

**Ashlee M. Plummer-Medeiros, Ph.D.****Work Experience**

2022-Current

Bryn Mawr College

**Assistant Professor**

Chemistry Department (Bryn Mawr, PA)

2021-2022

Gettysburg College

**Visiting Assistant Professor**

Chemistry Department (Gettysburg, PA)

2021

Emmanuel College

**Adjunct Instructor**

Biology Department (Boston, MA)

2017-2021

Harvard Medical School

**Post-Doctoral Fellow**

Laboratory of Dr. Maofu Liao (Boston, MA)

**Education**

2012-2017

Johns Hopkins University

**Ph.D., Molecular Biophysics**

Laboratory of Dr. Karen Fleming (Baltimore, MD)

2008-2012

North Carolina State University

**B.S., Chemistry**

Laboratory of Dr. Stefan Franzen (Raleigh, NC)

**Publications**

**Plummer-Medeiros, A. M.**, Culbertson, A. T., Morales-Perez, C. L., Liao, M., (2023) Activity and Structural Dynamics of Human ABCA1 in a Lipid Membrane, *J Mol Bio*, 435, 168038.

Devlin, T., Marx, D., Roskopf, M., Bubb, Q., **Plummer, A. M.**, Fleming, K.G., (2023), FkpA Enhances Membrane Protein Folding using an Extensive Interaction Surface, *Protein Sci*, 32, e4592.

**Plummer, A. M.\***, Culbertson, A. T.\*, Liao, M., (2021) The ABCs of Sterol Transport, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.*, 83, 153-181. (\*Equally Contributing Authors)

Marx, D. C., **Plummer, A. M.**, Faustino, A. M., Roskopf, M. A., Leblanc, M. J., Devlin, T., Lessen, H. J. Majumdar, A., Amann, B. T., Fleming, P. J., Krueger, S., Fried, S. D., Fleming, K. G., (2020) SurA is a cryptically grooved chaperone that expands unfolded outer membrane proteins, *PNAS*, 117(45), 28026-28035.

Marx, D. C., Leblanc, M., **Plummer, A. M.**, Krueger, S., Fleming, K. G., (2020) Domain Interactions Determine the Conformational Ensemble of SurA, *Protein Science*, 29(10), 2043-2053.

Peterson, J. H., **Plummer, A. M.**, Fleming, K. G., Bernstein, H. D., (2017) Selective pressure for rapid membrane integration constrains the sequence of bacterial outer membrane proteins, *Molecular Microbiology*, 106(5), 777-792.

Mo, G. C. H., Ross, B., Hertel, F., Manna, P., Yang, X., Greenwald, E., Booth, C., **Plummer, A. M.**, Tenner, B., Chen Z., Wang, Y., Kennedy, E. J., Cole, P. A., Fleming, K. G., Palmer, A., Jimenez, R., Xiao, J., Dedecker, P., Zhang, J., (2017) Genetically-Encoded Biosensors for Visualizing Live-cell Biochemical Activity at Superresolution, *Nature Methods*, 14, 427-434.

**Plummer, A. M.**, Fleming, K. G., (2016) From Chaperones to the Membrane with a BAM!, *Trends in Biochemical Sciences*, 41(10), 872-882.

Costello, S. M., **Plummer, A. M.**, Fleming, P. J., Fleming, K. G., (2016) Dynamic periplasmic chaperone reservoir facilitates biogenesis of outer membrane proteins, *PNAS*, 113(33), E4794-E4800.

**Plummer, A. M.**, Fleming, K. G., (2015) BamA Alone Accelerates Outer Membrane Protein Folding In Vitro through a Catalytic Mechanism, *Biochemistry*, 54(39), 6009-11.

**Plummer, A. M.\***, Gessmann, D.\*, Fleming, K. G., (2015) The role of a destabilized membrane for OMP insertion, *Methods in Molecular Biology*, 1329, 57-65. (\*Equally Contributing Authors)

Gessmann, D., Chung, Y. H., Danoff, E. J., **Plummer, A. M.**, Sandlin, C. W., Zaccai, N. R., Fleming, K. G., (2014) Outer membrane  $\beta$ -barrel protein folding is physically controlled by periplasmic lipid head groups and BamA, *PNAS*, 111, 5878-5883.

**Plummer, A. M.**, Thompson, M. K., Franzen, S. (2013) Role of Polarity of the Distal Pocket in the Control of Inhibitor Binding in Dehaloperoxidase-Hemoglobin, *Biochemistry*, 52, 2218–2227.

## **Research Experience**

2022-Current

Bryn Mawr College

### **Principle Investigator (Department of Chemistry)**

My lab concentrates on the functional, computational, and structural characterization of bacterial membrane proteins which play a role in the widespread virulence of bacteria. Cell membranes are amazingly complex mixtures of phospholipids and membrane proteins – these membranes surround cells and create a protective barrier against outside threats. The proteins that reside within membranes work in many critically important processes and the dysfunction of these proteins is linked to innumerable diseases, including atherosclerosis, cancer, and neurodegenerative disorders. Our work combines several different experimental techniques, including in vitro biochemical assays, structural biology-based studies, cell-based assays, and computational simulations to understand 1) how these proteins work and 2) how they interact with the surrounding lipid bilayer.

