

DR. SERENA HACKEROTT, PH.D.

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INTERESTS

Eco-Physiology, Acclimatization, Phenotypic Plasticity, Resilience, Coral Reef Ecology, Molecular Biology, Environmental Epigenetics, Marine Conservation

EDUCATION

2018-2024

PH.D. BIOLOGY, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Primary Advisor: Dr. Jose Eirin-Lopez; Environmental Epigenetics Lab (EELab)

Dissertation Title: Evaluating the capacity and molecular underpinnings of phenotypic plasticity and environmental memory in Caribbean *Acropora* corals. **Awarded FIU SEAS Best Dissertation**

2013-2014

M.S. MARINE SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Primary Advisor: Dr. John Bruno

Thesis Title: The effect of invasive lionfish on reef fish community structure along the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.

2009-2013

B.S. BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Minors in Chemistry and Marine Sciences GPA: 3.673

Research Advisor: Dr. John Bruno

Thesis Title: Native predators do not influence invasion success of Pacific lionfish on Caribbean reefs. **Highest Honors and Carolina Research Scholar**

POSITIONS

BEGINS DEC 2025

[National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow](#), University of Delaware (UD) School of Marine Science and Policy, College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment

MAY 2024- PRESENT

[Postdoctoral Researcher](#), UD School of Marine Science and Policy

AUG 2019-APR 2024

[Teaching and Research Assistant](#), Florida International University (FIU) Biological Sciences Department

AUG 2018-APR 2024

[NSF CREST Graduate Research Fellow](#), FIU Center for Aquatic Chemistry and the Environment (CACHÉ)

APR- JUL 2018

[Data Analysis Consultant](#), Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) and Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA)

AUG 2017-DEC 2017

[Marine Science Certificate Program Coordinator](#), College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), STeM Department

JAN 2016-DEC 2017

[Marine and Environmental Science Faculty](#), CMI STeM Department

JAN-JUL 2015

[Teaching and Research Assistant; Instructor](#), Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Research Station Bonaire

AUG 2013-DEC 2014

[Teaching Assistant](#), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), Biology Department

PUBLICATIONS

Available on [ORCID](#) and [Google Scholar](#)

(11) Hackerott, S.¹, H. A. Martell¹, S. Mansoor⁺, D. G. Souto, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2025) [DNA methylation dynamics in response to acute thermal exposure reveal the influence of heating, dose, and recovery in the staghorn coral *Acropora cervicornis*](#). *Journal of Thermal Biology* 134: 104338 (1: Shared first-authorship with interchangeable order; +: Undergraduate mentee) **IF: 2.9 (Q2)**

(10) Hackerott, S., L. Gregory⁺, J. Howard⁺, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2025) [Picture of health: Testing an accessible method for quantifying coral bleaching](#). *Coral Reefs* 44: 1327-1340 (+: Undergraduate mentee) **IF: 2.9 (Q1)**

