Robert W. GREGG

PHD CANDIDATE University of Pittsburgh

EMAIL rwg16@pitt.edu Phone (508) 837 1644

WEBSITE https://robertwgregg.netlify.com

EDUCATION

May 2020

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering

Anticipated | University of Pittsburgh

Advisor: Dr. Jason Shoemaker

May 2015

Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

University of Rochester

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Jan. 2016-Present

Graduate Student Researcher

Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

Developed multi-scale ODE/Agent-Based models of the cGAS pathway to investigate the impact of stochasticity in cell populations.

Implemented parallel tempering Markov Chain Monte Carlo (PT-MCMC) methods for parameterization on a Linux computing cluster.

Performed read alignment and differential gene expression analysis on time course RNA-seq data in R. Carried out RT-qPCR experiments using ISD transfected BJ-TERT (human fibroblast) cells.

May 2014-Jul. 2014

NSF: Research Education for Undergraduates (REU)

Department of Immunology, University of Pittsburgh

Modeled the spatial and temporal patterns associated with granuloma formation in tuberculosis. Learned to segment PET/CT lung scans using Osirix and transfer data into Matlab to simulate disease dynamics.

Jan. 2014-Apr. 2014

Undergraduate Independent Study

Department of Imaging Sciences, University of Rochester

Investigated the quantum chemical phenomena underpinning photodynamic therapy and its role as a curative and palliative treatment for cholangiocarcinoma. Reviewed literature on current photosensitizer drugs used to generate reactive oxygen species in malignant tumors.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sep. 2016-

Teaching Assistant

Dec. 2018

Introduction to Engineering Analysis

Taught 75 incoming freshman engineering students from a wide range of skill levels and backgrounds essential computer skills including Excel, Unix, and HTML/JavaScript. Participated in every lecture troubleshooting coding assignments and graded homework problem sets.

Process Control Dynamics

Prepared and taught recitation for senior undergraduates twice a week, including new concepts and practice problems. Planned and guided students through simulations in MATLAB and Simulink. Provided extra examples after skill assessments to explain challenging material. Held office hours each week to provide individual support to student learning

Jun. 2015-

Upward Bound: High School Course Instructor

Aug. 2015

Instructed two sections of Calculus and one section of Differential Equations for the federally funded Upward Bound Program (B.S. degree required). Prepared low-income, first generation, college bound high school students for success in higher level mathematics in the upcoming school year and college. Developed curricula, homework problem sets, examinations, and projects integrating use of Mathematica.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Advanced Intermediate

Inced | MATLAB + SIMULINK, Microsoft Office, R, Julia, LETEX diate | LINUX (ubuntu), MATHEMATICA, OSIRIX, BLENDER, PYTHON Basic | SOLID WORKS, PTC CREO, LABVIEW, HTML, JAVASCRIPT

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Theoretical Biology **Gregg, Robert W.**, Saumendra N. Sarkar, and Jason E. Shoemaker. "Mathematical Modeling of the cGAS Pathway Reveals Robustness of DNA Sensing to TREX1 Feedback." Journal of theoretical biology (2018). https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JTBI.2018.11.001

IFAC

Gregg, Robert W., Saumendra Sarkar, and Jason E. Shoemaker. "Examining Dynamic Emergent Properties of the DNA Sensing Pathway." IFAC-PapersOnLine 51.19 (2018). https://doi.org/10.1016/J.IFACOL.2018.09.017

Radiology of Infectious Diseases

Gregg, Robert W., et al. "Spatial and temporal evolution of lung granulomas in a cynomolgus macaque model of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection." Radiology of Infectious Diseases 5.3 (2018). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrid.2018.08.001

PLOS Pathogens

Philana Ling Lin, Pauline Maiello, Hannah P. Gideon, M. Teresa Coleman, Anthony M. Cadena, Mark A. Rodgers, Robert Gregg, Melanie O'Malley, Jaime Tomko, Daniel Fillmore, L. James Frye, Tara Rutledge, Robert M. Di-Fazio, Christopher Janssen, Edwin Klein, Peter L. Andersen, Sarah M. Fortune, JoAnne L. Flynn. "PET CT identifies reactivation risk in cynomolgus macaques with latent M. tuberculosis." PLoS Pathog 12, no. 7 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1005739

CONFERENCES

Presentation

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Oct. 2018

Using Uncertainty to Assess Feedback Mechanisms in the Innate Immune DNA Sensing Pathway

Robert W. Gregg, Sarkar N. Saumendra, Jason E. Shoemaker

Poster

Foundations of Systems Biology in Engineering

Aug. 2018

Examining Dynamic Emergent Properties of the DNA Sensing Pathway Robert W. Gregg, Sarkar N. Saumendra, Jason E. Shoemaker

Presentation

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Oct. 2017

Dynamic Analysis of the DNA Sensing Pathway Predicts Host Immune Response

Robert W. Gregg, Sarkar N. Saumendra, Jason E. Shoemaker

Poster

American Society for Virology

Jun. 2017

Mathematical Modeling of the Viral DNA Sensing Pathway Predicts Antiviral Host Responses

Robert W. Gregg, Sarkar N. Saumendra, Jason E. Shoemaker

OUTREACH

Aug. 2019-

Reviewer for Ingenium: An Undergraduate Research Journal

Dec. 2019

Served on the Graduate Student Editorial Board for Ingenium, a yearly peer-reviewed compilation of articles highlighting undergraduate research within the Swanson School of Engineering. Provided critical reviews for abstract and manuscript selection in bio-engineering and chemical engineering.

Jan. 2017-

Vir-ed: Educational VR Application

Jun. 2018

Led and managed a team of software engineers at Full Sail University to develop an educational virtual reality app teaching users about my PhD research. Communicated with non-experts to simplify complex biochemistry resulting in a gaming experience where users learn how viruses cause infections. The free app is available on the Google play store, search: *Vir-ed*.

Oct. 2016

Volunteer at ChemFest (National Chemistry Week Celebration)

Carnegie Science Center

Demonstrated and carried out basic experiment about Bernoulli's Principle with kids ages 2-14 to raise interest in STEM. Taught scientific principles of experiment to older age group (10-14).

Sep. 2016

NSF "Vizzies" Visualization Challenge - Video Submitted

Conceptualized and created an animated video highlighting basic concepts in systems biology. Targeted material to high school students to generate interest in the field. Created in a group of two using Blender.

AWARDS

2019	Engineering Graduate Student Organization (EGSO) Travel Grant (\$1,000)
2016	Wellington C. Carl Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarship (\$10,000)

2011-2015 | Koller-Diez Centennial Scholarship (\$160,000)

2011-2015 | Durfee Alumni Scholarship (\$10,000)

2011 Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award

2011 Mildred C. Carrol Book Award