

Anna C. Nelson

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dynamical systems, mathematical biology, polymerization, mathematical modeling

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Duke University, Durham, NC 2021 – present
William W. Elliott Assistant Research Professor (postdoctoral position)
Department of Mathematics
Mentor: Maria-Veronica Ciocanel

EDUCATION

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT May 2021
Ph.D., Mathematics
Advisor: Aaron Fogelson

Boise State University, Boise, ID December 2012
B.S., Applied Mathematics, *Summa Cum Laude*
Minor: Computer Science

PUBLICATIONS

6. **A. C. Nelson**, M. M. Rolls, M. V. Ciocanel, and S. A. McKinley. “Minimal mechanisms of micro-tubule length regulation in living cells.” *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*, 86(58), 1-33.
5. **A. C. Nelson** and A. L. Fogelson. “Towards understanding the effect of fibrinogen interactions on fibrin gel structure.” *Physical Review E*, 107(2):024415, 2023.
4. A. L. Fogelson, **A. C. Nelson**, C. Zapata-Allegro, and J. P. Keener. “Development of fibrin branch structure before and after gelation.” *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics*, 82(1), 2022.
3. **A. C. Nelson**, M. A. Kelley, L. M. Haynes, and K. Leiderman. “Mathematical models of fibrin polymerization: past, present, and future.” *Current Opinion in Biomedical Engineering*, 20 (100350), 2021.
2. **A. C. Nelson**, J. P. Keener, and A. L. Fogelson. “Kinetic model of two-monomer polymerization”. *Physical Review E*, 101(2), 2020.
1. J. L. Herlin, **A. C. Nelson** and M. Scheepers. “Using ciliate operations to construct chromosome phylogenies”. *Involve*, 9(1), 2016.

PREPRINTS

A. Kent, K. Leiderman, **A. C. Nelson**, S. Sindi, M. M. Stadt, L. Xiong, and Y. Zhang. “Studying the effects of oral contraceptives on coagulation using a mathematical modeling approach.” *In press*.

FUNDING

Seed Grant, Duke Office for Faculty Advancement February 2022 – March 2023
\$14,000 award for Faculty-Student (FaSt) Math Series to build bridges and community among students and faculty. Grant aims include organizing events and programs such as book clubs, student professional development panels, faculty mentorship training, and invited speakers.

Travel grants

AWM Travel Grant 2023
\$3500 to attend ICIAM 2023 in Tokyo, JP

AIM SQuaRE Grant 2024, 2025, 2026
Travel funding for collaboration at Pasadena, CA on “Mathematical modeling and analysis to understand mechanisms of thrombosis and oral contraceptives” for three years

University Teaching Assistantship, Graduate College, University of Utah 2018 – 2019
Co-awarded for the mathematics Graduate Teaching Mentorship (GTM) program.

NSF Research Training Grant Fellowships

DMS-2038056 (Training Tomorrow’s Workforce in Analysis and Applications) 2021 – 2023
DMS-1148230 (Research Training in Mathematical and Computational Biology) 2014 – 2015

Travel awards

AMS MRC Collaboration Travel Grant	2024
\$800 to travel for Mathematical Research Community collaboration	
Duke University Arts & Science Travel Fund	2024
\$1000 to attend JMM 2024 in San Francisco CA	
AWM/NSF Travel Award	2023
\$1500 to attend AWM Research Symposium in Atlanta GA	
SIAM Early Career Travel Award	2023
\$650 to attend SIAM Dynamical Systems 2023 in Portland, OR	
MAA Project NExT Fellow	2021 – 2023
\$5000 to attend MAA Mathfest 2022 & 2023 and JMM 2023	
SIAM Student Travel Award	Spring, Summer 2020
\$650 to attend SIAM Annual 2020 & Life Sciences 2020 (cancelled due to COVID)	
University of Utah Graduate School Travel Award	Spring 2020
\$345 to attend JMM 2020 in Denver, CO \$500 to attend JMM 2020 in Denver, CO	

