



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Faculty & Staff

Accomplishments & Awards

In the Spotlight

MS Online Program

2016 Seminar Series

Acknowledgements

Recent Graduates

Contributions and Gifts

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dr. Peihua Qiu, Professor and Founding Chair



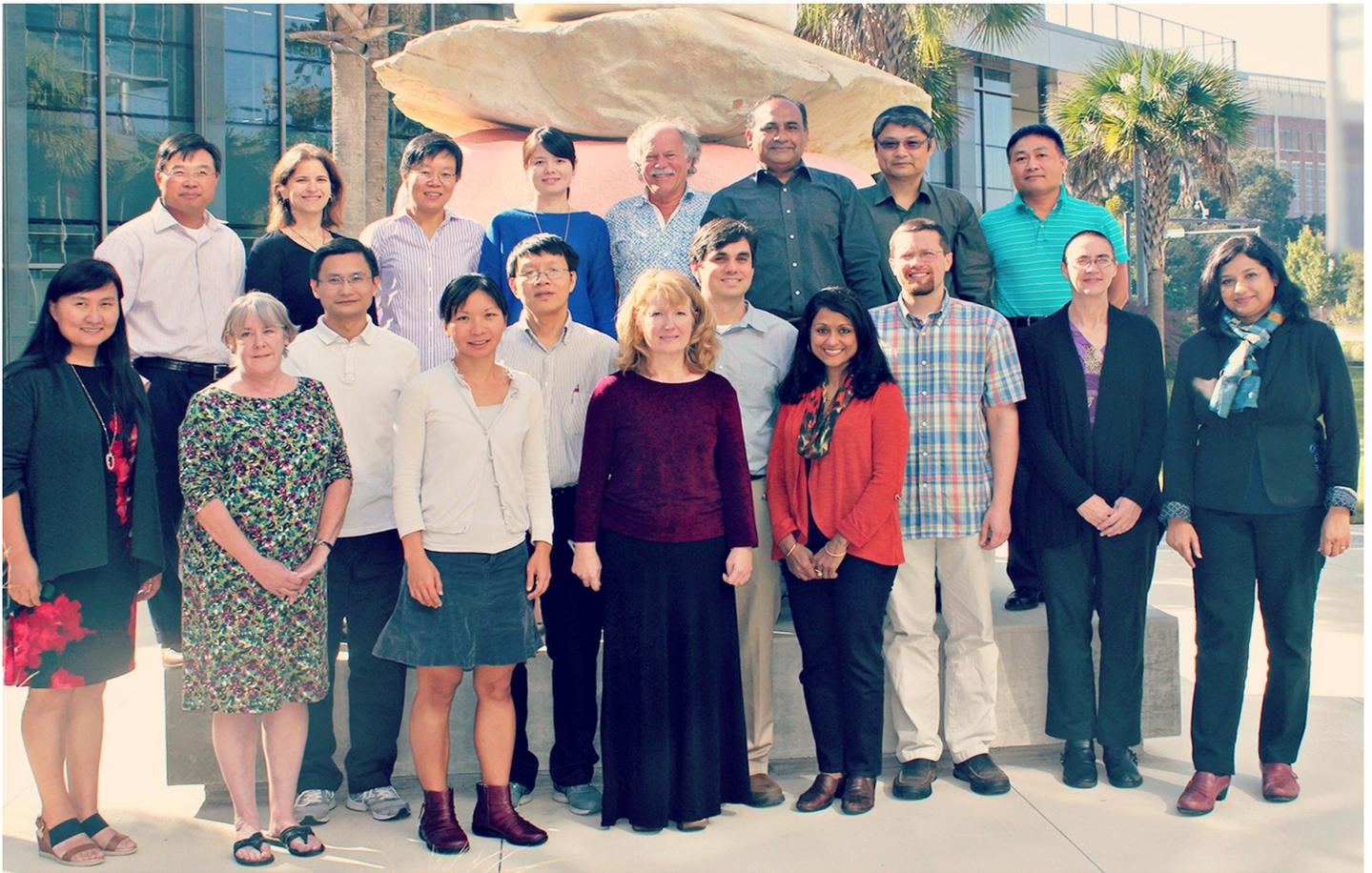
I would like to thank our faculty, staff and students for your hard work in the past year, and our alumni and friends for your continued help and support. We had a very successful year. First, our faculty and students have made tremendous progress in our methodological and collaborative research. Many important research results from our faculty and students have been published in top journals, such as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Journal of the American Statistical Association and Biometrics.

