

Maarten Leerkes, Ph.D., is a Bioinformatics Project Scientist at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). He provides expertise in data science and genomics at the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences / Heart Development and Structural Diseases Branch for data integration, genomics, trials within registries, and improved capabilities for data storage and management. He leads the planning, development and implementation for data resources in the cloud, serves on bioinformatics committees, and oversees data integration projects related to several genomics and data science programs.



Dr. Leerkes previously provided on-site bioinformatics support for various projects at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) as an employee of Medical Science and Computing, Inc. He also served as a Bioinformatics Analyst at the Institute for Genome Sciences, University of Maryland, and was a Senior Manager of Bioinformatics at TheraNostics Health, Inc. He has worked on developing novel quantitative biology methods and identifying molecular signatures for disease prognosis and treatment prediction in patient sub-populations, as well as on product development, including study design for product validation in clinical settings.

Dr. Leerkes received his Ph.D. from Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research with a focus in Oncology and Bioinformatics. He completed postdoctoral fellowships at Johns Hopkins University, the National Cancer Institute, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with work on bioinformatics of brain tumors, mapping of mass spectrometry peptides to the human genome, and integration of ENCODE data. Collectively, his research experiences span academia as well as biotech industry settings where he has focused on the use of bioinformatics to interpret sequencing data (NGS) and to find patterns that can be extrapolated into diagnostic tools for improving treatment for patients.