

# Elisa Franco

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Updated November 24, 2024

## Employment

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<b>Professor, University of California at Los Angeles</b>	2023-Present
<b>Associate Professor, University of California at Los Angeles</b>	2018- 2023
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Bioengineering	
<b>Assistant Professor, University of California at Riverside</b>	2011–2018
Department of Mechanical Engineering	

## Education

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<b>Ph.D. California Institute of Technology</b> , Control and Dynamical Systems	2005-2012
<b>Ph.D. University of Trieste</b> , Information Engineering	2003-2007
<b>Laurea degree</b> (Summa cum Laude), University of Trieste, Power Systems Engineering	1997-2002

## Other appointments

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<b>Visiting associate</b> California Institute of Technology Computing and Mathematical Sciences	2011-2016
<b>Co-director of the Caltech Project for Effective Teaching</b>	2008 - 2010
<b>Advertising.com (AOL subsidiary)</b> , Research and Development Intern Estimation algorithms for performance of online advertisement campaigns	2008
<b>Visiting scholar</b> , University of California at Los Angeles Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	2004-2005

## Honors and Awards

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- NIH NIGMS MIRA Outstanding Investigator Award, 2024
- Rose Hills Foundation Young Investigator Award, 2021
- ISSNAF Young Investigator award, 2019
- NSF CAREER award, 2015
- Outstanding research award, University of California at Riverside, Mechanical Engineering Department, 2014
- Hellman fellow, 2013

## Publications

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### Journal Articles

- [72] S. Agarwal, D. Osmanovic, M. Dizani, M. A. Klocke, and E. Franco. “Dynamic control of DNA condensation”. In: *Nature Communications* 15.1 (2024), p. 1915.
- [71] Y. I. Avila, L. P. Rebolledo, E. Skelly, R. de Freitas Saito, H. Wei, D. Lilley, R. E. Stanley, Y.-M. Hou, H. Yang, J. Sztuba-Solinska, et al. “Cracking the Code: Enhancing Molecular Tools for Progress in Nanobiotechnology”. In: *ACS Applied Bio Materials* (2024).
- [70] M. Dizani, D. Sorrentino, S. Agarwal, J. M. Stewart, and E. Franco. “Protein recruitment to dynamic DNA-RNA host condensates”. In: *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (2024).
- [69] G. Fabrini, N. Farag, S. P. Nuccio, S. Li, J. M. Stewart, A. A. Tang, R. McCoy, R. M. Owens, P. W. Rothmund, E. Franco, et al. “Co-transcriptional production of programmable RNA condensates and synthetic organelles”. In: *Nature Nanotechnology* (2024), pp. 1–9.
- [68] K. A. Haynes, L. B. Andrews, C. L. Beisel, J. Chappell, C. E. Cuba Samaniego, J. E. Dueber, M. J. Dunlop, E. Franco, J. B. Lucks, V. Noireaux, et al. “Ten Years of the Synthetic Biology Summer Course at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory”. In: *ACS Synthetic Biology* 13.9 (2024), pp. 2635–2642.
- [67] D. Sorrentino, S. Ranallo, E. Nakamura, E. Franco, and F. Ricci. “Synthetic Genes For Dynamic Regulation Of DNA-Based Receptors”. In: *Angewandte Chemie* (2024), e202319382.
- [66] D. Sorrentino, S. Ranallo, F. Ricci, and E. Franco. “Developmental assembly of multi-component polymer systems through interconnected synthetic gene networks in vitro”. In: *Nature Communications* 15.1 (2024), p. 8561.

