



Aaron Curry

**Researcher Background:**

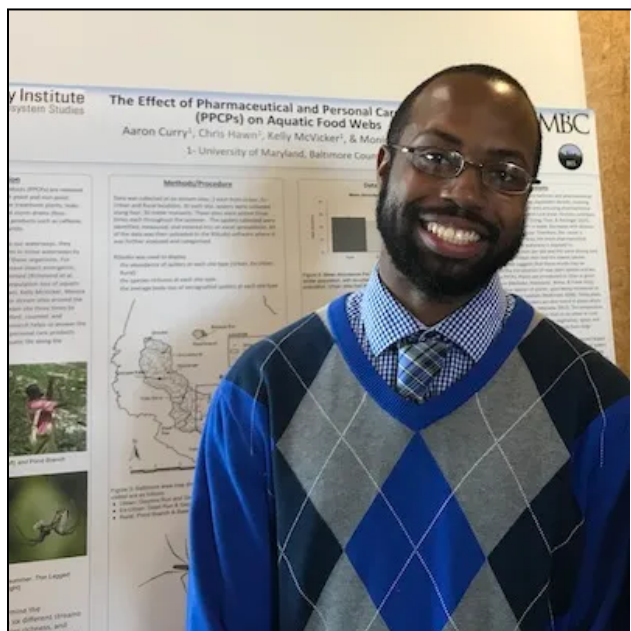
Aaron Curry is a high school science teacher, teaching Physics, AP Environmental Science, and Biogeochemical Cycles. During the summers, he researched the effects of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) on riparian spider food webs.

**Q: Why did you become a biologist?**

A: I find bugs, trees, aquatic organisms, and just the great outdoors as a whole very interesting. There is so much science literally in our yards, neighborhoods, and homes. Biology is everywhere.

**Q: What is an obstacle you faced related to/during your STEM career?**

A: Coming from the inner city, there was an education quality gap that I had to overcome. In college, I had to study for longer amounts of time to “catch up” to my peers. Over time though, I caught up AND surpassed them. Not to say that it was a competition or anything, but it did feel good to see my hard work and hours of studying prove to be very fruitful in my education.



**Q: Do you feel that any dimension of your identity is invisible or under-represented/marginalized in STEM?**

A: Yes. As an African American male, I don't see many biologists that look like me. African Americans as a whole are underrepresented in STEM fields. However, this is changing, and that is really exciting.

**Q: What are hobbies and/or interests that you have outside of your research?**

A: I watch anime, write poetry, make music (AC Smoove on all streaming platforms), go to the movies, skate, play video games, go hiking, work out, and I've recently gotten into vegetable gardening!

**Q: What is your favorite thing about gardening?**

A: Gardening is so much fun! It's so cool watching the food that you planted grow. I also like the physical aspect of uprooting weeds, moving wheelbarrows, and planting seeds. It feels like I'm working out. It also teaches patience as well.

**Q: What is your favorite part about your job?**

A: One of the best parts of the research was the field work. We went to some really cool, weird sites to catch and look at spiders. We had the chance to wear waders and walk in many streams, climb up and down large boulders, and just maneuver in some locations with rough terrain. I felt like Indiana Jones.

**Q: What advice do you have for aspiring biologists?**

A: Go outside and walk around! Ask questions. See what volunteer science opportunities are available on the weekends. This is great to get experience that can be added to your resume. This can also lead to employment opportunities. If you're in undergrad, start looking for Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) for the summer as soon as possible, like right now! Be nice to your professors, because they can hook you up with internships and write you letters of recommendations. Try out as many subfields in biology as you can. Last but not least, actually lookup internships and opportunities rather than just waiting on them to come to you.

