

Remodeling of human oral flora upon close contact to oral flora of *Canis lupus familiaris*
Evandy Murphy, mentored by Dr Rita Pujari
Great Basin College, Biology Department

Studies have shown small amounts of dissemination of oral flora between human and *Canis lupus familiaris* occurs. For this to happen, pet owners must be in close oral contact with their pets. Dissemination is infrequent, however, because the oral cavity of *Canis lupus familiaris* is pH 5, while the oral cavity of humans does not fall below pH 6.3. This study will determine if the flora from *Canis lupus familiaris* has the ability to induce remodeling of the oral flora of pet owners. RNA-seq methods will analyze the flora of humans under normal circumstances where oral contact with pets is frequent and under conditions where oral contact is avoided for up to five weeks. A before-and-after comparison of the flora samples will determine whether flora from *Canis lupus familiaris* has the ability to remodel human flora.