

NIKITA TELKAR

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 @nikita_telkar

EDUCATION

PhD in Medical Genetics	2019 –
University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada.	
MSc Genetics of Human Disease: Inherited Diseases – Merit Classification	2017 – 2018
University College London (UCL), United Kingdom.	
BSc Biomedical Genetics (Honours) – 2:1	2014 – 2017
Newcastle University (NCL), United Kingdom.	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Candidate	August 2019 –
University of British Columbia, Canada.	

Co-Supervisors: Dr. Wendy Robinson (BC Children's Hospital Research) & Dr. Wan Lam (BC Cancer Research Centre)
Primary: Characterizing Small Non-Coding RNA (sncRNA) in the human placenta and investigating the biological (sex, ancestry), clinical (depression status, smoking) and technical variables driving variation.

Data: RNA-seq, DNA methylation; *Software:* R; *Techniques:* RNA extraction, sample processing and optimization.

Recent Publications / Awards:

- [Profiling the Small Non-Coding RNA Transcriptome of the Human Placenta](#) – V.D. Martinez, et al., 2021
- [Reactivation of Multiple Fetal miRNAs in Lung Adenocarcinoma](#) – D.E. Cohn et al., 2021
- [Functional role of the cancer microbiome in the solid tumour niche](#) – E. A. Marshall et al., 2021.
- Virtual Knowledge Exchange Grant 2021 – BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
- University of British Columbia 4 Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF) Award

Master's Student	January – August 2018
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UCL Genetics Institute and The Wellcome Sanger Institute, England. (Supervisor: Dr. Karoline Kuchenbaecker)

Master's dissertation project in statistical genetics investigating the heritability, trans-ethnic genetic correlation, and association of lipid variants–biomarkers across several diverse populations.

Software: UNIX, R, PLINK, GEMMA, Popcorn

Second-author publication in [Nature Communications](#). Polygenic Risk Scores available on EMBL-EBI's [PGS Catalog](#).

Final Year Undergraduate Student	January – March 2017
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Newcastle University Campus for Ageing and Vitality, Newcastle upon Tyne. (Supervisor: Dr. Alberto Sanz Montero)

Undergraduate Honors project validating candidate genes affecting oxygen concentration in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

Molecular Techniques: qPCR, western blot, BN-PAGE, high resolution Respirometry.

Summer Undergraduate Researcher	July – September 2016
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Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle upon Tyne. (Supervisor: Professor Susan Lindsay)

Received the UK-wide competitive Genetics Society Summer Studentship Award 2016.

Project involved tracking the expression of the WNT5A protein in human embryonic tissue via immunohistochemistry.

Software: Linux, MAPaint, Amira.

Expression results available on MRC-Wellcome Trust HDBR [database](#). Research report and poster won awards.

Intern	July – August 2015
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Genepath Dx, Pune, India.

Interned and trained in several molecular biology protocols at one of the only genetic diagnostic companies in India.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant** – University of British Columbia September – December 2020
 TA for the graduate MEDG 520 Advanced Human Molecular Genetics course in the Department of Medical Genetics. Instrumental in restructuring the course and assignments, assisting course instructors, and holding tutorial sessions. *“Nikita always responded promptly and thoughtfully to requests for advice. Her input and assistance helped guide the learning process. She did everything I think a good teacher should, and went above and beyond the time and effort I would expect from a TA. She was the best part of the course.”*
- Biostatistics Expert** – BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Vancouver, Canada. January – April 2021
 Developed videos and resources teaching statistical concepts and analyses undertaken in health research at various levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced). Videos published online for the [Summer Student Research Program 2021](#).
- Visiting Scholar** – MIT-ADT School of Bioengineering Sciences and Research, India March – July 2019
 Visiting Lecturer (3 lectures) in Genetics for first year undergraduate Bachelor of Technology Bioengineering students.

