The overarching goal of the Herschlag Lab is to understand the fundamental behavior of RNA and proteins and, in turn, how these behaviors determine and impact biology more broadly. We are particularly interested in questions of how enzymes work, how RNA folds, how proteins recognize RNA, and the roles of RNA/protein interactions in regulation and control, and the evolution of molecules and molecular interactions. The lab takes an interdisciplinary approach, spanning and integrating physics, chemistry and biology, and employing a wide range of techniques.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Biochemistry
- Professor (By courtesy), Chemical Engineering
- Member, Bio-X
- Faculty Fellow, Sarafan ChEM-H
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Founders Award, Biophysical Society (2020)
- Excellence in Mentoring and Service Award, Stanford University Biosciences (2019)
- Member, National Academy of Sciences (2018)
- Student Service Faculty Award, Biochemistry, Stanford School of Medicine (2012)
- William Rose Award, ASBMB (2010)
- Fellow, AAAS (2005)
- Merit Award, NIH (2002)
- Cope Scholar Award, ACS (2000)
• Established Investigator, AHA (1998-2002)
• Pfizer Award for Enzyme Chemistry, ACS (1997)
• Fellowship in Science and Engineering, David and Lucile Packard (1995-2000)
• Scholar, Searle (1993-1996)
• Scholar in Biomedical Science, Lucille P. Markey (1990-1997)
• Postdoctoral Fellowship, Helen Hay Whitney (1989-1990; Colorado)
• Fellowship, Gillette Foundation (1986-1987; Brandeis)
• Award in Biochemistry, American Institute of Chemists (1982; SUNY)
• Award for Excellence in Biochemistry, SUNY (1982)
• Phi Beta Kappa, Michigan (1979)
• Scholar, James B. Angell (1978, 1979; Michigan)

LINKS
• Herschlag lab website: http://herschlaglab.stanford.edu

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS
The overarching goal of the Herschlag Lab is to understand the fundamental behavior of RNA and proteins and, in turn, how these behaviors determine and impact biology more broadly. We are particularly interested in questions of how enzymes work, how RNA folds, how proteins recognize RNA, and the roles of RNA/protein interactions in regulation and control, and the evolution of molecules and molecular interactions. The lab takes an interdisciplinary approach, spanning and integrating physics, chemistry and biology, and employing a wide range of techniques.

Teaching

COURSES
2022-23
• A Practical Guide to Success in Science: BIOS 246 (Win)
• Biochemistry Mini-Course: BIOC 202 (Aut)
• Understanding Kinetics for Biologists and Biology: BIOS 202 (Aut)
2021-22
• Biochemistry Mini-Course: BIOC 202 (Aut)
• Chemistry for Biologists and Others: BIOC 294, BIOS 294 (Aut)
2020-21
• Becoming a Resilient Scientist: BIO 315 (Win, Spr)
• Biochemistry Mini-Course: BIOC 202 (Aut)
• Chemistry for Biologists and Others: BIOC 294, BIOS 294 (Aut)
• Connections: Life, Science, and, Community: BIOC 227 (Win, Spr)
• Understanding Kinetics for Biologists and Biology: BIOS 202 (Sum)
2019-20
• Biochemistry Bootcamp: BIOC 202 (Aut)
• Chemistry for Biologists and Others: BIOS 294 (Aut)
STANFORD ADVISEES

Med Scholar Project Advisor

Daniel Mokhtari

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Peter Cavanagh, Alex Chu, Nicole DelRosso, Emily Greenwald

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Mason Appel, Lauren Hagler, Albert Lee

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Siyuan Du, Daniel Mokhtari, John Shin, Gabriel Tauber

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Eliel Akinbami

GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

• Biochemistry (Phd Program)
• Biophysics (Phd Program)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

• A comprehensive thermodynamic model for RNA binding by the Saccharomyces cerevisiae Pumilio protein PUF4. Nature communications
  Sadee, C., Hagler, L. D., Becker, W. R., Jarmoskaite, I., Vaidyanathan, P. P., Denny, S. K., Greenleaf, W. J., Herschlag, D.
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• Evaluating the impact of X-ray damage on conformational heterogeneity in room-temperature (277 K) and cryo-cooled protein crystals. Acta crystallographica. Section D, Structural biology
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  2022; 78 (Pt 8): 945-963

• Ensemble-function relationships to connect structure to mechanism: application of EnsemblePDB to the serine protease reaction coordinate and its catalytic features
  Du, S., Kretsch, R. C., Parres-Gold, J., Penaherrera, D. A., Yabukarski, F., Pinney, M. M., Herschlag, D.
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• Direct Measurement of Interhelical DNA Repulsion and Attraction by Quantitative Cross-Linking. Journal of the American Chemical Society
  Hamilton, I., Gebala, M., Herschlag, D., Russell, R.
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• Systematic investigation of the link between enzyme catalysis and cold adaptation ELIFE
  Stark, C. D., Bautista-Leung, T., Siegfried, J., Herschlag, D.
  2022; 11