- (9) **Hackerott, S.**, F. Virdis, J. M. Wong, P. J. Flood, C. Travers⁺, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2025) [The influence of environmental history on the performance of *Acropora cervicornis* corals varies spatially and temporally](#). *Science of the Total Environment* 977: 179385 (+: Undergraduate mentee) **IF: 8.0 (Q1)**
- (8) Fuller, C. N., S. Mansoor⁺, S. J. Guzman, L. V. Tose, **S. Hackerott**, J. Rodriguez-Casariado, J. M. Eirin-Lopez, F. Fernandez-Lima. (2025) [Mapping heat stress-induced core histone post-translational modifications in *Acropora cervicornis*](#). *Environmental Epigenetics* 11(1): dvaf017 (+: Masters student mentee) **IF: 3.2 (Q2)**
- (7) **Hackerott, S.**, F. Virdis, P. J. Flood, D. G. Souto, W. Paez⁺, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2023) [Phenotypic plasticity is associated with epigenetic variation in two Caribbean *Acropora* corals](#). *Molecular Ecology* 32(17): 4814-4828 (+: Undergraduate mentee) **IF: 4.5 (Q1)**
- (6) Beal A. P., **S. Hackerott**, K. Feldheim, S. Gruber, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2022) [Age group DNA methylation differences in lemon sharks \(*Negaprion brevirostris*\): Implications for future age estimation tools](#). *Ecology and Evolution* 12: e9226 **IF: 2.6 (Q2)**
- (5) **Hackerott, S.**, H. A. Martell, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2021) [Coral environmental memory: Causes, mechanisms, and consequences for future reefs](#). *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 36 (11): 1011-1023 (**Cover Article**) **IF: 20.6 (Q1)**
- (4) Beal A. P., **S. Hackerott**, B. Franks, S. Gruber, K. Feldheim, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (2021) [Epigenetic responses in juvenile Lemon sharks \(*Negaprion brevirostris*\) during a coastal dredging episode in Bimini, Bahamas](#). *Ecological Indicators* 127: 107793 **IF: 6.3 (Q1)**
- (3) **Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, C. E. Cox, N. J. Silbiger, J. F. Bruno. (2017) [Invasive lionfish had no measurable effect on prey fish community structure on the Belizean Barrier Reef](#). *PeerJ* 5:e3270 **IF: 2.1 (Q1)**
- (2) Valdivia A., J. F. Bruno, C. E. Cox, **S. Hackerott**, S. J. Green. (2014) [Re-examining the relationship between invasive lionfish and native grouper in the Caribbean](#). *PeerJ* 2:e348 **IF: 2.1 (Q1)**
- (1) **Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, S. Green, I. Côté, C. E. Cox, L. Adkins, C. A. Layman, W. F. Precht, J. F. Bruno. (2013) [Native predators do not influence invasion success of Pacific lionfish on Caribbean reefs](#). *PLoS ONE* 8(7): e68259 **IF: 3.5 (Q1)**

PUBLICATIONS IN
REVIEW OR
LATE-STAGE
PREPARATION

Drafts available
upon request

- (14) **Hackerott, S.**, H. A. Martell, J. A. Rodriguez-Casariago, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (*In prep.*) The influence of pre-exposure to multiple stressors on the acute thermal tolerance of *Acropora cervicornis* corals.
- (13) Mansoor, S. ⁺, **S. Hackerott**, J. A. Rodriguez-Casariago, D. G. Souto, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. (*In prep.*) Characterization of DNA methylation variation during a thermal stress episode in the stony coral *Acropora cervicornis*. (+: Masters student mentee)
- (12) Huffmyer, A. S., E. L. Strand, **S. Hackerott**, K. H. Wong, D. M. Becker, D. Connetta, K. X. Terpis, F. Pfab, J. Wong, Z. Dellaert, F. J. Olario, R. Cunning, J. M. Eirin-Lopez, S. B. Roberts, R. M. Nisbet, H. M. Putnam. (*In review*) Seasonal plasticity of symbiotic strategies clarifies coral holobiont resistance and resilience. [Pre-print available](#).

GRANTS AND
EXTERNAL
FUNDING

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| 2025 | NSF Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship (PI: Dr. Hackerott) | \$393,101 |
| | Plastic Partnerships: Investigating life history strategies constraining phenotypic plasticity across coral holobiont partners (Award # 2508454) | |
| 2021 | NOAA Ruth Gates Coral Restoration Innovation Grant (col: Dr. Hackerott, PI: Dr. Eirin-Lopez) | \$273,491 |
| | Stress Hardening Interventions for Improved Coral Restoration: Benefits, Costs, and Biomarkers (Award # NA21NMF4820301) | |

