

## Tina McLeod

[School of Biosciences \(/schools/biosciences/index.aspx\)](/schools/biosciences/index.aspx)

### Contact details

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### About

**PhD Title:** The role of splicing in Nonsense Mediated mRNA Decay in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*

**Supervisors:** Dr Saverio Brogna

Utilizing a number of fission yeast splicing deletion mutants to investigate the phenomenon of splicing-dependent NMD. Also developing a method of visualizing translation in fission yeast.

### Qualifications

- BSc (Hons) Life Sciences, 2009 (Open University)
- Certificate in Introductory Astronomy, 2010 (Open University/University of Manchester)
- Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, 2012 (University of Worcester)

### Biography

After 12 years of working in administrative roles, Tina decided at the age of 28 to pursue her interest in the sciences and embarked on a part time Life Sciences degree with the Open University. During her studies she became particularly interested in the field of eukaryotic gene expression and was keen to develop a career in research. After graduating, Tina taught BTEC Applied Sciences to 16-19 year olds for two and a half years at a Further Education college. She also gained research experience during an internship in Dr Brogna's lab at the University of Birmingham, assisting with a genetic screen to identify novel NMD factors in the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*. Tina subsequently began her PhD in the same lab, specifically investigating the role of splicing factors in NMD and is also developing a method to visualize translation in *S. pombe*.

### Research

Eukaryotic gene expression  
Nonsense mediated mRNA decay

### Other activities

Tina takes a keen interest in other scientific disciplines, particularly astronomy and geology, and is a member of the Open University Geological Society. A particular highlight of 2013 was a visit to the island of Tenerife where she explored the volcanic landscape with her sister and two daughters and took in the spectacular views from the summit of Mount Teide.

Tina enjoys other active pursuits, having recently climbed England's highest peak, Scafell Pike and aims to conquer Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis, in 2014. She is also a keen runner and completed the BUPA Great Birmingham Run in 2013.

### Publications

Jianming Wang, Tina McLeod and Saverio Brogna (2013) Investigation of the functions of NMD factors in *S. pombe*. Poster presentation at TERM 2013, Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain.