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Taejung is enhancing food-borne pathogen surveillance

Taejung Chung is a PhD candidate in Food Science and the current Director of DAWG (Data Analysis Working Group). As a member of Dr. Jasna Kovac's lab, Taejung employs high-throughput sequencing of microbial marker genes and metagenomes to study how food-borne pathogens, such as *Salmonella*, impact surface water (e.g., streams) microbial ecology. The use of contaminated water in fresh produce production introduces considerable risk and could cause food-borne disease outbreaks. Intriguingly, Taejung is advancing food-borne pathogen surveillance using machine learning classifiers to identify biomarkers of contaminated water and reduce human health risk. Read more about this exciting research in his recent pre-print (DOI: 2022.07.11.499664).

Additionally, Taejung is utilizing the skills he developed in the lab to boost data analysis training through his position in DAWG. He is motivated to help others take their data from the sequencer to publishing. Noting that he greatly enjoys participating in this supportive community. Outside of work Taejung likes to watch sports, including basketball, soccer, and football!

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