
Kwasi M. Connor Ph.D.
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
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Appointments: **Assistant Professor (start July-2019)**
University of California, Irvine
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Visiting Assistant Professor (2017-present)
California Lutheran University (CLU)
Department of Biology

Education: **University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA**
Marine Environmental Biology Program
Ph.D. in Biological Sciences 2012
Dissertation Title: "Field and Simulated Environmental Effects on the Transcriptome and Metabolome of Mussel *Mytilus californianus*".

California State University, Los Angeles, CA
Department of Biology and Microbiology
M.S. in Biology 2006

CSULA Charter School of Education
California Teacher Credential in Biological Sciences 2005

Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA
B.A. in accounting

Research: **Postdoctoral Research Scientist (2015-2017)**
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
Mentor: Giridharan Ramsingh M.D.
Molecular investigations of senescence and cancer in human hematopoietic stem cells.

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow (2013-2014)
University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow (2012-2015)
University of California-Irvine

Mentor: Donovan German
Field and laboratory investigations of digestive physiology in *Mytilus californianus*.

College Doctoral Fellow
Center for Excellence in Genomic Science Fellow
University of Southern California
Advisor: Andrew Y. Gracey

Investigated phenotypic expression in *Mytilus californianus* by measuring changes in the transcriptome and metabolome using cDNA microarray technology and LC/GC-MS.

Center for Environmental Analysis Fellow (CEA-CREST)
California State University, Los Angeles

Advisor: Carlos D. Robles
Performed field experiments to investigate the effect of flow dynamics on the growth rate of *Mytilus californianus* at Laguna Beach, California and B.C. Canada.

Honors and Awards:

- **Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship; 2013**
- **UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship; 2012 and 2014**
- Outstanding Mentor of Youth Award, Marine Environmental Biology; 2012
- **USC College Doctoral fellowship; 2006**
- Center for Excellence in Genomic Science fellowship; 2006
- USC Rose Hills scholarship; 2006
- Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees Professional Development Program; 2006
- Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society; 2005
- Center for Environmental Analysis fellowship (CEA-CREST); August 2002-2006
- Undergraduate Mentoring in Environmental Biology fellowship; 2001

Publications:

1. **Kwasi Connor**, Hsu Y., Giridharan Ramsingh (2018). Understanding Metabolomic Changes in Aging Bone Marrow. *Experimental Hematology & Oncology* 7:13.
2. Stephen Capone^A, **K Connor**^A, A. Columbo, Xin Li, T. J. Triche Jr, Giridharan Ramsingh (2018). Senescent Human Hematopoietic Progenitors Show Elevated Expression of Transposable Elements and Inflammatory Genes. *Experimental Hematology* 62: 33-38.
3. **Kwasi Connor**, A. Sung, N.S. Garcia, A.Y. Gracey, Donovan P. German (2016). Modulation of Digestive Physiology and Biochemistry in *Mytilus californianus* in Response to Feeding Level and Intertidal Microhabitat. *Biology Open* bio-019430.
4. Andy Y. Gracey **and Kwasi Connor** (2016). Transcriptional and Metabolomic Characterization of Spontaneous Metabolic Cycles in *Mytilus californianus* under subtidal conditions. *Marine Genomics* 30:35-41.
5. Brent Lockwood, **K Connor** and A.Y. Gracey (2015). The Environmentally Tuned Transcriptomes of *Mytilus* mussels. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 218:1822-33.
6. **Kwasi Connor** and Carlos D Robles (March 2015). Within-site Growth Rates and Terminal Sizes in *Mytilus californianus* over Wave Exposure and Tidal Gradients. *The Biological Bulletin* 228:39-51.
7. **Kwasi Connor** and Andrew Y. Gracey (2012). High Resolution Analysis of Metabolic Cycles in the Intertidal Mussel *Mytilus californianus*. *American Journal of Physiology* 302:R103-R111.
8. **Kwasi Connor** and Andrew Y. Gracey (2011). Circadian Cycles are the Dominant Transcriptional Rhythm in the Intertidal Mussel *Mytilus californianus*. *PNAS* 108:16110-16115.
9. Andrew Y. Gracey, ML Chaney, JP Boomhower, WR Tyburczy, **K Connor** and GN Somero (2008). Rhythms of Gene Expression in a Fluctuating Intertidal Environment. *Current Biology-Cell press* 18:1501-1507.

