

Didem P. Sarikaya

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CURRENT POSITION

2015-Present. University of California, Davis: Postdoctoral Fellow

EDUCATION

Harvard University: Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Ph.D. (2009-2015)

McGill University: Human Genetics, M.S. (2007-2009)

University of Toronto: Genetics and Biotechnology, B.S. with distinction (2004-2007)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2018. University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship: \$56,000

2018. UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Association Travel Fellowship: \$400

2015. Fonds de recherche Santé du Quebec, Postdoctoral Training Fellowship: \$135,000

2014. Kansas State University Ecological Genomics Conference Travel Fellowship: \$500

2014. Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellowship: \$13,000

2013. Fonds de recherche Santé du Quebec, Doctoral Training Scholarship (declined for 2011-2012, \$40,000): \$20,000

2012. National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DEB-1209570): \$14,957

2012. Cold Spring Harbor Conference Travel Award: \$500

2011-12. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Post-graduate Scholarship: \$42,000

2011. Society of Developmental Biology Travel Award: \$300

2010. Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching

2008. McGill University Travel Grant for Conferences. \$750

PUBLICATIONS

Sarikaya, DP, Church S, Lagomarsino LP, Magnacca KM, Montgomery SL, Price D, Kaneshiro KK, Extavour CG. Reproductive capacity evolves in response to ecology through similar developmental mechanisms in Hawaiian *Drosophila* (*in prep*).

Hou, W, **Sarikaya, DP**, Jerome-Majewska, LA. (2016) Ex vivo culture of pre-placental tissues reveals that the allantois is required for maintained expression of *Gcm1* and *Tpbpa*. *Placenta* 47:12-23.

Sarikaya, DP, Extavour, CG. (2015) Hippo signaling coordinates growth of germline and soma. *PLoS Genet.* 11(2): e1004962. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1004962

Sarikaya, DP, Belay, AA, Ahuja, A, Dorta, A, Green, DA, Extavour, CG. (2012) The roles of cell size and cell number in determining ovariole number in *Drosophila*. *Developmental Biology.* 363: 279-89.

Sarikaya*, **DP**, Green*, DA, Extavour, CG. (2011) Counting in oogenesis. *Cell Tissue Res.* 344: 207-12. [* - authors contributed equally to this work]

Sarikaya, DP, Jerome-Majewska, LA. (2011) Notch1 and activated NOTCH1 intracellular domain are expressed in differentiated trophoblast cells. *Cell Biol. Int.* 35: 443-7.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2015-Present: Postdoctoral fellow, University of California, Davis (Davis, CA). Advisers: David Begun and John Albeck

I study natural variation in Insulin signaling and its effect on health using tools from

population genetics and single-cell level analysis of signal transduction.

2009-2015: PhD student, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA). Adviser: Cassandra Extavour
I investigated the developmental and molecular mechanisms that underlie evolution of ovariole number in African and Hawaiian *Drosophilids* by combining a comparative multispecies approach and the genetic tools of *D. melanogaster*

2007-2009: MS student, McGill University (Montreal, Canada). Adviser: Loydie Jerome-Majewska

I studied the role of Notch signaling in the development of the mouse placenta using stem cell lines and developed a protocol to culture the placenta *ex vivo*

2006-2007: Undergraduate researcher, University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada). Adviser: Ellen Larsen

I studied the role of *bric a brac* in establishing sex combs in African *Drosophila* species

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Oral Presentations

- 2016. "Reproductive capacity evolves through changes in ecology and allometric growth in Hawaiian *Drosophila*" Evolution 2016 Conference, Austin, Texas; SDB Southwest Regional Meeting, Salt Lake City.
- 2014. "Hippo pathway regulates coordinated growth of the germline and soma" Cellular Dynamics Seminar Series, Harvard University.
- 2013. "Hippo signaling regulates homeostatic growth of the germ line and soma" 23rd European *Drosophila* Research Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2009. "An explant model for placental development" Montreal Children's Hospital Annual Research day, Montreal, Canada.
- 2008. "Activated *Notch1* is expressed throughout trophoblast stem cell differentiation" 4th Canadian Developmental Biology Conference, Banff, Canada.

