

# Supervisor Portfolio for the Doctoral Programme in Biosciences and Drug Research

## Cell Biology

---

[Guillaume Jacquemet](#)

[Silvia Gramolelli](#)

## Pharmacy

---

[Outi Salo-Ahen](#)

[Tapani Viitala](#)

[Kuldeep Bansal](#)

## Marine Biology

---

[Riikka Puntila-Dodd](#)

[Conny Sjöqvist](#)

[Christian Pansch-Hattich](#)

[Christoffer Boström](#)

## Biochemistry

---

[Peter Mattjus](#)



## Guillaume Jacquemet

**Group:** Cell Migration Lab

**Subject:** Cell Biology

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** <https://cellmig.org/>

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/en/persons/guillaume-jacquemet>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Cancer cell biology
- Cell adhesion and migration
- Microscopy and live imaging
- Image analysis

### Research Projects

---

- The role of filopodia during breast cancer progression
- Cancer cell communication via filopodia trans- endocytosis
- Deciphering the mechanisms of pancreatic cancer metastasis
- The role of mechanosensitive calcium channels in melanoma
- The role of TLNRD1 in endothelium homeostasis
- Democratising deep learning for microscopy with ZeroCostDL4Mic

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Microscopy (super-resolution microscopy, live imaging, traction force microscopy)
- Image analysis, deep learning and computer vision
- Cell and molecular biology
- Mass spectrometry (identification of protein-protein interactions using pull-downs and biotinylation-based strategy)
- Zebrafish embryo to study cancer biology
- Flow and perfusion chambers

### Funding & Networks

---

- Sigrid Juselius Foundation
- Wellcome Trust
- Academy of Finland
- Finnish Cancer Foundation
- Inflammes
- Turku Bioscience

### Selected Publications

---

- TLNRD1 is a CCM complex component and regulates endothelial barrier integrity. J Cell Biol. 2024 Sep 2; 223(9): e202310030. DOI: [10.1083/jcb.202310030](https://doi.org/10.1083/jcb.202310030)
- CellTracksColab is a platform that enables compilation, analysis, and exploration of cell tracking data. PLOS Biol. August 8, 2024. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pbio.3002740](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002740)
- MYO10-filopodia support basement membranes at preinvasive tumor boundaries. Dev Cell. 2022; 57(20), 2350- 2364. E7. DOI: [10.1016/j.devcel.2022.09.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2022.09.016)
- TrackMate 7: Integrating state-of-the-art segmentation algorithms into tracking pipelines. Nat. Methods. 2022; 19 829832. DOI: [10.1038/s41592-022-01507-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-022-01507-1)
- Democratising Deep Learning for Microscopy with ZeroCostDL4Mic. Nat Commun. 2021; 4:15;12(1): 2276. DOI: [10.1038/s41467-021-22518-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-22518-0)



## Outi Salo-Ahen

**Group:** Computer-aided drug design (CADD) group

**Subject:** Pharmacy

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** <https://www.pharmscilab.fi/computer-aided-drug-design>

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/sv/persons/outi-salo-ahen>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- computer-aided drug design
- molecular modeling
- biomolecular simulations
- computational chemistry/biology and computational pharmaceuticals
- structural bioinformatics
- immunoinformatics

### Research Projects

---

- Discovery and design of novel antivirulence agents / antimicrobial compounds / anticancer drugs
- Computational analysis of pharmaceutical materials (e.g. nanoparticles, polymers)

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- comparative protein modeling
- molecular docking
- molecular dynamics simulations
- molecular interaction analysis
- materials science modeling

### Funding & Networks

---

- Tor, Joe & Pentti Memorial Fund
- Svenska Kulturfonden
- Research Council of Finland
- EU-OPENSREEN

