

2017 Biostatistics Department Annual Newsletter



Biostatistics graduating students at the 2017 Boston University Commencement Ceremony. From left, Anamika Chaudhuri, Solaiappan Manimaran, Elizabeth Kane (front), Jeremiah Perez (back), Danielle Enserro (front), and Heather Shappell (back)

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I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and a good start to the fall semester. I want to wish a warm welcome to our new and returning students. This fall, we are proud to welcome our very first class for the MS in Applied Biostatistics, and we have high hopes for an exciting and successful new program.



Again this year, there are many new faces around the department, and you can learn more about them in this Newsletter. In September Chunyu Liu returned to the department after a few years in industry and working at the Framingham Heart Study. Chunyu, a 2003 graduate from our PhD program, joins us as a Research Associate Professor of Biostatistics, and brings years of expertise in statistical genetics, with an interest in mitochondrial effects on complex diseases. Also joining us in September is Chanmin Kim. Chanmin comes from the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard SPH, where he held a Research Associate position. His work focuses on Bayesian methods for inference on the causal effects of mediation, with applications to evaluate the public health impact of air quality regulatory policies. In October, Sara Lodi joined the department as Assistant Professor. Prior to joining the department Sara held a Research Associate position in the Department of Epidemiology at Harvard SPH. Her work focuses on analysis of longitudinal data, causal modelling, with current applications to HIV and tuberculosis, aging, and opioids addition.

This past summer, I had the pleasure of witnessing three affiliates from our programs become ASA Fellows at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore in August 2017. Professor Paola Sebastiani was recognized by this highest honor “for outstanding contributions to the development and application of Bayesian statistical methods and software for genomics data in complex traits, particularly sickle cell disease and healthy aging; and for exceptional leadership in training the next generation of statisticians.” Sandeep Menon, a graduate from our Biostatistics PhD program who currently holds an Adjunct Assistant Professor position in the department, was presented with the designation of ASA Fellow for “impactful and influential statistical, scientific, and strategic leadership in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in promoting efficient clinical trial designs; for contributions to statistical education through book authorships and innovative training; for fostering effective liaisons among industry, regulators, and academia; and for service to the profession.” To complete the hat trick, Michael Posner, also an alumnus from our PhD Program, and now an Associate Professor at Villanova University, was recognized “for outstanding leadership and mentorship in statistics education, for contributions to the field of statistics education research, and for service to the profession.” In addition, Professor L. Adrienne Cupples was honored with the prestigious “International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES) Leadership Award” at the annual IGES meeting held in Cambridge, UK, in September 2017. This award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership through research, teaching, and service to the Society. Congratulations to all!

We continue with our expanded seminar series this year, with external speakers and allocated time for students to meet with presenters. All new and returning students should take advantage of the opportunity to meet and speak with guest presenters. New students can get ideas for future dissertation topics. It is also a great opportunity to learn about other Biostatistics programs, future jobs in academia or industry, and current research trends. There are many seminar series, including the monthly Lunchtime Biostatistics series, the Statistical Genetics Seminar Series, and the Clinical Trial Working Groups. Please go to the Biostatistics [website](#) for more information.

We have an exciting year ahead. Best wishes for a successful and fun year!

Biostatistics in the Community



“Having worked at BUMC for over 20 years it is important to me to be involved with the community surrounding the campus. Implementing a program that brings together my professional skills as a statistician and my love of birding to engage the children at the Blackstone Community Center in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) activities is a great start to getting children from this community into the science pipeline.” ~Dr.DeStefano

The second annual Celebrate Urban Birds (CUB) event, a joint program between the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) and the Blackstone Community Center (BCC), was held on July 21st 2017. Over forty children ages 5 to 12 who attend the summer camp program at BCC rotated through up to four bird themed stations focused on citizen science, data, and art. The BUSPH/BCC Celebrate Urban Birds event initiated in 2016 when Ms. Amparo (Chary) Ortiz, was awarded a [mini-grant](#) from the [Celebrate Urban Birds Project](#), which is part of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). Ms. Ortiz subsequently was awarded a scholarship to attend a [Community Leaders’ Workshop in October of 2016](#) held at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY. Ms. Ortiz, Financial Administrator for the biostatistics department and member of the Board of Directors for the Blackstone Community Center, worked with Anita DeStefano, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics BUSPH, to develop the stations for the 2017 event. The success of the July program was due in large part to the energy, enthusiasm and willingness of multiple volunteers from BUSPH and the materials provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The first station run by Prof DeStefano with support from Cassandra Osei, recent BUSPH MPH graduate, and Bonita Andrade, Administrative Assistant for BUSPH Central Administration, led the students in being citizen scientists. Using two spotting scopes and 5 pairs of binoculars (generously donated for use at this event by Dr. Stephen Hale of [Open World Explorers](#)) the children learned about the CUB focal species and collected data during a 10 minute observation period.

The second station, run by Ben Sweigart, Thomas Zhou (both Biostatistics doctoral students), Amanda Norton and Sumedha Javalikar (both MPH students) was held in the BCC computer lab. Children were able to upload the data collected during the observation period to the Celebrate Urban Birds data portal. Then they looked at a summary of the data from 2016 and 2017 and drew histograms to visualize how often different species were observed.

The art station, run for the second year in a row by Ms. Ortiz’ daughter Anjelique Casiano, enabled the children to create bird themed cards using stamps, photos, markers and other media. This creative activity reinforced the species they had observed and what they learned about birds at other stations.

The Cornell Lab’s [Bird Communication curriculum](#) was adapted by Kara Jeter, incoming BUSPH MPH student, at the fourth station. The children thought about why birds call and sing to each other and then listened to four different calls made by the same bird (a Black-capped Chickadee), predicted what each of the calls was for, and then learned the true meaning of each call.

Ms. Ortiz and Dr. DeStefano look forward to continuing this annual event, holding additional activities around birds and science, and strengthening the ties between BUSPH and BCC.

ANNUAL BIOSTATISTICS FALL EVENT



The Annual Biostatistics Fall Event was held at King's Dining & Entertainment on Sunday, October 1st. Sixty faculty, staff, students and their families had fun bowling, playing pool and skeeball, and enjoying appetizers and a hearty buffet. It was a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other outside the office environment. We hope you can join us for next year's fall event.



2017 L. ADRIENNE CUPPLES AWARD WINNER



The 2017 L. Adrienne Cupples Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service in Biostatistics was awarded to **Janet Sinsheimer**, Professor in Biostatistics at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Professor Sinsheimer gave a lecture on estimating maternal genetic effects, such as maternal offspring gene interactions.

Dr. Sinsheimer's work has enriched the field of biostatistics with her development of pioneering methods for genetic analysis. In addition to publishing an impressive 151

research articles, she has introduced a new framework to test genetic susceptibility to disease by examining maternal-fetal genotype, educated a generation of quantitative scientists, and promoted diversity in the field, especially supporting women.

The annual Cupples Award recognizes a biostatistician whose academic achievements reflect the contributions to biostatistics exemplified by L. Adrienne Cupples, the award's first recipient. Professor Cupples came to SPH in 1981 and served as the founding chair of the Department of Biostatistics and co-executive director of the Graduate Program in Biostatistics. During her time at SPH, she has advanced the field of biostatistics through extensive publications in major journals and book chapters on collaborative and methodological research, development and effective teaching of a wide range of biostatistics courses, and mentorship of numerous graduate students and faculty.

2017 KAYNE PRIZE WINNER

The Herbert Kayne Prize for 2017 was awarded to **Rachel Parker**. The Kayne Award is presented each year to a graduating Master of Public Health concentrator who has achieved high academic standing and has shown a strong interest in biostatistics and public health in general. This award is named for Dr. Herb Kayne, a former long-time faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, who taught biostatistics to most, if not all, of the MPH students in the School of Public Health from its founding until his retirement in 1999.

While here at the School of Public Health, Rachel complemented her highly successful course work in Biostatistics with field work in maternal and child health at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission, and in clinical trials research with a local consulting firm. In addition, Rachel was an active and valuable member of our community within Biostatistics, serving for a year as Treasurer of the Biostatistics Student Association and participating in numerous department events.

The following statement was made by a faculty member in nominating Rachel for the Kayne Prize:

"Rachel is truly one of the most talented students with whom I have worked. In addition, she is always interested in supporting others and would frequently help other students understand concepts, both as a peer and as a teaching assistant. It has been my great pleasure to watch Rachel grow as a public health professional."

