K McCoy*, A Okinaga*, M Muqri*, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Investigating the antiviral and antibacterial response in CRISPR-Cas9 mediated knockdown of interferon induced protein 35 (IFI35) in a human lung epithelial cell line, Southeast Regional IDeA Meeting, November 2021.

MH Hyche*, CMG Schammel, M Devane, **S Fiester**, M Call, P Kent and J Knight. *Tropheryma whippelii* manifesting in the CNS: case report and comprehensive literature review, 2021 Fall Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, October 2021.

AR Rojas*, MC Stroud*, MP Knapp#, A Okinaga*, TD Connell, **SE Fiester**, S Arce and JT Grier. Investigating the effects of type II heat-labile enterotoxins on human respiratory immune responses, 2021 Fall Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, October 2021.

E Wheibe#, K Connolly#, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Examination of drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* response to phagocytosis by monocyte-derived macrophages, 2021 Fall Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, October 2021.

-Second Place in Medical Student Category

AR Rojas*, MC Stroud*, MP Knapp#, A Okinaga*, TD Connell, **SE Fiester**, S Arce and JT Grier. Investigating the effects of type II heat-labile enterotoxins on human respiratory immune responses, 2021 Prisma Health Research Showcase, October 2021.

E Wheibe[#], K Connolly[#], **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Examination of drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* response to phagocytosis by monocyte-derived macrophages, 2021 Prisma Health Research Showcase, October 2021.

K McCoy*, A Okinaga*, M Muqri*, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Investigating the antiviral and antibacterial response in CRISPR-Cas9 mediated knockdown of interferon induced protein 35 (IFI35) in a human lung epithelial cell line, Biomedical Sciences Student Research Symposium, July 2021.

M Stroud*, A Rojas*, MP Knapp[#], A Okinaga*, **SE Fiester**, S Arce, and JT Grier. Investigating the effects of heat-labile enterotoxins in a respiratory immunization model, Biomedical Sciences Student Research Symposium, July 2021.

A Rojas*, M Stroud*, MP Knapp[#], A Okinaga*, **SE Fiester**, S Arce and JT Grier. Investigating the effects of heat-labile enterotoxins on cytokine secretion by human respiratory epithelial cells, Biomedical Sciences Student Research Symposium, July 2021.

C Liu*, CR Gutiérrez*, BA Arivett, RF Relich, JT Grier, LA Actis, **SE Fiester** and M Ramírez. Changes in resistance properties of extensively drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* over the course of a lethal infection, World Microbe Forum, June 2021.

[†]**SE Fiester**. Conotton Valley Union Local Schools High School Graduation Commencement Address, Bowerston, OH, May 2021.

C Hathaway[#], CMG Schammel and **SE Fiester**. *Aspergillus* otomycosis leading to tympanic membrane rupture in a young immunocompetent woman, Discover USC, Columbia, SC, April 2021.

MH Hyche*, CMG Schammel, M Devane, **S Fiester**, M Call, P Kent, J Knight. *Tropheryma whipplei* manifesting in the CNS: case report and comprehensive literature review, Discover USC, Columbia, SC, April 2021.

-First Place in Case Reports/Small Series/Learning Innovation Category

K McCain*, JT Grier and **SE Fiester**. Elucidation of heme-*b* utilization mechanisms by the human nosocomial pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Discover USC, Columbia, SC, April 2021.

C Hathaway[#], CMG Schammel and **SE Fiester**. *Aspergillus* otomycosis in a young immunocompetent woman, SC Upstate Research Symposium (SCURS), Spartanburg, SC, April 2021.

-Presented as a conference proceeding

[†]E Hogue*, L Bracken*, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Development of Models for Study of Host-Pathogen Interactions During Human *Acinetobacter baumannii* infection via Novel Dual RNA-sequencing Technology, 2021 SC-INBRE Science Symposium, Columbia, SC, January 2021.

L Bracken*, E Hogue*, **SE Fiester** and JT Grier. Exploration of the host-pathogen interactions of *Acinetobacter baumannii* and human lung epithelial cells with novel dual RNA-sequencing technology, 2020 Fall Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, Greenville, SC, October 2020.