For instance, our faculty member Dr. Yang Yang and his collaborators confirmed in their PNAS article that the United Nations' interventions in the Sierra Leone Ebola outbreak led to a dramatic drop in the transmission of the disease. Because of the important research contributions, selected faculty members and students were recognized by some prestigious awards. Professor Ira Longini, along with a team of Italian and American researchers, received the Aspen Institute Italia Award recently. This award recognizes a significant research contribution in the field of natural, theoretical or applied sciences produced jointly by scientists from Italy and the U.S. Our student Xinrui Zhang, who graduated in September, was chosen to be this year's recipient of the ICSA student paper award. Our faculty's research is well-funded by numerous sponsors, including NIH, NSF, AHRQ, WHO, DOD, the Children's Oncology Group Foundation, St. Baldrick's Foundation, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs. Professors Somnath Datta, Eben Kenah and Faming Liang all received PI grants from NIH or NSF recently. The department was awarded an astonishing \$12.844 million in grant funding last year, which ranked number one among all departments of PHHP and top among all departments of COM. This is also the first time in the department history that our grant funding exceeded the \$10 million mark. Our faculty members are well accomplished and well respected in our academic community, with 2 elected fellows of AAAS, 5 elected fellows of ASA, and 3 elected fellows of IMS. We are also active in local and national organizations. For instance, Professor Babette Brumback serves as the Chair and Past-Chair of the ASA Section on Statistics in Epidemiology and also serves as the president of the Florida Chapter of the ASA, along with Dr. Yueh-Yun Chi as vice president.

Secondly, we have greatly strengthened our graduate programs in the past year. This past summer, by the great effort of our exam committee led by Professor Fei Zou, we organized our own Ph.D. written preliminary exam which was the first in our department history, with a data analysis portion being added to the exam. We also modified the teaching materials for certain courses. I believe that our graduate training is much more rigorous and effective now. To recognize her excellence in teaching, our faculty member Dr. Amy Cantrell was selected by the UF public health students for the 2016 Public Health Award for Faculty Excellence. Another new development is that our proposal to create a new online MS program was approved by the university. We are currently focused on marketing and preparing course materials as the MS online will begin Fall 2017.

Finally, our collaborative research and consulting service has been greatly improved and strengthened in the past year. With the retirements of Professors Myron Chang and Jon Shuster, we reorganized the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) unit for UF-CTSI, with me as the director and Professor Susmita Datta as co-director, and the Biostatistics Core for UF Health Cancer Center, with Professor Fei Zou as the director. Several faculty members started joint appointments at several units/departments at COM and VA. Last year, we had 5 PhD, 9 MS and 3 MPH students successfully graduated. For other news and new developments in our department, please read the remaining parts of the newsletter. I am looking forward to your continuing help and support in the future. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF



Top Row (left to right): Sam Wu, Arlene Naranjo, Fei Zou, Xiaomin Lu, Ira Longini, Somnath Datta, Peihua Qiu, Baiming Zou

Bottom Row (left to right): Qinglin Pei, Sue McGorray, Yang Yang, Yueh-Yun Chi, Faming Liang, Babette Brumback, John Kairalla, Meenakshi Devidas, Eben Kenah, Amy Cantrell, Susmita Datta



From Left: Kristen Cason, Linda Caswell, Deana Nance, Ashley Spink

# WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

## QINGLIN PEI, PH.D., RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



The Department of Biostatistics enthusiastically welcomed the appointment of **Dr. Qinglin Pei** as a Research Assistant Professor with the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Statistics and Data Center (SDC). The SDC provides core support to COG, the world's largest NIH/NCI sponsored clinical trials organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research.

Dr. Pei holds a Ph.D. degree in statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her Ph.D. study was focused on analysis and simulation of flash sequencing method, a novel genome sequencing method. In addition, her research was expanded by collaborating with the Department of Radiology and the Medical School faculty at the UW-Madison on projects studying the genomic differences of T-cells for melanoma patients.

