In Memoriam

Gang Zheng
May 6, 1965 – January 9, 2014

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our colleague, Gang Zheng, who lost his battle with head and neck cancer on Thursday January 9th. Gang received his BS in Applied Mathematics in 1987 from Fudan University in Shanghai. After serving as a teaching assistant at the Shanghai 2nd Polytechnic University, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1994 and received a master’s degree in mathematics at Michigan Technological University in 1996. He then gained admission to the Ph.D. program in Statistics at George Washington University and received his Ph.D. in 2000. Immediately he joined the Office of Biostatistics Research at NHLBI, where he remained up to his death.

Gang was a prolific and versatile statistician. His input into the Division of Lung Diseases studies was repeatedly appreciated. He also worked with DIR investigators in lung diseases and with Betsy Nabel’s genetics group. In 2010 Gang initiated and led a symposium called, “Clinical Trials Past, Present and Future” which was broadly attended by both statisticians and other clinical trialists. In addition Gang was an intellectually ambitious researcher in statistical methodology, publishing over 100 papers in the areas of genetics, life testing, order statistics, and ranked sampling and categorical data. He served as an Associate Editor of the journal Statistics and Its Interface and edited several journal issues, one in honor of his thesis adviser. He was the first author of a 400 page book entitled “Analysis of Genetic Association Studies” which was published in 2012.

Gang was a generous and nurturing colleague who mentored new members of the Office of Biostatistics Research both in statistical research and in collaborations. He directed or co-directed six Ph.D. students, most at George Washington University. He also mentored summer students and a post-baccalaureate fellow who went on to do his Ph.D. at Harvard.

Gang’s efficiency, creativity and generosity were truly inspiring. He will be sorely missed.