

# NIKITA TELKAR

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 <https://nikita-telkar.github.io>

 @nikita\_telkar

## EDUCATION

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

## EXPERIENCE

<b>PhD Candidate</b>	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 project involves <b>characterizing</b> Small Non-Coding RNA ( <b>sncRNA</b> ) in the <b>human placenta</b> and investigating the biological and technical variables driving variation. <b>Integration</b> of <b>RNA-seq</b> with <b>DNA methylation</b> data.	
Software: R Language; Molecular Techniques: RNA extraction, sample processing and optimization.	
Recent Publications / Presentations / Awards:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BC Children's Hospital Research Institute: Healthy Starts Research Day 2021 – February 2021</li><li>• <a href="#">Functional role of the cancer microbiome in the solid tumour niche</a> - E. A. Marshall et al., 2021.</li><li>• Profiling the Small Non-Coding RNA Transcriptome of the Human Placenta – <i>Accepted (Scientific Data, 2021)</i></li><li>• Reactivation of multiple fetal miRNAs in lung adenocarcinoma – <i>Accepted (Cancers, 2021)</i></li><li>• University of British Columbia 4 Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF) Award (2020 – 2024)</li></ul>	
<b>Master's Student</b>	January – August 2018
UCL Genetics Institute and The Wellcome Sanger Institute, England. (Supervisor: Dr. Karoline Kuchenbaecker)	
Master's dissertation project in statistical genetics <b>investigating</b> the heritability, trans-ethnic genetic correlation, and <b>association</b> of <b>lipid variants–biomarkers</b> across several <b>diverse populations</b> .	
Software: UNIX, R, PLINK, GEMMA, Popcorn	
Second-author publication in <a href="#">Nature Communications</a> . Polygenic Risk Scores available on EMBL-EBI's <a href="#">PGS Catalog</a> .	
<b>Final Year Undergraduate Student</b>	January – March 2017
Newcastle University Campus for Ageing and Vitality, Newcastle upon Tyne. (Supervisor: Dr. Alberto Sanz Montero)	
Validated candidate gene expression affecting oxygen concentration in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> .	
Molecular Techniques: qPCR, western blot, BN-PAGE, high resolution Respirometry.	
<b>Summer Undergraduate Researcher</b>	July – September 2016
Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle upon Tyne. (Supervisor: Professor Susan Lindsay)	
<b>Received</b> the <b>UK-wide competitive</b> Genetics Society Summer Studentship Award 2016.	
Project involved tracking the <b>expression</b> of the <b>WNT5A</b> protein in human <b>embryonic</b> tissue via immunohistochemistry.	
Software: Linux, MAPaint, Amira.	
Expression results available on MRC-Wellcome Trust HDBR <a href="#">database</a> . Research report and poster won awards.	
<b>Intern</b>	July – August 2015
Genepath Dx, Pune, India.	
Interned and trained in several molecular biology protocols at one of the only genetic diagnostic companies in India.	

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## EMPLOYMENT

**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.”*

**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.

**Biostatistics Expert** – BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Vancouver, Canada. January – April 2021

Responsible for **developing open access videos** and **resources** focused on understanding **statistical** terms, concepts, and analyses undertaken in **health research** at various levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced).

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## 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

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* [Accepted – Scientific Data]

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*. [In Review – Cancers]

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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

4 Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF) Award (2020-2024) – University of British Columbia

President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award – University of British Columbia

International Tuition Award (2019-2024) – University of British Columbia

Second Place Poster Award 2016 – Newcastle University Faculty of Medicine

ncl+ Award – Newcastle University (for extracurricular achievement)

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## 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 – 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.”*

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## LEADERSHIP / VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**Advisory Committee Member** – Department of Medical Genetics, UBC 2019 –

- 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** students/**trainees** in **statistical analyses** and **methodologies**.

**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**.

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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.