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About

I investigate the key processes of evolution, connectivity, and resilience in deep-sea animals using genetic and genomic approaches. My main project aims to understand how deep-sea worms have colonised various deep-sea ecosystems, and how they have adapted to the extreme environmental conditions that characterise these habitats.

Education

2023 – PhD. – Department of Biological Sciences – Université de Montréal, Canada
2016 – Teaching certificate – Department of Psychology – University of Victoria, Canada
2016 – MSc. – Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences – University of Victoria, Canada

Selected Awards

2025 – RGC Junior Research Fellow Scheme – Hong Kong SAR, China
2024 – 2024 Best Thesis Award in Engineering, Medical Sciences, and Natural Sciences – Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, Canada
2024 – Post-doctoral Fellowship Award – National Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC)

Selected Publications

Perez, M., Aroh, O., Sun, Y., Lan, Y., Juniper, S.K., Young, C.R., Angers, B., and Qian, P.-Y. 2023. Third-generation sequencing reveals the adaptive role of the epigenome in three deep-sea polychaetes. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. doi:[10.1093/molbev/msad172](https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msad172) ([Behind the scene blogpost](#))

Perez, M., Breusing, C., Angers, B., Beinart, R.A., Won, Y.-J., and Young, C.R. 2022. Divergent paths in the evolutionary history of maternally transmitted clam symbionts. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 289(1970): 20212137. doi:[10.1098/rspb.2021.2137](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.2137).

Perez, M., Sun, J., Xu, Q., and Qian, P.-Y. 2021. Structure and connectivity of hydrothermal vent communities along the mid-ocean ridges in the west Indian Ocean: A review. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8: 1434. doi:[10.3389/fmars.2021.744874](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.744874).

Perez, M., Angers, B., Young, C.R., and Juniper, S.K. 2021. Shining light on a deep-sea bacterial symbiont population structure with CRISPR. *Microbial Genomics* 7(8): 000625. doi:[10.1099/mgen.0.000625](https://doi.org/10.1099/mgen.0.000625). ([Vulgarization in French](#))

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