



University of Michigan, School of Public Health

THE BIOSTAT NEWS

Greetings from the Chair



Jack Kalbfleisch, PhD
Chair, Biostatistics

Greetings, and welcome to the first issue of *The Biostat News*. We have created this newsletter as part of our effort to build ongoing relationships with our alumni. Through these associations we hope to provide alumni with the opportunity to stay in touch with their former colleagues and friends and to develop opportunities for professional development. In turn, we hope that your involvement will provide the Department with networking opportunities and that your input will help to define its focus and direction.

I am very pleased to report that the Department is flourishing. Twelve

new faculty members have joined the Department over the past three years bringing the total to 24 faculty. Our newest additions will be joining us this fall. Zhaohui (Steve) Qin is joining our Statistical Genetics group as an Assistant Professor. Steve received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and, for the past three years, has worked in genetics and molecular biology as a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University. Mousumi Banerjee, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, is joining our Cancer group as an Associate Research Scientist. Mousumi is currently on faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit.

The Department continues to attract many excellent students to all of its programs. This year, we had an outstanding admissions season with 80 strong new students (residential and OJ/OC) who will join us in a few weeks. These new admissions will bring total enrollments of 45 Ph.D., 41 Masters and 40 OJ/OC students this Fall.

This growth has allowed the Department to increase its involvement in research. As has been the tradition, faculty, staff and students are leaders in research in statistical theory and methods. They play crucial roles as collaborators in major projects in cancer, diabetes,

epidemiology, environmental science, genetics, health education, survey research, Alzheimer's disease, transplant registries and many other areas of national and international importance in public health and medicine.

We intend to issue this newsletter semi-annually to keep you informed about developments in the Department. We also hope that this will become a vehicle for communication among our alumni. Your input is important to the success of this endeavor; please keep us informed of what is going on in your careers and personal lives (see "Alumni Updates" on pg. 2).

I hope you enjoy hearing about Biostatistics at Michigan. I look forward to establishing a continuing dialogue with you.

Sincerely,

Special points of interest:

- An Alumni Reception will be held at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco on Monday, August 4th at 6:00PM at the Hilton San Francisco, in Room Mason A/B. Hope to see you there!
- April 2003 graduation was a success!!
- Admission numbers are up for this Fall by 30%.

Inside this issue:

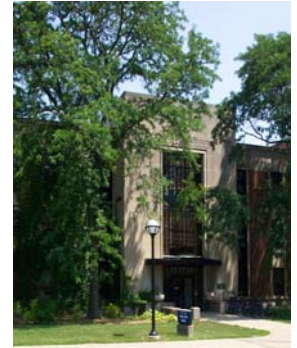
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Alumni Updates (Future home of Info all about You!)

One of the department's richest assets is the people who have roamed the halls in years past and have gone out into the world to give UM Biostatistics the reputation it has today. Without your support and hard work it would be difficult to attract the world class faculty and students to the department year after year. We hope that this newsletter will serve to inform you about the great things that are happening here because of **your** hard work.

With that said, we want to hear from **you!** In order to make this newsletter worthwhile, we want to hear from you! Please be sure to contact our Student Services office with any updates you have. We would appreciate hearing about job changes, marriages, births, moves, awards, promotions, etc. We would also like to solicit your help in finding your fellow alumni who may not have received this newsletter. If you know of someone in this

situation, please have them contact us to update their contact information. Student Services contact info: Amanda Cumming- (734) 615-9817 cumminga@umich.edu Heonia Hillock- (734) 615-9812 hillockh@umich.edu You can also update us by completing our Alumni Update form on our webpage or by mail at the address on the last page of the newsletter. Thanks!



The Henry Vaughn School of Public Health Building I

Alumni Receptions: ENAR and JSM

In the effort to reach out more to our alumni, the Department has begun hosting Alumni Receptions coinciding with Statistical Conferences. Our first Alumni Reception, held in conjunction with the 2003 ENAR Conference in Florida, was a great success! Approximately 60 UM Biostatistics alumni, faculty, and



Lobby of the Hilton San Francisco.

students attended. It was a great time to reconnect with colleagues. The next Alumni Reception will be held in August at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco. The reception will be hosted at the Hilton San Francisco in Mason Room A/B on Monday, August 4, 2003 at 6 P.M. We hope to see you there!

Any questions or suggestions regarding these events should be sent to Amanda Cumming in our Student Services Office at cumminga@umich.edu or 734-615-9817.

Xihong Lin named co-editor of Biometrics

Professor Xihong Lin was named co-editor of *Biometrics*, the Journal of the International Biometric Society (IBS), for a two year term beginning in January 2003. IBS is an international society for the advancement of biological science through the development of quantitative theories and the application, development, and dissemination of effective mathematical and statistical techniques.

