This talk is based on the author's perception of computer science as a powerful set of tools for exploring real-world phenomena. Three important skills for computer science students to learn are (1) the ability to extract a model of the domain, (2) the ability to test the models by encoding it in software, and (3) the awareness of the available tools (algorithms, programming languages, data models) in order to be able to come up with the best solution for a problem at hand. In this talk we explore how this view may influence the design and delivery of courses in computational biology. The examples and outcomes from past teaching are presented, as well as future teaching aspirations.

Bio:
Marina Barsky is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. She has her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Victoria, Canada, and her M.Sc. in Biology from the Moscow State University.

Her research interests are on the intersection of bioinformatics, database systems, and algorithms. She has taught multiple graduate and undergraduate courses, specializing in data science, algorithms, bioinformatics and programming.