



Bio Trends

Biostatistics and Computational Biology

Volume 3, Issue 4

Fall 2009

Upcoming Events

- October 8
Colloquium
Hui Zou
- October 23
Colloquium
Rustom Antia
- October 29
Colloquium
Chris Coffey
- November 17
Abbie Stokes-Riner
Thesis Defense
- November 26 & 27
University Holiday
- December - date to
be determined
Programmer/Staff
Pot Luck
- December 10
Colloquium
Minge Xia
- December 11
Last Day of Classes
- December 15 - 20
Final Exam period
- December 25
University Holiday



2009 Yakovlev Colloquium with Dean Follmann



On September 17, 2009, the Department hosted **Dean Follmann, Ph.D.** from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaker for the 2009 Yakovlev Colloquium. Dr. Follmann spoke on "Crossover Trials for Survival and Recurrent Event Endpoints".

From left to right: speaker - Dean Follmann, Nina Yakovlev, David Oakes, and Jack Hall



Clockwise from bottom left: Changyong Feng, Ollivier Hyrien, Derick Peterson, Dean Follmann, Nina Yakovlev, Nancy Hall, Jack Hall, David Oakes, Hulin Wu, and Hua Liang attended the Faculty Dinner.

As many of you may know, there have been a number of changes in the Dean's office in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. As part of that, **Cheryl Cicero** has accepted a new position as Assistant to Richard Burton, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Medicine and Dentistry, effective September 1, 2009. While we will miss her in the department, we are excited for her in this new opportunity within the University. Congratulations, Cheryl!



The Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology would like to introduce to you our 4 new graduate students.

Fei Ma
Master's Student



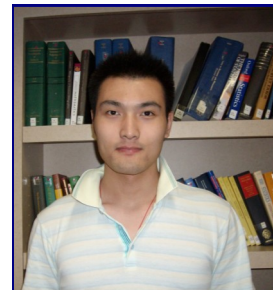
Micah Segelman
Doctoral Student



Hui Yang
Doctoral Student



Yu Han
Doctoral Student



Submitted by Art
Watts

Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana hosted its 13th Annual Rochester River Challenge. For the first time, Biostatistics members **Rui Chen, Zhen Chen, Rui Hu, Ollivier Hyrien, Derick Peterson, Arthur Watts & Hui Zhang** entered the race as the **Tsunami Surfers!** Over 40 teams competed this year on a beautiful sunny day. Even though we were a rookie team, we actually won our division with a time of 3:40! Of course there were only two teams in our division. Keith Bourgeois' nephew Danny competed as part of the Air Force ROTC team for the fourth year in a row. Air Force ROTC completed the race in 3:05, one of the best times of the day. It was great to be rowing out on the Genesee and hope that more of you can join us next year! All proceeds benefited Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, to provide the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to gain confidence and dignity through participation in paddle sports, recreation, and related educational programs. Our Photographer was **Wei Liang**.

Photos are available at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/chnrui/Summer2009?authkey=Gv1sRgClqI5YWCiLjPrAE&feat=email#>

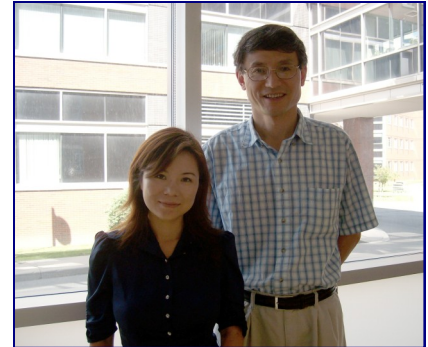


Provost's Multidisciplinary Awards Symposium

Provost Ralph Kuncel invited the University community to attend the Provost's Multidisciplinary Awards Symposium on Thursday, October 22, in Hoyt Auditorium, to hear the six 2008 awardees describe results of their yearlong cross-disciplinary research covering a wide array of topics. A reception celebrating last year's and this year's winners followed. Dr. **Hongyu Miao**, 2008 awardee for his research on computational approaches for HIV viral fitness, was one of the presenters.



