

# Pedro Fontanarrosa

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Education

- 2023–Present **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *University College London*, London, UK
- 2022–2023 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *University of Boulder*, Colorado, USA
- 2019–2022 **Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, Synthetic Biology Track**, *University of Utah*, Utah, USA, *3.8 of 4.0*
- 2017–2019 **Master in Bioengineering, Synthetic Biology Track**, *University of Utah*, Utah, USA, *GPA: 3.67 of 4.0*  
Thesis option.
- 2007–2014 **Licentiate in Biological Sciences, orientation Genetics, Evolution and Ecology**, *University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina, *GPA: 8.39 of 10.00*  
7-year professional degree program with thesis.
- Ph.D. Dissertation
- Title *Investigating Genetic Circuit Failures*
- Supervisors Professors Chris Myers, Tara Deans, Orly Alter, Yuval Dorfan, Tamara Bidone
- Description This dissertation analyzes and develops methods to understand and avoid genetic circuit failures to help in the re-design process of synthetic biology.
- Masters Thesis
- Title *Automated Generation of Dynamic Models for Genetic Regulatory Networks*
- Supervisors Professors Chris Myers, Tara Deans and Orly Alter
- Description This thesis work developed an automated model generator which produces dynamic models of genetic regulatory networks and can be used to determine circuit failures.
- Title *Sources of life history trait and morphology variability associated with resistance to alkaloids in a cactophilic gender of Drosophila*
- Supervisors Professors Ignacio M. Soto, María Isabel Remis, Marcela Karina Castelo, and Ana Laura Carbajal de Fuente
- Description This thesis explores the idea that speciation in cactophilic *Drosophila* may be linked to alkaloid presence of different cacti.

## Publications

### Refereed Journal Articles

- Baig, H., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Kulkarni, V., McLaughlin, J., Vaidyanathan, P., Bartley, B., Bhakta, S., Bhatia, S., Bissell, M., Clancy, K., Cox, R. S., Moreno, A. G., Gorochowski, T., Grunberg, R., Lee, J., Luna, A., Madsen, C., Misirli, G., Nguyen, T., Novere, N. L., Palchick, Z., Pocock, M., Roehner, N., Sauro, H., Scott-Brown, J., Sexton, J. T., Stan, G.-B., Tabor, J. J., Terry, L., Vilar, M. V., Voigt, C. A., Wipat, A., Zong, D., Zundel, Z., Beal, J., and Myers, C. 2021. "Synthetic Biology Open Language Visual (SBOL Visual) Version 2.3". In: *Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics*.
- Baig, H., **Fontanarroso, P.**, McLaughlin, J., Scott-Brown, J., Vaidyanathan, P., Gorochowski, T., Misirli, G., Beal, J., and Myers, C. 2021. "Synthetic Biology Open Language Visual (SBOL Visual) Version 3.0". In: *Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics*.
- Buecherl, L., Roberts, R., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Thomas, P. J., Mante, J., Zhang, Z., and Myers, C. J. 2021. "Stochastic Hazard Analysis of Genetic Circuits in iBioSim and STAMINA". In: *ACS Synthetic Biology*.
- Baig, H., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Kulkarni, V., McLaughlin, J., Vaidyanathan, P., Bartley, B., Bhatia, S., Bhakta, S., Bissell, M., Clancy, K., Cox, R. S., Moreno, A. G., Gorochowski, T., Grunberg, R., Luna, A., Madsen, C., Misirli, G., Nguyen, T., Novere, N. L., Palchick, Z., Pocock, M., Roehner, N., Sauro, H., Scott-Brown, J., Sexton, J. T., Stan, G.-B., Tabor, J. J., Vilar, M. V., Voigt, C. A., Wipat, A., Zong, D., Zundel, Z., Beal, J., and Myers, C. 2020. "Synthetic Biology Open Language Visual (SBOL Visual) Version 2.2". In: *Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics* 17.2-3.
- Baig, H., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Kulkarni, V., McLaughlin, J. A., Vaidyanathan, P., Bartley, B., Beal, J., Crowther, M., Gorochowski, T. E., Grünberg, R., Misirli, G., Scott-Brown, J., Oberortner, E., Wipat, A., and Myers, C. J. 2020. "Synthetic Biology Open Language (SBOL) Version 3.0.0". In: *Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics* 17.2-3.
- **Fontanarroso, P.**, Doosthosseini, H., Espah Borujeni, A., Dorfan, Y., Voigt, C. A., and Myers, C. J. 2020. "Genetic Circuit Dynamics: Hazard and Glitch Analysis". In: *ACS Synthetic Biology*.
- McLaughlin, J. A., Beal, J., Misirli, G., Grünberg, R., Bartley, B. A., Scott-Brown, J., Vaidyanathan, P., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Oberortner, E., Wipat, A., Gorochowski, T. E., and Myers, C. J. 2020d. "The Synthetic Biology Open Language (SBOL) Version 3: Simplified Data Exchange for Bioengineering". In: *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology* 8.
- Nguyen, T., Jones, T. S., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Mante, J. V., Zundel, Z., Densmore, D., and Myers, C. J. 2019d. "Design of Asynchronous Genetic Circuits". In: *Proceedings of the IEEE*, pp. 1–13.
- Carreira, V. P., Padró, J., Mongiardino Koch, N., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Alonso, I., and Soto, I. M. 2014. "Nutritional Composition of *Opuntia Sulphurea* G. Don Cladodes". In: *Haseltonia* 2014.19, pp. 38–45.
- Mongiardino Koch, N., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Padro, J., and Soto, I. M. 2013. "First Record of *Megaselia Scalaris* (Loew)(Diptera: Phoridae) Infesting Laboratory Stocks of Mantids (Parastagmatoptera Tessellata, Saussure)". In: *Arthropods* 2.1, pp. 1–6.
- Padró, J., Mongiardino Koch, N., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Carreira, V. P., Hasson, E., and Soto, I. M. 2011. "Acta Toxicológica Argentina". In: *Publicación de la Asociación Toxicológica* 19, pp. 95–96.