2017 BIostatistics PROGRAM GRADUATES

PhD

Ananthkrishnan, Revathi

On the Designs of Early Phase Oncology Designs

Chaudhuri, Anamika

Profiling medical sites based on adverse events data for multi-center clinical trials

Enserro, Danielle

Measures of Discrimination, Reclassification, and Calibration for Risk Prediction Models: An Exploration in Their Interrelationships and Practical Utility and Improvement in Their Estimation

Kane, Elizabeth

Evaluating Multiple Imputation Methods for Longitudinal Healthy Aging Index - A Score Variable With Data

Manimaran, Solaiappan

Statistical methods for analyzing sequencing data with applications in modern biomedical analysis and personalized medicine

Perez, Jeremiah

Assessing non-inferiority via risk difference in one-to-many propensity-score matched studies

Shappell, Heather

Methods for Longitudinal Complex Network Analysis in Neuroscience

MA

Mahoney, Taylor

McCarthy, Caitlyn

Van Ness, Sarah E.

Weir, Isabelle

Zelevinsky, Katya

Fernandez, Gabriela
Susana

Ferraro, Emily Anne

Fleishman, Aaron Jacob

Flynn, Courtney Elise

Folly, Ekoue

Foster, Emily Ann

Gallagher, Kerrin
Michaela

Gregory, Meko Lin

He, Yufei

Huang, Xinran

Hussain, Yasmin Malek G. M.

Johnston, Salem

Kang, Meela Janet

Kao, Pei-Chi

Liang, Jessica Jiayi

Lin, Chia-Ying Wendy

Lindsey, Dianna

Luo, Man

Maddali, Lakshmi U.

Morris, Emily Francis

Mu, Yi

Ndiwane, Ndindam

Nist, Jamie Lynne

Parker, Rachel Shenay

Qian, Yiran

Ramirez del Val, Fernando

Saag, Lauren Ann

Stewart, Emily

Straitz, Samantha
Renee

Tong, Yuxin

Umoh, Faith Udoudo

Wang, Lan

Zuo, Yi

Zhong, Yashan

Zhou, Lujia

CONGRATS!

Our recent graduates are going on to employment with the following organizations:

- ◆ Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- ◆ Blue Cross Blue Shield
- ◆ Boston Biomedical Associates
- ◆ Boston Children's Hospital
- ◆ Boston University Data Coordinating Center
- ◆ Boston Medical Center
- ◆ Boston University School of Medicine
- ◆ Boston University Pulmonary Center
- ◆ Clinical Trials Data Service
- ◆ Johns Hopkins University
- ◆ Massachusetts General Hospital
- ◆ Medtronic
- ◆ Novartis
- ◆ Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- ◆ Tufts University
- ◆ USARIEM
- ◆ Veterans Administration

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Chanmin Kim, Assistant Professor

My research focuses on Bayesian methods for causal inference. A central theme of my research program that began during my doctoral research pertains to Bayesian nonparametric models for making causal inferences in the presence of intermediating variables. Application areas of this work have included randomized behavioral intervention trials, studies of weight loss programs, and recently, air pollution regulatory policies and their impact on public health conditions.

I used to be a moviegoer before I became a dad. These days, I'm a full time babysitter in my spare (non-researching) time.



Sara Lodi, Assistant Professor

My research focuses on clinical epidemiology and comparative effectiveness research using routinely collected health data, particularly in the area of infectious disease. Methodologically, my focus is on causal inference methods and study design and statistical analysis of complex longitudinal data. I am also interested in the study design and per-protocol analysis of randomized trials. I obtained my PhD in Medical Statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2009, UK. I have worked for several years as a Research Associate at Harvard School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology. In my spare time, I enjoy playing with my daughters and (whenever I can) travelling. I look forward to meeting you all!

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Chunyu Liu, Research Associate Professor

Before joining the BUSPH Biostatistics Department in Fall 2017, I was a staff scientist/statistician in the Population Sciences Branch of NHLBI for more than seven years. Prior to that, I was a scientist working in Biogen (Cambridge, MA), a leading pharmaceutical company in treating multiple sclerosis for four years after graduating from the BU Biostatistics Department.

My research expertise focuses on genetics and genomics, particularly in mitochondrial DNA mutations in the development of age-related common conditions including hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. I am also interested in integrative analysis of DNA methylation, expression, and protein data. As an adjunct assistant professor and later an adjunct associate professor of the department, I taught BS723 between 2010–2013 and have been teaching BS805 in the fall and several summers since then. I really enjoy teaching classes and working with young people. I enjoy cooking and trying new recipes during my spare time, especially in winter when it is cold outside. I love my kids, walking with them every day, skiing with them in the winter and going to the beach in the summer.

