



GENETIC APPROACHES TO DEFINE CELL TYPES AND GENES LINKED TO HUMAN DISEASES

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Pandurangan Vijayanand is a William K. Bowes Distinguished Professor at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology. His group employs genomics tools to understand, diagnose and treat pulmonary disease such as asthma, lung cancer, and infectious diseases, including the novel coronavirus. The Vijayanand Lab is also at the forefront of a large-scale effort to map epigenomic modifications in more than a dozen different types of human immune cells from normal individuals to understand how epigenetic variations cause susceptibility to disease. Mapping the epigenome will enable scientists to zoom in on genes that contribute to disease and the cell types in which they act to help identify novel therapeutic targets.



BLOCKCHAIN-BASED BIOMEDICAL PREDICTIVE MODELING

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Tsung-Ting Kuo is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. He earned his PhD from National Taiwan University (NTU) in the Institute of Networking and Multimedia. Prior to becoming a faculty member at UCSD, he was a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and received the UCSD Chancellor's Outstanding Postdoctoral Scholar Award. His group studies blockchain technologies, machine learning, and natural language processing in order to conduct blockchain-based biomedical, healthcare, and genomics studies. He was awarded a NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award with an Administrative Supplement, as well as a Health Science Research Grant from the UCSD Academic Senate.