

Biostatistics Newsletter

University of Florida, PPHP & COM

2023



Special Points of Interest:

Greetings from the Chair

Faculty and Staff

Accomplishments and Awards

2023 Seminar Series

2023 Graduates

Contributions and Gifts

Holiday Greetings from the Department Chair

Peihua Qiu, Dean's Professor and Founding Chair

In this holiday season, I want to thank our faculty, staff, and students for your hard work in the past year. I would also like to thank our alumni and friends for your continued support. Although there is much unrest around the globe, I am pleased to tell you that our diverse department has achieved another tremendous year. During the past year, the department successfully recruited two new faculty members, one of whom fills the role as Director of our MS Online program, and we are actively recruiting for an additional faculty member. These new faculty members will strengthen our expertise greatly in biostatistical research, education, and service. Currently, the department has 28 faculty members, 38 PhD students, and over 65 MS/MPH students, with another new faculty member expected to join us in next July.

Many of our faculty members are leaders in our research areas, and our graduate programs are also very strong. This is reflected in the honors and recognitions received recently by our faculty and students from different national organizations. For instance, our faculty member Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee was elected as president of the American Statistical Association, Dr. Rhonda Bacher was elected as president of the Florida Chapter of the American Statistical Association, and I was elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Our PhD students Xinyu Yan and Yuan Zhou were among the inaugural recipients of PPHP AI fellowship funding. Our department was ranked #11 among all biostatistics programs in public universities of the nation in 2022 by the *US News & World Report*, and our university was ranked #1 by the *Wall Street Journal's* 2024 Best Colleges in the U.S. among public universities.

With regards to our research, the department faculty and students published over 180 research papers in refereed journals last year, many of which appeared in top journals like *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*. The department received over \$9.3 million in extramural funding to help with our research. Recently, Drs. Rhonda Bacher, Subha Guha, Arka Roy and Peihua Qiu all received major NIH/NSF/CDC grants. Keeping abreast of emerging pathogens and potential outbreaks, Drs. Matt Hitchings and Ira Longini joined with partners at other universities in the creation of two CDC-funded centers for outbreak forecasting.

The quality of our graduate programs continues to be our top priority. The department faculty continue to devise strategies to persistently improve the quality of courses. Under the leadership of Dr. Steve Foti, our Director of Graduate Studies, we are working on exploring a certificate and/or undergraduate degree program in Biostatistics. Additionally, under his leadership, we submitted and received approval for 5 new courses. Our graduate programs within the department, and the educational programs within the entire UF Health Science Center were greatly improved with the 2022 development of several new courses on biostatistical computing and machine learning.

This past summer, we successfully recruited 12 PhD, 4 on-campus MS, and 14 online MS students. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the department graduated 12 PhD, 11 on-campus MS, and 17 online MS students. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all recent graduates on their success in the graduate study in our department, and wish them the best in their future career.

Please enjoy reading the newsletter about our recent accomplishments and moments. I look forward to this upcoming year and your continued support.

Thank you, and have a wonderful holiday season!

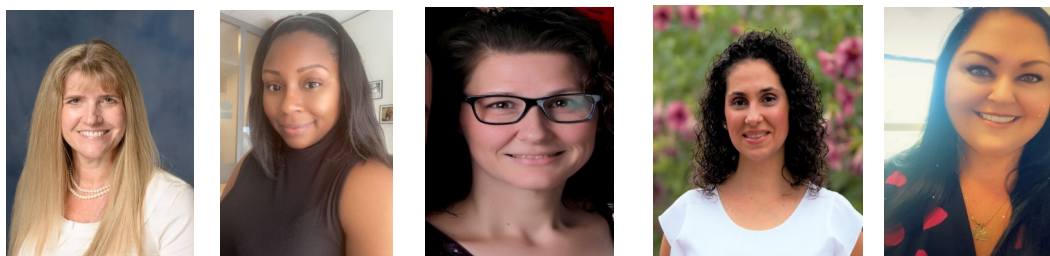


Faculty



Rhonda Bacher , Jason Brant, Li Chen, Somnath Datta, Susmita Datta, Jonathan Fischer, Steven Foti, Subharup Guha, Matthew Hitchings, Zhiguang Huo, John Kairalla, Ji-Hyun Lee, Zhigang Li, Muxuan, Liang, Tuo Lin, Ira Longini, Xiangyang Lou, Qing Lu, Arlene Naranjo, Robert Parker, Qinglin Pei, Peihua Qiu, Arkaprava Roy, Guogen Shan, Lixia Wang, Samuel Wu, Feifei Xiao, Wei Xue

