

## Dr. Victoria A. Stuart, Ph.D.

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### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Preeminent among my personal and professional goals and Aims is my passion and Vision regarding biomolecular knowledge. This life-long journey of discovery has evolved from my early fascination with and basic research in biochemistry, microbial genetics and molecular genetics through a deeper appreciation of the information encoded within our genomes, leading to a broader fascination with informatics.

I envision innovative, impactful solutions to scientific and societal issues through the application of science and technology to the betterment of human health. I accomplish this through

(i) the advancement of knowledge in genetics and functional genomics (the phenotypic and functional expression of the information contained within genomes), and

(ii) knowledge discovery, through natural language processing and machine learning approaches applied to the biomedical domain.

These efforts build on my thorough grounding in biochemistry (B.Sc.), environmental health (M.Sc.), molecular genetics (Ph.D), and post-doctoral experience in informatics and knowledge discovery.

I am especially motivated by information retrieval/extraction, the construction of knowledge stores and graphical models, and the application of that knowledge to real-world problems including molecular biology, cellular signalling, cancer genomics, and personalized medicine.

The union of my core domains (genomics; programming; natural language processing; machine learning; bioinformatics) enables a better understanding of implicit and explicit relationships and interactions, facilitating translational knowledge discovery.

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Biology** Jun 2000

University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Specialization: Molecular Genetics: Mechanisms of Mutagenesis & Carcinogenesis

Dissertation: "Influences of Ageing and Diet on Mutational Frequency and Specificity in Big Blue<sup>®</sup> *lacI* Transgenic Rodents"

**M.Sc., Occupational Hygiene** May 1995

Occupational Hygiene Programme

[now the School of Environmental Health]

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Specialization: Molecular Epidemiology

Thesis: "Genotoxicity of Captan Measured in the Comet Assay"

**B.Sc. with Honours, Biochemistry** Oct 1983

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Minor: Chemistry

Honours Thesis: "Dimroth Rearrangement of the Oligodeoxyribonucleotide Synthesis Precursor N<sup>6</sup>-Benzoyl-Deoxyadenosine"

## CURRENT POSITION

**Scientific Consultant | Owner: Persagen.com**

Jun 2009 - Present

I have been self-employed since June 2009 as a Scientific Consultant, providing scientific expertise in molecular genetics, genomics, molecular biology, life sciences, bioinformatics and scientific review. From 2009-2014 I was subcontracted to Battelle Memorial Institute, Chapel Hill, N.C., providing scientific expertise and review for the U.S. Army Research Office (ARO; Durham, N.C.), and the U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research (USACEHR; Washington, D.C.). Since that time I have invested in other opportunities, including self-directed study in core domains (informatics; natural language processing; machine learning) needed to realize my Vision .

## RECENT AFFILIATIONS

**Research Scientist**

May 2001 - Nov 2008

Laboratory of Molecular Genetics

[*now the Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory*]

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709.

Throughout this period support was provided by the **U.S. Army Research Office** (Research Triangle Park, Durham, North Carolina), through:

- **Research Associateship Award** May 2005 - Nov 2008  
National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- **Research Assistant** May 2002 - Apr 2005  
Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology  
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina
- **International Research Scholar** May 2001 - Apr 2002  
Department of Microbiology  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

## EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

With formal training and comprehensive research experience in genomics and molecular genetics, I possess *supra* Ph.D.-level domain expertise in biology, biochemistry, bioinformatics, cancer biology and genomics, cellular signaling/metabolic pathways, DNA metabolism, etc.

### Molecular Biology:

- all basic: cloning; ...
- transgenic rodent models
- mitochondrial genetics
- DNA sequencing, analysis

### Microbiology:

- bacterial and yeast genetics: strain constructions; ...
- mutational assays

### Genetics/Genomics:

- molecular genetics/genomics
- oncogenomics
- biochemical, metabolic, cellular signaling pathways and networks

Supplementing this experience is my more recent (2014-present) acquisition of training and expertise in programming and bioinformatics:

**Machine Learning:**

- computer vision
- classification; clustering
- natural language processing
- summarization
- language models
- graphical models

**Informatics:**

- information retrieval, extraction and processing
- knowledge stores: textual; relational (RDBMS; graphs)

**Programmatic:**

- command-line: bash scripts, ...
- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
- Neovim (Vim)
- Python
- R

**Platforms:**

- Apache Solr
- PostgreSQL
- Neo4j
- Machine learning: various

**Operating Systems:**

- Linux (super-user): compiling; debugging; ...

