

# Ericca Stamper



**Graduate Institution:** University of California, Berkeley

**Location:** Berkeley, CA

**Graduate Discipline:** Molecular and Cell Biology

**Hometown:** Fenton, MI

## Research Interests:

*My current research interest focuses on studying chromosome biology. Specifically, I am interested in understanding the regulation of programmed DNA double-strand breaks, which occur during meiosis as a means to initiate meiotic recombination. Meiosis is a set of specialized cell divisions required for sexual reproduction, in which diploid precursor cells give rise to haploid gametes. In most organisms, meiotic recombination – specifically crossover formation – is required for the proper segregation of homologous chromosomes during the first meiotic division. Meiotic recombination is initiated by the formation of programmed DNA double-strand breaks, which are extremely toxic DNA lesions and are potentially detrimental to genomic stability if left unchecked. I am interested in understanding how meiotic double-strand break formation is regulated, and am using the nematode *C. elegans* as a model system to study this process. My project incorporates the disciplines of cell biology, genetics, genomics, and biochemistry.*

## About me:

*I am entering my third year in the Molecular and Cell Biology Ph.D. program at University of California, Berkeley. I am working in the lab of Abby Dernberg, studying meiosis in *C. elegans*. I graduated with a B.S. in Molecular Biology from University of Michigan – Flint in 2005. After graduation from U of M – Flint, I took 3 years off from school to travel in Latin America, and then to work as a laboratory technician at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor before entering graduate school. In addition to doing research, I also enjoy teaching science. My overall career goal is to continue to do biological research in an academic setting, and to eventually be a professor and have my own lab.*

*My passion is science, and I have an interest in all subjects – not only biology. When taking a break from lab, I try to pass my time traveling or spending time with nature. My favorite outdoor activities include hiking, camping, tidepooling, snorkeling and SCUBA diving (when I have the opportunity). I also enjoy cooking, arts and crafts, and photography, although as a graduate student it is not always easy to find time for these hobbies.*



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