After graduation, she continued her research in biostatistics by working with several entities including the VA Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, National Parkinson Foundation, Institute on Aging, Department of Physical Therapy, the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Florida.

## SELON AGBOBLI-NUWOATY, DATA MANAGEMENT ANALYST II

**Mr. Selom Agbobli-Nuwoaty** recently joined COG as a Data Management Analyst II. Born and raised in Togo, West Africa, he moved to the US ten years ago and subsequently attended the University of Nebraska, Omaha. This is where he received his Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology in 2010. He also earned a Master's in Public Health (MPH) with concentration in biostatistics from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in May 2015.

Previously, Selom worked at JNI Medical Corporation in Omaha, Nebraska as a research associate. During his off time, Selom enjoys playing soccer and running. He is also an avid Arsenal fan (English soccer).



## ASHLEY SPINK, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III



**Mrs. Ashley Spink** was born and raised in Gainesville, Florida. Born a true Gator, she loves any and all UF sports. Ashley attended grade school in Gainesville, and eventually attained her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She started her work career at O2B kids in 2001 and still remains on staff as a part-time supervisor. Her most recent job started in 2010 with Tower Hill Insurance Group as a Senior Marketing Representative.

During her off time, Ashley enjoys spending time with her husband, Josh, and two daughters. As a family they love to play softball, travel and spend time at Lake Santa Fe.

## LAUREN STAPLES, DATA MANAGEMENT ANALYST II

**Ms. Lauren Staples** grew up in South Carolina and graduated Clemson University as an Engineer. She spent time as a project engineer in Massachusetts, Louisiana, and locally here in Gainesville. Lauren completed her Master's degree in Statistics as a distance learner from the University of New Hampshire, with the initial thought of going into Industrial Statistics. Lauren's Master's project in Breast Cancer was the project that made her consider working with health data instead.

In her free time, Lauren loves snorkeling and salsa dancing. She also loves country music.



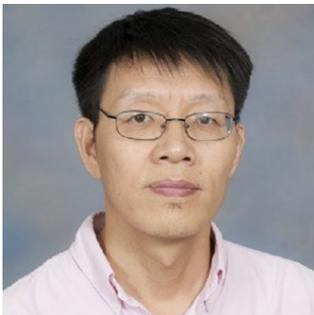
# ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

## PROFESSOR SOMNATH DATTA PI ON NEW NIH GRANT

**Dr. Somnath Datta** was recently awarded a 2-year R03 grant by NIH/NIDCR for his project titled "Exploratory statistical analysis of differential network behaviors based on gene expression atlas of palate development". This grant award exceeds the typical \$100,000, as he is the PI for a \$460,449 grant which undertakes a network analysis of next generation sequencing data in order to understand the systems biology of palate development in mice.



## DEAN'S CITATION AWARDED TO PROFESSOR FAMING LIANG



On Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> during the college general faculty meeting, **Dr. Faming Liang** was the recipient of the best paper award presented by Dean, Michael G. Perri in recognition for his paper, Liang, F., Song, Q., & Qiu, P. (2015). An equivalent measure of partial correlation coefficients or high dimensional Gaussian graphical models. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 110, 1248-1265. <http://amstat.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01621459.2015.1012391>

## R01 GRANT AWARDED TO DR. EBEN KENAH

**Dr. Eben Kenah** has been awarded a \$1.9 million, five-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the National Institutes of Health. The project will synthesize survival analysis and statistical genetics to develop novel regression models and study designs for infectious disease transmission data. Incorporating pathogen sequence data into the statistical analysis of transmission in households and other groups of close contacts will allow a more detailed scientific understanding of transmission and more effective public health responses to emerging infections.

Dr. Kenah is an assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics and an affiliate of the Emerging Pathogens Institute at the University of Florida. Dr. Kenah's current research focus is the development of statistical and epidemiologic methods for infectious disease data and on public health applications of epidemic models.



