Upcoming Events

July 3rd
University Holiday

July 24th
Department Picnic
Wegman Lodge in Seneca Park

July 30th
Haiyan Su
Thesis Defense
Room K-207
2:00 p.m.

August 10th
Qin Yu
Thesis Defense
Room K-207
2:00 p.m.

September 7th
University Holiday

Did you know...
Old ID Badges should have been turned into the University ID Office before June 30th. If you have not turned yours in yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Statistical Modeling for Biological Systems:
A Conference in Memory of Andrei Yakovlev

On June 8th and 9th, our department hosted a conference organized in memory of Andrei Yakovlev. The conference featured many of Andrei's collaborators and friends, and reflected the breadth of interests for which he was well known and the international scope of his collaborations. Speaker affiliations included Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), the University of Würzburg (Germany), the Institut Curie (France), the German Cancer Research Center, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as well as many leading American universities. A number of our department members who collaborated with Andrei also gave talks and a poster session was held. The proceedings of the conference will be...
published as part of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) collections series. The conference was organized by David Oakes, Jack Hall and Anthony Almudevar, with the flawless administration due to Cheryl Bliss-Clark and Cheryl Cicero.

We are grateful to Mark Noble and Hartmut Land, from the Department of Biomedical Genetics, who formed close collaborations with Andrei, for their addresses, to Nina Yakovlev for hosting a reception, and to Mike McDermott, Hulin Wu, Hua Liang, Sally Thurston, Li-Shan Huang and Derick Peterson for serving as session chairs. The program and other conference details can be found at www.urmc.rochester.edu/biostat/ayconference.

Chris Brower and Susan DiVincenzo, with help from Nina Yakovlev, Nick Yanev and Ollivier Hyrien, compiled a “memory book” of photographs, letters and documents describing Andrei’s life and career.
We are very pleased to announce that our training grant in Environmental Health Sciences Biostatistics, PI David Oakes, has been renewed for a further five years, starting July 1, 2009.

This program is a collaborative effort between the DBCB, the Environmental Health Sciences Center and the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine. The program was funded at the full requested level of two predoctoral and two postdoctoral trainees in each year. Trainees must be US citizens or permanent residents of the US.

On April 2, 2009, **Terry Therneau, Ph.D.** Professor of Biostatistics at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN was the guest speaker of the **2009 Charles L. Odoroff Lecture**. This was the 21st lecture in the series. Dr. Therneau was also an Assistant Professor with the department from 1983-1985. The lecture topic was “**Random Effects Models and Survival Data**”.
This is the 40th anniversary of the initiation of the Graduate Program in Statistics!

Yes, it all began in 1969, with the enrollment of 7 graduate students. Professors Jack Hall, Govind Mudholkar and Sam Rao-Poduri were members of the founding faculty, along with several others no longer at the University. Since then, a total of 74 PhD’s have been awarded, the first being to Hubert Chen in 1974. A BA program was organized a bit earlier, with Susan Miskura receiving the first BA in 1969.

And here are some highlights from the 2009 Commencement...

From left to right: Doctoral degree recipient, Yan Ma, with Professors Mike McDermott and Xin Tu.

Congratulations!!!
Congratulations to **Ha Youn Lee, Hulin Wu** and the **CBIM team** - their latest paper will be a spotlight of the July "Journal of Virology", as well as being noted in the following - well done!

Here are some of the news websites:

- **NIAID/NIH Latest News**

- **University of Rochester news**

- **Science Daily**

- **Science News**
  [http://esciencenews.com/articles/2009/05/18/computer.simulation.captures](http://esciencenews.com/articles/2009/05/18/computer.simulation.captures)

- **Top news**


Front top to bottom: Ha Youn Lee, Sung Yong Park, Hongyu Miao, Jeanne Holden-Wiltse, and Hulin Wu.

