Brigid E. Connelly

brigid.connelly@louisville.edu
ResearchGate

University of Louisville School of Medicine
Dept. of Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology
511 S. Floyd St. Room 111, Louisville, KY 40202

EDUCATION

University of Louisville, Louisville, KY

PhD — Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology 2023–present

Research focus: Morphology and phylogenetic relationships of the basal mammal *Fruitafossor*
Advisor: Dr. Brian Davis
Relevant courses: Medical Gross Anatomy; Fundamentals of Neuroscience; Embryology; Cell Biology; Teaching & Learning in Health Sciences

MS — Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology 2023

Research focus: Evolutionary dental morphology of Cretaceous mammals
Thesis: New species of dryolestoid from the Late Cretaceous Allen Formation and implications for meridiolestidan diversity.
Advisor: Dr. Guillermo Rougier
Relevant courses: Dental Gross Anatomy; General & Oral Histology; Evolution of Mammalian Sensory Systems

BA — Women's & Gender Studies 2019

Minor: Spanish

PUBLICATIONS

Connelly, B.E., Rougier, G.W., & Davis, B.M. 2026. Associated upper and lower dentition of a new species of the dryolestid *Amblotherium* from the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation (Utah, USA). In: Foster et al., 2026, New Developments in the Paleontology and Geology of the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation. New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin 102:331–345.

Connelly, B.E., Cardozo, M.S., Montgomery, J.D. and Rougier, G.W. 2024. New mammals from the Upper Cretaceous Allen Formation (Patagonia, Argentina) and reassessment of meridiolestidan diversity. Cretaceous Research 162:105935.

Connelly, B., Biven-Leslie, Z. & Rougier, G.W. 2022. Out from Underfoot: *Beasts Before Us* Brings Mammalian Ancestry to the Forefront. J Mammal Evol 29, 475–476.

Rougier, G.W. and **Connelly, B.** 2021. Early Mammalian History Goes Public. Ameghiniana 58(6), 492–494.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Connelly, B.E., Rougier, G.W., & Davis, B.M. 2026. Underground sound: the ear region of the basal mammal *Fruitafossor*.
American Association for Anatomy annual meeting
Albuquerque, NM

Brown, R., **Connelly, B.E.**, & Rougier, G.W. 2025. Mammalian dental morphology at the end of the time of dinosaurs: systematic determination and curation of Late Cretaceous mammals from South America.
Research!Louisville Symposium
Louisville, KY

Sahyouni, A., Rougier, G.W., **Connelly, B.E.**, & Biven-Leslie, Z. 2025. Use of computed tomography (CT) for the study of craniodental anatomy in extinct mammals.
Research!Louisville Symposium
Louisville, KY

Connelly, B.E., Rougier, G.W., & Davis, B.M. 2025. The snout and nasal cavity of the basal mammal *Fruitafossor*: regional anatomy and ecological implications.
American Association for Anatomy annual meeting
Portland, OR

Ho, A., Biven-Leslie, Z., **Connelly, B.E**., Rougier, G.W. 2024. Your teeth in my neck: mammal world unraveled through fossil teeth from Los Timbres and Anfiteatro localities, La Colonia Formation.
Research!Louisville Symposium
Louisville, KY

Connelly, B.E., Cardozo, M.S., Montgomery, J.D. & Rougier, G.W. 2023. New mammals from the Late Cretaceous Allen Formation (Patagonia, Argentina) and the rise of meridiolestid dental diversity.
Society for Vertebrate Paleontology annual meeting
Cincinnati, OH

Davis, B.M., Rougier, G.W., & **Connelly, B.E.** 2023. Reinterpretation of the dentition and lower jaw of the enigmatic burrowing mammal *Fruitafossor* based on new material from the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation (Grand County, Utah, USA).
Society for Vertebrate Paleontology annual meeting
Cincinnati, OH

Rougier, G.W., **Connelly, B.E.** and Apella-Guiscafré, L.S. 2023. A mesungulatid maxilla from the Late Cretaceous La Colonia Formation (Chubut Province, Argentina) showing evidence of tooth replacement: the molar-premolar boundary in dryolestoids and stem therians.
Society for Vertebrate Paleontology annual meeting
Cincinnati, OH

Connelly, B.E. and Rougier, G.W. 2023. New species of dryolestoid from Allen Formation (Patagonia, Argentina) and phylogenetic context.
American Association for Anatomy annual meeting
Washington, D.C.