JA Kohrt*, M Young*, N Nawar*, DO Boldt*, J Valbuena*, **SE Fiester**, A Tartaro and JT Grier. Applications of R and Shiny for interactive visualizations of host-pathogen interactions in dual RNA-seq data, 2020 Fall Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, Greenville, SC, October 2020.

-This presentation won "Second Place Undergraduate Category."

MA Knapp[#], TA Johnson[#], MK Ritter[#], RO Rainer, **SE Fiester**, JT Grier, TD Connell and S Arce. Differential binding of *E. coli* enterotoxins LT-IIa, LT-IIb and LT-IIc to human B and T cell subsets identifies a potential use as adjuvants in cancer immunotherapy, American Association for Cancer Research Virtual Special Conference on Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy, Philadelphia, PA, October 2020.

DC Lee[#], **SE Fiester**, LA Madeline, G Dukes, JW Fulcher, ME Ward, CMG Schammel and RK Hakimi. Fatal granulomatous amebic encephalitis in Upstate South Carolina, 2020 Fall Meeting of the South Carolina Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, Greenville, SC, October 2020.

K McCain*, JT Grier and **SE Fiester**. Elucidation of heme-*b* utilization mechanisms by the human nosocomial pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*, 2nd Annual Biomedical Sciences Student Research Virtual Symposium, Greenville, SC, July 2020.

L Bracken*, E Hogue*, **S Fiester** and JT Grier. Dual RNA-Seq of *A. baumannii* with human host, 2nd Annual Biomedical Sciences Student Research Virtual Symposium, Greenville, SC, July 2020.

C Liu*, CR Gutiérrez*, BA Arivett, RF Relich, JT Grier, LA Actis, **SE Fiester** and MS Ramírez. Changes in antimicrobial resistance properties of extensively drug-resistant *Acinetobacter* over the course of a lethal infection, American Society for Microbiology Microbe 2020, Chicago, IL, June 2020.

-Abstract accepted, conference cancelled due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

GM Traglia*, J Fernandez*, JE Reddic, JF Meredith, **SE Fiester** and M Ramirez. Genomic diversity of *Acinetobacter* clinical isolates from a large southeastern United States hospital system, American Society for Microbiology Microbe 2020, Chicago, IL, June 2020.

-Abstract accepted, conference cancelled due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

B. Tennie[§], **SE Fiester**, JR Meredith, JW Kelly, SE Williams, JE Reddic, SD Lee[#], DC Lee[#], JA Bigner[#] and MS Nolan. Evaluating the clinical epidemiology of *Klebsiella* infections in the Upstate region of South Carolina, Prisma Health, Health Sciences Center Research Showcase, Greenville, SC, April 2020.

-Abstract accepted, conference cancelled due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

[†]DC Lee[#], **SE Fiester**, LA Madeline, JW Fulcher, ME Ward, CMG Schammel and RK Hakimi. *Acanthamoeba spp.* and *Balamuthia mandrillaris* leading to fatal granulomatous amebic encephalitis, 4th Annual Harriet and Jerry Dempsey Research Conference, Greenville, SC, March 2020.

-Abstract accepted, conference cancelled due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

[†]DC Lee[#], **SE Fiester**, LA Madeline, JW Fulcher, ME Ward, CMG Schammel and RK Hakimi. *Acanthamoeba spp.* and *Balamuthia mandrillaris* leading to fatal granulomatous amebic encephalitis, 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Neuroimaging (ASN), Atlanta, GA, March 2020.

-DC Lee awarded \$1000 from Prisma Health Department of Internal Medicine for travel

[†]JT Grier. Dual RNA-seq for the analysis of host-pathogen interactions in a model of *A. baumannii* infection, National Big Data Health Science Conference 2020, Columbia, SC, February 2020.

*-Presentation of 2019 BIPP grant awarded to JT Grier and **SE Fiester** as Co-PIs.*

L Bracken*, E Hogue*, **S Fiester** and JT Grier. Dual RNA-Seq of *A. baumannii* with human host, USCSOMG Biomedical Sciences Summer Research Symposium, Greenville, SC, July 2019.

