



GAUSSI Program Guide

2018-2019

Generating, Analyzing and Understanding Sensing and Sequencing Information

Mission and Goals

The GAUSSI program was created to provide a much needed opportunity for Ph.D. and M.S. students from Life Sciences, Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, and Biomedical Engineering to gain technical expertise in the generation, processing, analysis and interpretation of large biological datasets. In addition, GAUSSI also provides personalized career mentoring and training in important transferrable skills including STEM communication, outreach, collaboration, ethical conduct of research, and entrepreneurship. The pressing academic and industrial needs for expertise in biological data analytics will drive students to enter the program in order to progress in their own research projects while forging new interdisciplinary collaborations.

Primary Goals of the Program:

- (1) To provide a flexible and accessible curriculum of modular courses to train graduate students from a variety of disciplines in the approaches used to generate, analyze and understand large biological datasets
- (2) To stimulate collaborative research in the areas of biosensing, and computational & systems biology
- (3) To facilitate exploration of non-academic career paths through personalized career development
- (4) To provide opportunities for students to recognize and practice the skills required for success in academia and industry
- (5) To introduce the public and K-12 students to the concept of big data science through a variety of outreach activities

Roles and Responsibilities

GAUSSI DIRECTORS

Director:

Tom Chen, Professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Dr Chen is responsible for the overall operation of the GAUSSI program. He also engages with the funding agency (NSF) and other internal and external constituencies to maximize the impact of the GAUSSI program.

Associate Directors:

Asa Ben-Hur, Associate Professor, Computer Science

Dr Ben-Hur is responsible for review of applications, admission of new trainees, and curriculum development.

Carol Wilusz, Professor, Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology

Dr Wilusz is responsible for recruitment of new trainees, advising trainees on curriculum, providing letters of support for grant and fellowship applications, and curriculum development.

All directors participate in meetings with the external advisory board, evaluators, and NSF representatives and share responsibility for organizing the annual symposium.

GAUSSI CORE FACULTY

Stuart Tobet	Professor	Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Sciences
Michael Kirby	Professor	Mathematics
Dan Sloan	Assistant Professor	Biology
Zaid Abdo	Associate Professor	Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology
Brian Geiss	Associate Professor	Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology
Steve Simske	Professor	Mechanical & Systems Engineering
Rich Feller	Career Development	Education
Abhik Roy	External Evaluator	West Virginia University
Laurie Stargell	Outreach	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Generating, Analyzing and Understanding Sensing and Sequencing Information

Core faculty members help define the program goals and curriculum, evaluate applicants, recruit and mentor participants, facilitate collaboration, networking and outreach, provide instruction, organize the annual symposium and promote biosensing and computational biology at CSU. Core Faculty will also provide recommendations and letters of support for trainees as they apply for fellowships and jobs. Some core faculty members are also responsible for specific aspects of the program as specified above.

GAUSSI FACULTY ADVISORS AND INSTRUCTORS

In addition to the core faculty, other faculty members may join the program as instructors of GAUSSI supported courses, as past, current or future advisors of GAUSSI students and/or based on their expertise and interest in research connected to sensing and computational biology. Faculty members are asked to participate in GAUSSI meetings and the annual symposium, present their research to GAUSSI participants, identify and host speakers and non-academic partners, provide constructive feedback and mentoring to GAUSSI trainees and promote and support a collaborative and inclusive community.

