**Ryan Ellison**

York <https://ryanj-ellison.github.io/>

# Key Skills

# Communication – Skilled oral communicator developed through outreach events and scientific presentations to a variety of audiences including both the public and academics. Strong written communication skills evidenced by numerous progress reports and success in applying to multiple conferences and successful bids for both internal and external funding.

**Research** – Ability to perform background research and identify suitable sources, then synthesise data from the literature. Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of arguments and identifying gaps in the field.

**Project Management** – Able to manage multiple aspects of a project simultaneously, prioritizing tasks while maintaining flexibility. Setting timelines, identifying key goals, and working to deadlines throughout. Designed and carried out numerous experiments to drive projects to completion, overcoming setbacks and adjusting accordingly.

# Career Development

Sept 2020 - Current

**University of York – PhD in Biomedical Sciences**

Project – The role of *FGFR3* mutational activation in urothelial carcinogenesis

* Laboratory project investigating how mutation of the FGFR3 gene changes the normal bladder epithelial lining and leads to bladder cancer.
* Strong communication skills developed through regular lab meetings, internal and external conferences presenting posters and talks, as well as several outreach events. I regularly complete written reports and have been successful in obtaining internal and external funding to attend conferences.
* Effective project management and organizational skills, developed through organising experiments across multiple projects. Balanced timing of long-term experiments with short-term goals and report and conference deadlines.
* Ran and spoke at “Meet a PhD” outreach sessions, where undergraduate students can speak to postgraduates in a relaxed environment to hear what postgraduate study is actually like. Organised speakers and co-ordinated with others to schedule location(s) and time(s) of events.
* I also have more than 40h experience as a graduate teaching assistant, teaching in problem classes, skills workshops, practical sessions and marking undergraduate reports.

Sept 2016 - Jul 2020

University of Oxford –MBiochem Master of Biochemistry

Final Year Project – Investigating the significance of Mad1 C-terminal phosphorylation sites for kinetochore localisation and function of the spindle assembly checkpoint

* Lab-based project investigating how the C-terminus of the protein Mad1 is required for cells to control the timing of how they divide.
* Completed a dissertation, a “Current Opinions” style article as well as presenting at lab meetings and journal clubs.
* As a guest author, wrote a historical perspective article for The Oxford Scientist on the History of Blood Transfusions.

University of Oxford and Aix-Marseille Université – Laidlaw Scholarship

Project – Hijacking the Type VI Secretion System to develop a Bacterial Anti-Cancer Therapy

* Lab-based project to genetically engineer *E. coli* that can recognise and kill colorectal cancer cells.
* Researched background literature and wrote successful project proposal to obtain >£8000 funding.
* Obtained ILM Level 3 certificate in Leadership and Management and completed Epigeum course on Research Integrity in Biomedical Sciences.

Feb 2018 - Aug 2018

# Academic Presentations

International Bladder Cancer Network 25th Anniversary Meeting – Poster presentation and flash talk

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Sept 2022

University of York Biology Department Research Away Day – Poster presentation

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Sept 2022

June 2022

British Association for Cancer Research 60th Anniversary Meeting – Poster presentation

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# Education

Sept 2016 - Jul 2020

University of Oxford –MBiochem Master of Biochemistry

MBiochem (*Hons*) – *Upper Second Class*

Sept 2020 - Current

**University of York – PhD in Biomedical Sciences**

Project – The role of *FGFR3* mutational activation in urothelial carcinogenesis

**Carmel Sixth Form College**

A Level – Biology (**A\***), Chemistry (**A\***), Mathematics (**A**)

AS Level – Psychology (**B**) and EPQ (**A\***) GCSEs – 8 **A\*’s** and 4 **A’s**

Sep 2014 - Jun 2016

# Awards, Achievements and Additional Experiences

* I was awarded a travel grant by the British Association for Cancer Research to attend their 60th Anniversary Meeting in Nottingham in 2022, where I presented a poster. I also recently won funding from the University of York Biology Department Research Chair to attend a conference of my choice.
* In addition to “Meet a PhD” outreach sessions, I have also given several outreach talks at sixth form colleges about topics such as careers in science, applying to university, and a day in the life of a PhD student.
* I have also worked with our main funding body, York Against Cancer, giving outreach talks at several of their events, to inform their volunteers about the cancer research that they fund. I have also taken part in their Bladder Cancer Awareness Day to inform the public about risk factors, and have participated in several fundraising events.
* To supplement the above outreach sessions, I also created my own website and started a blog to discuss topics relevant to those thinking about postgraduate study, such as “What does the PhD application process look like?” and “How to find a (funded) PhD project”.