

Mingsi Liao

(廖铭思)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Bioinformatics & Computational Biology
2. Metagenomic/metatranscriptomic
3. Computer vision
4. Machine learning/Deep learning
5. Whole genome sequencing

EDUCATION

2022-present	Ph.D.
(expect to	Genetics, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
graduate in	School of Animal Sciences
2025/12)	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (GPA: 3.78/4.0)
	Thesis: Integration of early dietary supplementation and automated feeding systems to mitigate postweaning slump in dairy heifers & Use of precision technology to predict pathogenic diarrhea in pre-weaned dairy heifers.
	Advisor: Dr. Rebecca Cockrum (Chair), Dr. Gota, Morota, Dr. Christina Petersson-Wolfe, Dr. Chris Thomas
2019 - 2021	M.S.
	Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
	School of System Biology
	George Mason University (GPA: 3.71/4.0)
	Project & Report (Non-thesis): Genomic and bioinformatic analyses of an ocular pathogen that molecularly types as a respiratory pathogen
	Advisor: Dr. Don Seto

Curriculum Vitae – Mingsi Liao

2013-2017

B.S.

Biotechnology

School of Materials Science and Food Engineering

University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Zhongshan

Institute (GPA: 3.65/4.0; Rank: 1th)

Capstone project: Exploitation and development of natural pigment of black olive

Advisor: Dr. Lin Li

SKILLS & CETIFICATES

Laboratory skills and animal handling (dairy calf)

- DNA extraction
- Serum spinning
- Blood sample collection (Jugular venipuncture)
- Fecal sample collection
- Oral sample collection

Bioinformatics & Genomic Analysis

- NGS (FastQC, MultiQC, Trimmomatic, STAR, BWA, FeatureCounts, VCFtools, bcftools, samtools)
- GWAS (PLINK, Beagle, GEMMA)
- Variants calling and annotation (GATK, freeBayes, delly, SnpEFF, VEP)
- Data type (RNA-seq, WGS, Metatranscriptomic/Metagenome, Genotype Data)

Computational skills

- Operating systems (Linux, Windows, macOS)
- Deep learning/Machine learning (YOLOv8, CNNs, Transfer Learning, Regression Models, Clustering)
- Computer vision (thresholding segmentation, OpenCV)
- Programming & Scripting: (Python, R, Bash/Shell, LaTeX)

Certifications

- Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Training Certificate
- Public Nutritionist (Level Three)

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EXPERIENCE

Work Experience

2022-present **Research Assistant**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061

- Contributed to the design and development of research projects in collaboration with principal investigators.
- Assisted in literature reviews, data collection, and analysis to support research objectives.
- Played a key role in writing and preparing IACUC protocols and applications, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and ethical guidelines.
- Implemented data management protocols and maintained accurate records of experimental procedures and results.
- Participated in team meetings and discussions to brainstorm ideas, troubleshoot challenges, and evaluate research outcomes.
- Communicated research findings through presentations, reports, and publications, contributing to the dissemination of scientific knowledge.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to facilitate research collaborations and enhance project outcomes.

2020-2021 **Graduate Researcher**

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Research Title: Genomic and Bioinformatic Analyses of an Ocular Pathogen that Molecularly Types as a Respiratory Pathogen

2016 (Summer) **Drug Production Supervisor (Internship)**

Guangdong Tenchance Veterinary Pharmaceutical Corp, Pharmaceutical Production Department, Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, China

Professional Experience

2023-present **Project Team Leader**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061

- Led and supervised a team of undergraduate researchers for projects.
- Oversaw recruitment, task assignment, and training initiatives.
- Facilitated communication and collaboration within the team.

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- 2022 (Fall)& **Teaching Assistant**
- 2023 (Fall)& Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- 2024 (Fall) Course: Animal Breeding and Genetics 3104
- Managed undergraduate teaching assistants and scheduled office hours.
 - Addressed student questions related to coursework and assignments.
 - Assisted the instructor with grading exams.

