Biostatistics Newsletter
2019

Newsletter Date: November 2019

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Special Points of Interest

- Greetings from the Chair
- Faculty and Staff
- Acknowledgements
- Accomplishments and Awards
- In the Spotlight
- 2019 Seminar Series
- Post Doc/ Visiting Scholars
- Recent Graduates
- Contributions and Gifts
In this holiday season, I first want to thank our faculty, staff and students for your hard work in the past year. I would also like to thank our alumni and friends for your continued support. Our department had a very successful year, after we received the first-ever ranking from the US News & World Report last year as a top-20 biostatistics department in the nation. In the last 12 months, the department successfully recruited 4 new faculty members and 3 new MS biostatisticians. Another new faculty member has accepted our offer and will join us soon. Their joining of the department strengthens our expertise greatly in biostatistical research, education and service. The department currently has 25 faculty members, 30 PhD students, and around 60 MS/MPH students. Many of our faculty members are leaders in our research areas, and our graduate programs are already very strong. This is reflected in the honors and recognitions received recently by our faculty and students from different national organizations, including Dr. Babette Brumback being elected as a fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The department faculty currently has 6 ASA fellows, 2 Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) fellows, and 2 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows.

In regard to our methodological and collaborative research, the department faculty and students published over 120 papers in refereed journals last year. Many of them were published in top journals, including *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *The Lancet Oncology*, *Nature Genetics*, and *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Besides the Children's Oncology (COG) sub-award, the department received $7.1 million in extramural research funding last year to help with our research. Under the leadership of Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee, the Biostatistics & Quantitative Sciences Shared Resource at the UF Health Cancer Center helped the center successfully submitted the NIH Cancer Center Support Grant during the past summer. Our new Data Coordinating Center is being developed in full speed, under the leadership of Dr. Sam Wu. The center currently helps many research projects in study design and data management, including the Parkinson Foundation's PDGENE Study.

As always, the department made a great effort in improving our graduate programs. As an example, the department received seven new course numbers recently, after a continuing effort of the department curriculum committee chaired by Dr. Susmita Datta. Most of these courses were recently developed or re-organized. During the Fall 2019 semester, we offered the new course "Bayesian Biostatistical Methods" taught by Dr. Subha Guha. This is one of the six new courses that the department is currently developing, and we will apply for new course numbers soon. In addition, the department recently formed two faculty committees to review and improve the core courses of our MS and PhD programs. I am sure that these efforts will greatly improve the graduate programs in our department and the educational programs within the entire UF Health Science Center. Recently, the department increased the number of student travel awards from 4 to 6, using the department foundation money and some funding from the dean’s office. These student travel awards can support some of our graduate students to present their research at national or international conferences. In the past summer, we successfully recruited 11 PhD, 11 on-campus MS, and 12 online MS students. In the 2018-2019 academic year, the department graduated 3 PhD, 18 on-campus MS, and 6 online MS students. The online MS graduates are the first ones graduated from our new online MS program. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all recent graduates on their success in the graduate study in our department. I wish them all the best in their future career.

Please enjoy reading this newsletter about this year’s wonderful accomplishments and moments. I look forward to the upcoming new year and your continued support in the future.

Thank you, and have a wonderful holiday season!
Faculty

Left to Right Front: Zhigang Li, Yang Yang, Qing Lu, Ji-Hyun Lee, Natalie Dean, Wei Xue, Peihua Qiu, Subharup Guha, Baiming Zou, Qinglin Pei, Xiang-Yang Lou, Robert Parker, Steven Foti

Back: Yichao Yu, Rhonda Bacher, Babette Brumback, Shu Wang, Arlene Naranjo, Yueh-Yun Chi, Somnath Datta, Sam Wu

Not Pictured: Susmita Datta, Zhiguang Huo, John Kairalla, and Ira Longini

Administrative Staff

Left to Right: Renee Douglass (Fiscal Assistant), Melissa Stabel (Assistant to the Chair), Deana Nance (Business Manager), Melissa Layne (Administrative Assistant), Kristen Cason (Academic Assistant)
**Introducing new faculty and staff**

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**Brian LaBarre**

*Brian LaBarre* joined as a Data Management Analyst II. Born in New Jersey and a recent graduate of the MS Online Program in Biostatistics at UF. In his spare time, he enjoys trivia, learning languages, and tea. Brian is excited about joining our Great Gator Nation, working on research projects, and finally being close enough to attend Jacksonville Jaguars home games.