Core Administrative Staff



Deana Nance, Malayshia King, Jennifer Kirkland, Mariana Miranda, Melanie Sanders

Dr. Tuo Lin



Dr. Tuo Lin is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Florida (UF), with a joint position in the Division of Quantitative Sciences at the University of Florida Health Cancer Center (UFHCC). He obtained his Ph.D. degree in Biostatistics from the University of California San Diego. Dr. Lin's methodological research focuses on semiparametric theory and missing data, survey methodology, statistical learning, network models and neuroimaging data analysis, and their applications to biomedical and psychosocial research. In term of the collaborative research, he is interested in applying novel statistical methods and designs to cancer studies and clinical trials.

Dr. Lixia Wang

Dr. Lixia Wang is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the Online MS Program in the Department of Biostatistics. She received her PhD in Mathematics from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. She has a MS from Fudan University in Probability and Mathematical Statistics as well as a MS in Statistical Computing (Data Mining Track) from the University of Central Florida, and a BS in Computational Mathematics from Wuhan University. She had been teaching statistics and mathematics at Hubei University of Automotive Technology, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, University of Central Florida, and Rollins College, respectively before joining the University of Florida. Her research interests include applications of statistics in public health and medicine, mathematical epidemiology, the history of mathematics and statistics, and statistics education.



Lulu Chen

Welcome to Ms. Lulu Chen. Lulu joined Dr. Naranjo's COG group in July. She received her Master's in Statistics and Data Science from the University of Central Florida in the spring of 2023. She is very excited as this is her first job since her graduation from the University of Central Florida. Lulu is working with Dr. Naranjo's group, assisting in data management and statistical analysis.

Ruina He

Ruina He joined Dr. Samuel S. Wu's Research Design and Data Coordinating Center (RDDCC) group in February of 2023. Ruina received her Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Applied Biostatistics from the University of South Florida in August of 2022. She completed her undergraduate education here at the University of Florida in Microbiology and Cell Science as well as Piano Performance. She enjoys spending her leisure time outside hiking and cycling.

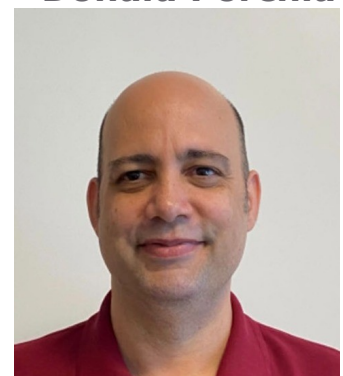


Yulin Li

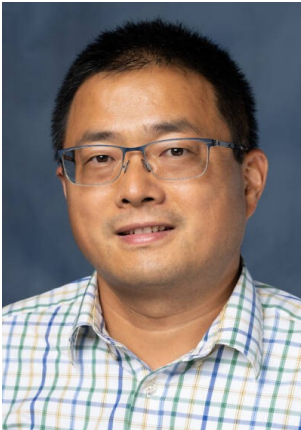
Yulin Li joined the Department of Biostatistics as a Data Management Analyst II, in February of this year as a Data Management Analyst, II in the Research Design and Data Coordinating Center (RDDCC). He received his M.S. degree in Statistics from Rice University in December 2022.