2018-2019 Faculty Advisors and Instructors:

Adam Heuberger	Assistant Professor	Hort	Greg Ebel	Associate Professor	MIP
Anreddy Reddy	Professor	Bio	Henry Adams	Assistant Professor	Math
Brad Woods	Associate Dir. For Research	RICRO	Jessica Metcalf	Assistant Professor	AS
Brian Foy	Professor	MIP	Kevin Lear	Professor	ECE
Brooke Anderson	Assistant Professor	ERHS	Mark Stenglein	Assistant Professor	MIP
Chris Snow	Associate Professor	CBE	Melissa Reynolds	Associate Professor	Chem
Chuck Henry	Professor	Chem	Paul Morley	Professor	Clinical
Erin Nishimura	Assistant Professor	BMB	Tai Montgomery	Assistant Professor	Bio
Fred Hoerndli	Assistant Professor	BMS	Tim Stasevich	Assistant Professor	BMB

GAUSSI COORDINATOR

Kate Sherrill MEd

The program coordinator provides administrative support for program team, advises trainees on GAUSSI activities, tracks trainee progress and provides certificates of completion, maintains the GAUSSI website, participates in recruiting and symposium organization, and distributes information regarding program activities. A primary role of the coordinator is to help build and support a welcoming and inclusive GAUSSI community.

GAUSSI TRAINEES

GAUSSI trainees are individuals who have made a commitment to performing high quality research in the areas of sensing and/or computational and systems biology while developing additional professional skills needed to be successful in their future careers. Some GAUSSI trainees may be eligible for 1 year NSF-supported fellowships. Requirements for participation in GAUSSI are similar regardless of whether a student is supported by an NSF fellowship. Student trainees are expected to participate in the program until graduation.

Eligibility

Although GAUSSI is designed primarily for graduate students, GAUSSI trainees can be at any stage of their graduate degree or post-graduate career. Any individual employed or enrolled at Colorado State University with a Bachelor's degree in any science or engineering discipline and an interest in sensing and computational biology may participate.

Roles and Responsibilities

Trainees in the GAUSSI program may be in various stages of their academic program. Some may still be focused on completing the course requirement for their degree programs, including taking GAUSSI-sponsored courses. Others may have completed course requirement and be focused on their research. No matter what stage of an academic program a trainee is in, all trainees are expected to

Generating, Analyzing and Understanding Sensing and Sequencing Information

- Attend and present at bi-weekly GAUSSI project meetings
- Attend at least 4 relevant workshops/seminars/courses per semester in professional development training offered by the The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT), the Graduate School, and other on-campus and community events. GAUSSI Gazette is regularly sent out to trainees outlining opportunities to fulfill this requirement.
- Participate in GAUSSI orientation and the summer symposium.
- Participate in personalized career development activities through on-line surveys and web-based tools administered by Dr. Rich Feller and his graduate students.
- Participate in collaborative research activities
- Participate in outreach activities at a level of 20 hr per semester
- Complete program-wide surveys and interviews administered by the GAUSSI external evaluator, Dr. Abhik Roy and his team from the West Virginia University, in a timely fashion.

Student Leadership Panel

This panel consists of trainees who have volunteered to take an active role in defining the direction of the GAUSSI program. Ideally, the panel will consist of students from different disciplines and at different stages of the GAUSSI program. The students from the panel play leadership roles in organizing GAUSSI events and provide GAUSSI with valuable feedback to improve the program's broad reach and impact on all participants. The board meets each semester and provides guidance on the direction and progress of the program.

EXTERNAL EVALUATORS

Abhik Roy, Ph.D., Christina Paguyo, Ph.D.

The external evaluator and his team develop and administer a set of online tools to assess progress of trainees in academic and transferrable skills training on an annual basis. The outcome of the assessment helps GAUSSI adjust program activities to better meet the needs of its participants.

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

Marie Vans	HP Inc.	Victor Saucedo	Genentech
Lance Ford	BIOO Scientific	Corey O'Hern	Yale University
Larry Hunter	University of Colorado, Denver	John Wu	AMD
Tina Larson	Achaogen Inc.		

The external advisory board comprises individuals from industry and academia. The board meets annually and provides guidance on the direction and progress of the program.

