

Amanda J. Cork



Current Position: Ph.D. candidate in the laboratory of Prof. Mark Walker in the School of Biological Sciences at University of Wollongong in New South Wales, Australia

Education: Bachelor of Biotechnology (Honours, class 1) in Molecular Microbiology (2004) from University of Wollongong in New South Wales Australia

Non-scientific Interests: Cooking, travel and sports

As an undergraduate in the bachelor degree program in biotechnology, I was amazed by the rapid advances in science, and the way new technologies lead to an understanding of previously unknown concepts. Wanting to learn more, I completed my Honours year in the laboratory of Professor Mark Walker, where I studied the distribution of the surface plasminogen binding M-like protein (PAM) among invasive isolates of *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Group A Streptococcus, GAS). This ignited my interest in GAS cell surface proteins and their involvement in the progression of invasive GAS disease in humans. More recently, I have been investigating the role of the surface located streptococcal alpha-enolase (SEN) as a receptor for the host zymogen plasminogen. Plasminogen bound to SEN provides GAS with a potential source of uncontrolled cell surface proteolytic activity, which may lead to invasive infection. In collaboration with the co-authors of this paper, we hope to utilize novel proteomic tools to elucidate the mechanism of plasminogen binding by GAS and the contribution of this binding to the invasive disease process.

Read Amada Cork's article entitled: Defining the Structural Basis of Human Plasminogen Binding by Streptococcal Surface Enolase

<http://www.jbc.org/cgi/content/full/284/25/17129>