### Selected Publications

---

- Microfluidics-Enabled Core/Shell Nanostructure Assembly: Understanding Encapsulation Processes via Particle Characterization and Molecular Dynamics. *Adv Colloid Interface Sci* 338, 103400, 2025. doi: 10.1016/j.cis.2025.103400
- Insights Into Molecular Interactions and Biological Effect of Natural Stilbenoids at the TRPA1 ion channel. *ChemMedChem*, e202400501, 2024. doi: 10.1002/cmdc.202400501
- Development of Aptamer-DNAzyme based metal-nucleic acid frameworks for gastric cancer therapy. *Nat Commun* 15(1):3684, 2024. doi: 10.1038/s41467-024-48149-9.
- Isolation and functional analysis of phage-displayed antibody fragments targeting the staphylococcal superantigen-like proteins. *MicrobiologyOpen*, 12, e1371, 2023. doi.org/10.1002/mbo3.1371
- The discovery of Zika virus NS2B-NS3 inhibitors with antiviral activity via an integrated virtual screening approach. *Eur J Pharm Sci* 2022, 106220. doi: 10.1016/j.ejps.2022.106220



## Riikka Puntila-Dodd

**Group:** Marine ecosystem ecology

**Subject:** Marine Biology

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/en/persons/riikka-puntila-dodd>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Ecosystem modelling
- Ecopath with Ecosim
- species distribution modelling
- future scenarios
- Baltic Sea
- cumulative pressures

### Research Projects

---

- GES4SEAS
- MIMOSA
- Identifying changes in coastal ecosystems – implications to
- recovery trajectories (RCoF)
- SEADITO

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Ecopath with Ecosim
- Bayesian networks
- species distribution modelling
- integrated
- trend analysis
- multivariate analyses

### Funding & Networks

---

- RCoF
- Horizon Europe ICES WGIAB
- Marine modelling network
- Ecopath Consortium
- Beyond shifting baselines-consortium

### Selected Publications

---

- Novelty, variability, and resilience: exploring adaptive cycles in a marine ecosystem under pressure. Ambio doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02181-1
- Food web robustness depends on the network type and threshold for extinction Oikos doi.org/10.1111/oik.11139.
- Modelling Framework to Evaluate Societal Effects of Ecosystem Management STOTEN doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.165508
- Integrating diverse model results into decision support for good environmental status and blue growth STOTEN doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.150450.
- Food-web modeling in the Maritime Spatial Planning Challenge Simulation Platform: Results from the Baltic Sea. Proc Int Simulation and Gaming Ass Conf doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-72132-9\_25



## Peter Mattjus

**Group:** Lipid Transfer Protein Research

**Subject:** Biochemistry

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** <https://users.abo.fi/pmattjus/>

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/sv/persons/peter-mattjus>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- The role of glycolipid transfer proteins in cells
- Glycosphingolipid biosynthesis
- Intracellular glycosphingolipid transport events

### Research Projects

---

- Glycolipid transfer protein, GLTP interaction with VAP-proteins in the ER exit sites
- The role GLTP in demyelination
- Intracellular localization of GLTP
- Inhibitors for glycolipid binding proteins

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Lipid biochemistry
- Quantitative and qualitative glycosphingo- and phospholipid analysis by high performance TLC
- Cell and molecular biology
- Fluorescence spectroscopy, steady-state and life-time
- Radioisotope labeling and lipid metabolism techniques

### Funding & Networks

---

- Medicinska understödsföreningen Liv och hälsa
- Borgs stiftelse
- COST action SPHINX member

### Selected Publications

---

- Glycolipid transfer protein knockout disrupts vesicle trafficking to the plasma membrane. Journal of Biological Chemistry 2023. DOI: [10.1016/j.jbc.2023.104607](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbc.2023.104607)
- Who moves the sphinx? An overview of intracellular sphingolipid transport. BBA Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids. DOI: [10.1016/j.bbalip.2021.159021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbalip.2021.159021)
- Glucosylceramide acyl chain length is sensed by the glycolipid transfer protein. PLoS ONE. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0209230](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0209230)
- Alternation in the Glycolipid Transfer Protein Expression Causes Changes in the Cellular Lipidome. PLoS ONE. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0097263](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0097263)
- Vesicular and non-vesicular transport feed distinct glycosylation pathways in the Golgi. Nature. DOI: [10.1038/nature12423](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature12423)



## Conny Sjöqvist

**Group:** Molecular Ecology Lab

**Subject:** Marine Biology

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** [www.connysjoqvist.com](http://www.connysjoqvist.com)

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/en/persons/conny-sj%C3%B6qvist>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Plankton ecology and evolution
- Experimental and molecular ecology
- Paleo- and resurrection biology

