

Cyrus Tau

PhD Student in Biological and Biomedical Sciences | Harvard University
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EDUCATION

Harvard University

PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Cambridge, MA | GPA: 3.83

Aug 2024 - present

- 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

Relevant Coursework:

Principles of Molecular Biology (BCMP 200), Principles of Genetics (GENETIC 201), Neuroimmune Interactions in Health and Disease (IMMUN 305QC), Audition: Neural Mechanisms, Perception and Cognition (SHBT 205), Genetics, Biochemistry and Physiology of Forebrain Inhibition (NEUROBIO 363L), Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration (CELLBIO 207), Emergent Computations Within Distributed Neural Circuits (MIT 9.530)

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

Relevant Coursework:

Molecular Biology (MCELLBI 110), Molecular Immunology (MCELLBI 150), Cell & Systems Biology (MCELLBI 130), Cellular & Molecular Neuroscience (MCELLBI 160), Circuits, Systems & Behavioral Neuroscience (MCELLBI 161), Introduction to Machine Learning (BIOENG 145), Biochemistry of Synthetic Biology (BIOENG 148), Practical Light Microscopy (BIOENG 168L), Biological Transport Phenomena (BIOENG 104), Instrumentation for Biology and Medicine (BIOENG 101), Neural Networks (COMPSCI 182), Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (COMPSCI 61A), Principles & Techniques of Data Science (DATA C100), Probability for Data Science (DATA C140), Biophysical Chemistry (CHEM C130), Honors Undergraduate Research (BIOENG H194)

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