Teemu Daniel Laajala

FICAN Cancer Researcher

b. 1987

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Scientific focus

- Applied math & machine learning
- Prognostic & predictive modeling
- Preclinical & clinical oncology
- Multi-'omics & translatability
- Open science, data, and source code
- R-programming & CRAN-packages

Other skills

IT

- R, C#, Python, Java, C, Fortran
- LaTeX, SQL, XML, JSON, Git
- MS Office, Inkscape, GIMP, Adobe suite, HTML/CSS

Languages

- Professional: English & Finnish
- Conversational: Swedish

Linked profiles

– ResearchGate

– Google Scholar

– Stack Overflow

– GitHub

– LinkedIn

– Twitter

Research experience

2018 –	FICAN West (Läntinen Syöpäkeskus, UTU)	Post-doc
2018 –	University of Colorado – Costello Lab (UCDenver)	Post-doc
2013 – 2018	Department of Mathematics & Statistics (UTU) Multiple research topics mainly focused on oncology with a PhD thesis focus on advanced prostate cancer.	PhD student
2013 – 2018	Turku Centre for Biotechnology (UTU, ÅA) PSA-molecule research and models for predicting progression of prostate and kidney cancer.	PhD student
2013 – 2018	Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM, HY) Head bioinformatician in multiple collaborative projects.	Project researcher
2010 – 2012	Department of Mathematics & Statistics (UTU) ChIP-seq method development and analysis of cancer studies.	Project researcher
2008, 2009	Turku Centre for Biotechnology (UTU, ÅA) ChIP-seq sequence and diabetes microarray analyses.	Summer intern

Education

2013 – 2018	PhD ('with honours' special mention) Topic of thesis: *Modeling and Prediction of Advanced Prostate Cancer*	University of Turku
2006 – 2012	MSc (Tech) (Bioinformatics, 'exceptional' honors)	Aalto University

Selected publications (First or shared first author)

IF '21-'22	
6.937	Laajala TD*, Murtojärvi M*, et al. *ePCR: an R-package for survival and time-to-event prediction in advanced prostate cancer, applied to real-world patient cohorts.* Bioinformatics. 2018 Nov 15;34(22):3957-3959.
5.482	Huvila J*, Laajala TD*, et al. *Combined ASRGL1 and p53 immunohistochemistry as an independent predictor of survival in endometrioid endometrial carcinoma.* Gynecol Oncol. 2018 Apr;149(1):173-180.
41.316	Guinney J*, Wang T*, Laajala TD*, et al. *Prediction of overall survival for patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer: development of a prognostic model through a crowdsourced challenge with open clinical trial data.* Lancet Oncol. 2017 Jan;18(1):132-142.
4.379	Laajala TD, et al. *Optimized design and analysis of preclinical intervention studies in vivo.* Sci Rep. 2016 Aug 2;6:30723.
12.531	Laajala TD, et al. *Improved statistical modeling of tumor growth and treatment effect in preclinical animal studies with highly heterogeneous responses in vivo.* Clin Cancer Res. 2012 Aug 15;18(16):4385-96.

* = Equal contribution

Researcher

Awards & Funding

Participated in two DREAM challenges resulting in DREAM 9.5 mCRPC Challenge Top Performer (2015) & DREAM Anti-PD1 Response Prediction Challenge Top Performer (2021, ongoing). Rewarded Elias Tillandz -prize 2017 (best scientific publication in Turku BioCity) as first author; again in 2019 as non-first author.

FICAN Cancer Researcher (Finnish Cancer Institute, 2020-2022); NIH grant "Curated prostate cancer data for novel and reproducible prognostic modeling" (2020-2022); Finnish Cultural Foundation (central fund 2014, VS-regional 2018, 2019); DRDP doctoral programme (2014); NIH/NCI DREAM/mCRPC-sponsorship (2016).

Overview

Brief statistics 04/2022: Citation count 1168 & h-index 17 (Google Scholar); ResearchGate score 34.03 (best >10% quantile) & h-index 15; 30+ peer-reviewed articles in PubMed, of which 5+ in >10 IF journals; Stack Overflow best >25% quantile, >3% quantile in R.