• Systematic investigation of the link between enzyme catalysis and cold adaptation. eLife
  Stark, C., Bautista-Leung, T., Siegfried, J., Herschlag, D.
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• uPIC-M: Efficient and Scalable Preparation of Clonal Single Mutant Libraries for High-Throughput Protein Biochemistry. ACS omega
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  2021; 6 (45): 30542-30554

• Cation enrichment in the ion atmosphere is promoted by local hydration of DNA. Physical chemistry chemical physics : PCCP
  Ma, C. Y., Pezzotti, S., Schwaab, G., Gebala, M., Herschlag, D., Havenith, M.
• High throughput and quantitative enzymology in the genomic era. *Current opinion in structural biology*
Mokhtari, D. A., Appel, M. J., Fordyce, P. M., Herschlag, D.
2021; 71: 259-273

• High-throughput dissection of the thermodynamic and conformational properties of a ubiquitous class of RNA tertiary contact motifs. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
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Markin, C. J., Mokhtari, D. A., Sunden, F., Appel, M. J., Akiva, E., Longwell, S. A., Sabatti, C., Herschlag, D., Fordyce, P. M.
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• Parallel molecular mechanisms for enzyme temperature adaptation. *Science (New York, N.Y.)*
Pinney, M. M., Mokhtari, D. A., Akiva, E., Yabukarski, F., Sanchez, D. M., Liang, R., Doukov, T., Martinez, T. J., Babbitt, P. C., Herschlag, D.
2021; 371 (6533)

• Assessment of enzyme active site positioning and tests of catalytic mechanisms through X-ray-derived conformational ensembles. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
Yabukarski, F., Biel, J. T., Pinney, M. M., Doukov, T., Powers, A. S., Fraser, J. S., Herschlag, D.
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• Instrumentation and experimental procedures for robust collection of X-ray diffraction data from protein crystals across physiological temperatures. *Journal of applied crystallography*
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Shi, H., Rangadurai, A., Abou Assi, H., Roy, R., Case, D. A., Herschlag, D., Yesselman, J. D., Al-Hashimi, H. M.
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• The individual and the team in collaborative science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
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• Slow Molecular Recognition by RNA
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• Biosciences Proposal Bootcamp: Structured peer and faculty feedback improves trainees’ proposals and grantsmanship self-efficacy. *PloS one*
Botham, C. M., Brawn, S. n., Steele, L. n., Barrón, C. B., Kleppner, S. R., Herschlag, D. n.
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• How to measure and evaluate binding affinities. *eLife*
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Becker, W. R., Jarmoskaite, I., Vaidyanathan, P. P., Greenleaf, W. J., Herschlag, D.
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• **Blind tests of RNA-protein binding affinity prediction.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
  Kappel, K., Jarmoskaite, I., Vaidyanathan, P. P., Greenleaf, W. J., Herschlag, D., Das, R.
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• **A Microfluidics-Based Assay for Mapping Connectivity in Highly Proficient Enzymes Reveals Functional Modularity**
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  Pinney, M. M., Natarajan, A., Yabukarski, F., Sanchez, D. M., Liu, F., Liang, R., Doukov, T., Schwans, J. P., Martinez, T. J., Herschlag, D.
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Gold nanocrystal labels provide a sequence-to-3D structure map in SAXS reconstructions *SCIENCE ADVANCES*
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An Activator-Blocker Pair Provides a Controllable On-Off Switch for a Ketosteroid Isomerase Active Site Mutant *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY*
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Kemp Eliminase Activity of Ketosteroid Isomerase *BIOCHEMISTRY*
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Bonilla, S., Limouse, C., Bisaria, N., Gebala, M., Mabuchi, H., Herschlag, D.
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2017; 22 (139): 7540-7548
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  Bisaria, N., Greenfeld, M., Limouse, C., Pavlichin, D. S., Mabuchi, H., Herschlag, D.
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• Evaluation of the Catalytic Contribution from a Positioned General Base in Ketosteroid Isomerase. Journal of the American Chemical Society
  Lamba, V., Yabukarski, F., Pinney, M., Herschlag, D.
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  Shi, X., Bisaria, N., Benz-Moy, T. L., Bonilla, S., Pavlichin, D. S., Herschlag, D.
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  Shi, X., Beauchamp, K. A., Harbury, P. B., Herschlag, D.
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