

THE BIOSTAT NEWS

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Alumni Updates	2
Upcoming Alumni Reception: ENAR	2
New OJ/OC Cohort Started in October!	2
Fellowship News	2
New Job Opportunities at UM Biostat	3
SPH and Biostat to Have New Building	3
Student Award Winners for 2002-2003!!	3

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ New alumni updates!! Find out what's going on with your fellow alumni.
- ◆ An Alumni Reception will be held at the ENAR Conference in Pittsburgh, PA on Monday, March 29th at 5:30 P.M.
- ◆ Exciting new job opportunities at UM Biostatistics!
- ◆ The SPH Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on Thursday, October 23.

Greetings from the Chair

Greetings, happy new year, and welcome to the second issue of *The Biostat News*! Many of you did not receive our first newsletter. It was posted online and distributed at the alumni reception that was held at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco last August. This time, we have decided to reach more of you through a regular mailing. I hope that you will enjoy this issue and hearing about your old Department and fellow alumni. If, after reading this you have a thirst for even more, you can also peruse the first newsletter at www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/July2003.pdf.

The Department is thriving with many exciting developments. Most notable is the rapid growth in recent times. During the past three and a half years, twelve new faculty members have joined the Department and we are currently advertising for additional faculty. The Department also continues to attract many excellent students to all of its programs. This year, we had outstanding success in admissions with 80 strong new students admitted to our residential and our On Job/On Campus (OJ/OC) programs. Our current enrollment is 2 MPH, 47 MS, 37 PhD, and 43 OJ/OC stu-

dents. With a total of 129 students, this is our largest enrollment ever!



Jack Kalbfleisch, PhD
Chair, Biostatistics

The Department continues to be very active in all aspects of research, both in statistical theory and methods and also in many collaborative projects. We continue to have leading contributors in longitudinal data analysis, statistical genetics, image analysis, survival and life history analysis, bioinformatics, missing data and in many other current areas of statistical research. Xihong Lin is now the coordinating editor of the international Biometrics Society's flagship journal, *Biometrics*, and members of the Department serve on editorial boards of many other statistical and biostatistical journals. No less important is the crucial role played by faculty, staff, and students as collaborators in major projects in diabetes, epidemiology, genetics, health behavior and edu-

cation, Alzheimer's disease, transplantation and in many other areas of national importance in public health and medicine.

The Department hopes to increase its contact and interaction with its alumni, and I welcome suggestions as to what we can do to accomplish this goal. As one step in this direction, we have begun to hold receptions at the ENAR Meetings of the Biometrics Society and at the Joint Statistical Meetings each year. These have been well attended and enjoyable events. The next reception is at the ENAR meeting in Pittsburgh in March—details can be found on page 2 of this publication.

We plan to issue this short newsletter twice each year to update you of Departmental developments and to provide a vehicle for communication.

Are there other things we could be doing? We have wondered about potential roles for continuing education or alumni conferences. Do let us know of your ideas and suggestions.

With best wishes for the new year,

Jack Kalbfleisch

Alumni Updates



The Henry Vaughn School of Public Health Building I

We have started to receive responses from our online alumni survey, but we still want to hear from more of you! To be featured in this section of the newsletter, you can either indicate so on the survey found at www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/alumniupdate.html, or you can contact our Student Services Office. We would appreciate hearing about job changes, research projects, marriages, births, moves, awards, promotions, etc. Or just let us know what you are doing now.

Student Services Contact Info:

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In this issue, we would like to feature Barry DiCicco (MS, '92) and Jingwei Wu (MS, '00).

Barry is currently working on a project studying behaviors in nursing homes of adults with cognitive impairment. He is also analyzing warranty/reliability data and implementing a six-sigma project in the auto industry.

Jingwei is currently involved in a heart and hypertension study, an STD (sexually transmitted diseases) study, and a quality of life study. He has also recently submitted some papers to related journals. Hopefully we'll see some of these published in the near future!

Upcoming Alumni Reception: ENAR

The Department is hosting its 2nd annual Alumni Reception in conjunction with the Biometrics Society's ENAR (East -North American Region) Conference. The reception will be held on Monday, March 29, 2004 at 5:30PM in the Hilton Pittsburgh's, Sterling 1 room. The Department has started to host these receptions in an effort to reach out to our alumni. Both of our 2003 Alumni Receptions (ENAR and JSM) were great successes! Approximately 60 UM Biostatistics alumni, faculty, and

students attended each. The receptions offer an excellent opportunity to reconnect with colleagues.

If you have any questions or comments regarding current, future, or past alumni events, please contact Amanda Ring in our Student Services Office. She can be reached by e-mail at cumminga@umich.edu or by phone at 734-615-9817.

We hope to see you in March!!



