Caucus of Academic Reps (CAR) Weekly Digest, January 23, 2015

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Positions

1. Division of Biostatistics, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto: Tenure-Stream Assistant / Associate Professor in Biostatistics

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) at the University of Toronto is seeking an outstanding candidate for a tenure-stream appointment within the Division of Biostatistics at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. The expected starting date is July 1, 2015.

Candidates must have a PhD or equivalent in biostatistics, statistics, or a related quantitative field by the date of appointment or shortly thereafter. Interests in the development of biostatistical methods, in applied collaborative research, and in
graduate training and classroom teaching, are expected. Preference will be given to candidates whose core research in statistical methodology is accompanied by evidence of well-developed collaborative applications. Evidence of excellence in teaching and research is required. Individuals from all areas of biostatistics are encouraged to apply. Salary and rank will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health, which began as one of four Rockefeller Foundation-supported Schools of Hygiene in 1927 and in 2013 became a standalone faculty of Public Health, is a regional and global leader in public health education, research and service, with the largest concentrations of academic population and public health researchers in Canada. The DLSPH has recently begun an ambitious program of expansion and new initiatives in the health of cities and communities, global health equity and innovation, and the integration of public health with primary care, with scholarship in biostatistics playing a key role. Details can be found at the DLSPH website (http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/).

All qualified candidates are invited to apply online at the University of Toronto Academic Opportunities (http://uoft.me/1402340). Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching dossier (including a statement of teaching philosophy), and a statement outlining current and future research interests. Applicants should also arrange for three reference letters to be sent directly to Melodie Buhagiar at acadsearch.dlsph@utoronto.ca.

Applications received on or before January 23, 2015 will be considered first, and reviews of subsequent applications will continue until the position is filled.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

(2) Postdoc Job in Statistical Genetics at UNC Chapel Hill

A two-year postdoctoral position in statistical/computational genetics, available to start immediately, is available in the Valdar Lab, Department of Genetics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

About the lab and environment
The Valdar Lab focuses on statistical and computational methods for dissecting the genetic basis of complex disease. Recent work includes: hierarchical Bayesian models to quantify genome-wide and locus-specific inheritance in mouse genetic crosses, Bayesian causal analysis of gene-by-drug interactions, penalized regression
approaches to fine-mapping in human GWAS, and detection of QTL in multiparent populations. The lab is based in the Department of Genetics, which was established in 2000 to foster cutting edge research in genetics and genomics, and collaborate extensively with groups in the departments of Statistics, Biostatistics and Computer Science, as well as groups nationally and internationally.

About the position
For this position, the postdoctoral fellow is expected to work primarily on statistical analysis of data arising from experiments that investigate gene-by-drug and gene-by-treatment interactions in genetically heterogeneous populations, namely in the Collaborative Cross genetic reference population. The postdoc will based in the Valdar lab, and will focus on two exciting collaborative projects: one on toxicogenomics with researchers at The Hamner-UNC Institute for Drug Safety Sciences (Watkins/Mosedale) group, and the other on genetic susceptibility to infectious diseases, with collaborators in the Dept of Microbiology (Heise) and the School of Public Health (Baric) at UNC. These projects are expected to involve analysis of phenotypic and gene expression data. In addition, the postdoctoral fellow will work closely with Dr. Valdar and his group, and will be expect to contribute to the development of statistical and/or computational methods related to the analysis and design of these and other genetic experiments.

Salary will depend on experience and background and will follow NIH postdoctoral guidelines when relevant.

About the candidate
The ideal candidate will have a PhD in a quantitative field, eg, statistics, biostatistics, statistical genetics, computer science, statistical bioinformatics, and experience of (or strong interest in) the analysis of genetic and/or gene expression data, as well as good written and oral communication skills. Proficiency in one or more programming languages is essential, with preference is given to those with a strong working knowledge of R and UNIX with experience of compiled or semi-compiled languages such as C, C++, Python, etc, being an advantage. The candidate should have a strong working knowledge of statistical methods, ideally with exposure to any/all of the following: mixed models, hierarchical modeling, Bayesian methods and computation, hidden Markov models, computationally intensive statistics.

