

Allison Burns

DOCTORAL ASSISTANT • WEBMASTER FOR THE PHD ASSOCIATION

Brain Mind Institute, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

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Summary

Doctoral student using both bioinformatic analysis and molecular techniques to learn more about the epigenetic mechanisms of memory formation. Webmaster for the Association of Doctoral Students in Life Sciences at EPFL and the Pint of Science Festival in Switzerland.

Education

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Lausanne, NA, Switzerland

PH.D IN NEUROSCIENCE

In Progress

- Project: Testing the theory of Epigenetic Priming in Fear Memory Conditioning

University of Oregon

Eugene, Oregon, USA

M.Sc IN BIOINFORMATICS

2013

- Project: Effects of the splicing inhibitor, Isoginkgetin, on human Telomerase RNA

University of Oregon

Eugene, Oregon, USA

B.Sc IN BIOLOGY, MINOR IN CHEMISTRY

2012

- Project: NA

Experience

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Lausanne, Switzerland

DOCTORAL ASSISTANT IN THE LAB OF JOHANNES GRÄFF

August 2016 - Present

- Project: Testing the theory of Epigenetic Priming in Fear Memory Conditioning
- Designed and performed experiments involving bioinformatic and bench techniques to study the effects HDAC inhibition on the epigenetic profiles and molecular mechanisms of memory formation in mice
- Advised other graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on the best methods for sample and library preparation and aided in analysis of sequencing and photometry data
- Maintained and organized lab servers and managed computational needs for the lab
- Oversaw projects requiring both bench techniques and computational analysis for bachelor students and interns.

Stowers Institute for Medical Research

Kansas City, Missouri, USA

BIOINFORMATICIAN/RESEARCH TECHNICIAN IN THE LAB OF PETER BAUMANN

January 2013 - July 2016

- Project: Effects of the splicing inhibitor, Isoginkgetin, on human Telomerase RNA
- Designed and performed experiments to study the mechanisms and effects of the splicing inhibitor, Isoginkgetin, on a global level, using computational tools, and at the Telomerase RNA Component (TERC) locus, using molecular biology techniques
- Performed tissue culture experiments, RNA sequencing preparation, western blotting and other basic laboratory techniques to help study the role of the exosome, TRAMP complex, NEXT complex and CBCA complex in human Telomerase RNA processing
- Analyzed RNA-sequencing data and genomic data, using the programming languages R and python, in collaboration with colleagues in the lab
- Taught new computational tools and analysis to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows

University of Oregon

Eugene, Oregon, USA

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER IN THE LAB OF WILLIAM E. BRADSHAW AND CHRISTINA M. HOLZAPFEL

July 2010 - November 2012

- Project: Evolutionary genetics of geographical variation, seasonal development and circadian timing in the North American mosquito species, *Wyeomyia smithii*
- Measured animal fitness in extreme light environments using timed light boxes and known seasonal day lengths
- Established inbred lines to reduce heterozygosity within mosquito populations in order to study how genetic differentiation has taken place in wild type animals.
- Performed alignments and analysis, using the program "Geneious" to study the evolutionary divergence of circadian clock genes in the mosquito, *Wyeomyia smithii*

Publications

1. Silva BA, Burns AM, Gräff J. (2019) A cFos activation map of remote fear memory attenuation. *Psychopharmacology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-018-5000-y>.
2. Tseng CK, Wang HF, Burns AM, Schroeder MR, Gaspari M, Baumann A. (2015) Human telomerase RNA

Teaching and Supervising

Exam Invigilator, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland	2016-2017
Short Project Supervisor for Bachelor Students, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland	2017
Laboratoire Intégré en Sciences de la Vie I, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland	2017-2018
Short Project Supervisor for Bachelor Students, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland	2018
Project Supervisor for Bachelor Thesis, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland	2018-2019
Laboratoire Intégré en Sciences de la Vie II, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland	2018-2019

Presentations

Oct. 18, 2019	MCCS 2019	Chicago, Illinois
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Extracurricular Experience

Association of Doctoral Students in Life Sciences, Webmaster & Coaching Organizer	2018 - Present
R-Ladies Lausanne, Member	2018 - Present
EDNE Neuroscience Student Association, Event Organizer	2019 - Present

Skills

Laboratory Techniques: Single Nuclei RNA-sequencing preparation, Bulk RNA-sequencing preparation, ChIP-sequencing preparation, Cell culture, Western blotting, PCR, Cloning, Animal maintenance (mosquitoes and mice) and experimentation.

Computational Techniques: Bash(intermediate); R(advanced); Python(beginner); HTML(beginner); Web design; Version Control(Git); Data wrangling; Data visualization; Statistical analysis

Bioinformatic Analysis: Sequencing alignments(STAR and Tophat); Sequencing quality control; Bulk RNA-seq analysis; Single-cell sequencing analysis; Cell trajectory analysis; ChIP-seq analysis; Photometry and electrophysiology analysis.

Communication: Presented research talks at 4 internal symposia and 3 posters at international conferences; Taught second year bachelor students basic molecular techniques in an integrated lab course; Mentored three bachelor students for projects involving computational and laboratory skills.

Leadership: Board member of the Association of Doctoral Students in Life Sciences (ADSV) at EPFL; Established a student-run mentoring system to help ease the transition of new students into their PhD and life in Lausanne.

References

Johannes Gräff, Ph.D. BRAIN MIND INSTITUTE, ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND	johannes.graeff@epfl.ch
Peter Baumann, Ph.D. INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ, MAINZ, GERMANY	peter@baumannlab.org
William E. Bradshaw, Ph.D., and Christina M. Holzapfel, Ph.D. INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE, OREGON	mosquito@uoregon.edu