### Preprints

- Cummins, B., Vrana, J., Moseley, R. C., Eramian, H., Deckard, A., **Fontanarroso, P.**, Bryce, D., Weston, M., Zheng, G., Nowak, J., Motta, F. C., Eslami, M., Johnson, K. L., Goldman, R. P., Myers, C. J., Johnson, T., Vaughn, M. W., Gaffney, N., Urrutia, J., Gopaulakrishnan, S., Biggers,

V., Higa, T. R., Mosqueda, L. A., Gameiro, M., Gedeon, T., Mischaikow, K., Beal, J., Bartley, B., Mitchell, T., Nguyen, T. T., Roehner, N., and Haase, S. B. 2022. *Robustness and Reproducibility of Simple and Complex Synthetic Logic Circuit Designs Using a DBTL Loop*.

- Zilberzwige-Tal, S., **Fontanarrosa, P.**, Bychenko, D., Dorfman, Y., Gazit, E., and Myers, C. J. 2022. *Investigating and Modeling the Factors That Affect Genetic Circuit Performance*.

#### Peer-reviewed Abstracts, Short Papers, and Conference Proceedings

- Bücherl, L., Mante, J., **Fontanarrosa, P.**, Zhang, Z., Jepsen, B., Roberts, R., and Myers, C. J. August 3rd-5th, 2020. "Genetic Circuit Hazard Analysis Using STAMINA". In: *12th International Workshop on Bio-Design Automation*. IWBD 2020. online, pp. 39–40.
- **Fontanarrosa, P.**, Buecherl, L., and Myers, C. J. 2021. "Comparison of Extrinsic and Intrinsic Noise Model Predictions for Genetic Circuit Failures". In: *13th International Workshop on Bio-Design Automation*. IWBD 2021. online, pp. 25–29.
- Stoughton, T., Bücherl, L., Payton, T., **Fontanarrosa, P.**, and Myers, C. J. 2021. "iBioSim Server: A Tool for Improving the Workflow for Genetic Design and Modeling". In: *13th International Workshop on Bio-Design Automation*. IWBD 2021. online, pp. 72–74.
- **Fontanarrosa, P.**, Hosseini, H., Borujeni, A., Dorfman, Y., Voigt, C., and Myers, C. 2019. "Analyzing Genetic Circuits for Hazards and Glitches". In: *11th International Workshop on Bio-Design Automation*. IWBD 2019. Cambridge, UK, pp. 32–33.
- Mante, J., **Fontanarrosa, P.**, and Myers, C. J. 2019. "Stochastic Analysis of an Genetic Sensor". In: *11th International Workshop on Bio-Design Automation*. IWBD 2019. Cambridge, UK, pp. 40–41.
- **Fontanarrosa, P.**, Göksel, M., Nguyen, T., Jones, T. S., Wipat, A., and Myers, C. J. 2018. "An Improved Model Generation Method Using Cello's Optimized Parameters". In: *COMBINE 2018*. COMBINE 2018. Boston, USA, p. 44.
- **Fontanarrosa, P.**, Mongiardino Koch, N., Padro, J., and Soto, I. M. 2012. "¿Cómo Influye La Presencia de Mescalina En La Viabilidad y En El Tiempo de Desarrollo de Líneas de Drosophila Buzzatii Con Diferentes Inversiones Cromosómicas?" In: *Los Insectos y El Hombre, Diversidad de Interacciones, Diversidad de Miradas*. VIII Congreso Argentino de Entomología. San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, p. 294.

