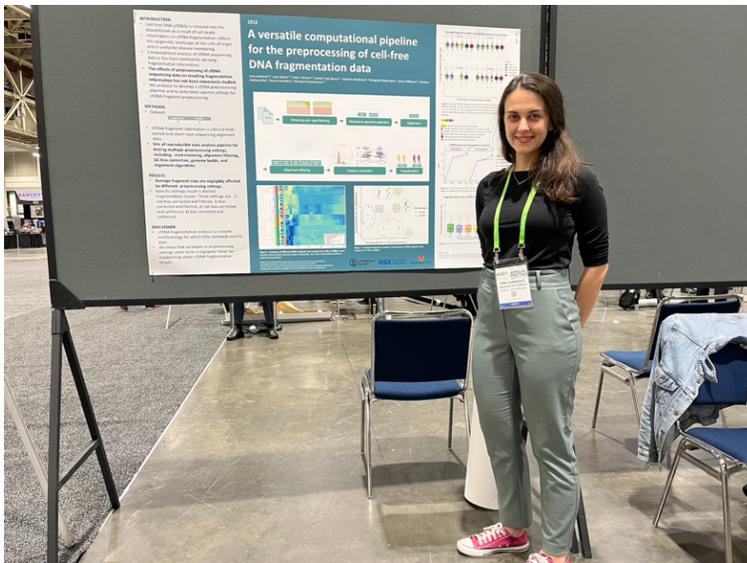


The AACR Annual Meeting April 8-13, 2022

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting is the biggest cancer research conference, the focal point of cancer research community. After two long years of virtual AACR Annual Meetings, this year's meeting took place in New Orleans — the city full of life and good music. There were more than 19 000 attendees and ~75% of people attended in person. The conference hall was HUGE, it took 15-20 minutes to walk from one side to the other, resulting in a couple of missed talks that I wanted to attend but underestimated how far away the room is. :) The opening ceremony couldn't be more *New-Orleansy*: it started with a magnificent jazz concert at 7:45 am in the morning.



My research interests include liquid biopsy and cell-free fragmentomics as a biomarker for cancer diagnosis and patient monitoring. It was an honor to present my work there, to attend great talks from the leading experts of the cancer research field and to have inspiring discussions that contributed to new research ideas. Additionally, there were many career development sessions where established principal investigators (PIs) openly answered young researchers' questions about their struggles, dilemmas

and doubts. It was motivating and uplifting to hear how they approached their challenges from the place of vulnerability, openly talked about it, asked for help when they needed it and never gave up. Actively participating at the AACR Annual Meeting brought me up to date with the latest advances in cancer science and medicine, provided me with further understanding of liquid biopsy research and enriched me with new ideas and motivation for my future work.

It was an honor to represent the University of Zurich and the Life Science Zurich Graduate School at the biggest conference in the cancer research field. Receiving the BioMed travel grant was an extra boost for the whole experience and I am beyond grateful to be a part of the BioMed PhD program as it encourages researchers to showcase their research and enables them to attend the most prestigious conferences in their research field.