2022-Current

Molecular Education and Research Consortium in Undergraduate Computational Chemistry (MERCURY)

My lab is a current member of the MERCURY consortium which strives to facilitate research collaborations in computational Chemistry at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) across the country.

2017-2021

Harvard Medical School

### **Post-Doctoral Fellow (Department of Cell Biology, Laboratory of Dr. Maofu Liao)**

My post-doctoral research investigated how cholesterol is exported by the eukaryotic ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) transmembrane protein ABCA1 – dysfunction of ABCA1 is related to increased risk of cardiovascular disease and various cancers. I utilized cryo-electron microscopy (EM) to interrogate the mechanism of ABCA1-cholesterol extraction and understand how the conformations of ABCA1 correspond to its ATP-hydrolysis cycle. I complemented these studies with both *in vitro* and *in vivo* transport assays and molecular dynamics simulations to better understand the details of binding interactions between ABCA1 and cholesterol.

2012-2017

Johns Hopkins University

### **Dissertation Work (Department of Molecular Biophysics, Laboratory of Dr. Karen Fleming)**

My Ph.D. research aimed to understand how *E. coli* Outer Membrane Proteins (OMPs) interact with two protein folding factors: the periplasmic chaperone SurA and the OMP-folding catalyst BamA. The bacterial outer membrane is the first barrier that antibiotics must cross to gain entrance into the cell, therefore understanding OMP biogenesis is prerequisite to the design of effective, novel antibiotics. During my dissertation work, I utilized SDS-PAGE based folding assay to monitor OMP folding; biochemical crosslinking to construct a structural model for this complex by integrating analytical ultracentrifugation, circular dichroism and fluorescence spectroscopy, and small-angle neutron scattering experimental data; and I mentored an undergraduate student in the development of a holistic MATLAB model for OMP biogenesis; I conceptualized this project and actively worked towards its completion and subsequent

publication (*Costello, et al., PNAS 2016*). Themes throughout my dissertation work involve aiming to understand membrane protein folding and quality control, while also using collaborations and holistic modeling to piece together the details of the OMP folding pathway into the larger cellular puzzle.

2010-2012

*North Carolina State University  
Zhejiang University (Hangzhou, China)*

### **Undergraduate Research (Department of Chemistry, Laboratory of Dr. Stefan Franzen)**

My introduction to protein structure-function studies came in my undergraduate work on the bioremediation enzyme Dehaloperoxidase which converts environmentally toxic trihalogenated phenols into dihalogenated quinones. I designed and studied mutants utilizing UV-Vis and Resonance Raman spectroscopy, molecular dynamics, and X-ray crystallography experiments. I conducted X-ray crystallography experiments at Argonne National Laboratory. During my summer study abroad in Hangzhou, China (2010), I collaborated with local students to build and run molecular dynamics simulations of protein variants.

## **Teaching Experience**

### **In-Classroom Teaching and Training**

2022-2023

*Chemistry Department, Bryn Mawr College*

*Fall, 2022:* Chem-103: General Chemistry 1 & Chem-251: Research Methodology Laboratory

*Spring, 2023:* Bio-354: Topics and Concepts of Biochemistry & Chem-377: Biochemistry 2 – Metabolism

2022 ACS-New Faculty Workshop *American Chemical Society (Baton Rouge, LA)*

2022 Teaching and Learning Institute: Students as Learners & Teachers Program *Bryn Mawr College*

2021 *Chemistry Department, Gettysburg College*

*Fall, 2021:* General Chemistry 1 & Biochemistry I Laboratory

*Spring, 2022:* Biochemistry 2 – Metabolism Lecture & Laboratory sections

2021 *Biology Department, Emmanuel College*

*Spring, 2021:* Organism and Evolutionary Biology Laboratory

2020 New England Future Faculty Workshop *Northeastern University*

2019 Teaching Institute: Theory, Practice, & Navigating STEM Education Workshop *Harvard Medical School*

2016-2017 Preparing Future Faculty Certification Program *Johns Hopkins University*

2016 Co-instructor for Advanced Seminar in Membrane Protein Structure, Function, & Pharmacology *JHU*

2013 TA for Physical Chemistry of Biology Macromolecules *JHU*

2010-2012 Peer Supervisor/Academic Coach *University Tutorial Center, North Carolina State University*

2010-2012 Supplemental Instruction Leader *University Tutorial Center, NCSU*

### **In-Laboratory Mentoring**

2022-2023

*Chemistry Department, Bryn Mawr College*

My group at Bryn Mawr College has six current undergraduate students. Individual projects were conceptualized for each student. Three full-time students were accommodated through the Summer Science Research (SSR) program in 2023.

2019 *Harvard Medical School Cell Biology Research Scholars Program*

For this project, I designed and oversaw the completion of experimental protocols by a visiting undergraduate student. I also provided constructive criticism for written and oral presentations.

