Samuel Ortiz

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

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SUMMARY

Cell biologist with 3 years of undergraduate teaching at a primarily undergraduate institution and 3 years of postdoctoral research. Teaches cell biology and genetics with their labs, runs a CRISPR-Cas9 research lab staffed by undergraduates, and has given research mentoring to 14 student researchers since 2020.

SKILLS

Undergraduate Teaching • Mentoring • Cell Biology • Genetics • CRISPR-Cas9 • Fluorescence Microscopy • qPCR
Cell Culture • Laboratory Safety • R

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Biology 08/2023 - Present

Grand River College Grand Rapids, MI

Tenure-track position at a 4,200-student primarily undergraduate college.

- Teach Cell Biology, Genetics and their lab sections to about **110** students a year, with ratings of 4.5/5.
- Built a course-based research lab where 48 students a year knock out zebrafish genes with CRISPR-Cas9.
- Mentor 8 undergraduate researchers a year, 5 of whom presented posters at regional meetings.
- Secured $68,000 in internal and state funds for a fluorescence microscopy system for teaching labs.

Postdoctoral Fellow 07/2020 - 07/2023

Huron Valley Institute of Cell Biology Ann Arbor, MI

Independent research institute studying cell signaling and development.

- Mapped cilia signaling defects in 12 zebrafish mutant lines with live fluorescence microscopy and qPCR.
- Published 4 peer-reviewed papers on Hedgehog pathway regulation, 2 as first author.
- Trained 6 undergraduate interns in cell culture, microinjection and laboratory safety.
- Analyzed imaging data in R, reducing scoring time per embryo from 10 minutes to 2.

Graduate Research Assistant 08/2015 - 05/2020

Michigan State University, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology East Lansing, MI

Doctoral research on primary cilia in kidney cell development.

- Generated 5 knockout cell lines with CRISPR-Cas9 to test cilia length control in kidney cells.
- Taught 4 semesters of Introductory Cell Biology lab, 48 students a term.
- Supervised 3 undergraduate thesis students, 2 of whom entered PhD programs.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy 05/2020

Michigan State University East Lansing, MI

Cell and Molecular Biology