## STUDENT PAPER AWARD



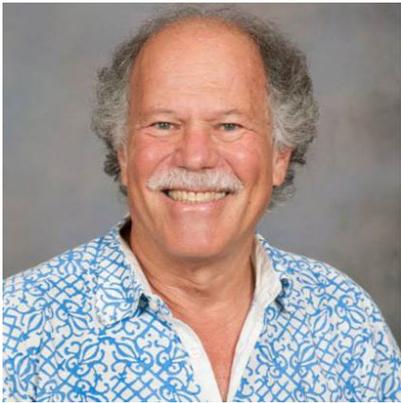
Doctoral Student, **Ms. Xinrui Zhang**, received the Jiann-Ping Hsu Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Sciences Student Paper Award at the 2016 Applied Statistics Symposium of the International Chinese Statistical Association held last month in Atlanta.

Ms. Zhang's paper, entitled "Internal pilot design for repeated measures," was motivated by the need to design a longitudinal study to investigate the effect of antiretroviral therapy for youth living with HIV. The cross-sectional study to which Ms. Zhang provided statistical support has identified potential contributing biomarkers whose profiles were associated with HIV treatments and immunological health, such as viral load.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

## ASPEN INSTITUTE ITALIA AWARD

**Dr. Ira Longini**, Professor in the Department of Biostatistics, along with a team of Italian and American researchers, is an Aspen Institute Italia Award recipient. This award recognizes a significant research contribution in the field of natural, theoretical or applied sciences produced jointly by scientists from Italy and the U.S.



The team was recognized for creating a computational model of the spread of the Ebola virus during the Liberian epidemic in 2014-15, based on the concentration and movement of individuals, including those not

infected with the virus. Their findings, which were published in January 2015 in the journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, also highlighted the importance of various interventions employed by health authorities to combat the epidemic, such as the opening of dedicated health centers for patients with Ebola.

“The groups mathematical work improved the understanding of the Ebola virus’ spread and how best to focus control efforts”, said Longini. “The research also helped lay the groundwork for the design, analysis and interpretation of the highly successful Ebola ring vaccination trial conducted in Guinea”.

<https://ufhealth.org/news/2016/uf-researcher-and-collaborators-win-aspen-institute-italia-award-ebola-research>

## STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS

The Public Health and Health Professions Dean’s Ph.D. Travel Awards winners were announced in early November. These awards are each up to \$750 in support of travel expenses for Ph.D. student presenters.

**JING LIU**- *Landmark Varying Coefficient Models for Predicting Long-Term Survival Using Longitudinal Predictors in the Presence of Early Drop-Put*

**SUWA XU**- *Structure Inference on Large Scale Bayesian Network*

**SINJINI SIKDAR**- *A Novel Statistical Approach for Identification of the Master Regulator Transcription Factor*

## PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

In November of this year, **Dr. Somnath Datta** was elected as President of the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) for the year 2018. The IISA is a non-profit organization with the key objective of promoting education, research and application of statistical and probability throughout the world with special emphasis on the Indian subcontinent. Dr. Datta has been involved with the organization for many years. As Dr. Datta prepares to join the leadership team, he will serve on the Executive Committee for the year 2017 as the president-elect. He will also serve the year after as the past-president.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

## SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

**Kristen Cason** is an academic assistant in the department of biostatistics in PHHP and the College of Medicine. In this role her duties include organizing and facilitating new student orientations and coordinating the department's student application process from beginning to end.

Colleagues say she is adept at managing multiple requests at once and works continually to improve department processes and record keeping, as well as her own



skills set. Co-workers also praised the way she interacts with students, many of whom are arriving at UF from other countries and are adapting to student life in the U.S.

“She interacts regularly with our students, and she does so with a really warm demeanor and with genuine concern for their wellbeing,” a co-worker wrote. “I can say that I’ve never seen her have a bad day at work. She is always upbeat and positive and solving problems to make our students’ experiences better.”

## PHHP FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD 2016



**Dr. Amy Cantrell**, Clinical Associate Professor of Biostatistics, was selected by UF public health students for the 2016 Public Health Award for Faculty Excellence.

The award recognizes a UF faculty member who has made significant contributions to public health through teaching, research or service. The annual award's nomination and voting process is managed by Master of Public Health students.

In response to this recognition, Dr. Cantrell said, “I greatly enjoy teaching students in the Master of Public Health program and am honored to be recognized by these students. I believe the community of learning we create in the classroom helps keep me and the students enthusiastic about learning. For many MPH students, biostatistics will be a crucial part of their overall goal to improve public health and I am proud to be a part of this amazing program. “

The Department of Biostatistics extends its hearty congratulations to Dr. Cantrell on this well-deserved honor.

