

Jarrett D. Phillips, Ph.D.  
Adjunct Professor  
School of Computer Science  
Department of Integrative Biology  
Department of Population Medicine  
University of Guelph

✉ [jphill01@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jphill01@uoguelph.ca)

✉ [phillipsjarrett1@gmail.com](mailto:phillipsjarrett1@gmail.com)

 [jphill01](#)

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 [Jarrett Phillips](#)

 [Dr. Jarrett D. Phillips](#)

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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

**Adjunct Professor**, School of Computer Science  
University of Guelph

2023

## **EDUCATION**

My university education has primarily focused on the use of computational statistical approaches to solve open problems in biodiversity science and conservation, with an overarching theme of aiding rapid specimen identification and species discovery in academic, applied, and regulatory settings using DNA-based techniques such as DNA barcoding.

**Ph.D.** in Computational Sciences, University of Guelph

2016-2022

**Co-Advisors:** Dr. Daniel Gillis and Dr. Robert Hanner

**Advisory Committee Members:** Dr. Deborah Stacey and Dr. Graham Taylor

**Thesis:** A Novel Statistical Framework for Assessment of Intraspecific Haplotype Sampling Completeness: Implications for DNA Barcode Gap Estimation

**Master of Bioinformatics (MBinf.)**, University of Guelph

2013-2014

**Co-Advisors:** Dr. Robert Hanner and Dr. Daniel Ashlock

**Thesis:** Assessing DNA Barcode Haplotype Sampling Diversity in the Ray-finned Fishes (Chordata: Actinopterygii)

**BSc. (Hons.)** in Biological Science, University of Guelph

2009-2013

Coursework in bioinformatics, ecology, evolutionary biology, comparative physiology, mathematics, and statistics

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

I bring extensive past research experience in the use of bioinformatics, computational, mathematical, and statistical tools for the analysis of a wide range of big data in the biological sciences.

### **Postdoctoral Fellow** 2023-Present

University of Guelph  
GBADs Informatics Team  
Stacey Lab, School of Computer Science  
Bernardo Lab, Department of Population Medicine  
Supervisors: Drs. Deborah Stacey and Theresa Bernardo

- Development of an R package to run a compartmentalized equation-based Dynamic Population Model (DPM) for the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) initiative to calculate the Animal Health Loss Envelope (AHLE) in livestock species

### **Postdoctoral Fellow** 2023-Present

University of Guelph  
Gillis Lab, School of Computer Science  
Hanner Lab, Department of Integrative Biology  
Supervisors: Drs. Daniel Gillis and Robert Hanner

- Developed a Bayesian hierarchical binary logistic time-series regression model and a R Shiny dashboard of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain
- Mentored and supervised an undergraduate STAT\*4600/CIS\*4900/CIS\*4910 student and an Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) working to develop models in R, Stan, and Shiny

### **Postdoctoral Fellow** 2022

University of Guelph  
Hanner Lab, Department of Integrative Biology  
Supervisor: Dr. Robert Hanner

- Mentored and supervised a Master of Bioinformatics (MBINF.) BINF\*6999 student on research project examining DNA barcoding in Canadian pests and disease vectors
- Participated in conceptualization and drafting of various manuscripts and invited book chapters

### **Summer Research Assistant** 2016

Algoma University  
Plant and Soil Ecology Lab, Department of Biology  
Invasive Species Research Institute (ISRI)  
Supervisor: Dr. Pedro Antunes

- Offered bioinformatics and statistical analysis support in R
- Assisted Principal Investigator and undergraduate thesis student with initial drafting of a manuscript on invasive plant root lesion staining quantification

**Lab Assistant Volunteer**

2014-2016

Algoma University

Plant and Soil Ecology Lab, Department of Biology

Invasive Species Research Institute (ISRI)

Supervisor: Dr. Pedro Antunes

- Offered bioinformatics and statistical analysis support in R
- Assisted with collaborative and outreach initiatives for the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species (TIPS) Network Project through drafting communication letters to public and private conservation agencies across Canada and the USA seeking volunteers to collect invasive plant species for root lesion quantification