How to apply
Please apply for this job through the following link:

The required application materials include:
1. A cover letter explaining your interests and suitability for the position.
2. A curriculum vitae, including the names of three potential referees.
3. An example (or examples) of your written work such as manuscripts (under preparation, in press, or published) or technical reports. Work in which you are the lead author are strongly preferred.
Applications will be considered as they arrive. Letters of recommendations will be requested from a subset of applicants only after an initial reviewing period.

(3) Cornell University Post-doctoral Fellowship

The Labor Dynamics Institute at Cornell University announces a full-time Post-doctoral fellowship for 2015-2016, with a possible extension to 2016-17. The post-doc can be awarded to a recent Ph.D. in Economics, Public Policy, Computer Science (with some social science background), Statistics (with some social science background), or related field. The post-doc would carry out research useful to two NSF-funded projects, working on the interface between economics, computer science, and statistics to develop disclosure avoidance methods appropriate for complex economic microdata. The post-doc will contribute through research, including peer-reviewed papers, and will participate in grant-related reporting and grant-related scientific meetings. For more information, see http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/LDI/research/TC.html and http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/LDI/research/Cornell-NSF-CensusResearchNode.html.

The applicant must have strong quantitative skills, familiarity with confidentiality protection methods, familiarity with labor market and other relevant data, and a willingness to focus on applied confidentiality protection methods.

The position could start as early as February 1, 2015 and as late as September 1, 2015. The initial appointment is expected to be for one year and can be extended through September 2017, dependent on funding, available work, and performance. A comprehensive view of postdoctoral benefits at Cornell can be found at http://www.postdocs.cornell.edu/welcome-cornell. More information about the Labor Dynamics Institute can be found at http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ldi/, and information on the Cornell Economics Department appears at http://www.economics.cornell.edu/.

Apply here: https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10220/jobdetail.ftl?lang=en&job=26756

(4) Division of Biostatistics, Washington University (St. Louis) School of Medicine - Postdoctoral Opportunities

https://biostatistics.wustl.edu/training/pages/post-doctoral-opportunities

Multiple post-doc openings are immediately available in Statistical Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology. Some of them are for NIH eligible candidates only (on T32) but one of them is open to non-NIH eligible candidates also.

Anyone interested can contact Professor DC Rao, Professor & Director, Division of Biostatistics, at post-doc-search@wubios.wustl.edu.
(1) New funding opportunities at NIJ

NIJ has issued several new solicitations:

- Postdoctoral Fellowship on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Teen Dating Violence and Stalking
- Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence
- Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence
- Social Science Research on Implementation, Dissemination, and Translation

See below for links and descriptions for these funding opportunities.

**Postdoctoral Fellowship on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Teen Dating Violence and Stalking** - NIJ is seeking proposals to support the scholarship of up to three promising postdoctoral researchers to conduct original data collection and/or secondary data analyses on violence against women (intimate partner violence, sexual violence, teen dating violence, stalking) under the supervision of a mentor. Any specific topic that offers important insights into research on violence against women will receive consideration. Application deadline: April 7.

**Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence** - NIJ is seeking proposals for research and evaluation on violence against women, and specifically intimate partner and sexual violence. For example, NIJ is interested in proposals to examine the effectiveness of specialized police and court-based units, services, and methods related to intimate partner and sexual violence. NIJ is also interested in research on the development, adaptation, and testing of screening tools used for the identification of intimate partner violence in family court proceedings-specifically for cases involving child custody. Although specific areas of interest have been identified, other topics that offer important insights into violence against women will also be accepted for review. Application deadline: April 7.

**Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence** - NIJ is seeking multidisciplinary research and evaluation proposals related to childhood exposure to violence. Such violence may include children who are direct victims and/or bystanders or observers of various forms of violence in the home, school, or community, including but not limited to peer victimization, bullying, harassment, child maltreatment, domestic violence, and community violence. Other types of violence to which children are exposed may be addressed, with the exception of media violence (e.g., television and movie violence, music advocating aggression, and violent video games). In particular, NIJ seeks proposals that address justice system responses to children identified as
being exposed to violence; polyvictimization and multisystem involvement; and resilience and help-seeking. Application deadline: April 8.

**Social Science Research on Implementation, Dissemination, and Translation** - NIJ seeks proposals for funding projects to study how criminal justice practitioners use research in their decision-making processes and how they implement evidence-based programs or practices. NIJ proposes two distinct research activities under this solicitation.