FACULTY NEWS



Professor **Janice Weinberg** was lead biostatistician on, and helped design a clinical trial that was recently published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. (Yoga, Physical Therapy, or Education for Chronic Low Back Pain A Randomized Noninferiority Trial). She was interviewed by the health editor at the *New York Times* about the study.

In June, she attended a short course on Missing Data in Philadelphia, PA.



Assistant Professor **Ludovic Trinquart** just gave an invited talk, “Non-Inferiority Trials with Time-to-Event Outcomes: Design Based on the Restricted Mean Survival Times” at the 38th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB), based on joint work with current doctoral student, **Isabelle Weir** during her clinical trial rotation.

In May, he organized and chaired a session at the first edition of the Conference on Lifetime Data Science. The session was about Advances in the Analysis of Clinical Trials with Lifetime Data using Restricted Mean Survival Times.



Professor **Debbie Cheng** was recently involved in a large successful grant renewal – The Uganda Russia Boston Alcohol Network for Alcohol Research Collaboration on HIV/AIDS (URBAN ARCH) Consortium was successfully renewed by NIAAA for its second 5-year cycle of funding. The Consortium investigates HIV-associated comorbidities, co-infections, and complications in the context of alcohol use. She is the PI of the Biostatistics and Data Management Core and **Tim Heeren** is a senior statistician in the Core. This upcoming year new faculty member, **Sara Lodi** will also be joining the core.



Professor **Josée Dupuis** was past president of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES), and in charge of organizing its 2017 annual conference in Cambridge, UK that many students and faculty attended.

FACULTY NEWS



Biostatistics post-doctoral student, **Chloe Sarnowski** is a finalist for the Neel's award at the annual International Genetic Epidemiology Society conference.



Professor **Howard Cabral** won the SPH Norman A. Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching, recognizing him for substantially enriching the educational experience of students in the School of Public Health.



Associate Professor **Laura White** was awarded a five year NIH funded R01 grant titled: "Methods to estimate the effect of interventions on the incidence and transmission of Tuberculosis". This grant will focus on developing statistical tools to use existing TB data to better monitor TB globally.



Assistant Professor **Helen Jenkins** has been named Junior Faculty Fellow of the Hariri Institute for Computing, recognizing her for being an outstanding junior faculty member pursuing data-driven research .



Professor **Gheorghe Doros** was promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor.

BIOSTATS RECOGNITION



Department Chair, Professor Josée Dupuis with 2017 ASA Fellows: Paola Sebastiani, Sandeep Menon, and Michael Posner

2017 ASA FELLOWS

Congratulations to **Paola Sebastiani**, Professor of Biostatistics, and our alumni, **Michael Posner**, PhD, and **Sandeep Menon**, PhD who have been elected ASA Fellows.

2017 SPH TEACHING

AWARD WINNERS:

- ◆ Professor **Howard Cabral** for BS805
- ◆ Professor **Joe Massaro** for BS861
- ◆ Associate Professor **Ching-Ti Liu** for BS723
- ◆ Professor **Howard Cabral** was the recipient of the 2017 Norman A. Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching

BIOSTATS RECOGNITION

Adrienne Cupples was awarded the 2017 International Genetic Epidemiology Society Award at the IGES Conference in Cambridge, UK this September. She is being recognized for “outstanding leadership through research, teaching, and service to the Society.”



Yorghos Tripodis has been busy at work too. His work on CTE has gone viral. He was senior co-author on a paper, [“Age of first exposure to American football and long-term neuropsychiatric and cognitive outcomes”](#), published recently in *Translational Psychiatry*, and was even featured in a talk on NECN on [“Youth Sports, Brain Injuries, and CTE”](#). His work examined the association between age at first exposure to American football and behavior, mood, and cognition in a large cohort of former amateur and professional football players. This study found increased odds of self-reported impairment in neuropsychiatric and executive function in players exposed before the age of twelve.

[Read about our PhD program here](#)



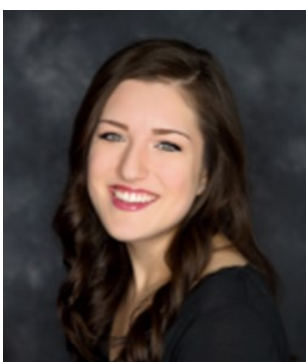
Zachary Baucom I am from Salt Lake City, Utah. I received a BA in mathematics with an emphasis in statistics from the University of Utah in the Fall of 2016. I worked for the Utah Department of Health as an analytic epidemiologist up until moving to Boston. I mostly dealt with public health data, but I am very interested in genetics and genomics. In my free time I like to be in the great outdoors with my wife, daughter, and dog. I also enjoy playing most anything, but I have recently had an obsession with soccer.



