SPQS Annual Symposium

Thursday, July 24th
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute - Smith Building, Room 308/309

8:30 - 9:00am  Registration & Breakfast

Session I - Opening Remarks and Introductions
9:00 - 9:20am  Welcome & Introductions
Rebecca Betensky
Professor of Biostatistics & Principal Investigator, Harvard School of Public Health

Meredith Rosenthal
Associate Dean for Diversity & Professor of Health Economics and Policy
Harvard School of Public Health

Session II – Keynote Speaker
9:20 - 10:05am  You Want to Quantify That?! Developing Quantitative Measures for Community Engagement in Research, Multi-Environment Life Course Segregation & White Privilege
Melody S. Goodman
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

Session III – Summer Program in Quantitative Sciences Research Project Presentations
10:10 - 10:30am  Prenatal Exposure to Maternal Stress and Childhood Wheeze in an Urban Boston Cohort
Lilyana Gross, California State University, Monterey Bay '15
Taylor Mahoney, Simmons College '15
Christine Ulysse, Cornell University '14

Faculty Mentor: Brent Coull
Professor of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

Graduate Mentor : Mark Meyer, Harvard School of Public Health

10:35 - 10:55am  Comparing Subtypes of Breast Cancer Using a Message-Passing Network
Kamrine Poels, SPQS Post-Bac Intern, University of Arizona '14

Faculty Mentor: John Quackenbush
Professor of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
Harvard School of Public Health & Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

11:00-11:15am  Break & Refreshments
Session III – Summer Program in Quantitative Sciences Research Project Presentations

11:15 - 11:35am

Protective Effects of Propranolol in Adults Following Severe Burn Injury: A Safety and Efficacy Trial

Avery Yuan, SPQS Post-Bac Intern, Suffolk University ’13

Faculty Mentor: David Schoenfeld
Professor of Biostatistics, Massachusetts General Hospital & HSPH

11:40 - 12:00pm

Quantifying RNA Levels from RTPCR Curves: A New Method for Single Cell Analysis

Esther Fevrier, Amherst College ’13
Havell Markus, Arizona State University ’17
Savion Smith, Arizona State University ’13

Faculty Mentor: Rafael Irizarry
Professor of Biostatistics, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Graduate Mentor: Stephanie Chan, Harvard School of Public Health

12:05 - 12:25pm

A Study of Social Networks in Karnataka India

Lisbeth Acosta, UMass Amherst ’14
Jamaris Burns, Johnson C. Smith University ’15
Emmie Roman Melendez, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez ’15

Faculty Mentor: Jukka-Pekka Onnela
Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

Graduate Mentor: Patrick Staples, Harvard School of Public Health

12:30 - 12:50pm

Evaluation of Gene-Environment Interaction for Ovarian Cancer

Grace Choi, University of Maryland Baltimore County ’16
Jake Conway, UMass Lowell ’16
Nicholas Escanilla, Lake Forest College ’16

Faculty Mentor: Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen,
Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiologic Methods
Harvard School of Public Health

Graduate Mentor: Caleb Miles, Harvard School of Public Health

12:50-1:50pm

Lunch
Session IV – Summer Program in Quantitative Sciences Alumni Panel
1:50 - 2:50pm  
Journeys in Biostatistics after the Summer Program in Quantitative Sciences

Panel Participants
- **Binta Beard**, Principal, Podesta Group
- **Felicia Browne**, HSPH Social and Behavioral Sciences Doctoral Candidate
- **E. Andres Houseman**, Associate Professor in Biostatistics, Oregon State University
- **Cassandra Johnson**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Washington University
- **Portia Parker**, Sr. Associate Analytical Software Tester, SAS
- **Ronnie Sebro**, Radiologist, Massachusetts General Hospital

Session V – Pipelines, Mentoring and Strategies
2:50 - 3:20pm  
Lessons Learned in Building Diversity in STEM PhD Programs

- **Ulrica Wilson**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Morehouse College

3:20-3:40pm  
Break & Refreshments

3:40 - 4:10pm  
Mentoring: Changing Students’ Career Paths

- **William Velez**, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, The University of Arizona

4:10 - 4:40pm  
Diversity Efforts at Harvard

- **Sheila Thomas**, Director of Diversity and Minority Affairs, Harvard Medical School

Discussion and Closing Remarks
4:40 - 5:00pm  
**Rebecca Betensky**
Professor of Biostatistics & Principal Investigator, Harvard School of Public Health