



Suzanne McDermott, Ph.D.



Center for Infectious
Disease Research

Staff Scientist

Center for Infectious Disease Research

I am a British Ph.D. scientist drawn to Seattle as an international hub for global health. I work at the Center for Infectious Disease Research, Seattle's first global health organization and the largest independent non-profit organization devoted solely to infectious disease research. The Center aims to make transformative advances that lead to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases that include malaria, tuberculosis and HIV.

I am passionate about science education and public outreach that will inform and develop the current and next generation of scientists, policymakers, and voters. The vital research and training at the Center is predominantly funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Obtaining funding and support from the NIH, other sources, and the public is vital for research success, as well as the training of WA students of all ages. Our ability to attract the best global scientific talent to the area will pay dividends for WA state.

Please reach out for more information and to start a conversation about how we can work together to advance evidence-based science education and public outreach, and to increase recognition and support of critical scientific research in Washington state.



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My research:

- Focuses on the parasites that cause neglected tropical diseases such as African sleeping sickness, Chagas' disease, and Leishmaniases.
- Together, these diseases affect >2 million people annually worldwide, including within the U.S. and members of the military serving abroad.
- I study the unique biology of these pathogens so that new therapeutics can be developed, which are urgently needed due to toxicity of existing drugs and the rise of drug resistance.
- I train undergraduates and share my research at the Center with WA high school students and in middle school classrooms in SeaTac and Maple Valley.



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The **UW STEP** and **STEP Forward** programs have allowed me to pursue my passion by giving me opportunities to:

- Develop a microbiology course that taught students to use scientific evidence and critical thinking skills.
- Develop my activity to communicate my research and its significance to the public at the Pacific Science Center, and to you, our state business leaders and legislators here today!



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