AWARDS

Top 5% of Duke University undergraduate instructors, Trinity College	Fall 2023
For at least two of the following categories: Overall quality of course, overall quality of instructor, intellectual stimulation of course	
Lewis Blake Award for Excellence in Teaching , Mathematics, Duke University	2023
Annual postdoctoral award given for excellence in teaching.	
BioFire Scholar Award , Mathematics, University of Utah	2020
Annual award to one graduate student in department; includes stipend, tuition, and travel.	
AWM Student Chapter Award for Scientific Excellence	2020
One of four national awards given by the Association for Women in Mathematics while as Student Chapter Vice President.	

INVITED & CONTRIBUTED TALKS

<i>Building connections and community in mathematics</i>	
Math For All Conference in Clemson, SC (Plenary)	April 2024
<i>Mathematical models of polymerization processes in physiology</i>	
Biomath Seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University	March 2024
Mathematics Colloquium, University of Cincinnati	January 2024
Mathematical Biology Seminar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*	December 2023
Biomath Seminar Series, NC State University	November 2023
Mathematical Biology Seminar, University of Pennsylvania	October 2023
Mathematical Biology Seminar, Brandeis University*	February 2023
Applied and Computational Mathematics Seminar, Tulane University	November 2022
Applied Math Seminar, Claremont Center for Mathematical Sciences*	October 2022
<i>Modeling mechanisms of microtubule dynamics and polarity in neurons</i>	
SIAM Annual Meeting, Invited Minisymposium	July 2024
Biology and Medicine Through Mathematics, Oral Presentation	May 2024
Joint Mathematics Meeting, AWM Special Session	January 2024
10th ICIAM, Invited Minisymposium	August 2023
MAA MathFest, Invited Paper Session	August 2023
SMB Annual Meeting, Invited Minisymposium	July 2023
SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems, Contributed Session	May 2023
AMS Spring Central Sectional Meeting, Special Session	April 2023
Joint Mathematics Meeting, AMS Special Session	January 2023
<i>Towards a model of platelet aggregation and fibrin polymerization</i>	
Joint Mathematics Meeting, AMS Special Session	January 2024
AWM Research Symposium, Special Session	September 2023
AWM Research Symposium, Special Session	June 2022
<i>Kinetic polymerization models and the roles of fibrinogen in fibrin gel formation</i>	
Applied Mathematics Colloquium, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	April 2024

