Last update on September 5, 2020

zyf@mit.edu • (+1) 514-663-5118 • yifnzhao.github.io • linkedin.com/in/yifnzhao

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

PhD in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics

McGill University

Honours BSc in Computer Science and Biology

- First Class Honours with Distinction
- Dean's Honour List
- James McGill Scholarship

Cambridge, United Sates 2020 – present Montreal, Canada

- Faculty of Science Scholarship
- Science Undergraduate Research Award
- E Gordon Edwards Biology Award

Research Experience

Summer Research Intern, Li Lab

Montreal, Canada

May '20 - Aug '20

2017 - 2020

- Developed a Bayesian inference model for single-cell clustering
- Conducted experiments to assess model behavior and compare with state-of-art methods
- Performed pathway enrichment analyses to extract biological meanings from gene embeddings

Honours Research Student, Gerhold Lab

Montreal, Canada

May '19 – May '20

- Developed Centracker, an automated analysis pipeline for centrosome tracking and pairing
- Conducted *in situ* live-cell imaging experiments of *C. elegans* germline stem cells
- Training in spinning disk confocal microscopy, MetaMorph & worm mounting techniques

Research Assistant, Yamanaka Lab

Montreal, Canada

Dec '18 – Apr '19

- Created MiSeq-Analyzer, a tool that streamlines dynamic MiSeq sequencing data analyses
- Quantified and classified Cas9 RNA-guided endonucleases off-target sites to identify the clonal selection patterns during cancer progression in mice models of ovarian cancer

Research Student (BIOC396 Project), Akavia Lab

Montreal, Canada

Jan '19 – Apr '19

- Assessed protein localization prediction in a human genome-scale metabolic model
- Cross-validated datasets from multiple biochemistry empirical studies
- Identified possible causes of inaccurate model predictions

Summer Research Intern, Canada's Digital Health Hub

Surrey, Canada

Jul '18 – Aug '18

- Reviewed extensive literature on stress paradigm and memory consolidation
- Tested biosensors to design stress stimulation experiments
- Operated electroencephalography (EEG) tests for healthy and autistic children
- Assisted with EEG data pre-processing (MATLAB FieldTrip Toolbox)

Teaching & Volunteering

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, McGill University

Montreal, Canada

Jan '19 – Dec '19

- MATH 240 Discrete Structures (Fall 2019)
- MATH 324 Statistics (Winter 2019)

Media Relations Volunteer, Canadian Cancer Society (BC & Yukon Division)

Vancouver, Canada

Nov '16 - Aug '18

- Translated and reviewed promotion and education materials on cancer prevention
- Composed wellness-related articles for publication in Herald Monthly, a Vancouver-based not-forprofit monthly Chinese newspaper

Proficiencies

- Natural Languages: English, Mandarin Chinese, French, Wenzhounese
- Programing Languages: Python (PyTorch), MATLAB, C++, C, Java, R
- **Confocal Spinning Disk Microscopy:** Visualization of fluorescent molecules in *C. elegans* germline stem cells, time-lapse photography of *C. elegans* dividing cells
- C. elegans Care and Husbandry: Bleaching, worm picking, strain maintenance, whole-mounting