BA Arivett[§], JT Grier, JA Bigner[#], EJ Ohneck[§], ML Metz*, CR Wood[§], RF Relich, LA Actis and **SE Fiester**. Increased twitching motility, biofilm formation and virulence of *Acinetobacter baumannii* associated with necrotizing fasciitis, ASM Microbe 2019, San Francisco, CA, June 2019.

[†]**SE Fiester**, BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett[§], BR Wagner[#], EJ Ohneck[§], RE Schmidt* and LA Actis. Rapid Fire Talk (Outside the Box Therapeutics): Hexadecylphosphocholine reduces *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence, ASM Microbe 2018, Atlanta, GA, June 2018.

SE Fiester, BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett[§], BR Wagner[#], EJ Ohneck[§], RE Schmidt* and LA Actis. Hexadecylphosphocholine reduces *Acinetobacter baumannii* virulence, ASM Microbe 2018, Atlanta, GA, June 2018.

[†]S Arce, A Blenda, R Chosed, **S Fiester** and W Roudebush. Introduction to the Biomedical Researchers at USCSOM-Greenville, Greenville Health System Research Division Advisory Group quarterly meeting, Greenville, SC, February 2018.

BA Arivett[§], T Gerke, **SE Fiester** and A Farone. Use of synchrotron radiation to investigate heme-like gallium protoporphyrin IX in *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Kentucky-Tennessee Branch ASM Fall 2017 Meeting, Cookeville, TN, November 2017.

-This presentation won "Best Graduate Poster."

EJ Ohneck[§], BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester**, CR Wood[§], ML Metz*, GM Simeone* and LA Actis. Mucin acts as a signal for the differential expression of cellular processes and virulence factors in *Acinetobacter baumannii*, 14th Annual Cell, Molecular and Structural Biology (CMSB) Symposium, Miami University, Oxford, OH, June 2016.

EJ Ohneck[§], BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester**, GM Simeone*, MM Metz* and LA Actis. Investigating the role of the *Acinetobacter baumannii* two-component system BfmRS in sensing and responding to mucin, 22nd Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Indianapolis, IN, August 2015.

CM Harding[§], MA Nasr, RL Kinsella, BS Weber, **SE Fiester**, LA Actis, EN Tracy, RS Munson and MF Feldman. *Acinetobacter* strains carry two functional oligosaccharyltransferases, one devoted exclusively to type IV pili and one devoted to O-glycosylation of multiple proteins, *Acinetobacter* 2015 10th International Symposium on the Biology of *Acinetobacter*, Athens, Greece, June 2015.

CR Wood[§], BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Role of a novel type I pilus in *Acinetobacter baumannii* ATCC 17978, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Lorain, OH, April 2015.

A Tomaras, J Crandon, C McPherson, WF Penwell[§], **SE Fiester**, BA Arivett[§], LA Actis and D Nicolau. Lack of correlation between *in vitro* activity and *in vivo* efficacy of MB-1, a siderophore- β -lactam conjugate, against multiple strains of *Acinetobacter baumannii*, ICAAC 2014, Washington, DC, September 2014.

SC Geiger*, BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Determining the antimicrobial mode of action of GaPPIX on *Acinetobacter baumannii*, 12th Annual Cell, Molecular and Structural Biology (CMSB) Symposium, Miami University, Oxford, OH, May 2014.

BA Arivett[§], WF Penwell[§], CM Kaufman, RF Relich, **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Gallium protoporphyrin IX inhibits growth of multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*, 114th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, Boston, MA, May 2014.

EJ Ohneck[§], **SE Fiester**, DL Zimble[§], PN Rather and LA Actis. Characterization of the BfmRS two-component regulatory system in *Acinetobacter* clinical strains, 114th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, Boston, MA, May 2014.

SE Fiester, CC Nwugo, WF Penwell[§], J Neary, AC Beckett*, BA Arivett[§], PL Connerly, SM Menke, AP Tomaras and LA Actis. Role of the carboxyl terminus of SecA in iron acquisition, protein translocation and virulence in the bacterial pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*, 114th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, Boston, MA, May 2014.

