

Mirko LEDDA
Sharon Aviran Lab
Biomedical Engineering & Genome Center
University of California, Davis, USA
Phone: (510) 717-4889
Email: maledda@ucdavis.edu
Webpage: <https://mirkoledda.github.io>

RELEVANT SKILLS

Computing	Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Python, R, Matlab (+ some C and Perl).• Shell scripting and analysis on high-performance clusters.• Algorithms and software development/maintenance/release.
	Data science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statistics, algebra, calculus and probability theory.• Machine learning (incl. Tensorflow, Keras and scikit-learn).• Big data analysis and management.
Biology	Bioinformatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next-gen sequencing (incl. library prep).• Genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics and GWAS.• Common bioinformatics tools/pipelines.
	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receptors biochemistry.• Molecular, structural and cell biology.• Bioprocesses and bioreactors.
Business	Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project management and team building.• Effective oral and written communication.• Teaching, consulting and mentoring.
	Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intellectual properties.• Biology wet-lab management.• Safety and quality control (incl. MP, SOP and GLP).
Language	English: Fluent French: Native Italian: Native German: Basic	

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Integrative Genetics and Genomics with Emphasis in Biotechnology (DEB)

University of California at Davis, CA, USA

Expected graduation in Early 2019

Thesis title: Hairpin in a haystack: structure-guided search for functional RNA elements

B.Sc. in Life Sciences with Emphasis in Biotechnology

2008

University of Applied Sciences (HES-SO), Sion, Switzerland

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. researcher - UC Davis, CA

Sep 2014-Current

Supervisor: Prof. Sharon Aviran

Topic: Computational and statistical methods for the analysis of high-throughput RNA structure probing experiments and RNA secondary structure predictions.

Research intern - 23andMe, Mountain View, CA

Jul 2018-Sep 2018

Supervisor: Dr. Babak Alipanahi

Topic: Finemapping genetic association studies using deep learning.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Research Assistant - Nestlé Research Center, Lausanne, Switzerland Apr 2009-Apr 2014
Supervisor: Prof. Johannes le Coutre
Topic: Genetic bases of taste perception. Taste physiology and receptor pharmacology.

Soldier specialist in biological weapons - Swiss Army, Labor Spiez, Switzerland Sep 2008-Sep 2014
Supervisor: Dr. Christian Beuret (5 months, then part-time 3 weeks per year)
Topic: Lab methods for the rapid identification of pathogenic bacteria, viruses and toxins.

Undergraduate researcher - University of Palermo, Italy Oct 2007-Apr 2008
Supervisor: Prof. Anna Maria Puglia
Topic: Strategies for the study of genes with unknown functions in *Streptomyces*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Reader - Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics Laboratory, UC Davis 2019
IOR: Prof. Bruce Gates and Prof. Jiandi Wan, Level: Graduate
Duties: Graded laboratory reports.

Teaching assistant - Advanced Genetic Analysis (GGG201A), UC Davis 2018
IOR: Prof. Danika Bannash and Prof. David Segal, Level: Graduate
Duties: Support to student and led a discussion session.

Guest Lecturer - Quantitative Genetics and Selection Theory (PLS298), UC Davis 2018
IOR: Prof. Steve Knapp, Level: Graduate
Duties: 1h30 lecture on Machine Learning.

Lecturer - Machine Learning Workshop for the Plant Sciences Dept., UC Davis 2017
IOR: Mirko Ledda, Level: Undergraduate, Graduate and Professor
Duties: 4h workshop on Machine Learning.

Guest Lecturer - Topics in BME: Computational Genomics (BIM189C), UC Davis 2017
IOR: Prof. Sharon Aviran, Level: Upper level undergraduate
Duties: Two 2h lectures on Machine Learning.

Teaching assistant - Quantitative Genetics and Selection Theory (PLS298), UC Davis 2016
IOR: Prof. Steve Knapp, Level: Graduate
Duties: Taught R programming and the mathematical bases of selection and breeding theory in lab sessions.

Course development - Quantitative Genetics and Selection Theory (PLS298), UC Davis 2015
IOR: Prof. Steve Knapp, Level: Graduate
Duties: Preparation of the teaching material as it was a new class.

AWARDS

- UC Davis Graduate Student Travel Award** - UC Davis 2017
Competitive award to cover the cost to attend, as a speaker, the 2017 [BC]2 Basel Computational Biology Conference in Basel, Switzerland.
- Registration Bursary** - Wellcome Genome Campus Scientific Conferences 2016
Competitive award to cover the cost to attend, as a speaker, the 2016 Computational RNA Biology Conference in Cambridge, UK.
- Summer Graduate Student Researcher Award** - UC Davis 2016
3-month support for graduate research in engineering, computer science, and disciplines with engineering-related applications and methods.