### Research Projects

---

- Temperature adaptation in European diatom populations - AWARE
- Hotspots for biodiversity shifts in the Archipelago Sea - BIOSHIFT
- Modeling advanced primary production scenarios in coastal seas - MIMOSA
- Geochemical Dynamics of Seawater-submarine Aquifer Interactions Impacts on Coastal Sediments and Ecosystem
- Switching functional roles gene expression of feeding trait plasticity in a marine key species - GeneMac

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Cell cultivation
- Microscopical analyses
- DNA and RNA sequencing
- Population genomics
- Transcriptomics
- Bioinformatics

### Funding & Networks

---

- Centre for Sustainable Ocean Science
- Swedish Cultural Foundation
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
- Traversing European Coastlines (TREC)
- Estonian Research Council

### Selected Publications

---

- Biodiversity of microorganisms in the Baltic Sea: The power of novel methods in the identification of marine microbes. FEMS Microbiology Reviews (2024). 48, 5, fuae024. DOI: [10.1093/femsre/fuae024](https://doi.org/10.1093/femsre/fuae024)
- Temperature optima of a natural diatom population increases as global warming proceeds. Nature Climate Change (2024). 14, 5, p. 518-525. DOI: [10.1038/s41558-024-01981-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-01981-9)
- Toward phytoplankton parasite detection using autoencoders. Machine Vision and Applications (2023). 34, 6, p. 101 6. DOI: [10.1007/s00138-023-01450-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00138-023-01450-x)
- Strain-specific transcriptional responses overshadow salinity effects in a marine diatom sampled along the Baltic Sea salinity cline. ISME Journal (2022). 16, 7, p. 1776-1787. DOI: [10.1038/s41396-022-01230-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41396-022-01230-x)
- Ecologically coherent population structure of uncultivated bacterioplankton. ISME Journal (2021). 15, pages 3034–3049. DOI: [10.1038/s41396-021-00985-z](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41396-021-00985-z)



## Silvia Gramolelli

**Group:** Viral Oncogenesis

**Subject:** Cell Biology

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** <https://viraloncor.wordpress.com/>

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/sv/persons/silvia-gramolelli/publications/>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Gene expression
- Chromatin remodelling
- Viral reactivation from latency
- Cellular transformation

### Research Projects

---

- Role of somatic mutations in Epstein-Barr virus induced oncogenesis and drug resistance
- Role of stress-related transcription factors in oncogenic herpesvirus persistence and gene expression
- New diagnostic tools based on DNA nanotechnology to detect viral genomic sequences

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Patient-derived organoids
- Lentiviral production and transduction
- Chromatin IP
- Proteomics

### Funding & Networks

---

- Research Council of Finland
- Sigrid Juselius
- Finnish Cultural Foundation
- Mary & George Ehrnrooth Foundation
- Suomen Tiedenseura
- InFLAMES

### Selected Publications

---

- Heat shock factor 2 regulates oncogenic gamma-herpesvirus gene expression by remodeling the chromatin at the ORF50 and BZLF1 promoter. PLoS Pathog. 2025
- DLL4/Notch3/WNT5B axis mediates bidirectional prometastatic crosstalk between melanoma and lymphatic endothelial cells. JCI Insight. 2024
- Oncogenic Herpesvirus Engages Endothelial Transcription Factors SOX18 and PROX1 to Increase Viral Genome Copies and Virus Production. Cancer Res. 2020
- Kaposi Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus Lytic Replication Is Independent of Anaphase-Promoting Complex Activity. Journal of Virology 2020
- High tissue MMP14 expression predicts worse survival in gastric cancer, particularly with a low PROX1. Cancer Medicine 2019



## Christian Pansch-Hattich

**Group:** Experimental Ecology - Stress Ecology & Ecophysiology

**Subject:** Marine Biology

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** <https://pansch-research.com>

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/en/persons/christian-pansch-hattich>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Climate change impacts on marine systems; environmental variability & extreme climatic events, heatwaves, climate change refugia, thermal microclimates
- Area; Ecophysiology, thermal ecology, acclimation & adaptation, species interactions e.g. facilitation, mesocosm food webs, invasion ecology, macrophyte-grazer interactions
- Systems; Bivalves, macrophytes (seagrass, Fucus), associated epi- and infauna, crustaceans (Gammarus, Idotea, mudcrabs), phytoplankton