#### Technical Reports

- Padró, J., Saint Esteven, A., Benedictto, M., Vrdoljak, J. E., De Panis, D., **Fontanarrosa, P.**, and Soto, I. M. February 2015. *Arthropod, Cactii and Other Succulent Plants Survey in the Natural Reserve of Valle Fértil, San Juan, Argentina*. 1300 4257-22. Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat of the province of San Juan, Argentina.
- Padró, J., Mongiardino Koch, N., **Fontanarrosa, P.**, and Soto, I. 2012. *Study of Biodiversity of the Arthropod and Microorganism Communities Associated with Decaying Cactus Tissue in the Natural Reserve of Valle Fértil, San Juan, Argentina*. 1300 0236-13. Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat of the province of San Juan, Argentina.

#### Honors & Awards

2017–2019 **Fulbright and Argentine Presidential Fellowship in Science & Technology**,  
*Funded by the Argentine President's Cabinet and the U.S. Embassy of Buenos Aires.*  
*Administered by the Argentine Fulbright Commission with support from LASPAU*  
 Pursue a master's degree in the United States starting Fall 2017.

- 2015 **Research and Communication Excellency Award**, *Ministry of Science and Technology, Argentinean government, Argentina*  
Distinction awarded for excellency in research and communication of research work done under the "Beca Estímulo" scholarship.
- 2011–2014 **Beca Estímulo (Encouragement Scholarship)**, *Bestower: University of Buenos Aires*  
Research and Development tasks in the field of genetics and ecology.

## Experience

Peer Reviews for Academic Journals

- 2023 **PLOS Computational Biology**, *ISSN : 1553-7358*, SOURCE-WORK-ID: 67429a6f-2dc6-44d7-8bee-2e2ecda769f2
- 2021 **PLOS Computational Biology**, *ISSN : 1553-7358*, SOURCE-WORK-ID: c2f04765-d444-4600-b920-f9221ce4186c
- Research Projects
- 2018–Present **Synergistic Discovery and Design (SD2)**, *The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)*  
Genetic circuit design for extreme environments enabled by models extracted from petabyte+ perturbation analyses.  
Project FA8750-17-C-0229
- 2013–2014 **International Barcoding of Life, (IBOL) Argentina Fund**  
Barcoding of the diversity of arthropod communities associated to cacti decomposition. This demanded the negotiation of permits with the National Park Administration of the Argentinean government, the coordination of an expedition team to spend weeks in the San Juan desert, and the logistics for the collection of conservation of specimens for the barcoding project.  
Director Ignacio M. Soto
- 2012–2013 **Alkaloid resistance in the genus *Drosophila*: Effects of artificial selection on ecological specialization and evolution of anti-herbivore strategies**, *National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion, Argentina*  
Project PICT-2010-2603
- 2011–2014 **Alkaloid resistance for insects with saprotrophic nutrition: Genetic bases and effects of artificial selection**, *National Secretariat of Science and Technology and the University of Buenos Aires conjoint program (UBACyT)*  
Project 20020100300061
- Research Experience