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Deana Nance** was honored for her 30 years of service to the University of Florida. Within a year of graduating from Eastside High School, at age 19, while a full-time student at Santa Fe College, Deana began her career at the University of Florida in March 1985 as a part-time staff employee with the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) Journal in Nuclear Engineering. In the fall of 1987, she transferred to the Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine. After graduating from UF, she was recruited full-time and worked under the direction of Dr. Michael B. Resnick, Ed.D. for the next 22 years in the growth and development of a data center working on research collaboration with the Department of Biostatistics. After Dr. Resnick's retirement in May 2011, Deana joined the Biostatistics Department in PHHP as the Operations Manager, and as they say, the rest is history.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

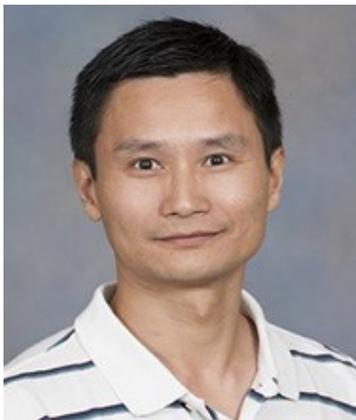
## DR. IRA LONGINI— EBOLA VACCINE BREAKTHROUGH

**Dr. Ira Longini**, a professor and expert in infectious disease modeling and statistics, was a driving force behind the design and analysis of the successful vaccine trial in Guinea. Longini spent several months on assignment at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Longini's research focuses on analyzing epidemics of influenza, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cholera, dengue, malaria, rhinovirus, rotavirus, measles and other infectious diseases. He frequently collaborates with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, WHO, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health organizations on mathematical and statistical models.



## YANG EVALUATES EBOLA TRANSMISSION RATES IN STUDY PUBLISHED IN PNAS



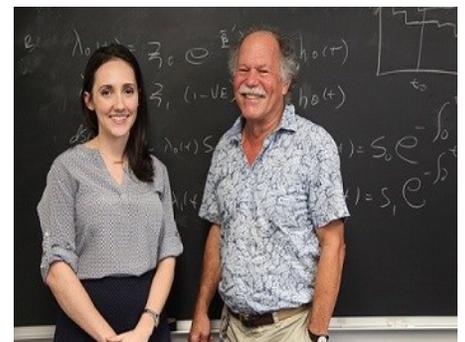
A study published March 28 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marked the first time transmission dynamics of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Sierra Leone were evaluated at a fine scale, according to researchers. Assistant Professor and first author **Yang Yang, Ph.D.**, emphasized that when the United Nations intervened in Sierra Leone to slow the Ebola outbreak in October 2014, the country saw a 43 percent reduction in the transmission at the population level. When the intervention was completely in place by the end of December 2014, the transmission rate dropped by 65 percent at the population level and 82 percent within households. The potential for a reemergence of EVD or other infectious diseases remains a serious concern. This study's significance is in the spatiotemporal mapping of transmission patterns, identification of influential factors, and assessment of the effects of interventions at both the household and the chiefdom (akin to a county in the U.S.) levels. Findings have deepened the understanding of the transmission dynamics of EVD and provided key information for future modeling efforts in forecasting future epidemics and establishing intervention strategies. "The paper's findings underscore the need for early intervention in disease outbreaks," said Yang. Other contributing authors in the department include Drs. Ira Longini, professor, and Natalie Dean, postdoctoral associate.

information for future modeling efforts in forecasting future epidemics and establishing intervention strategies. "The paper's findings underscore the need for early intervention in disease outbreaks," said Yang. Other contributing authors in the department include Drs. Ira Longini, professor, and Natalie Dean, postdoctoral associate.

## ZIKA VIRUS: ONLY A FEW SMALL OUTBREAKS LIKELY TO OCCUR IN THE US

**Natalie Dean** (left), **Ira Longini** (right) working with Alex Vespignani at Northeastern University and other colleagues have published an article in the academic news website, The Conversation. A noteworthy excerpt from the full article is: *Based on current data, our model projects only small outbreaks from mosquito transmission in the continental U.S. that are likely to die out before spreading to new areas. Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas are at risk of these small outbreaks. This is because it is warm enough in these states through the summer and fall to sustain mosquito transmission.* The research group created mathematical and computational models that account for mosquito populations, human mobility, infrastructure and other factors that influence the spread of Zika.