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**Hui Zhang** received a travel scholarship from the University of Washington to attend the 14th Annual Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics in Seattle on 06/14/09-06/21/09 ([http://sisg.biostat.washington.edu/](http://sisg.biostat.washington.edu/)). The scholarship included tuition support for 2 modules (usually $650/module) and $300 for travel expense.

**Xiang Liu** is participating in a 12-week internship at BARDS, Merck Research Laboratories, in Rahway, NJ. Xiang reports that everything is going well.

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**Congratulations go out to Hua He, Ph.D.** on her promotion to Assistant Professor effective July 2009.
David Oakes has been appointed a permanent member of the “EPIC” (Epidemiology of Cancer) NIH Study Section, serving from 2009 through 2013.

Wuwei Chen is an undergraduate student from the UR College of Arts and Sciences who is in a joint program of mathematics and economics. She will be supported by CBIM for a two-month summer internship conducting a pilot study on the application of mathematical theory in viral dynamics (under the supervision of Hongyu Miao). She is also the first student to participate in the education program of CBIM designed for undergraduate students. We anticipate additional internship opportunities via this program.

Ha Youn Lee is the recipient of a $1,530,340 grant awarded by the National Institute of Heath, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The grant funds Dr. Lee’s research on modeling the primary stage of HIV replication and sequence evolution, and on defining vaccine-inducible host immune functions that can be expected to lead to containment of infection and long-term protection from disease. The research will be performed in collaboration with Drs. Sally Thurston, Hua Liang, Stephen Dewhurst (Microbiology and Immunology), and Michael Keefer (Medicine).

Anthony Almudevar was the recipient of a $50,000 grant awarded by the Wilmot Cancer Center, with funding provided by the Sally Edelman and Harry Gardner Cancer Research Foundation. The grant will fund Dr. Almudevar’s research on gene regulatory network modeling that is being carried out in collaboration with the laboratory of Dr. Hartmut Land.

The Edelman-Gardner Foundation is located in Hilton, New York, and has since 1984 entered into a partnership with the University of Rochester to fund numerous projects in cancer research. For more information visit www.edelmancrf.org.
Van Tran will work on her summer internship project with Dr. Xin Tu and others in Biostatistics between May 26 and July 31, 2009. She is an awardee of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. This program is funded through a grant from the US Dept of Education TRIO Program with the goal to prepare low-income, first-generation and underrepresented minority college students for entry into and success in doctoral programs. Its long-range mission is to increase the diversity of our nation's college and university faculties.

The Program is named in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, the laser physicist and Challenge space shuttle astronaut who died in the space shuttle accident in 1986. Dr. McNair graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1971 and received his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. He was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978 and was Mission Specialist on the successful 1984 Challenge flight before his death in 1986.

The McNair Program at UR was established in 1992. Since then, over 400 students have received this award. Thirty-five percent of McNair Program participants have entered graduate study, compared to only 10% of national average. Rochester McNair Scholars have won prestigious awards such as Fulbright Scholarships and National Science Foundation Fellowships, and have joined the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, and are completing graduate degrees in fields from English to aerospace, engineering at universities across the country.

Each January, up to ten UR sophomores are selected to participate in the academic year program, and remain in the program until they graduate. The program provides a seminar series to help students identify and gain admission to graduate programs, prepare for the GRE, complete personal statements, and gain opportunities to network with faculty and graduate students. During at least one semester, they complete a mentored research project, which they present at a university-sponsored conference.

Please welcome Shenghua Li, PhD in Genetics, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology/Mathematics from Virginia Tech. He will be working with Hulin Wu as a postdoc in Bioinformatics.
Post-Doctoral Association

About Us
The URMC Post Doctoral Association was established in 2006 to provide career development and networking opportunities, as well as professional recognition specifically for post-doctoral fellows. Through these efforts we hope to contribute to the professional advancement of post-doctoral fellows and highlight our contributions to scientific research at the University of Rochester.

