

JASON Z. MORRIS

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Place of Birth / Citizenship: New York, NY / U.S.A.

Date of Birth: May 16, 1969

ACADEMIC POSITION

2003-2011: Assistant Professor in the Natural Sciences Department of Fordham University at Lincoln Center.

2011-Present: Associate Professor in the Natural Sciences Department of Fordham University at Lincoln Center.

2014-Present: Chair, Department of Natural Sciences, Fordham University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 1997.

B.A. in Biology, Yale College, New Haven, CT 1991.

Degree received summa cum laude with distinction in biology.

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Genetic control of growth and behavior in *Drosophila* larvae

Bioethics

AWARDS

2018 Honorary Membership: Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honors Society

2011 Fordham University Teaching Award in the Natural and Life Sciences

2011 Fordham-Funded Research Scholar Award

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Genetics Society of America

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Current Research:

Genetics: 2003-Present. Analysis and molecular identification of *gatA* and *fried*, two genes required for oogenesis and larval growth and development in *Drosophila*. Elucidation of the mechanism by which Twin/Ccr4 regulates expression of Bam, Cyclin A, and Cyclin B to control cell fate specification and the cell cycle of the germ cells in the *Drosophila* ovary.

Ethics: 2008-Present. a) Substance ontology cannot be used to determine the moral status of the embryo. b) a virtue ethics approach to Institutional Review of human subjects research.

Post-Doctoral Research: 1997-2003. Laboratory of Dr. Ruth Lehmann, Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine. Identification, Cloning, and analysis of genes required for the oocyte / nurse cell fate decision in *Drosophila*.

Ph.D. Thesis Research: 1993-1997. Laboratory of Dr. Gary Ruvkun, Harvard Medical School. Cloning and characterization of the first aging gene in animals: phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase homolog, *age-1*, a regulator of development and senescence in *C. elegans*.

Graduate Research: 1992-1993. Laboratory of Dr. Margaret Baron, Harvard University. Analysis of the regulation of embryonic and adult hemoglobin transcription in mouse cell lines.

Technical Assistance: 1988-1990 (Summers). Laboratory of Dr. David Colman, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Health and Medicine R15 Award GM090173-01 for Molecular Identification and Functional Characterization of *fried*, a Gene Required for Growth and Fertility in *Drosophila* 2010-2013
- Faculty Research Grant: May 2009-March 2010 Identification Characterization of *fried*.
- Faculty Research Grant: May 2008-March 2009: Mapping and Characterization of *fried*
- National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Health and Medicine R15 Award GM074735-01 for Characterization and Molecular Identification of *Benedict*, a regulator of *Drosophila* Endoreplication: 2005-2008
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Post-Doctoral Fellowship: 2000-2003.
- American Cancer Society Fellowship: 1998-2000.
- Faculty Research Grant: May 2004-May 2005: Mapping and Characterization of *benedict*
- Faculty Challenge Grant: September 2004-May 2005: Science Honors Seminar Series

TEACHING (using most up to date course number equivalents)

Upper Level Electives:

Diverse Biology/Shared Humanity NSCI-4172 / ENGL-4172
Genetics Lecture NSCI-3133 and lab NSCI-3833
Cell and Developmental Biology NSCI-3154 and lab NSCI-3854
Molecular Biology Lecture NSCI 4176 and lab NSCI 4876
Biomedical Informatics Lab CSLU-2021 (no longer teaching course)

Courses for Non-Science Majors:

Perspectives in Biology NSLU-1000 (course no longer offered)

Honors Natural Science 1 (with lab) HPLC 1603
Honors Natural Science 2 (with lab) HPLC 1604

Independent Study:

16 Independent study courses, including upper level Natural Science electives, Honors Program theses, and Integrative Neurosciences theses

SERVICE AT FORDHAM COLLEGE AT LINCOLN CENTER

Chair, Department of Natural Sciences Fall 2014 to present

Advising and mentoring:

- Observed teaching and provided critiques of all adjunct faculty teaching in the natural sciences department
- Academic advisor to Pre-health and Natural Science Majors (all years)
- FCLC Pre-Medical Committee Member. Advising and Assistance of Fordham College at Lincoln Center undergraduates who are applying or plan to apply to medical school. 2004-Present.
- Fulbright Committee 2011-Present
- Hillel International Faculty advisor 2006-Present