SE Fiester, CC Nwugo, WF Penwell[§], JM Neary, AC Beckett*, ML Metz*, BA Arivett[§], PM Connerly, SM Menke, AP Tomaras and LA Actis. Role of the carboxyl terminus of SecA in iron acquisition, protein translocation and virulence of the bacterial pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, April 2014.

SE Fiester, BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett*, RE Schmidt*, ML Metz*, MV Carrier* and LA Actis. Iron-regulated cytolytic activity plays a role in the virulence of the human pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, April 2014.

GM Simeone*, EJ Ohneck[§], BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. *Acinetobacter baumannii* sensor kinase BfmS is involved in sensing pulmonary surfactant components, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, April 2014.

D Hariraju[§], T Ticak[§], M Bayron Arcelay*, **SE Fiester** and DJ Ferguson Jr. Isolation and characterization of novel strains of quaternary amine utilizing archaea from estuarine sediment, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, April 2014.

SC Geiger*, BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Determining the antimicrobial mode of action of GaPPIX on *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, April 2014.

SE Fiester, CC Nwugo, J Neary, WF Penwell[§], BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett*, S Menke, AP Tomaras and LA Actis. Role of the C-terminus of SecA in iron acquisition and protein translocation by *Acinetobacter baumannii* ATCC 19606^T, Cell, Molecular and Structural Biology (CMSB) Symposium, Miami University, Oxford, OH, May 2013.

ML Metz*, BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett*, MV Carrier*, WF Penwell[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Phosphatidylcholine-specific phospholipase C activity is responsible for the hemolytic activity of *A. baumannii*, Cell, Molecular and Structural Biology (CMSB) Symposium, Miami University, Oxford, OH, May 2013.

EJ Ohneck[§], DL Zimble[§], **SE Fiester**, WF Penwell[§] and LA Actis. Characterization of the sensor kinase BfmS in multiple *Acinetobacter baumannii* strains, Cell, Molecular and Structural Biology (CMSB) Symposium, Miami University, Oxford, OH, May 2013.

SE Fiester, CC Nwugo, J Neary, WF Penwell[§], BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett*, S Menke, AP Tomaras and LA Actis. Role of the C-terminus of SecA in iron acquisition and protein translocation by *Acinetobacter baumannii* ATCC 19606^T, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Ashland, OH, April 2013.

ML Metz*, BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett*, MV Carrier*, WF Penwell[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Phosphatidylcholine-specific phospholipase C activity is responsible for the hemolytic activity of *A. baumannii*, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Ashland, OH April 2013.

EJ Ohneck[§], DL Zimble[§], **SE Fiester**, WF Penwell[§] and LA Actis. Characterization of the sensor kinase BfmS in multiple *Acinetobacter baumannii* strains, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Ashland, OH, April 2013.

ML Metz*, BA Arivett[§], AC Beckett*, MV Carrier*, WF Penwell[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Examining hemolytic activity in *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Undergraduate Research Forum, Miami University, Oxford, OH, April 2013.

MK Sellin-Jeffries, BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester**, DD Coffey*, LM Thornton*, AW Smith*, LA Actis, JT Oris. Development of two small fish species, *Pimephales promelas* and *Cyprinodon variegatus*, as model organisms for immunotoxicity, Society of Toxicology and Environmental Chemistry North America 33rd Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, November 2012.

SE Fiester, BA Arivett[§], MV Carrier*, AC Beckett* and LA Actis. Hemolytic activity of *Acinetobacter baumannii*, 19th Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Milwaukee, WI, September 2012.

BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester**, WF Penwell[§], DL Zimble[§] and LA Actis. Exploiting an iron vein: *Acinetobacter baumannii*'s acquisition of iron from erythrocytes, 19th Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Milwaukee, WI, September 2012.

EJ Ohneck[§], DL Zimble[§], **SE Fiester**, BA Arivett[§] and LA Actis. *Acinetobacter baumannii* two-component regulatory system *bfmRS* is involved in biofilm formation on both biotic and abiotic surfaces, 19th Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Milwaukee, WI, September 2012.