**Community:**

- StackOverflow: <https://stackoverflow.com/users/1904943/victoria-stuart?tab=profile>
- GitHub: <https://github.com/victoriastuart>

**LEADERSHIP &  
SCIENTIFIC  
SERVICE**

Genetics and Environmental Mutagenesis Society, Durham N.C.	2002 - 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>President</b></li> <li>• <b>President-Elect</b></li> <li>• <b>Councilor</b></li> </ul>	<p>2006 - 2007 2005 - 2006 2002 - 2005</p>

**Founder, AI-SIG** 2014  
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Special Interest Group

**Peer Review, Academic Journals:** Acta Biochimica et Biophysica Sinica; Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics; Cancer Letters; Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis; Eukaryotic Cell; Functional and Integrative Genomics; Genetics; Molecular and Cellular Biology; Mutagenesis; Mutation Research; NIEHS internal reviews; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

**Scientific Review:** Expertise in peer review of scientific research proposals: hundreds (>230) of genetics, genomics and life sciences proposals reviewed, ranging from US\$50K - US\$16M.

**Project Leader** 2000 – 2001  
Supervision of graduate students in: Individual Susceptibility Group, Centre for Environmental Health, Department of Biology, University of Victoria

### Leadership - Extracurricular:

- **President** 1985 – 1986  
Phi Kappa Pi Fraternity, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- **Founder** April 2008  
Durham Gender Alliance. Durham, N.C. USA
- **Chair** Feb 2009 - Jun 2009  
Trans Alliance Society, Vancouver, B.C.

### TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

#### Teaching:

- Co-Lecturer Spring 2001; Spring 2000  
Biology 437/550E, DNA Repair and Mutagenesis, University of Victoria
- Co-Lecturer & Course Coordinator /Administrator Winter 2000  
Biology 439/550E, Molecular Epidemiology, University of Victoria
- Supervisor 1997 - 2001  
Supervision & training of undergraduate summer students & technicians  
Department of Biology, University of Victoria
- Laboratory Instructor 1983  
Biochemistry Laboratory, Dalhousie University

**Supervision:** undergraduate students and technical staff (various)

**Mentor**, University of British Columbia "Women in Science": 2014 - 2015

**Mentor, "Women in Science and Engineering"** 2012 - 2013  
University of British Columbia: Annual WiSE event

### HONORS & AWARDS

**National Research Council Research Associateship Award** 2005 - 2008  
**National Academies, Washington D.C.**

National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC) Student Travel Award 1999

Environmental Mutagen Society Student Travel Award 1997

**Foundation for the Promotion of Cancer Research** 1996  
**Fellowship for Research in Japan**  
**National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan**

Graduate Student Stipend 1995 - 1999  
Cancer Research Society Inc., Montreal, Canada

Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship 1981; 1982  
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Ottawa, Canada

### INVITED TALKS, LECTURES

Natural Language Laboratory Apr 09, 2014  
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.  
“Biomedical Text Mining/Artificial Intelligence Applied to Clinical Reporting“

University of Victoria Sustainability Project Mar 29, 2000  
University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

“Genetic Studies of Dietary and Environmental Mutagens and Carcinogens  
Using *lacI* Transgenic Rodents“

Occupational Hygiene Programme Feb 05, 1999  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

“Genetic Studies of Dietary and Environmental Mutagens and Carcinogens  
Using *lacI* Transgenic Rodents“

**Carcinogenesis Division, NCCRI** Jan 18, 1996  
**National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan**

“A study of *Tris*(2,3-dibromopropyl)-phosphate in Big Blue<sup>®</sup> transgenic  
mice, and aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> in Big Blue<sup>®</sup> mice and rats“

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Citations – (Google Scholar):** <http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=VictoriaStuart>

### Published Papers

**Stuart, G.R.**, Copeland, W.C. and Strand, M.K. (2009) Construction and Application of a Protein and Genetic Interaction Network (Yeast Interactome) *Nucleic Acids Research* 37, e54.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Humble, M.M., Strand, M.K. and Copeland, W.C. (2009) Transcriptional Response to Mitochondrial NADH Kinase Deficiency in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Mitochondrion* 9, 211-221.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Santos, J.H., Strand, M.K., Van Houten, B. and Copeland, W.C. (2006) Mitochondrial and nuclear DNA defects in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* with mutations in DNA polymerase  $\gamma$  associated with progressive external ophthalmoplegia. *Human Molecular Genetics* 15, 363-374.

Thornton, A.S., Oda, Y., **Stuart, G.R.**, Holcroft, J. and de Boer, J.G. (2004) The dioxin TCDD protects against aflatoxin-induced mutation in female rats, but not in male rats. *Mutation Research* 561, 147-152.

