

Alexis M. Thornton

alThornt.github.io | alThornt@ucsc.edu

EDUCATION

PhD in Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics University of California, Santa Cruz	2017-Present
BS in Biology University of Florida	2011-2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Junior Research Specialist. University of California, Santa Cruz Dr. Angela Brooks, Department of Biomolecular Engineering	2016-2017
Research Assistant. University of Florida Dr. Todd Golde, Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases	2015-2016

PUBLICATIONS

Huang HH, Ferguson ID, **Thornton AM** et al. Proteasome inhibitor-induced modulation reveals the spliceosome as a specific therapeutic vulnerability in multiple myeloma. Nature Communications 11, 1931 (2020).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-15521-4>

Thornton AM et al. eVIP2: Expression-based variant impact phenotyping to predict the function of gene variants. bioRxiv. December 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1101/872028>

AWARDS AND HONORS

Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship	2017-Present
Bill H. James Scholarship for Aspiring African American Engineers	2019
Nominated for HHMI Gilliam Fellowship	2019
NIH T32 Training Grant Award	2018-2019
NIH Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program Fellowship	2016-2017
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship	2011-2015
ALPHA EPSILON DELTA – UF's pre-health honor society	2013-2015

ORGANIZATIONS

ICGC Accelerating Research in Genomic Oncology Consortium	2020-Present
UCSC Genomics Institute Diversity Committee	2020-Present
The Black Women in Computational Biology Network	2020-Present
Alpha Epsilon Delta: University of Florida's pre-health honor society	2013-2015

TALKS

The Black Women in Computational Biology Network	Jan. 2021
Northern California Computational Biology Symposium in Santa Cruz, California	Oct. 2017

POSTERS

The Bay Area RNA Club Conference	Dec. 2020
UCSC Program in Biological Sciences and Engineering Research Conference	Sept. 2020
Biology and Mathematics Bay Area (BaMBA) annual meeting in Santa Cruz, California	Dec. 2019
European Molecular Biology Lab (EMBL) Cancer Genomics Conference in Heidelberg, Germany	Nov. 2019
NIH National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri	Apr. 2019
Northern California Computational Biology Symposium in San Francisco, California	Oct. 2018
UCSC Program in Biological Sciences and Engineering Research Conference	Sept. 2018
Canadian Institute for Advanced Research Genetic Network Program Meeting in Santa Cruz, California	Dec. 2016
Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Tampa, Florida	Nov. 2016

UCSC Program in Biological Sciences and Engineering Research Conference Sept. 2016

TEACHING

Computational Biology Tools Winter 2021

Teaching Assistant for Computational Biology Tools (BME110)

Data Carpentry Workshop and office hours Summer 2020

Co-led a two-day Data Carpentry Workshop for the NIH-funded Big Data 2 Knowledge Summer Up Program, which is designed to enhance the diversity of the research workforce; held weekly office hours for walk-in advising and troubleshooting

Bioinformatics Analysis and Coding Workshop Summer 2019

Co-designed and co-led a two-day workshop for Big Data 2 Knowledge Summer Up Program, held weekly office hours for walk-in advising and troubleshooting

Python crash course Summer 2018

Led an online Python crash course to prepare incoming UCSC Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics graduate students

Biomolecular Engineering Bootcamp Summer 2018

With five other current graduate students, organized and led a weeklong “Bootcamp” where incoming UCSC Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics graduate students used Oxford Nanopore Technologies MinIONs to sequence different mouse cDNA and predict the tissue of origin

MENTORING

Mentor for Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC)

Program aimed to increase diversity in biomedical sciences

Student: Susanna Morin, undergraduate at UCSC

Summer 2020

Mentor for Big Data 2 Knowledge Summer UP (BD2K)

Summer computational biology training program aimed to enhance diversity

Student: Christina Magana-Ramirez, undergraduate at CSU Monterey Bay

Summer 2020

Student: Tyler Hayes, undergraduate at Southern University

Summer 2018

Mentor for Treehouse Undergrad Bioinformatics Immersion (TUBI)

Program to provide undergraduates bioinformatics experience

Trained four UCSC students in RNA-seq projects using R

Winter 2020

Mentor for Matriculating, Influencing, Networking, and Triumphant (MINT)

Mentoring program for women-identified underrepresented students who want to attend graduate school

Student: Carmelle Catamura, undergraduate at UCSC

2018-2020

- Carmelle is now a Computational Biology PhD student at UC Berkeley

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Volunteer via Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society 2013-2015

120 hours for various causes including:

- Performed fun science experiments at local elementary schools
- Collected, packaged, and delivered food donations for students from low-income families
- Led a booth teaching youth about bat anatomy at Gainesville's Annual Bat Festival
- Participated in Give Kids the World, a non-profit organization for children with life-threatening diseases

Chronic Gators 2014-2015

Club dedicated to raising awareness for those affected by chronic illnesses

Volunteer at Sarah Fox Children's Convalescent Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa Summer 2013

Assisted medical staff in caring for and monitoring recovering pediatric patients

Volunteer at Shands Hospital, Gainesville FL 2012-2013

Engaged with hospitalized geriatric patients to keep them physically and mentally active

Hurricane Relief

Oct. 2012

Travelled from Gainesville, Florida to New York with the University of Florida Hillel to provide help to victims of Hurricane Sandy

School Health Interdisciplinary Program

2011-2012

Helped run after-school science programs at underserved elementary schools in Gainesville, FL

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Illumina Career Exploration Day

September 30, 2019

Attended day at Illumina's Foster City campus

Panel member

December 7, 2019

"Broader Impacts and Big Challenges: Diversity in Quantitative Biology" panel at the Biology and Mathematics Bay Area conference