



### **Livia Songster**

Livia Songster (Liv) is a graduate student in the division of Biological Sciences at UC San Diego. She is in the Quantitative Biology program and joined the Reck-Peterson lab in Spring 2020. Her main focus in the lab is studying different mechanisms of intracellular transport in the filamentous fungus, *Aspergillus nidulans*. She is currently working with Dr. Jenna Christensen (post-doc in the lab) to investigate how and why peroxisomes exhibit a non-canonical transport mechanism called “hitchhiking” in *A. nidulans*. Liv was selected for the Quantitative Integrative Biology Training Grant (2020) and was awarded the Ruth Stern Fellowship (2020) for her first year as a Biology PhD student. She is passionate about science communication, mentorship, and teaching, and explores these through participating in science outreach organizations (BioEASI,

Girls Who Code, Passiolnventa) and mentoring undergraduates both in lab and in their careers (GradAMP, WORM in STEM).

Liv was born and raised in Sonoma/Marin county in Northern California, and moved across the country to complete her B.S. in Biochemistry, minor in Marine Biology, at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. After graduation (2018), she stayed in Minneapolis and worked as a research technician on an independent project with Dr. Margaret Titus, investigating the function of actin-based protrusions called filopodia in amoeboid chemotaxis. This experience introduced her to the amazing world of motor proteins, cytoskeleton, computational biology, and quantitative fluorescence microscopy. In her free time, Liv teaches her dachshund “Cali” new tricks and scent games, goes on walks at the beach, watches the best and worst movies ranked on IMDB, and reads a breadth of novels ranging from nonfiction to fantasy.