KUDOS

- Azhar Nizam received an ‘Excellence in Teaching’ award from the King Abdullah Fellows Program. Congratulations Azhar!
- Run Zhuang is a finalist for the 2016 Charles C. Shepard Award for best thesis! Run’s thesis is titled “Escalation with Overdose Control using a Toxicity Score for Personalized Maximum Tolerated Dose in Phase I Clinical Trials”. Congratulations Run!
- Ming Wang, an alumnus of our doctoral program, won the Junior Faculty Presentation Award from the Association for Clinical and Translational Statisticians (ACTStat) and will present her work at the 2016 ACTStat Annual Meeting, just prior to JSM 2016. Congratulations Ming!
- Ziyi Li, a doctoral student in our department, has received a student paper award at the 2016 International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) Applied Statistics Symposium. Her paper is titled “Incorporating Biological Information in Sparse Principal Component Analysis with Application to Genomic Data,” a joint work with Sandra Safo and Qi Long.
QUOTES

“As you start your journey, the first thing you should do is throw away that store-bought map and begin to draw your own.” – Michael Dell

“A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that ‘individuality’ is the key to success.” – Robert Orben

“So in my uncertainty, I went to graduate school and there it all happened.” – Ted Nelson

“We don’t stop going to school when we graduate.” – Carol Burnett
UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

- None this week, Lance will be out of town.

2nd SEATTLE SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTH CARE DATA ANALYTICS

- Learning from Electronic Data to Advance Health and Health Care
- October 23-25, 2016; Seattle, WA
- Visit the Symposium website to view meeting details, register, and find hotel accommodation information. Space is limited, so reserve your spot soon.
- Please pass this invitation along to any colleagues who might be interested.
- We hope to see you in Seattle this fall. Contact us at SeattleSymposium@ghc.org if you have any questions.

UPCOMING ASA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS: MAY 2016

- Next ASA Webinar: *Global Sensitivity Analysis of Randomized Trials with Informative Drop-Out*
  - Presenter: Daniel Scharfstein, The Johns Hopkins University
  - Date and Time: May 24, 2016, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eastern time
  - We present a formal methodology for conducting sensitivity analysis of randomized trials in which outcomes are scheduled to be measured at fixed points in time after randomization and some subjects prematurely withdraw from study participation. We motivate our methods by a placebo-controlled randomized trial designed to evaluate a treatment for bipolar disorder. We present a comprehensive data analysis and a simulation study to evaluate the performance of our methods. A software package titled SAMON (R and SAS versions) that implements our methods is available online. Learn more.
- Other upcoming webinars:
  - June 9: *Enhancing the Value of Qualitative Research Using the Total Quality Framework (TQF)*
  - June 16: *Basket Design of Phase III Confirmatory Trials*
  - July 7: *Pushing the Frontier of TFL Automation and Dynamic Visualization with R/Shiny*
  - July 14: *Enabling Reproducibility in Statistical Analyses Using R Markdown*
  - September 15: *An Overview of Statistical Considerations in Clinical Validation of Companion Diagnostic Devices of Precision Medicine*
  - October 6: *Introduction to Stan - From Logistic Regression to PK/PD ODE Models*
The Path to Phase II: Understanding Phased Awards. You’ve probably been hearing more talk lately about phased awards, which may have caused you to wonder what they are and how they work. You’re in luck. Here you’ll find some of the basics surrounding phased innovation awards.

- What Are Phased Awards?
  - Phased awards are a type of grant used to support high-risk research and development of promising and viable candidate products or technology (e.g., drugs, vaccines). Thus, phased grant award mechanisms, such as an R21/R33 grant, are used for early-stage research and discovery, preclinical development of candidate products, and exploratory projects.
  - The benefit of phased awards is that unlike other grant mechanisms—think R01 grants—the ultimate risk of failure is greatly reduced as is the monetary risk to NIH since additional funding is directed to only the most promising projects.

- UPDATE ON PROCESS FOR REQUESTING REVIEWERS: Beginning with applications due on or after May 25, 2016, you have the option of completing the new PHS Assignment Request Form. On this form you can:
  - Identify any NIH institutes or centers as an awarding component, both positively (“assign to”) and negatively (“do not assign to”).
  - Make study section or special emphasis panel requests, both positively and negatively.
  - List potential reviewers in conflict and explain why.
  - List scientific expertise needed to review your application.
  - The form is not a requirement—you could even choose to complete only one of the fields listed above and leave the rest blank.
  - Keep in mind, if you list potential reviewers in conflict, acceptable explanations are conflict of interest, competitor, or long-standing scientific disagreement. Ultimately your scientific review officer (SRO) will decide whether to exclude reviewers.

- Very helpful overview information on U-contracts.
  - http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/newsletter/2016/Pages/0504.aspx#advice01

- The NIH Big Data to Knowledge initiative (BD2K, https://datascience.nih.gov/bd2k) announces the release of two companion RFAs for training in biomedical big data science:
  - RFA-ES-16-002: BD2K Mentored Career Development Award in Biomedical Big Data Science (K01)
  - RFA-ES-16-003: BD2K Mentored Career Development Award in Biomedical Big Data Science for Intramural Investigators (K22)
  - These opportunities target researchers who aim to develop new Big Data technologies, methods, and tools. It is anticipated that, by the end of the award period, the awardee will have acquired breadth across three major scientific areas: (1) computer science or informatics, (2) statistics and mathematics, and (3) biomedical science; in addition, the awardee should have acquired depth in areas of specialty necessary for developing new methods, technologies, or tools.
  - The receipt deadline for applications is August 1, 2016.
STATISTICS CARTOONS

- https://funnytimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/201205161.jpg
- http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-m1DnAowCu2o/TttfLhwsVoI/AAAAAAAAB8o/b1p74Y_fk_o/s1600/phd+brain.gif
- http://images.collegexpress.com/blog/grad-research-TGIF.jpg