

Association of Chinese Professors in Manitoba

加拿大曼尼托巴省华裔教授协会

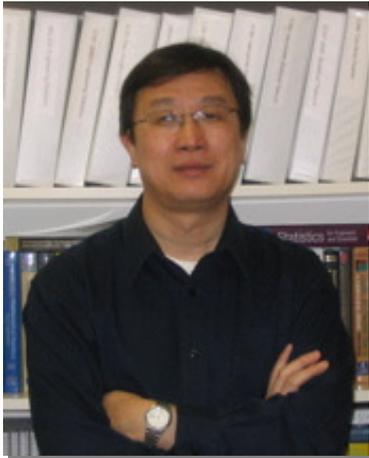


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Website: <http://acpmb.org/>
 Email: administrator@acpmb.org

Greetings from the President



Dear Members and Friends of the ACPMB,

Happy Chinese New Year!

As I am writing this message we (the board members) are busy organizing the 2019 Spring Festival celebration dinner party, which is the first major event since last fall when we celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival. In our last annual general meeting, we elected the new board members and President-Elect.

The new board consists of and their responsibilities are: Qiang Zhang (Past-President), Victor Cui (President-Elect), Depeng Jiang (Treasurer), Kangmin Duan (Secretary), Francis Lin (Newsletter), Qiuyan Yuan (Membership), Gefei Qing (Communication, Publicity and Activities, joint with Kangmin Duan), and myself. In addition, Mr. Zhiyong Jin, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Statistics at the University of Manitoba, has volunteered to manage our Association website.

During the last general meeting, we also decided to form a Social Committee consisting mainly of the spouses of our members. The role of this committee is to recommend to the board and help to organize social activities to promote and enhance the social life and wellbeing of all of our members.

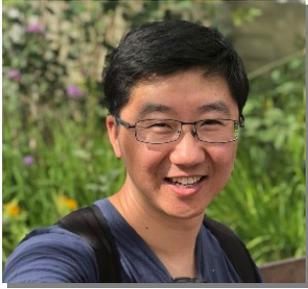
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Qiang Zhang and all other former presidents and board members for their enthusiasm, dedication and leadership that have made our Association a vibrant and lively community. Their selfless efforts and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Finally, the healthy growth of our Association relies on the active participation of all of our members. I welcome all ideas and suggestions from you regarding our future activities.

I wish you and your families a happy, healthy, prosperous and successful Year of the Pig!

Liqun Wang, President, 2018/2019, ACPMB

President-Elect



Dr. Victor Cui is an Associate Professor in business strategy at the Asper School of Business of the University of Manitoba. He obtained his PhDs from the Faculty of Engineering of the City University of Hong Kong and the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia respectively. He studies knowledge advantage creation, protection, and acquisition within R&D units, in inter-firm collaboration and competition, and under various national IPR protection regimes. His research has been published in top-tier academic journals, won prestigious awards, and reached a wide audience via media outlets such as *Fortune*. He has also given talks and served on boards of companies in North America and Asia. He served on the board of ACPMB as Treasurer from 2012 to 2018 and was elected as President-elect in 2018.

New board member



Dr. Qiuyan Yuan joined the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba in July of 2013 as an assistant professor. She earned her PhD degree from the University of Manitoba. Dr. Yuan has 10 years research and development experience in sustainable nutrient removal and recovery processes applied to wastewater and biosolids. Since 2014, her research area has expanded to solid waste treatment and management. Prior to joining the University of Manitoba, she was a process specialist at Stantec Consulting Inc. She is the recipient of University of Manitoba Merit Award for Research, Scholarly Work & Other Creative Activities in 2018.

ACPMB 2018 Chinese New Year Celebration

Feb. 16, 2018

On February 16, ACPMB organized a 2018 Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner Party at North Garden Restaurant. Fifty-eight association members and guests attended the event. Dr. Qiang Zhang (President of ACPMB) first gave his greeting to the attendees. Then he introduced the honorable guests, who each gave their greeting speeches. The honorable guests include Mr. Terry Duguid (MP), Mr. Jon Reyes (MLA of St Norbert), Mr. Andrew Smith (MLA of Southdale), Ms. Sarah Guillemard (MLA of Fort Richmond), and Dr. Digvir Jayas (Vice President, Research and International, University of Manitoba). The attendees enjoyed the dinner, a lucky draw session and networking over the party.





