The Biostatistics Career Development Workshop

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Department of Biostatistics
Boston University School of Public Health
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## Workshop agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>Overview of goals of this workshop, career paths for biostatisticians, resources for students</td>
<td>1:00-1:30 PM</td>
<td>Chunyu Liu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Negotiation skills</td>
<td>Negotiation of salary/resources</td>
<td>1:30-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Josée Dupuis</td>
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<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Ethical and professional issues in biostatistics practice</td>
<td>2:00-2:30 PM</td>
<td>Howard Cabral</td>
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<td>Development of 3 minutes of pitch</td>
<td>How to summarize your dissertation/thesis work in 3 minutes</td>
<td>2:30-3:15 PM</td>
<td>Gina Peloso</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:15-3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career path panel</td>
<td>Mentors describe their career paths</td>
<td>3:30-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Alumni and faculty</td>
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<td>Interviews/Resume review</td>
<td>Individual review of resumes/mock interviews of students</td>
<td>4:00-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Alumni and faculty in mock interviews</td>
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The Biostatistics Career Development Committee

- Chunyu Liu
- Gina Peloso
- Howard Cabral
- Joe Massaro
- Xiaoling Zhang
Goals

- Long-term goal – implement a career development program tailored to biostatistics PhD/MA students

- Short-term goal – a more focused workshop as a first step
  - Build good collaboration with SPH career service
  - Foster networking
Career Panelists

- David Gagnon
- Gheorghe Doros
- Joe Massaro
- Joanne Murabito – Co-PI, Framingham Heart Study
- Gyungah Jun – Faculty at BU and former Director and Head of Neurogenetics and Integrated Genomics, Andover Innovative Medicines (AiM) Institute, Eisai Inc.
- Caleb Bliss – Associate Director of Biostatistics at Takeda
- Sandeep Menon – Vice President and Head of Early Clinical Development (ECD) at Pfizer
Career Development Resources

- [http://www.bu.edu/sph/careers/](http://www.bu.edu/sph/careers/)
- [https://www.bu.edu/careers/](https://www.bu.edu/careers/)
- The Professional Development Plans (IDPs) developed by BU Graduate Medical Sciences
Planning Post-student Life

- What is your career goal?

Short-term goals
Choose the Right Career Path

- Academia
- Biotech
- Pharma
- Consulting
- Government

Biostatistics PhD/MA
How can you choose the right career path… and be more confident about your choice?

*Planning early*
Key – Know Yourself

What are you good at?

What do you enjoy doing?

What is important and most rewarding to you?

Adapted from Cynthia Fuhrmann, Ph.D.
Working in Company

- More exciting, collaborative team work
- Higher pay
- Publication – not a requirement

Challenges
  - Routine jobs
  - **PROJECT WILL BE TERMINATED WHEN YOUR COMPANY CHANGES ITS DIRECTION**
  - Adaptability – key to survival
Working in Academia

- Freedom
- Your interest
- Rewarding
- Challenges
  - Self-motivation
  - Funding
  - Research/Publication
  - Lower pay
Building Network

- **Successful networking** is built upon good impression and work ethics
  - Work hard
  - Present your work to collaborators
  - Volunteer
- Go to conferences/poster sessions
- Meet with invited speakers
Good Presentation Skills

- Know your materials – make a story!

- Practice, practice, and practice!
  - Write up script
  - Practice by yourself/check pronunciation
  - Practice with your group/advisor

You are actually organizing thoughts for manuscript
Know your potential employer

- Check their website
- Try to gain inside knowledge
- Check their locations
When you go to your interview

- Be there early! Waiting is better than rushing!
- Be formal – dress and behave appropriately
- Show strong interest by asking good questions
- Write thank-you letters
Career Services for Students & Alumni

http://www.bu.edu/sph/careers/

- Advising
- Workshops
- Self-Assessment
- Resume & CL Reviews
- Networking Help
- Elevator Pitch
- LinkedIn
- Mock Interviews
- Salary Negotiation
- Online Resources
Two Types of Advising: General

- Licensed Counselor
- Often starts **BEFORE** the students know what they want
- Offers these Bread & Butter Services
- Fellowship and Advanced Degree Applications

Maria McCarthy
Director
Career Advising & Professional Development
Other Type of Advising: Certificate-Based

- Certificate-Based Bread & Butter Services
  - Where are the Jobs
  - How to fill gaps
  - Make themselves more marketable
Summary

- Implement a career development program tailored to biostatistics PhD/MA students
- Your career development
  - The right career path
    - Set short-term and long-term goals
  - Early planning
  - Networking
  - Good presentation skills