Donald Porchia

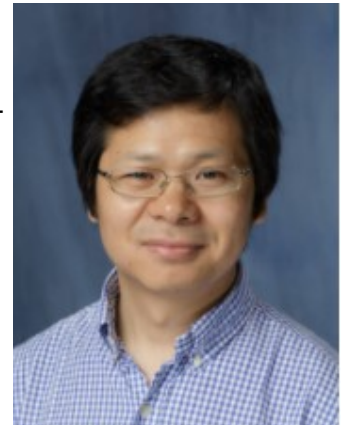
Dr. Donald Porchia joined the Department of Biostatistics as a Data Management Analyst II this October. Donald received his PhD in Modeling and Simulation from the University of Central Florida. He also has a MS in Mathematics from the College of Science, a MS in Modeling and Simulation from the College of Engineering, and a graduate certificate in Data Mining from the Department of Statistics at the University of Central Florida.



National Institute on Aging Grant Award



Dr. Guogen Shan (PI) and Dr. Zhigang Li (Co-I) was recently awarded an R03 from NIA to improve early MCI-to-AD prediction by 6 months to 1 years by using machine learning methods and novel survival approaches. The title of this project is: Application of deep learning and novel survival models to predict MCI-to-AD dementia progression. The research team includes survival data analysis expert from University of Nevada Reno (Prof. Minggen Lu).

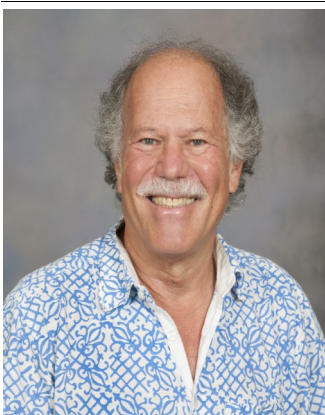


National Institute of Health Grant Award

Dr. Susmita Datta, a tenured professor in the Department of Biostatistics and a preeminent hire at the UF receives a PI level R01 grant from NIDDK/NIH along with two other researchers at the University of Tennessee (MPIs) on a project entitled “Clinical, Biochemical, and Microbiological Effects of Constipation Treatment in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: A Pilot Feasibility Trial”. Total first year budget of the funding is \$308,818 resulting approximately one Million Dollar for three years starting 08/11/2023. The research team would examine for the first time the temporal changes in both gut and circulating microbiotas as well as clinical and biochemical parameters associated with constipation treatment with lactulose in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) through a feasibility trial. The team will perform a comprehensive gut microbial profile, including not only Bacteria but also Archaea, Fungi and viruses, in patients with CKD and constipation by applying state-of-the-art WGS techniques. The comparison of signatures of both gut and circulating microbiotas will provide novel insights into the potential gut microbiota translocation across the impaired gut barrier associated with constipation and CKD.



The Centers for Disease Control Award



Dr. Ira Longini, Professor, has been funded on a new U01 center grant, that started September 1, 2023. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is giving the University of Florida, Northeastern University and several other institutions \$17.5 million over the next five years for an innovation center designed to help detect and prepare the United States for the next outbreak of infectious disease. The Center will develop mathematical and analytical methods for the prediction and control of emerging infectious disease threats on a national and international level. It is called “EPISTORM: The Center for Advanced Epidemic Analytics and Predictive Modeling Technology.” Dr. Longini, who headed a large effort to deal with COVID-19, believes that this Center will help deal with current and future infectious disease threats on a global scale. EPISTORM will be part of a new larger CDC-funded outbreak analytics and disease modeling network that is designed to

help the nation respond more quickly and effectively during public health emergencies.

Dr. Peihua Qiu, Elected a 2022 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science



Dr. Peihua Qiu, Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Biostatistics was elected a 2022 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The AAAS Fellow is a lifetime honor achievement. Being recognized for his scientifically and socially distinguished achievements is one of the highest honors granted to scientists. “Dr. Qiu was selected in recognition of distinguished contributions to the field of statistics and its applications, particularly in jump regression analysis, image processing, statistical process control, survival analysis, disease screening, and disease surveillance.” The full story is available [here](#).

Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee Elected President of the American Statistical Association

Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee was elected president of the American Statistical Association (ASA), which boasts more than 19,000 members in more than 90 countries. Dr. Lee will serve as ASA president-elect beginning January 1, 2024, with her term as president commencing January 1, 2025. “Dr. Lee plans to focus on three key areas: growing visibility of the organization and its members with partner groups; enhancing opportunities for members, including offering accessible and tailored professional development opportunities; and diversifying and increasing ASA’s membership.”



Dr. Lee is a professor of Biostatistics and serves as the director of the Division of Quantitative Sciences at the UF Health Cancer Center. She has served on the board of ASA’s directors for three years. Dr. Lee is the first Korean American Statistician, the first woman statistician from Florida, and the first cancer center applied biostatistician in the history of ASA’s presidency. The full story is available [here](#).

Dr. Rhonda Bacher Elected President of the American Statistical Association’s Florida Chapter



Dr. Rhonda Bacher, an assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics has been elected president of the Florida Chapter of the American Statistical Association for a two-year term.

Dr. Bacher’s goal “is to improve outreach and connections among existing members, students and practicing statisticians/data scientists across the state of Florida,” said Bacher, who previously served as the chapter’s information officer in 2019 and most recently as secretary/treasurer for the 2021-2023 term.” The full story is available [here](#).

Dr. Jonathan Fischer Recognized for Excellence in Teaching

Ensuring UF students receive the very best education is a top priority in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Graduating students who are prepared for the work force and equipped to positively impact the communities they will serve is of paramount importance to our faculty. At the end of the spring semester hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence were recognized across the College. Dr. Jonathan Fischer was among distinguished faculty instructors whose course evaluation scores for fall 2022 or spring 2023 classes were 4.8 or higher. Dr. Fischer’s achievement and commitment to student success was recognized by Dean Beth Virnig. Dean Virnig acknowledged, “Outstanding and dedicated instruction is central to our culture of excellence in education and student-centered learning.” Congratulations Dr. Fischer! Your hard work is greatly appreciated by your peers and students.



Dr. Matthew Hitchings Among Experts Joined with Partners at UNC and Johns Hopkins in Creation of CDC-Funded Center for Outbreak



As one of two infectious disease experts at the University of Florida, Dr. Matthew Hitchings is part of a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded outbreak analytics and disease modeling network that is designed to help the nation respond more quickly and effectively during public health emergencies. “This foundational work would have greatly enhanced our understanding of key features of COVID-19 and other pathogens to forecast the threat that each pathogen presents, guide policy decisions, and optimally allocate intervention,” Hitchings said.

In an effort to move the nation in the direction of better preparation and response to infectious disease outbreaks, Dylan George, director of the CDC Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, states, “We are committed to working alongside these outstanding partners to achieve our goal of using data and advanced analytics to support decision-makers at every level of government.” To read more about the creation of this CDC funded Outbreak Center, please click [here](#).

Biostatistics Award Winners for 2023 Recognized at Spring Picnic

The department recognized the hard work of faculty, students, and staff at the spring picnic held at Lake Wauburg in May of this year. The 2023 award winners are:

- 2023 MS Outstanding Student: - Heng Ge
- 2023 Online MS Outstanding Student: - Zhang Li
- 2023 PhD Preliminary Exam - Dayuan Wang
- 2023 Outstanding Dissertation Research - Seungjun Ahn
- 2023 Outstanding Dissertation Research - Runzhi Zhang
- 2023 Outstanding Teacher - Dr. Jonathan Fischer
- 2023 Outstanding Student Support - Mariana Miranda



Keynote Presentation Given by Dr. Peihua Qiu at 2023 INFORMS Conference



Dean's professor and founding chair of the department of biostatistics, Dr. Peihua Qiu, gave a keynote presentation titled "Recent statistical process control methods for dynamic disease screening and spatio-temporal disease surveillance" at the 2023 INFORMS Conference on Quality, Statistics, and Reliability held June 6-8 at North Carolina State University. In the talk, he provided an overview on the sequence of new concepts and methods developed by his research group for disease screening and disease surveillance, which initiated several new research directions related to online monitoring of dynamic and/or spatial processes.