- 2023–Present **Research Assistantship**, *Computational Systems and Synthetic biology Lab, College University London*, London, UK, P.I.: Prof. Chris Barnes  
Genetic design automation (GDA) software development, and genetic regulatory network (GRN) design, modeling, and simulation. Specifically:
- GDA tool development: iBioSim
  - Development of novel modeling automation techniques
  - GRN modeling and simulation
  - Design of genetic circuits with specific applications
  - Development and maintenance of genetic parts repositories
- 2017–2023 **Research Assistantship**, *Genetic Logic Lab, University of Boulder, Colorado, USA*, P.I.: Prof. Chris Myers  
Genetic design automation (GDA) software development, and genetic regulatory network (GRN) design, modeling, and simulation. Specifically:
- GDA tool development: iBioSim
  - Development of novel modeling automation techniques
  - GRN modeling and simulation
  - Design of genetic circuits with specific applications
  - Development and maintenance of genetic parts repositories
- 2010–2014 **Research Assistantship**, *Evolutionary Studies Laboratory, University of Buenos Aires*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, P.I.: Prof. Esteban Hasson  
In Argentina, research assistantships are earned through a very competitive contest hosted by the Argentinean government.  
Responsibilities:
- Maintained isogenetic lines of *Drosophila* flies
    - Collection of *Drosophila* specimens in National Parks of the province of San Juan, Argentina
    - Coordinated expedition team to recollect cacti tissues
    - Petition of special permits for recollection of protected species' specimens
  - Managed statistical programs and data bases
  - Trained and supervised new lab members
  - Authored and collaborated in the writing of different scientific papers research programs and technical reports for the Argentinean government
- Teaching Experience
- Fall 2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *University of Utah*, Utah, USA  
Graduate teaching assistant for Fundamentals of Biomedical Engineering II (BME II). Instructors: Rob MacLeod & Doug Christensen. In charge of discussion groups, homework & exam corrections (4 CR).
- 2015–2017 **IB & IGCSE Highschool Chemistry Teacher (in English)**, *Northlands School*, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Taught freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students (approx. 250). Full time (40 hs. per week). Coordinated and planned Extended Essays in chemical research.
- 2014–2015 **IB & IGCSE Primary and Highschool Science and Mathematics Teacher (in English)**, *Tarbut School*, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Taught freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students (approx. 250). Full time (40 hs. per week). Orchestrated the XXIII and XXIV Mathematical Ingenious Olympiads.
- Other

2019–2022 **Synthetic Biology Open Language (SBOL) Editor**, *COMBINE Standards*

SBOL Editors' primary responsibility is ensuring the effective curation of documents for the community. SBOL Editors are elected by a community vote and hold weekly meetings to coordinate their execution of these responsibilities.

Detailed responsibilities:

- Equitably representing the community in voting, documents, and guidance of discussion
- Curation and dissemination of the SBOL standards and related documents (including writing, editing, and coordinating changes)
- Maintaining an open and structured process by which members of the SBOL Development Group can modify and improve SBOL standards (including timely implementation of tracking, processing, responding to, and organizing voting on change proposals)
- Ensuring effective development and maintenance of official SBOL software libraries and associated documentation and tutorials
- Coordinating scholarly publications and ensuring proper attribution of contributions
- Running elections and other community votes
- Organization (or delegation) of SBOL Workshops and other events
- Maintaining community infrastructure, including: the SBOL web site, source code repositories, mailing lists

## Scientific Conferences

As an expositor

- 2023 **IWBDA 2023**, Washington DC, USA  
CONFERENCE PAPER: "A Report on SynBio Data Management Practices". Authors: Carolus Vitalis, Sai Samineni, Chris Myers and **Pedro Fontanarrosa**.
- 2023 **IWBDA 2023**, Washington DC, USA  
CONFERENCE PAPER: "Software for Synthetic Biology Workflows: How to Improve Your Productivity and Impact". Authors: Chris J. Myers, Lukas Buecherl, Daniel Fang, **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, William Mo, Sai P. Samineni, Gonzalo Vidal, Carolus Vitalis, Guillermo Yanez-Feliu and Timothy J. Rudge
- 2022 **SEED 2022**, Washington DC, USA  
WORKSHOP: "Software Tools Workshop for GDA design". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Bücherl, Lukas; Jet Mante; Sai Samineni; and Myers, Chris J.
- 2022 **Harmony 2022**, Washington DC, USA  
CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Robustness and Noise for Genetic Circuit Design Choices". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; and Myers, Chris J.
- 2021 **IWBDA 2021**, Online (virtual)  
CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Comparison of Extrinsic and Intrinsic Noise Model Predictions for Genetic Circuit Failures". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Bücherl, Lukas; and Myers, Chris J.
- 2020 **COMBINE 2020**, Online (virtual)  
CONFERENCE PAPER: "Genetic Circuit Hazard Analysis Using STAMINA". Authors: Bücherl, Lukas; Mante, Jeanet and **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Zhang, Zhen; Jepsen, Brett; Roberts, Riley and Myers, Chris J.
- 2020 **HARMONY 2020**, EMBL-EBI, Cambridgeshire, UK  
Codefest-type meeting, with a focus on development of the standards, interoperability and infrastructure.
- 2019 **IWBDA 2019**, *Cambridge University*, Cambridge, England  
CONFERENCE PAPER and CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Analyzing Genetic Circuits for Hazards and Glitches". Authors: **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, Hamid Doosthosseini, Amin Espah Borujeni, Yuval Dorfan, Chris A. Voigt, and Chris Myers.
- 2019 **COMBINE 2019**, *Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS)*, Heidelberg, Germany  
CONTRIBUTED TALK: "Analyzing Genetic Circuits for Hazards and Glitches". Authors: **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, Hamid Doosthosseini, Amin Espah Borujeni, Yuval Dorfan, Chris A. Voigt, and Chris Myers.
- 2018 **COMBINE 2018**, *Boston University*, Boston, MA USA  
POSTER: "Dynamic Model Generation in iBioSim". Authors: **Pedro Fontanarrosa**, Hamid Doosthosseini, Tramy Nguyen, and Chris Myers.
- 2013 **XVI National Congress of Philosophy**, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
ORAL PRESENTATION "Brian Goodwin and the role of genes in the explanation of generative dynamics of some species in relation to the historical development of the notion of natural selection."