- [65] J. M. Stewart, S. Li, A. A. Tang, M. A. Klocke, M. V. Gobry, G. Fabrini, L. Di Michele, P. W. Rothmund, and E. Franco. "Modular RNA motifs for orthogonal phase separated compartments". In: *Nature Communications* 15.1 (2024), p. 6244.
- [64] A. Tang, A. Afasizheva, C. Cano, K. Plath, D. Black, and E. Franco. "Optimization of RNA Pepper sensors for the detection of arbitrary RNA targets". In: *ACS synthetic biology* (2024), pp. 2023–06.
- [63] S. Agarwal, M. Dizani, D. Osmanovic, and E. Franco. "Light-controlled growth of DNA organelles in synthetic cells". In: *Interface Focus* 13.5 (2023), p. 20230017.
- [62] F. Blanchini, E. Franco, G. Giordano, and D. Osmanović. "Robust microphase separation through chemical reaction networks". In: *IEEE Control Systems Letters* (2023).
- [61] E. Franco. "Shaken, not heated: DNA self-assembly at room temperature". In: *Nature Nanotechnology* (2023), pp. 1–2.
- [60] J. Landau, C. C. Samaniego, G. Giordano, and E. Franco. "Computational characterization of recombinase circuits for periodic behaviors". In: *Isience* 26.1 (2023).
- [59] B. Liu, C. C. Samaniego, M. R. Bennett, E. Franco, and J. Chappell. "A portable regulatory RNA array design enables tunable and complex regulation across diverse bacteria". In: *Nature Communications* 14.1 (2023), p. 5268.
- [58] D. Osmanović and E. Franco. "Chemical reaction motifs driving non-equilibrium behaviours in phase separating materials". In: *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* 20.208 (2023), p. 20230117.
- [57] C. C. Samaniego, Y. Qian, K. Carleton, and E. Franco. "Building Subtraction Operators and Controllers Via Molecular Sequestration". In: *IEEE Control Systems Letters* (2023).
- [56] S. Agarwal, D. Osmanovic, M. Klocke, and E. Franco. "The growth rate of DNA condensate droplets increases with the size of participating subunits". In: *ACS nano* (2022).
- [55] E. Del Grosso, E. Franco, L. Prins, and F. Ricci. "Dissipative DNA nanotechnology". In: *Nature Chemistry* (2022).
- [54] J. Le, D. Osmanovic, M. A. Klocke, and E. Franco. "Fueling DNA Self-Assembly via Gel-Released Regulators". In: *ACS nano* 16.10 (2022), pp. 16372–16384.
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- [52] B. Liu, C. Cuba Samaniego, M. Bennett, J. Chappell, and E. Franco. "RNA Compensation: A Positive Feedback Insulation Strategy for RNA-Based Transcription Networks". In: *ACS Synthetic Biology* 11.3 (2022), pp. 1240–1250.
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- [11] E. Franco and F. Blanchini. “Structural properties of the MAPK pathway topologies in PC12 cells”. In: *Journal of mathematical biology* 67.6-7 (2013), pp. 1633–1668.
- [10] E. Franco, J. Kim, and F. C. Simmel. “Transcriptional oscillators”. In: *Multiscale Analysis and Nonlinear Dynamics: From Genes to the Brain* (2013), pp. 83–112.
- [9] K. E. Galloway, E. Franco, and C. D. Smolke. “Dynamically reshaping signaling networks to program cell fate via genetic controllers”. In: *Science* 341.6152 (2013), p. 1235005.
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- [5] E. Franco, L. Magni, T. Parisini, M. M. Polycarpou, and D. M. Raimondo. “Cooperative constrained control of distributed agents with nonlinear dynamics and delayed information exchange: A stabilizing receding-horizon approach”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* 53.1 (2008), pp. 324–338.
- [4] E. Franco. “A stabilizing distributed receding horizon control scheme for cooperative linear and nonlinear systems”. In: (2007).
- [3] E. Franco, T. Parisini, and M. M. Polycarpou. “Design and stability analysis of cooperative receding-horizon control of linear discrete-time agents”. In: *International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control* 17.10-11 (2007), pp. 982–1001.
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### Peer Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- [45] C. Cuba Samaniego, E. Wallace, F. Blanchini, E. Franco, and G. Giordano. “Neural networks built from enzymatic reactions can operate as linear and nonlinear classifiers”. In: *2024 IEEE 63rd Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*. IEEE. 2024, to appear.
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- [43] R. Baggi, A. Serrani, and E. Franco. “Hierarchical dynamic control allocation for over-actuated aircraft: Methodology and flight tests on a scaled-down model”. In: *2022 IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications (CCTA)*. IEEE. 2022, pp. 273–278.
- [42] Y. Zhang, C. C. Samaniego, K. Carleton, Y. Qian, G. Giordano, and E. Franco. “Building molecular band-pass filters via molecular sequestration”. In: *2022 IEEE 61st Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*. IEEE. 2022, pp. 3890–3895.
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- [36] C. C. Samaniego and E. Franco. "A molecular device for frequency doubling enabled by molecular sequestration". In: *2019 18th European Control Conference (ECC)*. IEEE. 2019, pp. 2146–2151.
- [35] C. C. Samaniego, G. Giordano, and E. Franco. "Practical differentiation using ultrasensitive molecular circuits". In: *2019 18th European Control Conference (ECC)*. IEEE. 2019, pp. 692–697.
- [34] M. Klocke, J. Garamella, H. Subramanian, V. Noireaux, and E. Franco. "Developing Resilient DNA Polymers for Operation in an E. coli Transcription-Translation System". In: *APS March Meeting Abstracts*. Vol. 2018. 2018, pp. L60–272.
- [33] C. C. Samaniego, E. Franco, and G. Giordano. "Design and analysis of a biomolecular positive-feedback oscillator". In: *2018 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*. IEEE. 2018, pp. 1083–1088.
- [32] F. Blanchini, C. C. Samaniego, E. Franco, and G. Giordano. "Aggregates of Positive Impulse Response systems: a decomposition approach for complex networks". In: *56th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, CDC, 2017*. 2017.
- [31] C. C. Samaniego and E. Franco. "An ultrasensitive biomolecular network for robust feedback control". In: *IFAC-PapersOnLine*. Vol. 50. 1. Elsevier, 2017, pp. 10950–10956.
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- [4] E. Franco, T. Parisini, and M. M. Polycarpou. “Stable receding-horizon cooperative control of a class of distributed agents”. In: *American Control Conference, 2005. Proceedings of the 2005*. IEEE. 2005, pp. 4673–4678.
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- [1] E. Franco, S. Sacone, and T. Parisini. “Stable multi-model switching control of a class of nonlinear systems”. In: *American Control Conference, 2004. Proceedings of the 2004*. Vol. 2. IEEE. 2004, pp. 1873–1878.

