

Policy on computational co-advisors for Bioinformatics Ph.D. students

The primary goal of the Boston University Bioinformatics Program is to train Ph.D. students to develop innovative computational and/or mathematical approaches to biological problems. This goal is not satisfied if the Ph.D. student primarily applies existing computational pipelines to experimental datasets. We expect that a significant feature of each Bioinformatics Ph.D. dissertation will be the development of a novel computational, mathematical, or statistical method that can be used to elucidate some aspect of a biological system.

Because nearly half of the Bioinformatics faculty focus primarily on wet-lab experiments in their research, the Program Advisory Committee was concerned that students working in these labs might not be receiving sufficient training in computational and mathematical innovation. Therefore, we have established the following policy:

- A Bioinformatics Ph.D. student who chooses to join an experimental research group must have a computational co-advisor.
- It is the duty of the experimental advisor to identify a computational co-advisor who is willing to be involved in the training of the student.
- After a student submits his/her advisor selection form at the end of the first year, the Bioinformatics Program will send a reminder to the experimental advisor that a computational co-advisor will be necessary.
- The computational advisor and his/her role in the student's project must be in place by the time the student submits a list of possible qualifying exam committee members (by December 1 of year 2). At this time the student will provide an overview of the computational innovation that will be a part of their project.
- The computational co-advisor must agree to meet regularly with the student. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including regular participation by the Bioinformatics student in the computational co-advisor's lab group meetings.
- The computational co-advisor will be a member of the student's second-year oral exam, thesis advisory, and dissertation committees.
- Each Bioinformatics student's dissertation will include a section or chapter that describes the computational innovation that has emerged from the research project.

For the purposes of this Policy, the Program has assigned each Bioinformatics faculty mentor as either primarily Computational or Experimental. (If you disagree with your classification, please contact Tom Tullius).

We also acknowledge that a Bioinformatics student who has chosen a computational faculty member as primary advisor may benefit greatly from having an experimental co-advisor, and so we encourage such arrangements.

Computational faculty	Experimental faculty
Jennifer Beane-Ebel	Karen Allen
Calin Belta	Samagya Banskota
Gary Benson	Jennifer Bhatnagar
Josh Campbell	Cynthia Bradham
Luis Carvalho	John Connor
Brian Cleary	Alberto Cruz-Martin
Mark Crovella	Sarah Davies
Qiang Cui	Sean Elliott
Charles DeLisi	Lindsay Farrer
Doug Densmore	John Finnerty
Ruben Dries	Juan Fuxman-Bass
Mary Dunlop	Mo Khalil
Ana Fiszbein	Darrell Kotton
James Galagan	Nelson Lau
Lei Hou	Pinghua Liu
Jonathan Huggins	Kim McCall
Samuel Isaacson	Valentina Perissi
Gyungah Jun	Avrum Spira
Simon Kasif	Katie Steiling
Vijaya Kolachalama	Julia TCW
Mark Kon	Dean Tolan
Kirill Korolev	Tom Tullius
Adam Labadorf	David Waxman
Marc Lenburg	Zeba Wunderlich
Ignaty Leshchiner	Joe Zaia
Pankaj Mehta	
Stefano Monti	
Pawel Przytycki	
Daniel Segre	
Trevor Siggers	
Adriana Tomic	
Sandor Vajda	
Chao Zhang	
Xiaoling Zhang	