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**Min Li**

*Min Li* joined as a Data Management Analyst II in support of Hodgkin’s lymphoma. She moved from Ithaca, New York with her family to Gainesville three years ago. She has been working in data management and analysis for different research projects for the past 8 years. Her most recent position at UF was Research Assistant Scientist at the Animal Sciences Department. She lives with her husband and two kids in Gainesville. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, jogging, swimming, and going to beautiful places in Florida with her family.

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**Dr. XiangYang (George) Lou**

*Dr. XiangYang (George) Lou* joined the department on June 3 as a Research Professor. Dr. Lou earned his Ph.D. in Statistical Genetics and Bioinformatics from Zhejiang University. He came to the U.S. to pursue postdoctoral training in the Department of Statistics, at the University of Florida, in 2002. Dr. Lou's research primarily concentrates on developing and applying powerful innovative analysis methods to solve real-world statistical and computational problems in biomedical sciences and other sciences.

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**Dr. Qing Lu**

*Dr. Qing Lu* joined the department on June 3 as a Professor. Dr. Lu is a Faculty 500 hire within the teacher/scholar initiative. He earned his Ph.D. in Statistical Genetics from Case Western Reserve University following a Master's Degree in Statistics from the University of Florida, in 2003. Dr. Lu’s research interests are primarily in statistical genetics and statistical learning. One area of research is the development of statistical learning methods (e.g., deep learning) and software for high-dimensional data analysis (e.g., genetic data analysis). His group also develops new statistical methods (e.g., U-statistic) for association analysis of genome-wide data and next generation sequencing data. In parallel with these two lines of research, he collaborates with basic-science and clinical researchers to investigate various biomedical and public health research questions.
**Dr. Wei Xue**

Dr. Wei Xue joined the department as a Research Assistant Professor. Wei received her master degree in statistics from University of Florida in 2003. After graduation, she worked as a biostatistician for five years at Case Western Reserve University, providing statistical consulting and support to clinicians and basic science researchers. In 2008, Wei Xue moved to Michigan due to family reasons. She worked as an informatics consultant for three years in Biomedical Research Informatics Core at Michigan State University (MSU). Wei received her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatics at Michigan State University in 2016. Since then she has been working at Michigan Department of Health and Human Service, Division of Women, Infant and Children (WIC). At WIC, Wei was in charge of designing and conducting studies to identify risk factors and improve health outcomes in the WIC population. Wei will be working in support of the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute Biostatistics and Epidemiology Research Design Program and the Biostatistical Consulting Lab in the department.

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**Dr. Shu Wang**

Dr. Shu Wang joined the department on May 6 as a Research Assistant Professor. She also serves as a faculty biostatistician of the Division of Quantitative Sciences and the Biostatistics Shared Resource of the UF Health Cancer Center. Dr. Wang just earned her PhD degree in Biostatistics from the University of Pittsburgh in April. Prior to that, she has a Master degree in Biostatistics from Columbia University in 2015. Dr. Wang collaborated with multiple research groups in the University of Pittsburgh and has extensive experience in clinical phenotype identification and observational studies. Her research interests lie in unsupervised machine learning and Bayesian approaches.

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**Yue (Daniel) Wu**

Yue Wu joined as a Data Management Analyst II in August 2019. Yue was born in China and is a recent graduate of the MS Program in Biostatistics at UF. Yue will be working with the CDCC team on many ongoing research projects. During his off time, he likes watching sports, movies and enjoying the benefits of living in the sunshine state with the nearby ocean and beaches. Go Gators!

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**Justin Yang**

Justin Yang joined as a Data Manager Analyst II. Justin will be working with Dr. Sam Wu in support of the department’s launching of the CDCC. Born in Gainesville and a graduate of UF, he has been a Gators fan his whole life. Before coming back to UF, he was an Information Security Analyst in Miami for 7 years. In his spare time, he like exercising and pursing artistic endeavors. Justin is excited about being back in Gainesville and working on research projects.
Dr. Peihua Qiu’s Article Chosen for Technometrics Anniversary Issue

The flagship statistics journal *Technometrics* celebrated its 60th birthday this year with a special virtual issue. The anniversary issue features 35 classic articles chosen for their influence on applied statistics during the six decades *Technometrics* has been in publication. One paper was authored by our faculty member Dr. Peihua Qiu and his co-authors, with the following citation: Qiu, P., Zou, C., and Wang, Z. (2010), “Nonparametric profile monitoring by mixed effects modelling (with discussions),” *Technometrics, 52*, 265-277.

