

# Kevin Dick

PHD BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING CANDIDATE · MACHINE LEARNING SPECIALIST · DATA SCIENTIST & BIOINFORMATICIAN

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*Proactive, solutionist, & multidisciplinary researcher with 7+ years working on data science, machine learning, and bioinformatics projects. Lectured at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Mentored 3 B.Eng honours projects & 2 M.Eng theses. Current Executive Editor of the Health Science Inquiry journal. Served as Associate Technical Chair for the Global Signals & Information Processing conference symposium. Published 12 articles in peer-reviewed journals & conferences. Currently involved in a broad range of active projects.*

## Education

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### Carleton University

PH.D. BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING **CGPA: 4.0**

- M.A.Sc. Fast-Track to Ph.D.

Ottawa, Canada

September 2015 - Present

### Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

VISITING SCHOLAR

Mumbai, India

August 2016 - December 2016

### McGill University

B.Sc. BIOLOGY & COMPUTER SCIENCE, **CGPA: 3.40**

Montreal, Canada

September 2011 - May 2014

## Experience

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### Agriculture Canada, Government of Canada

CONTRACT RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Ottawa, Canada

September 2017 - Present

- Contract research project to elucidate protein-protein interactions between soybean and humans relevant to human health
- Generated and analysed over 4TB worth of prediction data
- Performed network-based analysis of comprehensive interactomes and defined new metrics to quantitatively measure the importance of interactions with respect to specific protein functions
- **Tools:** Python, Multiple Private/Public Compute Clusters, Cytoscape, Scikit-learn, Matplotlib

### Dept. Natural Resources, Government of Canada

CONTRACT RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Ottawa, Canada

January 2017 - April 2018

- Three month contract research project on the application of deep learning for the identification of threats to critical infrastructure.
- **Responsibilities:** Reviewing and critically assessing the literature on computer vision; proposing innovative solutions to alleviate the resource burden on critical infrastructure; developing and implementing the proposed solution; preparing and executive-level report on the literature and proposed application.
- **Skills:** TensorFlow (trained and tested a CNN), Google API (generated a dataset population of Street View images), Image Annotation using LabelMe

### Dr. Patankar Lab, IIT Bombay

GLOBAL RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

Mumbai, India

August 2016 - December 2016

- Bioinformatic study of Malaria-causing *Plasmodium falciparum* to elucidate novel protein transport pathways of clinical therapeutic relevance.

### Dr. James Green Lab, Carleton University

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Ottawa, Canada

September 2015 - Present

- Working on several machine learning projects in the field of bioinformatics for protein-protein interaction prediction.
- **Project:** Zika-Human protein-protein interaction prediction for potential drug targets.
- **Project:** Malaria parasite protein-protein interaction prediction
- **Project:** Large-scale comparison of protein sequence- and structure-based methods
- **Project:** Identification of unvaccinated individuals in Canada
- **Project:** SNP-based prediction of in human proteomes for personalized interactomes
- **Project:** Web service development for improved dataset quality
- **Project:** Deep learning models for tongue classification in speech therapy

## Revision Military

TEST AND TRIALS SPECIALIST

Ottawa, Canada

June 2014 - June 2015

- Responsible for designing and programming the interactive interface of intelligent battery systems, communicating between the end-user and the engineering team, and ensuring human factors compliance with established military standards.
- Developed a virtual tablet application to engage end-users and acquire feedback.
- Designed and prototyped cables to intelligently interface with existing military devices.
- Developed embedded software validation routines and firmware update applications.

## Dr. Murgita Lab, McGill University

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Montreal, Canada

January 2013 - May 2013

- Developing Java-based software to model and evaluate transient protein-protein interactions as a pharmaceutical tool for drug development and design.
- Member of a team of programmers developing, validating and iterating the software.
- Applied knowledge in biology and biophysics to design algorithms.

