



Tim is active in providing service back to the profession

- Co-organizer, high-school teacher outreach training day, Auckland, New Zealand (2007)
- Guest lecturer at teacher outreach event organized by the Houston Health Museum (2009)
- Panel member: NSF Evolutionary Genetics, (April 2010 and October 2013), NIH special section (October 2012)
- Guest judge at KIPP 3D Academy Charter School science fair, Houston, Texas (2011)
- Program committee, Alife 13 conference (2012)
- Proceedings review board of the National Committee for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) conference (2012)
- Associate editor of the Journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B (2012-)
- Chair of Evolutionary and Genomic Microbiology Division of American Society for Microbiology (2014) (Vice-chair 2013)

Awards

- New Zealand Molecular Biology Society, young investigator prize (2005)
- Research excellence award (Assistant Professor), University of Houston (2012)
- Teaching excellence award, University of Houston (2012)
- US National Science Foundation CAREER award (2013)

Dr Tim Cooper

1995 Bachelor of Science in Plant and Microbial Sciences, UC

2000 PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology, UC

Tim is a rising star in his research area of evolutionary genetics. On completion of his PhD he took up a postdoctoral position at Michigan State University and now has a permanent position at the University of Houston in Texas, USA. His graduate work started him on the journey of distinguishing between the current utility of genes and the selection and function that determined their evolutionary histories. He demonstrated that the environment within a cell can be more a powerful selective pressure for some kinds of genomes than the selection forces of the external environment.

His research has married the powerful new technologies of genomics with evolution, tracing the critical and sometimes unexpected combinations of changes

a genome has had to make in cells that survive over evolutionary time. He has established fruitful and synergistic collaborations with biochemists, including here at UC. Through his network, Tim can thus link fundamental changes in structure at the protein level to complex adaptive phenotypes at the population level.

He has developed an exciting and independent career from the solid foundation he received at the University of Canterbury. Tim's work appears in the most prestigious journals of his field, including Nature and Science. He has a dynamic research group of his own at Houston. His hard work, exacting mind and humble pursuit of hypotheses is an inspiration.

