ISSUE 3

MONTHLY DIGEST

AGARA BIO

FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION

CONTENT GUIDE

happy new year

from all of us at Agara Bio

Our new year's resolution:
more science, innovation, & exploration.

This semester, we're going hybrid! Workshops and events will offer an in-person component when possible (masks on!) at a designated outdoor location on campus.

Join our Open Insulin community, iGEM team, Project GRFT, or start your own project! We want to provide you with the opportunity to reach your science and research goals this year. Just come with an idea - we'll assist with funding, equipment, planning, and execution.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FEB 6TH, 11:59 PM

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Workshops & Coffee Chats

Hidden Markov Models

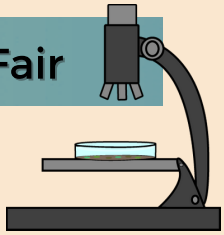
Feb. 7th 2-3pm est

https://JHUBlueJays.zoom.us/j/97465263306

In our second HMM workshop, Dylan Taylor and Sara Carioscia, two JHU biology graduate students, will walk you through implementing and tuning a gene-finding HMM in Python (no prior coding experience required!). We'll use this HMM to predict genes in real sequencing data and evaluate the strength of our findings.

If you missed the first workshop, you can catch up with the video recording here

JHU Student Involvement Fair



Feb. 4th 8-9:30pm est
Feb. 5th 4-7pm est

https://JHUBlueJays.zoom.us/j/97465263306

Come chat with members of the exec team to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how you can get involved. If you're a JHU student, remember you must register for SIF in advance in order to attend.

Coffee Chats with Dr. Fetsch

Feb. 13th 11am-12pm est

https://JHUBlueJays.zoom.us/j/91264737855

Come join us Sunday morning for a casual conversation with Professor Christopher Fetsch! His work focuses on how the brain combines the information streams from our different senses into a coherent picture of the world as well as how our brains use this information to make decisions. Figuring out how neural circuits do all of this complex work brings us one step closer to understanding how higher brain functions work.

Agara Journal Clubs

Agara journal clubs are back!

Our Event, Project Management, and Lab Manager Committees are all hosting journal clubs this semester! Each journal club is aiming to be a distinct experience, so things will stay fresh throughout the semester!

Journal clubs will be taking place each weekend!
The schedule for February is as follows:
Event Committee Journal Club: Sunday Feb 14, Feb 28, 1PM EST
Projects Journal Club: Sunday Feb 21, 1PM EST
Lab Techniques Seminar: Saturday Feb 13, 20, 27, 6PM EST

Join the channel #journal-clubs on Slack to get connected!

neu·ron
/nü-rän/

reddish granular cell that is the fundamental functional unit of nervous tissue transmitting and receiving nerve impulses

*All hyperlinks are underlined

Meet our exec team!

Justin, 2021, MolCel Bio and CS minor. Love how eager everyone is to try new things, share ideas, and experiment! I'm really excited to see everyone get their projects off the ground this semester!

CiCi, 2021. Neuro. Enjoy having a space to talk shop and have fun at the same time. Suffering a bit from senioritis, but excited to attend all our workshops and activities this semester!

Kent, 2023. MolCel Bio & Public Health. Love how Agara can make complex science seem casual and fun and being able to actually do science instead of learning it. Excited about finally (hopefully) being able to step foot into the lab for the first time as a lab manager, fun idea: we should get a turtle or fish as a lab pet!

Gil, 2021. ChemBE. I love how working with Agara has taught me so much about the inner workings of a lab. I'm really excited to finally get the lab open again and get people started on their projects!

Tony, 2021. MolCel Bio & History. Love that Agara is an open community to talk about all things bio and science. Excited to graduate lol, but also for all the projects and events we'll be able to do this semester now that we're (more than last sem) on campus. Model organism of choice: Yeast (s. cerevisiae)

Nathan, 2022. MolCel Bio and Music and Bioethics minors. Love being a part of a community that's just excited to learn cool science, excited to see some people in person!

Sofia, 2023. MolCel Bio with a minor in business and entrepreneurship, Love how Agara supports interests of all its members and is a space to collaborate on everything science, I'm really excited to see the progress in independent projects/events and to continue building a community!

Sreenivas, 2023. Neuro. Really enjoy working on projects, hacking new things, and ranting about plants. Super pumped about our continuing progress and excited to invite new members to Agara! Rice (O. sativa) ftw.

Executive board applications

Applications are now live! We have several seniors graduating this semester, and they would love a chance to get to know you and assist with your transition into the position. Deadline to submit is Feb. 6th 11:59pm est.

APPLY HERE

Game night

Feb. 11th 7-8pm est

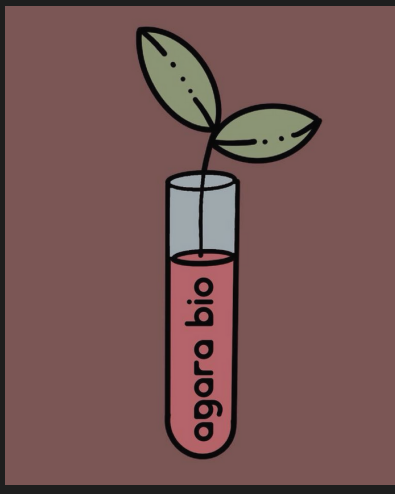
Come hang our with us for a night of fun with games like Jackbox Party Packs, Codewords, and Skribbl.io!

JOIN OUR DISCORD:
https://discord.gg/4nfyqtFsV9

Come hang with us!

agara·bio
/go science!/

Super amazing student-led community biology lab focused on changing the way students and faculty participate in biology.



*All hyperlinks are underlined

Projects & Ideas

Ongoing projects

Open Insulin Project
Agara is continuing to team up with the Open Insulin Project! Open Insulin is in the process of developing the world's first practical, small-scale, and community-centered model for insulin production. This will make insulin cheaper, more local, and more accessible to those who need it.

Learn more at www.agarabio.org/catalog-of-projects or www.openinsulin.org

iGEM
Agara is continuing to sponsor JHU's own iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine competition) team. We are hoping to compete at the 2021 Jamboree!

Project GRFT
This project is aimed at biologically producing the anti-viral protein griffithsin, licensing, and distributing it. We hope this work will help protect people worldwide against a wide range of viruses.

Aptamer Project
David Lu is testing the binding affinities of aptamers to the PDGF protein as a model for aptamer protein affinity.

Have more questions? Join us for our How to Join or Create a Project at Agara event on February 10th at 7 PM EST! RSVP: https://forms.gle/W85G3dZEXTfNZva39

How to start your own project

Start Here!
Visit www.agarabio.org/start-here and follow along!

Step One
Choose an Approval Track

Normal Track
For those who have a general idea of what they want to study, but would like help developing their idea into a full-fledged project.

Expedited Track
For those who do not require help developing and planning their project. Ideal for those looking to receive resources more quickly.

Step Two
Fill out a Proposal Form

Next, fill out a Project Proposal Form! You will be asked various questions about your project idea, depending on the approval track you chose

Step Three
Set up a meeting with us!

You're almost there! All that's left is to wait for us. We'll contact you to set up a meeting in which we can discuss your project further!

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We are looking for additional members for our exec team! Please fill out this form if you are interested or contact us if you have any questions!

Join our Slack workspace!

agarabio.slack.com

Follow us @agarabio on

Visit our website www.agarabio.org

*All hyperlinks are underlined