



## **Natasha Kirienko, PhD**

Associate Professor

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*Emergence of Clonal Dominance in Clinical Isolates of  
Multidrug-Resistant *P. aeruginosa**

Dr. Kirienko is an Associate Professor at BioSciences Department at Rice University, where she started her independent lab in 2015. She is the President-Elect of Texas Branch ASM and the Chair of the Antimicrobial Resistance Cluster of the Gulf Coast Consortia. Dr. Kirienko started working on host-pathogen interactions during her postdoc at Massachusetts General Hospital / Harvard Medical School under Fred Ausubel and Gary Ruvkun, where she used the model nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* to understand virulence mechanisms of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and to identify novel drug treatments. She has continued these projects in her own lab, augmenting them with additional projects on the characterization of acute virulence factors produced by *P. aeruginosa* (siderophores, rhamnolipids, pyocins), and their impact on mammalian cell survival. During her time at Rice, she has trained 9 graduate and over 50 undergraduate students in her lab.