

Haris Spyridis

(Plant) Biotechnologist | Functional Genomics

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About

Passionate and detail-oriented researcher in functional genomics with an academic background in **computational biology**, host-microbe interactions, and **bioinformatics**. Strong programming skills with extensive practical experience in **comparative genomics** and genetic variation studies, complemented by hands-on expertise in molecular biology techniques. Current interests focus on molecular evolution and the application of **deep learning** frameworks to uncover complex biological patterns.

Skills

- **Computational Skills** Python/R/Bash | Comparative genomics | WGS | Variant Calling | HPC RNA-seq | Expression Analysis (DESeq2) | Statistical modelling | Machine/Deep learning (TensorFlow) | Bioconductor | Snakemake | Git
- **Lab skills** (q)PCR, RT-qPCR | Cloning techniques | DNA/RNA isolation | CRISPR/Cas9 | Gel electrophoresis | Primer design | ROS assays
- **Professional** Strong working ethics | Reliable & self-motivated | Public speaking
- **Languages** Greek (Mother Tongue), English (Advanced), Dutch (In process)

Seeking PhD Opportunities

Greece | 01/2024 - Present

- Completed courses to deepen skills in Machine/Deep Learning with a focus in bioinformatics.
- Actively exploring PhD opportunities in the field of genomics and bioinformatics.
- Assisting in administrative and operational tasks within family-owned business.

Education

Two MSc Degrees | Wageningen University

Netherlands | 3/2020 - 08/2023

MSc Plant biotechnology | Specialization: *Functional Genomics*

- **Bioinformatics research internship** at **Biosystematics** group: “Detection of introgressions from wild relatives of Lettuce using a k-mer mapping approach.” (03/2023 -08/2023)
- **MSc Thesis at Phytopathology group:** “Identification of genetic loci involved in the sensitivity to the phytotoxin botrydial produced by *Botrytis cinerea*.” (03/2022 - 09/2022) - Lab work & **bioinformatic** analysis.

MSc Plant Science | Specialization: *Plant Pathology & Entomology*

- **MSc Thesis:** “Plant - insect - microbe interactions: Soil legacy effects on plant resistance to insects.” -Data analysis and experimental/lab research. | Project within [Microp](#) consortium.

BSc in Plant Science (Integrated MSc) | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | Greece |09/2013 - 07/2018

- Equivalent to 300 ECTS (5-years) diploma.
- **Specialization:** Plant pathology
- Broad spectrum of courses, ranging from (molecular) biology to ecology, breeding and genetics.

Experience

Intern: laboratory assistant | **Benaki Phytopathological Institute** **Athens | 06/2017 - 09/2017**

Molecular assays | Study genetic diversity of species | Evaluation of infested plants.

Online Courses

- [Genomic Data Science Specialization](#) - John Hopkins University, 2024
 - ✓ 6-course program covering genomic data analysis, Python/R programming and Bioconductor.
 - [Machine Learning Specialization](#) - Stanford University, 2024
 - ✓ 3-course program on (un)-supervised learning, neural networks and deep learning.
 - [Algorithms Specialization](#) - Stanford University, 2024
 - ✓ 4-course program covering algorithm design, graph algorithms, dynamic programming and data structures.
 - [Deep learning Specialization](#) - DeepLearning.Ai, 2024
 - ✓ 5-course program covering neural networks, deep learning, CNNs, RNNs and Sequence models.
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Publications

- **Second** author of “Jasmonic and Salicylic Acid Pathways Shape the **Rhizosphere Microbiome**, affecting Aphid Herbivory and Soil-Mediated Insect-Plant Interactions” (2025, **Preprint**).
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Awards

Academy Consultancy Training (ACT) Project - Wageningen University & Research (WUR)

- Development of a decision support tool for Woodchem-Debroers company to use basic substances as alternative in plant protection
 - Project was awarded within the **top 6 out of 211** for the year 2021 at WUR. **Grade:9/10**
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Additional

- Military Service in Air force Police: **09/2018 - 09/2019**
Completed mandatory military service as required for Greek male citizens.