2018 ACPMB Annual Meeting Moon Festival Lunch Party

On Sept. 30, 2018, ACPMB held its Annual Meeting & Moon Festival Lunch Party at the Coconut Island Restaurant. In the annual meeting, Dr. Qiang Zhang, President of ACPMB, reported the ACPMB activities in the past year and updated the Manitoba-China Cooperation in Science and Technology Symposium that is being planned. Then Dr. Victor Cui gave the treasurer's report.

Also In the meeting, Dr. Victor Cui was nominated and elected as the President-Elect; Dr. Qiuyan Yuan and Dr. Gefei Qing were nominated and elected as the new board members. Dr. Qiang Zhang moved to Past President and Dr. Liqun Wang became the President for 2018-2019. Other board members of the association include Dr. Kangmin Duan, Dr. Depeng Jiang and Dr. Francis Lin.

Then Dr. Liqun Wang chaired a round table discussion to solicit suggestions from the members to further improve the association, as well as an information exchange session, in which the association members and guests introduced themselves, their research areas and potential areas for collaboration.





Introducing ACPMB members

Featured 3-Slides Presentations

Dr. Carson.Leung@UManitoba.ca
– About me



- **Hometown:**
 - Vancouver, BC, Canada
- **Education:**
 - B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Sc., Ph.D. (University of British Columbia (UBC))
- **Current position and affiliation:**
 - **Full Professor, Computer Science, University of Manitoba**
 - Senior Member, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
 - Senior Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)



Dr. Carson.Leung@UManitoba.ca
– My research

- **Areas of expertise:**
 - Big data; Data science
 - Databases; Data management
 - Data mining; Knowledge discovery from databases (KDD); Business intelligence (BI); Social network analysis; Data analytics; Visual analytics; Recommendation systems
- **General direction:**
 - Management and analysis of (big) data (e.g., social networks, web)
- **Examples of the past and current projects:**
 - Management & analysis of agribusiness, bioinformatics, health informatics, meteorological & transportation data
 - Mining of popular or frequently occurring patterns
 - Design & development of data science solutions for detecting anomalies
 - Data analytics & visual analytics of big data in social networks, games & sports

Dr. Carson.Leung@UManitoba.ca
– Potential collaboration

- In the current era of **big data**, high *volumes* of a wide *variety* of *valuable* data, which may be of different *veracity* (e.g., precise vs. imprecise/uncertain data), can be easily collected/generated at a high *velocity*
- Our **Database & Data Mining Lab** can provide *big data science solutions* to handle, manage, process, mine, analyze & visualize big data for various real-life applications in different disciplines
- **Web:** <http://dmlab.cs.umanitoba.ca>



faculty of **SCIENCE**
discover the unknown + invent the future



More info: <https://www.cs.umanitoba.ca/~kleung/>



Song Liu

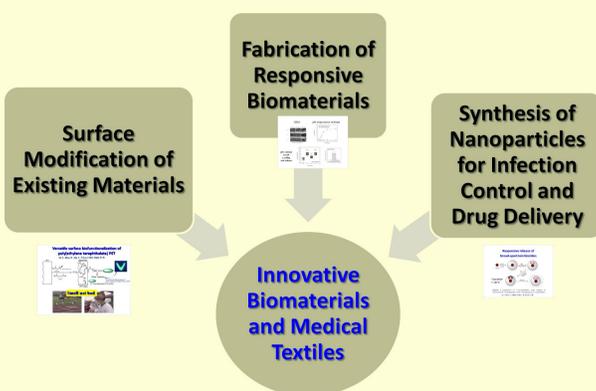
Grew up in ChiBi赤壁, HuBei province湖北

Bachelor's and Master's degree from China Textile Univ. (now Donghua Univ.), and Ph.D. from Univ. of California, Davis.

Associated Prof., Dept. Biosystems Eng.
Joint-appointment, Dept. Medical Micro.



A Three-pronged Approach



Wish List

1. Study Mode of Action of New Biocides Synthesized in the Lab
Need help with the analysis of membrane permeabilization, intracellular potassium release, physico-chemical surface properties, surface charge, outer membrane protein (OMP) expression and morphological changes of bacterial cells.
2. Selective Toxicity Towards Microorganisms and Human Cells.
Need help with mode of action study, for instance, endocytosis of biocides loaded nanoparticles by bacterial cells.

