



RNA Horizons 2024 Therapeutics Symposium

Unlocking the RNA's Potential in Medicine

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Yoseph Barash is computational biology researcher and a Professor in the [Department of Genetics](#) and the [Department of Computer and Information Science](#) at the University of Pennsylvania.

Yoseph research focuses on predictive models to understand RNA biogenesis, its regulation, and its role in human disease. His lab, the [BioCiphers lab](#), develops machine learning algorithms that integrate genomic and genetic data, followed by wet lab experimental verifications. Yoseph earned a B.Sc. in Physics and Computer Science at the Hebrew University, then continued to earn a Ph.D. in machine learning under [Prof. Nir Friedman](#). Yoseph did his postdoctoral work with [Prof. Ben Blencowe](#) and [Prof. Brendan Frey](#) at the University of Toronto, focusing on alternative splicing of RNA. His work was the first to build predictive models for splicing variations as a function of the cellular condition ([Barash et al Nature 2010](#)), later extended to genetic variations ([Xiong et al Science 2015](#)). His lab was the first to offer tools for mapping, quantifying, and visualizing complex splicing variations, showing these comprise over 30% of the human transcriptome variations ([Vaquero et al, Elife 2016](#)). The tools the BioCiphers lab develops to quantify and predict aberrant splicing have been instrumental in studying RNA splicing defects in cancer, immunotherapy, and other disease (e.g. [Sotillo et al Cancer Discovery 2015](#), [Rivera et al PNAS 2021](#)). The lab's tools have been licensed by both major pharma and startups. In addition, since 2020 Dr. Barash has been advising several companies in the RNA therapeutics space.