This paper suggested a flexible statistical method for sequentially monitoring nonparametric profiles over time. It has become a standard reference in the related research area. This was a discussion paper, discussed by 4 sets of discussants followed by a rejoinder.

Dr. Babette Brumback selected as a Fellow of the ASA

Babette Brumback was selected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). This is a prestigious accomplishment. The contributions that are considered in selecting ASA Fellows are published works, position held with employer, ASA activities, Membership and accomplishments in other societies, and professional activities. She was recognized July 30, 2019 at the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) in Denver. The awards ceremony was held at the Denver Convention Center during the ASA President’s Address and Founders and Fellows Recognition.

We are so proud of this accomplishment for Dr. Brumback.

Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee Elected to the ASA Board of Directors

Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee, Director of Division of Quantitative Sciences at UFHCC and Professor at the Department of Biostatistics, was elected to the American Statistical Association Board of Directors as the Council of Chapters Rep. This is a prestigious accomplishment. Currently there are a total of 74 Chapters from 3 Regions/6 Districts under the ASA. The ASA’s mission is to promote the practice and profession of statistics. Its vision is a world that relies on data and statistical thinking to drive discovery and decisions. The ASA is governed by an elected Board of Directors whose work is shaped by the ASA’s Strategic Plan. The Board of Director is the policy-making and legislative body of the Association, and consists of 16 members.
Dr. Natalie Dean wins 2019 CWS Do-Bui Travel Award

Dr. Natalie Dean is the winner of the 2019 CWS Do-Bui Travel Award. This award was recently established, owing to the generous donation by Dr. Kim-Anh Do, to support promising early-career researchers who attended the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) and are presenting their research work. The award provides $500 to be used towards travel to this year’s Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, CO. This award was presented to Dr. Dean during the CWS business meeting and reception at the JSM in Denver in July.

Dr. Somnath Datta wins Best Theoretical Paper Award

Somnath Datta co-authored a paper with Glen Satten and Maiying Kong that owns this year’s Best Theoretical Paper award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for demonstrating “statistical excellence”. This is an annual competition for the best paper in theory and application categories co-authored by a CDC employee published in a peer-reviewed journal. This paper presents a new way of comparing two groups when the respective samples are not collected using classical randomization, thus a treatment effect may become murky due to spurious associations caused by confounders. The publication titled “Multisample adjusted U-Statistics that account for confounding covariates” appeared in the journal Statistics in Medicine last year.

Dr. Peihua Qiu Receives NSF Grant on Modelling and Monitoring of Image Sequences, and elected to the ICSA Board of Directors

Congratulations to Dr. Peihua Qiu, who received a prestigious NSF grant with the title “Longitudinal Modelling and Sequential Monitoring of Image Data Streams.” This is a three-year project with the starting date of 8/1/2019. The project aims to develop new statistical methodologies for checking whether the distribution of the underlying longitudinal process of an observed image sequence changes over time. It has broad applications in medical imaging studies, environment monitoring and many other areas. Recently, Dr. Qiu was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) for a three-year term during 2020-2022.
ASAP Workshop Hosted by Dr. Yueh-Yun Chi and Dr. Rhonda Bacher

Biostatistics hosted an ASA Workshop: Tidyverse: An Introduction to R for Data Science. More than 100 registrants turned out to learn workflows for doing data science with the R language. The full-day workshop focused on using R's Tidyverse, which is a core set of R packages that are known for their impressive performance and ease of use. This was a great opportunity for everyone interested in learning R or looking to expand their data science skills.

Dr. Babette Brumback Seminar “Distinguished Women in Statistics”

The Department of Biostatistics at Vanderbilt University hosted a seminar series supported by a grant from ORAU to invite speakers that would focus at least a small part of their talks on their path to leadership, and make visible current women leaders in statistics and highlight their accomplishments.

Dr. Ira Longini and Dr. Natalie Dean Moves First Ebola Vaccine Closer to Licensing

The European Medicines Agency, or EMA, has announced its conditional marketing authorization of a vaccine used to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus. University of Florida researchers played an integral role in the design and analysis of trials testing the effectiveness of the vaccine, manufactured by Merck.

