Kevin Mercurio, PhD

Scientist, Educator, Science Communicator
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SUMMARY

Self-driven, PhD-trained scientist with 9+ years of research experience in various institutes. Strong scientific literacy, ability to publish and present in international conferences, along with paid educator positions while undertaking graduate studies. Genuine interest in translational science and science communication demonstrated by a proven track record in project management roles across academic, government and non-profit sectors.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Customer Education Manager, Webinars & Training, BioRender, Remote — Sep 2026 – Present

- Own the execution and scale of BioRender's Webinar Program, serving as primary host and delivering live sessions that are engaging and grounded in adult-learning principles.
- Build out formal training and certification programs along with digital learning paths for high-ARR enterprise and general accounts that make BioRender mastery accessible.
- Create customer-facing content for BioRender's expanding platform of tools for users to practice and apply science communication techniques to their research outputs (ex. illustrations, data visuals, presentations**).**

Producer & Host, Metaphorigins, Remote — Mar 2020 – Present

- Created a communications podcast aimed at discussing the origins of English expressions, the science behind general communication, and techniques for science communication within the public domain; interview graduate students and early career researchers (ECRs) about how to connect the scientific community with the public using language tools.
- Consistently achieve hundreds of downloads per episode from listeners around the world.
- Manage full workflow of podcast design; script writing (Scrivener), production and sound/video editing (GarageBand, Audacity, Final Cut Pro), social media marketing and graphic design (Canva), affiliate marketing and performance analytics (Buzzsprout).

Doctoral Researcher & Teaching Assistant, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland — Mar 2021 – Feb 2026

- Gained deep knowledge of innate and adaptive immunity, cell biology and function of epithelial tissue, DNA/RNA therapeutics and delivery systems for clinical treatments of IBD, fibrosis and various cancers.
- Delivered undergraduate instruction in microbiology, immunology and cell biology laboratories (classes of ~20 students), covering experimental design, aseptic technique, cell culture, molecular biology assays, microscopy.
- Guest lectured in science communication undergraduate and Masters-level courses, gaining time management skills while contributing to curriculum development, assessment design, and grading assignments.

Co-Director & Public Speaking Trainer, Pint of Science, Ireland — Sep 2022 – May 2025

- Led non-profit team of 100+ volunteers in the development and scaling of a multi-city science engagement festival, proactively maintaining relationships with partners in academia and industry.
- Managed charity budget and finances (€10,000+), building strategic networks while negotiating sponsorship agreements that contributed to sustainable funding and long-term collaboration.
- Launched annual stakeholder engagement events (4 field panels, 6 speaker workshops, 50+ topic seminars) to promote knowledge exchange between researchers, industry KOLs and the public.
- Trained 30+ researchers per class to effectively communicate complex scientific concepts to diverse audiences, particularly in non-expert environments using active-learning methods and language tools.

Scholar's Ireland Educator, AccessED NGO, Ireland — Sep 2021 – Aug 2024

- Delivered university-style lectures about microbiology, molecular biology, and microbiome research to high school students in underrepresented communities.
- Created course curriculums building around the concept of beneficial versus pathogenic germs, finalizing with a team project to create probiotic treatments for immunocompromised patients.
- Developed strong ability to communicate scientific research findings to a general audience, translating complex technical data into clear insights for students.

EDUCATION

PhD Microbiology, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland — 2021 – 2026
MSc Biochemistry, University of Ottawa, Canada — 2017 – 2020
BSc Biochemistry, University of Ottawa, Canada — 2011 – 2016

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS (ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3126-5509)