EJ Ohneck[§], **SE Fiester**, DL Zimble[§] and LA Actis. *Acinetobacter baumannii* sensor kinase BfmS is involved in the regulation of motility and biofilm formation, 20th Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Columbus, OH, August 2012.

WF Penwell[§], DL Zimble[§], AC Beckett*, AM Richards*, BA Arivett[§], EJ Ohneck[§], **SE Fiester**, DV Zurawski and LA Actis. Variability of virulence factors among *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolates obtained from wounded military personnel, 20th Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Columbus, OH, August 2012.

CM Harding[§], EN Tracy, MD Carruthers, **SE Fiester**, LA Actis and RS Munson, Jr. Demonstration of type IV pili production in *Acinetobacter baumannii* and their role in natural transformation, twitching motility and biofilm formation, 20th Annual Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference, Columbus, OH, August 2012.

AC Beckett*, MV Carrier*, BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Hemolytic activity of *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Cell, Molecular and Structural Biology (CMSB) Symposium, Miami University, Oxford, OH, June 2012.

MV Carrier*, BA Arivett[§], **SE Fiester** and LA Actis. Analysis of uncharacterized hemolytic activity expressed by *Acinetobacter baumannii*, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Mason, OH, April 2012.

[†]**SE Fiester**. Characterization of optically active biopolymers, Kent State University Department of Biological Sciences' Seminar Series, Kent, OH, April 2011.

[†]**SE Fiester**. Characterization of optically active bacterial and viral proteins, Ohio Branch American Society for Microbiology, Ohio University, Athens, OH, April 2011.

SE Fiester. Detection of immune complexes using chiral nematic chitin fibrils, 26th Annual Graduate Research Symposium, Kent, OH, April 2011.

[†]**SE Fiester**. Optical properties of a viral protein, Kent State Liquid Crystal Institute Liquid Crystal Day, Kent, OH, October 2010.

SE Fiester, A Jákli and CJ Woolverton. Liquid crystalline properties of g8p, the major coat protein of *fd* bacteriophage, 84th Colloid on Surface Science Symposium, Akron, OH, June 2010.

SE Fiester and CJ Woolverton. Formulation of chitin as a liquid crystal biosensor, Ohio Branch of the American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting, Mason, OH, April 2010.

TT Meilander[§], SL Helfinstine[§], **SE Fiester** and CJ Woolverton. Hands-on biosafety level 3 workshop improves knowledge and skill in laboratory personnel, American Society for Microbiology 107th General Meeting, Toronto, Canada, May 2007.

[†]**SE Fiester**. American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (OH), Toledo, OH, 2006.

Patents

Patent title: Alteration of albomycin for the treatment of bacterial infections

U.S. patent application number: 63/159,542

Filed: March 1, 2022

Role: **Sole inventor**

Funded Grants and Contracts (\$605,191.71 to date)

Proposal title: Elucidation of *A. baumannii* virulence factors and identification of efficacious therapeutics and therapeutic targets

Grantor: FGCU Office of the Provost

Date: Summer 2026

Role: **PI**

Award amount: **\$16,575**

Proposal title: Florida Gulf Coast University start-up funds

Grantor: Florida Gulf Coast University Academic Affairs

Date: 2025

Role: **PI**

Award amount: **\$100,000**

Proposal title: Transcriptomics of *Acinetobacter baumannii* and its human host by dual RNA-seq

Grantor: New Mexico IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (NM INBRE) Sequencing and Bioinformatics Core Pilot Award funded through National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Date: 2022-2023

Role: **Co-PI**

Award amount: **\$10,000**

Proposal title: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Cleaning Protocols: Efficacy of Decontamination Methods Against Bacterial Pathogens

Grantor: Prisma Health (Transformative Seed Grant)

Date: 2022-2023

Role: **Co-I**

Award amount: **\$20,000**

Proposal title: Intracellular survival and immune evasion of necrotizing fasciitis *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolates

Grantor: Infectious Diseases Society of America Foundation (G.E.R.M. Award)

Date: 2021-2022

Role: **Significant Personnel**

Award amount: **\$4,000**

Proposal title: Interferon-independent immune contributions of IFI44 and IFIT3 to SARS-CoV-2 clinical complications

Grantor: Prisma Health (Transformative Seed Grant)

