Digest of Items of Interest to the Caucus of Academic Reps – October 18, 2013

Funding

- NIH and NSF post-shutdown guidance
- Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) Solicitations

Positions

- Assistant or Associate Professor, Cornell University
- Four Tenure-Track Positions, Purdue University

Conference

- SQG Conference, University of Washington

Funding

NIH and NSF post-shutdown guidance

This *ScienceInsider* article has news of a memo from NSF Acting Director Cora Marrett for dealing with their backlog: [http://news.sciencemag.org/funding/2013/10/nsf-asks-scientists-give-it-time-regroup-after-shutdown?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_campaign=hootsuite](http://news.sciencemag.org/funding/2013/10/nsf-asks-scientists-give-it-time-regroup-after-shutdown?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_campaign=hootsuite). It also says NSF is urging "scientists not to contact their program officers until the agency has had time to catch up on the backlog generated at the shutdown and resume normal operations."

In her Rock Talk blog, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Sally Rockey confirms "that we will be rescheduling all October grant application submission deadlines to dates in November so that applicants will have access to NIH staff, help desks, and electronic systems. The specific revised due dates will be published in the NIH Guide as soon as we worked them out. We expect the eRA Commons and other NIH extramural electronic systems to be up and accessible to the public on Monday, October 21." - See more at: [http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2013/10/17/getting-research-back-on-track](http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2013/10/17/getting-research-back-on-track)

Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA);
[http://www.iarpa.gov/Programs/ia/solicitation_incisive.html](http://www.iarpa.gov/Programs/ia/solicitation_incisive.html)
Office of Incisive Analysis (OIA) Office Wide - Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

This announcement has many topics on which statistical scientists have expertise and a representative from the IARPA OIA office emailed Steve Pierson at ASA saying there is definitely a role for statistical science in the work OIA supports and noted opportunities for statistical scientists as program managers. They are also interested in novel approaches to experimental evaluation of their work.

Other IARPA solicitations can be found at [http://www.iarpa.gov/open_solicitations.html](http://www.iarpa.gov/open_solicitations.html). The Office of Smart Collection Solicitation has this line suggesting a role for statistical scientists: "Innovative means and methods to ensure the veracity of data collected from a variety of sources."
Here is the text of the OIA BAA:

**Synopsis**
IARPA invests in high-risk, high-payoff research that has the potential to provide our nation with an overwhelming intelligence advantage over future adversaries. This research is parsed among three Offices: Smart Collection, Incisive Analysis, and Safe & Secure Operations. This BAA solicits abstracts/proposals for the Office of Incisive Analysis (IA).

IA focuses on maximizing insights from the massive, disparate, unreliable and dynamic data that are - or could be - available to analysts, in a timely manner. We are pursuing new sources of information from existing and novel data, and developing innovative techniques that can be utilized in the processes of analysis. IA programs are in diverse technical disciplines, but have common features: (a) Create technologies that can earn the trust of the analyst user by providing the reasoning for results; (b) Address data uncertainty and provenance explicitly.

The following topics (in no particular order) are of interest to IA:
- Methods for developing understanding of how knowledge and ideas are transmitted and change within groups, organizations, and cultures;
- Methods for analysis of social, cultural, and linguistic data;
- Multidisciplinary approaches to assessing linguistic data sets;
- Methods for measuring and improving human judgment and human reasoning;
- Methods for extraction and representation of the information in the non-textual contents of documents, including figures, diagrams, and tables;
- Methods for understanding and managing massive, dynamic data;
- Analysis of massive, unreliable, and diverse data;
- Methods for assessments of relevancy and reliability of new data;
- Methods for understanding the process of analysis and potential impacts of technology;
- Multidisciplinary approaches to processing noisy audio and speech;
- Development of novel top-down models of visual perception and visual cognition;
- Methods for analysis of significant societal events;
- Methods for estimation and communication of uncertainty and risk;
- Novel approaches for mobile augmented reality applied to analysis and collection;
- Methods for topological data analysis and inferences of high-dimensional structures from low-dimensional representations;
- Methods for the study of algorithms stated in terms of geometry (computational geometry);
- Methods for geolocation of text and social media;
- Novel approaches to biosurveillance;
- Methods to make machine learning more useful and automatic;
- Methods to construct and evaluate speech recognition systems in languages without a formalized orthography; and,
- Methods and approaches to quantifiable representations of uncertainty simultaneously accounting for multiple types of uncertainty.

This announcement seeks research ideas for topics that are not addressed by emerging or ongoing IARPA programs or other published IARPA solicitations. It is primarily, but not solely, intended for early stage research that may lead to larger, focused programs through a separate BAA in the future, so periods of performance will generally not exceed 12 months.
Offerors should demonstrate that their proposed effort has the potential to make revolutionary, rather than incremental, improvements to intelligence capabilities. Research that primarily results in evolutionary improvement to the existing state of practice is specifically excluded.

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Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity
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**Positions**

**Assistant or Associate Professor, Cornell University**

The Department of Biological Statistics and Computational Biology at Cornell University has an opening for an Assistant or Associate Professor. Details about the position can be found at the following link:

[http://bscb.cornell.edu/home/faculty-position-biological-statistics](http://bscb.cornell.edu/home/faculty-position-biological-statistics)

I would appreciate you bringing this to the attention of your PhD students and Postdoctoral Fellows.

**Four Tenure-Track Positions, Purdue University**

The Department of Statistics, Purdue University invites applications for four tenure-track positions beginning August 2014 at the Assistant Professor rank. Two positions are open in the area of Applied Statistics, with a focus on the development of statistical methodology and statistical consulting. The other two positions are open in the area of Computational Statistics, with focus on theoretical and practical aspects of computation for statistical learning and inference, and working with large or complex datasets.

The Department of Statistics offers a stimulating environment with over 35 faculty members, including 10 fellows of the American Statistical Association, 8 elected members of the International Statistical Institute, and 6 recipients of the prestigious NSF Career Award. Purdue Statistics has many complementary efforts in research, teaching and consulting. The University offers excellent infrastructure for large-scale computing, and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations in areas such as agriculture, engineering, computer science, chemistry and biology. Further information is available at [http://www.stat.purdue.edu](http://www.stat.purdue.edu)
All applicants should hold a Ph.D. in Statistics or a related field. The successful candidate(s) will have demonstrated strong potential for excellence in independent and collaborative fundable research, and commitment to excellence in teaching. The hires will be expected to teach graduate and/or undergraduate classes, and be good departmental citizens. A background check is required prior to employment in this position. Salary and benefits are highly competitive. Please visit http://www.stat.purdue.edu/hiring/ to apply.

Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2013 and will continue until the positions are filled. Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce.

Conference

SQG Conference, University of Washington

The University of Washington Department of Biostatistics is hosting an exciting two-and-a-half day conference to discuss the development of new statistical methodologies and their application to large-scale genomic data sets. More than 30 leaders in the field of statistical and quantitative genetics will discuss the opportunities and challenges for our understanding of the genetic basis of quantitative traits in human and other natural populations. This meeting will include invited talks, a poster session, social activities, and plenty of networking opportunities. For more information and to register: http://www.biostat.washington.edu/sqg_conference/registration, visit the conference website: http://www.sqg13.org. Please share this opportunity with students, postdocs and colleagues that may be interested in the conference.