Researcher Travel Award Presented to Dr. Arkaprava Roy

Dr. Arkaprava Roy, assistant professor of biostatistics, received a new researcher travel award from the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. The award provides funding to IMS members who have received their Ph.D. within the past five years to attend any IMS-sponsored or co-sponsored meeting where they will present a paper or poster.



Dr. George Lou to Apply AI to Further Cancer Focused Collaborative Research

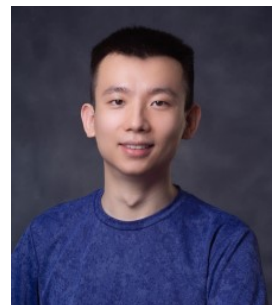
Dr. XiangYang "George" Lou, a research professor in the department of biostatistics in the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, along with other collaborators were one of two teams awarded funding to pilot cancer research applying artificial intelligence to cancer research. a team using the AI capabilities at the University of Florida to improve the quantification accuracy of magnetic particle imaging.



Utilizing artificial intelligence to address serious cancer-related research problems will hopefully offer researchers a better understanding of hard-to-study areas along with developing new technologies. To learn more about the UF Health Cancer Center pilot program's funding award, click [here](#).

Shangchen Song Among One of Three PPHP Graduate Students to Receive an Aging Research Award

Mr. Shangchen Song was one of three PPHP graduate students selected as a 2023 recipient of the [Leighton E. Cluff Award for Aging Research](#). Recognizing outstanding scholarly pursuits in aging research this esteemed award is bestowed through an endowment established in 2002 between the Center for Gerontological Studies, in the College of Liberal Arts, the Geriatric Education Center in the College of Medicine and Leighton E. Cluff, a professor emeritus in the College of Medicine, the fund supports students with research initiatives focused on the geriatric population and social impacts of aging. The full story with awardee information can be found [here](#).



Dr. Sam Wu, Recipient of UF Research Foundation Professorship



The PHHP Office of Research recognized Samuel Wu, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Chair of Biostatistics, as the College of Public Health and Health Professions' 2023 recipient of the UF Research Foundation (UFRF) Professorship.

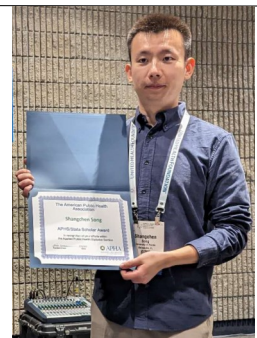
The UFRF Professorship is awarded by the University of Florida Research Foundation annually in recognition of research and scholarship. Dr. Wu was one of 34 faculty members from across the university named this year.

Dr. Wu's research has over 200 publications in peer reviewed journals and proceedings. He is the director of the UF CTSI Research Design and Data Coordinating Center.

Shangchen Song, Ph.D. Student Wins APHA Scholar Award

Biostatistics student, Shangchen Song, was chosen by the American Public Health Association Statistics Committee as the final winner of the APHS/Stata Scholar Award after finalists' presentations. Shangchen beat out two other finalists, one from Harvard Biostatistics, and another from the University of Maryland College Park.

Shangchen remarks, "It was a memorable and wonderful experience! The department's generous support and insightful suggestions from our faculty members were instrumental in making the award happen! Thank you so much!"



Fall Welcome Event & Social Held at Reitz Union



The Department of Biostatistics held their annual Fall Welcome Event & Social at the Reitz Union Game Room early this fall. Faculty, students, and staff gathered to enjoy 3 hours of exclusive access to the game room while engaging in casual conversation, a salad and pizza buffet, and of course some friendly competition playing games such as bowling, pool, ping pong, and air hockey.

Attendees took a break from food and fun to recognize, student, Dayuan Wang, for his outstanding performance on the Preliminary Exam this year.

Biostatistics Graduate Student Xihyu Yan Among Inaugural Recipient of PHHP AI Fellowship Funding

"The University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions has launched the Ph.D. Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence program to foster doctoral students' training and research in AI and encourage out-of-the-box ideas.

