

Supervising students

Sahir Rai Bhatnagar

<https://sahirbhatnagar.com/>

January 27, 2022

About me

- Assistant professor in Epi/Biostats + Radiology since 2018 at McGill
- High-dimensional data (genomics, radiomics, neuroimaging)
- Funded by NSERC, CIHR, Mitacs, CANSSI, Compute Canada, NVIDIA

About me

- Assistant professor in Epi/Biostats + Radiology since 2018 at McGill
- High-dimensional data (genomics, radiomics, neuroimaging)
- Funded by NSERC, CIHR, Mitacs, CANSSI, Compute Canada, NVIDIA
- Current trainees
 - ▶ 4 PhD (3 Biostats + 1 Quantitative Life Sciences)
 - ▶ 3 MSc (2 Biostats + 1 Epi)
 - ▶ 2 Undergraduate (Math stats)
- Former trainees
 - ▶ 1 PhD (Experimental Surgery)
 - ▶ 1 MSc (Epi)
 - ▶ 4 Undergraduate (Math Stat + Comp Sci)

Strategies for funding

- Co-supervision by a senior faculty member with deep pockets

Strategies for funding

- Co-supervision by a senior faculty member with deep pockets
- Seek CIHR holders or applicants

Strategies for funding

- Co-supervision by a senior faculty member with deep pockets
- Seek CIHR holders or applicants
- MITACS Accelerate, Global link

Strategies for funding

- Co-supervision by a senior faculty member with deep pockets
- Seek CIHR holders or applicants
- MITACS Accelerate, Global link
- Recruit at the undergrad level (NSERC USRA)

Strategies for funding

- Co-supervision by a senior faculty member with deep pockets
- Seek CIHR holders or applicants
- MITACS Accelerate, Global link
- Recruit at the undergrad level (NSERC USRA)
- Ask students to submit abstracts and apply for **everything**

Strategies for funding

- Co-supervision by a senior faculty member with deep pockets
- Seek CIHR holders or applicants
- MITACS Accelerate, Global link
- Recruit at the undergrad level (NSERC USRA)
- Ask students to submit abstracts and apply for **everything**
- Don't be afraid to spend money early

What has worked well

- Regular meetings (weekly or bi-monthly) → ask student to summarize talking points and goals for next meeting

What has worked well

- Regular meetings (weekly or bi-monthly) → ask student to summarize talking points and goals for next meeting
- Slack → especially since the pandemic

What has worked well

- Regular meetings (weekly or bi-monthly) → ask student to summarize talking points and goals for next meeting
- Slack → especially since the pandemic
- Tracking forms → document everything in case things go south

What has worked well

- Regular meetings (weekly or bi-monthly) → ask student to summarize talking points and goals for next meeting
- Slack → especially since the pandemic
- Tracking forms → document everything in case things go south
- Senior co-supervisor to play bad cop

What has worked well

- Regular meetings (weekly or bi-monthly) → ask student to summarize talking points and goals for next meeting
- Slack → especially since the pandemic
- Tracking forms → document everything in case things go south
- Senior co-supervisor to play bad cop
- Undergrads → provide specific readings and ask for a written summary

What has worked well

- Regular meetings (weekly or bi-monthly) → ask student to summarize talking points and goals for next meeting
- Slack → especially since the pandemic
- Tracking forms → document everything in case things go south
- Senior co-supervisor to play bad cop
- Undergrads → provide specific readings and ask for a written summary
- Morale boosters: opportunity to travel for conferences, uber eats gift cards for Zoom social gatherings, beer tastes better when it's free

What hasn't worked well and Challenges

- Reading groups, weekly lab meetings (Zoom)

What hasn't worked well and Challenges

- Reading groups, weekly lab meetings (Zoom)
- Laissez-faire approach

What hasn't worked well and Challenges

- Reading groups, weekly lab meetings (Zoom)
- Laissez-faire approach
- Defining the requirements for a stats paper

What hasn't worked well and Challenges

- Reading groups, weekly lab meetings (Zoom)
- Laissez-faire approach
- Defining the requirements for a stats paper
- Engaging students remotely

Role of a supervisor

- Take an interest in developing another person's career and well-being

¹<https://rackham.umich.edu/downloads/how-to-mentor-graduate-students.pdf>

Role of a supervisor

- Take an interest in developing another person's career and well-being
- Advance academic and professional goals in directions most desired by the individual → have this discussion early and often

¹<https://rackham.umich.edu/downloads/how-to-mentor-graduate-students.pdf>

Role of a supervisor

- Take an interest in developing another person's career and well-being
- Advance academic and professional goals in directions most desired by the individual → have this discussion early and often
- Tailor mentoring styles and content to the individual, including adjustments due to differences in culture, language, gender

¹<https://rackham.umich.edu/downloads/how-to-mentor-graduate-students.pdf>