Manuscripts in prep:

Kwasi Connor and Andrew Y. Gracey. The Transcriptome in *Mytilus californianus* Responds Rapidly to a High-Shore Simulated Environment. target journal- *Marine Genomics*. **90% completed**

Kwasi Connor and Donovan German. The Digestive Physiology of Mussel *Mytilus*: A review. target journal- *Journal of Comparative Physiology B*. **75% completed**

Kwasi Connor, Tianna Pham and Donovan German. Observations of Digestive Enzyme Activity in *Mytilus californianus* under Simulated Environments. **50% completed**

Funding

Experiential Learning Grant-CLU-\$500 (2017)
PADI Foundation -\$2,500 (2018)

University Seminars:

“Rhythms of Life in a Fluctuating Environment”
University of California, Berkeley; 2017, California Lutheran University; 2016

“Omic Approaches to Understanding Life in a Fluctuating Environment”
Occidental College; 2016, California State University, Moss Landing Marine Labs; 2016
New York University; 2016, University of California, Irvine; 2015

“Life on the Rocks: Integrative Biology of Life in the Intertidal Zone”
University of California BML, Davis; 2015, University of California EEB, Davis; 2015

“Life in a Fluctuating Environment - Observations of the Transcriptome of Intertidal Mussel *Mytilus californianus*”
University of California, Santa Cruz; 2014, University of California, Los Angeles; 2014
Scripps Institute of Oceanography University of California, San Diego; 2013
California State University, San Francisco-Romberg Tiburon Center; 2013
California State University, Fullerton; 2013, Harvey Mudd; 2013, Dominguez Hills; 2013

Meetings:

“Digestive Performance of the Mussel *Mytilus californianus* in Response to Varying Food Availability”; *Society of Integrated and Comparative Biology* 2015

“Thermal Stress and Energetics in the Ecological Dominant Marine Mussel *Mytilus californianus* along Within-Shore Environmental Gradients”; *Society of Integrated and Comparative Biology* 2014

“Dietary modulation of digestive enzyme activity in mussel *Mytilus californianus* in response to food level and intertidal microhabitat”; *Southwest Organismal Biology* 2014

Reviewer:

BMC Genomics, Marine Biology, Biological Bulletin

Teaching:

Ecology and Evolution, Cell Biology, Environmental Ecology, Biochemistry, Genomics, Scientific Literature (2017-2018)
California Lutheran University
Molecular Biology, Physiology, Honors Biology Teaching Assistant (2008-2012)
University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA
Biology Teaching Assistant and Lecturer (cell, general biology, organismal biology) (2003-2005)
California State University, Los Angeles CA

Outreach:

Mentor for Bridging the Gap Internship at USC Medical School (2016)
Invited speaker for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (2015)
TIGERS - Targeted Instruction Generating Excitement about Research and Science (2013-2015)
USC Girls and Boys Science Camp on Catalina Island (2006-2012)
Quickscience high school science project judge (2007)
CSULA Outreach and recruitment of potential fellow candidates on behalf of CEA-CREST
CSULA Instructor of biology and chemistry labs for high school science programs (2000-2003)

Academic Service:

California Lutheran University (CLU)-Pre-health Advisor, PI Integrative Biology Lab, Faculty Mentor-African American males and CLU basketball, Facilities designer, CLU recruiter, CLU-USC liaison.
UCI UC President’s Postdoctoral representative (2013-2014)
USC-Worked directly with the Office of Provost to recruit more minorities to graduate programs (2010-2011)
USC-Student Representative for Marine Environmental Biology program (2011)
Grad. Student Rep. for CSULA Strategic Planning Committee for Graduate Studies (2006)

Mentees

Connor-Integrative Biology Laboratory at Cal Lutheran University-Cj Obrien (microplastics), Emily Johnson (metabolites), Steven Gould (ecology), Devin Romines (bioinformatics), Charnpreet Kaur (molecular and biochemistry), Claire Edwards (writer), Melissa Pepper (molecular biology).

Affiliations

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Society of the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
Western Society of Naturalists