

# Evan M. Cofer

## Computational Biology & Computer Science

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### Education

September 2017 – Present **Ph.D. in Quantitative and Computational Biology**, *Princeton University*, Princeton, NJ.

2012 – 2017 **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science**, *Trinity University*, San Antonio, TX.  
*Computer Science GPA: 3.93/4.0*  
Trinity University Mach Research Fellow  
Trinity University Trustee's Scholarship

### Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

March 2017 **Graduate Research Fellowship Program: Honorable Mention**, *National Science Foundation (NSF)*.

"The program supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) or in STEM education. The NSF accords Honorable Mention to meritorious applicants who do not receive Fellowship awards. This is considered a significant national academic achievement."

February 2017 **Trinity CS Department Outstanding Senior Research Award**, *Trinity University*.  
"Not awarded every year, this honor is given to recognize that senior who has a particularly distinguished record of Computer Science research."

April 2016 **Mach Research Fellowship**, *Trinity University*.

Yearly, each academic department recommends a rising senior for the Mach, which recognizes outstanding undergraduate research achievement. From these nominees, the Faculty Research Committee selects five recipients. I was nominated by the computer science department, and subsequently chosen as a recipient.

April 2016 & December 2015 **No-Boundary Thinking Contest: First Place**, *Trinity University*.

"Entrants should propose a computational solution to an interdisciplinary problem. In addition to an essay, submissions should include a presentation at the department colloquium." I competed twice, winning both times. My first submission considered the use of authorship/topic networks for improving gene name disambiguation. For the second entry, I described a means of constructing lightweight ontologies to aid in the exploration of large datasets of leaked documents.

December 2015 – May 2017 **Dean's List**, *Trinity University*.

Achieved a grade point average of 3.65 or higher while taking 15 or more hours.

August 2012 – May 2017 **Trustee's Scholarship**, *Trinity University*.  
Scholarship for academic merit.

## Research Experience

- December 2017 – Present **Donia Lab, Princeton University.**  
Ongoing research of metagenomics and the human microbiome.  
<https://scholar.princeton.edu/donialab>
- September 2017 – December 2017 **Troyanskaya Lab, Princeton University.**  
Researched deep learning methods for analyzing single-cell RNA sequencing data.  
<http://function.princeton.edu/>
- May 2017 – September 2017 **Kostic Lab, Joslin Diabetes Center and Harvard Medical School.**  
Conducted research in metagenomics and type 1 diabetes. Developed scalable and cost-efficient tools for bioinformatics in the cloud. Assisted with interviews for computational research staff.  
<http://www.kosticlab.org/>
- January 2016 – June 2017 **Hibbs Computational Biology Laboratory, Trinity University.**  
Quantified the rate at which somatic mutations accumulate in healthy, aging mammals. Developed a deep learning model to distinguish somatic mutations from noise in high volume DNA sequencing data (>13 trillion paired-end reads).  
<http://www.cs.trinity.edu/mhibbs/HibbsHome/Research.html>
- April 2015 – July 2015 **Jiang Computational Game Theory Laboratory, Trinity University.**  
Modelled the popular vote of battleground states in the 2012 United States presidential election. Predicted outcomes both nationally and state-by-state. Used bootstrapping and non-parametric Monte Carlo methods to counter poll sparsity.  
<http://www.cs.trinity.edu/xjiang/>
- May 2013 – July 2013 **Glawe Engineering Laboratory, Trinity University.**  
Analyzed the use and accuracy of nutating disc mechanical flow meters for recycling water condensation from air conditioning systems. In addition to research, managed all equipment and developed graphical user interfaces for lab instruments.  
<https://new.trinity.edu/faculty/diana-glawe>

## Relevant Work Experience

- January 2017 – May 2017 **Teaching Assistant, Trinity University.**  
Worked as a grader, tutor, and teaching assistant for CSCI-1323 Discrete Structures.

## Software

- 2016 **Reddigest, <https://github.com/evancofer/reddigest-scalafied>.**  
Collaborated with two other developers to create Reddigest, a web application based around Reddit. Reddigest filters out links on Reddit that a user has already viewed. Initially built with PHP/javascript/Apache HTTP, but rewritten in Scala/Scala.js/Play to improve maintainability, scalability, and overall quality.
- 2015 **Polling Data Retrieval Program.**  
A Java program to fetch and parse XML polling data from the Huffington Post. Retrieved data is processed with MATLAB. Source code available upon request.
- Many **Miscellaneous Code and Projects, <https://github.com/evancofer>.**  
Source code available upon request.

