

WEN KIN LIM

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge, United Kingdom

- PhD in Biological Sciences – St Catharine’s College
- Harding Postgraduate Distinguished Scholar (full-ride tuition scholarship)
- Supervised by Dr. Ian McGough, Babraham Institute

Oct 2024 – Present

YALE-NUS COLLEGE

Singapore, Singapore

Yale-NUS was jointly founded by Yale University and National University of Singapore (NUS)

Aug 2016 – Jun 2020

- B.Sc. with Honours – Major in Life Sciences and Minor in Computer Science/Statistics
- First Class Honours and Magna Cum Laude – Major GPA 4.89/5.00 (Overall GPA 4.76/5.00)
- Relevant selected coursework – Developmental Biology (A), Genetics (A), Life Sciences Capstone Project (A), Research Seminar (A), Computational and Systems Biology (A), Introduction to Data Science (A)
- Director of Yale-NUS Senior Class Gift fundraising – Led fundraising campaign direction and 12-person team. Achieved one of the highest class participation rates (75%) and largest gift amount: SGD16K

MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL

Melbourne, Australia

- Academic ranking: 99.8 percentile

Jan 2012 – Dec 2015

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mercor (and Sepal AI, acquired by Mercor)

Remote

PhD Specialist

Feb 2025 – Current

- Designed and developed 15+ PhD-level molecular and cell biology prompts, structured answers, and evaluation criteria to train top-tier AI models
- Benchmarked AI-generated responses against advanced biology knowledge and literature, providing structured feedback on scientific rigor, logic, and reasoning
- Reviewed 10+ prompts and answers from other specialists to improve their rigor and challenge for AI models

BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP (BCG)

Melbourne, Australia / Dubai, UAE

Consultant, Health Care and Private Equity practice areas

Feb 2021 – Aug 2024

- Advised Australian state government on R&D partnership between global biopharma company, government, and Australian universities for translational mRNA research hub. Presented best-practice insights from international commercialisation precincts (including Cambridge, UK), leading to establishment of A\$280M facility
- Developed clinical trials strategy for top Australian university with four operating model options for its trials center to achieve ambitions for biomedical commercialisation. Managed one consultant and their modelling workstream
- Supported leading MedTech manufacturer of bionic ears on multiple projects. Developed revenue growth opportunities via expanding patient referral pathways. Designed team structure and governance for digital transformation, to simplify operations and free up A\$50M+ annual benefits for R&D investment
- Delivered national health sector strategy for a Middle East government. Modelled 10-yr health system expenditures and developed the investment case for reform spending of USD10B+. Led team of two client analysts and one BCG consultant in my stream. Resulted in approval for investment case by minister of health and subsequently raised for head of state approval
- Created model for negotiations b/w BCG and health insurance client. Corralled eight senior firm leaders with conflicting views by identifying negotiation levers to change tactics. Resulted in one of BCG’s largest projects (A\$200M client benefits)
- Office leadership: Selected as Cohort Lead by Career Development Council. Currently representing 50+ Melbourne/Auckland consultants and managing initiatives for diversity/inclusion, social affiliation, incl. series where senior consultants share unwritten rules in professional services culture to help staff from underprivileged backgrounds succeed.
- Thought leadership and research: Published article on biomedical industry (on top of project work), titled “[Realising Australia’s Biomedical Potential with Targeted Capability Attraction](#)”, targeted at government leaders, academics and industry operators. Co-developed presentation with senior partner for ARDD 2023, the world’s largest ageing

research and drug discovery conference, covering economics of longevity drugs and shifting public perception to support translation ([video link](#))

- *Pro bono*: Designed new psychology/mental health service for Melbourne nonprofit. Managed a consultant and collaborated with a non-profit CEO to evaluate clinical risks and other community counselling centres. Service is projected to serve ~200 clients
- *Awards*: Received “Key to Purpose” for developing others (<1% of 30K+ employees awarded annually)
- *Progression*: Promoted twice from Associate (post-undergraduate role) to Senior Associate to Consultant. “Outstanding” reviews (top 10%) on all metrics

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

YALE-NUS COLLEGE, TOLWINSKI LAB

Singapore, Singapore

Researcher (including full-time work from Jul 2020 – Jan 2021)

Aug 2019 – Jan 2021

- Authored review paper as first author, published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Highlighted recent use and potential of optogenetic technologies for researchers to uncover underlying mechanisms of ageing and degeneration-related diseases
- Co-authored two research papers on 1) how the Wnt signalling pathway can mitigate damaging effects of protein build-up in Alzheimer’s disease and stem cell loss, and 2) *Drosophila* embryo development and patterning
- Supervised four undergraduate students on their research projects and taught core laboratory research skills, including light-sheet microscopy techniques, DNA and RNA extraction, and handling of live model organisms
- *Final-year thesis*: Examined the role of Wnt signalling in stem cell regulation and ageing with optogenetic approaches, with techniques including confocal microscopy, RNA extraction, and RNA-sequencing. Results currently being used in a manuscript under development.

INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR and CELL BIOLOGY, MATHURU LAB

Singapore, Singapore

Research Assistant

Aug 2018 – Dec 2018

- Authored review paper as first author, published in a peer-reviewed journal, on “Design, challenges, and the potential of transcriptomics to understand social behaviour”, describing applications and experimental design for RNA-seq for behavioural scientists
- Contributed genetic assay results (PCR, qRT-PCR, RNA extraction) to project focusing on RNA-sequencing of zebrafish with altered nicotine receptors to understand mechanisms of addiction

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Ringel, M., Zhang, Y., **Lim, W. K.** (2025). Accelerating Interest in Longevity Biopharma. *Nature Aging*, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43587-025-00983-2>
- 2) **Lim, W. K.**, Kaur, P., Huang, H., Jo, R. S., Ramamoorthy, A., Ng, L. F., Suresh, J., Maisha, F. I., Mathuru, A. S., & Tolwinski, N. S. (2021). Optogenetic approaches for understanding homeostatic and degenerative processes in drosophila. *Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences*, 78(16), 5865–5880. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00018-021-03836-4>
- 3) Kaur, P., Chua, E. H., **Lim, W. K.**, Liu, J., Harmston, N., & Tolwinski, N. S. (2022). Wnt signaling rescues amyloid beta-induced gut stem cell loss. *Cells*, 11(2), 281. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cells11020281>
- 4) Lusk, J. B., Chua, E. H., Kaur, P., Sung, I. C., **Lim, W. K.**, Lam, V. Y., Harmston, N., & Tolwinski, N. S. (2022). A non-canonical RAF function is required for dorsal–ventral patterning during drosophila embryogenesis. *Scientific Reports*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-11699-3>
- 5) **Lim, W. K.**, & Mathuru, A. S. (2020). Design, challenges, and the potential of transcriptomics to understand social behavior. *Current Zoology*, 66(3), 321–330. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoaa007>

EXTRACURRICULARS

- Cambridge Society of Ageing and Longevity Research: President, organising events and expert talks to share latest innovation and research in longevity biotech and the biology of ageing
- Endurance sports: Everest Base Camp Hike (11-day hike reaching 5,364m elevation), 2026 Cambridge Half Marathon 21km: 1hr:44m run time, 2021 Melbourne Marathon 42km: <5 hour run time
- Ballroom dance: 1st Place in Singapore Garden City Competition 2018 – Novice Rising Star category, 1st Place Singapore National Tertiary Dance competition – University Team Category. Certified silver level by United Kingdom Alliance Dance exam board. Learned Waltz, Tango, Quickstep and Foxtrot styles