Outbreaks of Zika in the continental U.S. are projected to be small and not likely to spread. Some countries, like Brazil, have already seen widespread outbreaks. Please visit the interactive website <http://www.zika-model.org/> to view model scenarios.



# ONLINE MS PROGRAM— COMING FALL 2017

The Department of Biostatistics is pleased to announce that final approval has been given for the online Master of Science program. The M.S. in Biostatistics Program in the Department of Biostatistics requires a minimum of 36 post-baccalaureate credit hours. The program is designed to facilitate students' development of a strong theoretical foundation in biostatistics, and a broad-based understanding of biostatistical methods. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be awarded an M.S. degree in biostatistics.

The principal goal of the M.S. program is to prepare highly qualified individuals for future Ph.D. training and for careers in biostatistics practice. This training is conducted in the innovative and interdisciplinary public health culture of the College of Medicine and the College of Public Health and Health Professions, and it will produce graduates who will help address the shortage of biostatisticians.

We expect our graduates to be highly competitive in three primary settings:

- academic university-based settings
- industry, and federal agencies that involve research
- public health practice

This training is conducted in the innovative and interdisciplinary public health culture of the College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Medicine. Graduates will help address the shortage of biostatisticians around the world.

The online program is designed mainly for working professionals and post-undergraduate students who are not able to attend campus courses but want to earn a Master of Science degree in Biostatistics from the University of Florida. This program extends the reach of our academic excellence to potential leaders across the world. Eligible applicants are required to have a Bachelor's degree in biostatistics, statistics, mathematics, biology, biomedical science, or other related fields. They should have completed two semesters of calculus and have some basic knowledge about matrix algebra.

The online program contains the same academically challenging courses as our on campus Master of Science program taught by a strong and dedicated team of faculty, many of whom are elected fellows of the American Statistical Association and world- renowned researchers. However, the online program provides students with the flexibility to study at times and locations convenient to their schedules. Graduates of this program will most likely pursue careers in health care or pharmaceutical companies.

The Department began recording the MS courses in our campus program earlier this year. This footage will be used to begin developing video content for the upcoming online program.

**Apply Now for Fall 2017;** [Biostat.ufl.edu/MSOnline](http://Biostat.ufl.edu/MSOnline)



# 2016 SEMINAR SERIES

## January 2016

### **Naihua Duan, Ph.D.**

Div. of Biostatistics, Dept. of Psychiatry, Columbia University

“Personalized Biostatistics, Small Data, and N-of-1 Trials”

### **Somnath Datta, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Biostatistics, University of Florida

“Multi-Sample Adjusted U-Statistics that Account for Confounding Covariates”

### **Raymon J. Carroll, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Statistics, Texas A&M University

“Constrained Maximum Likelihood Estimation for Model Calibration using Summary-level Information from External Big Data Sources”

## April 2016

### **Ciprian Crainiceanu, Ph.D.**

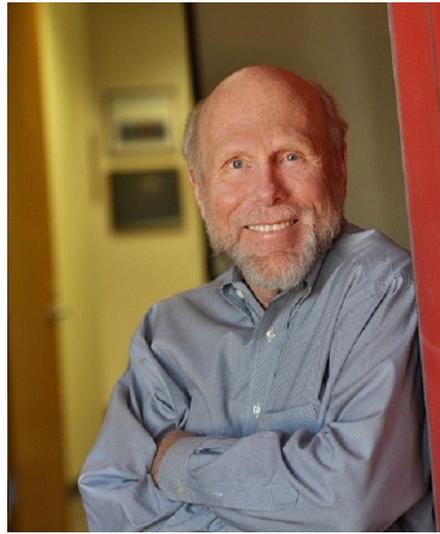
Dept. of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University

“Wearable Computing and Clinical Brain Imaging”

## May 2016

### **Marianthi Markatou, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Biostatistics, The State University of New York at Buffalo



Dr. Raymond Carroll

“A Semi-parametric Method for Clustering Mixed Data”

