



Dr. Suzanne M. Leal

Director, Center for Statistical Genetics
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Baylor College of Medicine

From Linkage Studies to Next Generation Sequencing and Back Again: Leveraging Next Generation Sequence Data and Families to Identify Disease Genes

**Friday,
January 6, 2012
12:00–1:00 p.m.**

The Hospital for Sick Children
CDIU Multimedia Theatre
Room 4132, 4th Floor, Elm Elevators
555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON

Suzanne M. Leal, Ph.D. is currently a Professor in the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics and Director of the Center for Statistical Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine. She received a Master of Science degree in Biostatistics in 1989 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Epidemiology in 1994 from Columbia University. Suzanne's interest in statistical genetics lies in methodological research and in recent years the emphasis of this work has been developing methods to detect rare variant associations for complex traits using sequence data. She is also interested in applied work, mapping susceptibility genes for complex and Mendelian traits; and is involved in studies on nonsyndromic hearing impairment (NSHI), pain perception, platelet reactivity and coronary disease. For the NSHI project, after identification of loci within large extended families, exome sequencing is used to identify the causal genes. Additionally she is involved in the NHLBI-Exome Sequencing Project (ESP) which has generated sequence data on ~7,000 exomes in order to study a variety of heart, lung and blood related traits. Suzanne is interested in education and in addition to mentoring pre- and post-doctoral fellows she teaches courses in statistical genetics in the United States and internationally.

Housed at the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, **CIHR STAGE** is a training program in genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research through the Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research program. Seminars are sponsored by The Hospital for Sick Children, the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, the Department of Statistics of the University of Toronto, the Ontario Cancer Institute of the University Health Network, and the CIHR Institute of Genetics.