

## **JOSEPH F. RYAN, PH.D.**

Associate Professor of Biology



I am a bioinformatician trained in evolutionary genomics. I received a bachelor's degree in computer science from University of Maryland University College, and a Ph.D. in bioinformatics at Boston University. I completed a postdoc at the National Human Genome Research Institute and a second postdoc at the Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology in Norway.

I joined the Whitney Laboratory as an Assistant Professor in 2014 and received tenure and promotion to Associate professor in 2020. My laboratory focuses on applying phylogenetics and genomics to fundamental questions in animal biology to understand the evolution of biodiversity. Emphasis is currently on: (1) understanding the physiology, anatomy and development of the ctenophore nervous system, (2) understanding the biogeography of *Mnemiopsis* ctenophores, and (3) genomic sequencing, annotation, and analyses of many invertebrate genomes including ctenophores, cnidarians, sea cucumbers, bryozoans, and dolioids.

My laboratory currently consists of one senior researcher Yuriy Bobkov, Ph.D., two postdocs Urvashi Goswami, Ph.D. and Adolfo Lara, Ph.D., one Ph.D. student Natalia Padillo Anthemides (UF Genetics and Genomics) and one technician Leandra Toledo.

I am a member of Whitney Lab's IDEA Committee and serve as co-faculty advisor to the University of Florida's chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).

### **Education:**

2001-2007	Boston University, Boston, MA Ph.D. in Bioinformatics (with John Finnerty, Ph.D. & Andreas Baxevanis, Ph.D.)
2001	University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, MD B.S. in Computer Science

### **Professional Experience:**

2020-present	Associate Professor, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, St Augustine, FL
2014-2020	Assistant Professor, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, St Augustine, FL
2011-2013	Postdoctoral Fellow, Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology, Bergen, Norway. (with Andreas Hejnol, Ph.D.)
2007-2011	Postdoctoral Fellow, National Human Genome Research Institute/NIH, Bethesda, MD (with Andreas Baxevanis, Ph.D.)
1996-2001	Bioinformatics Software Programmer, National Human Genome Research Institute/NIH, Bethesda, MD

### **Research Interests:**

- Evolutionary genomics
- Marine invertebrate zoology
- Biodiversity
- Phylogenetics
- Embryology
- Neurobiology
- Ecology

## **Membership in Professional Societies:**

- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
- Society for Systematic Biology
- Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
- Society for Ctenophorology

## **Recent Publications (2011-2023):**

Lara, A., Simonson, B.T., **Ryan, J.F.**, Jegla, T. 2023. Genome Scale Analysis Reveals Extensive Diversification of Voltage-Gated K<sup>+</sup> Channels in Stem Cnidarians. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/gbe/evad009

Steinworth, B.M., Martindale, M.Q., **Ryan, J.F.** 2023. Gene loss may have shaped the cnidarian and bilaterian Hox and ParaHox complements. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/gbe/evac172

Ortiz, J., Bobkov, Y., DeBiasse, M., Mitchell, D.G., Edgar, A., Martindale, M.Q., Moss, A.G., Babonis, L.S., **Ryan, J.F.** 2023. Independent innexin radiation shaped signaling in ctenophores. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/molbev/msad025

Babonis, L.S., Enjolras, C., Reft, A.J., Foster, B.M., Hugosson, F., **Ryan, J.F.**, Daly, M., Martindale, M.Q. 2023. Single-cell atavism reveals an ancient mechanism of cell type diversification in a sea anemone. *Nature Communications*, doi:10.1038/s41467-023-36615-9

Rouhana, L., Edgar, A., Hugosson, F., Dountcheva, V., Martindale, M.Q., **Ryan, J.F.** 2023. Cytoplasmic polyadenylation is an ancestral hallmark of early development in animals. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/molbev/msad137

Ketchum, R.N., Davidson, P.L., Smith, E.G., Wray, G.A., Burt, J.A., **Ryan, J.F.**, Reitzel, A.M. 2022. A chromosome-level genome assembly of the highly heterozygous sea urchin *Echinometra sp. EZ* reveals adaptation in the regulatory regions of stress response genes. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/gbe/evac144

