

# Christopher J. Fiscus, PhD

**Bioinformatics Scientist**  
Irvine, California

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## Summary

Research scientist with extensive experience in bioinformatics and computational biology, specializing in analysis of next-generation sequencing data using high-performance computing systems. Proven track record of driving scientific research projects as part of a cross-functional team. Expert communicator with ability to translate technical information for diverse stakeholders.

## Professional Experience

### Postdoctoral Researcher

University of California, Irvine

09/2022 - Present  
Irvine, CA

- Leading computational biology-based research projects studying wild grape genomics
- Team lead for Pan-Structural Variation Hackathon in the Cloud (hosted by Baylor College of Medicine)
- Organized Southern California Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics Meeting (~100 attendees)

### Graduate Student Researcher

University of California, Riverside

09/2016 - 09/2022  
Riverside, CA

- Led 3 scientific research projects resulting in 3 publications and 8 conference presentations (2 talks, 6 posters)
- Demonstrated leadership and project management skills by individually mentoring 5 direct reports
- Taught discussion sections for 4 college-level courses in genomics and bioinformatics (3X) and genetics (1X)

### Quality Control Laboratory Technician

Charles Krug Winery

12/2015 - 08/2016  
St. Helena, CA

- Performed enology laboratory tests throughout production to ensure legal compliance and quality standards
- Developed 5 SOPs for quality control laboratory assays
- Identified, troubleshooted, and addressed product quality issues in collaboration with production team

### Harvest Laboratory Technician

Charles Krug Winery (via Apex Life Sciences)

08/2015 - 12/2015  
St. Helena, CA

- Conducted enology laboratory analyses and sensory evaluations supporting all stages of the winemaking process
- Maintained strict adherence to SOPs and contributed to quality assurance initiatives
- Managed sample collection, bench trials, and blending experiments to optimize product characteristics

## Skills

- **General** - data analysis & visualization, problem-solving, statistics, statistical programming
- **Programming** - R, bash, python
- **Bioinformatics** - NGS data analysis, SNP calling, GWAS, bwa, GATK, samtools/bcftools, bedtools, plink
- **Computing** - Unix command line, SLURM (HPC), conda, git (version control), snakemake (workflow)

## Education

### Ph.D. Genetics, Genomics and Bioinformatics

2022

University of California, Riverside

### B.S. Biotechnology

2015

University of California, Davis

## Certifications

### AWS Cloud Technical Essentials

11/2023

Coursera

## Publications 0000-0001-9569-1809

**Fiscus CJ**, Herniter IA, Tchamba M, Paliwal R, Muñoz-Amatriaín M, Roberts PA, Abberton M, Alaba O, Close TJ, Oyatomi O, Koenig D. The pattern of genetic variability in a core collection of 2,021 cowpea accessions. G3. 2024. doi:10.1093/g3journal/jkae071

Landis JB, Guercio AM, Brown KE, **Fiscus CJ**, Morrell PL, Koenig D. Natural selection drives emergent genetic homogeneity in a century-scale experiment with barley. bioRxiv. 2023. p. 2023.09.22.557807. doi:10.1101/2023.09.22.557807

Martinez SE, Conn CE, Guercio AM, Sepulveda C, **Fiscus CJ**, Koenig D, Shabek N, Nelson DC. A KARRIKIN INSENSITIVE2 paralog in lettuce mediates highly sensitive germination responses to karrikinolide. Plant Physiol. 2022. doi:10.1093/plphys/kiac328