## Book Chapters

- [5] J. M. Stewart, H. K. Subramanian, and E. Franco. “Assembly of RNA Nanostructures from Double-Crossover Tiles”. In: *Cell-Free Gene Expression*. Springer, 2022, pp. 293–302.
- [4] F. Blanchini, E. Franco, and G. Giordano. “Structural Properties of Biological and Ecological Systems”. In: *Encyclopedia of Systems and Control*. Ed. by T. S. John Baillieul. Springer-Verlag London, 2021.
- [3] F. Blanchini and E. Franco. “Structural analysis of biological networks”. In: *A Systems Theoretic Approach to Systems and Synthetic Biology I: Models and System Characterizations*. Springer Netherlands, 2014, pp. 47–71.
- [2] J. Kim and E. Franco. “Synthetic Biochemical Devices for Programmable Dynamic Behavior”. In: *A Systems Theoretic Approach to Systems and Synthetic Biology II: Analysis and Design of Cellular Systems*. Springer Netherlands, 2014, pp. 273–295.
- [1] R. Olfati-Saber, E. Franco, E. Frazzoli, and J. S. Shamma. “Belief consensus and distributed hypothesis testing in sensor networks”. In: *Networked Embedded Sensing and Control*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2006, pp. 169–182.

## Patents

- [5] E. Franco, S. Li, and A. Tang. "Methods for building artificial RNA organelles in living cells". U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/679,560. 2024.
- [4] E. Franco, S. Li, A. Tang, G. Fabrini, and L. Di Michele. "Single stranded RNA motifs for in vitro cotranscriptional production of orthogonal phase separated condensates". U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/660,018. 2024.
- [3] A. Choudhary, K. Cox, B. Maji, P. Wu, H. Subramanian, and E. Franco. "CRISPR protein inhibitors". US Patent 11,760,984. Sept. 2023.
- [2] A. Choudhary, K. Cox, H. Subramanian, and E. Franco. "Compositions and methods for regulating proteins and nucleic acids activities". US Patent App. 16/776,503. July 2020.
- [1] A. Choudhary, P. Wu, B. Maji, E. Franco, and H. K. Subramanian. "Inhibitors of RNA guided nucleases and uses thereof". US Patent App. 16/346,392. Aug. 2019.