	Mathematical Biology Seminar, University of California, Davis*	October 2021
	Mathematical Biology Seminar, Duke University	September 2021
	Mathematical Biology Seminar, U. of British Columbia & U. of Utah*	March 2021
	<i>Understanding the effects of fibrinogen interactions on fibrin gel structure</i>	
	40th SEARCADE Conference, Contributed Session	November 2022
	SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences, Special Session	July 2022
	SMB Annual Meeting, Invited Minisymposium*	June 2021
	SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences, Special Session*	June 2020
	<i>A kinetic model of two-monomer polymerization</i>	
	Joint Mathematics Meeting, AMS-AWM Special Session	January 2020
	AMS Fall Western Sectional Meeting, Special Session	November 2019
	Boise State University Mathematics REU Program, Boise State University	July 2019
	* Remote talk	
SELECT POSTER PRESENTATIONS	Triangle Computational and Applied Mathematics Symposium, Durham NC*	November 2023
	AWM Research Symposium Poster Session, Minneapolis MN	June 2022
	AWM Graduate Student Poster Session at JMM (virtual)	January 2021
	AWM Graduate Student Workshop at SIAM Annual (virtual)	July 2020
	IMA Workshop for Women in Mathematical Biology, Minneapolis MN	May 2018
	Modeling Complex Fluids for Biological Applications, Salt Lake City UT	May 2017
	* Postdoc poster award winner	
MENTORSHIP	SPIRE Fellows Postdoctoral Assistant and Faculty Mentor	2021 – present
	Assists in organizing and running academic support/mentoring system for high achieving undergraduates from historically excluded backgrounds. Responsibilities include organizing monthly events for fellows and teaching First Year Seminar course titled “Being Human and Flourishing in STEM,” which is a discussion-based course on identity and humanity in STEM.	
	AWM Undergraduate Mentor	2019 – present
	Paired with undergraduate students to meet monthly to discuss semester, future plans, and build community at University of Utah and Duke University.	
	Graduate Research	
	Hannah Scanlon, Duke University	Spring 2022 – present
	Undergraduate Research	
	Carson Dudley (undergraduate thesis), Duke University	Spring 2022 – Spring 2023
	Maycol Vilchez, University of Utah (with Aaron Fogelson)	Spring 2020
	Undergraduate Directed Reading Program, University of Utah	Spring 2019
	Chase Stolworthy, use machine learning for predictions on voting data in Utah	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Duke University	
	MATH 353/753, Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations	Spring 2024
	BIO 218/MATH 183, Biological Clocks: How Organisms Keep Time	Fall 2023
	MATH 577, Mathematical Modeling [†]	Spring 2023
	MATH 75, Being Human in STEM for First Year SPIRE Fellows	Spring 2023
	BIO 218/MATH 183, Biological Clocks: How Organisms Keep Time	Fall 2022
	MATH 75, Being Human in STEM for First Year SPIRE Fellows	Spring 2022
	MATH 353/753, Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations	Spring 2022
	MATH 353/753, Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations	Fall 2021
	University of Utah	
	MATH 2250, Differential Equations and Linear Algebra [‡]	Spring 2019
	MATH 1030, Intro to Quantitative Reasoning [‡]	Summer 2018
	MATH 1220, Calculus II	Spring 2018
	MATH 1100, Business Calculus	Fall 2017
	MATH 1050, College Algebra [‡]	Summer 2017
	MATH 1050, College Algebra	Spring 2017
	MATH 1050, College Algebra	Fall 2016

MATH 1030, Intro to Quantitative Reasoning[†] Summer 2016
MATH 1030, Intro to Quantitative Reasoning Spring 2016
[†] Graduate level course, [‡] Asynchronous online course, [#] >100 students

Project NExT Fellowship 2021 – 2023
Professional development program for early career mathematicians directed towards improving the teaching and learning of mathematics, fostering inclusivity in the mathematics community, and providing early career faculty strategies to engage in research, scholarship, and service opportunities.

Mathematics Instructor Training Facilitator, University of Utah 2017, 2018, 2019
Facilitated annual workshop for new teaching assistants in the mathematics department. Responsibilities include organizing/planning workshops, observing new teachers, and giving lectures on teaching pedagogy.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Service to the profession:

Co-organizer

Minisymposium, SIAM Annual Meeting, Spokane WA July 2024
“Modeling Dynamics in Biological Systems”
Minisymposium for AWM Research Symposium, Atlanta GA September 2023
“Promoting children’s and women’s health with mathematical and computational approaches”
Minisymposium for 10th ICIAM, Tokyo JP August 2023
“Recent Advances in Modeling Complex Systems and Multiscale Problems in Mathematical Biology”
Invited Paper Session for MAA MathFest, Tampa FL August 2023
“Recent Advances in Mathematical and Computational Biology, Highlighting Contributions from Undergraduate Researchers.”
Minisymposium for SIAM Life Sciences, Pittsburgh PA July 2022
“Mathematical Modeling of Blood Clotting and its Application”
Minisymposium for SMB Annual Meeting, Virtual June 2021
“Mathematical Modeling of Blood Clotting: From Surface-Mediated Coagulation to Fibrin Polymerization”

Judge

JMM Undergraduate Student Poster Session, San Francisco CA January 2024
MAA MathFest Student Poster Session, Tampa FL August 2023
SIAM Dynamical Systems Red Sock Poster Session, Portland OR May 2023
MAA MathFest Student Poster Session, Philadelphia PA August 2022
JMM Undergraduate Student Poster Session, Denver CO January 2020