Total: \$675,792 USD

	2020	Wave of Change Rebuilding Coral Reefs Scholarship	\$5,000
	2020	Lerner Gray Memorial Fund for Marine Research Grant	\$1,700
	2020	Friends of Gumbo Limbo Graduate Student Research Grant	\$2,500
INTERNAL FUNDING Total: \$31,086 USD	2022	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Student Travel Support	\$1,620
	2022	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Student Travel Support	\$1,590
	2021	FIU Women Explorers Award	\$1,000
	2021	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Student Travel Award	\$2,000
	2021	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Student Research Support	\$3,328
	2021	FIU University Graduate School Graduate Student Research Support	\$1,200
	2021	Judith Evans Parker Travel Scholarship	\$850
	2020	FIU Institute of Environment Graduate Research Award	\$4,000
	2020	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Student Research Support	\$2,000
	2020	FIU Center for Coastal Ocean Research Travel Award	\$500
	2019	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Student Research Support	\$2,448
	2019	FIU Center for Coastal Ocean Research Travel Award	\$1,000
	2019	Judith Evans Parker Travel Scholarship	\$500
	2019	FIU College of Arts, Sciences, and Education Graduate Travel Award	\$300
	2019	FIU Tropics Graduate Student Research Grant	\$3,000
	2019	FIU CREST-CACHE Graduate Professional Development Support	\$1,250
	2018	FIU Tropics Graduate Student Travel Grant	\$1,500
	2012	UNC Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	\$3,000
HONORS AND AWARDS	2025-27	National Science Foundation Ocean Sciences (NSF-OCE) Postdoctoral Fellow	
	2024	FIU School of Environment, Arts and Society (SEAS) Best Dissertation Award	
	2022	Graduate Women in Science National Fellowship <i>Honorable Mention</i>	
	2021	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship <i>Honorable Mention</i>	
	2021	FIU Women Explorers Award	
	2018-24	NSF-CREST Center for Aquatic Chemistry and the Environment Graduate Fellow	
	2013	Highest Honors Biology (UNC) and Carolina Research Scholar Program	
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	2009-13	UNC Dean's List	
		Mansoor, S. ⁺ , J. A. Rodriguez-Casariego, C. Fuller, S. Guzman, S. Hackerott , D. Garcia-Souto, F. Fernandez-Lima, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2025. Characterizing Epigenetic Responses to Thermal Stress Episode in Stony Coral <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> . <i>EpiMar Symposium on Epigenetics in Marine and Aquatic Research</i> . May 27 th . Barcelona, Spain. Poster. (+: Undergraduate mentee)	
	2024	Hackerott, S. , H. A. Martell, J. A. Rodriguez-Casariego, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2024. The influence of pre-exposure to multiple stressors on the acute thermal tolerance of <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> corals. <i>Reef Futures Conference</i> . Riviera Maya, Mexico. December 11 th . Oral.	
		Hackerott, S. , F. Viridis, J.M. Wong, P. J. Flood, C. Travers ⁺ , J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2024. The influence of environmental history on the performance of <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> corals. <i>Dutch Caribbean Research Week</i> . Virtual. November 25 th . Oral. (+: Undergraduate mentee)	
		Hackerott, S. , L. Gregory ^{**} , J. Howard ⁺ , J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2024. Picture of health: Testing an accessible method for quantifying coral thermal tolerance. <i>Dutch Caribbean Research Week</i> . Virtual. November 20 th . Poster. (*: Presenting author, +: Undergraduate mentee)	

- Travers, C.⁺, **S. Hackerott**, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2024. Assessing an ecological tradeoff between thermal tolerance and growth rate in *Acropora cervicornis*. *Benthic Ecology Meeting*. Charleston, South Carolina. April 12th. Poster. (+: Undergraduate mentee)
- Hackerott, S.**, H. A. Martell, J. A. Rodriguez-Casariago, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2024. The influence of pre-exposure to multiple stressors on the acute thermal tolerance of *Acropora cervicornis* corals. *Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Ocean Sciences Meeting*. New Orleans, Louisiana. February 19th. Oral.
- 2023 **Hackerott, S.**, J. M. Wong, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2023. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger? Exploring the lasting influence of environmental history on *Acropora cervicornis* corals. *Benthic Ecology Meeting*. Miami, Florida. April 29th. Oral.
- Gregory, L.⁺, **S. Hackerott**, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2023. Picture of health: Testing an accessible method for quantifying coral bleaching. *Benthic Ecology Meeting*. Miami, Florida. April 29th. Poster. (+: Undergraduate mentee)
- 2022 **Hackerott, S.**, P. Flood, F. Virdis, D. G. Souto, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2022. Environmental and epigenetic drivers of phenotypic plasticity in *Acropora cervicornis* corals. *EpiMar Conference*. Woods Hole, Massachusetts. October 12th. Oral.
- Hackerott, S.**, P. Flood, F. Virdis, D. G. Souto, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2022. Environmental and epigenetic drivers of phenotypic plasticity in *Acropora cervicornis* corals. *Reef Futures Conference*. Key Largo, Florida. September 28th. Oral.
- Paez, W.⁺, **S. Hackerott**, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2022. Assessing relationships between symbiosis and metabolism of *Acropora cervicornis* corals across varying nutrient concentrations. *Reef Futures Conference*. Key Largo, Florida. September 28th. Poster. (+: Undergraduate mentee)
- Hackerott, S.**, P. Flood, F. Virdis, D. G. Souto, J. M. Eirin-Lopez. 2022. Environmental and epigenetic drivers of phenotypic plasticity in *Acropora cervicornis* corals. *International Coral Reef Symposium*. Bremen, Germany. July 8th. Oral.
- 2017 **Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, C. E. Cox, N. J. Silbiger, J. F. Bruno. 2017. Low lionfish, no problem? The effect of lionfish on reef fish communities in Belize. *ASLO Aquatic Sciences Meeting*. February 26th-March 3rd. Honolulu, HI. Oral.
- 2015 **Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, C. E. Cox, N. J. Silbiger, J. F. Bruno. 2015. Low lionfish, no problem? The effect of lionfish on reef fish communities in Belize. *Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Scientific Meeting*. November 9th-13th. Panama City, Panama. Oral. **Invited to Lionfish Research Symposium Session**.
- Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, C. E. Cox, J. F. Bruno. 2015. Low lionfish, no problem? The effect of lionfish on reef fish communities in Belize. *Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean Scientific Meeting*. May 18th-22nd. Willemstad, Curacao. Oral.
- 2014 **Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, C. E. Cox, J. F. Bruno. 2014. The impacts of the lionfish invasion on reef fish communities in Belize. *International Marine Conservation Congress*. August 14th-18th. Glasgow, Scotland. Poster.
- Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, S. Green, I. Côté, C. E. Cox, L. Adkins, C. A. Layman, W. F. Precht, J. F. Bruno. 2014. Native vs invasive predators: Can anything stop lionfish? *ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting*. February 23rd-28th. Honolulu, HI. Oral.
- 2013 **Hackerott, S.**, A. Valdivia, S. Green, I. Côté, C. E. Cox, L. Adkins, C. A. Layman, W. F. Precht, J. F. Bruno. 2013. Native predators do not influence invasion success of lionfish on Caribbean reefs. *Benthic Ecology Meeting*. March 2013. Savannah, GA. Oral.

