

Raunak Shrestha

Ph.D. Candidate in Bioinformatics, University of British Columbia.

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RESEARCH STATEMENT

I like to understand the biological problems behind a complex disease, interpret the problem in a mathematical language and provide a computational solution to the problem. My main interest lies in the development of computational algorithms and its applications on big biological data to enable precision oncology.

Recent advances in high throughput technologies have enabled us to assess multi-dimensional view of a complex diseases process. I believe, to integrate these “big data”, the computational model must be complex enough to be accurate while being simple enough to portray the underlying biology. For this, network approaches helps to bring these multi-dimensional data into a single-analysis framework.

My current research focuses on exploring this idea to prioritize cancer driver genes and predict genotype-phenotype relationships in cancer. Most recently, I’ve been focusing on developing computational tools to predict targeted cancer therapeutics based on patient’s genetic information. My other research interests lies in cancer biomarker discovery, systems medicine and data science.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

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| SEPT 2012 - CURRENT | Doctor of Philosophy in BIOINFORMATICS, University of British Columbia , Canada
under CIHR Bioinformatics Training Program for Health Research
Supervisors: Dr. Colin Collins and Dr. Cenk Sahinalp |
| SEPT 2011 - AUG 2012 | Master of Science in BIOINFORMATICS, Simon Fraser University , Canada
under CIHR Bioinformatics Training Program for Health Research
(Transferred to PhD program) |
| 2005 - 2009 | Bachelors of Technology (B.Tech.) in BIOTECHNOLOGY, Kathmandu University , Nepal |

RESEARCH & TRAINING EXPERIENCE

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| SEPT 2012 - CURRENT | PhD Candidate, Laboratory for Advanced Genome Analysis,
Vancouver Prostate Centre , Vancouver, BC, Canada |
| MAY - AUG 2012 | Graduate Research Student, Laboratory for Advanced Genome Analysis,
Vancouver Prostate Centre , Vancouver, BC, Canada |
| MAY - AUG 2012 | Graduate Research Student, Dr. Fiona Brinkman’s Laboratory,
Simon Fraser University , Burnaby, BC, Canada |
| SEPT - DEC 2011 | Graduate Research Student, Dr. Jack Chen’s Laboratory,
Simon Fraser University , Burnaby, BC, Canada |
| JULY 2009 - JULY 2011 | Research Associate, Center for Molecular Dynamics Nepal , Kathmandu, Nepal |
| JAN - JUNE 2009 | Undergrad Research Student, Genetics Nepal , Kathmandu, Nepal |

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2016-2018 Mitacs Accelerate PhD Fellowship.
- 2015-2016 Prostate Cancer Foundation - British Columbia (PCF-BC) Research Awards - 2015.
- 2014-2016 Faculty of Science Graduate Award, University of British Columbia.
- 2014 International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) Travel Fellowship (RECOMB-2014).
- 2011-2013 CIHR Bioinformatics Training Program for Health Research.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Shrestha R**, Hodzic E, Sauerwald T, Dao P, Yeung J, Wang K, Anderson S, Haffari G, Collins CC, and Sahinalp SC. *HITⁿDRIVE: Patient-Specific Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization for Precision Oncology*. [Genome Research](#). 27:1573-1588. doi:10.1101/gr.221218.117. PMID:28768687
- Campbell PJ, Getz G, Stuart JM, Korbel JO, Stein LD, Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes Network. (2017) *Pan-cancer analysis of whole genomes*. (PCAWG Consortium paper) ([Preprint](#))
- Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes Network. (2017) *Pathway and network analysis of 2,500 whole cancer genomes*. (PCAWG Consortium paper) (*upcoming*)
- Luk I, **Shrestha R**, Xue H, Wang Y, Zhang F, Lin D, Haegert A, Wu R, Dong X, Collins CC, Zoubeidi A, Gleave ME, Gout PW, and Wang Y. (2016) *BIRC6-targeting as potential therapy for advanced, enzalutamide-resistant prostate cancer*. [Clin Cancer Res](#). 2016 Sep 23. PMID:27663589
- Gill E, Chan L, Winsor G, Dobson N, Lo R, Sui SH, Dhillon B, Taylor P, **Shrestha R**, Spencer C, Hancock R, Unrau P, and Brinkman F. High-throughput detection of RNA processing in bacteria. (2016) ([Preprint](#))
- Yamada M, Tang J, Lugo-Martinez J, Hodzic E, **Shrestha R**, Saha A, Ouyang H, Yin D, Mamitsuka H, Sahinalp C, Radivojac P, Menczer F, and Chang Y. *Ultra High-Dimensional Nonlinear Feature Selection for Big Biological Data*. (2016) ([Preprint](#))
- **Shrestha R.**, Hodzic E., Yeung J., Wang K., Sauerwald T., Dao P., Anderson S., Beltran H., Rubin MA., Collins C., Haffari G. and SC. Sahinalp. (2014) *HITⁿDRIVE: Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization based on Hitting Time*. In Sharan R, editor, Research in Computational Molecular Biology: 18th Annual International Conference, RECOMB 2014, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, April 2-5, 2014, [Proceedings, pages 293–306](#). Springer International Publishing.
- Wyatt A, Mo F, Wang K, McConeghy B, Brahmbhatt S, Jong L, Mitchell D, Johnston R, Haegert A, Li E, Liew J, Yeung J, **Shrestha R**, Lapuk A, McPherson A, Shukin R, Bell R, Anderson S, Bishop J, Hurtado-Coll A, Xiao H, Chinnaiyan A, Mehra R, Lin D, Wang Y, Fazli L, Gleave M, Volik S, and Collins CC. (2014) Heterogeneity in the inter-tumor transcriptome of high risk prostate cancer. [Genome Biol](#). 15(8):426. PMID:25155515
- Wang K., **Shrestha R.**, Wyatt AW., Reddy A., Lehar J., Wang Y., Lapuk A. and CC. Collins. (2014) A Meta-Analysis Approach for Characterizing Pan-Cancer Mechanisms of Drug Sensitivity in Cell Lines. [PLoS ONE](#) 9(7). PMID:25036042