Ira Longini, Ph.D., a professor in the department of biostatistics at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Medicine is a key figure in the design of the Ebola vaccine trial and the analysis of its statistical data. Longini collaborated with Natalie Dean, Ph.D., a UF assistant professor of biostatistics, and an international team working with the WHO to use a ring vaccination approach to test the new vaccine.

Department Spring Social

The Department of Biostatistics held a Spring Social on March 19, 2019. Activities included awards to students, faculty and staff, a farewell to Dr. Meenakshi Devidas and a wonderful time of fellowship.

Dr. Devidas dedicated 21 years to UF including 11 years in the Department. She is wished continued success in her new position with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as a member of the Department of Global Pediatric Medicine.

Presented awards included Outstanding Dissertation Research (You Lu), Outstanding Student Support (Kristen Cason), Outstanding Teacher (Caleb Huo), Ph.D. Preliminary Exam (Mingjin Liu), Online MS Outstanding Student (Heshen Wang), and MS Outstanding Student (Yian Guo and Ye Yuan).

Annual Picnic at Lake Wauberg

Biostatistics and PHHP Dean’s PhD Travel Awards

Congratulations to the following recipients who presented research posters at important events:

- **Tong (Amanda) Kang** received a student presentation award at the American Statistical Association (ASA) Florida Chapter Meeting in February. The award was for a SPEED talk plus poster presentation session titled: *Analyzing Longitudinal Clustered Count Data with Zero-Inflation: Marginal Regression Modeling with Conway-Maxwell-Poisson Distribution.*

- **Lu You** received a travel award to attend the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) in the summer of 2019 in Denver, Co. He presented his research: *Many diseases can be prevented or treated if they are detected early, disease early detection and prevention (DEDAP)*

- **Yanan Huo** received a travel award to attend the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) in the summer of 2019 in Denver, Co. She presented her research: *Power and sample size of the Test Negative Design.*
Meritorious Service Award for Lisa Clary

During the past 30 years, Lisa Clary has made significant contributions to not only the University, but more specifically the Department of Biostatistics. Ms. Clary has been with the Department of Biostatistics, in all its forms, for the last 30 years. She started as the Database Administrator for the Pediatric Oncology Group (POG) and continued to be a part of the team when POG merged with other childhood cancer clinical trials consortia to form the Children’s Oncology Group (COG) in 2000. She has represented both COG and the University of Florida in an outstanding fashion and in doing so has earned the respect of not only her peers, but also faculty, researchers and clinicians alike. Lisa Clary has had a long and distinguished career of professional accomplishments displaying a loyalty to the Department of Biostatistics not often seen in a university setting.

Dr. Susan McGorray Retires with University Medallion & Meritorious Service Award

During the past 29 years, Dr. Susan McGorray has made significant contributions to not only the University, but also more specifically the field of biostatistics and the Department of Biostatistics. Dr. McGorray began her UF career in 1990 as a Research Assistant Professor with the Division of Biostatistics, Department of Statistics, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). She continued her career as an Assistant Scientist within the same division from 1998 to 2001, when she returned to her former Research Assistant Professor title. In 2008, her position was transferred from CLAS to College of Medicine (COM), Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In 2010, her position was moved one last time to the newly established Department of Biostatistics, housed jointly with COM and the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

While in these various roles, she has represented both the Department of Biostatistics and the University of Florida in an outstanding fashion and in doing so has earned the respect of not only her peers, but also faculty across the university and clinicians alike. Dr. McGorray has had a long and distinguished career of professional accomplishments displaying a loyalty to the Department of Biostatistics not often seen in a university setting. She has primarily been involved in grant-funded collaborative research in a variety of health science disciplines including dentistry, cardiology, and oncology, and is an author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles. She has been a member of the Institution Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects for 25 years, serving as vice-chair since 2006. She has served on 65 graduate student committees, in Biostatistics and related disciplines. Nationally, she has served on NIH Review Committees, NIH Data Safety and Monitoring Committees, and has been active in a number of professional organizations.
January

Dr. Rickey Carter
Professor of Biostatistics, Mayo Clinic

- Title: Data science and biostatistics: the power of thinking differently through team science

February

Dr. Jon Shuster
Professor Emeritus, Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics, University of Florida

- Title: Meta-Analysis of Clinical Trials: Effects-at-Random or Studies-at-Random?