JSM Alumni Reception
August 4, 2003
Hilton San Francisco

New OJ/OC Cohort Started in October

Cohort XI of the On Job/On Campus (OJ/OC) Program in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis (CRDSA) started this October. We currently have 43 students enrolled and 21 are also involved in the NIH sponsored K-30 mentored-track program.

The students in our current cohort have a variety of backgrounds. A few examples of their research interests include acupuncture, dentistry, cardiology, pediatrics, pharmacy, radiology, urology, and hematology.

Although our cohort is large, the majority of our students are from the University of

Michigan. We would like to increase diversity in the program by getting our name out to more clinicians around the country. Our semi-annual recruitment push will be in the spring of 2004. If you know of anybody who may be interested in participating in this program, please refer them to Amanda Ring in our Student Services Office. She can be reached by e-mail at cumminga@umich.edu or by phone at 734-615-9817.

For more information regarding our OJ/OC Program, please visit our website at www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/programs/clinical-stat/.

Fellowship News

The Biostatistics Department is fortunate to have two new fellowship opportunities for our students that began in Fall 2003. We are very grateful to the Merck Foundation and the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation for their gifts over three years to fund these new awards. The Department has no greater need than scholarship funds for its many residential students. For the 2003-2004 academic year, the recipients of these fellowships are Heather Munro (Merck Fellow in Biostatistics) and Jun Ding (Eli Lilly Fellow in Biostatistics). Both Heather and Jun are first year MS students. Congratulations to them both!

New Job Opportunities at UM Biostat

There are several current job opportunities in the Biostatistics Department:

1. Tenure Track Assistant Professorship Position to begin Fall 2004 or earlier. Faculty members are expected to develop independent research programs, to teach and advise students, and to collaborate with other biomedical researchers.
2. In cooperation with the Departments of Biostatistics and Human Genetics, the Genome Science Training Program invites applications for predoctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. One- to three-year appointments are available.
3. Associate or Full Professor with interest and expertise in the planning, management, and analysis of clinical trials. This faculty member will be Associate Director and potential Director of the

Biometrics Outcomes Research Core and will be expected to collaborate with clinician-scientists to identify ideas for sponsored research, including multi-center clinical trials, and on the submission of application for their funding.

For more information about any of these positions, please visit www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/jobs/.

SPH and Biostat to Have New Building



SPH is about to become a major construction site, as the School will shortly begin work on a new building to substantially extend and update its facilities. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Thursday, October 23, 2003. The speakers included Mary Sue Coleman, President, University of Michigan; Paul Courant, Provost, University of Michigan; Noreen Clark, Dean; Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Surgeon General of the State of Michigan; and Martin Philbert, Senior

Associate Dean for Research. Kimberlydawn Wisdom is an MS graduate of the Department's OJ/OC program.

This major renovation includes demolition of the south wing of the SPH I building and construction of a new tower that will connect the two SPH buildings with an archway over Washington Heights. The old catwalk between SPH I and SPH II will be gone as will such familiar landmarks as the Copper Café.

Effects on Biostatistics: We are one of the fixed points in the construction. Many faculty, staff and students in other Departments of SPH have had to be temporarily housed off campus in offices on South University Avenue and elsewhere. This was necessary so as to vacate the offices in the south wing of SPH I in preparation for construction. We will be spared this disruption. As construction proceeds, members of the Department will have a very pleasant view

out of the north-facing windows of the fourth floor. Eventually however, this view will be obstructed as the new tower will cover several of these. When the building is completed, the Department will have additional space and maintain its current situation of having contiguous space for most of its core activities.

Demolition will begin the week of February 23, when the University is on Spring Break. Construction is expected to take approximately three years to complete. When done, there will be very striking new facilities with a wonderful spacious lobby and reception area to the School, new modern classrooms fully equipped for high-tech presentations, a cyber café with convenient food services, and extensive new office space, meetings rooms and laboratories. Plans for the new construction can be found on the Web at www.plantext.bf.umich.edu/plantext/projects/SPH/index.html.

Student Award Winners for 2002-2003

Each year, the Biostatistics Department awards its students for outstanding achievements. Although all of our students are exceptional, the following have really outdone themselves!

Karen Conneely and Zheng Yuan received the 2002-2003 award for Best Performance on the Biostatistics PhD Part I Qualifying Exam. Lu Wang received the

2002-2003 award for Outstanding First Year Masters Student. This year's awards were presented on Friday, October 17.

If you are interested in reading about more news and events or past award winners, you can do so online at www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/honors2003.html.



Our 2002-2003 Student Award Winners!!

(From left to right) Zheng Yuan, Lu Wang, and Karen Conneely

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Be sure to check us out on the Web at:

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/>

to keep up-to-date with

- *Departmental Awards
- *The Prime Number Club
- *Faculty Research Updates
- *And MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Also be sure to check out the School of Public Health's
Alumni pages at

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/alumni/index.html>