

# Workshop in Statistical Genetics and Computational Molecular Biology December 16-18, 2001

Website: <http://depts.washington.edu/statgen/Statgen/workshop.shtml>

## The Workshop

The workshop grew, until in the event we had 84 attendees and 15 speakers. A roster of these 99 total participants is available.

The workshop took place in the UW HUB (room 310): the room was OK but not ideal (too wide). Since the room capacity was 96, it was on occasion very crowded. HUB Services leave much to be desired, particularly on the first morning, when the room had not been unlocked and the roof was leaking.

The workshop administration was undertaken by Julie Smith of UW Engineering Professional Programs (EEP), and the expenditure details in the attached summary budget are provided by EEP. The coffee and soft drinks at a.m. and p.m. breaks, the box lunches for all, and the workshop reception were all catered by Eleanor's Catering, contracted by EEP. Their absolute reliability, high quality and excellent value did much to insure the success of the Workshop.

## Participants

Almost all the participants were students: 55 of the student participants were funded. Of the 55 funded student participants, 29 were from other U.S. Colleges and Universities, 13 were from Canadian Universities, and 13 were UW students. Of the funded students, 21 were undergraduates and 34 were graduates. Of the 34 graduates, 14 were in their first quarter/semester as graduate students. About half of the unfunded participants were students who had applied for funding, but could not be funded: these students were sent by their own Universities and/or advisors.

The majority of participants came from western North America, including Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Oregon and California although a few came from further afield, including U. Calgary, U. Southern Utah, S. Missouri U. (all funded), U. Wisconsin, and Ohio State University (unfunded). Apart from 16 local UW students/postdocs (13 funded students), the largest contingents were from University of British Columbia (15 applied, 10 came, 9 funded), Brigham Young University (14 applied, 11 came, 6 funded) and University of California Berkeley (12 applied, 8 came, 6 funded). (The Committee established a maximum of 6 funded participants

from any one institution, but the enthusiasm of University of British Columbia led to PIMS providing funding for three additional participants.)

## Speakers and talks

There were 15 speakers, across a broad range of Statistical Genetics and Computational Molecular Biology. Thirteen of the speakers were UW faculty. There were two visiting speakers, one from University of British Columbia and one from Simon Fraser University. Each of the visiting speakers brought several students from their institution.

Details of the program, speakers, and talks remain posted at the Workshop website given above.

## Sponsors and budget

The Burroughs Wellcome Interfaces of Science Program in Mathematics and Molecular Biology (PMMB) funded registration waivers for all funded participants (\$5,500). The UW NSF-funded VIGRE program funded accommodation and travel reimbursements for funded students from US Colleges and Universities (\$10,000), and the remaining local costs and speaker expenses were funded by the UW Tools for Transformation grant to Statistical Genetics (approx. \$6,650). The Pacific Institute for Mathematical Science (PIMS) reimbursed accommodation and travel for 13 Canadian students to a total of \$4,000 cdn.

## Survey results

An evaluation survey was completed by 66 participants. The survey is posted on the conference web page, with the counts for the questions inserted. The written comments are also posted on the web. The comments were broadly appreciative and enthusiastic, and the counts on the numerical questions show “*about right*” as the majority response in almost every question. Two points were made quite broadly. First, many students would have appreciated a somewhat more mathematical content/flavor to talks. Second, students would have appreciated more time for discussions among themselves, and informally with workshop faculty. It would be hard to achieve this without lengthening the workshop somewhat, and more than three nights stay would significantly increase costs, and increase the impact on student class/exam/vacation schedules. Since we had box lunches each day, maybe more use could be made of the lunch-break periods.

Many students asked when the next such workshop would be. If someone were willing to organize it (I have done my share!), a repeat in Fall 2003 might be very well received.

## Budget Summary

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<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>Workshop expenses</b>	
Meeting space and audio-visual	1,426.00
Catering	4,163.95
Lodging for two non-UW speakers	542.98
Travel Expenses for 2 non-UW speakers	429.53
Lodging for 27 funded students from US Univs*	4,491.06
Travel expenses for 29 funded students from US Univs*	6,309.58
Workshop materials (confirmation, program materials, name badges, folders)	568.36
Phone, fax, mail	126.96
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>18,058.42</b>
<b>EPP services</b>	
99 participants @ \$15 each	1,485.00
67 hours @ \$75/hour	5,025.00
<b>Total EEP services</b>	<b>6,510.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>24,568.42</b>

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<b>INCOME</b>	
Registration revenue: 29 unfunded participants (less UW Indirect Cost and credit card fee)	2,421.80
PMMB registration funding of 55 participants	5,500.00
VIGRE funding of US students travel and accommodation*	10,000.00
Balance of costs charged to StatGen Tft budget	6,646.62
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>24,568.42</b>

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Additional budget items, not included above:

1.\* PIMS provided \$4,000 (cdn) travel and accommodation reimbursements directly to 13 students from Canadian Universities.

2. VIGRE paid \$200 hourly pay (20 hours) for a UW undergraduate to compile and enter all the responses from the evaluation survey.