Nicholas Attila Kovacs

Bioinformaticist & Data Scientist

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Education

Ph.D. Bioinformatics — *Atlanta, Georgia*
Georgia Institute of Technology — *Aug 2013 - Dec 2018*

B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology/Biotechnology — *East Lansing, Michigan*
Michigan State University — *Aug 2008 - May 2012*

Skills

Computational Acumen	Python, R, SQL, Bash, Perl, MATLAB, Javascript, Git, PySpark, Tableau, Adobe
Computational Sciences	Structural Bioinformatics, Next-Generation Sequencing, Molecular Dynamics, Drug Docking
Data Science	Machine Learning, Network Science, Statistics, Object-Oriented Programming
Experimental Sciences	Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry
Clubs	GaTech PhD2Consulting Club, Bioengineering & Bioscience Unified Grad Students, Data Science for Scientists

Publications

(9) **Kovacs, N. A.**, Penev, P. I., Chivukula, V., Petrov, A. S., Williams, L. D. "Ribosomal Protein Structure: Deep Evolution", In preparation

(8) **Kovacs, N. A.**, Penev, P. I., Venapally, A., Petrov, A. S., Williams, L. D. "Circular Permutation Obscures the Universality of a Ribosomal Protein", ***J. Mol. Evol.*** 86, pgs 581-592 (2018)

(7) Bernier, C.R., Petrov, A. S., **Kovacs, N. A.**, Penev, P. I., Williams, L. D. "Translation: The Universal Structural Core of Life", ***Mol. Biol. Evol.*** 35, pgs 2065-2076 (2018)

(6) Gómez Ramos, L. M., Degtyareva, N. N., **Kovacs, N. A.**, Holguin, S. Y., Jiang, L., Petrov, A. S., Biesiada M., Hu, M. Y., Purzycka, K. J., Arya, D. P., Williams, L. D. "Eukaryotic Ribosomal Expansion Segments as Antimicrobial Targets", ***Biochemistry*** 56, pgs 5288-5299 (2017)

(5) **Kovacs, N.A.**, Petrov, A.S., Lanier, K.A., and Williams, L.D. "Frozen in Time: The History of Proteins", *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 34, pgs 1252-1260 (2017)

(4) Gómez Ramos, L.M., Smeekens, J.M., **Kovacs, N.A.**, Bowman, J.C., Wartell, R.M., Wu, R., and Williams, L.D. "Yeast rRNA Expansion Segments: Folding and Function", *J. Mol. Biol.* 428, pgs 4048-4059 (2016)

(3) Petrov, A.S., Gulen, B., Norris, A.M., **Kovacs, N.A.**, Bernier, C.R., Lanier, K.A., Fox, G.E., Harvey, S.C., Wartell, R.M., Hud, N.V., and Williams, L.D. "History of the Ribosome and the Origin of Translation", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 112, pgs 15396-15401 (2015)

(2) Petrov, A.S., Bernier, C.R., Hsiao, C., Norris, A.M., **Kovacs, N.A.**, Waterbury, C.C., Stepanov, V.G., Harvey, S.C., Fox, G.E., Wartell, R.M., Hud, N.V., and Williams, L.D. "Evolution of the Ribosome at Atomic Resolution", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 111, pgs 10251-10256 (2014)

(1) Sharma, M., Predeus, A.V., **Kovacs, N.A.**, and Feig, M. "Differential Recognition Specificities of Eukaryotic MutSα and MutSβ", *Biophys. J.* 106, pgs 2483-2492 (2014)

Research Experience

Adviser: Dr. Loren Williams — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Research Assistant — *Aug 2013 - Current*

PhD Thesis: *The History of Proteins Revealed by Data Mining the Ribosome*
- **Hypothesis**: The ribosome is a molecular fossil; its structure can be mined to unravel the evolution of life
- **Tools**: Python, PyMOL, Adobe Illustrator, Perl, MATLAB, JavaScript
- **Funding**: NASA Astrobiology Institute
- **Support**: Data analysis for experimental labmates

