

**Benjamin Paul Bratton**  
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### **Education and work experience:**

Nov 2011 – present: Postdoctoral research associate, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
Mentors: Joshua W. Shaevitz and Zemer Gitai

Aug 2006 – Oct 2011: Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI  
Advisor: Professor James C. Weisshaar

Aug 2003 – Aug 2006: B.S. in Chemistry, Minor in Mathematics, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL  
Undergraduate research with Dr. Greta Bryson and ACS Certification in Biochemistry

### **Honors, Awards, and Affiliations:**

2019 Outstanding Postdoc Award, Princeton University, Department of Molecular Biology  
2019 Artwork selected as part of “States of Health: Visualizing Illness and Healing”,  
Princeton University Art Museum  
2018 Finalist, Art of Science, 62nd Annual Biophysical Society.  
2012 - 2013 Quantitative and computational biology training fellowship award, P50- GM071508  
2011 Charles & Martha Casey Excellence in Research Award. UW-Madison  
2007 - 2009 Molecular biophysics training fellowship award, T32-GM08293  
2006 Paul M. Wright Award for Excellence in Physical and Analytical Chemistry, Wheaton  
College  
2003 - 2006 President’s Scholarship, Wheaton College  
2018 - Present Member, North Atlantic Microscopy Society  
2017 - Present Member, American Physical Society  
2011 - Present Member, American Postdoc Association  
2011 - Present Member, American Society for Microbiology  
2006 - Present Member, American Scientific Affiliation  
2006 - Present Member, Biophysical Society  
2004 - Present Member, American Chemical Society

### **Publications (\* denotes equal contribution, § denotes undergraduate co-author):**

#### *Publications from postdoc work*

1. Martin, J.K.\*, Sheehan, J.P.\*, **Bratton, B.P.\***, Moore, G.M., Mateus, A., Li, S.H., Kim, H., Rabinowitz, J.D., Typas, A., Savitski, M.M., Wilson, M.Z., Gitai, Z. 2020. A dual-mechanism antibiotic kills Gram-negative bacteria and avoids drug resistance. *Cell*. 10.1016/j.cell.2020.05.005
2. Taylor, J.A., **Bratton, B.P.**, Sichel, S.R., Blair, K.M., Jacobs, H.M., DeMeester, K.E., Kuru, E., Gray, J., Biboy, J.S., VanNieuwenhze, M.S., Vollmer, W., Grimes, C.L., Shaevitz, J.W., Salama, N.R. 2020. Distinct cytoskeletal proteins define zones of enhanced cell wall synthesis in *Helicobacter pylori*. *eLife*. 10.7554/eLife.52482
3. **Bratton, B.P.**, Barton, B., Morgenstein, R.M. 2019. Three-dimensional imaging of bacterial cells for accurate cellular representations and precise protein localization. *Journal of Visualized Experiments*. 10.3791/60350.
4. Sanfilippo, J.E., Lorestani, A., Koch, M.D., **Bratton, B.P.**, Siryaporn, A., Stone, H.A., Gitai, Z. 2019.

Microfluidic-based transcriptomics reveal force-independent bacterial rheosensing. **Nature Microbiology**. 10.1038/s41564-019-0455-0