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

2013

University of Guelph

Vaccine Discovery Research Group

Supervisor: Dr. Mario Monteiro

- Performed various experimental techniques (gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)) on bacterial polysaccharide samples for vaccine synthesis and development under the supervision of qualified graduate students

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

In addition to co-teaching three undergraduate courses, I was directly involved in grading assignments, creating course outlines and lab content, as well as materials for midterms and final exams.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)**

2016-2020

University of Guelph

**CIS\*3130 – System Modelling and Simulation**

2020

~ 30 students · Python

- Statistical and Monte Carlo methods

**CIS\*1910 – Discrete Structures in Computing I**

2017

~ 300 students (~ 40 students per section)

- Deductive logic, set theory, and mathematical proof techniques

**CIS\*2460 – Modelling of Computer Systems**

2016-2019

~ 60 students · R, Excel, Java

- Statistical and Monte Carlo methods

**STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP**

I have either directly or indirectly supervised and mentored 16 undergraduate/graduate students in the School of Computer Science, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Department of Integrative Biology, all of whom are, or will be, coauthors on my publications. My primary role has been to guide students through the entire scientific process (*i.e.*, formulating research questions, designing, and setting up experiments to test hypotheses, collecting data and analyzing results and writing the

manuscript drafts), among other responsibilities, such as providing feedback on students' draft reports/manuscripts. Students completed research both as part of a course and as lab volunteers.

<b>Nikolett Toth</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) · Mining association rules for eDNA spatiotemporal sampling	2024
<b>Nathan Zeinstra</b> (with Dirk Steinke) University of Guelph IBIO*6070 · Habitat occupancy modelling of sea lamprey environmental DNA	2024
<b>Fynn De Vuono-Fraser</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph CIS*4910 · Bayesian modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain	2024
<b>Fynn De Vuono-Fraser</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph CIS*4900 · Bayesian modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain	2023
<b>Zaid Al-Gayyali</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) · Seafood Fraud Visualization Tool Shiny app	2023
<b>Fynn De Vuono-Fraser</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph STAT*4600 · Bayesian modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain	2023
<b>Amina Asif</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph BINF*6999 · DNA barcode gap analysis of Canadian disease vectors and agricultural pests	2022
<b>Navdeep Singh</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph CIS*4900 · HACSim RShiny web application	2021
<b>Maya Persram</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph Hanner Lab volunteer · R reporting ecological meta-analysis	2020-present
<b>Ashley Chen</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph Hanner Lab volunteer · R reporting ecological meta-analysis	2020-present
<b>Olivia Friesen Kroeker</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph Hanner Lab volunteer · R reporting ecological meta-analysis	2020-present
<b>Scarlett Bootsma</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph CIS*4900/4910 · HACSim simulation study	2020-2021
<b>Christina Frangel</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph BINF*6999 · DNA barcode sequence classification with machine learning	2018-2019
<b>Jiaojia (Paula) Yu</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph BINF*6999 · MDMAPR R Shiny app	2018-2019

<b>Danielle St. Jean</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph MSc. thesis · DNA barcode sequence classification with machine learning	2018-2019
<b>Steven French</b> (with Dan Gillis) University of Guelph CIS*4900/4910 · HACSim R package	2018
<b>Julia Harvie</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph MCB*4500/4510 · Data mining GenBank and BOLD	2018-2019
<b>Ankita Bhanderi</b> (with Bob Hanner) University of Guelph BINF*6999 · Data mining GenBank and BOLD	2018

### **ASSISTANTSHIPS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Throughout my Ph.D. studies, I have been recognized and awarded numerous assistantships, awards, scholarships, and grants recognizing my research excellence and potential.

