

Cheryl A. Cistulli

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PROFILE OVERVIEW

STEM Educator | Educator, Researcher, and Legal Professional

STEM Educator (Grades 4-8) with a Master's in Education, law school graduate, and doctoral research pathologist. A Sigma-Xi member with diverse experience in education, industry-based laboratory research, management, and intellectual property law. Expertise includes Medicaid/Medicare patient management, long-term elderly care, cancer care support for families, DNA metabolism, cell cycle checkpoints, toxicology studies of xenobiotic compounds, human carcinogenesis, and biotech IP litigation and patent prosecution. Skilled at bridging scientific, legal, and educational fields to deliver innovative solutions across disciplines..

EDUCATION

M.Ed. (2021-2022)

Georgia College & State University, Athens, GA 30602
John H. Lounsbury College of Education

J.D. (2005-2008)

The University of Georgia, School of Law, Athens, GA 30602

Ph.D. Molecular and Cellular Pathology (1995-2000)

Department of Pathology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Molecular, Cellular, Biochemistry Program (1991-1993)

Brown University, Providence, RI 02912

B.S. Biology/Chemistry (1985-1989)

Wells College, Aurora, NY 13026

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Haymon-Morris Middle School (2021- present)

Barrow County, GA

6th Grade Science Educator

Engaged students in daily, student-focused lessons covering key Earth Science topics such as the Solar System, Rocks & Minerals, the Water Cycle, Energy Conservation, and Plate Tectonics. Incorporated hands-on lab activities to enhance student engagement, allowing them to explore scientific concepts through practical, interactive experiments. Leveraged a strong background in science to design and implement comprehensive lesson plans that integrated core scientific principles with real-world applications. Fostered critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration, helping students appreciate the value of a balanced education that includes science and engineering practices. Focused on creating an interactive, student-centered learning environment to deepen students' understanding of Earth Science and its relevance to everyday life.

Southpoint Partners LLC**(2013-2021)**

Johns Creek, GA

Healthcare Analyst

Provided consultative and direct support services to families navigating complex healthcare systems, with a focus on advocating for elderly individuals requiring long-term care. Assisted families in understanding the intersection of local, state, and federal healthcare regulations to ensure optimal care for aging parents. Specializing in supporting families through cancer and other disease diagnoses by identifying top specialists and treatment centers. Expertise in integrating healthcare solutions with existing insurance plans, utilizing both public and private insurance programs. Acted as an intermediary with hospitals, doctors, nursing homes, and other healthcare organizations to secure appropriate care for clients.

Finnegan Henderson**(2008-2010)**

Atlanta, GA

Associate

Contributed to IP litigation by reviewing documents for trial preparation, analyzing technological data, and drafting research memos on biotechnology IP topics. Assisted with patent prosecution, including writing patents, creating prosecution history summaries, communicating with the patent office, reviewing and summarizing client patent portfolios, and conducting research projects related to biotechnology patents.

Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley, LLP**(2007)**

Atlanta,

Summer Associate

Assisted in drafting patent applications for biotech innovations, including preparing detailed descriptions of inventions and claims. Contributed to the preparation of responses to office actions, addressing examiner rejections and ensuring compliance with patent office requirements. Conducted extensive legal and technical research, drafting comprehensive research memos on various intellectual property issues related to biotechnology. Gained hands-on experience in patent prosecution, client communication, and the intricacies of biotech patent law.

Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan**(2006)**

Atlanta, GA

Summer Associate

Worked closely with the Biotech IP team, focusing on both patent prosecution and litigation support. Assisted in drafting and filing patent applications, including preparing detailed claims and descriptions of biotech inventions. Supported the litigation team by conducting legal research, analyzing patent portfolios, and drafting memos related to patent infringement and validity issues. Gained exposure to the strategies behind both patent prosecution and litigation, contributing to the preparation of expert reports and trial documents. Collaborated with senior attorneys to develop case strategies, ensuring thorough understanding of biotech-related legal and regulatory frameworks.