Ariel Chernofsky I grew up in Los Angeles, but spent the past five years in New York City where I learned about the harsh realities of winter. I earned a BA in Mathematics from Yeshiva University and an MS in Biostatistics from Columbia University. While earning my master's degree, I worked on a research project at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. My research focused on finding demographic, exposure, and genetic factors associated with the formation of moles in children. In addition to constructing association models, we developed and applied disparity measures to evaluate these models. When I am not in school, I love hiking and going to the beach, which apparently in the Northeast are only summer activities.



Daniel DiCorpo Hello everyone! I am a Massachusetts native and have actually spent my entire life in New England going to the University of Massachusetts Amherst and working at Massachusetts General Hospital after graduation. My research experiences have included basic genetics work (bacterial & marine) as well as clinical investigation with "big data" in breast cancer. I am thrilled to be joining the department where so much statistical genetics work is happening. Outside of "lab" I enjoy biking, hiking and beaches especially with my family and yellow Labrador Retriever who live nearby.



Jessica LeClair Hi everyone! I recently graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston with a B.S. in both Biostatistics and Biology. I am excited to continue my studies at BU as a recipient of the Interdisciplinary Training Grant in Biostatistics. In my free time, I like to explore the city, bake recipes from Pinterest, and go to Zumba or spin classes.

WELCOME NEW PHD STUDENTS



Xiaoyan Liu I obtained my BS in applied mathematics from University of Electronic Science and Technology of China in 2015, and a MS in biostatistics from Washington University in St. Louis in 2016. Prior to joining BUSPH, I was a statistical data analyst in the Institute for Informatics at Washington University. In my spare time, I enjoy playing basketball, skiing, and watching Netflix.



Adrienne O'Donnell I grew up outside of Boston and studied mathematics and psychology at Bowdoin College, in Maine. I have worked for two years at a contract research organization (CRO), assisting biostatisticians with clinical trials analyses and various FDA submissions. Outside of biostats, I enjoy spending time outdoors.



Luke Rusowicz-Orazem I was born in New York City, raised in Connecticut, and have lived in Boston for nearly a decade. I earned my BS in Economics at Northeastern University. I worked in Interventional Cardiology research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Longwood for 3 years. My personal interests include Tennis, Weightlifting, Music, and taking very long walks with my better half.



Ben Sweigart Originally from Rhode Island, I received a B.A. in Mathematics from Brown University before moving to Boston to begin a career in the financial services industry. Most recently I was an associate portfolio manager at Athena Capital Advisors, a privately owned, independent Registered Investment Advisor, where I worked with both individuals and institutional clients. While there, I had the opportunity to research the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, which sparked my interest in biostatistics and public health.

WELCOME NEW PHD STUDENTS

WELCOME NEW PHD STUDENTS



Zhenwei Zhou I am from China and I got my medical degree with a focus on Preventive Medicine from Shandong University. During my Master's program in Biostatistics at Columbia University, I was involved in an observational study based on a large mother and child cohort in Norway, and a study to develop a quantile regression based test for eQTL enrichment. Biostatistics is a lot of fun for me since it provides the chance to collaborate with people from different areas and to be inspired by them to do something meaningful. I love traveling, hiking, skiing, badminton, swimming, basketball etc. Let's team up!



Yineng Zhu I was born in China and got my Bachelor's degree from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. After that I came to Boston and earned a Master's degree in Biostatistics from Boston University. In my spare time, I enjoy exploring delicious food in different restaurants, reading and jogging.



Yanbing Wang Hi, everyone! I am originally from China. I received a B.S in Applied Mathematics from Kent State University and a Sc.M in Biostatistics from Brown University. During the study at Brown, my research was focused on sensitivity analysis, causal inference and missing data. I love research and I enjoy the process of untangling the complexity in statistical problems and deriving a clean solution. I am very excited to join BU and continue my study in Biostatistics. Outside of school, I love making coffee, working out in the gym, and hanging out with friends!

WELCOME NEW PHD STUDENTS



Xianbang Sun I come from China. I earned my M.S. degree from University of Washington. I like to play basketball and watch NBA games. Also I'm learning guitar.

