Sameer Aryal

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Genome-scale neurogenetics; high-throughput examination of the mechanisms of gene expression in neural systems.

EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY

Doctor of Philosophy, Basic Medical Science, August 2013 - May 2020

- Dissertation: "Molecular and computational examination of *de novo* protein synthesis in fragile X syndrome"
- Advisor: Eric Klann, Ph.D.

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Biology (honors) and Economics, September 2008 - June 2012

- Dissertation: "The role of DopR neuronal circuits in regulating endogenous arousal in *D. melanogaster*"
- Advisor: Tim Lebestky, Ph.D.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA

 $Postdoctoral\ Associate$

Oct 2020 - present

I am examining molecular and functional alterations in the synapses of multiple mouse models of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and autism spectrum disorders using molecular, genomic, and computational approaches. I am advised by Morgan Sheng, M.D., Ph.D.

New York University Center for Neural Science, New York, NY

Graduate Research Assistant

June 2014 - June 2020

Developed, implemented, and analyzed the results of various molecular and genome-wide assays, including ribosome profiling (Ribo-Seq) and translating ribosome affinity purification (Trap-Seq), to quantitatively determine the mechanistic basis of elevated mRNA translation in the brain of a mouse model of fragile X syndrome. Also developed a novel assay to measure the rate of ribosome translocation in primary neurons.

A*STAR-Duke-NUS Neuroscience Research Partnership, Singapore

Research Assistant

Aug 2012 - May 2013

Wrote MATLAB scripts to analyze *D. melanogaster* motion-tracking datasets. Also authored a MATLAB library to visualize biological data via 'estimation plots,' which emphasize effect sizes rather than p-values. Won the Singapore International Pre-Graduate Award (SIPGA) to carry out this research in the Adam Claridge-Chang laboratory.

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Honors Student

Sept 2011 - May 2012

Investigated which neuronal circuits regulate arousal, and how they are connected, in the *D. melanogaster* brain. Conditionally activated specific circuits in the fly brain by expressing the temperature-gated Transient Receptor Potential A1 (trpA1) channels in different subsets of neurons and then monitored the flies' behavioral phenotypes through sleep and locomotor assays.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Aryal, S., Longo, F., Klann, E. Genetic removal of p70 S6K1 corrects coding sequence length-dependent alterations in mRNA translation in fragile X syndrome mice. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. In press. 2021.
- Longo F., Mancini M., Ibraheem P.L., Aryal S., Mesini C., Patel J.C., Penhos E., Rahman N., Donohue M., Santini E., Rice M.E., Klann E. Cell-type-specific disruption of PERK-eIF2α signaling in dopaminergic neurons alters motor and cognitive function. Molecular Psychiatry. In press. 2021.
- 3. Ho, J., Tumkaya, T., *Aryal, S.*, Choi, H., Claridge-Chang, A. Moving beyond P values: data analysis with estimation graphics. *Nature Methods.* 2019.
- 4. Bowling, H., Bhattacharya, A., Zhang, G., [et al., including *Aryal*, *S.*], Klann, E. Altered steady state and activity-dependent de novo protein expression in fragile X syndrome. *Nature Communications*. 2019.
- 5. Aryal, S., Klann, E. Turning up translation in fragile X syndrome. Science. 2018.
- Mohammad, F., Aryal, S., Ho, J., Stewart, J.C., Norman, N.A., Tan, T.L., Eisaka, A., Claridge-Chang, A. Ancient anxiety pathways influence Drosophila defence behaviors. Current Biology. 2016.

Papers in Preparation

1. Longo F., *Aryal S.*, Anastasiades P., Baimel C., Maltese M., Albanese F., Zhu J., Santini E., Tritsch N., Carter A., Klann E. Selective disruption of cortico-striatal circuitry results in repetitive and perseverative behaviors in fragile X syndrome model mice.

Honors and Awards

- Awarded a registration and travel scholarship to attend the 2017 Summer Institute in Statistics for Big Data at University of Washington, Seattle.

 April 2017
- Inducted into Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society.

 $June \ 2012$

- Awarded Robert L Gaudino Fellowship at Williams College, MA to conduct independent Economics research on healthcare access in rural Nepal.
 January 2010
- Awarded Brilliance in Nepal by the British Council in Kathmandu for securing the highest marks in University of Cambridge Advanced-Level Biology examinations in entire Nepal in the May/June 2007 session.
- Graduated valedictorian from Budhanilkantha School, the national school of Nepal. May 2007

Conference Presentations

- *Invited speaker*, Nanosymposium on "Neurodevelopmental Disorders Mechanisms." Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. 2017.
- *Invited speaker*, Annual Molecular Pharmacology Retreat. Sackler Institute at NYU School of Medicine. 2017.
- Presented posters describing my graduate research at:
 - Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. 2015, 2016, and 2018.
 - Molecular and Cellular Cognition Society Annual Meeting. 2015, 2016, and 2018.

- Brains and Behavior: Order and Disorder in the Nervous System. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories Symposium in Quantitative Biology. 2018.
- RNA Therapeutics: From Base Pairs to Bedsides Symposium. 2018.

Additional Qualifications

- Intern at the Office of Industrial Liaison, NYU Langone Health. Created a business plan for an NYU-developed technology by researching the technology, identifying its competitive advantages, analyzing the market for the technology, and describing the business model for the company. July

 Nov 2017
- Graduate Teaching Assistant to Dr. Angus Wilson in the seminar "Introduction to Research" at the Sackler Institute at NYU School of Medicine.

 Fall 2017
- Peer tutor for beginner and intermediate Macroeconomics and Econometrics at Williams College, MA.

 2010-2012

SKILLS

- Programming languages: Python, R, MATLAB, Shell scripting (Bash), SQL.
- Applications: Git, LATEX; common database, spreadsheet, and presentation software.
- Environments: High Performance Computing (SGE/Slurm), Unix/Linux, Windows.
- Laboratory techniques: primary neuron culture, transgene delivery with AAV and lentiviral vectors, in vivo pharmacology in mice, nucleic acid isolation, high-throughput library preparations, qPCR, immuno-precipitation, western blotting, immuno-fluorescence, confocal microscopy, immunological assay development.