

# THE BIOSTAT NEWS



December, 2004

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dr. K. Farewell Party	2
Job Opportunities	2
Student Awards	2
Alumni Events	3
OJ/OC Report	3
Construction Update	3
SPH Dean Search News	3

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Keep us informed on how you're doing by completing the alumni survey at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/alumupdate.html>
- ◆ Construction continues at SPH! Look inside to find out more.
- ◆ Exciting new job opportunities at UM Biostatistics! Visit our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/jobs/> for more details.

## Greetings from the Chair

Greetings and welcome to our newest issue of the *Biostat News*. We have had an excellent fall term that saw the largest incoming class ever. With 37 new Masters and Ph.D. students, our total enrollment of residential and OJ/OC students now exceeds 130. As in the past, our new students come from all over the US and beyond and bring with them a wealth of experiences and backgrounds.

There has also been lots of excitement associated with the continuing construction of the new SPH building and the ongoing search for a new Dean of the School. The building has now reached its full seven story height, but is still rather drafty. We have also had a new round of student awards and another alumni reception, this time at the JSM held in Toronto last August. This term also brought another milestone for the Department. This was the final term in which Professor Anant Kshirsagar (alias Dr. K.) has taught in the Department. Dr. K. completes a retirement furlough next term in India. He returns in April and will formally retire next May.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that you will keep us posted as to your activities and whereabouts. You, our alumni, play a very important role in representing the Department in many areas and we hope this provides one way of keeping you informed about activities in Biostatistics at UM.

Best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year,



Jade Kalbfleisch



## Hooray Dr. K!!

This semester marks the final term that Dr. Anant Kshirsagar will teach in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan. Dr. K., as he is fondly known, has contributed so much to the Department and as a sign of gratitude the Biostatistics Student Activities Committee hosted a lovely reception in his honor on Tuesday, November 30, 2004.



## Job Opportunities

**Faculty:** The UM Department of Biostatistics has one open rank position and one or more assistant professorships all in the tenure track to begin Fall, 2005 or earlier. The department seeks applications from outstanding individuals with interests in the development of statistical methodology, collaborative scientific research and teaching. The Department has particular interest in candidates with research interests in clinical trials or in the statistics of bioinformatics, but applications from individuals in all areas of biostatistical research are welcome. Faculty members are expected to develop independent research programs, teach, advise students and collaborate with other biomedical researchers.

**Fellowships:** The Genome Science Training Program in cooperation with the Departments of Biostatistics and Human Genetics invites applications for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. One- to three-year appointments are available beginning September 1, 2005.

**Research Faculty:** The UM Department of Biostatistics seeks applicants for a Research Faculty (non tenure-track) position. Requirements: PhD or equivalent in a statistical science and a strong interest in clinical trials. Duties: independent research, collaborative research and possibilities for teaching. Candidates with an interest or experience in clinical trials are encouraged to apply.

For additional information regarding these opportunities including application deadlines and contact information, please see our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/jobs/>.

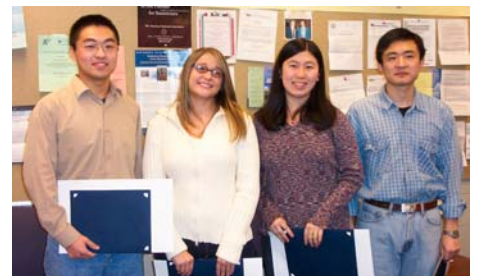
## Student Awards

Each year the Department bestows several different awards on a few of its very best students. This year is no different and we are pleased to announce the student award recipients for the 2004-2005 academic year. These awards recognize excellence in performance for the previous academic year. Please join us in congratulating the following outstanding students.

-This year the Best First Year Master's Student Award goes to Jun Ding. Jun is now a second year student working with Dr. Tom Nichols. Congratulations, Jun!

-The Best Performance on the Qualifying Examination Award goes to not just one, but two, of our outstanding doctoral students. Weihua Guan and Di An share this honor for doing an excellent job on such a difficult exam. Congratulations, Weihua and Di!