WELCOME NEW MA STUDENTS



Qiuxi Huang I enjoy traveling and meeting new people and cultures. Before moving to Boston, I lived in Pennsylvania for six years, where I earned a BS in Pre-medicine from Penn State and a MS in Bioengineering from University of Pennsylvania. I am an only child in my family and I was born and raised in Beijing, China. I also love to read, cook, and practice yoga outside of school.

[Read about our MA program here](#)

[Read about our MS program here](#)



Allen Koshy

Hi everyone! I finished my undergraduate study at Stony Brook University in New York. I majored in Applied Mathematics and Statistics and have a minor in Chemistry but I am very interested in combining those interests towards public

health. I have been born and raised in Long Island, New York but I am super excited about living in Boston. I will be obtaining my MS in Applied Biostatistics at Boston University. I love to go sightseeing and hope to explore all the fantastic places that Boston has to offer! I hope to have many memorable experiences while I am in Boston and I cannot wait!



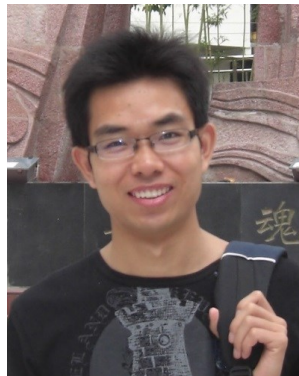
Tsean Lu

I am from Taiwan and finished my B.A. in Agronomy from National Taiwan University. When I am free, I enjoy playing sports, traveling around and having some good meals.



Qingchao Cui

I am originally from China. I graduated from Dalian Medical University and earned my Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Clinical Medicine. Prior to embarking on this new journey, I have worked in the Department of Oncology & Hematology as a Physician for 5 years. Pursuing MS in Biostatistics is a huge decision for me to make, which has me believe it's beneficial and essential to my career in future. I love varieties of outdoor activities, but tennis draws me most.



Yiyuan Zeng

I was born in Hunan province, China. I earned a bachelor's degree in medicine from University of South China and graduated from Fudan University with a Master's degree in medicine. Since graduation, I

have worked in the drug development industry, including both pharmaceuticals and CROs (Contract Research Organization) as CRA (Clinical Research Associate), and Sr. CRA for nearly 8 years. My research interests include the design of clinical trials as well as analysis of data from clinical trials. In my spare time, I like playing cards, swimming, running, playing Ping-Pong ball and dance.

WELCOME MS STUDENTS

[Read about our MS program here](#)



Feng Jin

I am originally from China, and I received my B.S. in Biotechnology from Huazhong University of Science and Technology. Now I am so excited to start my new journey in Boston city studying in Applied

Biostatistics. In my spare time, I like reading, watching movies and travelling around. I hope to have an unforgettable experience in Boston University.



Ellen Underwood

Originally from Pennsylvania, I earned my undergraduate degree in Actuarial Science from Penn State University before moving to the Boston area to work in consulting for the past few years. I am excited for a career

transition to Biostatistics and public health. In my free time, I enjoy reading, yoga, watching movies, cooking (especially with wine), and exploring new places.



Azman Rashid

I am from the greater Boston area and am a graduate of Boston University with a BS. in Biomedical Engineering. I currently work for a genetics lab here

at the School of Medicine. I have previously worked in clinical research labs and also have image processing experience on Lung PET scans in a computational lab. My interests are applying computational tools on biomedical data to discover clinically relevant information.



Bhupinder Singh

I was originally born in India, but moved to the states at the age of 8. I received my B.S in Molecular Biology-Biochemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. Now, I

plan to utilize my Biostatistics degree in the research world of science. Aside from science, I'm an outgoing individual who loves exploring/traveling new areas. Additionally, I like to cook and enjoy the company of friends in my free time. I'm excited to move from Pennsylvania to Boston and start this new chapter in my life!

WELCOME MS STUDENTS

[Read about our MS program here](#)



Michelle C. Hsu

I was borne in Sugar Land, Texas, but spent the majority of my childhood in Taiwan and Canada. I received my BS in Nutritional Sciences (specialized: Global Nutrition) from McGill University. In addition to my role as a MS graduate student, I work as a Research Technician at the Translational and Clinical Research Center, where I work closely with dietitians and other research personnel. I decided to pursue my degree in biostatistics because I want to have stronger statistical tools, and ultimately go work with clinical trials data and/or population health data in long term. Please feel free to contact me at mchsu@bu.edu if you think you have relevant projects I might be interested in help.



