

FINLAY MAGUIRE

ACADEMIC ADDRESS

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (To be completed)
Natural History Museum
University College London

October 2011 - Present

Joint institution PhD in Molecular Evolution/Bioinformatics on the reconstruction of cellular interactions in a nascent endosymbiotic system. This research is co-supervised by Professor Max Telford (EMBO YIP 2000) at University College London and Dr Thomas Richards (EMBO YIP 2012) at the Natural History Museum. Project is currently being completed as a sitting scientist at the University of Exeter where Dr Richard's lab is now located.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Natural Science - Biological Sciences
Oxford University

October 2008 - June 2011

Honours schools: Cellular & Developmental Biology and the Biology of Plant & Animal Disease
During this degree I conducted the following independent research:

- The evolution of the folate biosynthesis gene fusions in the eukaryotes (supervised by Dr Thomas Richards) (now published - see publications section below for full citation).
- Explaining the functional diversity of leucine rich repeats (supervised by Dr Adrian Smith).
- A proposal to investigate the exchange of proteins between *Ignioccocus hospitalis* and *Nanoarchaeum equitans* (supervised by Professor Ian Moore).

SHORT TERM PROJECTS

National Data Science Bowl

December 2014 - March 2015

Participated in a Kaggle machine learning competition on the image classification of plankton images into 121 classes. Formed part of 6-person team with PhD students from University of Edinburgh. Placed in top ~ 5% of teams (57/1049) by model averaging several GPU-accelerated deep convolutional neural network models trained using online image augmentation and supplemented with conventional visual feature extraction and hierarchical label classification data.

American Epilepsy Society Seizure Prediction Challenge

August - October 2014

Participated in a Kaggle machine learning competition trying to differentiate pre-seizure iEEGs from normal brain activity as part of 3-person team with PhD students from University of Edinburgh. Placed in the top 5% of teams (16/527) using an ensemble of random forest models trained on a range of signal analysis features e.g. multivariate autoregression models and frequency power bands.

NASA Planetary Biology Program

July - October 2013

Funded short term research fellowship (10 weeks) with Dr David J. Smith at the Space Life Science Laboratories of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Centre working on the MIST project. This project involved investigating transcriptomic adaptations of *Bacillus* species to stratospheric conditions as well as sampling microbes in the stratosphere.

BBC Cloud Lab Documentary

October 2013

Acted as NASA representative and scientific adviser for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) 'Cloud Lab' documentary on atmospheric sciences. In this role I created microbial sampling and exposure protocols as well as assembling the necessary materials and airship fixtures to conduct these experiments. I additionally briefed Dr Jim McQuaid (University of Leeds) and producers on the relevant microbiological background.

Society for General Microbiology Harry Smith Vacation Studentship June - August 2010

Funded summer research project (9 weeks) with Dr Thomas Richards at the University of Exeter on the evolution of folate biosynthesis gene fusions in the eukaryotes.

BioMAP Egypt

July - August 2008

Research assistant (5 weeks) on the BioMAP GIS project monitoring biodiversity in the Sinai desert in association with the University of Nottingham and the Suez Canal University.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

School of Informatics Jamboree Prize

2nd Place in Poster Competition (£20)

26th March 2015
University of Edinburgh

NASA Planetary Biology Program

Competitive award which funded a short term (10 week) research fellowship with Dr David J. Smith at NASA Kennedy Space Centre on bacterial adaptations to extreme conditions (£3500).

July - October 2013
John F. Kennedy Space Centre

Earth and Space Foundation Exploration Award

Awarded for work conducted at NASA Kennedy Space Centre with Dr David J. Smith in the use of terrestrial environments to advance the exploration of space (£300).

2013
John F. Kennedy Space Centre

FEMS Young Scientist Meeting Grant

Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) grant to attend and present at the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) conference: Comparative Genomics of Eukaryotic Microorganisms 2013 (£350).

19th-24th October 2013
Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

FEMS Young Scientist Meeting Grant

Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) grant to attend and present at the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) conference: Comparative Genomics of Eukaryotic Microorganisms 2011 (£350).

15th-20th October 2011
Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

Society for General Microbiology Undergraduate Student Grant

Grant for travel and accommodation to attend and present at the Society for General Microbiology (SGM) Summer 2011 conference at the University of York (£170).

5th-7th September 2011
University of York

Dukinfield Exhibition in Biological Sciences

Awarded and maintained throughout my undergraduate degree for academic excellence (£300).

October 2009-July 2011
Somerville College, Oxford

Society for General Microbiology Harry Smith Vacation Studentship

Award funding a summer research project with Dr Thomas Richards at the University of Exeter on the evolution of folate biosynthesis gene fusions in the eukaryotes (£1890).

June 2010-August 2010
University of Exeter

PUBLICATIONS

“Complex patterns of gene fission in the eukaryotic folate biosynthesis pathway.”

