

UPASANA SARRAJU

Academic Editor, Science Writer, Molecular Ecologist

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Focused and self-motivated researcher, editor, and writer with excellent analytical, administrative, organisational, editing, and communication skills. Possesses exceptional work ethic and attention to detail. Adept at independent and systematic decision-making and leading teams. Thrives under pressure and stringent deadlines.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Organization

Planning: analysis and strategy, decision-making, project management, time management

Teamwork: collaboration, goal-setting, group leadership and conflict resolution, negotiation

Physical organization: administrative skills, task assessment, creative thinking, effectiveness, productivity

Software

Sequence Alignment/Phylogenetics: FigTree, FinchTV, Mesquite, Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis (MEGA), MULTiple Sequence Comparison by Log-Expectation (MUSCLE), PHYLogeny Inference Package (PHYLIP), Phylogenetic Analysis Using Parsimony (PAUP), Population Analysis with Reticulate Trees (PopART)

Population Genetics: Arlequin

Molecular Graphics Visualization and Modelling: JMol, RasMol

GIS: ArcGIS, GRASS GIS (Geographic Resources Analysis Support System), QGIS

Data Analysis: R

Vector Graphics: Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW, GIMP, Inkscape

Word Processing: Celtx, LibreOffice Writer, Microsoft Office Word

Audio Editing: Audacity

Editing: PerfectIt, IntelliSampler

Laboratory Techniques

Molecular Biology, Molecular Ecology, Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Immunology, and Bioprocess Engineering techniques, including:

- Protein and Nucleic Acid isolation, purification, and estimation (source: mammalian blood, mammalian feces, mammalian hair, and bacterial and yeast cultures)

- Bacterial and yeast culturing and transformation
- Microbial staining and microscopic identification
- Immunoassay tests (ELISA)
- Gel Electrophoresis
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and its variants (Real-Time PCR, Nested PCR, Multiplex PCR, Quantitative PCR)
- DNA Marker-Assisted Selection
- Lab-scale bacterial fermentation

Academic Writing and Editing

- Editing of original and translated research papers, proposals, reports, posters, lectures, PowerPoint presentations edited for basic proofreading, improving clarity and flow, content verification and argument refinement, abstract and summary preparation in English.
- Editing for target medical journals, including Nature, JAMA, NEJM, The BMJ, and Annals of Internal Medicine.
- Formatting as per the AMA Manual of Style, APA, The Chicago Manual of Style, and NLM citation styles.

ORGANISATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Volunteered with greater responsibility each year at SCCS 2017 and 2018 editions and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Open Day celebrations
- Systematized “post-PCR” molecular lab for efficient work flow and protection of data, Centre of Ecological Sciences (CES), IISc
- Organised the annual In-House Research Symposium 2017, CES, IISc
- Initiated and organised a lab “Treasure Hunt” at CES, IISc
- Established solid waste segregation in residential neighbourhoods of North Bengaluru
- Designed and instated economical agarose and polyacrylamide gel shaker at university
- Designed and introduced ‘Solid Waste Management for Educational Campuses’ at university
- Founded Student-club for Ecology and Conservation at university
- Regular independent execution of injured animal rescue and fostering operations across Bengaluru

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

November 2017 – June 2018

Role: Associate Editor, Medicine
Organisation: Cactus Communications

April – May, 2017

Role: Editorial Intern
Magazine: Nature inFocus

August 2011- September 2012

Role: Editor
Magazine: Progenitor, *Official Publication of Department of Biotechnology, M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology*

March 2007-June 2008

Role: Co-Editor
Magazine: Horizon, *Official School Publication, Chinmaya Vidyalaya High School*

RECENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

April – October, 2017

Position: Research Consultant

Focus: Identification of patterns in human-elephant conflict using molecular techniques

Organisation: Asian Nature Conservation Foundation

February 2016 – March 2017

Position: Research Assistant

Focus: Demography, genealogy, molecular ecology aspects of human-elephant conflict across India

Institution: Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Sciences

January – March, 2013

Project: Doctoral Research

Focus: Stem cell Pathways in Zebrafish Embryos for Directed Conversion to Neuronal Cell Precursors.

Institution: Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore

February – May, 2012

Project: Undergraduate Dissertation Research

Focus: Marker-Assisted Molecular and Genotypic Analysis of Drought-Resistant *Oryza sativa*.

Institution: University of Agricultural Sciences, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra

June – July, 2011

Role: Industrial Trainee

Focus: Overview of Biopharmaceutical Processing

Organisation: Biozeen, Bangalore Biotech Labs Pvt. Ltd.

June – August, 2010

Role: Summer Research Trainee

Focus: X-Ray Crystallography of DNA-binding Proteins

Institution: National Centre for Biological Sciences

EDUCATION

January – March, 2013

Doctoral Program in Biological Sciences (withdrawn)

National University of Singapore

August 2008 – September 2012

Bachelor of Engineering, Biotechnology

M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT)

Cumulative GPA: 8.75/10; First Class with Distinction

AWARDS

- Winner, Student Poster Presentation
National Conference on Biopharmaceuticals and Healthcare 2011
- Runner-Up, Student Poster Presentation
National Conference on Biopharmaceuticals and Healthcare 2011
- Winner- Parliamentary Debating Novice Category
The 7th National Law School Debate, 2008

EXTRACURRICULAR WORK

- To P Or Not To P: The Search For Significance October 2017
Article Publication in Connect, IISc
- Mudumalai: Life and Death March 2017
Photography Publication in Gravel Magazine
- Poema March 2015
Poetry Publication in The Bombay Literary Magazine, Issue #10
- Word of Actor October 2013
Theatre Review Publication in AF Magazine
- Iph October 2015
Performance Art at Liegenschaft, Berlin
- The Beard of Maqbool October 2015
Literary Exhibition at Institut für Alles Mögliche, Berlin
- Artist Residency at Institut für Alles Mögliche, Berlin August- October 2015
- Introductory Training in Drama (acting and writing) March 2013-September 2015
Indianostrum Théâtre, Puducherry