## Archival and pre-prints

- [7] T. Anand, R. Salman, B. Castaneda Camacho, V. Gonzales, E. Safar, E. Franco, and J. L. Blatti. *Investigating substrates Ampliflu Red and ABTS (2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) in the colorimetric detection of DNAzyme activity localized to DNA condensates*. 2024.
- [6] L. Bourdon, S. P. Afrose, S. Agarwal, A. Di Cicco, D. Lévy, A. Yamada, D. Baigl, and E. Franco. *Sustained growth of nanotubes by self-assembly of DNA strands at room temperature*. 2024. ChemRxiv: 2024-4cn2m.
- [5] M. Dizani, S. Agarwal, D. Osmanovic, and E. Franco. *Light-modulated self-assembly of synthetic nanotubes*. 2024. ChemRxiv: 2024-rbdj0.
- [4] D. Osmanovic and E. Franco. *Complex Dynamics in Reaction-Phase Separation Systems*. 2024. arXiv: 2408.03458.
- [3] D. Osmanovic and E. Franco. *Generating forces in confinement via polymerization*. 2024. arXiv: 2405.13270.
- [2] A. Tang, V. M. Gobry, S. Li, E. S. Andersen, and E. Franco. *Switchable RNA motifs for dynamic transcriptional control of RNA condensates*. 2024.
- [1] E. Franco. *A feedback SIR (fSIR) model highlights advantages and limitations of infection-dependent mitigation strategies*. 2020. arXiv: 2004.13216 [q-bio.PE].

## Grants

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Amounts listed: award to PI Franco.

### Research grants and fellowships

- National Institutes of Health MIRA NIGMS Award 2024–2029  
Principal Investigator, \$1,914 M  
*Title:* Developing synthetic RNA organelles for spatiotemporal separation, control, and monitoring in living cells
- Alfred Sloan Foundation 2024–2029  
co-Principal Investigator, \$500,000 (total \$1,5M)  
*Title:* Programmable dynamic molecular condensates (Renewal)
- Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC) 2023–2025  
Mentor, \$141,990  
*Title:* Development of DNA condensates for antibody-mediated separation of clinically relevant biomarkers  
Awardee: Daniela Sorrentino
- Department of Energy 2022–2025  
Principal Investigator, \$739,000  
*Title:* Programmable dynamic self-assembly of DNA nanostructures (Renewal)
- National Science Foundation 2021–2025  
Principal Investigator, \$841,824 (total \$3M)  
*Title:* FMRG-Bio: DNA & RNA Condensate droplets for programmable separation and manufacture of biomolecules
- National Science Foundation 2021–2025  
Principal Investigator, \$600,000  
*Title:* SHF Medium: A language for molecular communication using temporal codes
- Alfred Sloan Foundation 2021–2024  
co-Principal Investigator, \$375,000 (total \$1.5M)  
*Title:* Programmable dynamic molecular condensates