Dr. Saeed Hassanpour
Assistant Professor, Biomedical Data Science, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

- Title: Machine Learning in the era Precision Health

March

Dr. N. Rao Chaganty
Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Old Dominion University

- Title: Copula models for analyzing longitudinal and familial data

Dr. Donna LaLonde
Director, Strategic Initiatives and Outreach, American Statistical Association

- Title: ASA: Statistically Significant with YOUR Help

April

Dr. Audrey Hendricks
Assistant Professor of Statistics, Mathematical & Statistical Sciences, University of Colorado–Denver

- Title: Methods to Improve the use of Common Controls in Sequencing Studies

Dr. Leo Duan
Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Florida

- Title: High Dimensional Multi-view Clustering with Uncertainty Quantification

June

Dr. Lloyd Edwards
Chair and Professor of Biostatistics, University of Alabama

Title: An R^2 Statistic for Fixed Effects in the Linear Mixed Model and Extension to the GLMM.

September

Dr. Kim-Ahn Do
Chair and Professor, Department of Biostatistics, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Title: Back to the Future– Integrative Network Modeling in Precision Cancer Medicine

- based on weak conditional moments
October

Dr. Bing Li  
Verne M. Willaman Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics, Pennsylvania State University  

Title: *Dimension reduction for functional data*

Dr. Rebecca W. Doerge  
Glen de Vries Dean, Mellon College of Science, Carnegie Mellon University  

Title: *The Future of Statistical Bioinformatics and Genomics in the Automated World of Agriculture*

November

Dr. Jing Cao  
Assistant Professor, Department of Statistic Science, Southern Methodist University  

- Title: *Bayesian Gene Enrichment Analysis*

December

Dr. Leslie McClure  
Chair and Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Drexel University  

- Title: *Developing Nationwide Exposures to Assess Geographic Differences in Diabetes Incidence: Tales from the Diabetes LEAD Network*
Arrivals

Dr. Xiaoxi Shen joined the department on August 9, 2019 as a Post Doc Associate to Dr. Qing Lu. Dr. Shen was awarded a Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in August 2019. His dissertation was titled: Statistical Analysis for Network-Based Models with Applications to Genetic Association and Prediction.

Departures

Dr. Kam Lun “Tim” Tsang joined the department on October 20, 2016 as a Post Doc Associate to Dr. Yang Yang. Dr. Tsang was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong in May 2016. His dissertation was titled: Transmissibility of influenza viruses in households.

Dr. Diana Rojas joined the department on August 16, 2017 as a Post Doc Associate to Dr. Ira Longini. Dr. Rojas was awarded her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from UF in August 2017. Her main field of study is epidemiology and transmission dynamics of arboviruses in Latin America.

VISITING SCHOLARS RESEARCH PROGRAM

THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED A VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM IN 2015

Commenced

- Jianjiu Chen, invited by Dr. Yang, a 5 month visitor from Hong Kong SAR, China, University of Hong Kong
- Anran Zhang, invited by Dr. Yang, a 12 month visitor from Shandong, China, Shandong University
- Zhifan Ding, invited by Dr. Yang, a 12 month visitor from Henan, China, Henan University
- Dr. Yawen Hou, invited by Dr. Qiu, a 12 month visitor from Guangdong, China, Jinan University

Concluded

- Dr. Xiaoling Wang, invited by Dr. Wu, a 12 month visitor from Shanxi, China, Shangxi Datong University
- Dr. Qin Zhou, invited by Dr. Qiu, a 12 month visitor from Jiangsu, China, Xuzhou Normal University
- Dr. HuiQing Zhao, invited by Dr. Wu, a 5 month visitor from Tianjin, China, Tianjin University of Commerce
- Dr. Hao Feng, invited by Dr. Wu, a 2 month visitor from Tianjin, China, Tianjin University of Finance & Economics
- Dr. Hao Chen, invited by Dr. Wu, a 12 month visitor from Tianjin, China, Tianjin University of Finance & Economics
- Dr. Zhimin Duan, invited by Dr. Wu, a 12 month visitor from Tianjin, China, Tianjin University of Finance & Economics
- Yuying Wang, invited by Dr. Wu, a 3 month visitor from Hangzhou, China, Zhejiang Gongshang University
- Mengling Liu, invited by Dr. Wu, a 3 month visitor from Hangzhou, China, Zhejiang Gongshang University
- Dr. Li Xue, invited by Dr. Qiu, a 12 month visitor from Henan, China, Zhengzhou University of Aeronautics
Doctor of Philosophy