### **Wenxuan Zhong, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Statistics, University of Georgia

“Reference-free Learning with Multiple Metagenomic Samples”

## September 2016

### **J. Sunil Rao, Ph.D.**

Div of Biostatistics/Dept. of Public Health Sciences, University of Miami

“Classified Mixed Model Prediction”

### **Hongzhe Li, Ph.D.**

Div. of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania

“Integrative Analysis for Incorporating the Microbiome to Improve Precision Medicine”

## October 2016

### **Mosuk Chow, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Statistics, Penn State University

“The Development of Master of Applied Statistics Program at Penn State”

### **Chuanhai Liu, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Statistics, Purdue University

“A Multithreaded and Distributed R for Big Data Analysis”

## November 2016

### **Shiva Gautam, Ph.D.**

College of Medicine, University of Florida

“A-kappa: An Index for Agreement Among Multiple Raters”

## December 2016

### **Ejaz S. Ahmed, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics, Brock University

“A Journey Through Data to BIG DATA; A Statistician Perspective”

# AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## DR. MYRON CHANG



**Dr. Myron Chang's** retirement was celebrated by The Department of Biostatistics on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. A luncheon was hosted to celebrate Dr. Chang's retirement after 30 years of distinguished service at the University of Florida. Faculty, students, and staff gathered to honor Dr. Chang, sample food from around the world and present him with a set of luggage.

During the festivities, in addition to being bestowed with Emeritus status, Dr. Chang was presented with a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his illustrious career.

During his career, Dr. Chang was able to contribute to or publish 166 statistical research papers, 17 abstracts, and 78 presentations. He also served as a member of the Protocol Review and Recourse Utility Committee of Cancer Center, as a member of the Data and

Safety Monitoring Committee of the Cancer Center, as a member of the Pediatric Oncology Working Group at the Shands Cancer Center and also served on several College and Department level committees.

## CORINNE FLOWERS

After three years as Fiscal Assistant for the Department of Biostatistics, **Corinne Flowers** accepted a promotion with the Department of Health Outcomes. Though a native of Gainesville, Corinne lived in San Diego, California from 1984 to 2008. Upon her return to Gainesville, Corinne began her career at the University of Florida in 2008 with the Internationally Educated Dentist Program in the College of Dentistry. When the program relocated to Hialeah in 2009, she transferred to the Department of Health Outcomes and Policy in the College of Medicine. She remained there until 2013 when she joined the Department of Biostatistics as the Fiscal Assistant.



## PAULA MAURER



**Paula Maurer** retired from the University of Florida on March 3, 2016. She originally retired from UF years prior to this, but was a rehired retiree in August 2010 when she joined the Department of Biostatistics as a Program Assistant. She played a crucial role in providing human resources and fiscal administrative duties. She is currently enjoying her retirement at her recently purchased condo in St. Augustine, FL.

## POSTDOC

**Natalie Dean** joined the department on January 16, 2015 as a Post Doc Associate to Dr. Ira Longini. Dr. Dean was awarded a Ph.D. degree from the Harvard University in May 2014. She received an AM degree in May 2011. her dissertation title was, *Surveillance of HIV Incidence and Drive Resistance*.

**Kam Lun “Tim” Tsang** joined the department on October 20, 2016 as a Post Doc Associate to Dr. Ira Longini. Dr. Tsang was awarded a Ph.D. degree from the University of Hong Kong in May 2016. His main field of study was Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases and Environmental Health Hazards.

**Alejandro Riveros Walker** joined the department on November 18, 2016 as a Post Doc Associate to Dr. Somnath Datta and Dr. Susmita Datta. Dr. Walker was awarded a Ph.D. degree from the University of Florida in August 2014. His dissertation title was *Genetic Architecture of juvenile wood density traits in Loblolly Pine with pedigree and genomics additive and non-additive relationship matrices*.

