

ERIN E. SPARKS

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Delaware Biotechnology Institute
University of Delaware, Newark, DE
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology 2011

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Advisor: Dr. Stacey Huppert

Dissertation: Notch Signaling is Essential to Modulate Intrahepatic Bile Duct Structure

Awards: Dissertation Enhancement Grant; Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation, 3rd Annual Southeast Stem Cell Consortium; Best Graduate Student Talk, 14th Annual Vanderbilt University Program in Developmental Biology Retreat

B.S. in Biomedical Engineering 2004

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Specialization: Transport Processes and Tissue Engineering

Awards: Margret and Muir Frey Memorial Prize for Innovation and Creativity, Honorable Mention; Outstanding Design Project in Biomedical Engineering, First Place

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor in Department of Plant and Soil Sciences 2017-present

Delaware Biotechnology Institute and University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Awards: ASPB Women's Young Investigator Travel Award

Postdoctoral Associate in Department of Biology 2011-2017

Duke University and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Durham, NC

Advisor: Dr. Philip Benfey

Projects: Mechanisms of Tissue-Specific Transcription Factor Expression in *Arabidopsis* Roots; Molecular Regulation of Endodermal Differentiation in *Arabidopsis* Roots; Identifying the Genes that Regulate Root Architecture in Rice

Awards: Postdoctoral Professional Development Award

Undergraduate Researcher and Research Technologist I in Pediatric Nephrology 2003-2006

Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Advisor: Dr. H. William Schnaper

Project: The role of cytoskeletal signaling in TGF-beta1 induced focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

TEACHING

Instructor, Plant and Soil Sciences Seminar, University of Delaware	2018-present
Instructor, Plant Developmental Biology, University of Delaware	2018
Virtual Guest Lecturer, Root & Rhizosphere Analysis, Kansas State University	2017
Guest Lecturer, Structural Interfaces in Biology, University of Delaware	2017
Lecturer for Stem Cell Biology, Duke University.	2014
Instructor for Complex Genetic Traits, North Carolina Central University.	2012, 2013
Teaching Assistant for Cancer and Embryonic Development, Vanderbilt University.	2011
Teaching Assistant for Intro to Biological Sciences Laboratory, Vanderbilt University.	2010
Lecturer for Molecular Developmental Biology, Vanderbilt University.	2010

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

University of Delaware MakerSpace Faculty Fellow	2018-2019
Program Committee, Phenome 2019 Meeting	2018-2019
LGBTQ+ Ally Training	2018
Diversity LEAD Ally Certification	2018
Plant Illustrations Repository, Founder and Curator	2017-present
Department of Biology Retreat Committee, Duke University	2013, 2016
Postdoctoral Professional Development Award Selection Committee, Duke University	2015
Vanderbilt Medical School Council of Class Officers, Graduate Student Representative, Vanderbilt University Medical School	2010-2011
Vanderbilt Alumni Association, Graduate Student Representative, Vanderbilt University Medical School	2010-2011
Cell and Developmental Biology Graduate Student Association, Social Committee, Vanderbilt University Medical School	2009-2010

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society for Developmental Biology	2010 – present
American Society of Plant Biologists	2013 – present
North American Plant Phenotyping Network (NAPPN)	2016 – present
International Society of Root Research	2017 – present
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology	2018 – present

PUBLICATIONS

For a current list of publications please refer to Google Scholar

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=lzDYkbwAAAAJ&hl=en&authuser=1>