

# Welcome to the August 2025 Virtual Data Lab scRNA-Seq Training Workshop!

August 4-8, 2025  
Childhood Cancer Data Lab  
<https://alexslemonade.github.io/2025-august-training/>

Childhood Cancer  
**Data**  **Lab**

x



# Tell us about you!

- What's your name?
- What are your pronouns?
- Where are you from?
- What are you studying?
- What's a recent piece of media (book, movie, TV show, etc.)  
you enjoyed?



# Meet your instructors



**JOSH**

Joshua Shapiro

**Senior Data Scientist @ the Data Lab**

PhD Ecology & Evolution, *UChicago*

Postdoc Integrative Genomics, *Princeton*

Research interests:

- **Evolutionary genomics**
- **Single cell workflows**



jashapiro

# Meet your instructors



**STEPHANIE**

Stephanie Spielman

**Data Scientist @ the Data Lab**

PhD Integrative Biology *UT Austin*

Postdoc Computational Molecular Evolution *Temple*

Research interests:

- **Protein evolution and reproducible genomics**
- **Data science and bioinformatics education**



sjspielman

# Meet your instructors



**Ally**

Ally Hawkins

**Data Scientist @ the Data Lab**

PhD Cancer Biology *University of Michigan*

Postdoc Computational Biology *Cornell*

Research interests:

- **Single cell data analysis**
- **Origins of pediatric solid tumors**



allyhawkins

# Other staff you'll meet this week!



**JEN**  
Jen O'Malley

## **Scientific Community Manager**

- Helps administer Data Lab programs such as workshops
- Engages with the research community

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# Code of Conduct





# Be kind, have fun

We value the involvement of everyone in the community. We are committed to creating a friendly and respectful place for learning, teaching, and contributing.

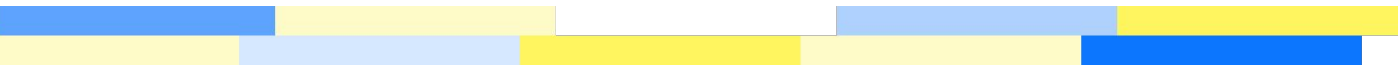
- Use welcoming and inclusive language
- Be respectful of different viewpoints and experiences
- Gracefully accept constructive criticism
- Focus on what is best for the community
- Show courtesy and respect towards other community members

Read the full Code of Conduct here:

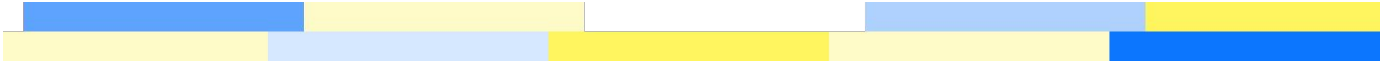
<https://alexslemonade.github.io/2025-august-training/code-of-conduct.html>



If you at any time feel harassed or treated inappropriately, please contact  
[ccd1@alexslemonade.org](mailto:ccd1@alexslemonade.org).



What you will learn (and what you won't)



# What you will learn

We will introduce you to the R programming language, R Notebooks, and some reproducible research practices.

We cover pipelines for the quality control, pre-processing, and initial analysis of single-cell RNA-seq data almost entirely through hands-on exercises.

We generally elect to go *broad* and not *deep*.

**Our overarching goals:** To prepare you to perform “frontline” analyses of your own data, to get you more comfortable reading documentation/learning new methods on your own, and to give you tools to collaborate more effectively with analysts when needed



# What you won't learn


We don't address experimental design (e.g., how many replicates you need).

We won't compare tools (e.g., Bioconductor vs. Seurat for single cell analysis).

We won't cover every feature (or assumption) of the tools we do present.

You may not be able to perform every analysis you need for your own work, particularly for complex experimental designs. For example, in the context of single-cell analysis, we do not cover integrating data from multiple samples.

We present analysis as a series of *linear steps*. In practice, it's **not**. It's important to consult analysis experts when you need to and to keep track of and report what you've done.



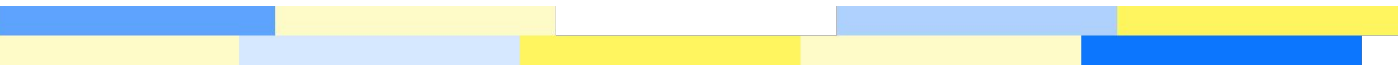
# How do we pick what we teach?

