

Leila Pirhaji

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Objective Developing new technologies to improve people health

Education

Sep. 2010-present **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** Cambridge, MA
PhD (expected), Department of Biological Engineering. GPA: 4.8/5

2008-2010 **University of Tehran** Tehran, Iran
Master of Science, Department of Biotechnology, College of Science, GPA: 18.55/20

2004-2008 **University of Tehran** Tehran, Iran
Bachelor of Science, Department of Biotechnology, College of Science, GPA: 18.81/20

Experience

Jan. 2011-present **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** Cambridge, MA
Research assistant. Department of Biological Engineering

- Currently developing a systems biology approach to discover perturbed signaling pathways in Huntington's disease

2008-2010 **Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology** Tehran, Iran
Research assistant. Department of Molecular Systems Biology.

- Developed a new algorithm to predict gene regulatory networks from expression data.

Mar. – Aug. 2009 **Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)** Zurich, Switzerland
Research assistant. Institute of Molecular Systems Biology.

- Developed an algorithm to infer protein-protein interaction networks from high-throughput quantitative mass spectrometry data.

2006-2008 **Institute for Studies in Theoretical Physics and Mathematics** Tehran, Iran
Research assistant. Bioinformatics Group at School of Computer Science.

- Developed a new algorithm based on the Pearson chi-square statistic to discriminate genes from pseudogenes in *Escherichia coli*.

Leadership Representative of Biological Engineering department at MIT Graduate Student Council (2011-present); Social chair at Sidney-Pacific, the largest dormitory at MIT (2011-2012); Cultural chair at Sidney-Pacific (2012-present)

Awards and Honors Received full TEDMED Front-Line Scholarship (2012); Chosen as a member of national elite foundation of Iran (2007); Selected as the best undergraduate student of the year in the Department of Biotechnology at University of Tehran (2007 and 2005); Ranked **10th** in Iran's "National University Entrance Exam" among more than **400,000** high school students (2004).

Publications 1 first author (refereed), 5 co-author (refereed), 2 conference presentations, 3 conference poster presentations, A detailed list of publications is available upon request.