The nature of collaboration: co-PI, and co-student advisor.

More info: http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~lius0/Song_Liu/Welcome.html

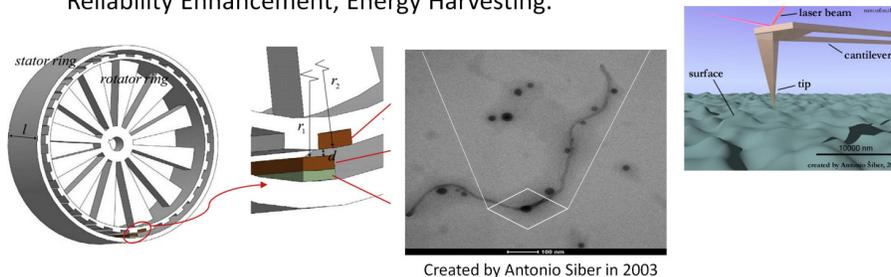
Dr. Nan Wu

About me

- I was born in Baoji, Shanxi Province but grow up in Langfang, a small city close to Beijing.
- I got my B.Eng (2005) and M.Eng (2008) from Northeastern University China, in the fields of computer sciences and mechanical engineering, respectively, and obtained my PhD at University of Manitoba 2012. Since Jan. 2014 I was working as an assistant professor at Mechanical Engineering University of Manitoba.
- For interests and hobbies, I like Comics, Movies, Video games, Mechanics of motor bike and cars. And I have a little Pomeranian names Nora.

My research

- My current research backgrounds are Mechanical Vibration, Smart Materials and Structure, Nano-technology and Signal Processing.
- Applications: Structural Health Monitoring, Structural Safety and Reliability Enhancement, Energy Harvesting.



Potential collaboration

- For my current research works, I am looking for any possible collaboration with experts in fields of Nano-materials Fabrication, Engineering in Agriculture, Bio-fiber Composites and Theoretical Modeling of System Nonlinearity.
- Hope we can collaborate as co-PI and co-student supervisors in broad research areas.

More info:

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/engineering/departments/mechanical/staff/profiles/wun.html>

Featured ACPMB member

Dr. Pingzhao Hu



Dr. Pingzhao Hu is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in bioinformatics in the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, recruited under the umbrella of the Computational Biology Initiative of the Faculty of Health Sciences in February 2014. He is also adjunct professors in the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Manitoba (UM) and Assistant Professor (Status) in Division of Biostatistics, Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Hu has published >75 peer-reviewed journal articles (citations: 3300; H-index: 25; i10 index: 40), including articles in *Nature Reviews Cancer*, *Plos Biology*, *Clinical Epigenetics*, *BMC Bioinformatics*, *Oncotarget*, *Frontiers in Genetics*, *Patter Analysis and Applications*, etc. Dr. Hu pioneered machine learning algorithms for protein function predictions, which were published on

Plos Biology and *Nature Reviews Cancer*. Since 2014, his research program has attracted sustained funding (\$4.2M in total, \$0.7M as a principal investigator) from Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF), USA, New York Academy of Sciences and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), NSERC Discovery, NSERC CREATE, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Mitacs and provincial and local agencies. Dr. Hu is a recipient of Careers in Cancer Research Development Program (CCRDP) New Principal Investigator Award from Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Cancer Research (CIHR-ICR) and Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute (CCSRI), and a recent receipt of the Interstellar Initiative Award funded by New York Academy of Sciences and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development.

Dr. Hu's team wants to understand the causal associations between human genome and phenome with the aim to discover new treatment approaches for human diseases. His program is currently supported by a team of 9 graduate students, undergraduate students and technicians trained in computer science, statistics and genome science. They develop and apply artificial intelligence technology (AI, e.g. novel deep learning tools) and large-scale statistical algorithms for integrative analysis of high-throughput multimodal (genomic, imaging, etc.) data. Dr. Hu's team continues to develop and apply AI for drug discovery and uses these unbiased deep learning technologies to identify novel biomarkers for potential drug targets. More information about his lab can be found at: <http://www.hu-bioinformatics-lab.org>.