Date: 2021

Role: **Co-I**

Award amount: **\$20,000**

Proposal title: Enhancement of flow cytometry capabilities at UofSC campuses in the Upstate

Grantor: University of South Carolina (ASPIRE III grant)

Date: 2020-2022

Role: **Co-PI**

Award amount: **\$100,000**

Proposal title: Simultaneous transcriptomics of host-pathogen interactions during *Acinetobacter baumannii* infection

Grantor: University of South Carolina (ASPIRE I, track IIA grant)

Date: 2020-2022

Role: **Co-PI**

Award amount: **\$9,998**

Proposal title: Implications of enterotoxin modulation on the immune response to bacteria
Grantor: Prisma Health (Transformative Seed Grant)

Date: 2020-2022

Role: **PI**

Award amount: **\$20,000**

Proposal title: Innate Immune Gene Contributions to SARS-CoV-2 Clinical Complications

Grantor: University of South Carolina (COVID-19 Research Initiative)

Date: 2020-2021

Role: **Co-I**

Award amount: **\$15,000**

Proposal title: Analyzing and visualizing dual RNA-sequencing data

Grantor: Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (Faculty Fellowship)

Date: 2020-2021

Role: **Senior Personnel**

Award amount: **\$14,500**

Proposal title: Alteration of albomycin for the treatment of bacterial infections

Grantor: Pathology Associates

Date: 2020

Role: **PI**

Award amount: **\$1,000**

Proposal title: Iron scavenging mechanisms during sepsis caused by the human nosocomial pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*

Grantor: University of South Carolina (Magellan Mini-Grant)

Date: 2020

Role: **Primary mentor**

Award amount: **\$800**

Proposal title: Elucidation of hemoglobin degradation and subsequent heme-*b* utilization by the multidrug-resistant human pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii*

Grantor: University of South Carolina (ASPIRE I, track IIA grant)

Date: 2019-2021

Role: **PI**

Award amount: **\$10,000**

Proposal title: Transcriptomics of *Acinetobacter baumannii* and its human host by dual RNA-seq

Grantor: South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) Bioinformatics Pilot Project Program (BIPP) funded through National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Date: 2019-2021

Role: **Co-PI**

Award amount: **\$10,000**

Proposal title: Evaluating the Clinical and Molecular Epidemiology of *Klebsiella* Infections in the Upstate Region of South Carolina

Grantor: Greenville Health System (Transformative Seed Grant)

Date: 2019-2021

Role: **Co-PI**

Award amount: **\$20,000**

Proposal title: MENTOR: Medical Enrichment Through Opportunities in Research
Grantor: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (T35)
Date: 2018-2023
Role: **Senior personnel** Approximate amount of medical student stipends: **\$72,000**

Proposal title: Internal budget justification for procurement of a flow cytometer
Grantor: University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville
Date: 2018
Role: **Author** Award amount: **\$45,005.26**

Proposal title: Novel approach to inactivating Iraqibacter, a relevant human pathogen: How gallium protoporphyrin IX can disrupt iron homeostasis in *Acinetobacter baumannii*
Grantor: Department of Energy (Advanced Photon Source General User Proposal 48369)
Date: 2017
Role: **Co-PI** Award amount: ~\$30,000

Proposal title: Biomedical sciences research start-up funds
Grantor: University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville
Date: 2017
Role: **PI** Award amount: **\$82,013.45**

Proposal title: Elucidation of Hemoglobin Degradation by *Acinetobacter baumannii*
Grantor: Miami University Middletown (Miami University Middletown Research Grant)
Date: 2016-2017
Role: PI **Award amount:** \$2,500

Proposal title: Kent State Graduate Student Senate Research Grant
Grantor: Kent State University
Date: 2010-2011
Role: **PI** Award amount: **\$1,800**

Monetary Honors & Travel Awards (\$8,287.92 to date)

Award: Peggy Cotter Travel Award
Grantor: American Society for Microbiology
Date: 2020 Award Amount: **\$1,650**
-This award was delayed until 2021 due to the cancellation of ASM Microbe 2020.