## Dr. Zetka Lab, McGill University

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Montreal, Canada

September 2013 - May 2013

- Acquired primary data from *C. elegans* model organism, studying chromosomal interactions during meiosis.
- **Skills:** PCR genotyping, DNA extraction, preparing solid growth media, plasmid micro-injection, experimental design

## Skills

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**Programming** Python, R, MATLAB, Java, C/C++, Javascript

**Libraries** Scikit-learn, Scikit-surprise, TensorFlow, PyTorch, Matplotlib, Numpy, Pandas, Plotly, Selenium, BeautifulSoup

**OS** Unix, MacOS

**Web** D3, Node, React, HTML, CSS, PHP

**Wet Lab** PCR Genotyping, DNA Extraction, Preparing Solid Growth Media, Plasmid Micro-Injection, Generation of Double Mutants (*C. elegans*)

**Languages** **Mother Tongue:** English, French; **Beginner:** Hindi, Spanish

## Publications & Conference Papers

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**Emergence of an Autonomous Vehicle Secondary Data Market for Remote Sensing** *K. Dick, Joe Samuel, J. R. Green*

MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION

- To be submitted to Technovations

***u*-Index: An Author-Specifiable Metric of Research Productivity**

*K. Dick*

MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION

- To be deposited on arXiv & submitted to Scientometrics

**Reciprocal Perspective Visualization Framework**

*K. Dick, F. Charih, J.R. Green*

MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION

- To be Submitted to PLoS Computational Biology

**Reciprocal Perspective: A Cascaded Semi-Supervised Learning Layer for Improved Classification & Regression**

*K. Dick, J.R. Green*

MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION

- To be Submitted to the Journal of Machine Learning Research

**PIPE4: Fast PPI Predictor for Comprehensive Inter- and Cross-Species Interactomes**

*K. Dick et al.*

MANUSCRIPT UNDER REVIEW

- Accepted in Nature's Scientific Reports
- To appear in print Winter 2020
- Supporting Datasets: [doi.org/10.5683/SP2/PVOTRN](https://doi.org/10.5683/SP2/PVOTRN)

**Insights into the suitability of utilizing brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) as a model for healing spinal cord injury with epidermal growth factor and fibroblast growth factor-II by predicting protein-protein interactions**

*Nashira Grigg, Andrew Schoenrock,*

*Kevin Dick, et al.*

COMPUTERS IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Nov. 2018

- [doi.org/10.1016/j.compbio.2018.11.026](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compbio.2018.11.026)

**Fitting Rank Order Data in the Age of Context**

*K. Dick, J.R. Green*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND IEEE LIFE SCIENCES CONFERENCE

Oct. 2018

- Demonstrated that a new class of asymmetric kernel functions for non-parametric line fitting can lead to improvements in classification performance of context-based methods.
- [doi.org/10.1109/LSC.2018.8572090](https://doi.org/10.1109/LSC.2018.8572090)

**Deep Learning for Critical Infrastructure Resilience**

*K. Dick, L. Russel, Y. Souley Dosso, F.*

*Kwamena, J.R. Green*

ASCE JOURNAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS

Jan. 2019

- Reviews recent progress in deep learning methods and explores their potential application to critical infrastructure protection
- A case study is presented wherein Transfer Learning is used to classify power-related infrastructure from vehicle-mounted cameras.
- [doi.org/10.1061/\(ASCE\)IS.1943-555X.0000477](https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)IS.1943-555X.0000477)

**Reciprocal Perspective for Improved Protein-Protein Interaction Prediction**

*K. Dick, J.R. Green*

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS, NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

Aug. 2018

- Introduces a novel meta-machine learning method which leverages context-based features from comprehensive PPI interactomes.
- DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-30044-1

**Systematic Street View Sampling**

*K. Dick, F. Charih, Y. Souley Dosso, L.*

*Russell, J.R. Green*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 15TH CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER AND ROBOT VISION