- Incorporating the Use of Research in Policy Decisions.
- Implementation Studies.

Applicants may apply to one or both sections of the solicitation; however, proposal titles should clearly identify the section of the solicitation for which the proposal is being submitted. Application deadline: April 9.

**Secondary Analysis of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) Data: General Population and American Indian and Alaska Native Samples** - NIJ seeks proposals for secondary data analysis of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) data. Noting a critical need for a national surveillance system that would produce frequent, consistent, and reliable data on the magnitude and nature of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking using consistent definitions and survey methods to evaluate trends over time, the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCICP), in collaboration with NIJ and the Department of Defense (DOD), developed the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). The collaborative effort among federal agencies was motivated by the need to improve our understanding of IPV, SV, and stalking in the civilian, military, and American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) populations. Application deadline: April 9.

Bookmark NIJ’s [forthcoming funding page](#) to see upcoming funding opportunities.

[View all current funding opportunities from NIJ](#).

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**Other opportunities**

(1) **Webinar: The increasing role of data science in undergraduate statistics programs: new guidelines, new opportunities, and new challenges**

Tuesday, February 3, 2:00-2:45pm EST

Presenter: Nicholas Horton, Amherst College
Abstract: In a world of increasingly complex and sophisticated data, there is additional demand for graduates who are able to extract actionable information from it. They need to be able to “think with data” and undertake computation in a nimble fashion. Undergraduate statistics majors and minors need practice in utilizing all steps of the scientific method to tackle real research questions. The statistical analysis process involves formulating good questions, considering whether available data are appropriate for addressing a problem, choosing from a set of different tools, undertaking the analyses in a reproducible manner, assessing the analytic methods, drawing appropriate conclusions, and communicating results. To address this new challenge and opportunity, the American Statistical Association recently updated its guidelines for undergraduate programs in statistics. The new guidelines describe how undergraduate programs in statistics should emphasize concepts and approaches for working with complex data and provide experience in designing studies and analyzing real data. In this webinar, I will provide background on the increasing number of undergraduate statistics majors and minors and discuss recommendations for curriculum revisions to help prepare these students to use data to make evidence-based decisions.

More information and links to the guidelines and related resources can be found at: http://www.amstat.org/education/curriculumguidelines.cfm

The webinar is free to attend, and a recording will be made available after the event at the above website. To sign up, please email Rebecca Nichols (rebecca@amstat.org).

(2) 8th Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials

The 2015 Conference will bring together leading scientists who will discuss current statistical issues in the design and analysis of pragmatic clinical trials. Participants from all sectors with an interest in clinical trials methodology are encouraged to register. For further information and registration, click here.

(3) Infinite Possibilities Conference 2015

The Infinite Possibilities Conference 2015 -- a national conference designed to promote, educate, encourage, and support minority women interested in mathematics and statistics -- will be held at Oregon State University March 2 and 3. Act soon; the housing deadline is January 26.

Details: www.diversityinscience.org/infinite-possibilities-conference

(4) The 29th New England Statistics Symposium

Friday and Saturday April 24-25, 2015, Storrs, Connecticut, USA
The Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut will host the 29th New England Statistics Symposium on Saturday, April 25, 2015, to bring together statisticians from all over New England at a central location. Invited keynote speakers are Yaakov BarShalom of University of Connecticut and Adrian E. Raftery of University of Washington. There will be three full day short courses, entitled "Bayesian Biostatistics: Design of Clinical Trials and Subgroup Analysis" presented by Professor Peter Müller of University of Texas Austin, "Modern Multivariate Statistical Learning: Methods and Applications" presented by Professors Kun Chen and Jun Yan of University of Connecticut, and "Boosting R Skills and Automating Statistical Reports" presented by Dr. Yihui Xie of RStudio, Inc, on Friday, April 24, 2015. We invite talks and posters on all aspects of statistics and probability. Students are encouraged to submit papers for consideration of one of three IBM Student Awards. Students must submit an application for consideration of award no later than Monday, April 6, 2015. Visit http://merlot.stat.uconn.edu/ness15 for more information.

