

ALEXANDER G. LUCACI

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EDUCATION

Temple University

2018-Present

Ph.D. Candidate in Bioinformatics

Department of Biology

Institute for Genomics and Evolutionary Medicine (iGEM)

Acme Computational Molecular Evolution Group (ACME)

Dissertation mentored by Dr. Sergei L Koskovsky Pond

New York University

2016 - 2018

Masters of Science in Biology

Department of Biology

SUNY Stony Brook University

2011

Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry

Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology

EXPERIENCE

Temple University

Spring 2022

Graduate Research Assistant

- Conducting research in molecular evolution evaluating the effect of multinucleotide mutational events on the inference of parameters of gene adaptation.
- This work involves the use and development of statistical models and computational software. Our current implementation is available as an extension in the Hypothesis testing in Phylogenies (HyPhy) suite of analyses.

Temple University

Fall 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Genomics in Medicine

- Directed over one hundred and fifty students in a cross-listed (Graduate and Undergraduate) course.
- Responsible for holding office hours and communicating with students.
- Provide guidance on assignments, help with interpreting primary research articles and offered guidance on classroom projects.

Temple University

Spring 2021

Graduate Research Assistant

- Conducting research in molecular evolution evaluating the effect of multinucleotide mutational events on the inference of parameters of gene adaptation.
- This work involves the use and development of statistical models and computational software. Our current implementation is available as an extension in the Hypothesis testing in Phylogenies (HyPhy) suite of analyses.

Temple University

Fall 2020

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Genomics in Medicine

- Directed over one hundred and sixty students in a cross-listed (Graduate and Undergraduate) course in a virtual format.
- Responsible for holding office hours and communicating with students.

- Provide guidance on assignments, help with interpreting primary research articles and offered guidance on classroom projects.

Bioinformatics Studio at Temple University

Spring 2018 - Present

Co-Founder

- The Bioinformatics Studio is an inclusive and hands-on environment for learning, training, sharing, and most importantly doing bioinformatics at Temple University.
- A student run organization that provides guided hands-on training at every level of research and computational expertise in an open studio format.

Temple University

Spring 2020

Graduate Research Assistant

- Conducting research in molecular evolution evaluating the effect of multinucleotide mutational events on the inference of parameters of gene adaptation. This work involves the use and development of statistical models and computational software. Our current implementation is available as an extension in the Hypothesis testing in Phylogenies (HyPhy) suite of analyses.

Temple University

Fall 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Genomics in Medicine

- Directed over one hundred students in a cross-listed (Graduate and Undergraduate) course.
- Responsible for holding office hours and communicating with students. Additionally, provided guidance on assignments, helped with interpreting primary research articles and offered guidance on classroom projects.

Temple University

Spring 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Introduction to Organismal Biology

- Directed forty students over two sections of the Introduction to Organismal Biology Laboratory course.
- Instructed students on laboratory exercises, provided feedback, and demonstrated proper techniques.

Temple University

Fall 2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant - General Biology

- Directed forty students over two sections of the "General Biology I" Laboratory course
- Instructed students on laboratory exercises, provided feedback, and demonstrated proper techniques.

ROTH Capital Partners

Spring 2018

Intern - Healthcare Investment Banking

- Participated in the process for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of a NASDAQ listed company.
- Responsible for current healthcare IPO market data, preparing pitch decks for senior managers and materials for mergers and acquisition (M&A) deals.

New York University

Spring 2018

Adjunct Professor - Fundamentals of Bioinformatics

- Directed twenty students in a weekly recitation section.
- Reviewed theory and topics discussed in lecture and provided guidance and hands-on support in the use of bioinformatics software and analysis.

New York University

Fall 2017

Adjunct Professor - Molecules of Life

- Directed forty students over two sections in a weekly laboratory course.

- Reviewed theory and topics discussed in lecture and provided guidance and hands-on support in the use of standard laboratory techniques.

