



Bio Trends

Biostatistics and Computational Biology

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2009

Upcoming Events

March 26
Colloquium Speaker
Hongzhe Li, Ph.D.

April 2
Odoroff Memorial Lecture
Terry M. Therneau, Ph.D.

April 17
Abbie Stokes-Riner
Thesis Proposal

April 23
Colloquium Speaker
Lili Tian, Ph.D.

April 29
Last day of classes

April 30
Colloquium Speaker
Jeremy Taylor, Ph.D.

May 4 - 11
Final Exam Period

May 25
University Holiday
Memorial Day

June 8 - 9
Andrei Yakovlev Memorial
Conference

July 24
Department Picnic at
Wegman Lodge in
Seneca Park



The Winter Family Celebration held January 30th, 2009 at Clover Lanes was enjoyed by all who attended. There was a very large turnout of students, staff, faculty, and family.



Computational Biology News

Dr. Howard Federoff's (Georgetown) DOD grant on "Discovery and Validation of Peripheral Biomarkers of Traumatic Brain Injury" was recently awarded, with a 1/19/09 start date. This grant will provide substantial funding for our **Computational Biology** group over the next five years, with **Dr. Peterson** serving as the Rochester subcontract PI, in collaboration with **Drs. Almudevar, Glazko, and Qiu**. The search for a full-time postdoctoral fellow to be fully supported by this grant has been delayed approximately 18 months, due to the need for a pilot study.

Student News



Hui Zhang is one of five winners of the American Statistical Association (ASA) Best Student Paper Award, sponsored jointly by three ASA sections: Social Statistics Section, Government Statistics Section, and Survey Research Methods Section. They will provide up to \$800 for his travel expenses to give a talk at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Washington, D.C., August 2009. The paper title is "The Generalized ANOVA --- A Classic Song Sung with Modern Lyrics", which is a collaboration with **Professor Xin M. Tu**.

Faculty News



On February 1, 2009, **Li-Shan Huang** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.



On February 12, 2009, **Hua Liang** was promoted to Professor of with tenure.



On March 10, 2009, **Hongyu Miao** was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Introductions



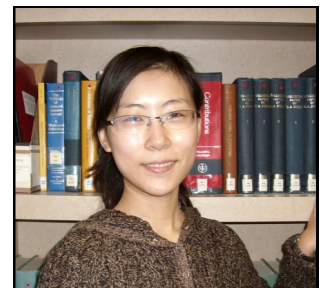
Meena Elumalai
Part-time Info Analyst
with **Sally Thurston**



Xinmin Li
Visiting Professor with
Hua Liang/Lattimore



Wei Gu
Visiting Professor with
Hulin Wu/Lattimore



Yunbei Ma
Visiting Student with
Hua Liang/Lattimore

Statistical Modeling for Biological Systems

A Conference in Memory of Andrei Yakovlev

June 8th and 9th, 2009



June 8th and 9th, 2009

Sponsored by

The University of Rochester Medical Center
Department of Biostatistics and
Computational Biology

Conference Activities:

The conference will bring together colleagues and collaborators of Dr. Yakovlev and others who have been influenced by his work or who have worked in related areas. There will be opportunity for contributed papers in the form of a poster session.

For more information concerning conference details, including:

- Registration
- Hotel reservations
- Abstract information and deadline

visit the website

www.urmc.rochester.edu/biostat/ayconference/

Provisional List of Speakers:

Anthony Almudevar, Rochester, NY
Bernard Asselain, Paris, France
Kenneth Boucher, Salt Lake City, UT
Lutz Edler, Heidelberg, Germany
Alexander Gordon, Charlotte, NC
Yuriy Gusev, Oklahoma City, OK
Leonid Hanin, Pocatello, ID
Ollivier Hyrien, Rochester, NY
Nikolay Ianev, Sofia, Bulgaria
Peter Jagers, Göteborg, Sweden
Nicholas Jewell, Berkeley, CA

Lev Klebanov, Prague, Czech Republic
Hartmut Land, Rochester, NY
Marianthi Markatou, New York, NY
Suresh Moolgavkar, Seattle, WA
Mark Noble, Rochester, NY
Xing Qiu, Rochester, NY
John Storey, Princeton, NJ
Aniko Szabo, Milwaukee, WI
Alexander Tsodikov, Ann Arbor, MI
Elart von Collani, Würzburg, Germany
Marvin Zelen, Boston, MA

Visit the website www.urmc.rochester.edu/biostat/ayconference/ for title of talks and abstracts.

Contact Information: cherylcicero@urmc.rochester.edu



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

As most of you know, last year I had the honor of participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer with a team of amazing men and women named Christy’s Crew. I joined the team in February of 2008 because I have too many friends that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Their courage and inspiration has driven me not only to raise money, but awareness. Never in my wildest imagination would I have thought that our group would grow to over 25 people strong and that we would raise over \$45,000.00 for breast cancer research and education!