Connelly, B.E. and Rougier, G.W. 2022. Late Cretaceous mammals from Allen Formation (Patagonia, Argentina) and dryolestoid affinities.
Research!Louisville Symposium
Louisville, KY

TEACHING

All teaching experience at University of Louisville

Dental Gross Anatomy (TA) 2024–2026

- Dissection labs: independent zone instructor for Mediastinum, Gastrointestinal System, and all Head & Neck labs
- Prosection labs: Renal/Reproductive/Endocrine System

- Lecture: Pharynx
- Clinical skills labs: palpation of head and neck structures; ultrasound imaging and ultrasound-guided injection of head & neck structures

Medical Gross Anatomy (TA) 2024–2025
- Dissection labs: independent zone instructor for all labs
- Lecture: Larynx

Sullivan University Physician Assistant students (TA, via University of Louisville) 2025
- Prosection lab: head & neck (particularly airway structures and relationships) using midsagittal fresh tissue specimen

Advanced Head & Neck Anatomy (TA) 2025
- Prosection labs: all Head & Neck
- Lecture: Infratemporal Fossa

Problem-Based Learning (co-facilitator) 2024–2025

SERVICE

Professional Service
- Ad hoc peer reviewer
  - *Journal of Mammalian Evolution* 2026
  - *Paleontology* 2024–2025
  - *Nature* 2023

University Service
- IPIBS Day 2026
  - Organized collaborative event for Integrated Programs in Biomedical Sciences (IPIBS) trainees
- DIME (Distinction in Medical Education) program selection committee 2026
- ASNB Admissions 2025–2026
  - Coordinated graduate student volunteers for prospective student interview day 2026
  - Served on graduate student interview panel 2025

Outreach
- Dino Days - Kentucky Science Center 2025
  - Public outreach program with a paleontology focus
  - Used hands-on learning (plastic casts, microscopy) to teach attendees about Mesozoic mammals
- Brain Days - Kentucky Science Center 2024–2026
  - Public outreach program with a neuroscience focus
  - Ran stations for Auditory & Vestibular Systems (2024), Neuroanatomy (2025), and Mammal Brains & Skulls (2026)

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

5 University of Louisville dental students 2024–2025
- Summer projects involved curation and/or CT segmentation of fossil mammal specimens
- Supervised day-to-day technical work
- Assisted with poster creation and presentation

2 University of Louisville graduate students 2025–2026
- Trained in CT data segmentation for analysis of Late Cretaceous petrosal bones (ear regions)
- Peer mentoring for project management, class selection, study strategies, presentation skills, etc.

5 University of Louisville undergraduate students 2022–2025

- Supervised research projects on:
  - Assessing wear stage and taxonomic diversity of mammal teeth from La Colonia Formation
  - Using CT segmentation to visualize fossil remains
- All pre-dental or pre-dental hygiene; one now attending University of Louisville School of Dentistry, one in University of Louisville Dental Hygiene program

1 high school student via Louisville Science Pathways 2022

- Research project: scientific illustration in paleontology

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

UTCT Short Course (University of Texas, Austin) 2025

- 3-day intensive training in principles of microCT data acquisition, visualization, and analysis

ACTIVITIES

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2023–present

Neurobiology and Anatomical Sciences Student Association 2022–present
President, 2025–present
Vice president, 2023–2025

- Founding member of new organization for Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology graduate students
- Co-led outreach program to Kentucky universities via graduate school application workshops
- Invited and hosted speaker for ASNB's regular seminar series
  - Organized speaker travel and agenda
- Coordinated graduate student involvement in ASNB admissions activities

American Association for Anatomy 2022–present

Science Policy and Outreach Group 2021–present

- Participated in Louisville Science Pathways (run by SPOG) as a mentor to a high school student
- Contributed to planning for "I Heart Policy Week" (Valentine-themed week of science policy outreach)

SKILLS

microCT data segmentation and visualization

- Proficient in Avizo and Blender
- Basic knowledge of 3D Slicer and Dragonfly

Preparation and curation of microvertebrate fossils

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Louisville (Division of Infectious Diseases), Louisville, KY
Research Technologist II 2020–2023

- Performed clinical laboratory assays for diagnostic detection of infectious diseases
- Assisted in maintaining Infectious Diseases Biorepository
- Led project to update laboratory information management system (LIMS)

Administrative and Laboratory Assistant 2017–2020

AWARDS AND HONORS

Master's Student Tuition Award 2021–2023
University of Louisville
Nomination-based scholarship for Master's students

Trustees' Scholarship 2013–2017
University of Louisville
Merit-based scholarship awarded upon admission

Katy Garrison LGBTQ Student Leadership Award 2017
University of Louisville LGBT Center

Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship 2016
U.S. Department of State
Study Abroad — Santiago, Chile

Modern Languages Fund 2016
University of Louisville
Study Abroad — Santiago, Chile

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- Advanced proficiency in Spanish, including medical terminology
- Intermediate reading proficiency in French