## Relevant Coursework

### Completed at Princeton University.

Method and Logic in Quantitative Biology, Introduction to Genomics and Computational Molecular Biology

### Completed at Trinity University.

CS Thesis I & II, Artificial Intelligence, Compilers, Software Engineering, Principles of Functional Languages, Theoretical Computer Science, Database Systems, UNIX Power Tools, Web Application Development, Advanced Algorithms, Principles of Computer Design, CS Thesis Reading, Data Abstraction, Computational Game Theory and Multi-agent Systems, Discrete Data Structures, Principles of Computer Science I & II, Probability & Statistics for Scientists & Engineers, Differential Equations & Linear Algebra, Calculus I, II, & III, Directed Studies in Computer Science, Competitive Programming, Electronic Circuits & Lab, Physics I & II, Thermodynamics I, Mass and Energy Balance

## Proficiencies

### Languages and Technologies.

C++, Python, Scala (Akka, Play, Scala.js), TensorFlow, bash, git, Linux, C, Keras/Elephas, SQL, JavaScript, Haskell, HPC (Torque, Slurm), MongoDB, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, CSS/HTML, MIPS Assembly

## Academic and Professional Affiliations

February 2017 **Member, Upsilon Pi Epsilon.**

– Present International honor society for computer scientists.  
<http://upe.acm.org/>

May 2016 – **Member, International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB).**

Present Scholarly society for researchers in computational biology and bioinformatics.  
<https://www.iscb.org>

August 2015 – **Member, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).**

Present Professional society for computer scientists.  
<https://www.acm.org>

## Publications

JM Luber, BT Tierney, **Cofer, EM**, CJ Patel, and AD Kostic. Aether: Leveraging linear programming for optimal cloud computing in genomics. *Bioinformatics*, December 2017. doi:[10.1093/bioinformatics/btx787](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btx787).

(Random ordering where not marked by <sup>†</sup>) Ching T, Himmelstein DS, Beaulieu-Jones BK, Kalinin AA, Do BT, Way GP, Ferrero E, Agapow P, Xie W, Rosen GL, Lengerich BJ, Israeli J, Lanchantin J, Woloszynek S, Carpenter AE, Shrikumar A, Xu J, **Cofer EM**, Harris DJ, DeCaprio D, Qi Y, Kundaje A, Peng Y, Wiley LK, Segler MHS, Gitter A<sup>†</sup>, and Greene CS<sup>†</sup>. Opportunities and obstacles for deep learning in biology and medicine [in press]. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*.

## Preprints

JM Luber, BT Tierney, **Cofer, EM**, CJ Patel, and AD Kostic. Aether: Leveraging linear programming for optimal cloud computing in genomics. *bioRxiv*, July 2017. doi:[10.1101/162883](https://doi.org/10.1101/162883).

(Random ordering where not marked by <sup>†</sup>) Ching T, Himmelstein DS, Beaulieu-Jones BK, Kalinin AA, Do BT, Way GP, Ferrero E, Agapow P, Xie W, Rosen GL, Lengerich

BJ, Israeli J, Lanchantin J, Woloszynek S, Carpenter AE, Shrikumar A, Xu J, **Cofer EM**, Harris DJ, DeCaprio D, Qi Y, Kundaje A, Peng Y, Wiley LK, Segler MHS, Gitter A<sup>†</sup>, and Greene CS<sup>†</sup>. Opportunities and obstacles for deep learning in biology and medicine. *bioRxiv*, May 2017. doi:[10.1101/142760](https://doi.org/10.1101/142760).

## Conference Presentations, Posters, and Talks

**Cofer EM**. Determining the age-associated somatic mutation rate in diverse mouse tissues [talk]. *The Computational Systems for Integrative Genomics (CSIG) Conference*, June 2017. Princeton University. Princeton, NJ.

**Cofer EM**. The rate of somatic mutations in aging mice [undergraduate thesis]. *Trinity University Computer Science Undergraduate Honors Thesis*, April 2017. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM**. Accurately measuring the mammalian somatic mutation rate using deep learning [talk]. *Computer Science Colloquium*, March 2017. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM** and Hibbs MA. Accurately measuring the mammalian somatic mutation rate using deep learning [platform talk & poster]. *Conference for Science at the Forefront of Basic and Translational Research*, October 2016. University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM**. Using deep learning to classify mutations [talk]. *Computer Science Colloquium*, September 2016. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM**, Kennedy RM, and Hibbs MA. Accurately measuring the mammalian somatic mutation rate [poster]. *International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology*, July 2016. Orlando, FL.

**Cofer EM** and Hibbs MA. Using deep learning to classify mutations [talk]. *Trinity University Summer Undergraduate Research Conference*, July 2016. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM\*** and Witecki I\*. Ontology construction: a means of improving data-driven journalism [talk]. *Computer Science Colloquium*, April 2016. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX. (\*Equal contribution)

**Cofer EM**. Gene name disambiguation: a novel approach [talk]. *Computer Science Colloquium*, December 2015. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM**, Kwessi EA, Nguyen HV, Nishikawa KA, and Jiang AX. Modeling the 2012 presidential election's battleground states [talk]. *Trinity University Summer Undergraduate Research Conference*, July 2015. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX.

**Cofer EM\***, Ybarra T\*, and Glawe DD. Positive displacement meter performance [talk]. *Trinity University Summer Undergraduate Research Conference*, July 2013. Trinity University. San Antonio, TX. (\*Equal contribution)