

Mark Pampuch

Researcher and Bioinformatician — Citizenship: Canadian — Current Location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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SUMMARY

I am a benchtop scientist turned computational biologist, possessing expertise in multiple disciplines, including biology, biochemistry, computer science, bioinformatics, and large-scale data analysis. I am a self-motivated and collaborative individual who seamlessly integrates into diverse settings. With a detail-oriented and driven personality, I have a proven ability to meet deadlines in fast-paced environments. My productivity is reflected in my contributions to two publications and presentations at nine scientific conferences. Additionally, I am trilingual, capable of speaking in English, French, and Polish, and possess strong communication skills. I am seeking a position in a dynamic and collaborative environment where I can apply my skills and expertise to solve complex problems in biology or data science.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biology, Bioinformatics, Data Science, Biochemistry, Genetics, Next Generation Sequencing, Synthetic Biology, Bioengineering

EDUCATION

The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada September 2021 — August 2023
Master of Science in Biochemistry Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0
Thesis Title: Advances in *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Nuclear Genome Engineering

The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada September 2016 — April 2020
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Honours Specialization in Genetics Cumulative GPA: 3.7/4.0
Undergraduate Thesis Title: Shaping the Root: Assessing a Dose-dependent Role for
the *Lotus japonicus HAR1* Receptor Kinase Gene

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology Thuwal, Makkah, Saudi Arabia
Visiting Researcher September 2023 — December 2023
Developing **high-molecular weight DNA extraction** protocols on photosynthetic microbes
Cell culture characterization using **high-performance liquid chromatography**
Performing **next-generation sequencing** using Oxford Nanopore Technologies platforms
Analyzing next-generation sequencing data using **Bash, R, and Python**
Distributing computational loads over **high-performance computing clusters** in parallel
using **SLURM** and **Nextflow** for timely processing of large data

Agriculture and Agrifood Canada London, Ontario, Canada
Research Assistant May 2019 — August 2019
Culturing and maintenance of plant tissue
Genetic sequence analysis for potential CRISPR cut sites
Designing guide RNA's and genotyping primers
DNA Isolation from plant tissue and genotyping via **PCR**
Phenotyping using **brightfield microscopy**
RNA Isolation and **quantitative PCR** for gene expression level analysis

MolecuLight Inc. MaRS Discovery District, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Internship May 2018 — August 2018
Collecting and **processing data** from clinical trial report forms
Analyzing microbial composition data obtained from clinical samples
Performing **market research** involving data collection and client profiling of hospitals across
North America and Europe
Performing **literature reviews** and **reports** on topics related to microbiology and healthcare
economics
Analyzing competitors in the medical or healthcare industry to gain insights into their prod-
ucts, strategies, and market positioning

PROJECTS

- Sequencing a Living Library of KSA Microorganisms** Thuwal, Makkah, Saudi Arabia
Visiting Researcher September 2023 — December 2023
 Developing **high-molecular weight DNA extraction** protocols on photosynthetic microbes
 Cell culture characterization using **high-performance liquid chromatography**
 Performing **next-generation sequencing** using Oxford Nanopore Technologies platforms
 Analyzing next-generation sequencing data using **Bash, R, and Python**
 Distributing computational loads over **high-performance computing clusters** in parallel
 using **SLURM** and **Nextflow** for timely processing of large data
- Remapping *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Genomic Data** London, Ontario, Canada
Graduate Student Researcher January 2022 — June 2023
Curating and **tidying data** from various online databases
Developping scripts and **algorithms** to filter genome-scale mapping data
Uploading and **hosting** genomic data on remote server
- Optimizing *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Nuclear Genome Engineering** London, Ontario, Canada
Graduate Student Researcher January 2022 — April 2023
Culturing and **maintenance** of algal, yeast, and bacterial cell cultures
 Optimizing **electroporation** protocols for marine diatoms
 Performing **next-generation sequencing** of transformant lines
- Directed Evolution of Conjugative Plasmids** London, Ontario, Canada
Graduate Student Researcher September 2021 — December 2021
Designing and **executing** laboratory evolution experiment
Genetic transformation of laboratory *E. coli* strains
 Performing precise and meticulous **bacterial conjugation** experiments
- Assessing Dose-dependent effects in the *Lotus japonicus HAR1* Locus** London, Ontario, Canada
Undergraduate Student Researcher September 2019 — March 2020
DNA Isolation from plant tissue and genotyping via **PCR**
 Phenotyping using **brightfield microscopy**
RNA Isolation and **quantitative PCR** for gene expression level analysis
- Engineering QTL's in Legume Species using CRISPR/Cas Technologies** London, Ontario, Canada
Summer Research Assistant May 2019 — August 2019
Culturing and **maintenance** of plant tissue
Genetic sequence analysis for potential CRISPR cut sites
 Designing guide RNA's and genotyping primers

PUBLICATIONS

- Walker, E. J. L., **Pampuch, M.**, Chang, N., Cochrane, R. R., and Karas, B. J. (2023) Design and Assembly of the 117-kb *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Chloroplast Genome. *Plant Physiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/plphys/kiad670>
- Pampuch, M.**, Walker, E. J. L., and Karas, B. J. (2021) Towards Synthetic Diatoms: The *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Pt-syn1.0 Project. *Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogsc.2022.100611>

