

Aiswarya Prasad

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Education

PhD in Quantitative Biology

Aug 2020 – Present

PhD in Quantitative Biology

- **Achievements:** Faculty of Biology and Medicine PhD Fellowship (CHF ~60k/year); Mathilde Agassiz Scholarship (CHF 70k, awarded to the top placing applicant); 3 publications, 70+ citations.
- **Leadership:** Advised Faculty Hiring Committee as a Student Representative; Co-organized Department Annual Scientific Retreat, Advised the Basel Computational Biology Conference for selecting workshop proposals.

BS + MS in Biology

Aug 2015 – July 2020

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

- **Achievements:** KVPY National Science Fellowship (Rs 88k/year, awarded to ~1% of applicants by Government of India); All-India-Rank 335 (top ~0.3%). GRE 157 V, 169 Q.
- **Leadership:** Management Coordinator of Quarks, the annual undergraduate magazine of IISc, Co-organized a music competition as part of the annual undergraduate cultural festival of IISc.

Professional Experience

Director, Strategy and Expert Sourcing

Oct 2024 - Present

Nucleate Switzerland

- Sourced technology, market and business experts to advise start-ups selected to engage in Nucleate's flagship Activator program.

Consultant, The Consulting Society Incubator

May 2024 - Present

EPFL, Lausanne

- Developed consulting skills through consulting project work focusing on problem-solving and strategic analysis for start-ups
- Mentored junior members through a semester-long project, enhancing their consulting research and presentation skills.

Doctoral Research Assistant

Aug 2020 - Present

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

- Developed expertise in bioinformatics, uncovering novel insight into how bacteria evolve within animal gut microbiomes.
- Led research projects with international collaborators in Malaysia, India, and Kenya and initiated a collaboration in India, broadening the scope of our study with cross-country data and significantly reducing delays due to pandemic restrictions.
- Conducted bioinformatic analyses and laboratory experiments resulting in co-authorship of 3 peer-reviewed publications and reviewed 2 submissions for publications; presented my work at 3 international conferences and was an invited speaker (~150 audiences) in one.
- Delivered lectures, prepared course tutorials, and supported oral examinations as a teaching assistant, enabling collaboration, and effective communication of complex ideas and concepts.

Master Thesis Researcher

May 2019 - May 2020

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

- Established a new sequencing system and analysis pipeline in the lab to enable gut microbiome analysis in a cost and resource-limited setting. The implemented system (ONT MinION sequencer) cost 10% of the price of the most common system (Illumina MiSeq) available earlier.
- Collaborated with doctors to study the gut microbiome of chronic pancreatitis patients, revealing disease-related changes driven by pancreatitis and potentially resulting in secondary health outcomes.

iGEM Undergraduate Researcher

May 2016 - Oct 2016

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

- Co-initiated the first team from our institute in the international iGEM competition started by MIT, a synthetic biology competition in Boston, USA, to showcase innovative biotech solutions. Among ~20% of teams to receive a bronze medal.
- Brainstormed project ideas, carried out literature surveys, contributed to the design and execution of experiments in the lab and finally, co-presented our work at the competition in Boston.
- Engaged in teamwork and secured funding for research and travel, including the Indian Bioengineering Competition (iBEC) government grant of \$15k and \$9k from the biotechnology department of the Karnataka state government.

Extracurricular Engagement

Moderator, Health & Medical Data Privacy Committee

Jul 2020

iGEM India BIOSUMMIT (Remote)

- Moderated the discussion built around the sustainable development goals and advised on selecting participants to receive special mentions.

iGEM Delegate

Nov 2018

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Egypt

- Advocated for inclusive policymaking, prioritizing the involvement of young scientists in discussions concerning genetic engineering as an iGEM delegate.

Indian Youth Delegate to China

Jul 2017

Beijing, Shanghai and Hefei

- Enabled cultural and technical exchange through visits to various technological and cultural centres and interacting with locals and students as part of a cohort of 100 students selected from diverse disciplines across India.