INVITED SEMINARS	2024	COP29 VIRTUAL OCEAN PAVILLION, VIRTUAL	
	Co-presenter and panelist within the UD Oceans of Innovation: Leveraging Technology for Ocean Biodiversity and Community Empowerment event.		
	2024	NOAA CORAL COLLABORATIONS SERIES, VIRTUAL	
	Co-presented results of collaborative coral stress hardening research funded by the NOAA Ruth Gates Restoration Innovation Grant to NOAA staff and contractors.		
	2023	CORAL STRESS HARDENING FOR RESTORATION, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, IBEROSTAR	
	Keynote speaker invited to share my research on the potential to apply coral stress hardening to restoration during the Wave of Change Coastal Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration Week.		
COURSES TAUGHT	2024	<i>Guest Lecturer:</i> Biodiversity of Marine Invertebrates (Duke University)	
	2019-20	<i>Teaching Assistant / Laboratory Instructor:</i> Biology I Laboratory (Florida International University [FIU])	
	2017	<i>Instructor of Record:</i> Marine Conservation and Management, Marine Field Research, Communications in Natural Sciences (College of the Marshall Islands [CMI])	
	2016	<i>Curriculum Developer:</i> New Courses Created – Marine Conservation and Management, Marine Field Research, Communications in Natural Sciences, Marine Science Internship, PADI Advanced SCUBA <i>Updated Course Outlines</i> – Climate Change, Principles of Aquaculture, Integrated Coastal Management, PADI Open Water SCUBA, Marine Biology, Tropical Marine Ecosystems (CMI Certificate in Marine Science)	
	2016	<i>Instructor of Record:</i> Marine Biology, Environmental Science, Tropical Marine Ecosystems (CMI)	
	2015	<i>Co-Instructor:</i> Marine Biology and Ecology of the Southern Caribbean (Council on International Educational Exchange [CIEE])	
	2015	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Marine Ecology Field Research Methods, Independent Research in Marine Biology (CIEE)	
	2014	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Marine Ecology, Water in Our World (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill [UNC])	
	2014	<i>Guest Lecturer:</i> Introduction to Marine Sciences, Ocean Exploration, Science Communication to Diverse Audiences, Marine Ecology (UNC)	
	2013	<i>Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer:</i> Marine Ecology (UNC)	
	MENTEES	2025	Warner Lab Post-Bacc Volunteer: Sarah Loprinzo
25 Undergraduates	2024	Warner Lab Graduate (MS) Students: Aleksandra Crossman, Isabella Orrantia	
	2024	Warner Lab Undergraduate Volunteer: Colin Tang (UD Semester in Residence)	
3 Graduate (M.S.)	2024	EELab Graduate (MS) Student: Sabrina Mansoor	
Total of 26 from groups underrepresented in STEM	2024	Benthic Ecology Meeting Poster: Carly Travers (FIU Undergraduate McNair Scholar)	
	2023	EELab Undergraduate Research Experience (REU): Sabrina Mansoor	
	2023	Benthic Ecology Meeting Poster: Lauren Gregory (FIU/EELab Undergraduate)	
	2022	Reef Futures Conference Poster: Wendy Paez (FIU/EELab Undergraduate)	
	2021	EELab Undergraduate Volunteers: Pascal Escobar, Alyxandra Cicerrella, Emily Donohue	
	2021	FIU Institute of Environment Coastal Ecosystems REU: Jack Howard	
	2020	EELab Undergraduate Volunteers: Wendy Paez, Katie Molina, Ernesto Campos	
	2019	EELab Undergraduate Volunteers: Zachary Howard, Grant Burdine, Alexander Marino	
	2017	CMI Marine Science Certificate: Rolandon Adde, Sabrina Bejang, Marlynn Benjamin, Kyle Bing, Thurston Loeak, Meriana Poznanski, Juddson Nelson, Salome Rubon, Dua Rudolph	
	2017	ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting: Salome Rubon and Karmina Jude (CMI Undergraduate)	

