

FRANCISCA LEONARDO

COMMUNITY-BUILDER, LEADER, AND ADVOCATE

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Location Stockholm, Sweden

Languages English, Portuguese, French, Spanish

EDUCATION

08/2020 - **Master of Science, Molecular Techniques in Life Science (MTLS)**

06/2022 Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University

- Class representative to the programme's steering committee

08/2016 - **Bachelor of Science, Physiology Major**

05/2020 McGill University, Montreal, QC

- James McGill Award Recipient
- Alvin Shrier Award Recipient for Outstanding Community Involvement and Passion for Community Service in U2 (2019)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

12/2021 - **Master's Thesis Project Lead**

06/2022 Dr. Sten Linnarsson's Lab, Biomedicum, Karolinska Institutet

- Developed a novel scalable spatial transcriptomics method using composite measurements
- Skills: cryo-sectioning, microfluidics, imaging (*ECLIPSE Ti2* inverted microscope), method development and optimization, design of computational pipeline for data analysis

05/2021 - **SciLifeLab Summer Fellow**

09/2021 Dr. Erik Lindahl's Lab, Molecular Biophysics, Science for Life Laboratory

- Characterized drug modulation in a subtype of GABA receptors through electrophysiological studies of the receptor activity
- Techniques: oocyte injection, TEVC electrophysiology, molecular dynamics simulations

01/2020 - **Research Trainee**

08/2020 Dr. Reza Sharif-Naeini Lab, Department of Physiology, Montreal, QC

- Built a computational model of the electrophysiological properties of dorsal horn Parvalbumin-expressing neurons using a Python interface
- Researched underlying mechanisms of neuron firing mode regulation

01/2019 - **Research Project Co-Lead**

05/2019 Faculty of Science in collaboration with Faculty of Education and SEDE, Montreal, QC

- Researched and implemented innovative teaching practices in science outreach contexts
- Engaged elementary students in scientific discovery via experimental design in schools across the English Montreal School Board

WORK EXPERIENCE

10/2020 - **Digital Ambassador**

PRESENT

- Planning, writing, and reviewing blog posts about the MSc degree in MTLS at Karolinska Institutet
- Addressing prospective and current students' questions and concerns at online fairs and webinars, by email and/or on social media

09/2021 - **Founder and Co-Organizer** - MTLS Alumni Network Initiative

06/2022

- Founded this initiative after surveying past and current students of the programme and gathering statistical data in favour of increasing more student-to-graduate interactions
- Planned events for alumni and current students (e.g. Career Fair, Speaker Day)
- Coordinated a shadowing/mentorship opportunity to connect current students to alumni in careers of interest

Customer Experience Expert

04/2018 -
08/2020

Busbud Inc., Mile End, Montreal, QC

- Assisted travelers all over the world in multiple languages with any product- or trip- related issues
- Reported on product bugs and partnership updates to the respective teams to provide a faster and improved user-friendly experience for the customers
- Trained new employees and developed strategies for more effective communication with our target users

05/2017 - **Data Analyst**

09/2017

Information Science and Technology Branch, Canada Border Services Agency, Ottawa, ON

- Delivered analyses on annual budgeting and spending, human costing and planning, and detailed five-year historical financial data
- Coordinated updates of the organizational structure of the directorate across several digital platforms
- Reviewed and populated blackbooks and quarterly reports by collecting and analyzing the directorate's financial figures

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Microsoft Office:** Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- **Adobe Creative Suite:** Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro and Audition
- **Software:** Python, MATLAB, R studio, bash, PyMOL, Axoscope, NEURON, GraphPad Prism

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

03/2021- **TEDxKI 2022 - Executive Producer (Sweden)**

05/2022

- Directed all on-stage activity and oversaw overall production of the TEDxKI 2022 event, including managing backstage volunteer crew
- Recruited and coached hosts for the event
- Video-edited all recordings to produce the talks and performances for TEDxKI 2022
- Previously acted as a Speaking Coach for TEDxKI 2021

10/2016 - **President of McGill Children's Health Alliance of Montreal (Canada)**

06/2020

- Recruited new executives, coordinators, and members for the club
- Established partnerships with sponsors on- and off-campus
- Led a team of 5 committees in planning and hosting events that fundraise for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation
- Updated the club's social media platforms with posts about our fundraising events