



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, Matlab
- LaTeX, SQL, XML, JSON
- MS Office, Inkscape, GIMP, Adobe suite, HTML/CSS

Languages

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

Education

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

Selected publications (First or shared first author)

IF 2017/2018

- 5.481 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.
- 4.540 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.
- 36.421 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.
- 4.122 Laajala TD, et al. *Optimized design and analysis of preclinical intervention studies in vivo*. Sci Rep. 2016 Aug 2;6:30723.
- 10.199 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

Elias Tillandz -prize 2017 (best scientific publication in Turku BioCity, awarded 2018) as first author; again in 2019 as non-first author; Participation in two DREAM challenges with DREAM 9.5 mCRPC Challenge Top Performer (2015) & DREAM Anti-PD1 Response Prediction DREAM Challenge Top Performer (2021, on-going).

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 10/2021: Citations 1014 & h index 20 (Google Scholar); ResearchGate score 33.41 (best >10% quantile); 30+ peer-reviewed articles in PubMed, of which 5+ in >10 IF journals; Stack Overflow best >25% quantile, >3% quantile in R.