

On March 29, 2007, the Texas A&M University Board of Regents approved the creation of the new Center for Statistical Bioinformatics (<http://statbio.stat.tamu.edu>). The Center is a joint activity of Texas A&M University, TAES and TEES. It builds upon our successful National Cancer Institute-funded Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Nutrition Training Program (<http://www.stat.tamu.edu/b3nc>). Distinguished Professor Raymond J. Carroll (<http://www.stat.tamu.edu/~carroll>) is the initial director of the Center.

The Center fosters multi-disciplinary research and education in the area of statistical models and methods for the analysis of high throughput molecular data involved in life science research. The Center will initially involve researchers from the Department of Statistics (College of Science), the Department of Electrical Engineering (College of Engineering) and the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology (College of Veterinary Medicine) and welcomes other members of the Texas A&M University community whose research focuses on statistical bioinformatics.

Texas A&M University is already extremely strong in Statistical Bioinformatics, having faculty members residing in three colleges, and with principal investigators of 14 competitive National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation Grants. We run the only National Cancer Institute training program focusing on Bioinformatics and Nutrition, are principals in a Genomics facility core within the Center for Environmental and Rural Health, and we make up a significant portion of the faculty members at Texas A&M University identified through the University's Bioinformatics web site.

We have identified 12 faculty members at Texas A&M University who work in the area of Statistical Bioinformatics and who are interested in joining the proposed Center. More than half these faculty members are involved in the Bioinformatics and Nutrition Training Program. Recognizing that we have a core group of faculty, the aim of the Center is to help facilitate the further development in order to help us maintain our recognition as leaders in the area.

The Center for Statistical Bioinformatics currently has identified the following members.

- Raymond J. Carroll (Statistics)
- David Dahl (Statistics)
- Aniruddha Datta (Electrical Engineering)
- Edward Dougherty (Electrical Engineering)
- Ruzong Fan (Statistics)
- Jeff Hart (Statistics)
- Ivan Ivanov (Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Erning Li (Statistics)
- Bani Mallick (Statistics)
- Samiran Sinha (Statistics)
- Clifford Spiegelman (Statistics)

- Naisyin Wang (Statistics)

**Table 1:** Grant and contract funding in FY2006 for currently identified members of the Center for Statistical Bioinformatics. NIH = National Institutes of Health. This refers only to grants and contracts for which the members are the Principal Investigators, and does not include impact on such major grants as the Center for Environmental and Rural Health (\$1,000,000+) or when members serves as investigators on others' grants.

Source of Funding	Number of Grants	Total Grant Awards in FY2006
National Science Foundation Research Grants	8	\$680, 228
NIH Research Grants	4	\$1,009,720
NIH Training Grants (Bioinformatics and Nutrition Training Grant)	1	\$529,672
NIH Contracts (Proteomics Initiative)	1	\$666,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$2,885,620</b>