Research

- 2024-present **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Analysis for Breed Differentiation (Royal White vs. White Dorper)**
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- Identification of breed-specific genetic variation by analyzing high-quality SNPs and indels, assessing population structure, and revealing key genetic differentiation between Royal White and White Dorper breeds.
- 2024-present **Investigating the Impact of Early Lactose Exposure on Dairy Calf Development**
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- Analysis of growth, health, and metabolic differences in dairy calves resulting from early lactose exposure, comparing calves fed with and without lactose during the first 3 days and monitored from day 0 to weaning.
- 2023-present **Diarrhea Identification in Dairy Holstein Calves using Machine Learning Model**
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- Development of a predictive machine learning model for diarrhea detection through image processing techniques.
- 2023-2024 **Automatically Videos Collection and Prediction of Calf Body Weight using a Depth Camera**
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- Creation of an automated system for predicting dairy calf weights, combining top-view video recordings from a depth camera, electronic weighing scales, and contour extraction to measure calf dimensions, with

Curriculum Vitae – Mingsi Liao

a machine learning model that utilizes video-derived measurements and weight data.

- 2022-2023 **Genetic Association Analysis in Ovine Johne's Disease**
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- Investigation of SNP associations with disease phenotypes in sheep using genotypic data from the Ovine SNP50 BeadChip, with quality control to exclude low-call-rate SNPs and individuals, imputation of missing genotypes via Beagle, and logistic regression analysis to identify disease-associated genetic variants.
- 2022-present **Shotgun Metatranscriptomics Reveals Functional Profiles of Rumen Microbial Ecosystem in Dairy Cows**
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- Characterization of rumen microbiome by aligning RNA reads to the NCBI-nr database, revealing the abundance and functional roles of bacteria, fungi, archaea, and protozoa.
- 2021 **Genomic and Bioinformatic Analyses of an Ocular Pathogen that Molecularly Types as a Respiratory Pathogen (Master's Project & Report)**
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
- Analysis of a novel pathogen using bioinformatics workflows, including BLAST, annotation, phylogenetic analysis, genome comparison, and recombination analysis, demonstrating recombination from known human adenoviruses.
- 2017 **Exploitation and Development of Natural Pigment of Black Olive (Bachelor's Capstone Study)**
University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Zhongshan Institute, Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, China
- Investigation of black olive pigments by extracting polyphenols and anthocyanins from skin and pulp, optimizing extraction conditions, and assessing pigment stability under heat, oxidation, and reduction, along with the effects of various additives and metal ions.

Conference/Presentations

Curriculum Vitae – Mingsi Liao

- 2025 **Liao, M.** “Comparison of Deep Learning (YOLOv8) and Threshold-Based Methods for Depth Image Segmentation using Extreme Gradient Boosting to Predict Dairy Calf Body Weight.” The Plant and Animal Genome Conference (PAG), San Diego, California
Poster presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M.** “Dietary Crude Protein is Independent of Rumen Microbial Community Ecology in Lactating Dairy Cows.” American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), West Palm Beach, Florida.
Poster presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M.** “Dairy Calf Health and Growth Monitoring through Camera Phenotyping Techniques. American Dairy Science Association.” American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), West Palm Beach, Florida.
Oral Presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M.** “Camera-Based Monitoring of Dairy Calf Health and Growth: Phenotyping Techniques Applied” Research Day, School of Animal Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia
Oral Presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M.** “Colostrum Quality: Management and Storage for Healthy Calves” Dairy Science Seminar, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia
Oral Presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M.** “Dietary Crude Protein is Independent of Rumen Microbial Community Ecology in Lactating Dairy Cows”. 40th Annual GPSS Graduate Research Symposium, Blacksburg, Virginia
Poster presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M.** “Dairy Calf Health and Growth Monitoring through Camera Phenotyping Techniques. American Dairy Science Association.” Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture Big Event, Blacksburg, Virginia
Oral Presentation
- 2024 **Liao, M** and Cockrum, R. “Work in progress: Dairy Calf Health and Performance – Research Impact and Future Direction” Reproductive Biology Club, School of Animal Science, Virginia Tech
Oral Presentation