Acquired exceptional education background

Due to different reasons, Dr. Hu experienced an exceptional education journey. After three years of junior high school (grade 8), he was directly admitted into a training diploma program (小中专) in geology from Changsha Nonferrous Metal College in 1986. After working as a geological apprentice for four years, he was directly accepted into graduate program in mathematical geology in the University of Science and Technology Beijing in 1994 by bypassing senior high school and university undergraduate program. After graduation in 1997, he was accepted as a PhD student in geographical information system (GIS) in National Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System (LREIS) in Chinese Academy of Sciences. He discontinued the study and pursued a postgraduate diploma in geostatistics from Ecole des Mines de Paris in 1998. He later obtained his Master's degree in quantitative geography from the University of

Saskatchewan in 2001 and Master's degree in computer science from Dalhousie University in 2002. He obtained his PhD degree in computer science from York University in 2012. During his PhD study period, he was working as a manager in Statistical Analysis Facility of The Centre for Applied Genomics at The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute, Toronto.

Dr. Hu was often asked why you pursued so many Master's degrees in different areas. Although this was decided by different time-space backgrounds, and may have wasted some time, he views this is invaluable experience, which makes him have learned how to acquire new knowledge in a fast and efficient way. The experience had also significantly helped Dr. Hu to provide consulting with hundreds of investigators with diverse backgrounds when he was the manager the Statistical Analysis Facility at The Centre for Applied Genomics. The lesson he learned is that earning 1-2 degrees from very different fields when possible will benefit people for good.

Grow and manage an interdisciplinary research group

To support his research program, Dr. Hu has supervised/been supervising one postdoctoral fellow, one visiting professor, one research associate, two PhD students and 11 Master's students in the Departments of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science, and 9 undergraduate students at the University of Manitoba. He also supervised 3 Master's students in biostatistics in the University of Toronto. These highly qualified personnel (HQP) are from quite diverse backgrounds, such as computer science, statistics, mathematics, electrical engineering, clinical medicine, genetics, chemistry, molecular biology, imaging, etc. To manage the interdisciplinary research team, Dr. Hu develops efficient strategies to train the HQP in an interdisciplinary environment. For example, each graduate student in his lab should take courses from each of the three pillars in statistics, computer science and genome science. His students are required to make at least 2 public presentations in either related research groups, local research organizations or conferences. Furthermore, these HQP are encouraged to publish in conferences and journals in different subjects, such as statistics, computer science and genome science. These trainings make his HQP have many valuable skills required in the job market. Some of his trainees display exceptional promise and won international awards, which include "Poster of Distinction" award at American Gastroenterological Association's (AGA) Digestive Disease Week (DDW) and Charles J. Epstein Trainee Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Research –Semifinalist (60 of 490 international applicants, which included candidates from top world-class universities, such as Harvard University, University of Washington, University of Chicago and Stanford University) from The American Society of Human Genetics. His trainees are often employed as a software engineer or analyst in government or data scientist in industry.

Stimulate research colleagues in related disciplines

To effectively stimulate potential collaborations and foster discussion among researchers interested in statistical, computational and other methodological issues in genome science, Dr. Hu have been organizing a CIHR STAGE (Strategic Training for Advanced Genetic Epidemiology) Monthly International Speaker Webinar Seminar Series (live presentations at Toronto) for local trainees and investigators since October 2014. Recently, he has initiated a bioinformatics and biostatistics journal club in the University of Manitoba, which particularly encourages graduate students to read and present classic and important papers related to their thesis topics by pairing graduate students with backgrounds in genome/life science and quantitative science.

To provide a forum for trainees and researchers to have access to advanced bioinformatics knowledge and skills, Dr. Hu organized five workshops (Gene Set Analysis of Omics Data, 2015; Genomic Variant Annotation and Prioritization with ANNOVAR and wANNOVAR, 2016; Pharmacogenomic analysis on cancer studies: methodology and applications, 2016; Gene Set

Analysis and Visualization, 2017 and Westgrid Research Computing Tutorial, 2018) in the University of Manitoba. More than 90 participants (investigators, clinical residents, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students) attended these workshops. Dr. Hu co-developed and offered the first new graduate course “Medical Computational Biology” in the University of Manitoba, which are well-attended by graduate students from different universities, faculties and departments in Manitoba.

To promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research in Manitoba that bridges the statistical and health sciences disciplines, Dr. Hu and other 4 faculty members in the Departments of Statistics and Community Health Sciences received funding from Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute to create The Manitoba Statistical and Health Sciences (MB-SAHS) Collaborating Centre, which is one of the newly designated Collaborating Centres across Canada. The MB-SAHS Collaborating Centre is to facilitate high-quality collaborative research that engages statistical and health scientists and statistical science trainees.

To simulate wider application of statistics to genomics in Canada, Dr. Hu has been organizing and chairing invited sessions on statistical genetics in Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) since 2017. Dr. Hu designed and organized the first case study competition with focusing on statistical genetics in 2017 Case Studies in Data Analysis Poster Competition in Annual Meeting of SSC. This case study attracted 9 competition teams from statistical and biostatistical departments across Canada. He is the current chair of Case Studies in Data Analysis Poster Competition of SSC. Dr. Hu also services as a frequent ad hoc reviewers for interdisciplinary grant competitions (CIHR, NSERC and Mitacs) and journals.

In summary, developing an interdisciplinary research program in a research-intensive university needs extra efforts to form a cohesive research team with HQP from different disciplines, to combine expertise from several knowledge domains and to overcome communication challenges among HQP and other researchers from different disciplines. However, the efforts are paying off and invaluable for HQP to develop transferable skills and promote greater creativity and innovation.



Group photo (August 2018)

News Release

2017 Terry G. Falconer Memorial Rh Institute Foundation Emerging Researcher Awards

Dr. Yang Wang
(Applied Science category)



Congratulations to Dr. Yang Wang, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Manitoba for winning the 2017 Terry G. Falconer Memorial Rh Institute Foundation Emerging Researcher Award in the Applied Science category!
<http://www.cs.umanitoba.ca/~ywang/>

The Terry G. Falconer Memorial Rh Institute Foundation Emerging Researcher Awards were established in 1973. They are awarded to faculty members in the early stages of their careers who display exceptional innovation, leadership and promise in their chosen fields.

Ask ACPMB

In this section, our senior ACPMB members will answer selected questions that are of interest to the members of association. We welcome question submission for later newsletters (administrator@acpmb.org)

Q: Are there opportunities for joint graduate programs with foreign universities?

A: (by Dr. Xikui Wang, Associate Dean of FGS and Professor in Statistics at UM) The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) encourages international collaboration in the forms of Collaborative PhD (also called Cotutelle) Agreements, as well as Collaborative Master's Articulation Agreements. The Collaborative PhD program has already been approved by the Senate and a standard template is available. For details, please contact Dr. Xikui Wang, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies (xikui.wang@umanitoba.ca).

MCCC and ACPMB

Gabriel Chung

Dear ACPMB colleagues,

What is university life about? For some, it is a story of determination, struggle; for others, it is a story of anxiety and boredom; for others still it is a story of realizing their dreams. Whatever our experiences might be, we will always hold dear to our hearts how our respective journeys began. All too often, many of us only consider the here and now, and, in the process, we unfortunately end up overlooking or forgetting the beginning.

As part of realizing its vision to build a stronger Chinese community and promote better communication between the Chinese and local groups, the Manitoba Chinese Community Centre (MCCC), established in 2011, annually organizes an orientation event for new international students from China. Having spoken previously alongside several ACPMB members at such events, I can attest that this event and the ACPMB professors who speak at them will contribute towards improving the initial academic experience for the new Chinese students.

At the beginning of the current 2018-2019 academic year, I was honoured to act as Liaison between the MCCC and the ACPMB to invite three special guest speakers at the MCCC Manitoba Chinese Annual Orientation Event held on September 7, 2018. This year, three University of Manitoba professors from the ACPMB spoke at the Event:

- **Dr. Nan Wu**, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UofM
- **Dr. Chengbo Yang**, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Science, UofM
- **Dr. Qiang (Chong) Zhang**, Professor, Department of Biosystems Engineering, UofM

Each professor shared wisdom from their experiences and advice to the new incoming cohort of Chinese students about academic life at the University of Manitoba and life in Winnipeg in general. In my capacity as an MCCC Board Member, I wish to take this opportunity to convey sincere thanks and gratitude to the ACPMB's support for this Event on behalf of MCCC's President, Fisher Wang, and the MCCC.



Art gallery by ACPMB members



球场风云
百回拼激烈
一掷铸辉煌



自然恩赐
舒心爽口天然汁
特质奇形神造球

Painting by Kan-Zhi Liu
Poems by Xi Yang