Reflection

Science Communication Assignment 2

Reflecting on My Journey into Computational Biology

A personal reflection on my honours experience and communicating science

Submitted by:

Palesa Masisi

BMedSc (Hons) Bioinformatics

Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences

University of Cape Town

At the beginning of the semester, I often felt overwhelmed and unsure of what I was doing, especially when I first started my honours project. Coming from a biological sciences background, transitioning into computational biology was challenging, and many of the concepts and tools were completely new to me. There were times when I questioned whether I had chosen the right field.

However, as the semester progressed, my perspective began to change. Working on my project and reading scientific articles introduced me to the exciting possibilities of computational biology and machine learning in genomics. The more I learned, the more I realised how fascinating this field is. It has inspired me to continue pursuing my studies and build a career in bioinformatics and computational biology.

Creating this blog and infographic also taught me an important lesson about science communication. Scientific research can often seem intimidating because of the technical language used in journal articles. This assignment challenged me to present complicated ideas in a simple, engaging, and visually appealing way that a wider audience could understand. It showed me that communicating science effectively is just as important as conducting the research itself.

Throughout the semester, I also had the opportunity to meet with different lecturers and supervisors who shared their knowledge and experiences. Their guidance not only helped me better understand my project but also motivated me to think more critically and confidently about research. Looking back, I can see how much I have grown academically and personally. Although the semester began with uncertainty, it has strengthened my passion for computational biology and reinforced my desire to continue learning in this field.

Science is **FUN!**