A successful vaccine has not been developed for *Shigella* despite years of research. Coupled with the global infection rates and staggering increases in antibiotic resistance, new insights are needed to improve our understanding of *Shigella* pathogenesis and develop novel therapeutics. Dr. Christina Faherty uses classic bacterial genetic approaches, bioinformatics, and human-specific infection models to understand how the pathogen survives host gastrointestinal transit, particularly in the presence of bile, and regulates gene expression prior to infection in the colon. She has characterized an altered gene expression profile of the pathogen in bile and identified mechanisms by which *Shigella* resists the bactericidal nature of bile. More importantly, the use of both bile exposure and organoid-based infection analyses have enabled Dr. Faherty to demonstrate that *Shigella* expresses adherence factors to attach to the colonic epithelium. In all, Dr. Faherty’s research has expanded the *Shigella* infection paradigm and may lead to novel vaccine candidates to prevent the devastating infection rates caused by *Shigella*. 