

Yasmin Meeda AMRSB

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PERSONAL PROFILE

A highly motivated scientist specialising in the study of Microalgal Biology and Physiology. Current research focuses on characterising gene functions in order to identify the biochemical pathway that diatoms use to sense and respond to phosphate in the ocean. Strong professional possessing a broad range of critical and transferrable skills including robust communication, leadership and problem-solving skills in addition to an insatiable drive to solve complex questions whilst performing exceptionally under pressure.

EDUCATION

The University of Exeter and The Marine Biological Association 2020-2024
PhD in Biological Sciences – Helliwell Lab

Novel tools to unravel phosphate sensing mechanisms in marine diatoms

University of Plymouth and the Marine Biological Association 2019–2020
Master of Research (MRes) in Marine Biology - Distinction

*The role of calcium-dependent protein kinases in the phosphorus-calcium (Ca^{2+}) signalling pathway in a marine diatom, *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*.*

University of Brighton 2015–2018
Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Biological Sciences - First (1st) Class Honours

*The potential use of mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) as a natural source of antioxidants in the human diet*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern

Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology Sept 2020 – Dec 2020

- Identifying neuropeptides in ctenophores (early branching animals with neurons) using in-situ hybridisation (ISH) and immunofluorescence microscopy. Behavioural experiments of ctenophores in the presence and absence of neuropeptides

Lead Student Ambassador

Nov 2019 – Nov 2020

University of Plymouth

- Science outreach and blogging for #mylifeinplym on the University website
- Proven leadership and public speaking abilities as I personally led a team of 15 to successfully run applicant days for prospective students

Intern

Nov 2019 – Mar 2020

The Archive for Marine Species and Habitats Data (DASSH)

- Data entry and analysis of new species sightings using Github, the World Register of Marine Species and OBIS
- Working independently on new projects with little to no support, showing an ability to learn quickly

Treasurer

April 2019- present

Royal Society of Biology (Beds, Essex and Herts Branch)

- Organising and executing various community events within the region
- Maintaining files, records and ensuring the branch stays within budget
- Effectively managing my time shown by attending various meetings and events throughout the year alongside my studies

Data Analyst

Jul 2018 – Jun 2019

IMServ (Schneider Electric)

- Analysing household energy data using SQL and Excel
- Strong sense of teamwork shown in ability to complete group tasks to strict deadlines

Intern

March 2018

Observatoire Océanologique, Banyuls sur mer, France

- Teaching 20 second year university students basic laboratory skills: light microscopy, good laboratory practice and species identification

SKILLS

- **Molecular biology:**
Algae cell culturing; PCR; cloning; bacterial culturing; confocal and fluorescent microscopy; protein quantification; bacterial conjugation and transformation; chlorophyll extraction and measurement; flow cytometry (Coulter Counter); gene-editing – CRISPR-Cas9 biolistic particle bombardment; sanger sequencing; photosynthetic efficiency measurements; primer design; plasmid design; DNA and RNA extraction; alkaline phosphatase assays; SDS-PAGE; autoclave operation; media preparation
- **Bioinformatic tools:**
Coding and data analysis in RStudio and GraphPad Prism; MEGAX tree building and phylogenetics; sequence similarity searches (BLAST-P) of algal genomes/transcriptomes; Interpro domain analysis
- **General skills:**
Office 362 package; Inkscape; Affinity Designer; ImageJ; Benchling; Geneious; BioEdit
- **Public speaking:**
I have presented my work at national and virtual conferences in both poster and oral format
- **Soft skills:**
Critical thinking; time management; problem-solving; project managing; leadership; data analysis; teamwork; flexibility; science communication; outreach and education

PUBLICATIONS

Brownlee C, Helliwell KE, **Meeda Y**, McLachlan D, Murphy EA, Wheeler GL. Regulation and integration of membrane transport in marine diatoms. *In submission*.

Sachkova MY, Nordmann EL, Soto-Àngel JJ, **Meeda Y**, Górski B, Naumann B, Dondorp D, Chatzigeorgiou M, Kittelmann M, Burkhardt P. **2021**. Neuropeptide repertoire and 3D anatomy of the ctenophore nervous system. *Current Biology* 31: 5274-5285.e6.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.09.005>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Royal Society of Biology; Biochemical Society; Marine Biological Association, UK;
Microbiology Society; British Phycological Society; Algae-UK

AWARDS AND GRANTS

CLESCon Poster Prize
British Phycological Society – Algae video bursary award
Microbiology society – Conference bursary
Santander travel award

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

2020- present	Instagram: @marinebiologywithyaz educating the public about marine microbiology
2019	Wembury BioBlitz
2019- present	RSB branch events – quizzes, bat walks, lectures, science festival
2019	STEM ambassador (Bedfordshire) - Organising and assisting with events around the area
2017	Brighton and Hove's House Sparrow Project
2017	Brighton 'Bright Sparks' Science Festival
2017	Think Forensic, CSI Whodunnit

REFERENCES

Dr Glen Wheeler
The Marine Biological Association
Citadel Hill
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Dr Katherine Helliwell (Maternity leave)
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