



Seth Bordenstein, Ph.D.

Bio: Dr. Seth Bordenstein has studied intimate and facultative animal-microbe symbioses and microbiomes for over 25 years. He is an evolutionary geneticist and microbiologist who recently moved to the Departments of Biology and Entomology at Pennsylvania State University. He is now the Director of the Penn State Microbiome Center and previously founding director of The Vanderbilt Microbiome Innovation Center and the

worldwide science education program [Discover the Microbes Within!](#) The Wolbachia Project that is currently directed by his partner Sarah Bordenstein from University Park. He holds the Dorothy Foehr Huck and J. Lloyd Huck Endowed Chair in Microbiome Sciences.

Dr. Bordenstein's laboratory has contributed major rungs to the knowledge ladder on symbiotic interactions between animals, microbes, and viruses and the major applications of these interactions to human health, including the discovery of phage genes that hijack animal gametes and sexual reproduction, the impact of microorganisms on host speciation, and the patterns of human microbiome variation across the diversity of us. He is an elected Fellow of the American Society for Microbiology and the recipient of the 2007 HHMI Precollege Science Education Award, the 2014 Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2014 Chancellor's Award for Research, 2018 Chancellor Faculty Fellow Award from Vanderbilt University, and 2020 Genetics Society of America Award for Excellence in Education.