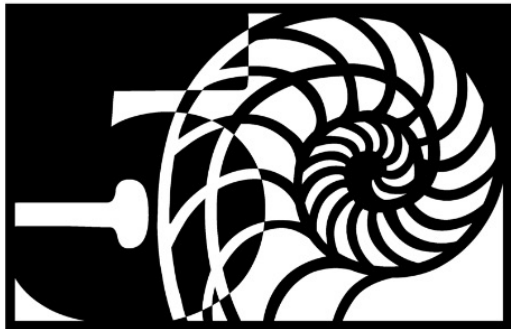


How to attend an in-person conference

Rebecca Everett



SMB 2023 - Columbus, OH
50 Years of Mathematical Biology

Society for Mathematical Biology
Early Career Workshop
July 16



Acknowledgements



Raegan Higgins



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Angie Peace



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- Advice from friends
- Alexandra Hogan, “Making the Most of your Conference Money,” *The Thesis Whisperer*, 2017 and corresponding slides (<https://mysite.science.uottawa.ca/rsmith43/AlexandraHoganConference.pdf>)



Tin Phan



Christopher Strickland



Jasper Weinburd

Wear your nametag!



Source: Mack Male, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lanyards_%26_Nametags_\(15164825000\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lanyards_%26_Nametags_(15164825000).jpg)

It's not just about the talks



Source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/coffee-hot-drink-espreso-cup-2565441/>



Source: tlarrow, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Columbus_Zoo.jpg

- Meeting people can lead to more opportunities (e.g., postdocs, invitations to give talks)
- Social connections can strengthen professional collaborations

Tips for networking

- Be social and meet new people!
- Networking can be hard, but it can get easier
- Find a buddy (e.g., academic siblings)
- Don't just stick to people you know
- This early career workshop is a great place to make conference friends!
- Network horizontally and vertically
- Attend the after-conference meet-ups



Source: Olena Malytska https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WS2023_Networking_at_Wolves_Summit_2023.jpg

Finding people you want to meet

- Look up who will be at the conference
- Email before or during the conference and organize a time to meet, perhaps over meals or coffee break
- Ask someone for an introduction
- Invite people to come to your talk
- At the conference:
 - Coffee breaks and excursions
 - Poster sessions
 - Mentor lunch
 - SMB subgroup meetings
 - minisymposiums



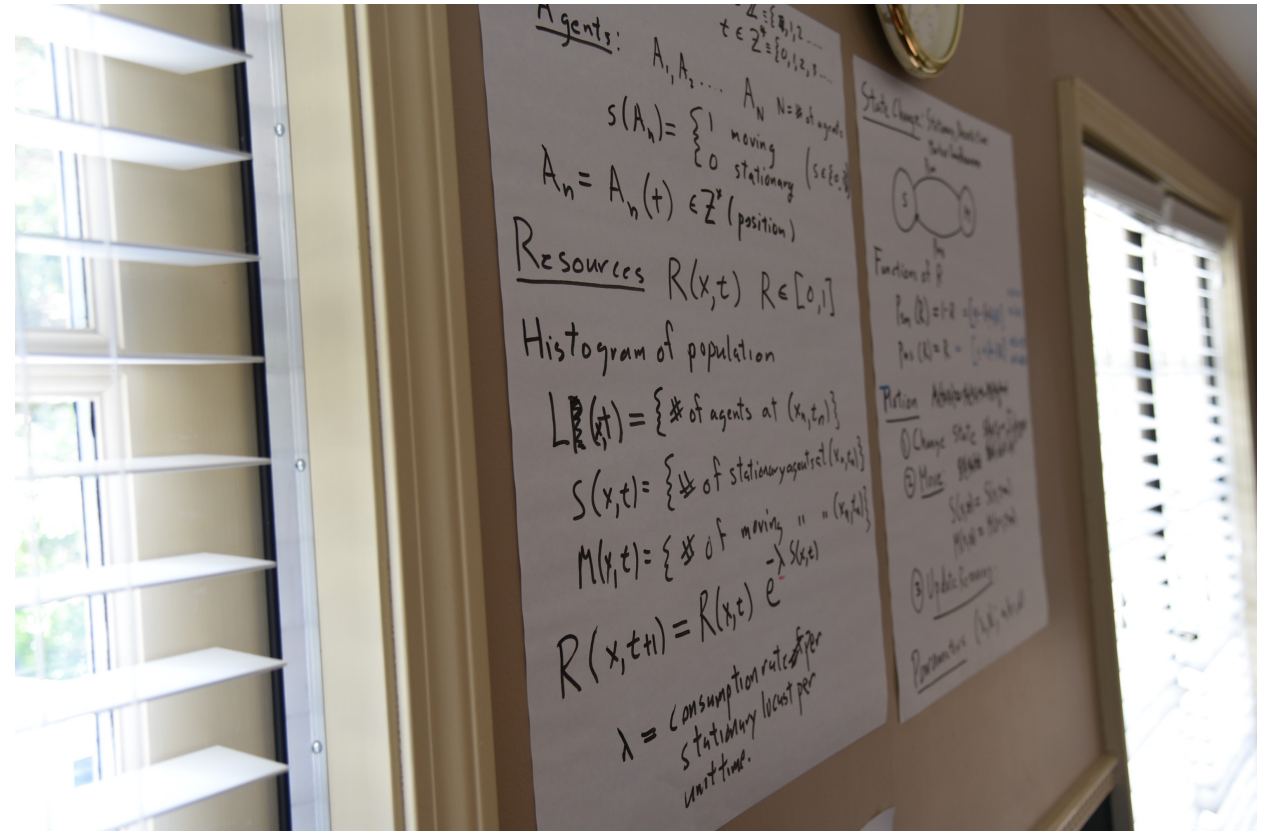
When you meet someone

- Find some connection
 - I'm a student of _____
 - I have worked with _____
 - I found your talk interesting and _____
 - Relate their work to your work
- Sometimes taking notes in the talks helps when you see them later
- You don't have to just talk about math
- Ask about where they are, their research area, etc.
- Have an elevator pitch prepared



Your Elevator Pitch: 2 minute spiel

- Name:
 - Position:
 - Institution:
 - Field:
 - Major research interest:
 - Major research tools:
 - Long term research goals:
 - Long term career goals:
-
- Advertise if you are looking for a job!



