

VARUN S. VENKATESH

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RÉSUMÉ

183 The Parade
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I recently finished my PhD and am currently seeking research and development positions to develop skills that would be pertinent to a future career in industry-based R & D positions.

I can offer wide range of classic molecular biology skills and techniques such as nucleic acid and protein isolation, SDS-PAGE, western blotting, immunohistochemistry, microbiology, PCR, mammalian cell culture and confocal microscopy. However, I am also highly adept at learning new techniques and relish these opportunities.

In addition, I have undertaken several academic research projects resulting in a broad knowledge of biology as well as key skills in forming and testing hypotheses. As a lecturer and teaching assistant I have learnt strong communication skills to clearly and concisely communicate scientific information. I have also held several senior roles which has required me to develop strong management and leadership skills such as leading a team of teaching assistants to deliver a new lab developed by myself.

EDUCATION

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| Doctor of Philosophy (Biomedical Sciences) | Victoria University of Wellington, Thesis title: Investigating the role of the apelinergic system in glioblastoma | Requirements met 2018, to be conferred May 2019 |
| Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Hons) | Victoria University of Wellington, Graduated with First Class honours | May 2012 |

HONOURS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

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| School of Biological Sciences Strategic grant | 2018 |
| \$3000 for manuscript generation | |
| Research for Life Grant | 2017 |
| \$6000 to undertake research to investigate the role of the apelinergic system in glioblastoma growth. | |
| PGSA Landers Postgraduate Award | 2017 |
| The Landers Award is awarded to an individual who has provided outstanding work which has done much to improve the experience of the postgraduate student experience. | |
| Victoria University of Wellington Doctoral Scholarship | 2013 |
| A three-year grant to undertake a PhD project at Victoria University of Wellington. These scholarships are awarded on academic merit and are open to New Zealand and international students in any discipline. | |

RECENT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

July 2018 – September 2018

Research Assistant - Testing microbiological compounds, School of Chemical and Physical Sciences (VUW)

During this role I was to advise on the microbiological testing of novel anti-microbial treatments for fabrics in the lab of Professor David Ackerly for Professor Jim Johnston. This entailed developing appropriate assays as well as teaching others these assays.

January 2017 – June 2018

Teaching Fellow (Lecturer), School of Biological Sciences (VUW)

I was the lecturer for 114 animal biology for the previous two years focusing on the neurobiology section of this course. This involved preparing and delivering 6 lectures to classes of over 300 students. During this time, I also developed and implemented a new neuropharmacology teaching lab in conjunction with the senior tutor.

January 2017 – March 2017

Research Assistant – Lab of Dr Bart Ellenbroek, School of Psychology (VUW)

During this role, I was contracted to design and implement a plan to RNA sequence archival brain tissue for the purposes of determining the effects of chronic MDMA treatments on gene expression in the rat frontal cortex. This project has lead on to subsequent a sub project in which I supervised an Honours student and is still ongoing.

January 2013 – October 2018

Teaching Assistant– Several Classes, School of Biological Sciences (VUW)

I have been a teaching assistant in several courses where my primary role was the dissemination of a wide variety of information to students succinctly and effectively. However, my role also extended to that of head tutor for several labs, which resulted in a range of tasks such as developing new labs to leading labs, organizing and leading a team of TAs, fielding student queries and troubleshooting technical problems.

REFERENCES

Dr Darren Day – Primary PhD Supervisor darren.day@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 6087

Professor David Ackerly – Supervisor david.ackerley@vuw.ac.nz

during research assistant role

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