- **Mercurio K.**, Corr S. C. miR-21 regulates epithelial adherens junctions and intestinal wound healing processes during inflammation. *In review*.
- *Stiegeler S., ***Mercurio K.**, Iancu M. A., Corr S. C. The Impact of MicroRNAs during Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Effects on the Mucus Layer and Intercellular Junctions for Gut Permeability. *Cells*, 2021, 10, 3358. ** - equal contribution.*
- O'Callaghan A. A., Dempsey E., Iyer N., Stiegeler S., **Mercurio K.**, Corr S. C. Intestinal Metabolites Influence Macrophage Phagocytosis and Clearance of Bacterial Infection. *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*, 2021, 11: 622491.
- **Mercurio K.**, Singh D., Walden E., Baetz K. Global analysis of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* growth in mucin. *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*, 2021, 11(11), jkab294.
- Fletcher E., **Mercurio K.**, Walden E., Baetz K. A yeast chemogenomic screen identifies pathways that modulate adipic acid toxicity. *iScience*, 2021, 24(4): 102327.
- Fletcher E., Gao K**., Mercurio K.**, Ali M., Baetz K. 2019. Yeast chemogenomic screen identifies distinct metabolic pathways required to tolerate exposure to phenolic fermentation inhibitors ferulic acid, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid and coniferyl aldehyde. *Metabolic Engineering*, 2019, 52: 98-109.
- Storms Z., Teel M., **Mercurio K.**, Sauvageau D. The Virulence Index: A Metric for Quantitative Analysis of Bacteriophage Virulence. *PHAGE: Therapy, Applications, and Research*, 2019, 1: 1X. Invited article for the preview/inaugural issue.

SELECTED ORAL & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **Mercurio K.**, Corr S. C. 2024. The impact of miR-21 on epithelial intercellular junctions influencing gut inflammation and barrier repair. Primary author of abstract and poster for the European Congress of Immunology, Dublin, Ireland.
- **Mercurio K.**, Corr S. C. 2024. Investigation epithelial-specific mechanisms of miR-21 influence on intestinal inflammation and IBD. Primary author of abstract and poster for the International Congress of Mucosal Immunology, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- **Mercurio K.** 2022. The mechanistic impact of miR-21 on gut epithelial intercellular junctions and host-microbiome interactions. Primary author of abstract, flash presentation and poster for the Microbiology Society UK's Focused Meeting, Dublin, Ireland.
- **Mercurio K.**, Corr S. C. 2022. The mechanistic impact of miR-21 on intercellular junctions and susceptibility to intestinal inflammation. Primary author of abstract and poster for the Irish Society of Immunology, Maynooth, Ireland.
- **Mercurio K.** 2019. Identifying genes required for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* growth in mucin. Presentation for the International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- **Mercurio K.**, Singh D., Baetz K. 2019. Identifying genes required for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* growth in mucin. Primary author of abstract and poster for the Ottawa Institute of Systems Biology Conference, Cornwall, Ontario.
- **Mercurio K.**, Hall C. W., Mah T. F. 2016. Identification of a novel gene involved in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilm-specific resistance to antibiotics. Primary author of abstract and poster for the Canadian Society of Microbiologists' Conference, Toronto, Ontario.

EXTRACURRICULARS

- Webinar Host, Trinity Career Services, highlighted scientific careers for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Chairperson, Dublin University Microbiological Society, managed team of graduate students responsible for society funding and organizing academic / social events for the local microbiology community.
- Mentor, URNCST Journal Mentorship Program for academic writing in the field of gut health.
- Policy Coordinator, Science Slam Canada, helped advise organization re-structure, policy, and risk management.
- Program Coordinator, Science to Business Network, created the inaugural S2BN Mentorship program.
- Supervisor, uOttawa Faculty of Medicine's Translational and Molecular Medicine Program & uOttawa Faculty of Medicine Annual DEGREE Program for undergraduate students.
- Judge, Ottawa Regional Science Fair, evaluated scientific projects in the field of biological sciences for elementary and high-school students in the Ottawa region.
- Vice President Academic Affairs, uOttawa Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Association, acted as primary representative for all graduate students both at the departmental and faculty level.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Computational: MS Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Teams), Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator), Zoom.
Data Analysis: GraphPad Prism, R, ImageJ.
Creative Works: Online graphic design (Canva, BioRender), audio/video editing (Final Cut Pro, GarageBand).
Languages: English (fluent), French (intermediate).