Choosing talks

- Look at the program early and make a plan
- Look for talks related to your research, but also ask for suggestions of who gives good talks
- Attend some talks by people in similar career stage as you
- Staying for the whole minisymposium session can be valuable
- Also look at non-research talks (e.g., DEI, pedagogical)
- Especially at big conferences, you don't want to go room-to-room all day

Don't overdo it

- You don't want to burn out and then zone out at talks and social events
- It is ok to miss some sessions!



Source: Another Believer, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boston_%282019%29_-_271.jpg, cropped

Asking questions at talks

- If you don't usually ask questions, challenge yourself to ask one a day
- Simple questions are fine!
- Nervous? Write down your question during the talk and read it
- Suggestions:
 - Clarification
 - Ask the speaker to re-explain a graph or a part of a model
 - "Would you mind expanding on X"
- Don't ask really long-winded questions or ask multiple questions at once – if you have lots of questions, that is a great opportunity for networking!

Follow up

- Separate “science notes from talks” and list of “actions”
- Follow up via email promptly with new contacts/collaborations



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Student_taking_notes.jpg

Go see the city!

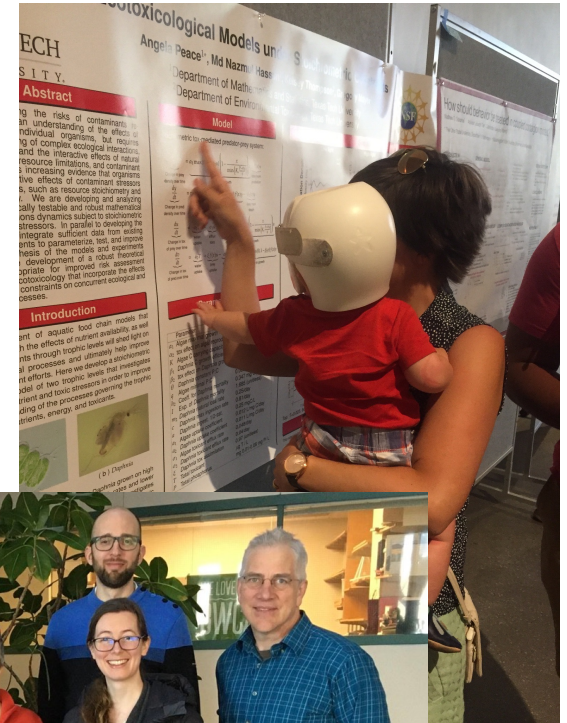


Future conferences

- Find funding
 - Conference
 - Advisor, department, university
 - Math organizations (e.g., SMB, AWM, SIAM)
- Write a statement for funding
 - “opportunity to meet and collaborate with other mathematical biologists”
 - “gain experience presenting research”
 - “learn about techniques and ideas that can be applied to my own research”
 - “keep up with current trends of research”
 - “provide my input on relevant math biology issues”
- Example Math Bio Conferences: SMB, BAMM, ICAM, SIAM-LS
- Other Conferences: MathFest, JMM, AWM

Parents at Conferences

- Ask organizers about child-care options
- Sometimes they can provide funding to bring a caregiver to the conference to watch the baby while the baby is still nursing
- Ask for nursing/pumping room if none are available



Open Discussion on Workshops for Young Researchers (Monday 5:00)

MS02-OTHE-1:

The 10th anniversary of MBI's 2013 Workshop for Young Researchers in Mathematical Biology

Organized by: Rebecca Everett, Angela Peace

Note: this minisymposia has multiple sessions. The other session is **MS01-OTHE-1**.

- **Ashlee N. Ford Versypt** *University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering)*
"Multiscale Modeling of Tissue Remodeling and Damage"
- **Angela Peace** *Texas Tech University (Department of Mathematics and Statistics)*
"Adaptive foraging behaviors in food web models"
- **Open Discussion**
"Open Discussion: Best Practices for Workshops for Young Researchers"

Room assignment: Student-Alumni Council Room (#2154)



SMB Academic Year Mentoring Program

Groups and pairs
to be set up this week!

Meet your group at **Mentoring Lunch**
on Thurs July 20
(see schedule)

Sign up using link below or SMB
website by **5pm Weds July 19**

<https://tinyurl.com/AYMP23>

Writing Groups

A group of 4 people who exchange writing samples and meet on a regular basis to provide constructive criticism

Accountability Groups

A group of 4 people who meet regularly for goal-setting and mutual accountability

Mentoring Pods

A group of ~5 people at different career stages who meet regularly for Q&A and mentoring regarding typical challenges on the career path

Postdoc Peer Mentoring Cohort

A community of postdoc peers to discuss challenges in mathematical biology research

Peer Matching

A pairing of two 'buddies' at the same career stage to meet regularly for academic accountability and support

<https://www.smb.org/smb-academic-year-mentoring-program/>

Thank you and have fun!

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