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eli &amp; Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, Rose Hill foundation</li> </ul>	2020–2021
Principal Investigator, \$150,000 (total \$250,000)	
<i>Title:</i> Development of RNA-aptamers for live cell imaging in embryonic stem cells	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Science Foundation - UK BBSRC</li> </ul>	2020–2023
Principal Investigator, \$720,000	
<i>Title:</i> Characterizing efficiency and limitations of RNA regulators to achieve robust dynamic behaviors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Energy</li> </ul>	2019–2022
Principal Investigator, \$711,000	
<i>Title:</i> Programmable dynamic self-assembly of DNA nanostructures (Renewal)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DARPA</li> </ul>	2016–2018
Co-Principal Investigator, \$376,000	
<i>Title:</i> Achieving closed-loop RNA-based PID Control with a cell-free testbed Collaborative project, PI is Vincent Noireaux at University of Minnesota	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Energy</li> </ul>	2016–2019
Principal Investigator, \$595,000	
<i>Title:</i> Programmable dynamic self-assembly of DNA nanostructures (Renewal)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Science Foundation (CAREER)</li> </ul>	2015–2021
Principal Investigator, \$500,000	
<i>Title:</i> Programming dynamic growth and reconfiguration in nucleic acid nanomaterials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Energy</li> </ul>	2013–2016
Principal Investigator, \$411,000	
<i>Title:</i> Programmable dynamic self-assembly of DNA nanostructures Collaborative project, co-PI at Johns Hopkins: Rebecca Schulman	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Science Foundation</li> </ul>	2013–2017
Principal Investigator, \$350,000	
<i>Title:</i> Design and synthesis of robust and tunable nucleic acid-based oscillators for bionanotechnology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hellman Foundation</li> </ul>	2013–2015
Principal Investigator, \$ 30,000	
<i>Title:</i> Development of reconfigurable nanoscale materials using nucleic acids	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regents of the University of California</li> </ul>	2013–2014
Principal Investigator, \$8,600	
<i>Title:</i> Dynamic self-assembly of nucleic acid nanostructures	
<i>Collaborative seed grants</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bavaria California Technology Center</li> </ul>	2019–2020
Co-principal Investigator, \$19,800	
<i>Title:</i> Development of responsive nucleic acid self-assembling scaffolds in minimal artificial cells. Subsequent grant. PI in Germany: F. Simmel TUM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AERO Institute (Palmdale, CA)</li> </ul>	2017-2018
Principal Investigator, \$11,200	
<i>Title:</i> Wing design and navigation control for the Prandtl-M glider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFRL</li> </ul>	2015–2016
Co-principal Investigator, \$5,000	
<i>Title:</i> Microbial Consortium Biosynthesis of Biomolecular Metamaterials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCR Office of research</li> </ul>	2013–2015
Co-principal Investigator, \$8,500	
<i>Title:</i> Design and synthesis of DNA-Si quantum dot heterogeneous dynamic nanostructures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bavaria California Technology Center</li> </ul>	2012–2013
Co-principal Investigator, \$7,500	
<i>Title:</i> Programming dynamic growth of nucleic acid structures through biochemical signaling. PI in Germany: F. Simmel TUM	



### Education and outreach grants

- University of California HBCU Initiative 2020-2021  
Principal Investigator, \$23,200  
*Title: UCLA-Howard University Summer Exchange - Engineering artificial biopolymers*  
*Supported three undergraduate students from Howard University during Summer 2021 (virtual)*
- National Science Foundation 2016–2017  
Principal Investigator, \$20,000  
*Title: Student travel support to attend the IEEE 2018 Conference on Decision and Control*  
*Travel awards to 35 graduate students from US institutions*
- National Science Foundation 2016–2017  
Principal Investigator, \$20,000  
*Title: Student travel support to attend the IEEE 2016 Conference on Decision and Control*  
*Travel awards to 35 graduate students from US institutions*
- Department of Education 2015–2018  
Co-principal Investigator, \$83,000  
*Title: Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need in Mechanical Engineering*

### Selected Invited Presentations (selected, since 2018)

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- Smart Condensates and Droplets Symposium, Keynote speaker, Cambridge, UK, 2024.
- LIBER symposium, Invited speaker, Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland, 2024.
- American Physical Society March Meeting, Invited speaker, Minneapolis, MN, 2024.
- Gordon Conference on Systems Chemistry, Invited speaker, University of Southern Maine, 2024.
- Biological Distributed Algorithms (BDA), Invited Speaker, (virtual), 2023.
- International Synthetic Biology Workshop, Invited speaker, Darmstadt, Germany, 2023.
- UCSB Center for Control, Dynamical Systems, and Computation, 2023.
- 12th International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering, Santa Barbara, CA, Invited Speaker, 2023.
- Artificial Biology (ArtBio), Molecular Design and Cell Mimicry, iNano Aarhus University, Denmark, Invited speaker, 2023.
- 28th International Conference on DNA Computing and Molecular Programming, Albuquerque, Keynote speaker, 2022.
- NecSys (IFAC Conference on Networked Systems), Zurich, Switzerland, Keynote speaker, 2022.
- Functional DNA Nanotechnology Conference, Rome, Keynote speaker, 2022.
- FNANO 2022 (19th Annual Conference, Foundations of Nanoscience), Invited speaker, 2022.
- American Physical Society March Meeting, Invited speaker, 2022.
- NSF Workshop Systems and Control Theory for Synthetic Biology, Alexandria, VA, 2021.
- School of Molecular Sciences Seminar in Chemistry, Arizona State University, 2021.
- UCLA 2021 Virtual Bruin Engineers Reunion, selected presentation (virtual), 2021.
- UC Irvine, Materials Science and Engineering Colloquium (virtual), 2021.
- Workshop on Nucleic Acids and Artificial Life, Imperial College London, Invited speaker (virtual), 2021.
- Rudolf Moessbauer Colloquium, Max Planck institute in Heidelberg (virtual), 2021.
- ChemSystemsMeet - Systems Chemistry Symposium (virtual), Invited Speaker 2021.
- Department Colloquium - BioEngineering at Rice University (virtual), October 2020.
- Department Colloquium - Chemical Engineering University of Washington (virtual), October 2020.
- CCDC ARL Synthetic Biology workshop (virtual), 2020.
- European Conference on Cell-free Synthetic Biology, Invited speaker, Munich, Germany, May 2020 (canceled).
- Functional DNA Nanotechnology, Invited speaker, Rome, Italy, June 2020 (canceled).
- 7th Annual Symposium on RNA Science and its Applications, Keynote speaker, Albany, NY, March 2020 (canceled).
- APS March meeting, Invited & tutorial speaker, Denver, CO, March 2020 (canceled).
- Foundations of Nanoscience, Keynote speaker, Snowbird, Utah, 2019.
- ECE Department Colloquium, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, 2019.
- Gordon Research Conference on RNA nanotechnology, Ventura, CA, 2019.
- MCE Department Colloquium, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, 2018.
- EE Department Colloquium, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, 2018.

