Virginia Scarlett, PhD

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

2022

Doctor of Philosophy, Plant Biology

University of California, Berkeley

2014

Bachelor of Science, Molecular Environmental Biology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara CA

02/2025-

Open Source Programs Specialist

- Conducting a survey of >200 open source contributors on challenges and opportunities in academic open source.
- Collaborating on guidelines for best practices for open source software sustainability.
- Establishing an Open Source Community of Practice for UCSB students, faculty, and staff.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Janelia Research Campus, Ashburn VA

03/2024-12/2024

Data and Information Specialist

- Oversaw the modernization of Janelia's system for tracking its publication metrics and metadata.
- Wrote tutorials on Janelia's data and information infrastructure.
- Managed a budget of >\$1 million, including the institute's portfolio of journal subscriptions.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Janelia Research Campus, Ashburn VA

12/2022-03/2024

Scientific Computing Associate

- Conducted a qualitative survey of Janelia's data culture. Proposed solutions in an internal report and an engaging talk to an audience of several hundred.
- Led a team of bioimaging developers looking to unify their data conventions.
- Contributed documentation improvements and an extension proposal to OME-NGFF, an international open-source data standard.

Joint Genome Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Berkeley CA

08/2016-05/2022

Graduate Student Researcher

- Co-authored two peer-reviewed studies about the evolution of polyploid plant genomes.
- Used cutting-edge genomics tools in Python and R to analyze various kinds of genomics data.
- Gave popular science talks to the public through the department's science communication club.
- Mentored several junior researchers.

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley CA

08/2019-05/2022

Graduate Student Instructor

- Gave lectures on ecology, evolution, and biochemistry to undergraduates. (2 courses, 4 semesters)
- Wrote and graded homework assignments and exams.

Joint BioEnergy Institute, Emeryville CA

03/2014-07/2016

Graduate Student Researcher

 Co-authored a peer-reviewed study on the importance of a class of sugars found at the plant cell membrane.

Plant Gene Expression Center, US Department of Agriculture, Albany CA

05/2012-03/2014

Undergraduate Research Assistant

• Co-authored a peer-reviewed study characterizing mutations impairing plant circadian clock function.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Computer skills: Python, R, GitHub (forking and branching, static websites), HPC, Microsoft Office, NoSQL databases, REST APIs

Other skills: Writing (grants, papers, tutorials, blog articles), academic librarianship, product management, community-building