<b>Food from Thought Advancing Research Impact (ARIF) Fund</b> University of Guelph	2022 \$30000.00 CAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-year postdoctoral funding to develop a Bayesian hierarchical binary logistic time-series regression model of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain</li> </ul>	
<b>NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> University of Waterloo	2021 \$90000.00 CAD (not funded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-year postdoctoral funding to develop an ensemble machine learning model for taxonomic classification of regulated species in Canada</li> </ul>	
<b>Guelph Institute for Environmental Research Small Grants Program (GIER SGP)</b> University of Guelph	2020 \$15000.00 CAD (not funded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-year postdoctoral funding to develop a Bayesian hierarchical binary logistic time-series regression model of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain</li> </ul>	
<b>SoCS Travel Grant</b> University of Guelph	2019 \$1000.00 CAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported travel to the 8<sup>th</sup> International Barcode of Life Conference in Trondheim, Norway to present doctoral research</li> </ul>	
<b>Arthur D. Latornell Graduate Travel Grant</b> University of Guelph	2019 \$500.00 CAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded for first-class academic standing in Ph.D. coursework</li> <li>Supported travel to the 8<sup>th</sup> International Barcode of Life Conference in Trondheim, Norway to present work related to resource management and conservation</li> </ul>	
<b>Graduate Teaching Assistantships</b> University of Guelph	2017-2020 \$34,506.00-35,148.00 CAD
<b>Graduate Research Assistantships</b> University of Guelph	2017-2019 \$11,000.00 CAD
<b>CPES Graduate Dean's Scholarship</b> University of Guelph	2017 \$3500.00 CAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded in recognition of achieving over 85% in Master's coursework</li> </ul>	

**CPES Graduate Excellence Entrance (GEE) Scholarship** 2016  
 University of Guelph \$30000.00 CAD

- Awarded in recognition of achieving over 85% in Master's coursework

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

I have contributed to the growth of the SoCS through serving on two hiring panels for faculty positions in cybersecurity, specifically to support the new coursework-based Master of Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence program. Duties included reviewing and ranking candidate applications, conducting in-person interviews, and hosting invited candidates for scheduled luncheons to meet with other faculty members.

**School of Computer Science (SoCS) Search Committee** 2018  
 University of Guelph

- Associate Professor position in cybersecurity

**School of Computer Science (SoCS) Search Committee** 2017-2018  
 University of Guelph

- Two-year contractually-limited Assistant Professor position in cybersecurity

**ACADEMIC PEER REVIEW SERVICE**

I have served as a reviewer for numerous manuscripts in different journals, both alone or under the guidance of my Ph.D. supervisors.

<i>Ecology and Evolution</i> (2)	2021-2022
<i>F1000 Research</i> (1)	2022
<i>Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution</i> (2)	2022
<i>Lifestyle Genomics</i> (2)	2022
<i>Mitochondrial DNA Part A</i> (2)	2023
<i>Molecular Ecology Resources</i> (6)	2019-2022, 2023
<i>Molecular Biology Reports</i> (1)	2020
<i>Methods in Ecology and Evolution</i> (1)	2020

**PROCEEDINGS**

I have presented or attended graduate research at national or international conferences and workshops, including both oral presentations and posters. Sessions listed here also include presentations by supervised undergraduate students.

**GBADs Technical Workshop** (oral presentation) 2023  
 University of Liverpool

**CEPS Student Research Day** (student poster presentation) 2023  
 University of Guelph

**Pathway to Increase Standards and Competency of eDNA Surveys (PICSeS)** 2023  
**International Conference** (poster presentation)  
 University of Guelph

<b>8<sup>th</sup> International Barcode of Life Conference</b> (oral presentation) NTNU University Museum and Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre	2019
<b>Guelph BioMathematics and Statistics (BioM&amp;S) Symposium</b> <b>Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Biology</b> (attended) University of Guelph	2019
<b>CEPS Undergraduate Poster Session</b> (student poster presentation) University of Guelph	2018
<b>7<sup>th</sup> International Barcode of Life Conference</b> (oral presentation) University of Johannesburg	2017
<b>6<sup>th</sup> International Barcode of Life Conference</b> (poster presentation) University of Guelph	2015

## **SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

I have been directly or indirectly involved with the development and deployment of several R software package tools for molecular biodiversity analysis.