- 2012 **VIII Argentine Congress of Entomology**, San Carlos de Bariloche, Rio Negro, Argentina  
 POSTER: "How does the presence of mescaline influence the viability and development times of *Drosophila buzzatii* isogenic lines with different chromosomal inversions?". Authors: **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Mongiardino, Nicolás; Padró, Julián; Soto, Ignacio.
- 2011 **XVII Argentine Congress of Toxicology**, Tandil, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
 POSTER: "Evolutionary eco-toxicology: Lethal and teratogenic effects of natural alkaloids present in the secondary host of cactophilic flies.". Authors: Padró, Julián; Mongiardino, Nicolas; **Fontanarrosa, Pedro**; Carreira, Valeria; Hasson, Esteban; Soto, Ignacio  
 As an attendant
- 2021 **COMBINE 2021**, 11-15 October, online (virtual)
- 2020 **IWBDA 2020**, 20-24 September, online (virtual)
- 2010 **III Ibero-American Congress of Philosophy of Science and Technology**, CABA, Argentina
- 2009 **I Reunion of Evolutionary Biology of the Southern Cone**, CABA, Argentina

## Computer skills

Programming	PYTHON, C++, JAVASCRIPT, R	JAVA,
Writing	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	Web Development HTML, Hugo
Databases	SQL	

## Languages

Spanish	Mothertongue	
English	Proficient	TOEFL ITP: 630 (February 2016)
Portuguese	Intermediate	Con conversationally fluent
French	Beginner	Can read & write

## Certifications and Trainings

- 2023 **Data Science Bootcamp**, *THE ERDŐS INSTITUTE*, Certificate of Completion with Distinction
- 2023 **Machine Learning A-Z™: AI, Python & R + ChatGPT Bonus [2023]**, *Udemy* Certificate of Completion
- 2015 **Principles of Computing (Part 2)**, *Rice University, Coursera Massive Open Online Course*, grade: 93.8%  
 Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction
- 2015 **Principles of Computing (Part 1)**, *Rice University, Coursera Massive Open Online Course*, grade: 95.7%  
 Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction



- 2014 **An Introduction to Interactive Programming in Python**, *Rice University, Coursera Massive Open Online Course*, grade: 100%  
Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction
- 2012 **Experimental Design and Statistic Analysis for Graduate Thesis**, *Department of Ecology, Genetics and Evolution, University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina
- 2011 **"Metabiology: Life as Evolving Software"**, by **Gregory Chaitin**, *School of Computer Science (ECI), University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina
- 2009 **Speech, Debate and Leadership**, *School of Law, University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina

## Volunteer Experience

- 2013–2017 **Biohacking BA volunteer work**, Argentina  
Artists, scientists, engineers, hackers and any person who is curious and wants to learn, play and build "life" is invited to join our "garage laboratories" inspired in the maker spaces. Volunteer work consisted on organization of talks, workshops, invited guest lectures as well as DIY projects like:
- Recycling of old refrigerators into incubators
  - Manufacture a PCR thermocycler using Arduino
  - Synthesize a "Hello World" with *E. coli* and GFP
  - Develop an open hardware glucose meter
  - Create art using genetic engineering techniques
  - 3D print a micropipette
- 2010–2012 **Organization of yearly "Biology Week"**, *School of Natural & Exact Sciences, University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina  
Each year, the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) hosts a "Biology Week" intended to promote science careers for high school students. The organization of this event required, amongst other things, the development of posters with information on the different tracks in the Biological sciences and scientific research, and the design of different installations and stands with interactive science projects so that students can take part of.
- 2006–2010 **Argentine Atheist Association volunteer work**, Argentina  
Volunteer work varied from:
- Organization of yearly conference meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina
  - Translation of documents
  - Divulagation of information
  - Organization of invited talks and other events
  - Finance management
- 2004–2008 **The Argentine Homosexual Community (CHA) volunteer work**, Argentina  
Volunteer work varied from:
- Organization of yearly conference meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina
  - Translation of documents
  - Divulagation of information
  - Organization of invited talks and other events
  - Finance management