### Research advising

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#### Postdoctoral scholars and project scientists

- Dr. Dino Osmanovic, 2021-Present (UCLA)

- Dr. Syed Pavel Afrose, 2023-Present (UCLA)
- Dr. Daniela Sorrentino, 2023-Present (UCLA)
- Dr. Anli Tang, 2020-Present (UCLA)
- Dr. Jenny Le, 2019-2022 (UCLA), now at Profluent
- Dr. Christian Cuba Samaniego, 2019-2022 (UCLA), now Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University
- Dr. Melissa A. Klocke, 2020-2022 (UCLA).
- Dr. Hari K. K. Subramanian, 2013-2018 (UCR), now Senior Scientist, Cleancard Inc.
- Dr. Xun Tang, 2016-2017 (UCR), now Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University

#### **Graduate students** *Degrees in progress*

- Mahdi Dizani, Ph.D. candidate, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, UCLA, 2022-Present
- Shiyi Li, Ph.D. candidate, Bioengineering, UCLA, 2022-Present
- Heather Romero Mercieca, Ph.D. candidate, Bioengineering, UCLA, 2021-Present
- Eiji Nakamura, Ph.D. candidate, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, UCLA, 2020-Present
- Yucheng Sheng, M.S. student, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, UCLA, 2023-2024

#### *Completed degrees*

- Tonie Butler, M.S. Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, UCLA, 2021-2023.
- Siddharth Agarwal, Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering, UCLA, 2015-2021. Currently: Associate, McKinsey & Company
- Raffaele Baggi, Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering, UCR, 2016-2020. Currently: Senior Guidance Navigation and Control Engineer, Lockheed Martin.
- Melissa Klocke, Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering, UCR, 2016-2020. Deceased.
- Jaimie M. Stewart, Ph.D. Bioengineering, UCR, 2013-2018. Currently: Assistant Professor in Bioengineering at UCLA
- Leopold Green (NSF GRFP), Ph.D. Bioengineering, UCR, 2012-2016. Currently: Assistant professor in Bioengineering at Purdue
- Christian Cuba Samaniego, Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering, UCR, 2012-2017. Currently: Assistant Professor in Computational Biology at Carnegie Mellon University.
- Vahid Mardanlou, Ph.D. Electrical Engineering, UCR, 2013-2017. Currently: Senior Applied Machine Learning Scientist at Amazon.
- Jonathan Lloyd, M.S./B.S. Bioengineering, UCR, 2014-2016.
- John Reed, M.S. Mechanical Engineering, UCR, 2012-2013.
- Andrew Reimer, M.S. Bioengineering, UCR, 2013.
- Stewart Contreras, M.S. Mechanical Engineering, UCR, 2013.

