Giorgia Del Missier

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◑ Experience

Imperial College London (Ledesma-Amaro Synthetic Biology group)
London, UK
Computational biologist (contract researcher)
Sep. 2023 – Present

My research lies at the intersection of bioengineering, structural biology, and machine learning. Currently, I'm working on several projects, including:

> identifying methods to apply AI for the development of sustainable food proteins

> using *in-silico* directed evolution to improve protein functionality on enzymes relevant for bioproduction

> optimising neural network models for bacterial promoter prediction using Keras and PyTorch

> participating in the selection, evaluation, and interview process of new candidates for internships and collaborations

> supervising and mentoring of students for computational projects, providing guidance and support to enhance their research skills and project outcomes

Computational biologist (internship)
Nov. 2022 – Jun. 2023

During my internship research at the Ledesma-Amaro group, I designed and developed a novel pipeline to perform protein functional annotation using AlphaFold-predicted structural models. Tasks included:

> algorithm design, and Python and Unix scripting, optimising code for speed and efficiency through parallel programming techniques

> use of state-of-the-art structural and sequence alignment tools to enable a comprehensive analysis at a whole-proteome level

> use of REST APIs for web scraping to extract valuable data from bioinformatics databases

> use of network analysis, statistical testing and enrichment techniques for protein function inference

> design and execution of benchmark analyses to assess pipeline performance

> communication of findings through presentations and reports, ensuring accessibility and clarity for all team members

> drafting manuscript for scientific publication *(in review)*

Maastricht Center for Systems Biology
Maastricht, NL
Lab technician (internship)
Jun. 2021 – Sep. 2021

My goal was to functionally validate proteins associated with mitochondrial dynamics mechanisms, as predicted through computational models. Lab activities included:

> PCR and quantitative PCR assays

> construction of esiRNAs

> molecular cloning and Gibson assembly techniques

> write and present weekly reports on experimental procedures and findings to the rest of the team

> manage lab resources and supplies to optimise inventory levels

IRCSS Institute of Neurological Sciences   Bologna, IT
Bioinformatician (internship)   Nov. 2020 – Apr. 2021

I worked in the Neurogenetics lab, which focuses on identification of the molecular basis and pathogenic mechanisms of mitochondrial neurological diseases. My activities included:

> examination of Whole-Exome Sequencing data for a cohort of 64 patients with hereditary optic neuropathies
> design and implementation of Python, R and Unix scripts for fast and streamlined analysis of Next Generation Sequencing data
> evaluation and use of phenotype-driven tools for variant prioritisation, with the aim of identifying new genetic markers of disease
> use of software tools in conjunction with relevant databases for genomics data exploration and variant analysis
> preparation of regular reports to communicate findings to a multidisciplinary team

🖥 Skills

Programming languages   Python (advanced), R (advanced), Unix (advanced) and MATLAB (intermediate); experience with Linux, MacOS, Windows and HPC platforms

Developer tools   version control with Git and GitHub; web development with HTML/CSS markup and Python DASH; experience with REST APIs for data retrieval and integration; Neo4j graph database management system and Cypher query language

Scientific expertise   Machine Learning (supervised and unsupervised learning, model building and optimisation, feature selection, regression and classification tasks - R, Python scikit-learn); Data cleaning (Pandas, NumPy, SciPy) and visualisation (Matplotlib, Plotly, Seaborn); Mechanistic Modeling (ODEs, PDEs, agent-based, constraint-based); Omics data analysis (BLAST, SAM and BAMtools, bcftools, plink, BioConductor, IGV, R limma, Cytoscape); Structural biology (AlphaFold, ChimeraX); Linear and Non-Linear Dynamical systems

Productivity software   LaTeX, Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

🎓 Education

Maastricht University   Maastricht, NL
MSc Systems Biology   Sep. 2021 – Jul. 2023

> Final grade: GPA: 8.5/10, *cum laude*
> Dissertation title: "WASP: A new Pipeline for Functional Annotation of Proteins using AlphaFold Structural Models"
> Modules included: Systems Biology, Modelling Biosystems, Dynamic Game Theory, Dynamical Systems and Non-Linear Dynamics, Network Biology, Machine Learning and Multivariate Statistics

Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna   Bologna, IT
BSc Genomics   Sep. 2017 – Mar. 2021

> Final grade: 110/110, *with honours*
> Dissertation title: "Phenotype-driven Variant Prioritisation Tools: Analysis of Whole Exome Sequencing in Patients with Hereditary Optic Neuropathy"
> Modules included: Bioinformatics, Programming, Statistics and Data Science, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Epigenomics, Metagenomics, Metabolomics, Proteomics and Structural Biology