

Nitzan Soffer

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Education:

PhD Student, Biology. (Entered Fall 2009), Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus.

MS, Marine Biology and Fisheries. (2009), University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

BA, Creative Studies: *Emphasis in Biology*, **Summa Cum Laude** (2005), University of California Santa Barbara, College of Creative Studies Honors.

Research Experience:

Graduate Student, Florida International University Biological Science, North Miami, Florida. Fall 2009- Present

- Viral isolations/extractions from scleractinian corals
- Sequence analysis
- Cloning

Graduate Student. University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Miami, Florida. Fall 2006- 2009.

- Fluorescent labeling of *Symbiodinium spp.* (via transformation) in collaboration with Prof. Mike Schmale and Dr. Pat Gibbs
- Physiology of *Symbiodinium* (using Pulse Amplitude Modulated Fluorometry)

Research Project. InterUniveristy Institute. Eilat, Israel. Summer 2005 to January 2006.

- *Chromis Viridis* Genetic Analysis:
- Field sampling of fish recruits, surveying of Coral Reefs (SCUBA).
- DNA extractions and PCR of Genomic DNA from fish.

Research Assistant. Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology. University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. Winter 2005 to Summer 2005.

- Otolith dissections and larval dispersal analysis of reef fish recruits for Prof. Robert Warner.

Research Assistant. Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology. University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. Spring 2004 to present.

- Digitizing images from over 30 years of research on coral reefs from the Great Barrier Reef for Prof. Joseph Connell.

Independent Research Project. Marine Science Institute. University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. Winter and Spring 2003

- established alcohol as an assay of toxicity for *Pyrocystis*
- established toxicity curve with an unknown Marine Inhibiting Factor on various organisms for Dr. Miriam Fuller

Biotech Internship. DevaTal Inc (Previously Devaron) New Jersey, Summer, 2001

- Assisted in the development and production of diagnosing reagents.
- Performed plasmid extractions, transformations.
- Induced protein expression, isolated induced proteins.
- Prepared reagents, electrophoresis gels, standing stocks
- Various other tasks, such as data processing
- Modified protocols, as needed

Awards/ Honors

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2008)
- NSF Gk-12 Science Made Sensible Fellowship (2007, 2008)
- NSF Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention (2007)
- Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors)- UC Santa Barbara (2005)
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- Alpha Lambda Delta
- College of Creative Studies Honors
- Golden Key International Honour Society
- Deans Honors

Publications/ Presentations

Soffer, N., Vega Thurber R. Poster presentation. "Methodological development for determining novel viruses in the Caribbean coral *Montastraea cavernosa*." Florida American Society for Microbiology 2010 annual meeting. Islamorada FL, 2010.

Soffer N., Vega Thurber, R. Poster presentation. "Novel DNA viruses from Caribbean coral." International Society Microbial Evolution, Seattle WA 2010.

Soffer, N., Gibbs, P.D.L., Schmale M.C., Baker, A.C. Poster presentation. "Practical applications of agar-plate grown *Symbiodinium*." International Coral Reef Symposia, Fort Lauderdale Fl., 2008.

Soffer, N., Gibbs, P.D.L, Baker, A.C. 2009. "Practical applications of contaminant-free *Symbiodinium* cultures grown on solid media." *Proceedings of the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 7-11 July 2008.*

Outreach/Teaching Experience

- NSF Resident Scientist at North Dade Miami Middle school (2007-2009 academic year)- lecturing, tutoring: create and conduct laboratory, field trips and hands on activities for middle school students.
- Coral hatchery demonstration for high schoolers/undergraduates visiting RSMAS (2006-2009)
- Trained undergraduate students for coral reef molecular and field work (2006-2009)
- Official Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences campus tour guide (2008 –2009)

SCUBA Qualifications:

- *AAUS Research Diving SCUBA certification*
- *Stress and Rescue Certification: SCUBA first aid; O2 administration, CPR, Symptoms and treatment of common SCUBA injuries.*
- Navigation
- Boating safety
- Over 100 research dives