

Katherine S. Pollard, PhD

- Senior investigator and director, Convergence Zone, Gladstone Institutes
- Professor, epidemiology and biostatistics, UC San Francisco
- Chan-Zuckerberg Biohub Investigator

Using bioinformatics and modeling, Katherine Pollard studies the human microbiome—the genes present within the microbes—to determine the effect it has on conditions varying from autoimmune disorders to body mass to mental health.

Pollard directs the Convergence Zone at Gladstone, where ideas, technologies, and teams with diverse capabilities converge to advance scientific progress. Their goal is to capitalize on these successes and drive further groundbreaking science through collaborative laboratories that bring novel platforms and approaches to science and medicine.

Pollard earned a PhD in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley, where she developed statistical methods to analyze microarray data in cancer biology. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Santa Cruz, during which she discovered rapidly evolving regions in the human genome that might be clues to human origins. After serving as an assistant professor at the University of California, Davis, Pollard joined Gladstone as an associate investigator in 2008. She has received several awards, including the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship and the Sloan Research Fellowship. She is a fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and a Chan-Zuckerberg Biohub Investigator.