New York University

Spring 2017

Adjunct Professor - Principles of Biology Laboratory

- Directed forty students over two sections in a weekly laboratory course.
- Reviewed theory and topics discussed in lecture and provided guidance and hands-on support in the use of standard laboratory techniques.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

2012 - 2017

Lab Manager - Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience

ORGANIZATIONS

Member: The National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)

Member: American Physiological Society (APS)

Member: Vertebrate Genomes Project (VGP)

Member: Vertebrate Genomes Project - Genome Assembly Group

Member: Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study (MIDAS)

Member: CDC-MIDAS COVID-19 working group

Co-Founder: The Bioinformatics Studio at Temple University

Member: Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution

Member: Biology Graduate Student Society at Temple University

Member: New York Academy of Sciences

RELEVANT COURSES

Core Courses

Genomics

Computational Genomics

Molecular Phylogenetics

Population Genetics

Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Other Courses

Infectious Disease Dynamics

Biomarkers and Biotargets

Evolutionary Analytics

Applied Statistics and Data Science

Data Structures

PUBLICATIONS

1. Tegally, Houriiyah, Monika Moir, Josie Everatt, Marta Giovanetti, Cathrine Scheepers, Eduan Wilkinson, Kathleen Subramoney, et al. Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Lineages BA.4 and BA.5 in South Africa. *Nature Medicine*, June 27, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-01911-2>.

2. **Lucaci, Alexander G.**, Michael J. Notaras, Sergei L. Kosakovsky Pond, and Dilek Colak. The Evolution of BDNF Is Defined by Strict Purifying Selection and Prodomain Spatial Coevolution, but What Does It Mean for Human Brain Disease? *Translational Psychiatry* 12, no. 1 (June 22, 2022): 117. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41398-022-02021-w>.

3. Benndorf, Rainer, Ryan Velazquez, Jordan D. Zehr, Sergei L. Kosakovsky Pond, Jody L. Martin, and **Alexander G. Lucaci**. Human HspB1, HspB3, HspB5 and HspB8: Shaping These Disease Factors during Vertebrate Evolution. *Cell Stress and Chaperones*, June 9, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12192-022-01268-y>.

4. Viana, Raquel, Sikhulile Moyo, Daniel G. Amoako, Houriiyah Tegally, Cathrine Scheepers, Christian L. Althaus, Ugochukwu J. Anyaneji, et al. Rapid Epidemic Expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant in Southern Africa. *Nature*, January 7, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04411-y>.
5. **Lucaci, Alexander G**, Jordan D Zehr, Stephen D Shank, Dave Bouvier, Han Mei, Anton Nekrutenko, Darren P Martin, and Sergei L Kosakovsky Pond. RASCL: Rapid Assessment Of SARS-CoV-2 Clades Through Molecular Sequence Analysis. *BioRxiv*, January 1, 2022, 2022.01.15.476448. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.01.15.476448>.
6. Martin, Darren P, Spyros Lytras, **Alexander G Lucaci**, Wolfgang Maier, Björn Grning, Stephen D Shank, Steven Weaver, et al. Selection Analysis Identifies Unusual Clustered Mutational Changes in Omicron Lineage BA.1 That Likely Impact Spike Function. *BioRxiv*, January 1, 2022, 2022.01.14.476382. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.01.14.476382>.
7. Martin, Darren P., Steven Weaver, Houriiyah Tegally, James Emmanuel San, Stephen D. Shank, Eduan Wilkinson, **Alexander G. Lucaci**, et al. The Emergence and Ongoing Convergent Evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 N501Y Lineages. *Cell* 184, no. 20 (September 30, 2021): 5189-5200.e7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.09.003>.
8. **Lucaci, Alexander G.**, Sadie R. Wisotsky, Stephen D. Shank, Steven Weaver, and Sergei L. Kosakovsky Pond. Extra Base Hits: Widespread Empirical Support for Instantaneous Multiple-Nucleotide Changes. *PLOS ONE* 16, no. 3 (March 12, 2021): e0248337. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0248337>.
9. Yao, Cong, Kimberly G. Vanderpool, Matthew Delfiner, Vanessa Eddy, **Alexander G. Lucaci**, Carolina Soto-Riveros, Thomas Yasumura, John E. Rash, and Alberto E. Pereda. Electrical Synaptic Transmission in Developing Zebrafish: Properties and Molecular Composition of Gap Junctions at a Central Auditory Synapse. *Journal of Neurophysiology* 112, no. 9 (November 1, 2014): 210213. <https://doi.org/10.1152/jn.00397.2014>.

