



Dr. Ellen M. Wijsman

Professor, Division of Medical Genetics and
Department of Biostatistics
University of Washington

New genomics technologies and complex traits: what do we gain, and what are the challenges?

Friday
December 2, 2011
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

Ellen M. Wijsman, earned her Ph.D. in Population Genetics (1981) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was a postdoctoral fellow and a research associate at Stanford University from 1981–1987, after which she moved to the University of Washington. She currently holds joint appointments in the Department of Biostatistics and the Division of Medical Genetics, and is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Genome Sciences. She serves on a number of advisory panels, monitoring boards, editorial boards, and review panels, and has served as the president of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society.

Dr. Wijsman's research is directed towards the development and application of quantitative methods for analysis of human genetic data, particularly in the context of complex traits. Disorders under investigation currently include Alzheimer's disease, dyslexia, autism, cardiovascular disease, and schizophrenia. She complements applications with methodological developments that expand the repertoire of possible analytical approaches that are useful for analysis of complex genetic traits. Current methods now provide computationally tractable approaches for analysis in the presence of complex modes of inheritance on large pedigrees, tools for incorporating very dense marker typing (including inclusion of sequence information), and approaches for combining family and population-based data.

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.

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