



Christine M. Phillips Piro

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Current Position

Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604

Background

2012 – Present Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Franklin & Marshall College
2010 – 2012 Postdoctoral Associate in Biochemistry at University of California Berkeley and The Scripps Research Institute
2010 PhD in Biological Chemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2004 AB in Chemistry and Mathematics from Vassar College

Awards and Funding

2016 – 2019 NIH R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award
2014 – 2016 Research Corporation Single-Investigator Cottrell College Science Award
2012 NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32) (declined)
2011 Chair of Bioinorganic Chemistry Gordon Graduate Research Seminar, Ventura, CA
2004 Sigma Xi, Vassar College Chapter
2004 ACS College Recognition Award

Interests

As an X-ray crystallographer, I have used synchrotrons since I started graduate school at MIT in 2005. I have used SSRL, ALS, and most recently have been collecting data at APS. My research focuses on developing and utilizing novel unnatural amino acids to probe protein structure and tune protein function. Franklin & Marshall College is a liberal arts college exclusively serving 4-year undergraduate students, which has allowed me to engage many students in protein crystallography research. Since beginning my position at F&M I have had the opportunity to bring a number of undergraduate students to APS to collect X-ray diffraction data.

Goals

Since beginning at F&M in 2012, I have been a frequent user of APS to collect protein X-ray crystallographic data. I have had the opportunity to engage undergraduate students from F&M in X-ray diffraction experiments at APS both on-site and remotely. I am interested in helping brainstorm and support various educational opportunities for students at APS, to engage and educate the next generation of scientists in synchrotron sciences. I am also interested in increasing user access to data processing and storage both on and off-site. Many users travel far distances to collect data at APS, but may not have access to crucial data processing programs at home; I would like to increase the access to these programs for users remotely.