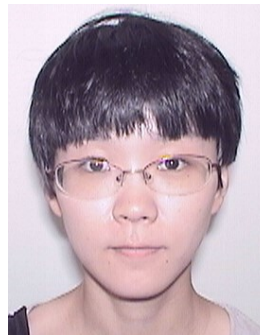
Lindsey Jung

I am originally from Maryland and went to school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for my BSPH in Biostatistics and BA in Mathematics. I really enjoyed the mathematical take in the field of public health along with the heavily interdisciplinary aspect of the field so I decided to pursue further education for Applied Biostatistics at BU. Aside from academics, I enjoy going out and trying new restaurants (I LOVE noodle soup dishes), cute cafes, or any kind of fun activity. I also really like going to the gym and lifting weights. I love how Boston is much more bustling than Chapel Hill and am super excited to explore the city while studying at BUSPH!



Ningjun Shen

I am originally from China and obtained my Bachelor degree in Life Science and Biotechnology in my home country. I have been studying at the University of Georgia for one year and transferred to BU to continue pursuing my Master degree in Applied Biostatistics. I love dogs and traveling around the world. I really enjoy what I am learning right now and especially in Statistical Programming and Machine Learning. I have a cute westie puppy who can be the greatest companion when I travel around.



Ye Chen



Tian Sang

WELCOME MS STUDENTS

[Read about our MS program here](#)



Namita Matharu

I completed my bachelors at the University of Pittsburgh in Mathematics. I have always been interested in the field of medicine and have done research in genetics

and topics in structural biology. I'm excited to combine these interests during my graduate education at BU in Biostatistics. I currently work at State Street Global Advisors on the Investment Management Data Operations team. On a less serious note, my favorite cuisine is Thai and my favorite movie series is a tie between Harry Potter and Rush Hour! :)



Sadchla Mascary

I grew up in NYC and earned my BS degree in Biology at Medgar Evers College. Two years ago, I moved to Boston to follow my interest in computer modeling &

data analytics and also explore my love for photography. I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in the Applied Biostatistics program. But outside of school and photography, I love to eat and spending time with friends and love ones.



Zeyuan Song



Teresa Zhou



Jianing Zhu

WELCOME MS STUDENTS



Biostats faculty Jacqueline Milton and Howard Cabral at JSM 2017, with alums Heather Shappell and Rachel Parker, and doctoral students Kendra Plourde and Meghan Short

STUDENT AWARDS

- ◆ Jeremiah Perez won the Fall 2016 student paper competition
- ◆ Aya Mitani was awarded a F31 Fellowship grant from NIH
- ◆ Peitao Wu won the best poster award at the 2017 Cohorts for the Heart and Aging Research in Genetic Epidemiology (CHARGE) meeting
- ◆ Sarah Conner gave a talk at the Conference on Lifetime Data Science

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

ALUMNI UPDATES

Soe Soe Thwin (PhD '07) relocated to Geneva in March to join the World Health Organization's Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) as lead for the Biostats and Data Management unit. She's involved in a number of projects including a multi country RCT comparing oral contraceptives on exclusive breastfeeding, planning an intervention study among the refugee population in humanitarian crisis, an assessment of community based social intervention on family planning, and a global validation study of rapid tests for STI's.

Vidhya Parameswaran (MPH '15) has received the Fresenius Renal Therapies Group Award for Excellence in recognition of her prolific achievements just one year after graduation: Vidhya published 2 manuscripts, presented 9 scientific posters, and gave 2 oral presentations at 4 international medical conferences in 2016. Her most recent publication is [*Real-world effectiveness of sucroferriic oxyhydroxide in patients on chronic hemodialysis: A retrospective analysis of pharmacy data.*](#)

Becca Persson (MPH '16) has started a new job as an epidemiologist at the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program (BCDSP) in Lexington, MA, where she works alongside two other BUSPH alumnae.

SUMMER INSTITUTE IN BIOSTATISTICS

In 2003, the NIH initiated the [Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics \(SIBS\)](#) program to help to overcome a national shortage of biostatisticians. One of the original recipients of the NIH grant, the Biostatistics Department at BUSPH has continued to run the program every year since its inception.

