

Project Summary:

The project aims to improve our understanding of the genetic responses of animals to climate change. One of the most striking patterns of biodiversity, at a global level, is the decrease in species numbers along the climate gradient from the tropics to the poles. The project is aimed at testing the hypothesis that temperature is a principal factor that drives molecular evolution in animal species.

Experimental work will involve examining evolutionary rates in mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences using both the sub-fossil remains of Adélie penguins and samples from modern populations.