Maguire, F., Henriquez, F.L., Leonard, G., Dacks, J.B., Brown, M.W., Richards, T.A.
Genome Biology and Evolution 6, 2709-2720, 2014

“Organelle Evolution: A Mosaic of ‘Mitochondrial’ Functions”

Maguire, F., Richards, T.A.
Current Biology 24(11), R518-R520, 2014

“Diverse molecular signatures for ‘active’ Perkinsea in marine sediments”

Chambouvet, A., Berney, C., Romac, S., Audic, S., Maguire, F., de Vargas, C., Richards, T.A.
BMC microbiology 14(1), 110, 2014

“A Balloon-Based Payload for Exposing Microorganisms in the Stratosphere (E-MIST)”

Smith, D.J., Thakrar, P.J., Bharrat, A.E., Dokos, A.G., Kinney, T.L., James, L.M., Khodadad, C.L., Maguire, F., Maloney, P.R., Dawkins, N.L.
Gravitational and Space Research 2 (2), 2014

“Cryptic infection of a broad taxonomic and geographic diversity of tadpoles by Perkinsea protists”

Chambouvet, A., Gower, D.J., Jirku, M., Yabsley, M.J., Leonard, G., Maguire, F., Bittencourt, G., Wilkinson, M., Richards, T.A.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, 10 August 2015

“Molecular Diversity and Distribution of Marine Fungi Across 130 European Environmental Samples”

Richards, T.A., Leonard, G., Mahe, F., del Campo, J., Jones, M.D.M., Maguire, F., Dunthorn, M., Vargas, C., Massana, R., Chambouvet, A.
Manuscript in review Proceedings of the Royal Society B

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Machine Learning for Life Sciences Workshop

Invited Talk: “Stumbling Over the Decision Boundary”
Invited Talk: “Casting a Deep Net: Classifying Plankton from Images”

1st-2nd June 2015
University of Exeter, Cornwall
Tremough, United Kingdom

School of Informatics Jamboree 2015

Poster presentation: “Classifying Plankton Species with Deep Learning and Computer Vision”
Graham, M., Gray, G., Lowe, S., Maguire, F., Selega, A., Stanciu, D.
(*Presented in absentia*).

26th March 2015
University of Edinburgh,
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

EMBO YIP PhD Course

European Molecular Biology Organisation Young Investigator
PhD course participant.
Oral presentation: “Key endosymbiont proteins implicated in the maintenance of the photosynthetic endosymbiosis between *Paramecium bursaria* and *Chlorella*”
Poster presentation: “Key principles in molecular phylogenetics”

2nd-7th December 2013
EMBL,
Heidelberg, Germany

EMBO: Comparative Genomics of Eukaryotic Microorganisms

Poster presentation: “Key endosymbiont proteins implicated in the maintenance of the photosynthetic endosymbiosis between *Paramecium bursaria* and *Chlorella*”.

19th-24th October 2013
Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

Molecular Evolution Workshop

Workshop participant on this competitive and internationally renowned course.

22nd July - 1st August 2012
MBL, Woods Hole
MA, USA

National Association for Research in Science Teaching

Oral presentation: “Working on the Public’s Perception and Understanding of Science and Scientists through a Popular, Open-access ‘AskScience’ Website”
de la Rubia, L.A., Marus, S., Maguire, F.
(*Presented in absentia*).

25th-28th March 2012
Indianapolis, IN, USA

Tennessee Maths and Science Education Research Conference

Oral presentation: “Online Conversations as a Way of Understanding the Public’s Views of the Nature of Science: Research on Reddit’s ‘AskScience’ ”
de la Rubia, L.A., Marus, S., Maguire, F.
(*Presented in absentia*)

2nd-3rd February 2012
Murfreesboro, TN, USA

Systematics Association: Young Systematists Forum

Poster presentation: “Folate Biosynthesis Gene Fusions Evolution in the Eukaryotes”.

1st December 2011
Natural History Museum

Society for General Microbiology Summer Conference

Poster presentation: “Evolution of Folate Biosynthesis Gene Fusions in the Eukaryotes”.

5th-7th September 2011
University of York, UK

EMBO: Comparative Genomics of Eukaryotic Microorganisms

Poster presentation: “Evolution of Folate Biosynthesis Gene Fusions in the Eukaryotes”.

15th-20th October 2011
Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

- Introduction to Machine Learning for the Life Sciences Workshop (June 1st-2nd 2015)
- Wellcome Trust ISSF Genomics Course (February 4th-25th 2015)
- Wellcome Trust Biomedical Informatics Hub Unix and Perl Course (October 2014-July 2015)
- Co-supervision of final year undergraduate project at University of Exeter identifying components of the RNAi system in *Paramecium bursaria* (November-December 2014)
- Wellcome Trust Biomedical Informatics Hub Image Processing with Python Workshop (18th-19th September 2014)
- Software Carpentry Exeter Bootcamp (14th-15th November 2013)
- Supervision of a visiting summer research student registered at the University of Oxford. The project involved bioinformatic analysis of arsenate resistance HGTs. (June-October 2013)

OUTREACH

Moderator of the “AskScience” science education forum with over 15 million monthly views and 25,000 unique visitors per hour.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Expert with UNIX/Linux, Zsh/Bash, Python, Awk, Git, L^AT_EX
- Intermediate with R, C, C++, perl, matlab, high-performance linux system administration, statistics and machine learning
- Basic knowledge of Javascript (including D3.js), CSS, Nim, Verilog, Prolog, Go
- Expert knowledge in bioinformatics: transcriptomics, molecular evolution/phylogenetics, genomics, metabolomics, sequence analysis, annotation
- Experience with an array of basic molecular and microbiological techniques and methodologies: PCR, culturing, cloning, sequencing technologies, fluorescence microscopy.

OTHER INTERESTS

- Completed massively open online courses (MOOC) in: machine learning, mathematical logic, linear algebra, algorithms, databases, statistics, data analysis, and music theory.
- Technical co-founder of ‘Awedify’ a start-up seeking revolutionise the spoken-word audio format.
- PADI Open Water Diver
- St. John’s Ambulance First Aider
- RYA Level 3 Sailing
- Languages: German (intermediate), French (basic/intermediate)
- Musical instruments: French Horn and Bass Guitar