PUBLICATIONS

- Kuchenbaecker K, **Telkar N**, Reiker T, Walters RG, Lin K, Eriksson A et al. *The transferability of lipid loci across African, Asian and European cohorts*. Nature Communications, 2019; 10: 4330.
- Marshall EA, **Telkar N**, Lam WL. *Functional role of the cancer microbiome in the solid tumour niche*. Current Research in Immunology 2021; 2: 1–6
- Cohn D.E., Barros-Filho M.C., Minatel B.C., Pewarchuk M.E., Marshall, E.A., Vucic E.A., Sage A.P., **Telkar N**, Stewart G.L., Jurisica I, Reis P.P., Robinson W.P, Lam W.L. *Reactivation of multiple fetal miRNAs in lung adenocarcinoma*. Cancers 2021; 13, 2686.
- Martinez, V.D., Cohn D.E., **Telkar N**, Minatel B.C., Pewarchuk M.E., Marshall, E.A., Price M.E., Robinson W.P., Lam W.L. *Profiling the Small Non-Coding RNA Transcriptome of the Human Placenta*. Sci Data 2021; 8, 166
- Rees W.D., **Telkar N**, Lin D, Peloni C, Fathi A, Kobor M, Zachos N, Steiner T. *An in vitro chronic damage model impairs inflammatory and regenerative responses in human colonoid monolayers*. [Submitted]

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Virtual Knowledge Exchange Grant 2021 – BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
- 4 Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF) Award (2020-2024) – University of British Columbia
- President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award (2020-2024) – University of British Columbia
- International Tuition Award (2019-2024) – University of British Columbia
- Genes and Development Summer Studentship 2016 – The Genetics Society UK
- Faculty of Medical Sciences Undergraduate Research Scholarship 2016 – Newcastle University
- Commendation Award – Newcastle University Student Research Scholarships and Expeditions Exhibition 2016
- Second Place Poster Award 2016 – Newcastle University Faculty of Medicine
- ncl+ Award – Newcastle University (for extracurricular achievement)

PRESENTATIONS / POSTERS / WORKSHOPS

- Healthy Starts Research Day 2021 – BC Children's Hospital Research Institute February 2021
- Medical Genetics Research Day 2020 – Department of Medical Genetics, UBC November 2020
- ONCO548: Knowledge Translation (*Invited*) – Interdisciplinary Oncology Program, UBC October 2020
- British Columbia Cancer Summit 2019 – Vancouver, Canada November 2019
- Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Poster Presentation 2016 – Newcastle University November 2016
- Student Research Scholarships and Expeditions Exhibition 2016 – Newcastle University November 2016
- Instructional Skills Workshop – UBC July 2020
- A 24-hour professional development workshop to enhance teaching practices and application. Taught 3 short lessons with feedback from peers. *“Nikita, your students will be lucky to have you, you make everything so easy to understand.”*

LEADERSHIP / VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Advisory Committee Member – Department of Medical Genetics, UBC

Part of the Advisory Committee for the Department of Medical Genetics.

Singlehandedly redesigned and updated the department website using WordPress with CSS and HTML coding.

Research Mentor – NCL and UBC

2015 – 2016 / 2020 –

Guiding and assisting incoming graduate students, both professionally and personally.

Aiding in formulating research questions, analysis methodologies, and interpretation of data.

Trainee Omics Group – BC Children's Hospital Research Institute

October 2019 – October 2020

A graduate trainee-led bioinformatics and data analysis support group.

Teaching and guiding trainees in statistical analyses and methodologies, running workshops and tutorials.

Geneskool – Genome British Columbia

October 2019 – October 2020

Conducting interactive activities at local schools to educate students about genetics and its applications.

Part of the Girls and Steam Symposium 2019 hosted by BC Science World.

Marketing and Social Media Lead – UBC Undergraduate 3 Minute Thesis Committee

2020 – 2021

Responsible for making executive marketing decisions, along with designing weekly promotional graphics, communications outreach and website upkeep.

Executive Member – UBC Medical Genetics Graduate Student Association January 2021 –

Assisting the board with executive decisions for this departmental social and outreach association.

Vice President – Newcastle South Asian Society

2016 – 2017

Second-in-charge in this cultural society committee and responsible for delegating and supervising tasks.

Oversaw event management – Corresponding with services and sponsors, locating venues, recording inventory, maintaining finances. Events arranged for up to 20 to 500 guests.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

News Reporter – Health Science Inquiry

2019 – 2020

A News Reporter for the 2019-2020 academic year at this student-run science communication journal for graduate and post-doctoral students within Canada.

Article published in their [2020 issue](#).

UCL Business Game 2017 – University College London

November 2017

Selected to participate in this exclusive University-wide challenge.

Competed in 4 different team challenges focused on finance, marketing, strategy and entrepreneurship set forth by by Bloomberg, Citibank, Gartner, and Lydia.