#### **Undergraduate students**

##### *Current students at UCLA*

- Yuna Kim, Bioengineering, Summer 2023-Present
- Taneeka Anand, December 2023-Present
- Britney Castaneda Camacho, March 2024-Present
- Brian Perlstein, March 2024-Present
- Diana McGrory, March 2024-Present
- Kevin Wang, March 2024-Present
- Celina Yu, June 2024-Present

##### *Past students at UCLA*

- Eric John Payson, Bioengineering, 2023 - 2024 (currently Ph.D. student at Washington University)
- Passa Pungchai, Bioengineering, 2019-2022 (currently Ph.D. student at Rice University)
- Katelyn Carleton, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2019-2021
- Yuki Asahara, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, 2019-2020

##### *Summer programs at UCLA*

- Saron Yoseph, Howard-UCLA exchange program (virtual), Summer 2021
- Aria Harris, Howard-UCLA exchange program (virtual), Summer 2021
- Sydelle Davis, Howard-UCLA exchange program (virtual), Summer 2021
- Judith Landau, BIG program, Cal State LA, Summer 2020

##### *Former students at UCR*

- Sonia Gomez, Bioengineering (UC Leads program), 2017-2018
- Krishen Wadhwani, Bioengineering (NSF REU 2015), 2015-2018
- Kimia Yaghoubi, Neuroscience, 2014-2017
- Claire Tran, Bioengineering, 2013-2016 (Currently Ph.D. student at UCSB)

- Rex Lu, Mechanical Engineering, 2016 (M.S. at UCLA; currently GNC engineer at Northrop Grumman)
- Danyia Ashhad, Bioengineering, 2012-2014
- Sho Kitada, Biochemistry, 2014
- Christopher Galley, Biology, 2014

#### **Honors and Awards for Mentored Research**

- Finalist - Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award (2023, 2024)
- PhD mentoring: Mahdi Dizani, Excellent Poster Award, DNA Computing and Molecular Programming Conference (2024)
- Postdoctoral mentoring: Dr. Daniela Sorrentino, Fellowship Award from Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC) (2024)
- PhD mentoring: Heather Romero Mercieca, Cota Robles Fellowship, UCLA (2022)
- PhD mentoring: Raffaele Baggi, Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, UC Riverside (2020)
- PhD mentoring: Samantha Corber, NSF GRFP, UC Riverside (2016)
- Undergraduate mentoring: Team Gold Medal (UC Riverside), Biomod International Undergraduate Competition (2014)
- Undergraduate mentoring: Claire H. Tran, First Prize Notre Dame ND Connect (2013)
- PhD mentoring: Leopold Green, NSF GRFP, UC Riverside (2013)

### **Professional Activities and Service**

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#### **Institutional service at UCLA**

- QCBio Director Search Committee (2024/2025)
- Rising to the Challenge (RTC) school wide faculty search committee (committee chair in 2023/2024; member in 2022/2023)
- MAE Faculty Search Committee (chair in 2024/2025, member in 2019/2020)
- MAE Awards Committee (2021/2022)
- MAE Merit and Promotions Committee (2020/2021, 2023/2024)
- MAE Graduate Admissions Committee (2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022)
- Graduate Division's Faculty Review Committee for DYI and Privately Endowed Fellowships (2019)

#### **Institutional service at UC Riverside**

- Faculty Search Committee, Organic Chemistry (2017/2018)
- Commencement Faculty Marshal, Bourns College of Engineering (2016)
- Research and Economic Development: internal hiring proposals reviewer and NSF CAREER mock review panel, campus level (2015)
- Department Colloquium Organizer, Mechanical Engineering (2015/2016)
- Undergraduate Committee, Mechanical Engineering (2011/2012, 2013/2014, 2017/2018)
- Graduate Committee, Mechanical Engineering (2012/2013, 2015/2016)
- Faculty Search Committee, Mechanical Engineering (2012/2013)

#### **IEEE Control Systems Society**

- Chair of the Committee selecting the Best Student Paper Award at the American Control Conference (2024)
- Member of the Committee selecting the Road2CDC MS Thesis Prize, CSS Italy Chapter (2024).
- Chair of the Committee selecting the Best Student Paper Award at the IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (2021, 2022)
- Board of Governors 2020-2023, elected member
- Chair of CSS Student Activities Committee (2018-2019)
- Board of Governors 2016, appointed member
- IEEE CSS Technical Committees: Systems and Synthetic Biology (2012-present), Control Education (2012-present)
- IEEE Senior member (2018-present)

