

# Didem P. Sarikaya

## Current Position

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of California, Davis | 2018-Present

## Contact Information

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## Education

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**Ph.D., Organismic and Evolutionary Biology.** Harvard University | 2009-2015

**M.S., Human Genetics.** McGill University | 2007-2009

**B.S. with distinction, Genetics and Biotechnology.** University of Toronto | 2004-2007

## Research Appointments

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**Postdoctoral Fellow.** University of California, Davis. Mentors: David Begun and John Albeck | 2015-Present

**Ph.D. Candidate.** Harvard University. Mentor: Cassandra Extavour | 2009-2015

**M.S. Candidate.** McGill University. Mentor: Loydie Jerome-Majewska | 2007-2009

**Undergraduate Researcher.** University of Toronto. Mentor: Ellen Larsen | 2006-2007

## Publications

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**Sarikaya, DP**, Church S, Lagomarsino LP, Magnacca KM, Montgomery SL, Price D, Kaneshiro KK, Extavour CG. (2019) Reproductive capacity evolves in response to ecology through similar developmental mechanisms. *Current Biology*.

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.

## Fellowships and Awards

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

2018. National Institute of Health NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowship: \$61,174

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

## Presentations

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### Invited Oral Presentations

2018. "The ecology and cell biology of life history trait evolution." Integrative Biology Departmental Seminar Series, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
2018. "Natural variations in Insulin signaling and its effect on adult health" Microbiology, Cell and Molecular Biology Seminar Series, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.
2016. "Reproductive capacity evolves through changes in ecology and allometric growth in Hawaiian *Drosophila*" Society for Developmental Biology Southwest Regional Meeting, Salt Lake City.
2016. "Reproductive capacity evolves through changes in ecology and allometric growth in Hawaiian *Drosophila*" Evolution 2016 Conference, Austin, Texas.
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" 23<sup>rd</sup> 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" 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Developmental Biology Conference, Banff, Canada.

### Poster Presentations

2019. "Cell-type specific activity pattern of Akt in *D. melanogaster*" West Coast Society for Developmental Biology meeting, Cambria, CA.
2018. "Tools for studying natural variation in Insulin signaling in *D. melanogaster*" 2<sup>nd</sup> Population Quantitative and Evolutionary Genetics Conference, Madison, WI.
2018. "Tools for studying natural variation in Akt signaling in *D. melanogaster*" 59<sup>th</sup> 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.

2016. “Tools for tracking Akt and Erk kinetics in *D. melanogaster*” Society for Developmental Biology Southwest Regional Meeting, Salt Lake City.
2014. “The role of ecology in the evolution of female reproductive capacity in Hawaiian *Drosophila*” 10<sup>th</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
2010. “Counting in morphogenesis: ovariole number determination in *Drosophila melanogaster*” 51<sup>st</sup> Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, Washington, DC.

## Leadership and Service

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### Leadership

- Early Career Scientist Adviser**, Genetics Society of America Board of Directors. I advocate for the needs of graduate students and postdocs | 2018-Present.
- Adviser**, ‘SuperFly’ *Drosophila* seminar series, University of California Davis. I restructured an existing seminar series as a student-led community building initiative, and advise the graduate student leaders on how to run effective meetings. | 2018-Present.
- Co-chair, Career Development Committee**, Genetics Society of America. I co-led a team to develop the series Decoding Life, an interview series aimed at highlighting the diverse career pathways of biologists | 2017-2019.
- Organizing member**, Women in Life Sciences in Davis (WiLD), University of California Davis. I organize activities aimed at addressing the unique barriers that women in STEM face | 2016-2018.
- Executive organizer**, Harvard GSAS Canadian Students Club. I obtained funding and organized campus-wide events for Canadian graduate students | 2014-2016.
- Departmental Representative**, Harvard Graduate Student Council. I represented the department’s student body. | 2012-2013.
- Organizing committee member**. 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Invertebrate Morphology. Harvard University, Cambridge MA | 2010.
- Organizer**. Monthly “Origin of Species” reading seminar for graduate cohort of 2009. Harvard University, Cambridge MA | 2010.

### Workshops

- Designed and Led**. “How to guide early career scientists for diverse career paths”. Workshop for New Faculty Forum, 59<sup>th</sup> Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference & 2<sup>nd</sup> Population, Evolutionary and Quantitative Genetics Conference. | March & May 2018
- Designed and Led**. Three-part series on Diversity and Inclusion in academia. Activity and speakers organized for the fall quarter for Women in Life Sciences at Davis. | Sept – December 2016.

### Communication Publications

2019. [Dorit Zuk on her unconventional career journey](#). Interview article for *Genes to Genomes*

- blog.
2018. [Chinonye Nnakwe Whitley leaves room for serendipity](#). Interview article for *Genes to Genomes* blog.
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

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### 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
- 2017-2019. Ashley Kochummen, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis. Ashley is a Manufacturing Associate at Illumina.
2017. Adam Tarakji, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis
- 2015-2017. Sophila Davis, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis. Sophila works is a medical student at UC Davis.
- 2015-2016. Nossin Khan, undergraduate researcher at UC Davis
- 2013-2014. Inanna Carter, undergraduate researcher at Harvard University. Inanna is a medical student at UCLA.
- 2012-2013. Prince Antwi, undergraduate researcher at Harvard University. Prince is 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

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2018. [Announcement of role as Advisor](#) to Genetics Society of America Board of Directors
2018. [UC Davis Arts Blog feature](#) on art and science outreach
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**

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**Guest teacher** at Franklin Elementary School’s after school arts class with Mr. Gary Tucker for holding sessions on insect diversity, Newton MA | Spring 2014

**Selected Participant**, Innovations in Museum Curatorial Practices bridging Arts-Science seminar series at Harvard University | Spring 2014

**Funding Committee Reviewer**. Seeding Labs NGO. Boston, MA. | 2012-2013

**Invited speaker**, “Role of women in science” discussion session, Theological Opportunities Program, Cambridge MA. | 2010