RESUME

CONTACT Information

Ashok Kumar Sharma

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EDUCATION

PhD in Computational Biology

Jan 2013 - Feb 2018

IISER Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

• Thesis: Development of Computational Models and Algorithms for Designing of Novel Microbiome-based Therapeutics.

Masters in Pharmacoinformatics

July 2010 - June 2012

NIPER Mohali, Punjab , India

• Thesis: Modelling and Designing of Glycogen Synthase Kinase 3 Inhibitors.

Bachelor of Pharmacy

Aug 2006 - June 2010

Dr. H. S. Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bioinformatics Scientist

Sep 2024 - Present

Digestive and Liver Diseases

Inflammatory Bowel and Immunobiology Research Institute

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

As a Bioinformatician at Cedars-Sinai, I provide computational and analytical expertise to advance translational research and clinical insights through innovative data-driven solutions.

- Lead computational analysis of high-dimensional multi-omics datasets (genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics) to uncover disease mechanisms and study host-microbiome interactions, with a focus on gastrointestinal health and inflammation.
- Design and optimize scalable, reproducible pipelines for multi-modal data integration, enabling biomarker discovery and supporting collaborative, multidisciplinary research initiatives.
- Provide statistical and computational guidance for study design, including power analysis, and contribute to grant writing and manuscript preparation to drive research innovation.

Scientist II, Bioinformatics

Feb 2023 - Aug 2024

Drug Safety Research Evaluation (DSRE)

Takeda

As a lead computational biologist, I spearheaded safety risk assessment and predictive modeling efforts, leveraging large-scale transcriptomic data (bulk, single-cell, and spatial) to enhance drug discovery pipelines.

- **Developed AI/ML-based models** for predictive analytics and biomarker discovery, enabling data-driven decision-making for project teams.
- Engineered off-target identification strategies, including a splicing analysis pipeline for oligonucleotide therapeutics, improving the identification of safer drug candidates.
- Enhanced transcriptomic analysis workflows and updated the CellMap visualization dashboard to streamline gene expression analysis across cell lines, optimizing resource utilization.
- Represented Takeda in an industry consortium focused on Hepatocarcinoma gene signature development and downstream network analysis.

Feb 2021 - Jan 2023

Casero Lab, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Advisor: <u>Dr. David Casero</u>, Director, Translational Multiomics, Inflammatory Bowel Immunobiology Research Institute

I conducted integrative multi-omics analyses to identify pathogenic factors in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), contributing to the following projects:

- Multi-omics data integration to investigate microbial regulation of immune responses in Crohn's disease-associated creeping fat.
- Quantified bacterial growth rates from metagenomic datasets to identify microbial activities linked to Crohn's disease progression.
- Investigated host epithelial gene expression changes in Ulcerative Colitis (UC) patients post-IPAA surgery using single-cell RNA-seq data.

Postdoctoral Associate

March 2018 - Feb 2021

Microbiomics Lab, University of Minnesota

Mentor: Dr. Andres Gomez

As the first computational team member in the department, I established and managed computational pipelines on a high-performance computing facility, advancing multi-omics research projects:

- Analyzed amplicon, metagenomic, and transcriptomic datasets to study the impact of diet and lifestyle on gut microbial composition and function in human and nonhuman primate populations.
- Identified host gene expression patterns in response to gut microbiome alterations using meta-transcriptomic data.
- Developed computational models for meta-analysis of microbiome datasets to explore microbiome-host interactions.

SELECTED SKILLS

- **Programming and Scripting:** Proficient in Python and R for data analysis, algorithm development, and tool creation. Experienced in Unix/Linux environments and SQL for efficient data management and querying.
- Multi-Omics Data Analysis: 6+ years of experience in multi-omics data integration (genomics, metagenomics, metatranscriptomics, metabolomics). 2+ years of experience in single-cell RNA-seq and Imaging Mass Cytometry (IMC) data analysis.
- Statistical Analysis and Machine Learning: Expertise in multivariate statistics, linear/mixed-effects modeling, predictive analytics, and biomarker identification. Proficient in classification, regression, clustering, and survival analysis for biological datasets.
- Genomic Data Resources: Extensive experience with UCSC Genome Browser, Ensembl, ENCODE, NCBI SRA, GEO, GTEx, 1000 Genomes, dbSNP, UniProt, KEGG, MetaCyc, SILVA, Greengenes, and HMDB.
- Collaboration and Project Management: Experienced in collaborative development using version control systems (e.g., Git). Skilled in managing projects, timelines, and cross-functional teams.
- **Bioinformatics support:** Proficient in installation, maintenance, and development of bioinformatics tools and pipelines. Experienced in workflow management using Nextflow and Snakemake.
- Cloud Computing and Data Visualization: Experienced with AWS and creating interactive dashboards using RShiny and Tableau.

Peer reviewed publications: 25+; Citations: 1000+, h-index=18, i10-index=24. For more details, **please visit Click**

PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS