



Office of Faculty Development

Pathology & Immunology

Dr. Christopher Farnsworth grew up in Rochester, NY. The son of a high school teacher and nurse, he spent most of his time growing up playing sports, including soccer, hockey, and golf. He earned 13 varsity letters at Spencerport High School before going on to play college soccer at Roberts Wesleyan College, in upstate NY. As an undergraduate, he studied biology with plans to go to medical school. After graduating in 2009, he spent 2 years as a research technician in the laboratory of Dr. Mark Noble, studying the signaling mechanisms in glioblastoma. Despite his initial plans of going into medicine, he quickly found that he enjoyed the independent, creative thinking in basic research, and chose to pursue his doctorate degree.

Chris completed his PhD at the University of Rochester in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Mooney, studying the mechanisms of increased infection susceptibility in obesity and diabetes. Mooney, a Washington University trained clinical chemist, helped provide for Chris a gateway to the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. For Chris, the field represented a perfect fit between laboratory science, clinical medicine, and research. After completing his doctorate in 2017, he came to Washington University to complete a clinical chemistry fellowship. During his fellowship, he collaborated with multiple faculty members across the department, resulting in several high impact publications, clinical cases, and talks.

In 2019, Dr. Farnsworth joined the faculty of Washington University. His primary clinical roles are as the director of Clinical Chemistry and Point of Care testing at Barnes Jewish hospital. He also serves as the medical director of the Clinical Pathology Research Laboratory, a clinical and translational research lab where he has numerous ongoing projects. His primary research interests are in cardiac biomarkers, biomarkers of infectious disease, and causes of preanalytical variability in laboratory testing. More recently, he has taken a very active role in assessing serological assays for SARS-CoV-2, having published numerous papers on their accuracy and clinical utility.



Chris has been married to his wife, Rosalie, since 2012. After meeting through mutual friends, they got married just before he started graduate school. Rosalie is a graphic designer and artist, and most recently worked as a cake decorator. She now stays home with their 2-year-old daughter, Joanna. Their favorite family activities include walks and hikes, particularly around Missouri Botanical Gardens and Forest Park. Chris likes listening to music, doing home projects, and enjoying the local St. Louis beer scene.