Other Service:

- Reimagining Arts and Sciences Working Group Committee (2018)
- Reimagining Arts and Sciences Planning Group Committee (2017)
- Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee (2014-15)
- Strategic Plan Review Committee (2009-2010)
- Led or co-led Fordham Faculty Mission Orientation Seminars 2010-2014

- Beplar Chair Nominating Committee (2018)
- FCLC Honors Class Selection Committee (2005-2016)
- Core Curriculum Committee (2010-2014)
- Science and Quantitative Core Committee, Chair
- Science Core Reform Committee
- HHMI Core Grant Proposal co-author (2009)
- Faculty Senate Library Committee (2005-2007)
- Faculty Senate Life Committee
- Faculty Senate Technology Subcommittee
- Bioinformatics Minor, Major and Doctoral Committees
- Informatics Doctoral Program Committee
- Freshman Faculty Forum Planning Committee
- Academic Integrity Committee

- Discussion leader of J.S.O. Discussion Group. Designed syllabi and led discussion of Jewish Students Organization members and other interested students on traditional Jewish liturgical, biblical, and rabbinical texts. 2003- 2006.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/SERVICE/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Member, Genetics Society of America
- External tenure reviewer for Farmingdale State College, 2016
- Reviewer of manuscripts submitted to *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 2015, 2016, 2017
- Reviewer of manuscripts submitted to *PLoS ONE*, 2010
- Reviewer of manuscripts submitted to *Developmental Dynamics*, 2005
- Reviewer of grants submitted to the National Institutes of Health, 2005
- Member Board of Overseers of the Cummings Foundation, 2003-Present
- Member Board of Overseers of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, 2004-Present
- Primary author of a full year curriculum with complete lesson plans to be used by middle school teachers to supplement middle school biology classes: 2001-2002.
- After School Science Program Coordinator/Teacher, Salk Middle School of Science. Led a group of four scientists in developing and teaching a one-year after-school biology curriculum to 6th and 7th grade students: 1999-2001.
- Curriculum advisor and weekly guest-teacher for Salk Middle School of Science natural science classes (6th grade). Worked closely with the 6th grade teachers: 1998-1999.
- Resident Tutor in Biology and Biochemistry, Mather House, Harvard University. Advised sophomores, juniors, and seniors living in Mather House in academic, career, and social issues: 1992-1997.
- Teaching assistant: Biological Sciences 1, Harvard College: Spring 1992.
- Classroom assistant in a 9th grade science classroom at Cambridge Rindge and Latin Public High School. Worked closely with 9th grade teacher: 1991-1992.
- Teacher at Yale Hillel Hebrew School (3rd, 4th, and 5th grade). Designed and taught curriculum focusing on Hebrew reading skills, Jewish holidays, and Jewish culture: 1988-1991.

MEETINGS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Jason Z. Morris. “Disruptions in the *Drosophila* HEATR2 gene, *fried/CG31320*, cause precocious wandering, delayed pupariation, and larval lethality.” Gary66 Symposium, Boston MA, June 2018

Kalliopi Chatzis, Siwen Xie, Zelig Anner, Abigail Cross and **Jason Morris.** “Disruptions in *Fried/HEATR2* cause precocious larval wandering, delayed pupariation, and larval lethality.” 59th Annual *Drosophila* Genetics Conference, Philadelphia PA, April 2018

Jason Morris. “Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation.” Temple Israel of New Rochelle, January, 2018

Margaret Fisher, Elina Sigal, Miranda Colman, and **Jason Morris.** “Characterization of *fried*/HEATR2 expression and phenotypes.” 57th Annual Drosophila Genetics Conference, Orlando, FL, July 2016

Morris, JZ. “Arrested Development and Bad Eggs: genetics of growth and development in Drosophila.” Fordham University Faculty Day Talk, Bronx, NY, February 2012

Kimberly Seoane, Henrique Valim, **Jason Morris.** “Identification of CG31320 as the gene disrupted in *fried* mutants. 52nd Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2012

Morris, JZ. “Identification and analysis of genes required for Drosophila oogenesis and growth.” Fordham College at Rose Hill Biology Lecture, Bronx, NY, March 2011

Carlisdania Mendoza, Guarav Saharia, Lillian Chiu, Alison E. Lindsay, **Jason Morris.** “Genotypic and phenotypic characterization of the Drosophila mutant, *fried*.” 51st Annual Drosophila Research Conference, San Diego, CA, March 2011

Jason Z. Morris and Jennifer Ma. “*fried* mutants exhibit defects in oogenesis and larval and pupal development.” Cell Cycle Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, May 2010.