Tekle, Y.I., Wang, F., Tran, H., Hayes, D., **Ryan, J.F.** 2022. The Draft Genome of *Cochliopodium minus* reveals a complete meiosis toolkit and provides insight into the evolution of sexual mechanisms in Amoebozoa. *Scientific Reports*. doi:10.1038/s41598-022-14131-y

Santander, M.D., Maronna, M.M., **Ryan, J.F.**, da Silva, S.C. 2022. The state of Medusozoa genomics: current evidence and future challenges. *GigaScience*. doi:10.1093/gigascience/giac036

Babonis, L.S., Enjolras, C., **Ryan, J.F.**, Martindale, M.Q. 2022. A novel regulatory gene promotes novel cell fate by suppressing ancestral fate in the sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. doi:10.1073/pnas.2113701119

Almazan, E.M.P., **Ryan, J.F.**, Rouhana, L. 2021. Regeneration of planarian auricles and reestablishment of chemotactic ability. *Frontier in Cell and Developmental Biology*. doi:10.3389/fcell.2021.777951

Hernandez, A.M., **Ryan, J.F.** 2021. Six-state Amino Acid Recoding is not an Effective Strategy to Offset Compositional Heterogeneity and Saturation in Phylogenetic Analyses. *Society of Systematic Biologists*. doi:10.1093/sysbio/syab027

Medina-Feliciano, J.G., Pirro, S., Garcia-Arraras, J.E., Mashanov, V., **Ryan, J.F.** 2021. Draft genome of the sea cucumber *Holothuria glaberrima*, a model for the study of regeneration. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. doi:10.3389/fmars.2021.603410

- Ketchum, R.N., Smith, E.G., DeBiase, M.B., Vaughan, G.O., McParland, D., Leach, W.B., Al-Mansoori, N., **Ryan, J.F.**, Burt, J.A., Reitzel, A.M. 2020. Population genomic analysis of a sea urchin across an extreme environmental gradient. *Genome Biology and Evolution*. 12(10):1819-29.
- Kenny, N.J., Francis, W.R., Rivera-Vicéns, R.E., Juravel, K., de Mendoza, A., Díez-Vives, C., Lister, R., Bezares-Calderon, L., Grombacher, L., Roller, M., Barlow, L.D., Camilli, S., **Ryan, J.F.**, Wörheide, G., Hill, A.L., Riesgo, A., Leys, S. 2020. Tracing animal genomic evolution with the chromosomal-level assembly of the freshwater sponge *Ephydatia muelleri*. *Nature Communications*. 11(1):3676.
- DeBiase, M.B., Colgan, W.N., Harris, L., Davidson, B., **Ryan, J.F.** 2020. Inferring tunicate relationships and the evolution of the tunicate Hox cluster with the genome of *Corella inflata*. *Genome Biology and Evolution*. 12(6):948-964.
- Moreland, M.T., Nguyen, A.D., **Ryan, J.F.**, Baxevanis, A.D. 2020. The Mnemiopsis Genome Project Portal: integrating new gene expression resources and improving data visualization. *Database (Oxford)*. 2020:baaa029.
- Dardaillon, J., Dauga, D., Simion, P., Faure, E., Onuma, T.A., DeBiase, M.B., Louis, A., Nitta, K.R., Naville, M., Besnardeau, L., Reeves, Wang, K., Fagotto, M., Guérout-Bellone, M(g.), Fujiwara, S., Dumollard, R., Veeman, M., Wolff, J.N., Roest, Crolius, H., Douzery, E., **Ryan, J.**, Davidson, B., Nishida, H., Dantec, C., Lemaire, P. W. 2020. ANISEED 2019: 4D exploration of genetic data for an extended range of tunicates. *Nucleic acids research*. Jan 8;48(D1):D668-75.
- Babonis, Leslie S., et al. Genomic analysis of the tryptome reveals molecular mechanisms of gland cell evolution. 2019. *EvoDevo* 10.1, 1-18.
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- Ohdera, A., Ames, C.L., Dikow, R.B., Kayal, E., Chiodin, M., Busby, B., La, S., Pirro, S., Collins, A.G., Medina, M., **Ryan, J.F.** 2019. Box, stalked, and upside-down? Draft genomes from diverse jellyfish (Cnidaria, Acraspeda) lineages: *Alatina alata* (Cubozoa), *Calvadosia cruxmelitensis* (Staurozoa), and *Cassiopea xamachana* (Scyphozoa). *GigaScience*. Jul;8(7):giz069.
- Jiang, J.B., Quattrini, A.M., Francis, W.R., **Ryan, J.F.**, Rodríguez, E., McFadden, C.S. 2019. A hybrid de novo assembly of the sea pansy (*Renilla muelleri*) genome. *GigaScience*. Apr;8(4):giz026.
- Pastrana, C.C., DeBiase, M.B., **Ryan, J.F.** 2019. Sponges lack ParaHox genes. *Genome biology and evolution*. Apr;11(4):1250-7.
- DuBuc, T.Q., **Ryan, J.F.**, Martindale, M.Q. 2019. “Dorsal–Ventral” Genes Are Part of an Ancient Axial Patterning System: Evidence from *Trichoplax adhaerens* (Placozoa). *Molecular biology and evolution*. May 1;36(5):966-73.
- DeBiase, M.B., **Ryan, J.F.** 2019. Phylotocol: Promoting transparency and overcoming bias in phylogenetics. *Systematic biology*. Jul 1;68(4):672-8.
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**Ryan, J.F.**, Schnitzler, C.E., and Tamm, S.L. 2016. Meeting report of Ctenopalooza: The first international meeting of ctenophorologists. *EvoDevo*, doi:10.1186/s13227-016-0057-3