### Research Projects

---

- PhD S. Rühmkorff; Resilience of Seagrass Ecosystems through Habitat Heterogeneity & Genetic Diversity
- ÅA Stiftelse; SOS - Centre for Sustainable Ocean Science
- Horizon; SEA-Quester - Blue Carbon production, export, & sequestration in emerging polar ecosystems
- Res. Council Norway; NORSE - Biodiversity in Northern European Seagrass meadows – drivers, responses, & resilience
- PhD L. Kraufvelin; Impacts of Heatwaves on the Functioning of Temperate Coastal Ecosystems

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Combine ecophysiology, acclimation and adaptation experimental studies with simplified community assessments in mostly experimental approaches
- Using high-throughput incubation units and mesocosms
- Simulating multiple and fluctuating climate change drivers
- High-resolution coastal environmental monitoring

### Funding & Networks

---

- Funders; EU, Research Council Fi, Svenska Kulturfonden, Stiftelse Åbo Akademi, City of Turku
- Collaborations; Tvärminne Zoological Station at Helsinki University, Turku, University of Applied Sciences – TUAS, Tjärnö Marine Laboratory at Gothenburg University, GEOMAR – Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Alfred Wegener Institute for polar and marine research (AWI) – Wadden Sea Station Sylt, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde – IOW

### Selected Publications

---

- Small-scale thermal habitat variability may not determine seagrass resilience to climate change. *Limnology and Oceanography*
- The interplay of co-occurring ecosystem engineers shapes the structure of benthic communities – a mesocosm experiment. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 11:1304442
- Marine heatwaves and hypoxic upwelling shape stress responses in a keystone predator. *Proceedings of the Royal Society Biological Sciences* 290:20222262
- Environmental variability in aquatic ecosystems: avenues for future multifactorial experiments. *Limnology and Oceanography – Letters* 8:247-266
- Editorial: Influence of environmental variability on climate change impacts in marine ecosystems. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 9:994756





## Christoffer Boström

**Group:** No specific name

**Subject:** Marine Biology

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/sv/persons/christoffer-bostr%C3%B6m/projects/>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Marine ecology

### Research Projects

---

- Digital Waters

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Marine field sampling, mesocosm experiments, field experiments

### Funding & Networks

---

- Doctoral Pilot
- Svenska Kulturfonden
- networks Zostera Experimental Network
- Nordic collaboration

### Selected Publications

---

- Marine biodiversity loss in coastal waters: evidence and implications for management in Finnish sea areas, northern Baltic Sea, AMBIO 2025. in press.
- Shallow coastal bays as sediment carbon and nutrient reservoirs in the Baltic Sea. Estuaries and Coasts 2024 in press
- Assessing the success of marine ecosystem restoration using meta-analysis. 2025. Nature Communications.
- The methylome of clonal seagrass shoots shows age-associated variation and differentiation of roots from other tissues. Biochimica et Biophysica Acta. 2025. Vol. 1869, Issue 2. DOI: [10.1016/j.bbagen.2024.130748](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbagen.2024.130748).
- Global effects of ecosystem and climate on long-term belowground decomposition in wetlands. Environmental Science & Technology DOI: [10.1021/acs.est.4c02116](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.4c02116)



## Tapani Viitala

**Group:** Pharmaceutical Biophysics

**Subject:** Pharmacy

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/fi/persons/tapani-viitala>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- pharmaceutical nanotechnology
- surface and colloid chemistry
- physico-chemical characterization
- drug delivery and targeting
- biomolecular interactions
- real-time label-free living cell sensing
- 3D printing

### Research Projects

---

- NAP4DIVE; Non-Animal Platform for Nanoparticle-Based Delivery Across the Blood-Brain Barrier Interface with Vehicle Evolution - EU Horizon RIA
- Nordic Pharmaceutical Translation and Innovation - Nordforsk
- MADNESS; Centre of Excellence in Materials-driven solutions for combatting antimicrobial resistance - Åbo Akademi Foundation
- Data integrated platforms for the design, production, and testing of therapeutics (project in Helsinki) - Business Finland

