

**Characterization of the *Bacillus anthracis* SleL Protein
and its Role in Spore Germination**

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Dissertation submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

In

Biological Sciences

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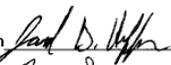
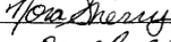
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