2014-2016

*Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Research Fellows*

I mentored two research fellows on two projects during my dissertation work: one project involved the development of a holistic MATLAB model for OMP biogenesis, while a second project centered on the investigation of the solution

properties of a chaperone protein. I worked actively with both students to ensure the success of their research. To this end, I designed computational and experimental projects for respective students. I had numerous one-on-one meetings with undergraduates to keep projects on track. I actively collaborated in the writing and editing of a publication on the OMP biogenesis computation model (*Costello, et al., PNAS 2016*).

2013-2014 *Biophysics Research for Baltimore Teens, Johns Hopkins University*  
 I served as a mentor for two summers for visiting local high school students. I designed cloning projects for each student, oversaw their weekly progress, and assisted them with preparation of oral presentations.

### ***Grants, Resources, and Fellowships***

2023 *National Science Foundation, XSEDE/ACCESS Start-Up Allocation*  
**Title:** Investigation of the Bacterial Membrane Protein Dynamics and Lipid Interactions

2022 *Tri-Co Mellon Brainstorming Grant*  
**Title:** Tri-Co Biochemistry Consortium Meeting, Spring 2023; funding awarded to host an interest group for Biochemistry faculty from Swarthmore, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr Colleges

2021 *NSF, XSEDE Research Allocation*  
**Title:** Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Membrane-Embedded ABC Transporters

2020-2021 *NSF, XSEDE Start-Up Allocation*  
**Title:** Investigation of the Role of Drug Binding and Lipid Interactions on the Conformational Landscape of a Multidrug Exporter

2018-2020 *American Heart Association Post-Doctoral Fellowship*  
**Title:** Elucidation of the mechanism for cholesterol and phospholipid transport by ABCA1

2014-2017 *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship*  
**Title:** The role of the periplasmic chaperone SurA in outer membrane protein biogenesis

2012 *George Owen Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University*

2011 *Undergraduate Research Grant, North Carolina State University*

### ***Selection of Invited Talks/Conferences as a PI***

2023 Joint Membrane Protein Biophysics Group Meeting *Swarthmore College, PA*

2023 Annual MERCURY Symposium *Furman College, SC*

**Student poster title:** Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Bacterial Lipid Trafficking Proteins

2023 Invited Guest Lecturer, Dept of Biophysics *Johns Hopkins University*

2022 Invited Career Panel Member, Annual Biophysics Retreat *Johns Hopkins University*

2022 BioSphere Biology Student Club Evening Series *Gettysburg College*

2022 Student Invited Speaker, Sceptical Chymists Student Club *Gettysburg College*

## ***Selection of Conference Presentations and Attendance as a trainee***

2021	Moderator, HMS Cryo-EM super-group symposium (Boston, MA)
2020	Guest blogger, Biophysical Society Conference (San Diego, CA)
2018	Attendee, Center on Membrane Protein Production and Analysis Symposium (New York, NY)
2017	Poster, Gordon Conference on Membrane Protein Folding (Easton, MA)
2017	Poster, Biophysical Society Conference (New Orleans, LA)
2016	Invited Speaker, Johns Hopkins University Annual Biophysics Retreat (Baltimore, MD)
2016	Invited Speaker, Gibbs Society of Biothermodynamics Conference (Carbondale, IL)
2015, 2016	Invited Speaker, Johns Hopkins University Student Evening Series (Baltimore, MD)
2016	Departmental Recruiter, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (Tampa, FL)
2016	Attendee, International Physics of Living Systems Conference (Boston, MA)
2015	Student Organizer, Johns Hopkins University Annual Biophysics Retreat (Baltimore, MD)
2014	Poster, Gibbs Society of Biothermodynamics Conference (Carbondale, IL)
2013	Poster, Biophysical Society Conference (Philadelphia, PA)
2011	Invited Speaker, Local American Chemical Society Meeting (Raleigh NC)

## ***Service to Bryn Mawr College***

2022-2023	Director of the Graduate Program of Chemistry
2022-2023	Graduate Council Committee
2022	Panel member on CV Preparation Bryn Mawr College, Graduate Group of Science & Math

## ***Peer Review Experience***

2019-2021	Early Career Reviewer	<i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i>
2019	Peer Reviewer of Post-Doctoral Fellowship Applications	<i>American Heart Association</i>

## ***Community Outreach***

2021	Teaching Assistant	<i>Harvard Medical School Cell Biology Research Scholars Program</i>
2021	Science Fair Judge	<i>Boston Public Science Fair</i>
2020-2021	Member of the Committee for Diversity and Equity	<i>Cell Biology Department, Harvard Medical School</i>
2016	White House Visit for STEM Policy Discussions with JHU students	<i>Washington, DC</i>
2014, 2016	U.S. Science and Engineering Festival Volunteer	<i>Washington, DC</i>
2013-2014	Biophysics Research for Baltimore Teens Volunteer Mentor	<i>Johns Hopkins University</i>