5. **Bratton, B.P.**, Shaevitz, J.W., Gitai, Z. Morgenstein, R.M., 2018. MreB polymers and curvature localization are enhanced by RodZ and predict *E. coli*'s cylindrical uniformity. **Nature Communications**. 10.1038/s41467-018-05186-5
6. Guzzo, M., Murray, S.M., Martineau, E., Lhospice, S., Baronian, G. My, L., Zhang, Y., Espinosa, L., Vincentelli, R., **Bratton, B.P.**, Shaevitz, J.W., Molle, V., Howard, M., Mignot, T. 2018. A gated relaxation oscillator controls morphogenetic movements in bacteria. **Nature Microbiology**. 10.1101/137695
7. Shi, H.\*, **Bratton, B.P.\***, Gitai, Z., Huang, K.C. 2018. How to build a bacterial cell: MreB as the foreman of *E. coli* construction. **Cell**. 10.1016/j.cell.2018.02.050
8. Liu, G.Ss. **Bratton, B.P.**, Gitai, Z. Shaevitz, J.W. 2017. The effect of antibiotics on protein diffusion in the *Escherichia coli* cytoplasmic membrane. **PLoS ONE**. 10.1371/journal.pone.0185810
9. Bartlett, T.M., **Bratton, B.P.**, Duvshani, A., Miguel, A., Sheng, Y., Martin, N.R., Nguyen, J.P., Persat, A., Desmarais, S.M., VanNieuwenhze, M.S., Huang, K.C., Zhu, J., Shaevitz, J.W., Gitai, Z. 2017. A quorum-regulated periplasmic polymer determines *Vibrio cholerae* cell shape. **Cell**. 10.1016/j.cell.2016.12.019
10. Ouzounov, N. Nguyen, J.P., **Bratton, B.P.**, Jacobowitz, D.Js. Gitai, Z., Shaevitz, J.W. 2016. MreB Orientation Correlates with Cell Diameter in *Escherichia coli*. **Biophysical Journal**. 10.1016/j.bpj.2016.07.017
11. Morgenstein, R.M., **Bratton, B.P.**, Nguyen, J.P., Ouzounov, N., Shaevitz, J.W., Gitai, Z. 2015. RodZ links MreB to cell wall synthesis to mediate MreB rotation and robust morphogenesis. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**. 10.1073/pnas.1509610112
12. **Bratton, B.P.**, Shaevitz, J.W. 2015. Simple empirical method for measuring apparent focal shift in a microscope system. **PLoS ONE**. 10.1371/journal.pone.0134616

#### Publications from graduate work

13. Gaal, T., **Bratton, B.P.**, Sanchez-Vazquez, P., Sliwicky, A., Sliwicky, K., Vogel, A., Pannu, R., Gourse, R.L. 2016. Co-localization of distant chromosome loci in space in *E. coli*: A bacterial nucleolus. **Genes and Development**. 10.1101/gad.290312.116
14. Bakshi, S., Choi, H., Rangarajan, N., Barns, K.J., **Bratton, B.P.**, Weisshaar, J.C. 2014. Non-perturbative fluorescence imaging of nucleoid morphology in live bacterial cells. **Applied and Environmental Microbiology**. 10.1128/AEM.00989-14
15. Bakshi, S., **Bratton, B.P.**, Weisshaar, J.C. 2011. Sub-diffraction-limit study of Kaede diffusion and spatial distribution in the cytoplasm of live *E. coli* cells. **Biophysical Journal**. 10.1016/j.bpj.2011.10.013
16. **Bratton, B.P.**, Mooney, R.A., Weisshaar, J.C. 2011. Spatial distribution and diffusive motion of RNA polymerase in live *Escherichia coli*. **Journal of Bacteriology**. 10.1128/JB.00198-11
17. Mondal, J.\*, **Bratton, B.P.\***, Li, Y., Yethiraj, A., Weisshaar, J.C. 2011. Entropy-based mechanism of ribosome-nucleoid segregation in *E. coli* cells. **Biophysical Journal**. 10.1016/j.bpj.2011.04.030
18. Konopka M.C., Sochacki K.A., **Bratton B.P.**, Shkel I.A., Record M.T., Weisshaar J.C. 2009. Cytoplasmic protein mobility in osmotically stressed *Escherichia coli*. **Journal of Bacteriology**. 10.1128/JB.00536-08

#### Pre-prints and working drafts

19. **Bratton, B.P.**, Morgenstein, R.M., Shaevitz, J.W., Gitai, Z. MreB localizes based on geometric cues to pattern uniform rod-like growth in bacteria. *In preparation*
20. Pratt, S.E., **Bratton, B.P.**, Hinrichsen, M., Shaevitz, J.W., Reagan, L.J., Mochrie, S.G.J. Elucidation of

binding kinetics of a TRAP-peptide pair for live-cell imaging through FRAP. *In preparation*

21. **Bratton, B.P.**, Morgenstein, R.M., Gitai, Z., Shaevitz, J.W. SPACECRAFT: from plants to bacteria, a quantitative method to compare cell shapes. *In preparation*
22. Islam, S.T., Belgrave, A.M., Fleuchot, B., Jolivet, N.Y., My, L., Faure, L.M., Sharma, G., Lemon, D.J., Fiche, J., **Bratton, B.P.**, Singer, M., Garza, A.G., Shaevitz, J.W., Mignot, T. Integrin-Like Tethering of Motility Complexes at Bacterial Focal Adhesions. *In preparation*
23. Martin, N.R., Blackman, E.S., **Bratton, B.P.**, Bartlett, T.M., Gitai, Z. The evolution of bacterial shape complexity by a curvature-inducing module. *2020 bioRxiv* 10.1101/2020.02.20.954503
24. Scheffler, R.J., Sugimoto, Y., **Bratton, B.P.**, Ellison, C.K., Koch, M.D., Donia, M.S., Gitai, Z. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* detachment from surfaces via a self-made small molecule. *In preparation*.

