Cyrus Tau

PhD Student in Biological and Biomedical Sciences | Harvard University
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EDUCATION

Harvard University Aug 2024 - present
PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Cambridge, MA | GPA: 3.83

- Thesis Advisor: Gordon Fishell, Ph.D
- Rotations: Zhixun Dou, Ph.D; Sandeep Robert Datta, MD, Ph.D; Gordon Fishell, Ph.D
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2024-2026)
- Teaching Fellow, Genetics 201

University of California, Berkeley Aug 2020 - May 2024
B.S. Bioengineering, Minor in Data Science
Berkeley, CA | GPA: 3.78

- Regents' and Chancellor's Scholar (highest scholarship awarded by the University)
- Dean's List, Fall 2022
- Department Chair's Award, UC Berkeley Bioengineering

AWARDS & HONORS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	2024-2026
Regents' and Chancellor's Scholar, UC Berkeley	2020-2024
Chair's Award, UC Berkeley Bioengineering	2024
Dean's List, College of Engineering, UC Berkeley	Fall 2022
Oral Presentation Award, ABRCMS	Nov 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Fishell Lab - Harvard Med / Broad Institute Mar 2025 - present
Graduate Student
Cambridge, MA

- Co-leading projects investigating autonomous and non-autonomous cues for inhibitory interneuron cell type determination

Datta Lab - Harvard Medical School Jan 2025 - Mar 2025
Rotation Student
Boston, MA

- Contributed to a project uncovering the spatial code underlying olfactory receptor organization in the nose and brain

Dou Lab - Massachusetts General Hospital Oct 2024 - Dec 2024
Rotation Student
Boston, MA

- Contributed to a project investigating histone dynamics in senescent cells

Hsu Lab - UC Berkeley Nov 2020 - Aug 2024
Undergraduate Researcher
Berkeley, CA

- Co-led a project using CRISPR RNA targeting proteins to enable RNA writing; co-inventor on associated patent

- Won award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists
- Performed experiments for a genome-wide CRISPR knockdown and activation screen to identify factors affecting SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Designed and tested novel amplification technologies for CRISPR-based diagnostics

Snyder Lab - Stanford University Oct 2019 - Jan 2021

Research Assistant

Palo Alto, CA

- Assisted with executing and analyzing clinical trials studying the biology of depression and evaluating new treatment methods
- Prepared statistical analyses of trial results for publications and internal use

BioCurious Jan 2018 - Aug 2020

Independent Researcher

Santa Clara, CA

- Designed and led a project to reduce immunogenicity of artificial red blood cells containing hemoglobin

PUBLICATIONS

Brann, D. et al. A spatial code governs olfactory receptor choice and aligns sensory maps in the nose and brain.
Cell (2026). [Co-author]

Chandrasekaran, S.*, Tau, C.* et al. Rewriting endogenous human transcripts with dual CRISPR-guided 3' trans-splicing.
Cell Systems (2025). doi:10.1016/j.cels.2025.101487 [Co-first author]

Biering, S.B. et al. Genome-wide bidirectional CRISPR screens identify mucins as host factors modulating SARS-CoV-2 infection.
Nature Genetics 54, 1078-1089 (2022). doi:10.1038/s41588-022-01131-x [Co-author]

Ganz, A.B. et al. Effects of an immersive psychosocial training program on depression and well-being: A randomized clinical trial.
J Psychiatric Research 150, 292-299 (2022). doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2022.04.004 [Co-author]

PATENTS

CRISPR RNA writing via trans-splicing. Co-inventor with P. Hsu, S. Chandrasekaran et al.
US20250283112A1 | patents.google.com/patent/US20250283112A1/en

TEACHING

Harvard University - Genetics 201 2024 - present

Teaching Fellow

Cambridge, MA

- Teaching Fellow for graduate-level genetics course at Harvard University

BMES - UC Berkeley Chapter 2020 - 2022

Academic Co-chair

Berkeley, CA

- Organized a series of computational biology classes with over 30 students

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ABRCMS Conference November 2023

Phoenix, AZ

- Tau, C., Chandrasekaran, S., et al. "Programmable RNA Writing Using CRISPR Catalyzed Trans-Splicing"

- Won Oral Presentation Award

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Inside IGI Health Conference September 2023
Berkeley, CA

- Tau, C., Chandrasekaran, S., et al. "Programmable RNA Writing with CRISPR Cas13 Trans-Splicing"

UC-wide Bioengineering Conference June 2023
Berkeley, CA

- Tau, C., Chandrasekaran, S., et al. "Programmable RNA Writing with CRISPR Cas13 Trans-Splicing"

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

LANGUAGES
Python, R, Bash/Unix, Swift, Objective-C, JavaScript

BIOINFORMATICS
RNA-seq Analysis, CRISPR Design, STAR Alignment, Genomics

MACHINE LEARNING
Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Protein LLMs, GANs

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Bioengineering HS Competition 2023 - 2024
Mentor
Berkeley, CA

- Mentored teams of high schoolers to develop proposals using ML for Parkinson's and allogeneic CAR T-cells
- Provided technical feedback and advice on pursuing higher education and research in STEM

Splash at Berkeley November 2022
Class Co-teacher
Berkeley, CA

- Co-taught and co-developed curriculum for a class on genomic engineering, focusing on CRISPR-Cas9

BMES - UC Berkeley Chapter Sep 2020 - May 2022
Academic Co-chair, Outreach Committee Member
Berkeley, CA

- Presented workshops on research in Bioengineering to disadvantaged middle and high school students
- Organized a series of computational biology classes with over 30 students
- Co-led a committee of 20 people; organized coffee chats, course registration workshops, and bi-weekly events

BioCurious Jan 2018 - Mar 2020
Volunteer Instructor
Santa Clara, CA

- Created curriculum and taught classes on PCR, protein purification, DNA transformation, gel electrophoresis, and ML

CONSULTING

MIT Alumni Angels of Northern California Jan 2019 - Jan 2024
Biotech Technical/Business Consultant
Palo Alto, CA

- Planned and executed tutorial sessions explaining core technologies of presenting biotech startups to potential

investors

- Consulted for companies that have raised over $1M, including BioAmp Diagnostics, Cura Therapeutics, Melio Labs, and CRISP-HR Therapeutics