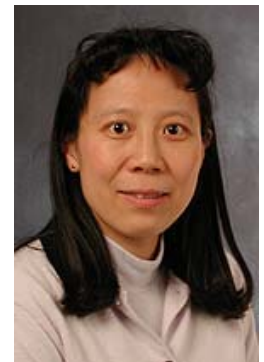
The Society has 37 National Groups and Regions throughout the world

with two in North America, the East-North American Region (ENAR) and the West-North American Region (WNAR). The Society organizes a major international conference every two years, and sponsors regional and local meetings. The ENAR and the WNAR are co-sponsors of the Joint Statistical Meeting which this year will be held in August in San Francisco, CA (see article above).

Biometrics emphasizes the role of statistics and mathematics in the bio-

logical sciences. Its objective is to promote and extend the use of mathematical and statistical methods in pure and applied biological sciences by describing developments in these methods and their applications in a form readily assimilable by experimental scientists.

To learn more about *Biometrics* and IBS go to <http://stat.tamu.edu/Biometrics/>



Xihong Lin

Graduation 2003



From left to right: Rod Little, Jack Kalbfleisch, Wei Liang, Jeremy Taylor and Susan Murray. Congratulations to Wei and all of our 2003 grads!

Graduation season has come and gone in Ann Arbor and thousands of new UM alumni are out conquering the world! The new crop of Biostatistics alumni are no exception! Our new alumni have chosen many different paths now that they have completed their degrees. Four of our MS students have chosen to go on to get their PhD in the Department. Several other students have gone on to careers as biostatisticians at companies such as Merck, Eli Lilly, and Pfizer, just to name a few (see box below.)

Still others have accepted faculty positions at prestigious University's across the country.

The School of Public Health's commencement exercises held at Rackham Auditorium on April 25, 2003 were a huge success. Sixty-one Biostatistics students received their degrees (19 MS, 1 MPH, 5 PhD, 36 OJ/OC CRDSA MS) and celebrated their achievements with friends, family, and the School of Public Health community.

During the ceremony, Professors

Rod Little and Susan Murray each received an Excellence award from the School. Dr. Little received the SPH Excellence in Research Award and Dr. Murray was awarded the SPH Excellence in Teaching Award (pictured left).

Congratulations and best of luck to all of our graduates! Welcome to this elite group of Biostatistics Alumni.

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. Plans are to tear down the south wing of the SPH I building and to construct a new tower that will connect SPH I and SPH II as a bridge over Washington Heights. The old catwalk between SPH I and II will be gone as will such familiar landmarks as the Copper Cafe.

Effects on Biostatistics. We are one of the fixed points in the construction. Many faculty, staff and students in other Departments of the 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. But as construction proceeds, the new tower

will cover several of the Department's office windows. 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.

Construction is expected to take approximately three years to complete. When done, however, 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 cafe with convenient food services, and extensive new office space, meeting rooms and laboratories. It is expected that plans for the new construction will shortly be available on the Web for review. We will be taking some drawings and plans to the reception at the JSM so that those able to attend will be able to see what is in the works.

Our students and alumni are hot commodities! Here are a few of the places where 2003 graduates have gone to begin their careers:

- | | |
|--|--|
| -Harvard Medical School | -Merck & Co., Inc. |
| -Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc. | -University of Utah |
| -UM's Institute for Social Research | -University of Utah |
| -University Renal Research & Education Association | -Northwestern University |
| | -University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Human Genetics |



Fellowship News

The Biostatistics department is fortunate to have two new fellowship opportunities for our students beginning Fall 2003. We are very grateful to the Merck Foundation and 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 and these new associations with Merck and Eli Lilly are very welcome.

University of Michigan
Department of Biostatistics
1420 Washington Heights, M4226
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029

Phone: 734-615-9817
Fax: 734-763-2215

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>

Alumni Survey

Please complete the following survey and return to the Student Services office at the address listed above. You can also complete the survey on the web at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/alumni.html> Your feedback is very important to us and we hope you will participate in our survey. Thanks!

What type of information would you be most interested in reading about on our website? (Check all that apply)

- a) Department events, (Graduation, etc)
- b) Faculty updates
- c) Research updates
- d) Alumni updates
- e) Dept. demographics (Admissions numbers, etc.)
- f) SPH updates
- g) Other _____

What type of information would you be interested in reading about in our newsletter? (Check all that apply)

- a) Department events, (Graduation, etc)
- b) Faculty updates
- c) Research updates
- d) Alumni updates
- e) Dept. demographics (Admissions numbers, etc.)
- f) SPH updates
- g) Other _____

What type(s) of alumni reunion event(s) would be interested in attending? (Check all that apply)

- a) Receptions held in conjunction with statistical conferences (e.g., ENAR, JSM)
- b) Picnic in Ann Arbor
- c) Formal Reception/Dinner in Ann Arbor
- g) Other _____

In what manner would you prefer to be contacted by the UM Biostatistics Department?

- a) Phone
- b) Mail
- c) E-Mail
- d) Other _____

Additional Comments:

Personal Information update:

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____