PRESENTATIONS

- Fostering International Collaborations for Algal Biotechnology** Webinar
 SynDiatoms Fall 2023 Workshop — Speaker October 2023
- Advances in *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Nuclear Genome Engineering** Waikōloa Beach, Hawaii, USA
 International Conference on Algal Biomass, Biofuels and Bioproducts — Speaker June 2023
- Advances in *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Nuclear Genome Engineering** Webinar
 SynDiatoms Spring 2023 Workshop — Speaker May 2023
- Advances in *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* Nuclear Genome Engineering** London, Ontario, Canada
 Graduate Research Spring Symposium — Speaker May 2023

Genetic Engineering Advances in Diatoms 2023 Bioenergy Conference — Speaker	Webinar January 2023
Optimizing Transformation Methods for <i>Phaeodactylum tricornutum</i> SynDiatoms 2022 Workshop — Speaker	Webinar December 2022
Towards Synthetic Diatoms: The Pt-Syn 1.0 Project Canada SynBio 2022 — Speaker & Poster Video: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6938749677995470848/	Toronto, Ontario, Canada May 2022
Towards Synthetic Diatoms Graduate Research Winter Symposium — Poster	London, Ontario, Canada January 2022
Assessing a Dose-dependent Role for the <i>Lotus japonicus</i> <i>HAR1</i> Locus Ontario Biology Day — Speaker	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada <i>Scheduled but cancelled due to COVID-19</i>

WORKSHOPS

An Introduction to Machine Learning for Oxford Nanopore Data Entailed building a DNA basecaller using HMM's and a variant caller using a CNN.	Manhattan, New York, USA December 2022
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AWARDS

Chair's Travel Award \$500 — Issued by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Biochemistry Department	London, Ontario, Canada June 2023
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's Program \$17,500 — Issued by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Canada September 2022
Ontario Graduate Scholarship \$15,000 — Issued by the Government of Ontario <i>Awarded but declined due to conflict with NSERC award</i>	Ontario, Canada September 2022
Ontario Graduate Scholarship \$15,000 — Issued by the Government of Ontario	Ontario, Canada September 2021
British Columbia Graduate Scholarship \$15,000 — Issued by the Government of British Columbia	British Columbia, Canada September 2020
Deans Honour List (x4) Issued by the University of Western Ontario	London, Ontario, Canada 2016 — 2020
Western Scholarship of Distinction \$1000 — Issued by the University of Western Ontario	London, Ontario, Canada September 2016

EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENTS

Seed Your Startup 2023 Semi-Finalist <i>Morrissette Institute for Entrepreneurship</i> Created a business plan and presented a pitch for a biotechnology start-up company Semi-finalist amongst one other student “co-founder” in university-wide competition	London, Ontario, Canada March 2023
2023 Ivey Business Plan Competition Semi-Finalist <i>Ivey Business School</i> Created a business plan and presented pitches for a biotechnology start-up company Semi-finalist amongst one other student “co-founder” in Canada/USA-wide competition	London, Ontario, Canada November 2022 — January 2023
Exhibit Organizer <i>Science Rendezvous</i> Role entailed engaging with local youth and promoting science Organized booths on behalf of the Western University biochemistry department	London, Ontario, Canada July 2022, May 2023

Community Representative

Western Biochemistry Graduate Student Association

Role entailed promoting science and the Western University biochemistry department in the local community

Organized donation drive in partnership with Diabetes Canada

Organized youth outreach exhibit in partnership with Science Rendezvous

London, Ontario, Canada
September 2021 — August 2023

Competition Judge

cGEM

Judge for national biotechnology competition in Canada

Online
October 2021

Writer/Researcher

Western University Technology Review

Role entailed writing about sustainability initiatives in the local community

London, Ontario, Canada
September 2018 — April 2019

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, Bash/Linux Shell, JavaScript, Java, Groovy, SQL, L^AT_EX

Technologies: PyTorch, Nextflow, SLURM, Docker, Singularity, Anaconda, Git

Software: Visual Studio Code, RStudio, Microsoft Excel, IGV, Geneious, Benchling, SnapGene

Soft Skills: Problem Solving, Creativity, Time Management, Teamwork, Public Speaking

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

Speaking — *Fluent*

Listening — *Fluent*

Reading — *Fluent*

Writing — *Fluent*

French

Speaking — *Limited*

Listening — *Limited*

Reading — *Proficient*

Writing — *Intermediate*

Polish

Speaking — *Proficient*

Listening — *Proficient*

Reading — *Limited*

Writing — *Basic*

CERTIFICATIONS

edX Verified Certificate for CS50's Introduction to Computer Science

Issued by HarvardX — Credential ID: b2f0e720dcab45dabf14307458bffba8

REFERENCES

Prof. Kyle J. Lauersen

Assistant Professor, Bioengineering, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology — Thuwal, Makkah, Saudi Arabia

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Scholar Profiles: KAUST - Personal Page — Google Scholar — LinkedIn

Prof. Bogumil Karas

Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Western Ontario — London, Ontario, Canada

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Scholar Profiles: University of Western Ontario - Personal Page — Google Scholar — LinkedIn

Prof. Krzysztof Szczyglowski

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Prof. Ralph DaCosta

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