### Peer-reviewed teaching activities

1. **Bratton, B.P.** 2018 “Introduction to strings and DNA/protein sequence alignments.”  
[https://serc.carleton.edu/teaching\\_computation/workshop\\_2018/activities/211068.html](https://serc.carleton.edu/teaching_computation/workshop_2018/activities/211068.html)  
**Exemplary:** *Teaching Computation in the Sciences Using MATLAB Teaching Collection*.
2. **Bratton, B.P.** 2016 “Using MATLAB to understand distributions: Pokémon GO.”  
[https://serc.carleton.edu/matlab\\_computation2016/activities/159836.html](https://serc.carleton.edu/matlab_computation2016/activities/159836.html)  
**Exemplary:** *Teaching Computation in the Sciences Using MATLAB Teaching Collection*.  
**Positive reviews.** *On the Cutting Edge Reviewed Teaching Collection*

### Book chapters

1. Nguyen, J.P., **Bratton, B.P.**, Shaevitz, J.W. 2016. Methods in Molecular Biology: Bacterial Cell Wall Homeostasis. Biophysical Measurements of Bacterial Cell Shape

### Software

1. **Bratton, B.P.**, Nguyen, J.P., Shaevitz, J.W. 3D cell shape reconstruction software. Latest version available at <https://github.com/PrincetonUniversity/shae-cellshape-public> and archived at DOI:10.5281/zenodo.1248978.
2. **Bratton, B.P.**, Bartlett, T.M., Gitai, Z., Shaevitz, J.W. Quantitative Analysis of Sacculus Architectural Remodeling (QuASAR). Latest version available at <https://github.com/PrincetonUniversity/quasar> and archived at DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1248974.

### Presentations:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2020 | 64 <sup>th</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting                     |
| 2019 | (Oral presentation) APS March Meeting 2019                              |
| 2019 | (Oral presentation) 63 <sup>rd</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting |
| 2018 | (Oral presentation) APS March Meeting 2018                              |
| 2018 | 62 <sup>nd</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting                     |
| 2017 | (Oral presentation) 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual q-bio Conference            |
| 2017 | (Oral presentation) APS March Meeting 2017                              |
| 2016 | 60 <sup>th</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting                     |
| 2015 | 2015 ASM Conference on Prokaryotic Cell Biology and Development         |
| 2015 | 59 <sup>th</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting                     |
| 2014 | 2014 Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phages Meeting                  |
| 2013 | Zing Conference on Bacterial Cell Biology                               |
| 2011 | 55 <sup>th</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting.                    |
| 2010 | (Oral presentation) Midwest Single Molecule Workshop                    |
| 2009 | 53 <sup>rd</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting.                    |

2009 (Oral presentation) 2009 Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phages Meeting  
 2008 52<sup>nd</sup> Biophysical Society Annual Meeting.  
 2007 2007 Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phages Meeting.  
 2005 (Oral presentation) Argonne Undergraduate Research Symposium  
 2005 Wheaton College Homecoming Summer Research Poster Session