**We want methods to be or to have:**

- Useful for a wide range of experimental designs, sample sizes
- Easy to use, well-documented, and consistently updated
- Solid tutorials, a sizeable user base, and responsive authors/maintainers

We have a preference for methods that integrate easily into a single workflow that can be run on a laptop (and our own personal biases as scientists).





# Schedule



## Monday

### Workshop Intro

### Intro to R

RStudio Server  
Base R  
ggplot2 & tidyverse

### Consultations

Exercise notebooks

## Wednesday

### Single-cell RNA-seq

Dimensionality reduction  
Clustering  
Marker identification

### Consultations

Exercise notebooks  
Your own data

## Friday

### Consultations

Your own data  
Exercise notebooks

### Presentations

## Tuesday

### Single-cell RNA-seq

Quantification & QC  
Filtering & Normalization

### Consultations

Exercise notebooks  
Your own data

## Thursday

### Single-cell RNA-seq

Cell-type annotation  
Working with CITE-Seq  
data

### Consultations

Exercise notebooks  
Your own data

Full schedule: <https://alexslemonade.github.io/2025-august-training/workshop/SCHEDULE.html>



# Daily Schedule Outline

## Instruction

Full group

Lectures

- Introduce concepts and background
- Demonstrate usage
- Answer general questions

## Breakout

Small groups

Start exercise notebooks

- Split up into Zoom breakout rooms
- Ask questions of instructors and other participants




## Consultation Period

Exercise notebooks




Your own data

- Practice what you have learned
- Work on exercises individually or in groups
- Work with your own data





# Module Layout

`00a-rstudio_guide.Rmd`  
`00b-debugging_resources.Rmd`  
`00c-good_scientific_coding_practices.Rmd`

These are **reference** documents.  
Go through these on your own.

`01-intro_to_base_R-live.Rmd`  
`02-intro_to_ggplot2-live.Rmd`  
`03-intro_to_tidyverse-live.Rmd`

These are **Instruction** notebooks.  
We'll walk through these together,  
step-by-step, during the workshop.

`exercise_01-intro_to_base_R.Rmd`  
`exercise_02-intro_to_R.Rmd`  
`exercise_03a-intro_to_tidyverse.Rmd`  
`exercise-03b-intro_to_tidyverse.Rmd`

These are **Exercise** notebooks.  
Use these to practice what you've  
learned. We're here to help!

# Module cheatsheets cover key functions

<https://github.com/AlexsLemonade/training-modules/tree/2025-august/module-cheatsheets>

## dplyr

Read the `dplyr` package documentation [here](#).

A vignette on the usage of the `dplyr` package can be found [here](#).

| Library/Package    | Piece of code             | What it's called | What it does  |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---|
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>%&gt;%</code>       | Pipe operator    | Funnels a <code>data.frame</code> through tidyverse operations  |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>filter()</code>     | Filter           | Returns a subset of rows matching the conditions of the specified logical argument  |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>arrange()</code>    | Arrange          | Reorders rows in ascending order. <code>arrange(desc())</code> would reorder rows in descending order.  |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>select()</code>     | Select           | Selects columns that match the specified argument   |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>mutate()</code>     | Mutate           | Adds a new column that is a function of existing columns  |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>summarise()</code>  | Summarise        | Summarises multiple values in an object into a single value. This function can be used with other functions to retrieve a single output value for the grouped values. <code>summarize</code> and <code>summarise</code> are synonyms in this package. |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>rename()</code>     | Rename           | Renames designated columns while keeping all variables of the <code>data.frame</code>   |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>group_by()</code>   | Group By         | Groups data into rows that contain the same specified value(s)  |
| <code>dplyr</code> | <code>inner_join()</code> | Inner Join       | Joins data from two data frames, retaining only the rows that are in both datasets.   |

# We want your feedback!

We'll collect feedback before we split into breakout rooms at the end of each module. You will ***anonymously*** submit your responses to the following questions through a Zoom poll. (We'll also send a link to the poll questions after the workshop incase you miss it!)