Yeonil Kim—Ph.D. Mentors Fei Zou, Ph.D. and Yueh-Yun Chi, Ph.D.
Thesis Dissertation Title: Statistical Testing Procedures for Analysis of Genetic Association Studies

Yichen Chen—Ph.D. Mentor Somnath Datta, Ph.D.
Thesis Dissertation Title: Using U-Statistics to Compare Grouped Marginal Distributions of Right Censored Event and Waiting Times in Observational Studies (ITALICIZE only the U in U-Statistics)

Rachael Zahigian—Ph.D. Mentors Sam Wu, Ph.D and John Kairalla, Ph.D.
Thesis Dissertation Title: Improvements in the Design of Novel Two-Stage Adaptive Clinical Trials Position: Senior Biostatistician, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Master of Science

Neda Jalali, M.S.—Mentor: Yang Yang, Ph.D.
Kai Yang, M.S.—Mentor: Peihua Qiu, Ph.D.
Ye Yuan, M.S.—Mentor: Zhiguang Huo, Ph.D.
Yian Guo, M.S.—Mentor: Babette Brumback, Ph.D.
Tong “Amanda” Kang, M.S.—Mentor: Somnath Datta, Ph.D.
Abhinav Kurumaddali, M.S.—Mentor: Babette Brumback, Ph.D.
Minjie Li, M.S.—Mentor: Natalie Dean, Ph.D.
Yancheng Li, M.S.—Mentor: Natalie Dean, Ph.D.
Jieh Lou, M.S.—Mentor: Zhiguang Huo, Ph.D.
Qianyu Wen, M.S.—Mentor: Zhiguang Huo, Ph.D.
Kenny Wong, MS —Mentor: Robert Parker, Ph.D.
Yue Wu, MS —Mentor: Sam Wu, Ph.D.
Ke Xu, MS —Mentor: Arlene Naranjo, Ph.D.
Yuting Yang, MS —Mentor: Sam Wu, Ph.D.
Lu You, MS —Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.
Zehao Yu, MS —Mentor: Zhiguang Huo, Ph.D.
Xiaoman Zhai, MS —Mentor: Baiming Zou, Ph.D.
Runzhi Zhang, MS —Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.
Dorothy Ellis, MS —Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.
Hasibul Hasan, MS —Mentor: Yang Yang Ph.D.

Master of Science Online

Jonathan Gilman, MS —Mentor: Sam Wu, Ph.D.
Silvia Jakubski, MS —Mentor: Ira Longini, Ph.D.
Megan Kerley, MS —Mentor: Sue McGorray, Ph.D.
Brian LaBarre, MS —Mentor: Susmita Datta, Ph.D.
Sabah Raja, MS —Mentor: Qinglin Pei, Ph.D.
Hezhen Wang, MS —Mentor: Yueh-Yun, Ph.D.
Stefanie Drescher, MS —Mentor: John Kairalla, Ph.D.
Gifts to the **Department of Biostatistics** greatly enhance student support. If you have any questions or would like to talk to someone about making a difference in the Department of Biostatistics, please contact UF Foundation by calling 1-877-351-2377 or online at www.uff.ufl.edu and give them the fund information listed below:

**Biostatistics Support Fund** (004783): 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 2019!

### $0-$500

- Rhonda Bacher
- Babette Brumback
- Cheng-Yu Chang
- Meenakshi Devidas
- Patricia A. Frye
- John A. Kairalla
- Yang Li
- XiangYang Lou
- Qing Lu
- Susan P. McGorrar
- Arlene Naranjo
- Marc J. Robinson
- Richard S. Shuster
- Wei Xue
- Sam Wagner
- Shu Wang
- Samuel S. Wu
- Baiming Zou
- Yichao Yu

### $500 and above

- James A. Bolognese
- Somnath Datta
- Zhiguang Huo
- Peihua Qiu

Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

We look forward to thanking you in our next newsletter.

We invite you to visit our department website at: [http://biostat.ufl.edu](http://biostat.ufl.edu)