Kasturi Rajandran

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# Personal Statement

A dedicated, enthusiastic, detailed and proficient graduate student with a year dedicated to research in human genetics and genomics. Currently working on publishing research work accomplished during Honours year. I have a deep and profound interest in delving into genetics related doctoral research, with a keen interest in exploring genomics, bioinformatics and evolutionary aspects of the research subjects.

# Education

**2018 – 2019 First Class Honours in Biomedical Science**

Monash University Malaysia

 WAM: 83.0 (GPA 4.0/ CGPA 4.0)

**2014 – 2018 Double Degree in Biotechnology and Medical Bioscience**

Monash University Malaysia
WAM: 74.4 (GPA: 3.18 / CGPA: 3.63)

**2013 – 2014 Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY)**

Sunway University

Results: Score of 88.5

# Research Experience

**Monash University**, Malaysia 2019

**Contract Researcher**, Genomics Facility (A.Prof Qasim Ayub)

* Working on microscopic analysis of human and mouse hair under scanning electron microscopy as an extension of my Honours research project

**Honours Project**, Monash University, Malaysia 2018-2019

Advisor: Associate Professor Qasim Ayub

* Prepared ethical approval documents and collected hair and saliva samples from participants
* Designed primers and processed the DNA samples extracted from the saliva with Sanger Sequencing
* Prepared and analyzed the hair samples with scanning electron microscopy (SEM)
* Modelled potential protein model utilizing data from UniProt and the Modelller 9.21
* Analyzed the SEM data utilizing SPSS and accumulated the research data and used them to write thesis.
	+ **Thesis title:** The Frequency of Non-synonymous Variants in *PRSS53* in the Malaysian population

**Undergraduate Research Project**, Monash University, Malaysia 2017

Advisor: Professor Sunil K. Lal

* A 3-month project working on the ‘Halal Project’ where I isolated DNA from food samples and analyzed them via PCR for porcine contamination
* Collected the data from all the analysis to write a short thesis.
	+ **Thesis title:** The presence of porcine contamination in Halal labelled food

# Presentations and Invited Lectures

**Research Presentation**, “The Frequency of Non-synonymous Variants of *PRSS53* in the Malaysian population”, 30th Intervarsity Biochemistry Seminar, May 2019.

**3-minute Science presentation,** “The Validity of the 5-seconds rule”, Monash University Malaysia, November 2018

# Professional Training

**Monash Science Symposium,** *participant*

Monash University Malaysia, October 2018

**Galaxy Australia: RNAseq Workshop,** *participant*

Monash University Malaysia, October 2018

**Bioimaging and Image Analysis Practical Workshop,** *participant*

Monash University Malaysia, September 2018

**Galaxy Australia Variant Detection Workshop,** *participant*

Monash University Malaysia, September 2018

**Confocal Microscopy Training,** *participant*

Monash University Malaysia, August 2018

# Other Training

**Basic First Aid Certification**

Malaysia Red Crescent, April 2019

**Mental Health First Aid Certification**

Mental Health First Aid Australia, August 2018

# Other Experiences and Volunteering History

***Publicity Director*, Monash First Aid Bureau**

* In charge of the club’s publicity, managing the club email and head of creative design work in the club

***Volunteer*, Agathian Children Shelter**

* Collected donations for the shelter by setting up a booth on campus and conducted science activities for the children at the shelter

***Student Ambassador*, Monash University School of Science**

* Assisted new students in assimilating to the university and School

***Volunteer*, Brighton Marathon**

* Marshalled and made sure injured participants were brought to medical attention**.**

***Semester Abroad*, University of Sussex, Brighton**

* Funded by the European Union via a s scholarship competition hosted by ERASMUS.
* Gained experience on working with people of other cultures and backgrounds, as well as improved my communication skills tremendously.
* Translated part of the book published during my semester abroad.

**Altman, Shanyn. *et al*.** Sir Launfal: A Translation. University of Sussex, School of English. 2017.

***Participant*, Wildlife Conservation Camp organized by WILDCRU from Oxford University**

* 20 participants were chosen and funded from all over Asia to attend this one-week camp, based on their knowledge and experience in the field of environmental conservation.
* Gained a lot of experience on working with people and various efforts that are being utilized in conservation.

# Languages

**English**: First Language, Native proficiency in reading, writing and speaking

**Malay**: Advanced reading, writing and listening

**Tamil**: Basic speaking skills

# Skills

* Excels at lab-based research work, with experience in DNA extraction, library preparation, primer design and PCR
* Highly competent in utilizing statistical software including SPSS, R and GraphPad Prism.
* Bioinformatics analysis of SNPs utilizing UGENE and online bioinformatics software (BLAST, Ensemble, UCSC Genome Browser)
* Some experience in protein analysis and modelling utilizing Modeller 9.21
* Excellent communication skills obtained during the various presentations during my degrees and honours research as well as semester abroad.

# REFERENCES

Available on request