SERVICE

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

- 2025 Co-organized International Coral Reef Symposium Session: “Epigenetics of reefs organisms from molecules to ecosystems”
- 2025 International Coral Reef Society (ICRS) Student and Early Career Chapter (SECC) Steering Committee, Vice President
- 2024-25 Co-designing a Future for Caribbean Reefs Working Group (recent [Policy Brief](#))
- 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) ICRS SECC Delegate (Virtual)
- 2017 Co-organized Marshall Islands National Oceans Symposium, Led student poster session
- 2015-17 Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC) Communications Committee
- 2015 Student Poster Judge at AMLC Scientific Meeting
- Member of International Coral Reef Society, Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, Phycological Society of America, Graduate Women in Science, Society of Women in Marine Science
- Reviewer for Environmental Science & Technology, Coral Reefs, Communications Biology, Science of the Total Environment, Aquatic Biology, NOAA NMFS Saltonstall Kennedy Grant

DEPARTMENT

- 2025 Conducted three workshops for University of Delaware (UD) graduate students on collaborative coding and project organization with GitHub and R Markdown Notebooks plus proposal development for NOAA and NSF style grants
- 2025 Panelist for “Balancing Life for Women in STEM” event organized by UD Society of Women in Marine Science
- 2022 Led two workshops for Florida International University (FIU) EELab undergraduates on data analysis with R and post-graduation paths in science
- 2021 Mentor for FIU Coastal Ecosystems Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)
- 2020-22 FIU Biology Graduate Student Committee
- 2018-20 FIU Biological Sciences Department Biosymposium Planning Committee
- 2017 College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) Marine Science Certificate Program Coordinator
- 2017 Organized local internships for CMI Marine Science Certificate students
- 2017 Organized CMI Marine Science Symposium
- 2017 Served on hiring committee for CMI STeM Department

UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

- 2016-17 College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) Curriculum Committee
- 2026-17 Created a 30-credit [certificate program in marine science](#). Updated 6 existing courses and created 5 new courses for the program. Achieved both CMI and ACCJC program approval.
- 2016 Served on hiring committees for CMI Liberal Arts and Developing Education Departments (external faculty member)
- 2015 Co-led a science communication workshop for UNC IDEA (Increasing Diversity and Enhancing Academia) undergraduate students

PRACTITIONER COMMUNITY

- 2025 Trained Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) staff on implementing a quantitative color score method ([Protocol](#) and [Scripts](#)) for measuring coral bleaching
- 2025 Co-led training of Guam Coral Reef Initiative (GCRI) staff on novel, non-invasive coral fluorometry technology
- 2024 Three-part knowledge exchange series to discuss the results of my collaborative research conducted on Bonaire with RRFB staff
- 2022 Trained RRFB staff on conducting acute coral thermal stress assessments
- 2020-21 Co-developed workshop to train Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) officers in identifying Endangered Species Act (ESA) protected Caribbean coral species
- 2018 Created a database and data analysis guide for the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA) REMAANLOK National Resource Management Plan reef survey data
- 2017-18 Trained MIMRA staff on coral reef survey data analysis using R
- 2016-17 Marshall Islands Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) scientific advisor