GBADs DPM (**G**lobal **B**urden of **A**nimal **D**iseases **D**ynamic **P**opulation **M**odel) · R package

- A novel stochastic age- and sex-structured compartmentalized equation-based model to assess the burden of animal diseases in livestock such as cattle, small ruminants, and poultry within developing countries like Ethiopia

HACSim (**H**aplotype **A**ccumulation **C**urve **S**imulator) · R package · R Shiny web app

- A novel nonparametric stochastic (Monte Carlo) local search optimization method of iteratively generating species' haplotype accumulation curves through extrapolation to assess within-species sampling completeness
- R package and Shiny app respectively available for download through the Comprehensive R Archive Network ([CRAN](#)) package repository or at [shinyapps.io](http://shinyapps.io)
- Publication in *PeerJ Computer Science* was one of the top five most viewed papers in the category *Optimization Theory and Computation*
- Has been downloaded over 30000 times (c. 743 times per month) since being published in May 2019

VLF (**V**ery **L**ow **F**requency) · R package

- A novel tool to assess PCR errors, sequencing errors, *etc.* in the form of very low frequency variants, within DNA sequences using a sliding window approach
- R package available for download through [CRAN](#)
- Manuscript published in the *Biodiversity Data Journal*
- Has been downloaded over 36000 times (c. 233 times per month) since publication

## **REFEREED WORK**

I have been directly or indirectly involved with the conceptualization, research, supervision, and eventual publication of several academic and non-academic projects.

### **Journal Articles**

Citations: 181 · H-index: 6 (According to Google Scholar, as of May 2, 2024)

\* Indicates students under my direct mentorship or supervision

\*\* Indicates students under my indirect mentorship or supervision

#### Published or Accepted

8. Raymond, K., Sobkowich, K.E., **Phillips, J.D.**, Nguyen, L., McKechnie, I., Mohideen, R.N., Fitzjohn, W., Szurkowski, M., Davidson, J., Rushton, J., Stacey, D.A. and Bernardo T.M. GBADs informatics strategy: User-centric tools, data quality, and model interoperability. Submitted to *WOAH Scientific and Technical Review*.

7. **Phillips, J.D.** and \*De Vuono-Fraser, F.A. Statistical modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain. bioRxiv. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.02.05.578947v1.abstract>.

6. **Phillips, J.D.**, Athey, T.B.T., Hanner, R.H. and McNicholas, P.D. VLF: An R package for the analysis of very low frequency variants in DNA sequences. *Biodiversity Data Journal*, e96480. DOI: [10.3897/BDJ.11.e98480](https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.11.e98480). Journal Impact Factor: 1.55.

5. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D.J. and Hanner, R.H. (2022). Lack of statistical rigor in DNA barcoding likely invalidates the presence of a true species' barcode gap. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 10: 859099. DOI: [10.3389/fevo.2022.859099](https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2022.859099). Journal Impact Factor: 4.49. Number of article citations: 8.

4. D'Ercole, J., Dincă, V., Opler, P.A., Kondla, N.G., Schmidt, C.B., **Phillips, J.D.**, Robbins, R., Burns, J.M., Miller, S.E., Grishin, N., Zakharov, E.V., deWaard, J.R., Ratnasingham, S. and Hebert, P.D.N. (2020). A DNA barcode library for the butterflies of North America. *PeerJ*, 9: e11157. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.11157](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.11157). Journal Impact Factor: 3.06. Number of article citations: 13.

3. **Phillips, J.D.**, \*French, S.H., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. (2020). HACSim: An R package to estimate intraspecific sample sizes for genetic diversity assessment using haplotype accumulation curves. *PeerJ Computer Science*, 6(192): 1-37. DOI: [10.7717/peerj-cs.243](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj-cs.243). Journal Impact Factor: 3.80. Number of article citations: 19.

2. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D.J. and Hanner, R.H. (2019). Incomplete estimates of genetic diversity within species: Implications for DNA barcoding. *Ecology and Evolution*, 9(5): 2996-3010. DOI: [10.1002/ece3.4757](https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.4757). Journal Impact Factor: 3.17. Number of article citations: 87.

1. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gwiazdowski, R.A., Ashlock, D. and Hanner, R. (2015). An exploration of sufficient sampling effort to describe intraspecific DNA barcode haplotype diversity: examples from the ray-finned fishes (Chordata: Actinopterygii). *DNA Barcodes*, 3: 66-73. DOI: [10.1515/dna-2015-0008](https://doi.org/10.1515/dna-2015-0008). Number of article citations: 27.

#### Submitted or Under Revision

1. **Phillips, J.D.** and \*De Vuono-Fraser, F.A. Swimming in uncertainty: How proper statistical modelling can help expose seafood product mislabelling. Submitted to *Significance*.

#### In Preparation or To Be Submitted

7. **Phillips, J.D.** and \*De Vuono-Fraser, F.A. Statistical modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain.

6. **Phillips, J.D.**, \*Al-Gayyali, Z.B., \*De Vuono-Fraser, F.A., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. The Seafood Fraud Visualization Tool: An R Shiny web app to summarize, model, and visualize seafood mislabelling trends in the supply chain.



5. Morey, K.C., **Phillips, J.D.**, Loeza-Quintana, T. and Hanner, R.H. Haplotype diversity reveals challenges and opportunities for developing targeted detection assays for COI in Canadian freshwater fish. Targeted for *Environmental DNA*.
4. Young, R.G., \*\*Persram, M., \*\*Friesen, O., \*\*Chen, A., \*\*Yu, J., **Phillips, J.D.** and Hanner, R.H. (Under review). Incomplete and irregular reporting of the R statistical and computing environment highlights the need for citation guidelines to support scientific reproducibility. *PeerJ Computer Science*.
3. **Phillips, J.D.**, \*Singh, N., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. The HACSim R Shiny app: A web interface to estimate specimen sampling sufficiency for species genetic diversity assessment with DNA sequence data.
2. D'Ercole, J., Dapporto, L., **Phillips, J.D.**, Dincă, V.E., Vila, R., Talavera, G. and Hebert, P.D.N. Macrogenetics of North American butterflies—The impact of Quaternary climatic fluctuations. Targeted for *PNAS*.
1. **Phillips, J.D.**, \*Bootsma, S.E., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. Solving the genetic specimen sample size problem with a local search optimization algorithm. Targeted for *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*.

### **Book Chapters**

#### Published or Accepted

2. **Phillips, J.D.**, Griswold, C.K., Young, R.G., Hubert, N. and Hanner, R.H. A measure of the DNA barcode gap for applied and basic research. *DNA Barcoding Methods and Protocols. Methods in Molecular Biology*. Springer Nature.
1. Hubert, N., **Phillips, J.D.** and Hanner, R.H. Delimiting species with single-locus DNA sequences. *DNA Barcoding Methods and Protocols. Methods in Molecular Biology*. Springer Nature.

### **Conference Proceedings**

4. Morey, K., Loeza-Quintana, T., **Phillips, J.** and Hanner R. (2023). Haplotype diversity reveals challenges and opportunities for developing targeted detection assays for *COI* in Canadian freshwater fish. Pathways to Increase Standards and Competency in eDNA Surveys (PISCeS) Conference. Poster.
3. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D. and Hanner, R. (2019). HACSim: Iterative extrapolation of haplotype accumulation curves for assessment of intraspecific COI DNA barcode sampling completeness Scientific abstracts from the 8th International Barcode of Life Conference, Trondheim, Norway (ed. Torbjørn Ekrem), *Genome*, 62(6): 349-453. Oral presentation.
2. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D. and Hanner, R. (2017). Intraspecific sample size estimation for DNA barcoding: Are current sampling levels enough? Scientific abstracts from the 7th International Barcode of Life Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa (ed. M. van der Bank), *Genome*, 60(11): 881-1019. Oral presentation.
1. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gwiazdowski, R.A., Ashlock, D. and Hanner, R. (2015). An exploration of sufficient sampling effort to describe intraspecific haplotype diversity in the ray-finned fishes (Chordata: Actinopterygii). Scientific abstracts from the 6th International Barcode of Life Conference, Guelph, ON., Canada (ed. S.J. Adamowicz), *Genome*, 58(5): 163-303. Poster

### **NON-REFEREED WORK**

I have communicated aspects of my research to non-technical audiences through various online media, including blog posts and newsletters.