At the walk in Washington, DC, 4 out of 25 women were tagged with the “Every Three Minutes” ribbon that you see on me and my new lifelong friend Kristin Williams in the picture on the left. These ribbons are handed out every three minutes on walk weekend and signify the fact that every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. By the end of walk weekend it is a potent reminder of how many people are touched daily by this disease and how much work we still have to do to find a cure.

My life will forever be changed because of the experience I had with Christy’s Crew. Through all of the training, fundraising, and friendship I will forever be touched by the power of knowing that a small group of committed people really CAN make a difference. I am very excited to announce that I am registered to walk in my **last** Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Boston on May 16th-17th, 2009.

I have already started training for Boston, so, one last time; I am asking for your help to reach the \$1800.00 fundraising requirement to participate in the walk. I know the economy is tough. I know some of you who donated last year might not be able to donate again this year, but please know that every little bit counts and no donation is too small. “A journey of 1000 miles starts with one SINGLE step!” With donations like yours, I will reach my goal, and together we will make a difference!!

If you are able to make a donation, remember, it is tax deductible. If you would like to make your donation online, please go to www.christyscrew.com, click on Boston, click on my name, and then click “Support Me!”

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Love,

Carrie

Keith's Computer Corner

Do Not Download Antivirus 2009!

Some people have been downloading and installing a program called Antivirus 2009 thinking they have a virus on their computer. Antivirus 2009 is advertised through the use of misleading web sites that attempt to make you think your computer is infected with a variety of viruses and malware. Once installed, Antivirus 2009 will scan your computer and list a variety of fake infections that can't be re-

moved unless you first purchase the software. These infections are fake and are only being shown to scare you into purchasing the software.

When Antivirus 2009 is installed, an Internet Explorer browser helper object is also installed that displays fake messages when using Internet Explorer. These messages range from a line at the top of the browser stating an infection was found to

adding a box to the Google homepage stating Google detected that your computer was infected. These tactics are just two more methods where Antivirus 2009 uses false information to scare you into purchasing their software.

Antivirus 2009 is very harmful to your computer and typically the computer must be rebuilt to eliminate all traces of this malicious program.



Jong-Hyeon Jeong, who received his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Rochester in 1996, has recently been awarded tenure by the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr Jeong's advisor was **Professor David Oakes**. After graduating, **Dr. Jeong** took a position in the Department of Neuroscience, University of California at San Diego. He moved to Pittsburgh in 1998.

Go Green! Conserve and Save THINK TWICE BEFORE OPENING THAT DOOR

With growing awareness about energy conservation, many people are familiar with simple ways to make a difference - unplug equipment, turn off monitors and lights when not in use. But did you know that simple choices when walking into and out of University buildings can have a significant impact? For instance, have you ever considered the energy required to operate an automated handicap door opener and the additional heating or cooling loss that can take place?

Automated openers hold a door open for up to 4 times longer than a standard, swinging door. This is the equivalent of leaving a 13-watt compact fluorescent light bulb on for nearly 8 hours.

So, if you have the option, manually open the door instead.

<http://www.rochester.edu/sustainability/gogreen/>



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Email us with any
suggestions at

newsletter@bst.rochester.edu



The Library still has extra copies of the following Journals if anyone is interested in them. Just come into the front office and let Sue or Sheryl know which ones you would like. There are many different editions available.

- Journal of the American Statistical Association
- Statistical Science
- Annals of Applied Statistics
- Annals of Statistics
- Biometrics
- Biometrika
- Mathematical and Computer Modeling
- Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monograph



In an effort to help managers gain a better understanding of technology, chief economist at Google, Hal Varian, suggested they learn to use data. “The sexy job of the next 10 years will be statisticians,” said Varian. “The ability to take data--to be able to understand it, to process it, to extract value from it, to visualize it, to communicate it--that’s going to be a hugely important skill in the next decades.”

In the video interview for the business journal *The McKinsey Quarterly*, Varian explained how managers can collect ideas from data analysis if they know how to use it. “In the old organization, you had to have this whole army of people digesting information to be able to feed it to the decision maker at the top,” he said. “But that’s not the way it works anymore. The information can be available across the ranks, to everyone in the organization. And what you need to ensure is that people have access to the data they need to make their day-to-day decisions.”

A professor of information sciences, business, and economics at the University of California at Berkeley, Varian sees statisticians as part of the reconfiguring of the business industry’s future. Information is easily accessible, and statisticians can help organizations analyze the information to improve productivity.

To view the interview or read the transcript, visit www.mckinseyquarterly.com

MARCH 2009 AMSTAT NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS ...

to Yun Fang and Ruihua Ji on the birth of their baby boy, February 15th at 4:11am, weighing in at 7 lbs. 15 oz. Best wishes to the new family!!!