

Deborah J. Good, Ph.D.
Director, Mid-Atlantic Constituency, Sigma Xi
Biography

Present Positions: Associate Professor, Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech
Co-Director, Office of Undergraduate Research, Virginia Tech
Faculty Fellow: Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, Virginia Tech
Founder and CEO, Good Family Foods Group, LLC
Past President, Virginia Tech Sigma Xi Chapter
Past Assistant Director, Mid-Atlantic Constituency, Sigma Xi
Current Director, Mid-Atlantic Constituency, Sigma Xi
Member of Sigma Xi since 1989

Organization: Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech
Chapter Affiliation: Virginia Tech

Biographical Information: I obtained my Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Northwestern University in 1992. While at Northwestern, I studied tumor suppressor gene control of angiogenesis and was awarded a patent for my work identifying a naturally occurring inhibitor of angiogenesis, thrombospondin. I also was awarded a Sigma Xi student research award for my dissertation research. I went on to a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, in the National Cancer Institute where I characterized developed three different knockout mouse models and characterized the role of two basic helix-loop-helix transcription factors in the developing nervous system. In 1997, I accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and was awarded tenure in 2003. While at UMass-Amherst I developed a strong multi-million-dollar research program focusing on obesity, reproduction, and neuronal development. In August 2006, I moved my laboratory to the Department of Human Nutrition Foods and Exercise (HNFE) at Virginia Tech to continue research in the molecular genetic basis of obesity and infertility. In 2012 my sabbatical was spent as a visiting scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research where I furthered my research into the molecular genetics of obesity. I have secured more than 5 million dollars in awards to support my research and have published over 60 journal articles and book chapters. I have 8 patents, copyrights and invention disclosures, including two that form the basis of my LLC, Good Family Foods Group. As co-Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research I oversee multiple student and faculty-facing programs, including leading a group of students to present at the Sigma Xi Student Research Showcase in 2025. My activities with the local chapter and national headquarters for Sigma Xi have spanned many years. Virginia Tech, I served as a chapter nominator from 2007-2010, as treasurer of our local chapter from 2009-2017, and president from 2018-2020. During my presidency, our chapter continued to increase membership, give out student awards for research, and received a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer Subsidy Grant. In 2019, our chapter was selected as 3rd place winner of the Chapter of Excellence award by Sigma Xi. I served as the Associate Director for the Mid-Atlantic Region from 2018-2021, and I am currently serving as the Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region. I would be honored to serve again as your Director.