



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

August 24, 2009

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students

This is to announce a transition of leadership in the Biostatistics Division.

Dr. Larry Magder, after many years of successful service as the head of the Biostatistics Division, has decided to step down to devote more time to pursuing his research goals. He plans to write several papers on lupus morbidity, liver-cancer waiting list mortality, and also a paper "against statistical inference." He also hopes to find more time to perform methodological research.

Since the Biostatistics Division began in 2000 and Dr. Magder was first appointed to head the division, it has grown from a faculty of four to eight full-time, DEPM-affiliated primary faculty members. Together with those from the Perry Point VA Medical Center and the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center (UMGCC), the current staff comprises of fifteen primary faculty members. The Biostatistics Division has published hundreds of papers over the past nine years. This group has made tremendous contributions to the public health field, on a departmental, local, and national level under Dr. Magder's leadership. In 1999, Dr. Magder created the first campus-wide Statistical Interest Group--coordinated by the division. Since its inception, the Statistical Interest Group has sponsored thirty-six seminars. The division has also developed a joint M.S. and joint Ph.D. program in statistics with the University of Maryland at Baltimore County. The expansion of the Biostatistics Division and the enrichment of its resources available to departmental, School of Medicine, faculty and students under Dr. Magder's watch have established the Biostatistics Division as a major academic program in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and the School of Medicine.



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As we gratefully recognize Dr. Magder for successfully leading the Biostatistics Division thus far, we are delighted to announce that Dr. Ming Tan has agreed to be the new Director of the Biostatistics Division, effective July 1, 2009.

Dr. Tan is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine, and Director of the UMGCC Biostatistics Shared Service. He received his bachelor's degree from Wuhan University, his master's degree in mathematical statistics from Wuhan Central China Normal University, and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Purdue University. Dr. Tan has authored or co-authored more than 120 publications. He has collaborated in many disease areas including oncology, diabetes, cardiology, and anesthesiology. His research interests include design and analysis of developmental therapeutic studies, clinical trials and other epidemiological studies. Dr. Tan has had continuous federal funding in the area of design and analysis of clinical trials, drug synergy and high dimensional genomics data since 1998. He is a member of the FDA Advisory Committee and of multiple NIH study sections, review and site visit panels. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. Dr. Tan is currently Associate Editor of Statistics in Medicine and Drug Design, Development and Therapy.

We have only excitement and great anticipation for what is ahead as Dr. Tan assumes his role as Director of the Biostatistics Division. This transition of leadership also represents a merging of two Biostatistics powerhouses on the UMB campus, our very own Biostatistics Division, as well as the UMGCC Biostatistics Shared Service. Please join me in thanking Larry for his dedication to the division and Ming for taking on this important role.

Sincerely,

Jay Magaziner, Ph.D., M.S.Hyg.  
Professor and Chair