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Multi-Parametric Surface plasmon resonance
- Impedance-based Quartz Crystal Microbalance
- LigandTracer
- Waveguide scattering microscopy

### Funding & Networks

---

- EU Horizon RIA
- NordForsk
- Åbo Akademi Foundation
- Business Finland

### Selected Publications

---

- M. Bahman, N. Sandler Topelius, Tapani Viitala\*. European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences (2025) 107122. DOI: [10.1016/j.ejps.2025.107122](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejps.2025.107122)
- R.A. Mustafa, P. Parkkila, J.M. Rosenholm, H. Zhang, Tapani Viitala\*. Smart Medicine 2 (2023) e20230012. DOI: [10.1002/SMMD.20230012](https://doi.org/10.1002/SMMD.20230012)
- E. Scurti, J. Pedro Martins, C. Celia, P. Palumbo, F. Lombardi, D. Iannotta, L. Di Marzio\*, H. A. Santos\*, T. Viitala\*. Langmuir 39 (2023) 8255–8266. DOI: [10.1021/acs.langmuir.3c00728](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.langmuir.3c00728)
- P. Parkkila\*, K. Härkönen, P. Ilvonen, S. Laitinen, T. Viitala\*. Colloids and Surfaces A: Physicochemical and Engineering Aspects 654 (2022), 130015. DOI: [10.1016/j.colsurfa.2022.130015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.colsurfa.2022.130015)
- O.K. Kari\*, J. Ndika, P. Parkkila, A. Louna, T. Lajunen, A. Puustinen, T. Viitala\*, H. Alenius and A. Urtti. Nanoscale 12 (2020) 1728-1741. DOI: [10.1039/C9NR08186K](https://doi.org/10.1039/C9NR08186K)



## Kuldeep Bansal

**Group:** Pharmaceutical Sciences Laboratory

**Subject:** Pharmacy

**University:** Åbo Akademi University

**Lab Website:** <https://www.pharmscilab.fi/>

**CRIS profile:** <https://research.abo.fi/fi/persons/kuldeep-bansal>

### Areas of Expertise

---

- Functional Polymers
- Stimuli-Sensitive Polymers
- Targeted and Controlled Drug Delivery
- Polymeric Micelles
- Polymer-Drug Conjugates
- Microparticles
- Amorphous Solid Dispersions
- Polymeric Nanoemulsion

### Research Projects

---

- Centre of Excellence in Materials-driven Solutions for Combatting Antimicrobial Resistance (MADNESS)
- Jasmine PRO; A versatile platform for drug delivery
- Non-Animal Platform for Nanoparticle-Based Delivery across the blood-brain barrier Interface with Vehicle Evolution

### Special Methodologies & Techniques

---

- Polymer Synthesis and Characterization (NMR, FTIR, GPC, DSC),
- Nanoparticle Synthesis and Characterization (nanoprecipitation, microfluidics, DLS, HPLC, TEM),
- Cell Culture,
- Design of Stimuli-Sensitive Drug Delivery Platforms

### Funding & Networks

---

- Funding Sources:
- Stiftelsen för Åbo Akademi
- Business Finland
- Academy of Finland
- International Networks:
- Copenhagen University
- NIPER, India
- UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- University College London

### Selected Publications

---

- Reactive Oxygen Species-Regulated Conjugates Based on Poly (jasmine) Lactone for Simultaneous Delivery of Doxorubicin and Docetaxel, *Pharmaceutics*, 16(9), 1164, 2024.
- Poly- $\delta$ -decalactone (PDL) based nanoemulgel for topical delivery of ketoconazole and eugenol against *Candida albicans*, *Nanoscale Advances*, 6, 5322-5336, 2024.
- Utilizing the allyl-terminated copolymer methoxy (poly(ethylene glycol))-block-poly (jasmine lactone) in the development of amorphous solid dispersions: A comparative study of functionalized and nonfunctionalized polymer, *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, 657, 124175, 2024.

- Functional block copolymer micelles based on poly (jasmine lactone) for improving the loading efficiency of weakly basic drugs, RSC advances, 12(41), 26763-26775, 2022.
- Synthesis and evaluation of novel functional polymers derived from renewable jasmine lactone for stimuli-responsive drug delivery, Advanced Functional Materials, 31(33), 2101998, 2021.