- The most difficult or confusing point of the module ("muddiest point")  
*We will post additional material answering your questions the next day*
- What did you like about the module?
- How we can improve the module?



# Friday

## **Your own projects** Exercise notebooks

Spend Friday working with your own data, getting assistance as needed from Data Lab staff and each other.

## **Presentations**

Present what you worked on during the consultation times to the group!

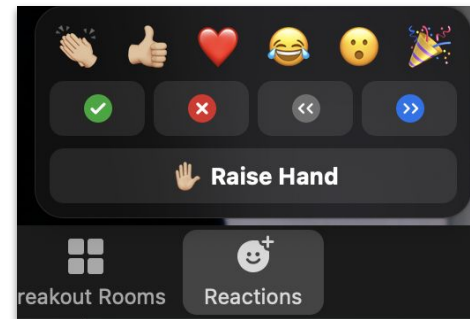
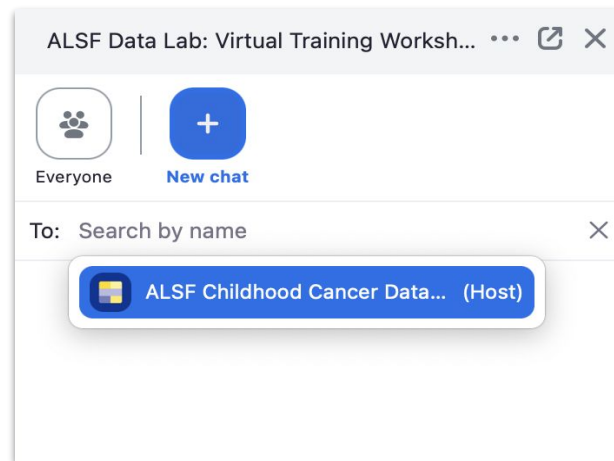


# Virtual Training Procedures



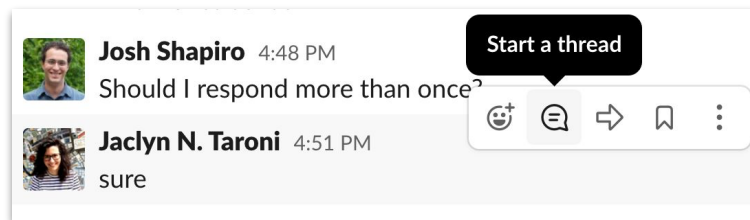
# General Zoom Etiquette

- Keep your microphone muted
- Type questions in the Chat window (directed to the host!)
  - Click on the “Chat” button at the bottom of your window to open the chat.
  - The ability to message everyone in the “Main Chat” will be unavailable.
  - Instead, click “New Chat” and send a direct message to “ALSF Childhood Cancer Data Lab.”
- We encourage you to use zoom reactions!



# Using Slack

- Use the **#2025-august-training** Slack channel
- Post public questions, get help with errors and debugging, make comments, and help your fellow participants!
  - Use threads to keep related content together





# Communication during instruction



- I have an **urgent question** that needs an answer before moving on:
  - **Raise Hand** or **Chat** with the meeting host
- I'm **stuck with an error** and can't proceed with the hands-on exercise
  - **Chat** with meeting host: Request 1:1 and you will be placed in a breakout room with a Data Lab staff member



- I have an **general question** that does not need an answer right away.
  - **Post** in #2025-august-training
- I'm having trouble **logging in** to RStudio Server
  - **Direct Message** a Data Lab staff member (not the current host or instructor)

Trouble logging into Zoom and Slack? **Email** [training@ccdatalab.org](mailto:training@ccdatalab.org)

# Communication at other times (consultation periods)



- I have questions about **previous instruction or exercise notebooks**
  - **Post** in *#2025-august-training*
  - If you need to share your screen, we will set up a 1:1 or group Zoom call
- I would like to be paired up with other participants
  - **Post** in *#2025-august-training*; we can set you up in a Zoom breakout room
- I have a question that is **highly specific to my data**
  - **Direct Message** a Data Lab staff member
- I'm having trouble **logging in** to RStudio Server
  - **Direct Message** a Data Lab staff member

Trouble logging into Zoom and Slack? **Email** [training@ccdatalab.org](mailto:training@ccdatalab.org)