Emory University**(2005)**

Atlanta, GA

Research Assistant Professor

Joint Appointee in the Departments of Biochemistry and Biology. Research focus on translesion polymerases and DNA repair in yeast.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)**(2002-2004)**

Research Triangle Park, NC

Research Fellow

Member in good standing in laboratory of Dr. Sam Wilson, Deputy Director of the NIEHS; research focus on DNA metabolism and base excision repair; publication within first year of fellowship.

Department of Pathology, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center (2000-2002)

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Research focus on mutagen hypersensitivity and identification of a subpopulation of individuals with enhanced susceptibility to vinyl chloride.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

(1995-2000)

Chapel Hill, NC

Ph.D. Candidate

Conducted research under the guidance of Dr. William Kaufmann, focusing on cell cycle checkpoints, genetic instability, and mutagen hypersensitivity in relation to carcinogenesis. Investigated apoptosis in normal human fibroblasts following UVC irradiation, contributing to the understanding of cellular responses to DNA damage and cancer development.

Brown University

(1993-1994)

Providence, RI

Research Assistant

Research included studies of the mechanisms of asbestos-induced DNA damage and *p53* alterations in asbestos-exposed murine mesothelial cells.

Brown University

(1991-1993)

Providence, RI

Student Researcher

Working under research advisor: Dr. Agnes Kane; research focus on mechanisms of asbestos-induced DNA damage in murine mesothelial cells.

Mass General Hospital & Harvard University,

(1989-1991)

Cutaneous Biology Research Center

Boston, MA

Research Technologist

Research focus on human CD1, inhibitory factors of cellular proliferation in the iris and ciliary body.

Brookfield Zoo

(1988)

Chicago, IL

Research Assistant

Studies included baboon and dolphin behavioral research, mouse morphogenetics.

Research Vessel, Westward I

(1988)

Woods Hole, MA

SEA Semester Student

Conducted an extensive island and oceanographic pelagic plastic study during a research voyage from Miami, FL, to Woods Hole, MA. Coursework included the physics of sailing, oceanography, marine biology, and literature of the sea, providing a comprehensive understanding of both the scientific and literary aspects of marine exploration.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

(1987)

Beaufort, NC

Laboratory Technician

Conducted research on marine biology with a focus on coastline erosion and coastal ecosystem restoration along the North Carolina coast. Assisted in the study of coastal sea grass replantation efforts aimed at stabilizing shorelines and promoting biodiversity. Collected and analyzed environmental samples to assess the effectiveness of restoration projects, including monitoring water quality, sediment composition, and plant health. Contributed to field research and lab-based analysis, providing valuable insights into the long-term sustainability of coastal ecosystems.

TEACHING

Haymon-Morris Middle School (2022- present)
Barrow County, GA
6th Grade Earth Science

Haymon-Morris Middle School (2021-2022)
Barrow County, GA
8th Grade Physical Science
GREAT resident/ co-teacher

Georgia Perimeter Community College (2005)
Lawrenceville, GA
Adjunct Faculty/ Biology
Genetics and Cell Biology - summer 2005

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1996)
Chapel Hill, NC
Teaching Assistant/ Medical School Pathology Course
Set up lab exercises, available to help students with lab work, responsible for grading quizzes, formulating students' overall lab grades and prepared and taught cancer biology lecture series

Brown University (Spring 1993)
Providence, RI
Teaching Assistant/ Bio. 28 (Biochemistry)
section leader for biochemistry problem sets, interpretation of lecture notes

Providence College (1993)
Providence, RI
Private Tutor/ Biochemistry
assisted 2 students in basic Biochemistry

Brown University (Fall 1992)
Providence, RI
Teaching Assistant/ Bio. 47 (Genetics)
genetic laboratory instructor, problem-solving section leader, prepared and taught 3 course lectures

Brown University (Spring 1992)
Providence, RI
Teaching Assistant/ Bio. 20 (Biology)
section leader for weekly table discussions, prepared and taught 3 course lectures