Kimberly Siletti, Thomas McCord, Anna Kruyer, Leah Bergman, Olivia Moffitt, Christopher O’Connor, Jane Mueller, Joseph Carnevale, Rebecca Persky and **Morris, JZ.** “Analysis of the biochemical and cellular defects caused of *gatA* loss-of-function mutants in Drosophila larvae.” 49th Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2009.

Thomas McCord, Kimberly Siletti, Rebecca Persky and **Morris, JZ.** “Mapping and analysis of *fried*, a gene required for egg chamber maturation, larval growth and puparial development.” 49th Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2009.

Morris, JZ. “Development in model systems and the study of human disease.” College at 60 Lecture, Fordham University, December, 2008.

Morris, JZ. “Drosophila growth and oogenesis genes.” Department of Cell Biology, Massachusetts General, Boston, MA, October 2008.

Morris, JZ. “Identification and analysis of genes required for Drosophila growth and oogenesis.” Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine / NYU Medical College, NY, NY, July 2008.

Anna Kruyer, Leah Bergman, Olivia Moffitt, Adriana Guigova, Mikhail Gertsberg, Ronald Arias, Monika Pogorzelska, Vanessa Flores, Jane Mueller, Christopher O'Connor, Grace Vernon, and **Jason Morris** "Analysis of growth defects caused by loss-of-function of *gatA*, a gene required for growth and maturation in *Drosophila*." Independent Sector Undergraduate Research Exposition, Albany, NY, January 2008.

Bergman, L, Kruyer, A, Gertsberg, M, Guigova, A, and **Morris, JZ**. "Genetic analysis of *gatA*, a glutamyl-tRNA (Gln) amidotransferase homolog required for growth and maturation in *Drosophila*." Einsteins in the City International Undergraduate Research Conference, New York, NY, October 2007.

Moffitt, O, Andreyeva, A, Bergman, L, Kruyer, A, and **Morris, JZ**. "Molecular and biochemical analysis of the function of *gatA*, a gene required for growth and maturation in *Drosophila*." Einsteins in the City International Undergraduate Research Conference, New York, NY, October 2007.

Mueller, J, O'Connor, C, Vernon, G, and **Morris, JZ**. "Analysis of growth defects caused by loss-of-function of *gatA*, a gene required for growth and maturation in *Drosophila*. Einsteins in the City International Undergraduate Research Conference, New York, NY, October 2007.

Bergman, L, Kruyer, A, Gertsberg, M, Guigova, A, and **Morris, JZ**. "Genetic and molecular analysis of *bene*, a glutamyl-tRNA (Gln) amidotransferase homolog required for growth and maturation in *Drosophila*." 48th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 2007.

Kruyer, A, Bergman, L, Gertsberg, M, Vernon, G, and **Morris, JZ**. "Molecular, cellular and biochemical analysis of the function of *bene/gatA*, a gene required for growth and maturation in *Drosophila*." 48th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 2007.

Morris, JZ. "Growth and cell cycle mutants in *Drosophila*." Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, NY, NY: October, 2006.

Morris, JZ, Gertsberg, M, Guigova, A, Arias, A, Flores, V, and Pogorzelska, M. "Mutations in *benedict* cause defects in the larval and adult endocycle and in nurse cell and oocyte chromosome morphology in *Drosophila*." Cell Cycle Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, NY: May 2006.

Morris, JZ. "The genetic revolution: organisms by design." College at 60 Lecture, Fordham University, November, 2004.

Morris JZ, Hong, A, Lilly, M, and Lehmann R. "*twin*, a *CCR4* homolog, regulates cyclin poly(A) tail length to permit *Drosophila* oogenesis." Germ Cell Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, NY: October, 2004.

Morris, JZ. “Developmental Genetics Research—questions and approaches.” Seminar for Science Research Training Program, New York Academy of Science, New York, NY: June 24, 2004.

