



# Yaron S Butterfield

writer, artist, scientist

## Profile

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I've been a cancer genomics researcher for 19 years; currently interested in cancer biology, brain cancer, genomics and artificial intelligence (AI). I have over 25 years of experience managing staff, and designing/programming of software and databases.

I have been involved in many aspects of the cancer journey from researching the genetic makeup of cancer, treatment modalities, and overcoming my own battle with the disease.

Through my volunteer work over the years, I have been heavily involved in patient engagement in a number of capacities and have contributed widely to the brain cancer community. I am an artist and writer, currently working on a memoir of my cancer experience.

## Employment History and Experience

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**BC Cancer—Genome Sciences Centre**  
19 yrs

**Cancer Genomics Researcher**  
Sep 2008 – Present  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

I have a high level understanding of cancer genomics and its increasing influence in the clinic.

- Programming and software design (Python) and database and pipeline development for high throughput analysis of DNA, RNA and exome sequences (bioinformatics).
- Extensive experience supervising and managing staff of up to 10 staff in bioinformatics for DNA sequencing and later in QA/QC.
- Track record of developing and successfully implementing project plans.
- Strong organizational, problem-solving abilities and technical skills.
- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills and relationships with researchers and a good publication record.

## Contact

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## Degree and Certificates

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Certificate in Creative Writing (SFU-2016)

Certificate in Project Management (VSB-2002)

BSc Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (SFU-2000)

Minor in Cultural Anthropology (SFU-2000)

Certificate in Liberal Arts (SFU-1996)

## Honours and Awards

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David Kelly Award for Community Service (Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada—2015)

Jeremy Jass Prize for Research Excellence in Pathology (2012)

## Scientific Publications

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I'm first author on 2 publications in scientific journals and co-author on [53](#) other refereed articles including [4](#) on brain cancer.

### *Selected publications of Interest:*

The Genome Sequence of the SARS-associated coronavirus (2003)\*

Evolution of an adenocarcinoma in response to selection by targeted kinase inhibitors (2010)

Concurrent CIC mutations, IDH mutations and 1p/19q loss distinguish oligodendrogliomas from other cancers (2012)\*

JAGuaR: Junction Alignments to Genome for RNA-Seq Reads (2014)\*\*

What matters most to patients about primary healthcare: mixed-methods patient priority setting exercises within the PRE-FeR (PRioritiEs For Research) project (2019)\*

\* Key role in research and publication

\*\* Primary/First Author

## Writing (selected)

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IBTA Brain Tumour World Edition—Cover Story (2019)

Toronto Star—Story on being a cancer survivor and letter to Gord Downie (2016)

*emerge 16*—Writer's Studio Anthology (2016)

IBTA Brain Tumour World Edition—"From cancer researcher to cancer patient" (2016)

## Interests

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Art—Acrylic painting and drawing of portraits, landscapes and surreal scenes

Hiking, Camping, Ice hockey, Taekwondo

Riding—Founding member of the Brainiacs for the Ride to Conquer Cancer

Cultural Anthropology

Quantum Physics, Artificial Intelligence, the Mind and the Brain

## Employment History and Experience (continued)

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### **GSC—Bioinformatics Researcher**

Sep 2000 – 2008  
Vancouver, Canada

- Highlight: Analyzing DNA sequence of the SARS Coronavirus genome playing a key role in the bioinformatics of assembling the genome with a tight timeline, leading to international headlines.
- Software design (Perl) for various projects such as the bioinformatics of the Mammalian Gene Collection, Forestry and Salmon projects. Coordinated staff up to eight.



### **Collicutt Energy Services—IT Manager**

Sep 1998 – Apr 2000  
Coquitlam, Canada

- Coordinated every aspect of a company wide movement from a legacy computer terminal network to a client based Windows network with Windows NT server.
- Designed a purchasing order application and a number of other analysis applications to track generator information and sales.

### **DS Lester & Associates**

### **Lesters—Manager**

July 1993 – July 1997  
Burnaby, Canada

- Single-handedly put together Vancouver's first 24hr Internet Cafe in 1995 (sourcing out companies to build infrastructure and supply computers, hiring staff, media promotions, interviews on radio and TV, Win95 network and human resource manager).
- Designed and maintained an entertainment booking application for contracts with clients.

*References for all positions available upon request*

## Volunteering (selected)

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Co-chair of Patient & Family Advisory Committee—BC Cancer (2010-Present)

Patient Navigator—BC Primary Health Research Network—SFU Health Sciences (2017-Present)

Coordinator of Vancouver Spring Sprint—Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada (2008-2015)

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Please see <http://yaronbutterfield.com>