

March 1, 2023

Deeksha Remella Venkata
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3/4, Prashanth Apartments
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600020

Dear Deeksha:

The Admissions Committee of the Joint Carnegie Mellon-University of Pittsburgh Ph.D. Program in Computational Biology has recommended you to us as someone who might be interested in obtaining a M.S. degree to strengthen your preparation for that Ph.D. Program. We are therefore very pleased to offer you acceptance for **Fall 2023** into the **Master of Science in Automated Science: Biological Experimentation (MSAS)** at Carnegie Mellon University. This program, which enrolled its first class in Fall of 2019, is the first of its kind in the world and gives our students unique preparation in this exciting new direction for scientific research. Our graduates are in high demand for positions both in industry and in Ph.D. programs. It is particularly important to note that, based on their training and accomplishments, multiple students from each graduating cohort have gone on to Ph.D. programs. Furthermore, each cohort has had at least one student accepted into the Joint Computational Biology PhD program that you applied for! Based upon your application, we believe that you have the potential to follow in their footsteps!

We believe the program provides the best possible preparation for a career in academic biomedical research given the growing trend towards automation in the field. Our program provides training in three essential components. The first is the design and implementation of experimental campaigns using robotic laboratory automation equipment that can execute experiments on a large scale and under complete computer control. The second is in statistical machine learning methods for constructing predictive models from experimental data. The third is in artificial intelligence methods for using those models to choose future experiments that are expected to allow model accuracy to grow as rapidly as possible to achieve a given goal. This is what the future looks like!

The program includes an early admission application process for our Ph.D. programs in Computational Biology and in Biological Sciences. Students who are admitted early (in the middle of the first semester of the second year) have their curriculum for the final year adjusted to satisfy some of the Ph.D. requirements and allow admitted students to have advanced standing.

Details about the program, including the standard curriculum and the student handbook, are available on the program curriculum page (<http://msas.cbd.cmu.edu/curriculum/>). Please note that the program requires you to be registered full-time for coursework each semester while at Carnegie Mellon University.

We recognize that students coming into our program will have some differences in their background, and have taken that into account in creating the curriculum. We provide placement tests that allow some required courses to be replaced with electives in order to provide some

tailoring to individual backgrounds. These replacement courses can be selected from a wide range of machine learning and computational biology courses. We also provide advising personalized to your needs and goals.

So that you can learn more about our program, the Master's in Automated Science program will be conducting Zoom Q&A sessions for admitted students with the program directors on March 15th and 16th, 2023. If you have any questions about our class offerings or where our program can take you after graduation, this is the perfect opportunity for you to learn more! There are two available sessions, the first will be held on March 15, 2023 [7 pm \(EST\)](#) and the following morning March 16, 2023 [7 am \(EST\)](#). The information presented will be the same in both sessions. You may choose to attend either session. We have also added a third meeting Wednesday March 22 at [7pm \(EST\)](#).

We will also be hosting an on campus Open House for admitted students on March 30, 2023. We would love to hear from you to help us with planning. Please complete this [survey](#) indicating your preferences for these upcoming events. Stay tuned for more information coming soon! Please refer to our [website](#) for frequently asked questions and feel free to reach out if you have any questions not covered there. We are looking forward to talking with you!

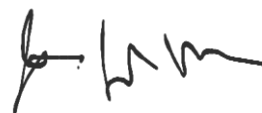
Congratulations again on being accepted into our cutting edge program. Please let us know your decision concerning our offer as soon as possible, but not later than **April 15, 2023**. To accept our offer, please email jgarrand@andrew.cmu.edu. Please note that if you choose to accept, you will be required to provide official transcripts no later than August 1st, 2023.

If you need additional information or have any other questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you soon and sincerely hope that you will join our program.

Sincerely,



Joshua D. Kangas
MSAS Director



Jose Lugo-Martinez
MSAS Co-Director

Send transcripts to:

Janet Garrand

MSAS Graduate Program
Computational Biology Department
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