### Departures

- **Long Feng**, former Post Doc associate bid his farewell on January 9, 2016

## VISITING SCHOLARS RESEARCH PROGRAM

**Visiting Scholar Research Program-** The department established a Visiting Research Scholar Program. The following visitors successfully commenced or concluded their visits:

### Commenced

- **Tao Chen**, invited by Dr. Yang Yang, is a 3 month visitor from Beijing, China, National Institute for Vital Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Nasim Vahabi**, invited by Dr. Somnath Datta, is a 6 month visitor from Tehran, Iran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences.
- **Zhaqiong Wang**, invited by Dr. Peihua Qiu, is a 12 month visitor from Beijing, China, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Sican Xiong**, invited by Dr. Fei Zou, is an 18 month visitor from People’s Republic of China, Wuhan University.

### Concluded

- **Huajun Song**, invited by Dr. Peihua Qiu, concluded his 12 month visit from Qingdao, China, China University of Petroleum.
- **Yanyang Zang**, invited by Dr. Peihua Qiu, concluded her 12 month visit from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China.
- **Xuemin Zi**, invited by Dr. Peihua Qiu, concluded her 12 month visit from Tianjin, China, Tianjun University of Technology and Education.

# RECENT GRADUATES

## Doctor of Philosophy

**Shanjun Helian, Ph.D.**- Mentor: Babette Brumback, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Structural Nested Modeling and Penalized Correlation Methods for Clinical Trials*

**Li Li, Ph.D.**- Mentor: Babette Brumback, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Adjusting for Confounding Due to Unmeasured Characteristics That Vary Across the Levels of One or Two Factors*

**Xinrui Zhang, Ph.D.**- Mentor: Yueh-Yun Chi, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Internal Pilots with the Univariate Approach to Repeated Measures*

**Jingnan Zhang, Ph.D.**- Mentor: Peihua Qiu, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *An Early Warning System for Modeling and Monitoring Spatio-Temporal Pattern of Infectious Disease*

**Qi An, Ph.D.**- Mentor: Myron Chang, Ph.D.

Thesis Dissertation Title: *Optimal Group Sequential Designs*

## Master of Science

**Dan Chen, MS**- Mentor: Babette Brumback, Ph.D.

**Qian Sun, MS**-Mentor: Meenakshi Devidas, Ph.D.

**Zhongkai Wang, MS**- Mentor: Babette Brumback, Ph.D.

**Hang Zhang, MS**- Mentor: Huaihou Chen, Ph.D.

**Bingxin Zhao, MS**- Mentor: Samuel Shangwu Wu, Ph.D.

**Bochao Jia, MS**- Mentor: Faming Liang, Ph.D.

**Qianyun Li, MS**- Mentor: Faming Liang, Ph.D.

**Jingnan Zhang, MS**- Mentor: Peihua Qiu, Ph.D.

**Qi An, MS**- Mentor: Myron Chang, Ph.D.

## Master of Public Health

**Gabriela Ghita, MPH**

**Anjali Thakur, MPH**

**Jordan Creed, MPH**



Shanjun Helian (right), Li Li (left)



Myron Chang, Qi An, Xinrui Zhang, Yueh-Yun Chi

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS

Gifts to the **Department of Biostatistics** greatly enhance student support. If you are interested in being a part of our growing department and future successes, please follow the below link:

[Biostatistics Support Fund \(004783\) College of Public Health and Health Professions](#)

[Biostatistics Educational Enhancement Fund \(020757\) College of Public Health and Health Professions](#)

- For tax purposes, receipts for charitable contributions will be issued from the University of Florida Foundation.

**THANK YOU** to the following supporters who made gifts to the department in 2016!

## Gold

Leslie Gonzalez-Rothi

Ying He

Hongtao Liu

Peihua Qiu

Long Zhang

## Silver

Laraine and David Teiss

## Bronze

James & Debora Bolognese

Babette Brumback

Myron Chang

Si Chen

Meenakshi Devidas

Yijing Ding

John Kairalla

Chao Liu & Yuan Xu

Xiaomin Lu

Susan McGorray

Arlene Naranjo

Yilun Sun

Small House Chinese Restaurant, Inc

Samuel Wu & Qihong Li

Yuan Xu

Hui Zeng

Shuo Zhang

**Your gifts are great appreciated. We look forward to thanking you in our next newsletter.**

We invite you to visit our department website at: <http://biostat.ufl.edu/>

Department of Biostatistics . 352.294.5770 . 2004 Mowry Road . 5th Floor CTRB . P.O. Box 117450 . Gainesville, FL 32611