In the short term, the awards are designed to offer an opportunity for academic growth, professional networking, results dissemination and research support for both mentors and students. The long-term goal is to build national and international recognition of AI innovation within the college's doctoral programs."



To read more about the Ph.D. inaugural recipients of PHHP AI fellowship funding, please click [here](#).

Annual ASA Florida Chapter Meeting Held at the University of Florida

The ASA Florida Chapter meeting organizing committee comprised of Biostat faculty members, Drs. Susmita Datta, Rhonda Bacher, Li Chen, and Muxuan Liang worked together to plan and host the successful meeting event. “The ASA Florida Chapter presents an annual meeting that is hosted by one of the nine member organizations across the state. The University of Florida hosted the chapter’s most recent meeting this spring in Gainesville. The meeting featured keynote presentations by Ann Chen, Ph.D., a senior member in the department of biostatistics and bioinformatics at Moffitt Cancer Center and a professor in the departments of biostatistics and epidemiology & oncologic sciences at the University of South Florida; Michael Daniels, Sc.D., a professor and chair of the UF department of statistics; and Ira Longini, Ph.D., a professor in the UF department of biostatistics.



Three UF Ph.D. in biostatistics students were selected for awards in the meeting’s paper and poster competition. Yuan Zhou and Yipeng Wang received awards for their oral presentations, and Xiaoru Dong was recognized for her poster presentation.” Read the full story [here](#).

Biostatistics Faculty, Drs. Lee and Lou, Among Researchers Who Found Disparities in Menthol Tobacco Smoking and Subsequent Tobacco Use

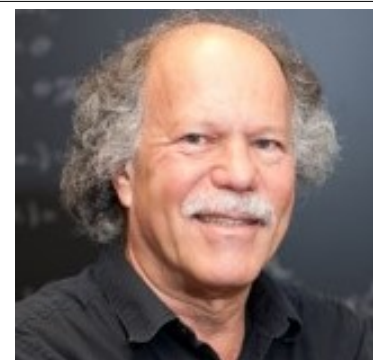


“A team of University of Florida Health Cancer Center researchers has found racial and ethnic differences in how people begin using menthol-flavored tobacco products and subsequently use tobacco products.

The team evaluated racial and ethnic differences in the initiation of smoking menthol and mint-flavored cigarettes and cigars among never-users and in subsequent tobacco use among new users of menthol-flavored products. The researchers used longitudinal data from Waves 1 to 4 of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study.” More information about the study that was published in the April issue of the journal *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, can be found [here](#).

Dr. Longini and Collaborators Continue Vaccine Efforts for Emerging Threats

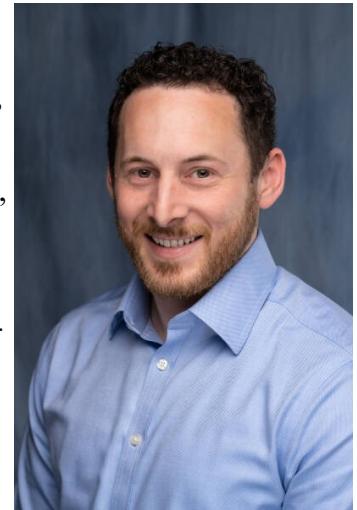
Dr. Ira Longini and fellow collaborators, working under the direction of the World Health Organization, recently published a paper on the design and analysis of vaccine trials for emerging infectious disease threats. The team of researchers are working arduously to contain or control emerging infectious disease threats such as COVID-19, Ebola, Zika, and Monkeypox through vaccine trials. The complete article can be found in the peer-reviewed academic journal *Clinical Trials*.



University of Florida's Inaugural American Statistical Association DataFest— Mastering the Art of Data

Dr. Steven Foti, a clinical assistant professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Biostatistics, was the lead organizer for the inaugural DataFest competition, held this past spring. “DataFest is a celebration of data in which student teams work around the clock to find and share meaning in a large, rich and complex dataset.”

