

# NOGA AHARONY

noga.aharony@columbia.edu

## EDUCATION

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- In progress **Doctor of Philosophy**, Systems Biology, *Columbia University in the City of New York*  
*Courses:* Intro to Machine Learning, Computational Genomics, Non-Euclidean Embedding in Biology  
*Advisor:* Tal Korem, PhD
- 2021 **Master of Science**, Biology, *Technion – Israel Institute of Technology* Defense Grade: 95/100  
*Thesis:* Rapid Gene Content Alteration in Recurring Infections CGPA: 94.1/100  
*Advisor:* Roy Kishony, PhD
- 2019 **Bachelor of Science**, Honours Neuroscience, *McGill University* CGPA: 3.95/4.0  
*Awards:* First Class Honours, Dean's Honours List, Dean's Multidisciplinary Research List

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2022 **Mohammed AlQuraishi Lab**, *Columbia University, Program of Mathematical Genomics*  
Developing a proteome-wide model for antimicrobial resistance prediction
- 2022 **Itsik Pe'er Lab**, *Columbia University, Department of Computer Science*  
Developed a neural embedding model in hyperbolic spaces to better predict small proteins
- 2021 **Tal Korem Lab**, *Columbia University, Program of Mathematical Genomics*  
Developed an embedding-based method to correlate graph representations of metagenomes from the human microbiome with outcomes
- 2019-2021 **Roy Kishony Lab**, *Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Department of Biology*  
Constructed a computational pipeline to identify mobile genetic elements in recurring infections  
Designed experiments unraveling eco-evolutionary dynamics of microbial communities
- 2018-2019 **Amine Kamen Lab**, *McGill University, Department of Bioengineering*  
Designed and manufactured adeno-associated viruses carrying Cas9 for improved CAR-T cell engineering
- 2018 **Center for Health Security**, *Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health*  
Informed national guidelines on sequence and customer screening practices among DNA providers  
Studied the safety, innovation, and community norms in the DIY Biology community
- 2017-2018 **Jonathan Kimmelman Lab**, *McGill University, Biomedical Ethics Unit*  
Applied machine learning to analyze aspects of clinical trials design that influences forecasts of outcomes  
Contributed to a meta-analysis
- 2017 **Edward Ruthazer Lab**, *McGill University, Montreal Neurological Institute*  
Electroporated and imaged tadpoles to study structural plasticity in the developing visual system
- 2016-2017 **Rafael Najmanovich Lab**, *University of Montreal, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology*  
Developed software characterizing protein interfaces based on surrounding force fields  
Modelled biophysical features of *C. difficile* germination protease to identify candidate inhibiting ligands

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2022 Liang C, Wagstaff J, Schmit V, **Aharony N**, Manheim D. Managing the Transition to Widespread Metagenomic Monitoring: Policy Considerations for Future Biosurveillance. *Under Review*.

- 2021 Milman O\*, Yelin I\*, **Aharony N**, Katz R, Herzel E, Ben-Tov A, Kuint J, Gazit S, Chodick G, Patalon T, Kishony R. Community-level evidence for SARS-CoV-2 vaccine protection of unvaccinated individuals. *Nature Medicine*.
- 2020 Yelin, I\*, **Aharony, N\***, Shaer-Tamar, E\*, Argoetti, A\*, Messer, E, et al. Evaluation of COVID-19 RT-qPCR test in multi-sample pools. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.
- 2019 Moço, PD, **Aharony, N**, and Kamen, A. Adeno-Associated Viral Vectors for Homology-Directed Generation of CAR-T cells. *Biotechnology Journal*.

## POSTERS

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- 2021 **Aharony N**, Kishony R. Rapid Alteration in Genetic Content Upon Recurring Infection. *EMBL Symposium: New Approaches and Concepts in Microbiology*.
- 2018 **Aharony N**, G Gronvall. How Secure is the Gene Synthesis Industry? *Biological Weapons Convention: Meeting of Experts*.

## AWARDS

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- 2022 **Effective Altruism Funds** PhD Support
- 2021 **Open Philanthropy** Early-Career Funding
- 2020 **Miriam and Aaron Gutwirth** Memorial Fellowship for Excellence in Research
- 2019 **Leonard and Diane Sherman** Interdisciplinary Graduate School Fellowship
- 2017,2018 **McGill University** Faculty of Science Scholarship
- 2018 **Open Philanthropy** Early-Career Funding for Global Biological Risks
- 2017 **CIHR** Undergraduate Research Award in Computational Biology
- 2016 **NSERC** Undergraduate Student Research Award
- 2016 **FRQNT** Top-Up to NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award
- 2016 **PROTEO** Undergraduate Summer Studentship (Declined)
- 2014 **Grossman-Klein** Teen Leadership Award

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Spring 2018 **Molecular Mechanisms of Cell Function (BIOC212)**, *McGill University*  
Created problem sets for each class and in preparation for exams
- Fall 2017 **Introduction to Neuroscience 1 (NSCI200)**, *McGill University*  
Created problem sets and conducted bi-weekly review sessions
- Fall 2017 **Molecular Biology (BIOL200)**, *McGill University*  
Held office hours to answer student questions about the class
- Fall 2017 **Introductory Physics: Mechanics (PHYS101)**, *McGill University*  
Circulated the class during the lecture to clarify material and help with problem sets
- Spring 2017 **Introductory Physics: Electromagnetism (PHYS102)**, *McGill University*  
Circulated the class during the lecture to clarify material and help with problem sets
- Fall 2016 **Introductory Physics: Mechanics (PHYS101)**, *McGill University*  
Held office hours to answer student questions and help with homework assignments

## SKILLS

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**Programming** Experienced with **Python** and **MATLAB**, familiar with **C/C++**, **R**, **Java**, **PHP**, **Lisp** and **Perl**

**Languages** Hebrew (native), English (near-native), French (novice)