Award: Travel Award for Young Ambassadors
Grantor: American Society for Microbiology
Date: 2020 Award Amount: **\$1,125**
-This award was delayed until 2021 due to the cancellation of ASM Microbe 2020.

Award: Travel Award for Young Ambassadors
Grantor: American Society for Microbiology
Date: 2019

Award Amount: \$1,105

Award: Judge Travel Award

Grantor: Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students

Date: 2018

Award Amount: **\$907.92**

Award: Kent State Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant

Grantor: Kent State University

Date: 2010

Award Amount: **\$500**

Award: Kent State Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant

Grantor: Kent State University

Date: 2008

Award Amount: **\$500**

Award: Gordon Research Conference on Liquid Crystals Travel Grant

Grantor: National Science Foundation (DMR0645461)

Date: 2007

Award Amount: **\$1,500**

Award: Kent State Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant

Grantor: Kent State University

Date: 2007

Award Amount: **\$500**

Award: Kent State Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant

Grantor: Kent State University

Date: 2006

Award Amount: **\$500**

Other Honors & Awards

Award: First Place for Undergraduate Research in the College of Arts and Sciences at Eagle X in the Field of Biology for “*Acinetobacter baumannii* gene expression under iron limitation”

Grantor: FGCU Eagle X

Date: April 2026

Award: FGCU Faculty MVP

Grantor: FGCU Athletics

Date: April 2026

Award: Peggy Cotter Travel Award for Early Career Branch Members

Grantor: American Society for Microbiology

Date: March 2020

Award: Young Ambassador of Science

Grantor: American Society for Microbiology

Date: February 2019

Award: The Allan A. Ichida Award for Research Excellence for “Phosphatidylcholine-specific phospholipase C activity is responsible for the hemolytic activity of *A. baumannii*”

Grantor: Ohio Branch American Society for Microbiology Annual Meeting

Date: April 2013

Award: 2nd place graduate physical poster for “Detection of pathogens using a liquid crystalline phase of chitin”

Grantor: Microscopy Society of Northeastern Ohio Fall Meeting and Student Poster Competition

Date: November 2009

Award: Pre-medicine award

Grantor: Kent State University, Department of Biological Sciences

Date: May 2005

Award: Invited member

Grantor: The Phi Beta Kappa Society

Date: April 2005

Award: Invited member

Grantor: Golden Key International Honour Society

Date: April 2004

Internal Press

“FGCU’s pre-professional track prepares SW Florida veterinarians,” *FGCU 360 News of the University*, April 23, 2026.

“New and Notable,” *University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Faculty and Staff News*, February 19, 2021.

“New and Notable” and “In the News,” *University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Faculty and Staff News*, October 23, 2020.

“Student, faculty, and staff promotions, accolades and recognitions,” *University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Faculty and Staff News*, September 11, 2020.

“Student, faculty, and staff promotions, accolades and recognitions,” *University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Faculty and Staff Weekly News*, July 10, 2020.

“UofSC School of Medicine Greenville Faculty Awarded ASPIRE Grant Funding,” *University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Faculty and Staff Weekly News*, May 18, 2020.

“Miami Middletown offers area high school students forensic science lab exposure,” *Miami University Campus News*, Oxford, OH, October 28, 2015.

External Press

“How Luggage Brands Are Rethinking Suitcase Design Amid the Pandemic,” *Condé Nast Traveler*, October 1, 2020.

“Ambassador Spotlight,” *American Society for Microbiology Young Leaders Circle Newsletter*, July 29, 2020.

“Heading out to SC’s reopened parks? Here’s how to protect yourself against COVID-19,” *The State*, May 2, 2020.

“11 Germ-Spreading Items You’re Probably Carrying Right Now,” *Reader’s Digest*, August 20, 2019.

“More possible H1N1 cases,” *WBNS-10TV*, Columbus, OH, June 2, 2010.

“Facility picked for national biocontainment training KSU lab joins elite company,” *Akron Beacon Journal*, Akron, OH, October 26, 2009.

Personal

Born in Canton, Ohio (south of Cleveland) on April 28, 1983, and raised in Appalachian Ohio. Married to Dr. Julie Teuber on December 11, 2015.