

Alexandra (Ola) Jacunski

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Education

Ph.D., Columbia University **2012-Present (Expected May 2017)**

Integrated Program in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Studies. Concurrent: M.A. (2015); M.Phil. (2016).

GPA: 3.8/4.0. MCAT: 34S (94th percentile). GRE: 169V (99th); 161Q (86th); 6.0 AW (99th).

M.S., University of Toronto (Incomplete; transferred to Columbia) **2011-2012**

Department of Pharmacology. GPA: 3.7/4.0. Fellowship (80% of tuition) for outstanding grades on matriculation.

B.A., Columbia University **2007-2011**

Columbia College. Majors: Biology; English Literature. GPA: 3.6/4.0. Dean's List. SAT: 2320 (99th percentile).

Recipient of GM/EEOC Endowment Scholarship for Columbia College, 2009-2010.

Recent Experience

Ph.D. Candidate, Computational Biology, Columbia University **2012-Present**

- Independently developed translational algorithms for identifying impossibly complex human genetic interactions from much simpler yeast genetic data by using biological networks, machine learning, and statistics.
- Integrated human genetic predictions with large-scale databases and experimental studies, such as DrugBank and LINCS, to identify and computationally validate novel cancer combination therapies (CCTs).
- Designed and interpreted experiments in collaboration with other research groups to confirm 10 predicted CCTs across 7 cell lines; initial analysis confirms that 9/10 pairs inform viable CCTs in at least one cell line.
- Assisted in writing and copyediting eight grants, ranging from small (\$70,000/1 year) to large (\$1 million/4 years).
- Mentored and trained high school and undergraduate students to design and execute independent research projects.

IXL Innovation Olympics, IXL Center **Summer 2016**

- Won second place (\$2,000) in five-team, ten-week innovation consulting competition with Sun Products Corporation.
- Led data analysis, client-facing presentations, and deck compilation.

Select Activities & Leadership

Columbia Graduate Consulting Club, Columbia University **2016-Present**

- Led four-person team selected for final round (5/20 teams) in Tufts New England Case Competition (August 5, 2016).

Mentor, Girls Who Code (New York, NY) **Spring 2014**

- Taught coding basics using hands-on projects to a class of 16 underprivileged middle and high school girls.

Intern, Oberon Securities, LLC (New York, NY) **Spring 2011**

- Researched novel investment opportunities across a variety of fields, from palm oil to hospital beds.
- Prepared investment teasers and evaluated opportunities in direct collaboration with the managing director.

President, Order of Omega (Nu Omicron chapter) **2010-2011**

- Increased the diversity of the chapter by 50% through recruitment efforts for the Greek honour society.
- Spearheaded and managed writing the newly-revived chapter's first constitution and by-laws.
- Organized the Greek Awards to emphasize unity between multicultural, NPC, and NAIC organizations.

Board of Directors, Delta Gamma (Zeta Theta chapter) **2009-2011**

- Co-led recruitment (2009) for class 200% larger than year before; ensured 43/44 of our top choices joined our chapter.

Skills

- Large-scale data analysis
- Statistics and machine learning
- Writing and copyediting
- Programming (Python, Bash, R, Java, SQL)
- Languages (native: English, Polish; intermediate: Japanese, French; elementary: Spanish, Latin, Farsi)

Select Publications

- **Jacunski A**, Dixon SJ, Tatonetti NP. *Connectivity Homology Enables Inter-Species Network Models of Synthetic Lethality.* PLOS Comp. Biol. (2015).
- **Jacunski A**, Tatonetti NP. *Connecting the Dots: Applications of Network Medicine in Pharmacology and Disease.* Clin. Pharmacol. Ther. (2013). 20 citations.

Interests

Alexandra reads at least 50 books a year, cooks for 40 people at a time, runs marathons, plays tennis and squash, and is a Scrabble fiend. She recently began taking classes in Japanese swordsmanship (toyama-ryū).