

Dr. Ahna Skop is an internationally recognized geneticist, cell biologist, artist, and science communicator in the Department of Genetics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, with affiliate appointments in Cell & Regenerative Biology, Life Sciences Communication and the Division of the Arts.

Academic and Research Background

Dr. Skop's research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of cell division, with a particular emphasis on the midbody and midbody remnants (MBRs)—unique RNA-rich organelles generated from mitotic cells. Her lab was among the first to show that MBRs are translationally active structures with substantial roles in intercellular signaling and disease, especially in cancer progression and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Leadership at aMBR Genomics

As CSO and co-founder of aMBR Genomics, Dr. Skop is translating discoveries from her laboratory into new diagnostic tools for cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, leveraging her pioneering work on MBRs as disease biomarkers. She received the MedTech Judge's Choice Award at the Equalize Startups 2025 event for her innovative contributions to early cancer detection.

Honors and Public Engagement

Dr. Skop is the recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), AAAS's Remarkable Women in Science distinction, and numerous teaching and service awards. She is a leader in science-art integration, curating exhibitions and authoring works such as "Genetic Reflections: A Coloring Book" and "Lab Culture: A Recipe for Innovation in Science". A passionate advocate for diversity in STEM, Dr. Skop has developed successful recruitment, retention, and outreach programs and served national organizations broadening participation in science.

Summary

Dr. Ahna Skop integrates cutting-edge research, industry leadership, and creative outreach, fostering innovation at the intersection of cell biology, technology, art, and equity. As CSO of aMBR Genomics and a leading academic at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, her influence spans scientific discovery, biotechnology development, and STEM advocacy.