Hosted by the Department of Biostatistics, nearly 50 eager University of Florida, bachelor's and master's students, representing 21 different academic programs from PHHP, CLAS, the Warrington College of Business, and the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering competed in a data analysis challenge over the course of one weekend. “Other activities included a workshop on the statistical software JMP, including guidance for using JMP's graph builder tool and other data analysis processes.” At the event's close, awards were presented for Best Overall, Best Visualization, and Best Use of External Data. Check out the full story and winners [here](#), with additional information from, Dr. Foti, on the power of a biostatistics degree in today's job market [here](#).



January**Dr. Dipankar Bandyopadhyay**

Professor of Biostatistics, Virginia Commonwealth University

- ◆ Title: *Periodontal Health: Precision Medicine Approaches*

February**Dr. Michael Fay**

Mathematical Statistician of Biostatistics, National Institute of Health / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease

- ◆ Title: *A Bayesian Formulation of Exact Frequentist Inferences using Well-Calibrated Null Preferences Priors*

March**Dr. Judy Wang**

Department Chair & Professor of Statistics, George Washington University

- ◆ Title: *Semiparametric Approach for Analyzing Non-Gaussian Spatial Data*

April**Dr. Ying Guo**

Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Emory University

- ◆ Title: *Statistical Methods for Reliable Mapping of Human Brain Connectome*

Dr. Xiang Zhu

Assistant Professor of Statistics, Pennsylvania State University

- ◆ Title: *Complex Trait Genetics Through the Lens of Sequence-conserved Enhancer-like Elements*

**August****Dr. Takis Benos**

William Bushnell Presidential Chaired Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Texas

- ◆ Title: *Interpretable Machine Learning Models and Multi-scale Medical Research*

September**Dr. Yunan Wu**

Assistant Professor of Mathematica Science, University of Texas at Dallas

- ◆ Title: *Model-Assisted Uniformly Inference for Optimal Treatment Regimes in High Dimension*

October**Dr. Mingzhang Yin**

Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Department of Marketing, Warrington College of Business, University of Florida

- ◆ Title: *Estimating Individual Treatment Effects under Unmeasured Confounding*

November**Dr. Naitee Ting**

Director of Department of Biostatistics, Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Fellow of American Statistical Association

- ◆ Title: *What is a Clinical Trial*

Dr. Kerry Costello

Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, University of Florida

- ◆ Title: *Exploring the Role of Joint Loading in Musculoskeletal Health: Complexities of Human Movement Data Analyses*

December**Dr. Jing Huang**

Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Informatics, University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, Associate Director of Observational Research

- ◆ Title: {unavailable at the time of print}

Faculty Position

The Department of Biostatistics is growing and invites applicants to join our expanding team of talented faculty and staff. We are recruiting a [full-time 12-month tenure-track faculty member at the Assistant, Associate or Full Professor](#) level. The Department is situated jointly within the College of Public Health and Health Professions (PHHP) and the College of Medicine (COM), in the Clinical and Translational Research Building, facilitating multidisciplinary research.

Postdoc Positions

The Department of Biostatistics is currently hiring for multiple Post Doc positions. Dr. Li Chen is seeking two candidates with areas of focus in [single-cell genomics](#) or [bioinformatics](#). To apply, please click the area of focus links contained herein, or visit our department's home [web page](#) for current positions.

Visiting Scholars

A Warm Welcome to Our Visiting Research Scholar

Daniele Zago, a student at Italy's University of Padova, joined the department of Biostatistics for the 2023 calendar year. While visiting the University of Florida, Daniele has been conducting research under the direction of Dr. Peihua Qiu.



The Biostatistics Student Organization

President – Shoumi Sarkar

Vice President - Vincent Mei

Secretary - Daniel Daugherty

Treasure—Yudan Sheng

Student Faculty Liaison– Zibo Tian

You can visit the Biostatistics Student Organization at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1635589846470110>.