May 2018

- Introduces a Python/NodeJS package which leverages Google APIs to rapidly generate user-defined datasets of Street View imagery
- Systematically samples the Street View imagery to avoid introducing bias
- [doi.org/10.1109/CRV.2018.00028](https://doi.org/10.1109/CRV.2018.00028)

**Positome: A Method for Improving Protein-Protein Interaction Quality and Prediction Accuracy**

*K. Dick, F. Dehne, A. Golshani, J.R.*

*Green*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS

Aug. 2017

AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY 2017

- Introduces a web service to generate user-defined PPI datasets to address data provenance and data quality challenged in biological repositories
- [doi.org/10.1109/CIBCB.2017.8058545](https://doi.org/10.1109/CIBCB.2017.8058545)

**Designing Anti-Zika Virus Peptides Derived from Predicted Human-Zika Virus Protein-Protein Interactions**

*T. Kazmirchuk, K. Dick, et al.*

JOURNAL OF COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY

Sept. 2017

- Leverages two sequence-based PPI predictors to identify therapeutic drug targets from Human-Zika Virus interactome-wide predictions.
- [doi.org/10.1016/j.compbiochem.2017.10.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compbiochem.2017.10.011)

**Comparison of Sequence- and Structure-Based Protein-Protein Interaction Sites**

*K. Dick & J.R. Green*

PROCEEDING OF IEEE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

Feb. 2016

**Identifying Unvaccinated Individuals in Canada: A Predictive Model**

*K. Dick, A. Nordstrom*

ARXIV

Jul. 2016

- arXiv Preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.08656>
- Poster presented at Data Day 3.0 Conference on March 29th, 2016
- Published on F1000: <https://f1000research.com/posters/5-1937>

# Teaching & Courses

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## **ECOR 4995 - Professional Practise**

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Revised the work of 56 engineering students weekly.

Carleton University

Fall 2019

## **HLTH 2001 | 4102 - Health Research Methods and Skills | New Health Technologies**

GUEST LECTURER

- **The Genomic Era & the Zika Virus**
- Described the history of sequencing technology and the emergence of Next-Generation Sequencing.
- Described post-genome era research, emphasizing CRISPR-Cas9 technology.
- Recounted prior work on the designing peptides for Zika virus.

Carleton University

Nov. 2018

## **COMP 4308/BIOC 4008 - Computational Systems Biology**

GUEST LECTURER

- **Reciprocal Perspective**
- Elaborated upon the Reciprocal Perspective framework for protein-protein interaction predictions.

Carleton University

Mar. 2018

## **HLTH 5350 - New Health Technologies**

GUEST LECTURER

- **The Genomic Era**
- Presented an overview of the emerging field of Complexity Science
- Recounted the history of genomic technologies
- Described current research (emphasizing the role of machine learning).

Carleton University

Nov. 2017

## **COMP 4308/BIOC 4008 - Computational Systems Biology**

GUEST LECTURER

- **Python Pipelining: An Introduction to Building Data Analysis Pipelines (& Hacking Graduate School)**
- Prepared and taught a fully interactive session on building flexible and scalable data analysis pipelines.
- Website: <http://bioinf.sce.carleton.ca/PythonPipelining/>

Carleton University

Mar. 2017

## **Enrichment Mini-Courses Program**

LECTURER AND WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

- Developed a day-long program accessible to High School students on the topic of Biomedical Informatics, Data Science, and Machine Learning.
- Developed a hands-on workshop to collect accelerometer data to create a "Belt Buckle FitBit" to classify different types of activities.
- Implemented a basic MATLAB framework to access and analyze the data, including a competition to train the best classifier and achieve the highest overall accuracy.

Carleton University

May 2016 & 2017

## **SYSC 3303 - Real-Time Concurrent Systems**

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Website: <http://www.sce.carleton.ca/courses/sysc-3303/s17/>

Carleton University

Summer 2017

## **SYSC 3101 - Programming Languages**

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Mentored and taught student basic principles of functional and object-oriented programming languages.

