Digest of Items of Interest to the Caucus of Academic Reps – September 27, 2013

Funding

• NIH approves high-priority research within BRAIN Initiative
• Sequestration’s Driving Down Success Rates
• NSF: Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics (MMS)
• Please alert your students: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) proposals due November 5

Positions Open

• Tenure Track Assistant Professor, NC State University
• Tenure-stream or tenured Assistant/Associate Professor in Biostatistics, University of Toronto

Funding

NIH approves high-priority research within BRAIN Initiative

9/16/13
National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., today approved initial areas of high-priority brain research to guide $40 million of NIH fiscal year 2014 funding within the BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative. The initiative aims to accelerate work on technologies that give a dynamic picture of how individual cells and complex neural circuits interact. The ultimate goal is to enhance understanding of the brain and improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of brain diseases.

NIH's fiscal year 2014 investment will focus on nine areas of research. The vision for the initiative is to combine these areas of research into a coherent, integrated science of cells, circuits, brain and behavior.

• Generate a census of brain cell types
• Create structural maps of the brain
• Develop new, large-scale neural network recording capabilities
• Develop a suite of tools for neural circuit manipulation
• Link neuronal activity to behavior
• Integrate theory, modeling, statistics and computation with neuroscience experiments
• Delineate mechanisms underlying human brain imaging technologies
• Create mechanisms to enable collection of human data for scientific research
• Disseminate knowledge and training
Sequestration's Driving Down Success Rates

Science Sept. 13 reported that at a recent Research!America forum, NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., said the success rate of NIH applicants could drop as low as 14 or 15 percent in fiscal year 2013. Dr. Collins told the audience, "[W]e're losing what we've already invested in," and urged NIH supports to make "a lot of noise."


NSF: Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics (MMS)


The full proposal target dates (as opposed to due dates!) are:
- January 16, 2014 (January 16, Annually Thereafter)
- August 18, 2014 (August 16, Annually Thereafter)

Like other programs/divisions, it has a link to recently funded awards near the bottom of its website.
The Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics (MMS) Program is an interdisciplinary program in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences that supports the development of innovative analytical and statistical methods and models for those sciences. MMS seeks proposals that are methodologically innovative, grounded in theory, and have potential utility for multiple fields within the social and behavioral sciences. As part of its larger portfolio, the MMS Program partners with a consortium of federal statistical agencies to support research proposals that further the development of new and innovative approaches to surveys and to the analysis of survey data.
The MMS Program supports a variety of different types of awards, including:
1) Regular Research Awards
2) Mid-Career Research Fellowships
3) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants
4) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Supplements

Please alert your students: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) proposals due November 5

Dear Colleagues,
An updated NSF program solicitation is now available: Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
Undergraduate seniors planning to pursue graduate study and beginning graduate students are eligible to apply. See [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=DMS](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=DMS) for details, and please encourage all eligible students to apply.

Full Proposal Deadline Date: November 5, 2013 for mathematical sciences applications
Synopsis of Program:
The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to help ensure the vitality and
diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce in the United States. The program recognizes and
supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral
degrees in fields within NSF's mission. The GRFP provides three years of support for the graduate
education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science
and engineering research.

Positions Open

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Statistics
Tenure Track Assistant Professor Position

The Department of Statistics at NC State University seeks to hire a tenure-track assistant professor with
theoretical or methodological research focus in any area of Statistics, although complementary interests
in computation and big-data applications will be viewed favorably. A PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics is
required. Apply at https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/28537. Review begins in December and continues
until the position is filled.

NCSU is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. In addition, NC State University
welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation or genetic information. Persons with
disabilities requiring accommodations in the application and interview process please call (919) 515-
3148.

Tenure-stream or tenured Assistant/Associate Professor in Biostatistics, University of Toronto

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) at the University of Toronto, is seeking an outstanding
candidate for a tenure-stream or tenured appointment within the Division of Biostatistics, at the rank of
Assistant or Associate Professor. The starting date is negotiable, but ideally would be January 1, 2014 or
July 1, 2014.

Candidates should have a PhD or equivalent in biostatistics, statistics, or related quantitative field.
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 a rich history of research and training. The DLSPH is making major contributions in areas such as chronic disease, infectious disease, and genetic epidemiology; public health policy; social determinants of health and social epidemiology; global health; addictions; occupational and environmental health; and biostatistics methodological research. Research and training are conducted in a trans-disciplinary environment with collaborators throughout the University, such as its top-rated schools of medicine, nursing, engineering, law, and business; with closely affiliated government agencies; and with a wide range of global partners. 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 by exploring the DLSPH website (http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/).

All qualified candidates are invited to apply online at the University of Toronto Academic Opportunities page, https://utoronto.taleo.net/careersection/10050/moresearch.ftl?lang=en requisition ID: 1300608. Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching dossier (including a statement of teaching philosophy), names and contact details of at least three referees, and a statement outlining current and future research interests. If you have questions about this position, please contact acadsearch.dlsph@utoronto.ca. All application materials should be submitted online. The closing date for the job is September 30, 2013; however, the search will remain open until filled.

The UofT application system can accommodate up to five attachments (10MB) per candidate profile; please combine attachments into one or two files in PDF/MS Word format. Submission guidelines can be found at: http://uoft.me/how-to-apply. For more information on the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, please visit our website at: http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/.

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

Webinars

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STATISTICS PROGRAMS WEBINAR SERIES

The American Statistical Association endorses the value of undergraduate programs in statistical science, both for statistical science majors and for students in other majors seeking a minor or concentration. Guidelines for such programs were endorsed in 2000, and a new workgroup is working to update them.

To help gather input and identify issues and areas for discussion, the workgroup has organized a series of webinars to focus on different issues. These are free to attend, and will be made available after the
event. To sign up to participate in a particular live webinar, please email Rebecca Nichols (rebecca@amstat.org). More information about the existing curriculum guidelines as well as a survey can be found at: http://www.amstat.org/education/curriculumguidelines.cfm
Webinars will be recorded and made available for review after the session at the guidelines webpage.

OBSERVATIONS FROM LARGE PROGRAMS
Friday, September 27th, 12:00-12:45pm Eastern Time

Description: Different institutions implement statistics programs in different ways. In this webinar, we will hear from representatives from four large undergraduate statistics programs (Berkeley, BYU, Harvard and NCSU) and discuss the existing guidelines and issues which should be addressed in the future.