Adviser: Dr. Chiaolong Hsiao — *National Taiwan University*
East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellow — *Jun 2017 - Aug 2017*
- **Project**: The Evolution of Proteins in Eukaryotes: Data Mining the Ribosome Strucutre
- **Tools**: Python, PyMOL
- **Funding**: National Science Foundation - East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes

Adviser: Dr. Michael Feig — *Michigan State University*
Undergraduate Research Associate — *Dec 2012 - May 2012*
- **Project**: Molecular simulations of Mismatch Repair Enzymes MutSα and MutSβ

Adviser: Dr. Peter Westhoff — *Heinrich-Heine Universität*
Molecular Biology Exchange Student — *May 2011 - Jul 2011*

- **Project**: DNA-protein interaction of cis-regulatory elements in ***Flaveria sp.***

Adviser: Dr. Yair Shachar-Hill — *Michigan State University*
Undergraduate Research Associate — *Jun 2010 - Mar 2011*

- **Project**: Metabolic flux analysis of carbon through ***Nanochloropsis sp.***
- **Project**: Aquaporin signalling in ***Arabidopsis thaliana*** gametogensis

Adviser: Dr. Cristoph Benning — *Michigan State University*
Undergraduate Research Associate — *Feb 2010 - May 2010*

- **Project**: Protein-protein interactions in ER to chloroplast lipid trafficking

Awards and Scholarships

NSF East Asia and Pacific Institutes — *National Taipei University*
EAPSI Fellow — *Mar 2017 - Mar 2018*

- **Project**: The Evolution of Proteins in Eukaryotes: Data Mining the Ribosome Structure
- **Adviser**: Dr. Chiaolong Hsiao
- **PI**: Nicholas Attila Kovacs
- Awarded $5,400 stipend, $1,667 living allowance, and roundtrip airfare to Taipei, Taiwan

Petit Undergraduate Research Scholars Program — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Mentor — *Jan 2017 - Dec 2017*

- Research mentor for undergraduate student
- Awarded $2,500 for materials and conference travel

BASF Chemistry Symposium — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
3rd Place — *Apr2017*

- Oral presentation of PhD thesis research to Chemistry Department and science panel from BASF
- Awarded $300

Presentations

The Evolution of Proteins: Data Mining the Ribosome Structure — *Tokyo, Japan*
Earth and Life Science Institute 6th International Symposium · poster — *Jan 2018*

The History of Proteins — *Charlottesville, VA*
Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference · oral — *Jun 2017*

Eukaryotic Ribosomal Protein Evolution — *Atlanta, GA*
BASF Chemistry Symposium · oral — *Apr 2017*

Frozen in Time: The History of Proteins — *Quy Nhon, Vietnam*
Search for Life: From Early Earth to Exoplanets · oral — *Dec 2016*

Frozen in Time: The History of Proteins — *Atlanta, GA*
Georgia Tech Chemistry Retreat · oral — *Oct 2016*

The History of Protein Folding — *Madison, WI*
Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference · oral — *Jul 2015*

The History of Protein Folding — *Troy, NY*
Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference · poster — *Jul 2014*

Teaching Experience

Adviser: Dr. Loren Williams — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Fall 2016*

- **Course**: CHEM 6572 - Macromolecular Structure (half time)

Adviser: Dr. Mary Peek — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Fall 2016*

- **Course**: CHEM 4582 - Biochemisty Laboratory II (half time)

Adviser: Dr. Pamela Peralta-Yahya — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Summer 2016*
- **Course**: CHEM 3511 - Survey of Biochemistry

Adviser: Dr. Mary Peek — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Spring 2016*
- **Course**: CHEM 4582 - Biochemisty Laboratory II

Adviser: Dr. Mary Peek — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Fall 2015*
- **Course**: CHEM 4582 - Biochemisty Laboratory II

Adviser: Dr. Mary Peek — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Summer 2015*
- **Course**: CHEM 4582 - Biochemisty Laboratory II

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Adviser: Dr. Loren Williams — *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *Fall 2014*
- **Course**: CHEM 6572 - Macromolecular Structure

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- **Course**: CHEM 4582 - Biochemisty Laboratory II

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