Ames, C.L., **Ryan, J.F.**, Bely, A.E., Cartwright, P., and Collins, A.G., 2016. A new transcriptome and transcriptome profiling of adult and larval tissue in the box jellyfish *Alatina alata*: an emerging model for studying venom, vision and sex. *BMC Genomics*, doi:10.1186/s12864-016-2944-3

Babonis, L.S., Martindale, M.Q., and **Ryan, J.F.**, 2016. Do novel genes drive morphological novelty? An investigation of the nematosomes in the sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, 2016, doi:10.1186/s12862-016-0683-3.

Battelle, B.A., **Ryan, J.F.**, Kempler, K., Spencer, S., Marten, C., Warren, W., Minx, P., Montague, M., Green, P., Schmidt, S., Fulton, L., Patel, N., Protas, M., Wilson, R., and Porter, M. Opsin repertoire and expression patterns in horseshoe crabs: evidence from the genome of *Limulus polyphemus*. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/gbe/evw100.

Long, K.A., Nossa, C.W., Sewell, M.A., Putnam, N.H., and **Ryan, J.F.** 2016. Low coverage sequencing of three echinoderm genomes: the brittle star *Ophionereis fasciata*, the sea star *Patiriella regularis*, and the sea cucumber *Australostichopus mollis*. *GigaScience*, doi:10.1186/s13742-016-0125-6.

Sasson, D.S. and **Ryan, J.F.** 2016. The sex lives of ctenophores: the influence of light, body size, and self-fertilization on the reproductive output of the sea walnut, *Mnemiopsis leidyi*. *PeerJ*, 2016, doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1846.

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Zwarycz, A.S., Nossa, C.W., Putnam, N., & **Ryan, J.F.** 2016. Timing and scope of genomic expansion within Annelida: evidence from homeoboxes in the genome of the earthworm *Eisenia fetida*. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, doi:10.1093/gbe/evv243.

**Ryan, J.F.** and Chiodin, M. 2015. Where is my mind? How sponges and placozoans may have lost neural cell types. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Series B*, doi:10.1098/rstb.2015.0059.

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**Ryan, J.F.** (2014). Did the ctenophore nervous system evolve independently?. *Zoology*, doi:10.1016/j.zool.2014.06.001.

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Koch, B.\* **Ryan, J.F.\***, Baxevanis, A.D. 2012. The Diversification of the LIM superclass at the Base of the Metazoa Increased Subcellular Complexity and Promoted Multicellular Specialization. *PLoS One*, March 15;7(3):e33261.

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### **Research Support:**

Allen Distinguished Investigator Award, a Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group advised grant of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation: “Reconstructing the development and functional architecture of the motor neural circuits of the last common animal ancestor.”

National Science Foundation: “ANT LIA Collaborative Research: Interrogating Molecular and Physiological Adaptations in Antarctic Marine Animals.”

National Science Foundation: “EAGER: Exploration of evolutionary mechanisms across multiple scales.”