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- 2023

Liao, M. and McGehee, J. “Work in progress: Unveiling the Mysteries of the Dairy Cow Rumen: Microbial Composition and Function.” Reproductive Biology Club, School of Animal Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Oral Presentation
- 2023

Liao, M “Shotgun Metatranscriptomics Reveals Functional Profiles of Rumen Microbial Ecosystem in Dairy Cows” Research Day, School of Animal Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Oral Presentation

Research & Academic Contributions

- 2024/3

Abstract Reviewer

2024 GPSS Research Symposium

 - Evaluated abstract submissions based on clarity, relevance, and adherence to guidelines.
 - Provided feedback to authors aimed at improving the quality and impact of their submissions.
 - Collaborated with peers and organizers to select top-quality abstracts for presentation.

Volunteer Experience

- 2018

Blood Tester

Puning People's Hospital, Puning, Guangdong Province, China
- 2021

Tutor (Teaching Chinese, Human Anatomy), Remote

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript in preparation

- present

Liao, M., Ramirez, A. M., Duncan, J., Alward, K., Owens, C., Campos, L. M., Hanigan, M. D., Cockrum, R. (2024). Effect of Dietary Crude Protein on Lactation, Feed Efficiency, and Rumen Microbial Ecological Dynamics in Holstein Cows: A Shotgun Metatranscriptome Analysis. *FEMS*
- present

Liao, M., Kravitz, A., R., Cockrum, R. and Sriranganathan, N., 2025. Whole Genome Sequencing Analysis for Breed Differentiation between Royal White and White Dorper.

Manuscript under review

Curriculum Vitae – Mingsi Liao

2024 **Liao, M.**, Morota, G., Bi Y., Cockrum, R. (2024). Comparison of Deep Learning (YOLOv8) and Threshold-Based Methods for Depth Image Segmentation using Extreme Gradient Boosting to Predict Dairy Calf Body Weight. *Animals*

Peer-reviewed articles

2024 Kravitz, A., **Liao, M.**, Morota, G., Tyler, R., Cockrum, R., Manohar, B.M., Ronald, B.S.M., Collins, M.T. and Sriranganathan, N., 2024. Retrospective Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Analysis of Host Resistance and Susceptibility to Ovine Johne's Disease Using Restored FFPE DNA. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 25(14), p.7748.

Popular Press

2024 **Liao, M.** & Cockrum, R. (2024). Colostrum Management and Storage for Healthy Calves. Virginia Cooperative Extension: Dairy Pipeline, 45(7), DASC-171NP.

AWARDS

2024	GPSS Research Symposium: 2 nd Place Award in Poster Presentation.
2022-2024	John Lee Pratt Animal Nutrition Scholarship
2016	2 nd Place Institutional Scholarship
2016	Honorable Mention of Cultural New Media Creative Competition
2014/2015	1 st Place Institutional Scholarship
2015	Excellent League Member
2014	Food Safety Publicity Competition (3 rd Place)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Ph.D.	CS 5525 Data Analytics
	CS 5806 Machine Learning II
	CS 5814 Deep learning
	ECE 5554 Computer Vision
	STAT 5615 Statistics in Research
	STS 5444 Issues in Bioethics

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GBCB 5874 Problem Solving in Genetics, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology

M.S.

BINF 630 Bioinformatics Methods

BINF 631 Molecular Cell Biology

BINF 633 Molecular Biotechnology

BINF 634 Bioinformatics Programming

BINF 701 Systems Biology

BINF 702 Biological Data Analysis

BINF 731 Protein Structure Analysis

BINF 739 Next Generation Sequencing

BINF 739 Comp Analysis Viral Genomes

BIOL 695 Coronavirus Research Update

LANGUAGES

Mandarin 1st language

English 2nd language

Teochew 1st language

Cantonese Basic conversational and listening proficiency