Brown University (Fall 1991)
Providence, RI
Teaching Assistant/ Bio. 47 (Genetics)
lead a problem-solving section, taught basic genetic laboratory, prepared and taught 2 course lectures

Wells College (1988-1989)
Aurora, NY
Laboratory Assistant/ Bio. 101/ 102 (Biology)
planned, organized basic biology laboratory sections

PUBLICATIONS

T.L. Knisely, P.A. Bleicher, **C.A. Vibbard** and R. D. Granstein. Production of latent transforming growth factor-beta and other inhibitory factors by cultures murine iris and ciliary body cells. *Current Eye Research*, 10: 761-771, 1991.

V.D. Moyer, **C.A. Cistulli**, C.A. Vaslet and A.B. Kane. Oxygen radicals and asbestos carcinogenesis. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 102 (suppl 10): 131-136, 1994.

C.A. Cistulli, T. Sorger, J.M. Marsella, C.A. Vaslet and A.B. Kane. Spontaneous p53 mutation in murine mesothelial cells: increased sensitivity to DNA damage induced by asbestos and ionizing radiation. *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*, 141: 264-271, 1996.

C.A. Cistulli and W.K. Kaufmann. P-53 dependent signaling is required for recovery of DNA replication and clonogenic survival in UVC-irradiated human fibroblasts. *Cancer Research*, 58: 1993-2002, 1998.

Paula B. Deming, **Cheryl A. Cistulli**, Hui Zhao, Paul R. Graves, Helen Piwnicka-Worms, Richard S. Paules, C. Stephen Downes, and William K. Kaufmann. The human decatenation checkpoint. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 98 (21): Oct 9 2001.

Cheryl Cistulli, Olga I. Lavrik, Rajendra Prasad, Esther Hou and Samuel H. Wilson. AP Endonuclease and Poly(ADP-ribose) Polymerase-1 interact with the same base excision repair intermediate. *DNA Repair*, 3 (6): 581-91, 3 June 2004.

ABSTRACTS

P.A. Bleicher and **C.A. Vibbard**. "CD1 recognition by cytotoxic T cells." Annual Meeting, Society for Investigative Dermatology, April 1992.

C.A. Cistulli and A. B. Kane. "Clastogenic and aneuploidogenic effects of asbestos fibers on mesothelioma cells *in vitro*." Fourth Annual Pathobiology Retreat, Brown University, Providence, RI, September 1992.

C.A. Cistulli, T. Sorger, J.M. Marsella and A.B. Kane. "Spontaneous mutation of the p53 tumor suppressor gene in murine mesothelial cells." Fourth Annual Pathobiology Retreat, Brown University, Providence, RI, September 1994.

C.A. Cistulli and W.K. Kaufmann. "Are inherited defects in cell cycle checkpoint function associated with enhanced risk of chemical carcinogenesis?" Superfund Basic Research Program: A Decade of Improving Health Through Multidisciplinary Research, Chapel Hill, NC, February 1997.

C.A. Cistulli, J. Hurt, L. Byrd and W.K. Kaufmann. "P53 dependent signaling is required for recovery of DNA replication in UVC-irradiated human fibroblasts." Annual Meeting, American Association for Cancer Research, April 1997.

C.A. Cistulli, V. Golubovskaya, L. Filatov, C.B. Campbell and W.K. Kaufmann. "P53-dependent checkpoints preserve genomic stability in aging human fibroblasts expressing HPV16 E6." Annual Meeting, Keystone Symposia (The Cell Cycle), April 1998.

L. Filatov, **C.A. Cistulli**, and W.K. Kaufmann. "G2 Chromosomal hypersensitivity in breast cancer and lymphoblastoid cell lines with different ATM status." 31st Annual Meeting of the European Society of Human Genetics, vol. 7, suppl. 1, July 1999.