Our newest award, the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Award, recognizes excellence in teaching our Biostatistics service courses to non-biostatistics majors. Students who are GSI's provide a critical service to the Department as well as the School at large. The first recipient of this award is Tracy Green, a second year master's student



From left: Jun Ding, Tracy Green, Di An, and Weihua Gua

who was highly rated by her peers, supervisors, and most importantly her students. Thanks and congratulations, Tracy!



## Alumni Events

The last Biostatistics alumni reception took place in conjunction with the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, Canada. The University's Biostatistics and Statistics Departments teamed up for this event and welcomed over 80 attendees!

The next alumni reception will take place in conjunction with the Eastern North American Region Conference in Austin, Texas. The event will take place on Monday, March

21 from 5:30-7:30 P.M. at the Austin Hilton. UM Biostatistics alumni, faculty, students, and friends are welcome to join us for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and great conversation. More information will be available soon on our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/events.html>. For more information contact Amanda Ring at [cumminga@umich.edu](mailto:cumminga@umich.edu) or (734) 615-9817.



A view of beautiful Toronto, Ontario from the Intercontinental Hotel and Conference Centre where the 2004 Joint Statistical Meetings were held.

## OJ/OC CRDSA News: Recruiting

The twelfth cohort of the On Job/On Campus program in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis will begin in October, 2005. We have begun reviewing applications but are also continuing to encourage applications from qualified candidates, to strengthen our recruitment pool. The program is meant to provide a means for current and potential clinical researchers to develop skills in re-

search design and statistical analysis as applied to clinical research problems without leaving their employment. A description of the program and the program dates for Cohort XII can be found online at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/programs/clinical-stat/>.

If there are researchers at your institution

who are interested in developing their expertise in research design and statistical analysis, you may want to inform them of this program. Those interested in receiving information and/or application materials should contact Amanda Ring, in our Student Services office. She can be reached by phone at (734) 615-9817, or by e-mail at [cumminga@umich.edu](mailto:cumminga@umich.edu).

## Dean Search

The search for a new dean for the School of Public Health (SPH) is underway. Members of the search committee met for the first time in May 2004 to hear Provost Paul N. Courant's expectations for the search. Current Dean Noreen Clark will step down from her position, effective June 2005, at the completion of her second five-year term. Courant asked the committee to narrow the field and report its recommendations by late in the fall term 2004.

Kenneth Warner, Avedis Donabedian Distinguished University Professor of Public Health and professor of health management and policy at SPH, is chair of the committee that will conduct a national search for the next dean. The Advisory Committee (which includes our own Dr. Michael Boehnke) announced recently that four finalists will be visiting campus during the three weeks beginning Nov. 29. These finalists are:

- Arnold Epstein, MD, John H. Foster Professor and Chair, Dept. of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health;

- Roberta Ness, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Epidemiology, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh;
- Claire Sterk, PhD, Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; and
- Steven Zeisel, MD, PhD, AICR/WCRF Distinguished University Professor in Food, Nutrition and Prevention of Cancer, and Chair, Department of Nutrition, School of Public Health and School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Students, faculty, and staff will have the opportunity to hear each candidate speak as well as participate in meetings to determine who should be the next dean of the School of Public Health. A full description of the position can be found at [http://www.sph.umich.edu/news\\_events/69press.html](http://www.sph.umich.edu/news_events/69press.html). Stay tuned for more news on this search in the coming months.

## Construction Update

The School of Public Health continues to remain under construction, but at least the big hole is gone! The new building is really starting to take shape with the steel for the seven-story tower fully erected and the two-story Crossroads connector that arches over the street currently in progress.

In September, the School received an NIH grant for \$3.7 million to help support the construction of new laboratory and clinical facilities. You can read an article about the grant online at <http://www.umich.edu/news/index.html?Releases/2004/Sep04/r090304a>.

The project continues to be very exciting and although the trucks and drills can be rather noisy, the progress does make for an entertaining coffee break from time to time. You can find out more information about the project in general including periodic updates and a real-time webcam at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/about/renovation/index.html>.

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*Season's Greetings*  
*From All of us*  
*At*  
*The University of Michigan*  
*Department of*  
*Biostatistics*