BROADER COMMUNITY

- 2022 Keys Marine Laboratory Open House active research exhibit
- 2021 Bonaire STINAPA Junior Rangers presentation on coral environmental memory
- 2017 Marshall Islands National Oceans Symposium presentation on coral reef biology, ecology, and importance for coastal communities
- 2016 Co-developed presentation explaining the REMAANLOK National Resource Management Plan for local communities on three remote atolls in the Marshall Islands
- 2015 Co-led weekly marine ecology activities for Bonaire STINAPA Junior Rangers
- 2015 CIEE Bonaire community presentation on Caribbean lionfish invasion
- 2015 Career fair presentation at Mills Park Middle School, Raleigh, NC
- 2014 Marine ecology presentation to Science Explorers of Dillard Drive Middle School, Raleigh, NC
- 2014 Wrote an invited “Expert Comment” article for Alert Diver titled [Hazardous Conditioning](#) on dangers of feeding speared lionfish to predators
- 2013 Co-founded [UNdertheC Blog](#) for science communication by UNC Marine Sciences graduate students

RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

- 2025 Florida Keys: *[Experimental]* Inoculated coral recruits with heat-adapted algal symbionts
- 2025 Fiji: *[Field]* Measured photobiology and morphology across coral functional groups
- 2025 Guam: *[Experimental]* Measured coral photobiology and survival across acute and chronic heat exposures
- 2024 Dominican Republic: *[Experimental]* Compared stress hardening responses across coral species
- 2024 Fiji: *[Field]* Measured coral photobiology and acute thermal tolerance and sampled for host and symbiont genetics

DOCTORAL RESEARCH

- 2022 Florida Keys: *[Experimental and Field]* Measured thermal tolerance and survival outcomes following stress hardening regimes and sampled for molecular responses
- 2021-21 Bonaire: *[Experimental and Field]* Compared physiology, acute thermal tolerance, and growth of native and transplanted corals over one year following a reciprocal transplant
- 2018-19 Bonaire: *[Field]* Monitored water quality and sampled for coral physiology and molecular responses over seasonal cycle
- 2018 Curacao: *[Field]* Monitored tagged coral colonies for spawning
- 2018 Puerto Rico: *[Field]* Outplanted rescued coral fragments across environments

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

- 2016 Marshall Islands: *[Field]* Conducted transect surveys for marine invertebrates
- 2015 Bonaire and Curacao: *[Field]* Compared reef benthic survey methods
- 2014 Akumal, Mexico: *[Field]* Conducted parrotfish grazing videos and collected tissue samples for population genetics
- 2013 Belize: *[Field]* Conducted transect surveys for native reef predators and invasive lionfish abundance, size, and diversity
- 2012 Belize and Abaco, Bahamas: *[Field]* Conducted surveys for native reef predators and invasive lionfish and captured lionfish for size, stomach weight, and otolith collection

REFERENCES

RESEARCH-SPECIFIC REFERENCES

- Dr. Mark Warner [Postdoc Advisor, UD] mwarner@udel.edu
- Dr. Jose Eirin-Lopez [Ph.D. Advisor, FIU] jeirinlo@fiu.edu
- Dr. Hollie Putnam [Ph.D. Committee Member, URI] hputnam@uri.edu
- Dr. John Bruno [B.S. and M.S. Advisor, UNC] jbruno@unc.edu

KEY COLLABORATOR REFERENCES

- Dr. Bastian Bentlage [Postdoc Co-Mentor, UoG] bentlageb@triton.uog.edu
- Francesca Virdis [Previously Reef Renewal Bonaire Chief Operating Officer] francesca@reefrenewalbonaire.org
- Emma Kabua [Republic of the Marshall Islands Protected Areas Network Coordinator] ekabua.tibon@mimra.com

TEACHING-SPECIFIC REFERENCES

- Dr. Elizabeth Switaj [CMI VP Academic and Student Affairs] eswitaj@cmi.edu
- Dr. Patrick Lyons [CIEE Supervisor] lyonspj@lavo.edu