Carleton University

Winter 2016-2019

## **SYSC 1005 - Introduction to Software Development**

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Mentored and taught student basic principles of Python programming.

Carleton University

Fall 2015-2018

# Extracurricular Activity

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## The Coronavirus Kindness Project

Global

FOUNDER & "CTO"

April 2020 - Present

- Motivated to share and spread stories of acts of kindness around the world, an interactive website was developed using D3.js and the Leaflet library.
- Made all design and branding decisions.
- Oversaw the a team of 10+ volunteers contributing to the collection and dissemination of news articles.

## Health Science Inquiry

Toronto, Canada

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

October 2019 - August 2020

- Spearheaded the initiative to migrate to Open Journal Systems.
- Coordinated with the University of Alberta's Library Staff to re-brand the website.
- Coordinated the call, reception, and peer-review of main submissions.
- Reported to the Editor-in-Chief and engaged in regular meetings and brainstorming sessions.

## Health Science Inquiry

Toronto, Canada

SENIOR EDITOR & LAYOUT ASSOCIATE

October 2018 - August 2019

- Coordinated the reception and peer-review of main submissions.
- Created the new L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xclass template for future issues.
- Reported to the Editor-in-Chief and engaged in regular meetings and brainstorming sessions.

## Health Science Inquiry

Toronto, Canada

NEWS REPORTER

October 2017 - August 2018

- Wrote articles on research being conducted by Canadian scientists
- Conducted phone and e-mail interviews with scientists to profile their work in greater detail
- Reported to the Manager of News Articles, and engaged in regular meetings and brainstorming sessions
- Contributed two articles spanning topics of health science research for publication in the annual circulation.

## Infinity Institute

Ottawa, Canada

DIRECTOR & FOUNDER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

July 2017 - September 2018

- Founded the think tank and digital magazine, overseeing all aspects of running a not-for-profit digital magazine
- Oversaw the editorial process and managed a team of seven editors.
- Developed and executed marketing strategies to generate a strong community following.
- Coordinated group activities and club funding.
- Organized and ran numerous workshops, social, and professional development events.
- Designed and created all branding material and website presence.

## Carleton University Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society

Ottawa, Canada

CO-CHAIR

September 2015 - September 2019

- Coordinated group activities and club funding.
- Organized and ran numerous workshops, social, and professional development events.
- Helped coordinate a highly successful International Student Conference, an IEEE EMBS flagship event.

## Graduate Student Association

Ottawa, Canada

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE (SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING)

September 2015 - August 2018

- Represented the Systems and Computer Engineering Department at the pan-university council meetings.
- Was a voting member of the council.
- Raised and discussed key issues about campus events and planned the future directions of the university as an advocate of the engineering faculty.

## International Student Conference 2016

Ottawa, Canada & Jeju, South  
Korea

CORE MEMBER & VOLUNTEER & WORKSHOP LECTURER

May 2016

- Undertook various volunteering tasks: Program Committee, Publications Committee, Advertisement and Marketing Committee, etc.
- Ran a highly successful workshop targeted to High School students, title: "Welcome to the World of Biomedical Engineering"
- Helped secure over \$3000 in funding to support our initiatives.
- Helped document the conference organization to enable future groups achieve similar levels of success.
- Received the "Outstanding Performance Award" on behalf of the ISC organization team at the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society flagship conference 2017 in Jeju, South Korea.

## Ottawa-Carleton Science Fair

Ottawa, Canada

JUDGE

April 2016 & 2017

- Judged the science fair projects of High School students throughout the National Capital region.
- Recommended the most prominent projects to advance to the final rounds.