For more information visit our website: http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/smd/p-da/p-daindex.html.

Programs
Career Development
- Academic Career
- Grant Writing
- Interview Preparation
- Industrial Careers
- Teaching Career
- Course Planning
- Alternative Teaching Strategies
- Alternative Careers

Networking Opportunities
- Annual social gatherings
- Meetings with URMC faculty and guest speakers

Professional Recognition
- Poster awards
- Research highlights on the Web

Information
- Postdoctoral positions
- Grant opportunities for U.S. and International students
- Links to National Post-Doctoral Association

To Get Involved
To help with the Post-Doctoral Association please contact:
Barbara Burton  (Office of Graduate Education at the URMC)
Email: Barbara_Burton@urmc.rochester.edu
Phone: 275-2933
FROM: Human Resources Representative
Benefits Office

SUBJECT: Through December 2009 Schedule of Health Insurance Orientation/Enrollment Sessions for Postdoctoral Research Associates and Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows with Position Codes 93 or 94

To assist the Postdoctoral Research Associates and Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows in learning more about their University benefit plans and options, we are encouraging them to attend an orientation/enrollment session. The following orientation/enrollment sessions have been scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, 7/14/09** Natapow Conference Room (1-9545) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 8/11/09** Natapow Conference Room (1-9545) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 9/15/09** Louise Slaughter Conference Room (1-9555) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 10/13/09** Louise Slaughter Conference Room (1-9555) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 11/17/09** Natapow Conference Room (1-9545) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 12/15/09** Natapow Conference Room (1-9545) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

We need your assistance in ensuring that the current Postdoctoral Research Associates and Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows, as well as those appointed in the future in your department attend one of the sessions. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Benefits Office at x54636 or x33600.

Please welcome Amit Chowdhry, our Department’s second ever MD/PhD student, who will be working with Dr. Peterson this June and July, before starting his first year of Medical School at URMC on 8/10/09. Amit expects to be back with us again next summer 2010; and he plans to devote himself full-time to his Statistics PhD from 2011-2015, following his second year of Medical School.

Please welcome postdoc Nikolay Balov, Ph.D. from Florida State. He will work with Peter Salzman on his Gene Regulatory Networks grant.
Just to let you know…
Department personnel now have ssh access to simthree, a new 3.2GHz quad-core Intel Core-i7 Nehalem architecture computer system with 12GB RAM and a 32GB Solid State Drive, running Red Hat Linux. Dr. Peterson would welcome any benchmark comparisons with other systems.

Keith’s Computer Corner
Make sure your Windows machine is patched!
Of all the virus infected Windows computers I encounter here in Biostats I’d say 90% of those computers do not have the latest critical updates installed. This is by far the main reason computers get compromised. There are various reasons for machines to go unpatched. Some people turn off their Automatic Updates when they are running CPU intensive simulations and simply forget to turn it back on. Some people have Automatic Updates set to automatically download but not automatically install. And some do not have their Automatic Updates turned on at all. To make sure your computer stays running healthy make sure your Automatic Updates are on! As always, if you need assistance give me a call!

Recycling Efforts being made in the MRBX
In helping with the effort to Go Green, there is a box in the front office to recycle your batteries. Don’t throw away your expired batteries in the landfill when you can recycle them here.

Also, in the ground floor lobby there is a Green recycling bin for clean glass bottles, #1 and #2 plastic containers, aluminum and tin cans, juice and milk cartons.

McCavity (printer) is now known as Recycle, and is located in the Cube Area copy center. Recycle will use the back of separator pages for 1-sided copying. If you need to print, and it’s just for your use, print to Recycle. (Directions will be posted by McCavity)

Did you know…
in case of an emergency, dial #13 from any University phone, or #413 from a Verizon or AT&T cell phone.

John E. Kolassa, who was a member of our faculty from 1992-1999, has been elected Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. John is now Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Statistics and Biostatistics, Rutgers University