## **Mentoring and Teaching:**

### *Courses taught*

Spring 2020 Lecturer/Preceptor, ISC/CHM/MOL/PHY/COS 233 & 234 An Integrated, Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences II, Princeton University  
 Fall 2019 Lecturer/Preceptor, ISC/CHM/MOL/PHY/COS 231 & 232 An Integrated, Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences I, Princeton University  
 Summer 2019 Assistant instructor, Physics of Life Summer School, Princeton University  
 Spring 2019 Lecturer/Preceptor, ISC/CHM/MOL/PHY/COS 233 & 234 An Integrated, Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences II, Princeton University  
 Fall 2018 Lecturer/Preceptor, ISC/CHM/MOL/PHY/COS 231 & 232 An Integrated, Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences I, Princeton University  
 Summer 2018 Assistant instructor, Physics of Life Summer School, Princeton University  
 Spring 2018 Lecturer/Preceptor, ISC/CHM/MOL/PHY/COS 233 & 234 An Integrated, Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences II, Princeton University  
 Fall 2017 Lecturer/Preceptor, ISC/CHM/MOL/PHY/COS 231 & 232 An Integrated, Quantitative Introduction to the Natural Sciences I, Princeton University  
 Fall 2016 Instructor, MolBio Junior Independent Tutorial, Princeton University  
 Fall 2015 Instructor, MolBio Junior Independent Tutorial, Princeton University  
 Summer 2015 Assistant instructor, Biomath Bootcamp, Princeton University  
 Summer 2014 Assistant instructor, Biomath Bootcamp, Princeton University  
 Summer 2013 Assistant instructor, Biomath Bootcamp, Princeton University  
 Summer 2012 Assistant instructor, Biomath Bootcamp, Princeton University  
 Fall 2007 Teaching assistant, CHEM 665, Biophysical Chemistry, UW-Madison  
 Fall 2006 Teaching assistant, CHEM 109, General and Analytical Chemistry I, UW-Madison  
 Spring 2006 Teaching assistant, CHEM 372, Physical Chemistry II, Wheaton College  
 Spring 2006 Teaching assistant, CHEM 461, Biochemistry, Wheaton College  
 Fall 2005 Teaching assistant, CHEM 371, Physical Chemistry I, Wheaton College  
 Fall 2004 Teaching assistant, CHEM 236, Honors General Chemistry, Wheaton College

### *Mentoring experience*

2012 – present Mentor of 11 PhD students (8 MOL, 2 PHY, 1 QCB), Princeton University  
 2012 – present Mentor of 3 junior postdocs (1 MOL, 1 MOL/LSI, 1 LSI), Princeton University  
 2018 Discussion group leader for MolBio SURP program, Princeton University.  
 2017 Discussion group leader for MolBio SURP program, Princeton University.  
 2013 - 2017 Mentor of 4 undergraduate researchers (3 PHY, 1 MOL), Princeton University  
 2016 Mentor of visiting PhD student (Micro), Princeton University  
 2016 Mentor of summer REU student (Biophysics), Princeton University  
 2006 – 2011 Mentor of three junior PhD students (2 ACHEM, 1 PCHEM), UW-Madison  
 2008 Mentor of summer REU student (CHEM), UW-Madison  
 2005 - 2006 Mentor of undergraduate researcher (CHEM), Wheaton College

### Workshops and training

- 2018 Participant in the “Teaching Computation in the Sciences Using MATLAB” Workshop, Science Education Resource Center, Carleton College.
- 2017 Invited webinar presenter for “Developing Computational Skills in the Sciences with MATLAB”, hosted by the Science Education Resource Center, Carleton College.  
[http://serc.carleton.edu/teaching\\_computation/webinar/index.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/teaching_computation/webinar/index.html)
- 2016 Participant in the “Teaching Computation in the Sciences Using MATLAB” Workshop, Science Education Resource Center, Carleton College.
- 2008 Delta Mentoring Workshop, UW-Madison

### Service and Outreach:

- 2017 - Present Member of Molecular Biology Outreach Program (GMOP)
- 2016 - Present Founding member, Princeton MATLAB users group
- 2017 Co-hosted a “Reddit Science: Ask Me Anything” about *Vibrio cholerae* cell shape.  
<https://www.reddit.com/r/science/comments/5oamu3/>.
- 2017 “Getting a Spark out of Phantastic Physics”, Littlebrook Elementary School ScienceExpo
- 2017, 2018 “Building beautiful bacterial”. Guest speaker at Wilberforce Upper School, West Windsor, NJ
- 2017 “Beautiful bacteria: microbial shapes and their significance to pathogenesis”. Guest speaker at Windrows Retirement Community Science Club, Princeton, NJ
- 2015 “Keep on Spinning”, Littlebrook Elementary School ScienceExpo
- 2008 – 2011 Safety Committee, UW-Madison Department of Chemistry
- 2010 – 2011 Webmaster, Younger Chemists Committee, Wisconsin Local Section, American Chemical Society
- 2007 – 2010 Library Committee, UW-Madison Department of Chemistry
- 2008 – 2009 Organizing Committee Chair, McElvain Student Invited Seminar Series, Chemistry Department, UW-Madison
- 2005 – 2006 Founding member, Student Affiliates Chapter of the American Chemical Society, Wheaton College

### Find me online at

- [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Benjamin\\_Bratton](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Benjamin_Bratton)
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/benjamin-bratton/b9/182/954>
- <http://scholar.princeton.edu/bratton>