Morris, JZ. “A View From Just Over The Wall—pursuing a career as a science professor at a primarily undergraduate institution.” Seminar for Future Science Educators at The Sackler Institute, New York University Medical Center, New York, NY: March 2, 2004.

Morris, JZ, Navarro, C, Hong, A, Lilly, M, and Lehmann, R. “A Genetic Analysis of Drosophila Egg Chamber Development.” Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA: February, 2003.

Morris, JZ. “Perspectives on Genetic Engineering.” Fordham University at Lincoln Center, NY: February, 2003

Morris, JZ, Navarro, C, Hong, A, Lilly, M, and Lehmann, R. “Genetics of Egg Chamber Development in Drosophila.” Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA: February, 2003.

Morris, JZ, Navarro, C, Hong, A, Lilly, M, and Lehmann, R “A Genetic Analysis of Egg Chamber Development in Drosophila.” CUNY Baruch College, NY: January, 2003.

Morris JZ, Hong, A, Lilly, M, and Lehmann R. “Cloning and characterization of *twin*, a *ccr4* homolog required for Drosophila oocyte specification and egg chamber development.” Germ Cell Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, NY: October, 2002.

Morris, JZ, Navarro, C, and Lehmann, R. “Isolation and analysis of *bob*, *Doa*, and eight new genes required for early Drosophila oogenesis.” Germ Cell Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, NY: October 2002.

Morris, JZ, and Lehmann, R “*twin/Dccr4* and early Drosophila oogenesis.” NIH/NICHD, Bethesda, MD: July 2001

Morris, JZ and Lehmann, R. “Identification and characterization of oogenesis mutants.” 41st Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Pittsburgh, PA: March 2000.

Morris, JZ and Lehmann, R. “Oocyte / nurse cell development in the Drosophila germline cyst.” 39th Annual Drosophila Research Conference. Washington, D.C: March, 1998.

Morris, JZ, Tissenbaum, H, and Ruvkun, G. “The *C. elegans* phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase homologue *age-1* regulates dauer arrest and senescence” East Coast Worm Meeting. New Brunswick, NJ: June, 1996.

Morris, JZ and Ruvkun, G. “Mapping and cloning *daf-23*.” International Worm Meeting, Madison, WI: June, 1995.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Morris JZ and Morris, MC. Commentary on “Virtue Ethics in the Practice and Review of Social Science Research: the virtuous ethics committee,” by David Carpenter.” N. Emmerich, editor. *Virtue and the Ethics of Social Science Research*, pp 155-160. Bingley, U.K., Emerald Publishing Limited.

Morris, JZ. 2018. "Misconceptions Inherent in the Substance Ontology Approach to Assigning Moral Status: A Reply to Patrick Lee, Christopher Tollefsen, and Robert George." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* **43**: 159-186.

Morris, MC and **Morris, JZ.** 2016. The importance of virtue ethics in the IRB. *Research Ethics* **12**: 201-216.

Morris, JZ. 2012. Substance ontology cannot determine the moral status of embryos. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* **37**: 331-350.

Morris, JZ, Bergman L, Kruyer A, Guigova A, Gertsberg M, Arias R, Pogorzelska M. 2008. Mutations in the Drosophila mitochondrial tRNA amidotransferase, *bene/gatA*, cause growth defects in mitotic and endoreplicating tissues . *Genetics* **178**: 979-987.

Morris JZ, Hong, A, Lilly, M, and Lehmann R. 2005. *twin*, a *CCR4* homolog, regulates cyclin poly(A) tail length to permit Drosophila oogenesis. *Development*: **132**: 1165-1174.

Morris, JZ, Navarro C, Lehmann R. 2003. Identification and characterization of novel genes required for oocyte specification in Drosophila. *Genetics* **164**: 1435-1446.

Navarro C, Lehmann R, **Morris J.** 2001. Oogenesis: Setting one sister above the rest. *Current Biology* **11**: R162-R165.

Morris J, Lehmann R, Navarro, C. 2000. PARallels in axis formation. *Science* **288**: 1759-1760

Morris J, Lehmann R. 1999. *Drosophila* oogenesis: Versatile spn doctors. *Current Biology* **9**: R55-R58.

Morris JZ, Tissenbaum HA, Ruvkun G. 1996. The *C. elegans* phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase homologue, AGE-1, regulates longevity and diapause arrest. *Nature* **382**: 536-539.