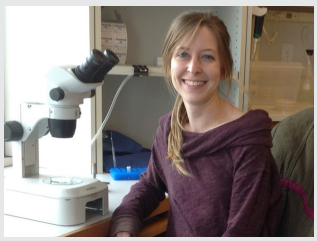
KRISTIN FENKER, PHD



Website: kristinfenker.com // **Email:** kfenker@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

2012; 2018 - Present

Research Associate
2022 - present

Post-doctoral Research Associate
2018 - 2022

Teaching Assistant
Fall 2012

SCIENCE & WRITING LEAD — Genetic Science Learning Center (GSLC)

Leadership

- Lead the GSLC's Science Writing and Curriculum Development Team
- Contribute to grant proposals and progress reports; led writing for GSLC's most recent NIH Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) submission
- Maintain awareness and communicate about projects, timelines, and goals across GSLC
- Set writing team priorities, assign work, and determine deadlines
- Provide scientific content advice and feedback on team member's drafts and guide visual development
- Conduct final review of all work carried out by the writing team
- Manage extensive materials review process, balancing the needs of many stakeholders

Writing

- Research, write, and edit content across a range of life-science and health topics
- Apply my scientific expertise to evaluate current research and pitch ideas
- Experience with a variety of media, including videos, interactives, hands-on activities, and educational games
- Collaborate with a team of illustrators, animators, and interactive content developers to bring ideas to life
- Build and maintain relationships with subject matter experts
- Iteratively revise materials based on user, subject matter expert, and/or funder feedback

Summer 2011

ECO-EXPLORER — Utah's Hogle Zoo

- Interacted directly with guests to provide education about animals and the importance of habitat conservation
- Created presentations and performed skits in the Zoo's "Discovery Theater"
- Led hands-on animal encounters
- Received extensive training on speaking to the public, crafting meaningful messages, and discussing controversial topics

2008 - 2010

R&D COMMUNICATIONS INTERN — Dow AgroSciences (now Corteva AgriScience)

- Managed communication of research milestones to both scientists and the public
- Worked with company scientists to write and edit applications for scientific and industry awards
- Wrote news articles, press releases, and created scientific presentations technical and non-technical audiences
- Aided in the design of company tours, including designing displays, scripts for tour guides, hands-on experiences, and content for video kiosks

EDUCATION / TRAINING

2011 - 2018

PH.D. HUMAN GENETICS
University of Utah - Stanfield Lab
Thesis Title: To motility and beyond! Investigating how morphology change is regulated during *C. elegans* sperm development.
Description: Used a variety of genetics, imaging, and cell biology techniques to ask: how do cells respond to signals from the outside world?

2017

WRITING FOR IMPACT AND INFLUENCE
American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)
Professional writing program for scientists

2014 - 2017

NIH DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY TRAINING GRANT (53T2HD07491)

2009 - 2010

RESEARCH CERTIFICATE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

2005 - 2009

B.S. HUMAN BIOLOGY / MINOR WRITING & PUBLISHING
University of Indianapolis

SKILLS

- Broad foundation in science & health
- Ability to dive into scientific literature
- Expertise translating complex science
- Experience managing review of materials

SELECTED WORK

- Marfan Syndrome
- Monkeyflower Mixer
- How Viruses Work
- Deciphering the Data
- Opioids and Tolerance

VOLUNTEERING

- Aviculture volunteer at Tracy Aviary

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Fenker, K.E., Hansen, A.A., Chong, C.A., Jud, M.C., Duffy, B.A., Norton, J.P., Hansen, J.M., and Stanfield, G.M. SLC6 family transporter SNF-10 is required for protease-mediated activation of sperm motility in *C. elegans*. Developmental Biology 393, 171-182 (2014).

Fenker, K.E. and Stanfield G.M. SNF-10 connects male-derived signals to the onset of sperm motility in *C. elegans.* Worm 4 (2015).

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Fenker, K.E., Hansen, A.A., Chong, C.A., Jud, M.C., and Stanfield G.M. SNF-10, an SLC6 transporter required for sperm activation by *C. elegans* males. (Poster) C. elegans Development, Cell Biology and Gene Expression Meeting, Madison, WI. June 7, 2012.

Fenker, K.E., Hansen, A.A., Chong, C.A., Jud, M.C., and Stanfield, G.M. The role of an SLC6 family transporter in *C. elegans* sperm activation. (Selected talk) International Worm Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. June 27, 2013.

Fenker, K.E. and Stanfield, G.M. SNF-10, a Solute Carrier 6 family protein, connects male-derived protease signals to the onset of sperm motility. (Poster) International Worm Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. June 25, 2015.

Fenker, K.E. and Stanfield, G.M. The t-SNARE syx-7 promotes cytokinesis during C. elegans sperm meiosis. (Selected talk) The Allied Genetics Conference, Orlando, FL. July 15, 2015.

Stark L, Malone M, Homburger S, **Fenker K,** Drits-Esser D, Kelly M, Perkins R, Anderson P, Breitenbach K, Peterson J, Pompei K (2019, October). Exploring genetics through genetic disorders: Developing and testing an NGSS-aligned high school curriculum unit. Poster presentation at the American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting, Houston, TX.

Homburger, S.A. and **Fenker, K.E.** Opioids and the science of addiction: a science-based approach to classroom opioid education. (Invited talk, co-presented) PARCKA Parleys. University of Utah School of Medicine. January 21, 2020.

Homburger SA, Malone M, **Fenker KE**, Drits-Esser D, Lambert AE, Stark LA. (2021, January). Exploring genetics through genetic disorders (EGTGD): Developing and field testing a 3D, phenomenon-based high school (HS) curriculum unit. Paper presented at the Association for Science Teacher Education International Conference, virtual meeting.

Malone M, Lambert A, Taylor JK, **Fenker KE,** Homburger SA, Drits-Esser D, Stark LA. (2021, January). Development and pilot testing of a 3D, phenomenon-based curriculum unit on cell biology for middle school. Paper presented at the Association for Science Teacher Education International Conference, virtual meeting.

Lambert, A., Drits-Esser, D., Hamburger, S.A., **Fenker, K.E.,** Malone, M., and Stark, L.A. When an NGSS friendly genetics curriculum unit goes online: a naturalistic study. (Poster) NARST Virtual Conference, April 2021.

Lambert, A., Drits-Esser, D., Hamburger, S.A., **Fenker, K.E.,** Malone, M., and Stark, L.A. 3D Alignment between curriculum and assessments matters: results from a new genetics curriculum field test. (Selected talk, given by co-worker) NARST Virtual Conference, April 2021.

Drits-Esser A, Lambert AE, Taylor JC, Malone M, Homburger SA, **Fenker KE**, Stark LA. (2022, March). Cells in Context: Comparing Online vs. In-person Delivery. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, Vancouver, BC and Hybrid.