2017 was another successful year for SIBS at BUSPH, with 20 students participating in the six-week intensive summer program. The program continues to grow stronger over time, most recently by partnering with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Learn more about SIBS on our website or here: ["Undergraduate Program Builds Pipeline of Biostatisticians"](#)



Prof. Jacqueline Milton and Anita DeStefano, directors of the BUSPH SIBS program

Qiong Louie-Gao (PhD '13)

I was working on the Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012—["An Act Improving the Quality of Health Care and Reducing Costs Through Increased Transparency, Efficiency and Innovation"](#). The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) was requested by the legislature to conduct a comprehensive review of the impact of Chapter 224 on the health care payment and delivery system in the Commonwealth and on health care consumers, the health care workforce, and general public. As the first and the only Biostatistician of OSA, I am one of the key team members to provide statistical supports to this evaluation plan.

This is the most comprehensive review of the healthcare landscape when it comes to cost, access, and quality that has been done in the Commonwealth based on available data. Our team made a presentation to the legislature on June 27, 2017 and OSA released our [report](#) on June 30 to the public.

Graduate Certificate in Modern Biostatistics in Clinical Trials

The national concern regarding the rising costs of health care and the abundance of medical clinical trials being conducted worldwide underscores the need for biostatisticians trained in the design and analysis of efficient clinical trials. This 16-credit certificate program is designed for students and professionals who want to become familiar with a variety of types of clinical trial designs and data, including traditional, Bayesian, and adaptive designs, as well as FDA regulations, ethics analysis, and reporting for clinical trials. The certificate includes both coursework and research. Current students and alumni are welcome to apply.

Curriculum: 16 credits

Estimated time to completion: 18-24 months (part-time)

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact Prof. Gheorghe Doros at doros@bu.edu.



OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOSTATISTICS

These professional development and continuing education opportunities may be of interest to both current students and alumni

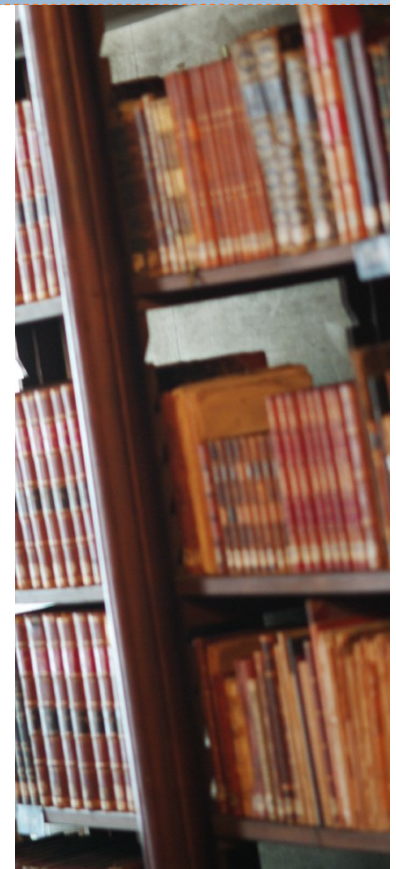
Graduate Certificate in Statistical Genetics

Statistical genetics is a rapidly growing specialty area within the field of Biostatistics, which requires knowledge of genetics, of the technology used to study variability of genes and gene expression in human populations, and of specific statistical approaches used to study these data. The 16-credit Graduate Certificate in Statistical Genetics will provide students with specialized training and acquisition of skills in the analysis of genetic data. Individuals completing the program will be familiar with a variety of types of genetic data (genotyping, expression, sequence data) as well as statistical methods for data summary and analysis, with an emphasis on analysis relating genetic information to human health outcomes. Current students and alumni are welcome to apply.

Curriculum: 16 credits

Estimated time to completion: 18-24 months (part-time)

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact Prof. Anita DeStefano at adestef@bu.edu.



CONTACT INFORMATION

STAY CONNECTED

Faculty, staff, students,
alumni, and friends:
we want to hear your updates!
Please stay in touch!

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SPECIAL EVENTS & CONFERENCES

[Biostatistics Department and SPH Events Calendar](#)

[APHA Annual Meeting & Expo](#)

November 4-8 | Atlanta, GA

[ENAR Spring Meeting](#)

March 25-28, 2018 | Atlanta, GA

[SCT Annual Meeting](#)

May 20-23, 2018 | Portland, Or

[JSM 2018](#)

July 28-August 2, 2018 | Vancouver, Canada

[Annual IGES Conference](#)

October 14-16, 2018 | San Diego, CA