Your donation supports the JXTX Foundation's mission to mentor young and diverse faculty and students to do the best open science

James Taylor

James Peter Taylor, the Ralph S. O'Connor Professor of Biology and Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), was an exceptional scientist, colleague, mentor, and community builder who worked at the intersection of biology and computer science. His life's pursuit was to understand how the genomes and the vast information they contain are processed during normal development and dysregulated in disease.

As co-leader of Galaxy (galaxyproject.org) and AnVIL (anvilproject.org) James' career focused on supporting others, especially empowering those with limited resources. His impact was broad, as innumerable scientists worldwide benefited from his leadership, mentoring, and scientific contributions.

James completed his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (Magna Cum Laude) at the University of Vermont in 2000. After three years as a senior software engineer in Vermont, he joined the PhD program in Computer Science at the Pennsylvania State University's Center for Comparative Genomics and Bioinformatics under the supervision of Professors Webb Miller and Francesca Chiaromonte. His PhD work focused on developing novel machine-learning approaches to identify functional elements in the genome, leveraging the wealth of new data from ENCODE (www.encodeproject.org) and alignments of newly assembled vertebrate genomes. You can read more about his work here: https://jxtxfoundation.org/james

Mission and Values

Inspiration

> *“The most important job of senior faculty is to mentor junior faculty and students.”*

James lived by these words, believing they were essential to advancing science in a way that fostered diversity and inclusion. This foundation’s mission is to uphold and continue his legacy through a multifaceted approach.

Mission

To enable and support the mentoring of young and diverse faculty and students in the best Open Science computational biology.

Graduate student scholarships

The Foundation supports graduate students in attending conferences in computational biology and data science, where they can present their work and form connections with other top researchers in the field.

Academic mentorship

The Foundation will later expand its reach as a platform for academic mentorship. First, it will operate to spark mentoring relationships among the larger computational biology and data science community. As part of membership, faculty and students will have an opportunity to participate in periodic mentorship meetings. We expect an enthusiastic response to this opportunity and will recruit additional team members to provide organizational structure if necessary.

Student Outreach

The Foundation will sponsor in-person visits from students (high school or college age) to its hotspots, which currently include Johns Hopkins and Penn State. These visits are meant to attract new scholars to computational biology and data science, particularly to form connections and opportunities for members of underrepresented minorities.

JXTX Scholarship Recipients

61 graduate students supported across 9 conferences (2020-2025)

Biology of Genomes · Biological Data Science · Genome Informatics · Galaxy Community Conference

2020

Anoushka Joglekar Weill Cornell · David Twesigomwe U. Witwatersrand · Emily Davis-Marcisak Johns Hopkins · Georgia Doing Dartmouth · Jens Luebeck UC San Diego · John Lawson U. Virginia · Kwame Forbes UNC Chapel Hill · Loan Vulliard U. Vienna · Sumaira Zaman U. Connecticut · Yuhan Hao NYU / NYGC

2021

Ali Sajid Imami U. Toledo · Arjun Baghela UBC · Caitlin Harrigan U. Toronto · Chujia Chen Virginia Tech · Haowen Zhang Georgia Tech · Raquel Reisinger U. Utah · Sergio Andreu Sánchez UMCG · Tara N. Yankee U. Connecticut · Viktoria Haghani UC Davis · Vitória Samartin Botezelli U. São Paulo

2023

Brianah McCoy Arizona State · Chang Su Yale · Dongyuan Song UCLA · Katarzyna Kędzierska Oxford · Laura Luebbert Caltech · Robin Aguilar U. Washington

2024

Chandler Sutherland UC Berkeley · Jason Kunisaki U. Utah · Omar Ahmed Johns Hopkins · Prajna Hebbar UC Santa Cruz · Xiang Zhang U. Minnesota · Yuyao Song U. Toronto · Abdul Muntakim Rafi UBC · Abolfazl Arab UCSF · Ida Shinder Johns Hopkins · Irika Sinha JHU Medicine · Sandeep Kambhampati Harvard / Broad · Shaurita D. Hutchins UAB · Ahmad Azani Othman UiTM · Drielli Canal UNICAMP · Luca Degradi U. Milano · Morgan Howells Open University · Natalia E. Padillo-Anthemides U. Florida · Shweta Pandey CSIR-IMTECH

2025

Amy Longtin Vanderbilt · Betselot Zerihun Ayano EPHI · Elysia Chou U. Michigan · Maria Carilli Caltech · Sakuntha Gunarathna U. North Dakota · William DeGroat Rutgers · Megan Le MIT · Ryan Moreno U. Wisconsin · Zoe Rudnick JHU Medicine · Arish Shahab McMaster · Grace Kenney UNC Chapel Hill · Mirela Minkova Utrecht · Negin Kafee Hernashki U. Milan · Nitin Narwade IN Alicante · Papawee Sutthirat UMN / Mayo · Pariksheet Nanda U. Pittsburgh · Sudipta Kumar Hazra Teagasc / UCC

Conferences Supported by the JXTX

We provide scholarships for the following conferences. All of these conferences are related to Galaxy (GCC) or are held at Cold Spring Harbor and are conferences where Open Science on computational biology and life data

science are presented and discussed. James Taylor would attend and actively participate in all of these conferences. In addition to being among the best venues for discovering world class science, they are relatively small venues (~300 people) where it is easier to interact with peers, speakers and fellow attendees. All of these meetings are ideal for networking and sharing with fellow scientists.

- Galaxy Community Conference (GCC)
- CSHL Biology of Genomes
- CSHL Biological Data Science
- CSHL Genome Informatics

CSHL = Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Ways to donate

By donating to the JXTX Foundation, you directly invest in the next generation of computational biologists and data scientists at a pivotal moment in their careers. Your support removes financial barriers that would otherwise limit students' ability to attend key scientific meetings, share their discoveries, and form the mentoring relationships that shape their professional trajectories. Every contribution creates meaningful, measurable impact by advancing open science, expanding opportunity, and strengthening a more diverse and inclusive research community. Our current capital campaign aims for our endowment to support ten scholarships a year in perpetuity.

Give online https://jxtxfoundation.org/donate/

- as a one-time donation
- as a recurring monthly donation
- as a recurring yearly donation

To donate by mailing a check, please complete the form at https://jxtxfoundation.org/forms/JXTX-donation-form.pdf by printing and mailing to:

JXTX Foundation PO Box 153 Bel Air, MD 21014

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