#### **Editorial experience**

- Associate Editor: IEEE Control Systems Letters (2018-2022)
- Associate Editor: Springer Encyclopedia of Systems and Control, "Biosystems and Control" section (2018-2019)
- Editorial board: Synthetic Biology, Oxford University Press (2017-present).
- Program committee, 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computational Methods in Systems Biology, 2019.
- Program committee, Conference on DNA Computing and Molecular Programming (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018).
- Associate Editor for invited papers, American Control Conference 2019
- Associate Editor for invited papers IEEE MSC/CCA 2016
- International Program Committee and Associate Editor, Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation 2014
- Associate Editor for invited papers IEEE Conference on Decision and Control 2013

## Reviewing

### *Grants and fellowship programs*

- US National Science Foundation - CMMI (2014, 2024 BRITE program), DMR (2013, 2014, 2015, 2023 CAREER), CCF (2016, 2017, 2018)
- National Institutes of Health - CMT (2020), K99 (2024 2x)
- US Department of Energy - Biomolecular materials program, ad hoc reviewer for Early Career Awards (2017) and Standard grants (2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
- Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chemical Sciences (2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022)
- European Research Council Starting Grant, ad hoc reviewer (2020, 2021, 2022).
- Swiss National Science Foundation (2024)
- Israel Science Foundation (2024)
- ERASynBio (2014, 2015)
- DAAD scholarship, German Academic Exchange Program (2016)

### *Journals*

- Science, Nature Chemistry, Nature Communications, Nature Nanotechnology, Nature Microbiology, Nature Materials, Nature Reviews in Chemistry, Journal of Mathematical Biology
- ACS Nano, Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS), ACS Synthetic Biology
- Proceedings of the National Academy of the United States
- Cell Systems, iScience
- Nucleic Acids Research, Bioinformatics
- Journal of the Royal Society Interface, Nanoscale
- Journal of Theoretical Biology, Automatica
- BMC Systems Biology
- Natural Computing
- IEEE Transactions (Automatic Control; Signal Processing; Circuits and Systems; Systems, Man and Cybernetics), Control Systems Letters

### *Conference proceedings*

- Conference on DNA Computing and Molecular Programming
- IEEE Conference on Decision and Control
- American Control Conference
- IFAC Conference
- European Control Conference

### **Conference, workshop, and summer course organization**

- Chair, *2028 Gordon Conference in Systems Chemistry*
- Invited sessions chair at the *2024 European Control Conference*.
- Publications chair at the *2022 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*.
- Student activities chair at the *2023 IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications and Control*.
- Student activities chair at the *2024 American Control Conference*.
- Program committee *2021 SysChem symposium* (virtual).
- Organizing committee *2020 Synthetic Biology: Engineering, Evolution & Design (SEED) conference* (June 22-26, 2020, San Francisco, CA, cancelled)
- Program chair, *IEEE Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED)*, 2021
- Student activities chair, *IEEE Conference on Decision and Control 2020* (virtual)
- Organizing committee *2019 Cell Free Systems Conference*
- Co-organizer *2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 Summer Course on Synthetic Biology, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY*.

Two-week immersive summer course on synthetic biology combining experiments and modeling. Teaching computational biology module focused on using ordinary differential equations to model gene expression.

- Student activities chair, *2018 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*
- Local arrangements co-chair *2016 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*
- Local arrangements chair *2014 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*
- Co-organizer of Tutorial session: "Synthetic Biology: from design to applications". *2017 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*
- Co-organizer of Invited session: "Biological feedback systems: analysis and synthesis". *2017 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*
- Organizer of special session: "Design and analysis of biological networks". *2015 American Control Conference*
- Co-organizer of invited session: "Robustness and Adaptation in Biological Networks". *2012 IEEE Conference on*

*Decision and Control*

- Co-organizer of workshop: "Identification, analysis and design of biological networks". *2012 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*
- Co-organizer of invited session: "Control Theory and Biology - Applications and Experimental Approaches". *2010 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control*