Doctor of Philosophy

Spring 2023

Seugjun Ahn, Ph.D. - Mentor: Somnath Datta, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Novel Approaches to Differential Network Analysis Based on -Omics Data in Presence of Covariates*

Lingsong Meng, Ph.D. - Mentor: Zhiguang Huo, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Outcome-guided Clustering Methods for Disease Subtype Discovery*

Runzhi Zhang, Ph.D. - Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Identifying Key Biomarkers for Predicting and Classifying Patient Phenotypes with Multi-Omics Data*

Summer 2023

Samuel Anyaso-Samuel, Ph.D. - Mentor: Somnath Datta, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Advances in Cluster-Correlated Data Analysis when Cluster Size Is Informative*

Natalie DelRocco, Ph.D. - Mentor: Samuel Wu, Ph.D. & John Kairalla, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Two Contributions to Statistical Improvement of Clinical Research*

Dorothy Ellis, Ph.D. - Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Kullback-Leibler Non-Negative Matrix Factorization Methods for the Analysis of Multimodal Single-Cell Omics Data*

Chang Jiang, Ph.D. - Mentor: Qing Lu, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Exploring Neural Network Inference for Genetic Data Analysis: Techniques and Application. Mentor*

Meilin Jiang, Ph.D. - Mentor: Zhigang Li, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Novel Causal Mediation Analysis Approaches*

Quran Wu, Ph.D. - Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *A Marginal Mediation Model and Novel Association Identification Approach with Application to Microbiome Data*

Xiulin Xie, Ph.D. - Mentor: Peihua Qiu, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Transparent Sequential Learning for Online Monitoring of Multivariate Data Streams*

Yuting Yang, Ph.D. - Mentor: Samuel Wu, Ph.D. & Somnath Datta, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Some Contributions to Biostatistical Methods for Progressive Multistate Models and Clinical Trial Designs*

Fan Yi, Ph.D. - Mentor: Peihua Qiu

Thesis Dissertation: Title: *Online Monitoring of Image Sequences*

Master of Science

Yu Chen, M.S. - Mentor: Rhonda Bacher, Ph.D.

Matthew Corran, M.S. - Mentor: Rhonda Bacher, Ph.D.

Ruixuan Dong, M.S. - Mentor: Matt Hitchings, Ph.D.

Heng Ge, M.S. - Mentor: Jonathan Fischer, Ph.D.

Yujia Guo, M.S. - Mentor: Matt Hitchings, Ph.D.

Guangjin Luo, M.S. - Mentor: Jason Brant, Ph.D.

Seonghwa Min, M.S. - Mentor: Qinglin Pei, Ph.D.

Zitian Wu, M.S. - Mentor: Arkaprava Roy, Ph.D.

Xiulin Xie, M.S. - Mentor: Peihua Qiu, Ph.D.

Yi Xu, M.S. - Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.

Yahui Zhang, M.S. - Mentor: Jonathan Fischer, Ph.D.

Master of Science Online

Karthik Akinapelli, M.S. - Mentor: Subharup Guha, Ph.D.

Li Ang, M.S. - Mentor: Subharup Guha, Ph.D.

Joanne August, M.S. - Mentor: Qing Lu, Ph.D.

Erica Baer, M.S. - Mentor: Steve Foti, Ph.D.

Barbara Breeden, M.S. - Mentor: Steve Foti, Ph.D.

Kunal Arunkumar Dolas, M.S. - Mentor: Steve Foti, Ph.D.

Kevin Duan, M.S. - Mentor: Matt Hitchings, Ph.D.

Raven Houck, M.S. - Mentor: Zhiguang Huo, Ph.D.

Hyunsoo Kim, M.S.—Mentor: Steve Foti, Ph.D.

Emily King, M.S. - Mentor: John Kairalla, Ph.D.

Michael Ladka, M.S. - Mentor: John Kairalla, Ph.D.

John Soliman, M.S. - Mentor: Robert Parker, Ph.D.

Erick Velis, M.S. - Mentor: Samuel Wu, Ph.D.

Luisa Tamayo, M.S. - Mentor: Samuel Wu, Ph.D.

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