(5) BAYES2015

The 6th workshop BAYES2015 will be held in Basel, Switzerland, on the Novartis Campus on May 19-22, 2015.

Registration at: www.bayes-pharma.org

The call for abstract is open. Send your abstract (Title + authors + max 300 words) at info@bayes-pharma.org before March 31st, 2015. You will be notified for the acceptance of your abstract by April 15th, 2015.

Confirmed speakers
Beat Neuenschwander, Novartis Pharma AG
Simon Wandel, Novartis Pharma AG
Fang Chen, SAS Institute
Marc Lavielle, INRIA Saclay
Sebastian Weber, Novartis Pharma AG
Michael Betancourt, University of Warwick
Martyn Plummer, WHO
Adrien Todeschini, INRIA
Tony O'Hagan, University of Sheffield
Stuart Bailey, Novartis Pharma AG
Didier Poirault, BioMérieux
Objectives
The practical implementation of Bayesian thinking into pharmaceutical research has been slow due to either important computational challenge, lack of Bayesian education in the bio-statistical community or reluctance of regulatory authorities on the usefulness of the Bayesian approach.

However, recent developments Clinical trials such as adaptive designs, in Non-Clinical, in Model Based Drug Development and in Health economics paradigms indicate the rising interest, added value and business impact of Bayesian applications.

The objective of the workshop is multifold:

- Present of some applied case studies in the clinical, non-clinical and CMC settings
- Highlight the participants about some success stories and impact of the Bayesian thinking
- Promote the Bayesian thinking and practices within the pharmaceutical industry.
- Underline the advantages of Bayesian modeling for science and business
- Offer opportunities for statisticians for reorientation within the changing environment of the (bio)pharmaceutical world.
- Show and update participants on the new numerical solutions making Bayesian statistics an easy journey.

(6) Rutgers Statistics Workshop - *Innovations in Statistics and Data Analysis*

Department of Statistics & Biostatistics
*Friday, January 30, 2015*
*CoRE Auditorium, Busch Campus, Rutgers University*

Program
12:00pm - 12:50pm: *Lunch*
12:50pm - 1:00pm: Welcome and introduction
1:00pm - 1:55pm:
   Speaker: Xihong Lin, Harvard University
   "*High-Dimensional Testing Against Sparse Alternatives in Genetic Association Studies*"
1:55pm - 2:50pm:
   Speaker: Tony Cai, University of Pennsylvania
   "Robust Recovery and Detection of Structured Signals"
2:50pm - 3:15pm: *Hot chocolate and coffee break*
3:15pm - 4:10pm:
   Speaker: David Blei, Columbia University
   "*Scaling and Generalizing Variational Inference*"
4:10pm - 5:05pm:
   Speaker: David Dunson, Duke University
   "Bayesian Inference on Network Data"

5:05pm - 5:30pm: Reception

Additional information available at the workshop website
- Registration (required, no fee)
- Directions and parking information

(7) Statistics and Public Policy Calls for Editor Applications and Nominations

The American Statistical Association invites nominations and applications for the position of editor of Statistics and Public Policy.

Established in 2013 and produced electronically, Statistics and Public Policy (SPP) publishes papers that apply strong statistical methodology to problems in the realm of public policy and/or relevant political science. Articles may address international, national, or local policy questions, and the emphasis is upon the application rather than methodological novelty. SPP is an open-access journal that publishes papers continuously. Articles appear in the journal shortly after they are accepted, in the order of acceptance.

The new editor will serve from 2016 through 2018, with the transition beginning in 2015.

If you know someone who would be right for the editorship of SPP, please nominate that person by sending his or her name, email address, and a brief description of his or her qualifications to journals@amstat.org. The search committee will consider your nomination along with others received. The deadline for nominations is April 17, 2015.

Applications for the editorship should be sent electronically to journals@amstat.org, and should include a CV; the names of 3 references; and a letter of interest in the position including a brief statement of the candidate’s vision for the publication, directions the candidate would pursue, and contributions she or he would make if selected as editor. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2015.

Editors are provided with an online manuscript submission and tracking system, and given training in the use of the system. The system allows the Editor to review papers and assign reviewers easily, as well as to generate reports. An Editorial Coordinator,
contracted with ASA, assists the Editor.

Please note: SPP editors must be active members of the ASA during their terms.