

5. Acknowledgements

This year has been one the most enriching I have had, due in large part to the wonderful people I have met. First and foremost, I would like to thank my advisor Dr. Gosia Trynka. Having only lived in the USA for the entirety of my life, I dreamt of being able to live and study out of the country. She single handedly made that dream a reality, and I am incredibly grateful. I appreciate all of her guidance and insight along the way; it is a privilege to work alongside a brilliant and enthusiastic mind like hers. I'd like to additionally thank all the members of the Trynka lab for all their support, guidance and friendship. The amount of time from each of them spent bringing me up to speed and pushing me to finish this project will not be forgotten. I would like to thank my thesis committee: Dr. Leo Parts, Dr. Chris Wallace and Dr. Carl Anderson for their guidance.

I'd like to thank my friends here in the UK, friends back home and family to help me with this transition. Coming to a new country and school after spending time in industry is not the easiest transition and I wouldn't have been able to do it without them.