## Hacking Health Hackathon

Ottawa, Canada

HACKATHON PARTICIPANT & BLOGGER

May 2017

- Participated in the first Hacking Health Hackathon in Ottawa, as part of a team of 10 members innovating a three-part solution to improved Sleep Apnea diagnosis in children.
- Winner of the **Pilot Opportunity Award** enabling us to implement our solution at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- Recapped my experience as a Blog article shared by Hacking Health Ottawa to disseminate the success of the event.
- **Article:** <http://hackinghealth.ca/hacking-health-ottawa-hackathon-2017/>

## Hacking Health Ottawa

Ottawa, Canada

BLOGGER

January 2017 - PRESENT

- Participated in and reported on the ongoing events of Hacking Health Ottawa.
- As an avid writer and proponent for multidisciplinary innovation in healthcare, I am proud to contribute to Hacking Health's vision as Blogger!

## McGill Biology Student Union

Montreal, Canada

VP SOCIAL

June 2013 - June 2014

- Organized and execution social events (e.g. Barbecues, pub-crawls, wines-and-cheeses, intra- and inter-departmental competitions), etc.
- Raised funds for the social events and charitable causes (over \$3K raised in total)
- Participated in weekly MBSU meetings and led sub-committees.
- Held MBSU office-hours for three hours a week and managed transactions of office goods and services.

## Honors & Awards & Grants

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### DOMESTIC

2019-2017	<b>Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology</b> , Queen Elizabeth Scholars engage with communities, learn about cultures and create projects and actions that impact the world. Awarded for academic excellence, research potential, and leadership.	Carleton FGPA
2018	<b>Research Support Award</b> , Awarded to support the presentation of promising research at the <b>CRV 2018</b> conference in Toronto, Canada.	NRC Digital Technologies Research Centre
2017	<b>Koningstein Scholarship for Excellence in Science and Engineering</b> , Awarded annually to outstanding graduate students entering or enrolled in the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Engineering and Design.	Carleton FGPA
2015	<b>Allan Buchanan Award</b> , For Academic Excellence.	Carleton Academic Dept.
2016	<b>2nd Place - Poster Competition</b> , Data Day 3.0 Conference	Data Science Institute
2009	<b>Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec Award</b> , For being a source of inspiration to others through exceptional volunteer work.	Hull, Canada

## INTERNATIONAL

- 2019 **Outstanding Performance Award - North America**, IEEE EMBS 2019 International Recognition *Berlin, Germany*
- 2017 **Outstanding Performance Award - Global**, IEEE EMBS 2017 International Recognition *Jeju, South Korea*
- 2016 **Mitacs Globalink Research Grant**, \$10,000 research grant for four month collaborative study of *Plasmodium falciparum* at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. *Mumbai, India*

## Presentations & Invited Talks

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### Invited Speaker - Agriculture & Agri-Foods Research and Analysis Directorate Retreat

Museum of Agriculture

AI/ML & ITS APPLICATIONS TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOODS CANADA

Dec. 4th 2018

- Described the history of classical and contemporary AI/ML methods.
- Emphasized the use of AI/ML in AAFC projects, both economical and biological prediction tasks.
- Recounted prior work on the designing peptides for Zika virus.

### Invited Speaker - IEEE EMBS & OttBUGS Seminar Series

Carleton University

RECIPROCAL PERSPECTIVE FOR PROTEIN INTERACTION PREDICTION AND RELATED COMPLETE GRAPH PROBLEMS

Apr. 2018

- Elaborated upon the Reciprocal Perspective framework for protein-protein interaction prediction and its applicability to prediction problems which can be modeled as complete graphs.

### ISC 2016 Conference Workshop for High School Students

Ottawa, Canada

"WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING"

May 2016

- Described the breadth of the field of biomedical engineering, motivating examples from on-going research areas based on individuals in the program.
- Promoted Carleton University as a leader in the field
- Workshop was well received with several students and parents following-up with inquiries for additional information.

### BIOM 5800 Seminar Series

Ottawa, Canada

"INTERACTOME ANALYSIS OF MALARIA-CAUSING PARASITES AND THE ZIKA VIRUS"

February 2016

- Described two on-going research projects to graduate students and professors in the department.