MEMBERSHIPS / HONORS

- Student member** - The RNA Society 2018
- Nominated for membership** - Phi Kappa Phi ($\Phi K \Phi$) Honor Society 2018
- Nominated for membership** - Golden Key International Honour Society 2015-2018

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- IGG representative for the Graduate Student Association (GSA)** - UC Davis 2015-Current
- eMentor for the Biotechnology Academy Program** - Sheldon High School, Sacramento, CA, USA 2019
- IGG Annual Colloquium organizer** - UC Davis 2017
- DEB volunteer judge for the Teen Biotech Challenge 2017** - DEB, UC Davis 2017
- Student mentor for Topics in BME: Computational Genomics (BIM189C)** - UC Davis 2017
- DEB volunteer judge for the Teen Biotech Challenge 2016** - DEB, UC Davis 2016
- Volunteer for "Science in the Siskiyou"** - Dunsmuir High School, Dunsmuir, CA, USA 2015
- Volunteer for "Science vs Fiction"** - Senior Center, Davis, CA, USA 2015
- Mentor for incoming international IGG students** - UC Davis 2015

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- [BC]2 Basel Computational Biology Conference** - Congress Center, Basel, Switzerland 2017
Ledda M. and Aviran S., patteRNA: Transcriptome-wide search for functional RNA elements via structural data signatures. *Speaker - 20min talk*
- Genome Research Day** - 23andMe, Mountain View, CA 2017
Ledda M. and Aviran S., Transcriptome-wide search for functional RNA elements via structural data signatures. *Poster*
- Computational RNA Biology Conference** - Wellcome Trust, Cambridge, UK 2016
Ledda M., Deng F., Vaziri S., and Aviran S., Data-directed RNA secondary structure prediction using probabilistic modeling. *Speaker - 15min talk*

PUBLICATIONS (* INDICATES CO-AUTHORSHIP)

Radecki P.*, **Ledda M.*** and Aviran S. (2018) Automated Recognition of RNA Structure Motifs by Their SHAPE Data Signatures, *Genes* 9(6) [\[doi\]](#)

Ledda M. and Aviran S. (2018) patteRNA: transcriptome-wide search for functional RNA elements via structural data signatures, *Genome Biology* 19(28) [\[doi\]](#)

Choudhary K., Shih N.P., Deng F., **Ledda M.**, Li B. and Aviran S. (2016) Metrics for rapid quality control in RNA structure probing experiments, *Bioinformatics* 32(23): 2575-3583 [\[doi\]](#)

Deng F.*, **Ledda M.***, Vaziri S. and Aviran S. (2016) Data-directed RNA secondary structure prediction using probabilistic modeling, *RNA* 22(8): 1109-19 [\[doi\]](#)

Michlig González S., Meylan Merlini J., Beaumont M., **Ledda M.**, Tavenard A., Mukherjee R., Camacho S and le Coutre J. (2016) Acute Effects of single ingestion of TRPV1, TRPA1 and TRPM8 agonists on the energetic metabolism and the autonomic activity in healthy subjects, *Scientific Reports* 6: 20795 [\[doi\]](#)

Rueedi R.*, **Ledda M.***, Nicholls A.W., Salek R.M., Marques-Vidal P., Morya E., Sameshima K., Montoliu I., Da Silva L., Collino S., Martin F-P., Rezzi S., Steinbeck C., Waterworth D.M., Waeber G., Vollenweider P., Beckmann J.S., le Coutre J., Mooser V., Bergmann S., Genick U.K., Kutalik Z. (2014) Genome-wide association study of metabolic traits reveals novel gene-metabolite-disease links, *PLoS Genetics* 10(2) [\[doi\]](#)

Ledda M.*, Kutalik Z.*, Destito M.C.S., Souza M.M., Cirillo C. a., Zamboni A., Martin N., Morya E., Sameshima K., Beckmann J.S., le Coutre J., Bergmann S., Genick U.K. (2013) GWAS of human bitter taste perception identifies new loci and reveals additional complexity of bitter taste genetics, *Human Molecular Genetics* 23: 259-267 [\[doi\]](#)

Godinot N., Yasumatsu K., Barcos M.E., Pineau N., **Ledda M.**, Viton F., Ninomiya Y., le Coutre J. and Damak S. (2013) Activation of tongue-expressed GPR40 and GPR120 by non caloric agonists is not sufficient to drive preference in mice, *Neuroscience* 250: 20-30 [\[doi\]](#)

Montoliu I.*, Genick U.K.*, **Ledda M.**, Collino S., Martin F.P., Le Coutre J. and Rezzi S. (2013) Current status on genome-metabolome-wide associations: An opportunity in nutrition research, *Genes and Nutrition* 8: 19-27 [\[doi\]](#)

Genick U.K., Kutalik Z., **Ledda M.**, Souza Destito M.C., Souza M.M., Cirillo C. a., Godinot N., Martin N., Morya E., Sameshima K., Bergmann S., le Coutre J. (2011) Sensitivity of genome-wide-association signals to phenotyping strategy: The PROP-TAS2R38 taste association as a benchmark, *PLoS One* 6(11) [\[doi\]](#)

PATENTS

Genick U.K., **Ledda M.**, Montoliu I., Le Coutre J., Rezzi S., Collino S., Martin F.P., Da Silva L., Genetic and urine-derived markers of human metabolic and gut microbial states

European Patent Office *EP2687845 A1* (issued in 2014)

US Patent Office *US Patent 20,150,160,191* (Issued in 2015)

HOBBIES/INTERESTS

Sports (Soccer, Alpine Ski, GoKart), Travels, Hiking, Gardening.

References upon request