C.A. Cistulli, H.L. Liber, M.J. Marion, B. Burdin, J.A. Swenberg and W.K. Kaufmann. "G2 hypersensitive individuals identified in lymphoblastoid lines established from vinyl chloride-exposed French workers." AACR Special Conference in Cancer Research, DNA Repair Defects, January 2000.

Paula B. Deming, **Cheryl A. Cistulli**, Richard S. Paules, Paul R. Graves, Helen Piwnica-Worms, C. Stephen Downes, William K. Kaufmann. “The Human Decatenation Checkpoint.” Annual Pathology Retreat, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, August 2000.

Richard S. Paules, Cynthia L. Innes, Stella O. Sieber, Rodney E. Shackelford, Alexandra N. Heinloth, Paula B. Deming, **Cheryl A. Cistulli**, Lee Bennett, Pierre R. Bushel, Cynthia A. Afshari, and William K. Kaufmann, “ATM-Dependent Responses to DNA Damaging Agents.” Keystone Oncogenomics Symposium, January 2001.

Cheryl Cistulli, Olga I. Lavrik, Rajendra Prasad, Esther Hou and Samuel H. Wilson: “AP Endonuclease and Poly(ADP-ribose) Polymerase-1 Interact with the Same Base Excision Repair Intermediate.” Laboratory of Structural Biology Annual Retreat, Wilmington, NC, October 2003.

Cheryl Cistulli, Olga I. Lavrik, Rajendra Prasad, Esther Hou and Samuel H. Wilson: “AP Endonuclease and Poly(ADP-ribose) Polymerase-1 Interact with the Same Base Excision Repair Intermediate.” NIEHS Review Board Symposium, RTP, NC, December 2003.

PRESENTATIONS

P53-dependent signaling is required for recovery of DNA replication in UVC-irradiated human fibroblasts. Molecular Responses to DNA Damage Minisymposium at the Annual Meeting, American Association for Cancer Research, San Diego, CA, April 1997.

The students’ view of graduate training in Pathology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Graduate Training Program Retreat, Friday Center, Chapel Hill, NC, 1997.

Research Integrity from the workplace to the market place. Research Integrity Conference (chairperson for graduate student and post-doc session), Office of Research Services, Chapel Hill, NC, May 1998.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Big Brother/Big Sister Member	(1986)
WSI Certified Swim Instructor/Founder of Swim Program for Aurora, NY Children Wells College, NY	(1987~1989)
Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senate Alternate Department of Pathology, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC	(1996~1997)
Graduate Education Committee UNC-Chapel Hill, NC	(1997~2000)
Member of the Board of Directors Crooked Creek Home Owners’ Association, Durham, NC	(2000~2002)
Montessori Community School volunteer Durham, NC	(2002~2004)
Member, NIEHS Training Association (NTA) Steering Committee NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC	(2003~2004)
Member, Quality Council NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC	(2003~2004)

HONORS, AWARDS

Highest Honors Graduate, GCSU	(2022)
Georgia Residency for Educating Amazing Teachers (GREAT) Grant	(2021)
Golden Key National Honor Society: Lifetime Member	(1985)

Dean's List, Wells College	(1985~1989)
Magna cum laude	(1989)
Lansing Zabriskie Science Prize	(1989)
Brown University Division of Biology and Medicine Fellowship	(1991)
Brown University Division of Biology and Medicine Research Assistantship	(1992~1993)
AACR-Pharmingen Young Investigator Award	(1997)
University of North Carolina Superfund Grant Fellowship Recipient	(1995~2000)
University of North Carolina Pathology Fellowship Recipient	(2000~2002)
UGA Chapter of the Blue Key National Honor Society	(2006)

MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	(2022)
GA Educator Middle Grades (4-8) Math	(2022)
GA Educator Middle Grades (4-8) Science	(2022)
Apple Teacher	(2021)
Phi Beta Kappa	(1989)
American Association for Cancer Research, Associate Member	(since 1997)
Women in Cancer Research	(since 1997)
Sigma Xi, Full Member	(since 2003)