

VARUN S. VENKATESH

ACADEMIC RÉSUMÉ

Phone: (022) 383-7963
varun.venkatesh@gmail.com
<https://varunsvenkatesh.github.io/>

183 The Parade
Island Bay, Wellington

I am currently seeking a post-doctoral research role to further my skill sets in scientific research; specifically I wish to learn bioinformatics techniques to use in conjunction with my wet lab skills to answer biological questions.

What I can bring you is a wide variety of skills in molecular biology ranging from mammalian cell culture to microbiology and a strong ability in problem solving and critical analysis. In addition, I have considerable teaching experience at all levels of biology having lectured, led labs, coordinated tutorials, assisted in the development of teaching labs for multiple years.

Finally, I have significant lab management experience having been assistant lab manager to my supervisor for 4 years. In this capacity I ordered items for the lab, ensured equipment was well maintained and working, monitored and maintained lab compliance to standards and taught several junior students lab skills. My skill set would make me valuable to any lab.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Biomedical Sciences)	Victoria University of Wellington, Thesis title: Investigating the role of the apelinergic system in glioblastoma	<i>Anticipated</i> 2018
Bachelor of biomedical Science (Hons)	Victoria University of Wellington, Graduated with First Class honours	May 2012

HONOURS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Research for Life Grant	2017
\$6000 to undertake research to investigate the role of the apelinergic system in glioblastoma growth.	
PGSA Landers Postgraduate Award	2017
The Landers Award is awarded to an individual who has provided outstanding work which has done much to improve the experience of the postgraduate student experience.	
Victoria University of Wellington Doctoral Submission Scholarship	2016
Victoria University of Wellington Doctoral Scholarship	2013-2016
A three-year grant to undertake a PhD project at Victoria University of Wellington. These scholarships are awarded on academic merit and are open to New Zealand and international students in any discipline.	
Otago University Summer Studentship	2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

When you list courses, include a brief description so that the course can be compared to a similar course at another university. You might want to include the typical number of students in the course as well as list your responsibilities such as developing course materials, lecturing, grading, developing the syllabus, etc. How you decide to list or group your courses, skills, teaching methods, roles, and responsibilities will depend on your amount of experience. The examples below are just a few ideas.

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand March 2017 to June 2018
Lecturer (Neuroscience), School of Biological Sciences

- Taught the neurobiology section of Biol 114, an undergraduate course averaging over 300 students per semester
- Developed a new neurobiology lab surrounding the effect of nicotine on cricket neuronal function.
- Developed quizzes, exams, and homework

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand March 2017 to July 2017
Lecturer (Carbohydrate metabolism), School of Biological Sciences

- Taught the neurobiology section of Biol 114, an undergraduate course averaging over 300 students per semester.
- Developed quizzes, exams, and a new lab with the assistance of Dr Paul Teesdale Spittle
- Coordinated grading and labs with a team of 6 teaching assistants

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand March 2012 to December 2018
Teaching Assistant (Over 7 individual courses), School of Biological Sciences

- Taught over seven different courses as a TA and Head TA in some cases with varying content including:
 - Cell regulation (Biol 339)
 - Genes and Genomes (Biol 340)
 - Biology of Animals (Biol 114)
 - Cell Biology (Biol 111)
 - Advanced Physiology (Biol 335)
 - Physiology and Pharmacology (Biol 243)
 - Human Sexuality and Reproduction (Biol 116)
- Duties included organization of new TA's , marking of reports, collation of grades and the leading of labs. Details presented here: ([Website link](#))

MOLECULAR SKILLS

I have a wide range of molecular biology skills and techniques about an also highly adept at learning new techniques and relish these opportunities.

Western blotting	Microbiology
PCR including qPCR	Nucleic Acid Isolation
Confocal Microscopy	Flow cytometry
Mammalian cell culture	Immunohistochemistry and immunocytochemistry
Basic cloning techniques	Protein isolation
In vitro assays such as: wound healing	Basic aptamer generation

COMPUTER SKILLS

I have a strong knowledge of basic PAS statistical software (PRISM and SPSS) and standard Microsoft products. In addition I am comfortable using open source software such as ImageJ and Inkscape. I am currently developing my programming, large dataset analysis and statistical skills. Through learning the language R.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

School of biological Sciences Coding Club	Noting a changing need for biologists to understand how to programme, I established a coding club in the school of biological sciences with a colleague to facilitate student learning. This also resulted in the co-organisation of a Combine software carpentry symposium.	2016 - 2017
School of Biological Sciences ambassador - Open Days at VUW	I have spoken at multiple open days at Victoria University to large audiences and individuals about my passions for science research. I have also worked on all open days from 2013 to 2017 on the School of Biological Sciences desk with Dr Diane Ormsby. In this role I assisted with set up of numerous exhibits and interacted with high school age students, educating them about biology in a fun and exciting way	2013 - 2017
School of biological Sciences Journal Club (Co-founder)	Established a journal club in the SBS to keep students abreast of current paradigms in science.	2014 - 2015
Student representative on the School of Biological Sciences Research Committee	In this role I facilitate the communication between students and members of the research committee regarding issues surrounding research at The Victoria University Wellington School of Biological Sciences (VUW SBS) . During this time I have also presented ideas surrounding the improvement of postgraduate performance in the VUW SBS	2013 - 2014

REFERENCES

Dr Darren Day – Primary PhD Supervisor

darren.day@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 6087

Professor John Miller – Secondary PhD Supervisor

john.h.miller@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 6082