Poster Presentations

- 2018. "Tools for studying natural variation in Akt signaling in *D. melanogaster*" 59th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018. "Metabolic traits and starvation response in *Drosophila melanogaster* clinal populations" Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology 2018 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014. "The role of ecology in the evolution of female reproductive capacity in Hawaiian *Drosophila*" 10th Kansas Ecological Genomics Meeting, Kansas City, KS.
- 2012. "Distinct roles for the Hippo signaling pathway in regulating the proliferation of germ line and soma in the *D. melanogaster* larval ovary" Germ Cells Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, NY.
- 2011. "Different developmental mechanisms underlie change in ovariole number caused by phenotypic plasticity and genetic background" Society of Developmental Biology 70th Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2010. "Counting in morphogenesis: ovariole number determination in *Drosophila melanogaster*" 51st Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, Washington, DC.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Leadership

- 2018. Early Career Scientist Representative, Genetics Society of America Board of Directors
- 2017-Present. Co-chair, Career Development Committee, Genetics Society of America

2016-Present. Organizing member, Women in Life Sciences in Davis (WiLD), University of California Davis
2013-2015. Executive organizer, Harvard GSAS Canadian Students Club
2012-2013. Departmental Representative, Harvard Graduate Student Council

Workshops and publications

2018. How to guide early career scientists for diverse career paths. Workshop for New Faculty Forum, 59th Annual Drosophila Research Conference
2018. [Grant writing and lab meetings prepared Nigel Delaney with skills that enhance his role in industry](#). Interview article for *Genes to Genomes* blog
2017. [A career panel changed Chris Cherry's career path from fruit fly geneticist to patent lawyer](#). Interview article for *Genes to Genomes* blog
2017. [Dave Zucker on career changes and the ups and downs of starting a startup](#). Interview article for *Genes to Genomes* blog
2017. [Tom McFadden on middle school outreach and going viral as a science rapper](#). Interview for *Genes to Genomes* blog.
2017. [Young Wha Lee on leaving academia for industry and finding career fulfillment](#). Interview for *Genes to Genomes* blog.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Teaching

2012-2015. Teaching Consultant, Derek Bok Center for Teaching (Harvard University)
2009-2010. Teaching Assistant, MCB52 The Molecular Biology of the Cell (Harvard University)
2012-2014. Teaching Assistant, MCO Model Organisms Jamboree (Harvard University)

Mentoring

2018-Present. Ryan Hatmaker, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis
2017-Present. Ashley Kochummen, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis
2017. Adam Tarakji, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis
2015-2017. Sophila Davis, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis. Sophila works at a medical transcription start up
2015-2016. Nossin Khan, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis
2013-2014. Inanna Carter, undergraduate researcher at Harvard University. Inanna is currently a science teacher in Maui, Hawaii
2012-2013. Prince Antwi, undergraduate researcher at Harvard University. Prince is currently a MD-PhD student at Yale University
2012. Kassi Crocker, undergraduate researcher through the Leadership Alliance Summer Program. Kassi is currently a PhD student at University of Wisconsin Madison
2012. Aisha Dorta, undergraduate researcher through the Leadership Alliance Summer Program. Aisha is currently a JET teacher in South Korea
2008. Daniel Castano, medical student at McGill University. Daniel is a MD in Montreal.

PRESS AND OUTREACH

Press

2018. [College of Biological Sciences feature](#) on UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship award
2017. [Early Career Scientist Leadership Spotlight](#) feature for the Genetics Society of America
2015. Guest on Lady Paragons Women in STEM podcast [Episode 21](#)
2015. Research featured in "The ovary's event coordinator" Schubert C., *Biol. Reprod.* 2015.

Outreach

2014. Guest teacher at Franklin Elementary School's after school arts class with Mr. Gary

- Tucker for holding sessions on insect diversity, Newton MA
2014. Selected Participant, Innovations in Museum Curatorial Practices bridging Arts-Science seminar series at Harvard University
 2010. Invited speaker, "Role of women in science" discussion session, Theological Opportunities Program, Cambridge MA