WORKSHOPS

- 2022 Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) - Workshop on Molecular Evolution
- 2020 American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
Modeling for Disease Outbreaks
- 2020 Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) - Workshop on Molecular Evolution
- * Cancelled due to COVID-19 *
- 2019 Temple University (College of Science and Technology)
Summer workshop on Scientific Computing and Statistical Reasoning

AWARDS

2020 Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE).
Young Investigators Travel Award [1,500 USD]

REVIEWER FOR ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Genomics (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/genomics>)

PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Dynamics and Evolution of Human Viruses – Presentation "RASCL: RAPID ASSESSMENT OF SELECTION IN CLADES THROUGH MOLECULAR SEQUENCE ANALYSIS"

- 2021 EMBO Workshop: The Evolution of Animal Genomes
- 2021 6th Annual MidAtlantic Bioinformatics Conference – Emerging Approaches to Omics Questions Data Science for the 21st Century
- 2021 Dynamics and Evolution of Human Viruses – Presentation "RASCL: RAPID ASSESSMENT OF SARS-COV-2 CLADES THROUGH MOLECULAR SEQUENCE ANALYSIS"
- 2020 CSHL Biological Data Science
Abstract: "Evaluating the impact of multiple simultaneous mutations on evolutionary rate inference."
- 2020 9th Human Genetics in NYC Conference
Abstract Accepted: Conference Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2020 Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)
Abstract Accepted: Conference Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2020 Biology Graduate Student Organization Symposium - Binghamton University
Abstract: "Evaluating the impact of multiple simultaneous mutations on evolutionary rate inference."
- 2019 Temple University Biology Graduate Student Society Annual Retreat
Abstract: "Evaluating the impact of multiple simultaneous mutations on evolutionary rate inference."
- 2019 Mid-Atlantic Bioinformatics Conference (MABC)
Abstract: "Evaluating the impact of multiple simultaneous mutations on evolutionary rate inference."
- 2019 Evolution in Philadelphia Conference (EPiC)
Abstract: "Evaluating the impact of multiple simultaneous mutations on evolutionary rate inference."

CONFERENCES

- 2022 Dynamics and Evolution of Human Viruses
- 2021 9th Human Genetics in NYC Conference
- 2021 Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)
- 2020 Mid-Atlantic Bioinformatics Conference (MABC)
- 2020 COVID-19 Dynamics and Evolution - Virtual Conference Series
- 2020 ETH Zurich Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) eSymposium 10.13.2020
"What do SARS-CoV-2 genomes tell us about their evolution and spread?"
- 2020 Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT) 15th Annual International Symposium
- 2020 Biodiversity Genomics Conference
- 2020 24th International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB)
- 2020 The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC) - Online
- 2019 The State of Pre-College Education 12 years after "The Gathering Storm"
- 2019 Artificial Intelligence for Improvements of Biomarkers Imaging and TMA Multiplexing Analysis
- 2019 Epigenetics in Cancer Scientific Symposium at The Wistar Institute
- 2019 8th Human Genetics in NYC Conference
- 2019 BIO International Convention
- 2019 Mount Sinai: Fifth Annual New York Area Population Genomics Workshop
- 2018 7th Annual Human Genetics in NYC Conference
- 2018 BIO International Convention

- 2017 NYC EDC SBIR Impact: Bio and Health Tech NYC
- 2017 NYU Tandon: Future Labs AI Summit
- 2017 10th Annual NYU Developmental Genetics Symposium - Tissue Homeostasis and Regeneration