Assistant, AMS Mathematical Research Communities Week 3, Java Center NY June 2023
“Complex Social Systems”

Presenter, CSME Exchange, University of Utah November 2018
“Teacher Training & Community Building: From Graduate Student to Colleague” (joint with Kelly MacArthur, Rebecca Terry)

Panelist, Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research, Boise State University July 2014
“Applying to grad school”

Referee, Mathematical Biosciences, Journal of Theoretical Biology

Service to the university and department:

Presenter

Grad-Fac Seminar, Department of Mathematics, Duke University October 2023
“The mathematics of bell-ringing”
Grad-Fac Seminar, Department of Mathematics, Duke University January 2023
“Mathematical modeling of polymerization processes in physiology”
SPIRE Speaker Series, Duke University August 2021
“Who can do math?”
Math Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Utah October 2020
“Computing in the Natural World: *In vivo* and *in vitro*”

Math Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Utah "The mathematics of bell-ringing"	February 2020
Undergraduate Math Colloquium, University of Utah "On the rheology of cats: Are cats fluids?"	April 2018
Math Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Utah "On the rheology of cats: Are cats fluids?"	November 2017
Math Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Utah "Computing in the Natural World: <i>In vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> "	September 2015
Co-organizer, Faculty-Student Weekly Tea, FaSt Grant Department of Mathematics, Duke University	February 2022 – December 2023
Co-organizer, Faculty-Student Math Book Club Department of Mathematics, Duke University	February 2022 – May 2023
Organizer, Biofluids research seminar Organization of weekly research seminar for faculty, graduate students and postdocs. Department of Mathematics, University of Utah	2020 – 2021
Co-chair, AWM Speaker series committee, Mathematics, University of Utah Invite and host mathematicians from underrepresented groups to give talks and network with department.	2020 – 2021
Professional Development Committee, Mathematics, University of Utah Organize monthly professional development events for grad students/postdocs	2018 – 2021
Recruitment Committee, Mathematics, University of Utah Coordinate prospective graduate student recruitment activities and schedule.	2016 – 2017
Panelist, Utah Math TA Training, University of Utah "Experienced graduate student panel"	August 2016

Service to promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity:

Committee member, Mathematics DEI Team, Duke University	August 2022 – present
Panelist, GROW (Graduate Research Opportunities for Women), Duke University "From day 1 to PhD"	October 2022
Student mentor, AWM Student Chapter, Duke University	2021 – 2022
Panelist, Society for Women in Mathematics (SWiM), Colorado School of Mines "Graduate school panel" (virtual)	October 2020
Vice President, AWM Student Chapter, University of Utah Organize monthly student events for undergraduates and graduate students, organize out-reach events on and off campus, and meet with job candidates.	2019 – 2020

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Volunteer, Duke Math Circles, Durham NC Provide exploratory instruction for K-6 students at Central Park School for Children	August 2022 – present
Presenter, Girls Exploring Math, Duke University "Math: We R_0 afraid to use it!"	June 2023
Volunteer, Defining Your Path – Field Trip Program, University of Utah	February 2020
Judge, State of Utah Sterling Scholar Award, Mathematics, Salt Lake City UT	January 2020
Panelist, Clayton Middle School – Career Fair, Salt Lake City UT	January 2020
Presenter, Science Day at the U., University of Utah "Computing in Nature: Using DNA to solve math problems"	November 2019
Presenter, Girls Full STEAM Ahead Camp, Leonardo Museum, Salt Lake City UT "Math: We R_0 afraid to use it!"	July 2016

WORK EXPERIENCE

Bioinformatics Summer Intern Sera Prognostics, Salt Lake City, UT Developed R scripts to remove batch and technical effects in proteomic data to aid in preterm birth prediction.	May 2019 – August 2019
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MEMBERSHIPS

American Mathematical Society
Association for Women in Mathematics
Mathematical Association of America
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society of Mathematical Biology