

TANIA KURBESSOIAN

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Dynamic microbiologist with a Ph.D. in Microbiology and over 12 years of expertise in microbiological research, teaching, and laboratory supervision. Proven track record in environmental monitoring, aseptic techniques, and quality control in compliance with cGMP standards. Adept at leading teams, mentoring stage, and managing complex microbiological projects to ensure regulatory compliance and operational excellence.

EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside <i>PhD. In Microbiology</i> , advisor Dr. Jason Stajich	Riverside, CA Winter, 2022
California State University, Northridge <i>Master of Science in Microbiology</i> , advisor Dr. Larry Baresi	Northridge, CA Winter, 2016
California State University, Northridge <i>Bachelor of Science in Microbiology</i>	Northridge, CA Winter, 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clark Seif Clark, Inc. <i>Expert Microbiologist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct comprehensive microbiological assessments of built environments, specializing in mold-impacted surfaces.• Oversee potable water testing for <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> and other species, ensuring regulatory compliance and accuracy.• Lead environmental monitoring programs to assess microbial risks and develop mitigation strategies.• Prepare detailed reports with actionable insights for clients, emphasizing safety and health implications.• Collaborative with interdisciplinary teams to provide expert analysis for complex microbiological challenges.	Chatsworth, CA <i>May 2024 - Present</i>
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University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill <i>Biology Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Biology</i> , advisor Dr. Daniel Matute <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processed large quantities of fungal genomic data to analyze transposable elements.• Managed data integrity and ensured project milestones were met under strict timelines.• Supervised junior researchers and provided comprehensive mentorship.	Chapel Hill, NC <i>Aug 2023 - Aug 2024</i>
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University of California, Riverside <i>Teaching Associate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microbial Evolution - MCBL 127, Teaching Associate, two quarters• Introduction to Genomics and Bioinformatics - BIOL 119, Teaching Associate, two quarters	Riverside, CA <i>Jan 2019- Dec 2022</i>
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Research Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed bioinformatics skills to assemble and annotate genomes from a variety of fungal phyla.• Collaborated with multiple international teams on projects involving melanized fungi.• Constructed phylogenetic trees to analyze gene content and sequence homology among multiple fungal genomes.• Automated data collection processes using custom scripts, streamlining analysis pipelines.• Generated comprehensive reports of data analysis findings using presentation software.• Participated in JGI CSP projects contributing high molecular weight (HMW) genomic DNA and RNA for sequencing projects for the 1000 fungal genome project and STRess project.	
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California State University, Northridge <i>Teaching Associate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered lectures and lab sessions.• Mentored students in laboratory techniques, data interpretation, and scientific writing.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principles of Microbiology, Teaching Associate, five semesters• Microbial Physiology, Graduate Associate, two semesters• Medical Microbiology, Graduate Associate, one semester• Biology of the Fungi, Graduate Associate, two semesters• Food Microbiology, Graduate Associate, one semester	Northridge, CA <i>Jan 2014-Dec 2016</i>
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INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL - NASA <i>Summer Intern Program (SIP) Intern</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed experiments on bio-burden reduction for <i>Bacillus sp.</i> under extreme conditions.• Developed contamination-free protocols with a 0% contamination success rates across 49 tests.• Utilized MALDI-TOF MS to analyze microbial populations.	Pasadena, CA <i>July – Sept 2016</i>
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RELEVANT SKILLS

- **Microbiology and Mycology:** Aseptic technique, fluorescent, bright field and contrast microscopy, staining bacteria, culturing bacteria and fungi from the environment, numeration and identification, media, buffer, and chemical preparation, using selective media, virus plaque assay, enzyme assay, and MALDI-TOF MS, aseptic gowning.
- **Biochemistry and Cell & Molecular Biology:** DNA extraction, enzymatic assay preparation, protein extraction, plasmid DNA preparation, DNA Sequencing, restriction enzyme digests, PCR, agarose gel electrophoresis, amplicon library preparation, compressed gases testing.
- **Management:** cGMP compliance, SOP development, team supervision, equipment calibration, GLPs, GMPs, and quality assurance practices.
- **Bioinformatics:** Genome assembly and annotation, population genomics, comparative genomics, genome browser development, metagenomics binning, and annotation, working with Genomics Data, R amplicon analysis, Multi-Omic analysis, Github and Git, language proficiency in Python, Bash, R, and MySQL. LIMS, Microsoft Office Suite.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS & PROTOCOLS & RESOURCES

- Authored over 10 peer-reviewed publications, including genome sequencing of opportunistic pathogens.
- Delivered presentations at leading mycological and microbiological conferences, including Fungal Genetics, Mycological Society of America and American Society of Microbiology.
- **Kurbessoian, Tania**, Jason E. Stajich, and Sonia L. Ghose. "Low Biomass, high contamination Illumina DNA prep using DNeasy PowerSoil (Pro) Kit." (2022).
- 2. Carter-House, Derreck, Jason E. Stajich, Sarah Unruh, and **Tania Kurbessoian**. "Fungal CTAB DNA Extraction." *Protocols. io* (2020).

HONORS AND AWARDS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

- CSU Northridge Research Symposium Poster Award 2015
- Eugene Robles Fellowship for UC Riverside Ph.D. Program September 2017-March 2018
- Emory Simmons Fellowship from Mycological Society of America April 2019
- UC Riverside Edge Devirian Fellowship 2019
- UC Riverside Graduate Student Mentorship Program (GSMP) Best Mentor Award 2019-2020
- UC Riverside Distinguished Teaching Award 2020-2021
- UC Riverside DEI Scholarship 2021
- Mycological Society of America Conference Travel Award 2022

CERTIFICATES

UC Riverside MEI Chancellor's Graduate Student Diversity Certificate Program (2022)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Congress of Armenian Mycologists (ICAM) Non-profit <i>Co-Founder, Vice-President</i>	USA <i>November 2020-</i>
Association for Women in Science- Riverside Chapter (AWIS) School Organization <i>President, Vice President Publicity Chair</i>	Riverside, CA <i>June 2018-2022</i>
Mycological Society of America, Student, and PostDoc Section (MSA-SPS) Non-profit <i>Past-Chair, Chair, Vice-Chair, Outreach Chair</i>	USA <i>August 2019-2023</i>
Graduate Student Association- Microbiology Chapter (Micro-GSA) School Organization <i>President, Vice President, Outreach</i>	Riverside, CA <i>June 2017-2020</i>
Microbiology Students Association at California State University (MSA) School Organization <i>Secretary, Treasurer and President</i>	Northridge, CA <i>Jan 2013-Aug 2016</i>
Los Angeles Mycological Society (LAMS) Non-profit <i>Member</i>	Los Angeles, CA <i>Nov 2014 - Present</i>
Mycological Society of America (MSA) Non-profit <i>Student Member</i>	USA <i>Jan 2015 -- Present</i>
American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Non-profit <i>Member</i>	USA <i>Aug 2013 – Present</i>