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Selected Oral Presentations

- Translating Big-Data to Precision Oncology. Vancouver Prostate Centre / Terry Fox Seminar, February 17, 2017, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada.

- HIT'nDRIVE: Patient-Specific Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization for Precision Oncology. Vancouver Bioinformatics User Group (VanBUG) November 3, 2016, Vancouver, Canada
- HIT'nDRIVE: Patient-Specific Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization for Precision Oncology. 10th Annual Lorne D. Sullivan Lectureship & Research Day. June 21, 2016, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada.
- HIT'nDRIVE: Patient-Specific Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization to Guide Precision Cancer Medicine. Workshop on Network Biology (Algorithmic Challenges in Genomics). April 11-15, 2016, Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA. <https://simons.berkeley.edu/talks/raunak-shrestha-04-12-16>
- Computational Detection and Prioritization of Driver Alterations in Cancer. Vancouver Prostate Centre / Terry Fox Seminar, November 3, 2014, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada.
- HIT'nDRIVE: Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization based on Hitting Time. 18th Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB). April 2-5, 2014, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
- Analysis of KatG Ser315Thr Mutation in Multidrug Resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis and SLC11A1 Polymorphism in Multidrug Resistance Tuberculosis in Central Development Region of Nepal Using PCR-RFLP Technique: A Pilot Study. 2nd International Symposium on Biotechnology, June 29-30, 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal

Selected Poster Presentations

- **Raunak Shrestha**, Ermin Hodzic, Thomas Sauerwald, Phuong Dao, Kendric Wang, Jake Yeung, Shawn Anderson, Fabio Vandin, Gholamreza Haffari, Colin C. Collins and S. Cenk Sahinalp.(2016). HIT'nDRIVE: Patient-Specific Multi-Driver Gene Prioritization for Precision Oncology. The 27th International Conference on Genome Informatics, October 3-5, 2016, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
- Noushin Nabavi, **Raunak Shrestha**, Yuzhuo Wang and Colin C. Collins (2016). Characterization of intertumor heterogeneity in Malignant Mesothelioma. 13th International Conference of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group (iMIG 2016), May 1-4, 2016, Birmingham, UK. (As a first co-author).
- **Raunak Shrestha**, Ermin Hodzic, Fan Mo, Anna Lapuk, S. Cenk Sahinalp and Colin C. Collins (2015). Computational Detection and Prioritization of Driver Alterations in Prostate Cancer from Multi-Omics Data. Eighth Annual Prostate Cancer Program Retreat (SPOR), March 15-17, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. **(Selected among the top-eight poster of the conference.)**
- **Raunak Shrestha**, Kendric Wang, S. Cenk Sahinalp, Anna Lapuk and Colin Collins (2013). Exploring the Biology of Prostate Cancer Progression using Systems Biology Approach. The Eleventh Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference, January 21-23, 2013, Vancouver, Canada.

International Conference Attended/Presented

- The 4th Canadian Cancer Research Conference Nov. 5-7, 2017, Vancouver, BC, Canada. (upcoming)
- The American Society of Human Genetics 66th Annual Meeting, October 18-22, 2017, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- The 27th International Conference on Genome Informatics, October 3-5, 2016, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
- Workshop on Network Biology (Algorithmic Challenges in Genomics). April 11-15, 2016, Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA.
- The PanCancer Analysis of Whole Genomes (PCAWG) Meeting. April 7-8, 2016, Barcelona, Spain.

- Eighth Annual Prostate Cancer Program Retreat (SPORE), March 15-17, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.
- 18th Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB). April 2-5, 2014, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
- The Eleventh Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference, January 21-23, 2013, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE SKILLS

- R, perl (Expert)
- C, C++, python, php, css, sql (proficient)

ACADEMIC PAPERS PEER REVIEWED

(number of reviews parenthesized)

Nature Communications	sub-reviewer	(3)
BMC Genomics	sub-reviewer	(1)
BMC Bioinformatics	sub-reviewer	(1)
Bioinformatics	sub-reviewer	(1)
Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB)	sub-reviewer	(2)
International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB)	sub-reviewer	(1)
The Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC)	sub-reviewer	(1)
Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics (WABI)	sub-reviewer	(1)
Nepal Journal of Biotechnology	reviewer	(7)