Haiyan Su, Ph.D., shown here with her mentor, **Dr. Hua Liang**, successfully defended her thesis on July 30th. Dr. Su has assumed an academic position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montclair State University, N.J.



Qin Yu, Ph.D., shown here with her mentor, **Dr. Xin Tu**, successfully defended her thesis on August 10th. Dr. Yu has assumed an academic position as Research Associate in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Pennsylvania.



Grant Awards

David Oakes, Ph.D., subcontract award with Harvard University for Urate as a Predictor of Parkinson's Disease Risk and Progression.

Wan Tang, Ph.D., Developmental Center for AIDS Research Pilot Award, and an R21/R33 for Analysis of Count Data with Structural Zeros.

Hulin Wu, Ph.D., ARRA funded subcontract award with the University of Delaware for Analysis of Differential Resistance Emergence Risk for Differential Treatment Applications.



Master's student **Nick Rollins** completed his degree this summer. Nick, who had been working in Psychiatry, assumed a new position as a data analyst with Measured Progress, an educational testing company in Dover, N.H.



Master's student **Andrea Berry**, who completed her degree this summer, will continue as an information analyst in the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine working with Dr. BK Yoo on flu vaccination effectiveness.



On Aug 4th, in Washington, DC during JSM 2009 a few of our alumni got together with some faculty and graduate students for dinner.

Front row from left to right: **Hongkun Wang, Ph.D.** in 2005 (Dr. Hongwei Zhao, advisor), **Aiyi Liu, Ph.D.** in 1997 (Dr. W. Jack Hall, advisor), **Antai Wang, Ph.D.** in 2002 (Dr. David Oakes, advisor), Haiyan Su, and Sally Thurston, Ph.D.

Back row from left to right: Hui Zhang, Abbie Stokes-Riner, and Doug Gunzler

Bill Mielowski - 30 year Anniversary

Time flies...

Bill Mielowski was Rochester's second Statistics Ph.D. graduate. He received his degree under the direction of Govind Mudholkar in 1974 and joined SUNY Buffalo, later becoming Acting Director of Statistics. Bill left Buffalo for Harvard's Department of Biostatistics and spent a few years there working with Marvin Zelen. Bill then joined Novartis Pharmaceuticals in 1979, where he recently celebrated a significant milestone.

An email from Kobby Asubonteng, Prof. Mudholkar's most recent doctoral student, now working in Oncology Biometrics and Data Management at Novartis, reports that "August 27, 2009 marked the 30 year Anniversary of Mielowski's employment in Novartis...Bill has been instrumental in driving the quest for new statistical methodology and innovation in Oncology clinical development over these years. His continued focus on new methods, including the implementation of the Bayesian paradigm in Phase 1 trials, has put the organization in the forefront on innovation among other academic and industry groups."

Congratulations to Bill on this milestone and wishing him many more years of a successful career.

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Email us with any
suggestions at:
newsletter@bst.rochester.edu

Congratulations!!! go out to Peter and Sivan Salzman on the birth of their first child, daughter Avishag Veronika Salzman, on August 26, 2009. Avishag was 2800g (6 lbs 3 oz) and 48cm (19 inches).

Keith's Computer Corner

I've had two more people who have fallen for the trick of downloading Antivirus 2009. The advertisement for Antivirus 2009 looks just like a Microsoft application - so much so that it can fool even experienced computer users. Antivirus 2009 is the virus itself, spoofing users with constant false infection messages. Downloading and installing this program makes your system virtually useless. System restoration is the only surefire way to effectively remove all remnants of this virus. **Sophos** is our only approved antivirus solution. It has been effective and there should be no reason to try to install another antivirus program or delete **Sophos**. As always, if you believe your computer has been infected, contact me for assistance.



2009 Black Sox Softball Team

The Biostatistics softball team, the Black Sox, had another good year competing in the University of Rochester Medical Center softball league. After winning its 7th league championship in 2008, the team finished 7-2-1 in the 2009 regular season which was good enough to qualify for post-season play. Although the team lost in the semi-finals, the Black Sox were 1 of only 4 teams to make the playoffs in the 14-team league.