

## Biostatistics Faculty Meeting

December 4, 2012

12:15-1:15 PM

### AGENDA

**Present: Faculty:** Karen Bandeen-Roche; Elizabeth Colantuoni; Marie Diener-West; Andre Hackman; Kasper Hansen; Harris Jaffee; Hongkai Ji; Jeff Leek; Martin Lindquist; Roger Peng; Fernando Pineda; Chuck Rohde; Michael Rosenblum; Ingo Ruczinski; Dan Scharfstein; Elizabeth Sugar; Margaret Taub; Rick Thompson; Mei-Cheng Wang; Gayane Yenokyan; Vadim Zipunnikov; **Students/Postdocs:** Bing He; Katherine Lin; Amanda Mejia; **Staff:** Mary Joy Argo; Debra Moffitt.

**Guests:** Lori Rosman; Robert Wright.

#### Announcements

Karen Bandeen-Roche reported that this year's United Way campaign is still ongoing. The latest event is a chili cook-off, to be held on December 9.

This year's holiday party will be on Tuesday, December 11 at the Tremont Grand Hotel.

Our next regular-format faculty meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8.

The School's recent server updates have resulted in some disruption of service to those of us who have our jhsph email forwarded to our gmail accounts. IS is aware of and has addressed the problem.

For the second year in a row, our department will be participating in the "Adopt a Senior/Family" holiday program. The University's Office of Work, Life and Engagement partners with local nonprofit and social service agencies to provide gifts, clothing, and grocery gift cards to families and individuals who are in need of assistance during the holiday season. On behalf of the entire department, Karen thanked Ashley Gilliam and Elizabeth Sugar for taking the lead on this.

Save the Date: Marie Diener-West announced that the University's Gateway Sciences Initiative will be having its second annual symposium on excellence in teaching and learning in the sciences on Thursday, June 17, at Homewood. This year's outside speakers are: William Durden, president of Dickinson College and previous executive director of JHU's Center for Talented Youth; Daphne Koller, professor at Stanford University and co-founder of Coursera; and Robin Wright, associate dean for faculty and academic affairs in the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota.

**Departmental SharePoint Site**

Chuck Rohde introduced our Welch Library liaison, Lori Rosman. Lori in turn introduced Robert Wright, also a Welch librarian. Both she and Robert, along with other Welch staff, are able to set up SharePoint sites for individual faculty (or working groups) that provide access to commonly-used Welch items (journals, Springer series books, etc.) that we want our students to read. (As an example, the [Hopkins Population Center](#) has its own Welch site.) Each site can be customized as needed. There is also the option of hosting a blog via Welch. Anyone interested in learning more about setting up a Welch site should contact Lori directly ([lrosman@jhmi.edu](mailto:lrosman@jhmi.edu); 4-1286).

### **Standing Reports:**

### **Graduate Program:**

In Brian Caffo's absence, Karen Bandeen-Roche reported that she and Brian have been meeting with first and second-year students.

As discussed at our recent tenure-track retreat, Brian Caffo has submitted a grant proposal for an exchange program.

We will soon begin inviting applicants to our 2013 recruitment weekend (February 8-9). Anyone interested in participating in an upcoming planning meeting for the weekend should contact Mary Joy Argo.

### **Faculty Senate:**

No updates at this time (there has not been a Faculty Senate meeting since our last faculty meeting).

### **Students:**

Amanda Mejia reported that the first-year students are working on a skit for this year's holiday party.

The students' ice skating event was held this past Saturday; photos have been posted to the Biostat Social google group.

Bing He is encouraging students to sign up for meetings and dinners with our seminar speakers. In a discussion more generally of how to increase student participation in seminars, there was enthusiasm for reserving one of the meeting slots for students, and for having the seminar speaker give a "for students only" presentation. The Events group will look into both of these suggestions.

### **BIT**

Fernando Pineda reported that because of a subsidy from the School, there has been a 66% reduction in fees for 1st term.

The merger discussions between our department and IGM are still ongoing.

Plans are underway to purchase low-cost storage (~\$100/terabyte) for project data.

## **Events**

Ingo Ruczinski reported that several of our upcoming seminar speakers will be tenure-track candidates.

April 26-28, 2013 is the date of our 2013 departmental retreat, to be held again in Philadelphia at the same location as the previous two years. We are looking for a new location for next year's retreat; please send any suggestions to Ingo.

PhD student Leonardo Collado Torres is organizing a group outing to an upcoming DC basketball game.

## **Center**

Rick Thompson reminded all faculty that the Center is available to support them on any external work they are doing.

## **Translational Biostatistics Center**

Following up on an idea that arose during a brainstorming session at the recent tenure-track retreat, Roger Peng and Jeff Leek presented their [proposal](#) for what they have tentatively titled a Translational Biostatistics Center (TBC). The TBC would be tasked with increasing our visibility and generating revenue; one model might be MIT's media lab. If successful, it might ultimately be spun off into an independent entity. In a discussion, it was noted that the main challenges in getting this started would be funding and space (although the Biostatistics Center might be able to help with some staffing needs). There was agreement for setting up a working group (with possible participation by Frank Hurley?) to look further into the proposal. Anyone interested in participating should contact Karen.

There was also enthusiasm for having the department make an initial general funds investment in start-up costs, with the expectation that the TBC would eventually be self-sustaining.