## Writing

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### Health Science Inquiry

[www.healthscienceinquiry.com](http://www.healthscienceinquiry.com)

NEWS REPORTER

Oct. 2017 - Present

- Wrote two articles on the topics of ongoing Health Science research in Canada and published in the annual publication.
- **Article:** "Artificial Intelligence and Mental Illness"
- **Article:** "The Best Way Forward: Simulations and Machine Learning for Optimizing Treatment"

### Infinity Institute

[www.infinityinstitute.ca](http://www.infinityinstitute.ca)

FOUNDER & WRITER

Aug. 2017 - Present

- Wrote several articles on a broad range of topics for dissemination in the form of a digital magazine for the Canada-based Think Tank I founded.
- **Article:** "World View: Sampling the Opinion of the Global Population"

### Hacking Health Ottawa

Ottawa, Canada

BLOGGER

Jan. 2017 - PRESENT

- Participated in events leading up to the Hackathon, drafted and published event recaps, and proof-read the work of other contributors.
- **Article ::** "Hacking Health Ottawa Hackathon 2017"
- **Article ::** "Healthcare Design Thinking Workshop"
- **Article ::** "Hacking Health Ottawa Pitch Clinic"
- **Article ::** "Hacking Health Ottawa Startup Successes in Healthcare"
- **Article ::** "IBM Bluemix Workshop (Part II)"
- **Article ::** "IBM Technology Innovation"
- **Article ::** "Silo-tions in Healthcare Panel"

### The Making of a Mumbaikar

[www.mumbaikar.chasingtheinfinite.com](http://www.mumbaikar.chasingtheinfinite.com)

FOUNDER & WRITER

Sept. 2016 - Dec. 2016

- Captured my diverse experiences in the form of a blog while living in Mumbai, India during a four-month research project.



## Professional Services

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- 2019-Now **Executive Editor**, Health Science Inquiry
- Nov. 2019 **Associate Technical Co-Chair**, Global Signal & Information Processing Conference - "Machine Learning for Rare Event Detection in Healthcare" Symposium *Ottawa, Canada*
- 2019 **Reviewer**, Journal of Integrative Bioinformatics
- 2019 **Reviewer**, IEEE Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
- 2019 **Reviewer**, IEEE Access
- 2018 **Senior Editor & Layout Manager**, Health Science Inquiry
- 2018-Now **Reviewer**, Proteomics
- 2018-2019 **Reviewer**, IEEE International Symposium on Medical Measurements and Applications (MeMeA)
- 2018 **Reviewer**, Archives Of Phytopathology and Plant Protection
- 2018 **Reviewer**, IEEE Life Sciences Conference 2018 (LSC)

## Media

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- 2020 **The COVID19 Research**, Featured in the following article [\[LINK\]](#) *Ottawa, Canada*
- 2020 **The Coronavirus Kindness Project**, Featured in the following [\[LINK 1\]](#), [\[LINK 2\]](#) *Global*
- 2018 **Q&A with Biomedical Engineering PhD student Kevin Dick**, Featured story for the Faculty of Engineering and Design [\[LINK\]](#) *Ottawa, Canada*
- 2018 **Engineering a Data-Driven Health-Care Revolution**, Featured story for the Faculty of Engineering and Design [\[LINK\]](#) *Ottawa, Canada*

## Committees

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- 2019 **Associate Technical Committee Member**, Global Signal & Information Processing Conference 2019, Symposium Organizing Committee *Ottawa, Canada*
- 2017 **Blogger**, Hacking Health Ottawa Media & Publication Committee *Ottawa, Canada*
- 2016 **Member**, Program Committee, International Student Conference 2016 *Ottawa, Canada*
- 2013 **Member**, SOAR Committee *Montreal, Canada*

## Hobbies

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**Sports** Biking, Yoga, Hockey, Ballet, Swimming, Martial Arts

**Music** Piano, Guitar, Drums, Harmonica, Vocals

**Art** Doodling, Woodworking Projects, Poetry, Painting

**Miscellaneous** Knife-Making, DIY Projects, Cosplaying, Devouring Books