## Blog posts

6. **Phillips, J.D.** (2022) Mind the Gap — The DNA Barcode Gap, That Is. Contributed CEPS Research Highlights article (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/ceps/news/2022/08/mind-gap—dna-barcode-gap>).
5. **Phillips, J.D.** (2020). Barcode Cracking. Contributed CEPS Research Highlights article (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/ceps/news/2020/02/barcode-cracking>).
4. **Phillips, J.D.** (2020). Protecting Biodiversity Through the Lens of Genetic Diversity. Contributed guest post to the blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis (<https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2020/01/30/protecting-biodiversity-through-the-lens-of-genetic-diversity/>).
3. **Phillips, J.D.** (2019). IBOL8 and the Midnight Sun. Contributed guest post to the blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis (<https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2019/07/02/reflections-ibol8-and-the-midnight-sun/>).
2. **Phillips, J.D.** (2017). The Big Five and IBOL7. Contributed guest post to the blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis (<https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2017/12/06/reflections-the-big-five-and-ibol7/>).
1. **Phillips, J.D.** (2016). Sample size estimation for DNA barcoding: Are current sampling levels enough? Contributed guest post to the DNA Barcoding Blog of Dr. Dirk Steinke (<http://dna-barcoding.blogspot.com/2016/01/guest-post-sample-size-estimation-for.html>).

## Newsletters

1. **Phillips, J.D.** (2016). Sample size estimation for DNA barcoding of ray-finned fishes: Are current sampling levels enough? Contributed newsletter article to the Barcode Bulletin, 7(1).

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

I have volunteered in various capacities in the SoCS and the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph.

2. **Pathways to Increase Standards and Competency in eDNA Surveys (PISCeS) Conference** 2023  
University of Guelph
  - Participated in international eDNA conference hosted by the Hanner Lab
  - Duties included registration, upload, and audiovisual support
1. **Wireframing session** 2021  
University of Guelph
  - Participated in student-led use case mobile app prototype demonstrations for CIS\*3750 – System Analysis and Design in Applications
  - Graded students based on several factors via Qualtrics surveys

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Daniel Gillis  
Associate Professor & Statistician  
School of Computer Science  
University of Guelph  
50 Stone Road East  
Guelph, ON.  
N1G 2W1  
[dgillis@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dgillis@uoguelph.ca)

Dr. Robert Hanner  
Full Professor  
Department of Integrative Biology  
Biodiversity Institute of Ontario  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON.  
50 Stone Road East  
N1G 2W1  
(519) 824-4120 ext. 53479  
[rhanner@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rhanner@uoguelph.ca)

Dr. Deborah Stacey  
Associate Professor  
School of Computer Science  
University of Guelph  
50 Stone Road East  
Guelph, ON.  
N1G 2W1  
[dastacey@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dastacey@uoguelph.ca)

Dr. Graham Taylor  
Full Professor  
School of Engineering  
University of Guelph  
50 Stone Road East  
Guelph, ON.  
N1G 2W1  
(519) 824-4120 ext. 53644  
[gwtaylor@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gwtaylor@uoguelph.ca)

Dr. Dirk Steinke  
Associate Director – Analytics  
Adjunct Professor  
Centre for Biodiversity Genomics  
Department of Integrative Biology  
University of Guelph  
50 Stone Road East  
N1G 2W1  
Guelph, ON.  
(519) 824-4120 ext. 53759  
[dsteinke@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dsteinke@uoguelph.ca)

Dr. Sarah Adamowicz  
Associate Professor  
Department of Integrative Biology  
University of Guelph  
50 Stone Road East  
N1G 2W1  
Guelph, ON.  
(519) 824-4120 ext. 53055  
[sadamowi@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sadamowi@uoguelph.ca)