Strand, M.K., **Stuart, G.R.**, Longley, M.J., Graziewicz, M.A., Dominick, O.C. and Copeland, W.C. (2003) *POS5* Gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* encodes a mitochondrial NADH kinase required for stability of mitochondrial DNA. *Eukaryotic Cell* 2, 809-820.

Yang, H., **Stuart, G.R.**, Glickman, B.W. and de Boer, J.G. (2001) Modulation of 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-induced mutation in the cecum and colon of Big Blue<sup>®</sup> rats by conjugated linoleic acid and 1,2-dithiole-3-thione. *Nutrition and Cancer* 39, 259-266.

**Stuart, G.R.**, de Boer, J.G., Haesevoets, R., Holcroft, J., Kangas, J., Sojonky, K., Thorleifson, E., Thornton, A., Walsh, D.F., Yang, H. and Glickman, B.W. (2001) Mutations induced by 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo [4,5-*b*]pyridine (PhIP) in cecum and proximal and distal colon of *lacI* transgenic rats. *Mutagenesis* 16, 431-437.

Thornton, A.S., Oda, Y., **Stuart, G.R.**, Glickman, B.W. and de Boer, J.G. (2001) Mutagenicity of TCDD in Big Blue<sup>®</sup> transgenic rats. *Mutation Research* 478, 45-50.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Holcroft, J., de Boer, J.G. and Glickman, B.W. (2000) Prostate mutations in rats induced by the suspected human carcinogen 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine. *Cancer Research* 60, 266-268.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Oda, Y., de Boer, J.G. and Glickman, B.W. (2000) Mutation frequency and specificity with age in liver, bladder and brain of *lacI* transgenic mice. *Genetics* 154, 1291-1300.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Oda, Y., de Boer, J.G. and Glickman, B.W. (2000) No change in spontaneous mutation frequency or specificity in dietary restricted mice. *Carcinogenesis* 21, 317-319.

**Stuart, G.R.** and Glickman, B.W. (2000) Through a glass, darkly: Reflections of mutation from *lacI* transgenic mice. *Genetics* 155, 1359-1367.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Thorleifson, E., Okochi, E., de Boer, J.G., Ushijima, T., Nagao, M. and Glickman, B.W. (2000) Interpretation of mutational spectra from different genes: Analyses of PhIP-induced mutational specificity in the *lacI* and *cII* transgenes from colon of Big Blue<sup>®</sup> rats. *Mutation Research* 452, 101-121.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Influences of Ageing and Diet on Mutational Frequency and Specificity in Big Blue<sup>®</sup> *lacI* Transgenic Rodents. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Victoria, 1999.

Okonogi, H., **Stuart, G.R.**, Okochi, E., Ushijima, T., Sugimura, T., Glickman, B.W. and Nagao, M. (1997) Effects of gender and species on spectra of mutation induced by 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine in the *lacI* transgene. *Mutation Research* 395, 93-99.

Dycaico, M.J., **Stuart, G.R.**, Tobal, G.M., de Boer, J.G., Glickman, B.W. and Provost, G.S. (1996) Species-specific differences in hepatic mutant frequency and mutational spectrum among *lambda/lacI* transgenic rats and mice following exposure to aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>. *Carcinogenesis* 17, 2347-2356.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Gorelick, N.J., Andrews, J.L., de Boer, J.G. and Glickman, B.W. (1996) The genetic analysis of *lacI* mutations in sectored plaques from Big Blue<sup>®</sup> transgenic mice. *Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis* 28, 385-392.

Mazur-Melnyk, M., **Stuart, G.R.** and Glickman, B.W. (1996) Benzo[*a*]pyrene diol-epoxide induces loss of heterozygosity in a Chinese hamster ovary *aprt* heterozygote. *Mutation Research* 358, 89-96.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Application of the single-cell gel electrophoresis ('Comet') assay to lymphocytes exposed in vitro to captan, a fungicide. M.Sc. Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1995.

Pohajdak, B., Dixon, B. and **Stuart, G.R.**, Immune System, In: *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Fishes*, Volume 2, Chapter 8. Hochachka, P.W., and Mommsen, T.P. (Eds), Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., Amsterdam, 1993. pp. 191-205.

**Stuart, G.R.**, Dixon, B. and Pohajdak, B. (1992) Isolation of a putative retrovirus pol gene fragment from trout. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology. B Comparative Biochemistry* 102, 137-142.

**Stuart, G.R.** and Chambers, R.W. (1987) Synthesis and properties of oligodeoxynucleotides with an AP site at a preselected position. *Nucleic Acids Research* 15, 7451-7462.

## REFERENCES

References are available upon request by e-mail to [Victoria.A.Stuart@gmail.com](mailto:Victoria.A.Stuart@gmail.com) .