

ZAINAB OKETOKOUN

| z.oketokoun@gmail.com |

EDUCATION

Bachelor's in Biology
Southwestern University

May 2017
Georgetown, Texas

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate (Immuno-Oncology)
Regeneron

January 2023- Present
Tarrytown, New York

- Maintenance, expansion and modulation of multiple cancer cell lines and primary immune cells. General cell culture practices
- Planning, initiating and completing in vivo experiments including implanting tumors, measuring growth, and dosing mice.
- Utilizing a variety of in vitro and in vivo assays including flow cytometry, cytokine ELISA/MSD, etc
- Design, plan and perform in vivo studies using mouse models: cancer, immunodeficient, xenograft and GEM models
- Processing of organs for cell isolation and analysis
- Analysis of data using biological and statistical software such as FlowJo, Excel, Prism.
- Analyzing, and documenting data and communicating results clear and concisely

Research Associate (Ables Lab)

January 2020 - November 2023
NY, NY

Metabolic Psychiatry, Dept. of Psychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

- Performed ex vivo analysis (i.e. TRAP, immunohistochemistry, and etc)
 - Completed nucleic acid extractions and RNA-isolation techniques
 - Lead and co-organized studies phenotyping mice studies focused on metabolism and glucose
 - Organized medication administration on subjects(rodents), performed blood draws (orbital, tail, submandibular) GTT and ITT on rodents
 - Assisted in educating new trainees on behavioral protocols (ex: Open Field, CPP, self-admin), injections, and surgical procedures on rodents
 - Directed primary cell maintenance and cell line experiments: included rapid cell culture, transfection, and transduction
 - Maintained mouse colony and maintained accurate daily records of experiments and results.
 - Directed lab histology (e.g., routine frozen preservation of whole/sliced animal brains, cell and tissue staining, perfusions of animals, reagent prep, histological assays, and imaging)
 - Evaluated and discussed the results of each experiment with P.I. and laboratory team as part of the planning process for subsequent studies. Prepared and presented preliminary lab summaries and data
 - Oversaw utilization of DeeplabCuts through interface and Linux, python, and excel
- COVID-19 Deployment**
- Utilized aseptic technique to perform virology functions included but not limited to serology, serial dilutions, and viral antigen testing

Research Associate (Paul Kenny Lab)

February 2018 - January 2020
NY, NY

Addiction Research, Neuroscience Department, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

- Contributed to the tasks within a human/translational laboratory with some mouse responsibilities
- Performed ex vivo analysis (TRAP, western blotting, immunohistochemistry, etc)
- PCR, RT-PCR, qPCR, gel electrophoresis and other routine molecular biology lab techniques
- Completed medication admin route of substances on rodents, and drew blood (orbital, tail, submandibular) from rodents
- Co-Maintained mouse colony, performed behavioral protocol and surgical procedures on rodents
- Maintained primary cell and cell line experiments: included transfection and transduction
- accurate daily records of experiments and results.
- Histology (e.g. routine preservation of whole/sliced animal brains, cell and fiber stains, Perfusions, execute staining methods, image techniques and etc.)
- Interpreted, evaluated, and discussed the results of each experiment with mentors and laboratory team as part of the planning process for subsequent studies.

Student Researcher (Molecular, Microbiology, Genetics and Developmental Biology)

Aug 2013 – Aug 2017
Georgetown, TX

Southwestern University

- Utilized different statistical software (SPSS, STATLAB, etc)
- Collected, isolated and culture bacteria, *Drosophila*, sea urchin embryos and planaria
- Conducted statistical analysis of live organism and protein concentration
- Amplified DNA, including DNA collection, PCR purification and running of Northern, Western and Southern Blots
- Visualized fusion proteins
- Conducted bacterial transduction and bacterial conjugation and transformation
- Prepared transformant DNA for diagnostic restriction analysis

Volunteer

NewYorkCares

Fall 2017 - Fall 2018

College Prep - Volunteer

NY, NY

- Assisted in college admission process which included group and one-on-one demonstrations on protocols for senior students on how to complete scholarship, general college admission application and filling out FAFSA
- Directed group and one-on-one session college essay writing and revisions/editing sessions .

City Tutor- South Bronx United

Fall 2020

Tutoring/ After-school Volunteer

NY, NY

- Conducted one-on-one and classroom tutoring/homework-assistance sessions on a weekly basis
- Determined academic needs for individual students to develop and hone independent learning techniques