GAUSSI Training Program

GAUSSI MEETINGS

GAUSSI project meetings are held at least every other week during the Fall and Spring semesters. Trainees participating in GAUSSI for less than 2 years are expected to attend meetings, present their research and other activities related to transferrable skills and career development. Trainees who have been with GAUSSI for more than two years are also strongly encouraged to participate as mentors and collaborators. Faculty participation is strongly encouraged. Meetings may encompass:

- (i) Research presentations by trainees, faculty or external speakers
- (ii) Activities to cultivate transferrable skills, particularly STEM communication
- (iii) Career panel discussions
- (iv) Journal club discussions
- (v) Social/networking activities

Generating, Analyzing and Understanding Sensing and Sequencing Information
 In conjunction with GAUSSI meetings, trainees will complete assignments such as development of a LinkedIn Profile, participation in an online GAUSSI forum, community outreach activities, and submission and peer review of 2 minute “Elevator Speech” video presentations.

GAUSSI ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The goals of the Annual Symposium are to increase the visibility of the GAUSSI program and computational and systems biology in general, provide opportunities for networking and collaboration amongst Front Range researchers, and to allow trainees to practice their communication skills. The symposium is typically held in conjunction with orientation during the summer term for trainees and faculty and also initiation of outreach activities for the year. The symposium includes local and external speakers, a career discussion panel, and poster session.

TECHNICAL COURSES

GAUSSI technical courses are designed to be short and focused. Most courses are 1-2 credits and many are offered over the course of 4 or 8 weeks rather than a whole semester.

There are no required technical courses and no required number of credits. Trainees should only take courses that are directly related to their course of study or research project and may utilize credits to fulfil their degree requirements. Basic GAUSSI modules should normally be offered outside the student’s home department/area of expertise and require minimal prior knowledge. Most GAUSSI trainees will complete between 2 and 10 credits including basic, intermediate and capstone courses. The majority of trainees will need to complete at least one graduate level statistics course. STAT511 (4cr) and STAT512 (4 cr) should be accessible for life scientists and those with a weaker quantitative background. Other statistics courses (STAA courses) may also be helpful for GAUSSI trainees depending on their areas of research and the level of quantitative background. Coursework can generally be completed within a year, but it is acceptable to take longer. GAUSSI trainees will be given priority registration for GAUSSI courses whenever possible. All GAUSSI trainees are encouraged to take GRAD550, STEM Communication.

GAUSSI will offer capstone courses starting in Spring 2018. The purpose of capstone courses is twofold: 1) to provide a platform where concepts learned in other courses can be synthesized and integrated using a set of applications that are related to students’ research areas, and 2) to provide a platform where interdisciplinary collaborations become part of the learning experience using applications of common interests.

Fall 2018 GAUSSI Courses

Course #	Title	Instructor	Level
BIOM527A	Cells as Circuits	Kevin Lear	Basic
BIOM581B3	Sensor Circuit Fundamentals	Tom Chen	Basic
BIOM581B5	Electrochemical Sensors	Tom Chen	Intermediate
CM505	Nucleic Acids for Non-Life Scientists (Lab)	Carol Wilusz	Basic
MIP 565	NGS Libraries and Platforms	Carol Wilusz, Mark Stenglein, Dan Sloan	Intermediate
MIP545	Microbial Metagenomics/Genomics Data Analysis	Zaid Abdo	Intermediate
NSCI 580A2	Ethical Issues in Big Data Research	Brade Woods	Basic
DSCI510	Linux as a Computational Platform	Tai Montgomery, Erin Nishimura	Basic
DSCI511	Genomics Data Analysis in Python	Tai Montgomery	Intermediate
DSCI512	RNA-seq Data Analysis	Tai Montgomery, Erin Nishimura	Intermediate
STAT511A	Design & Data Analysis for Researchers (R)	varies	Basic

Spring 2018 GAUSSI Courses

Course #	Title	Instructor	Level
BIOM581B2	Signal & Noise in Sensors	Kevin Lear	Intermediate
BIOM581B4	Affinity Sensors	Tom Chen & Brian Geiss	Intermediate
BIOM581B6	Biophotonic Sensors/Refractive Index	Kevin Lear	Intermediate
HORT579	Metabolomics: Design & Data Analysis	Adam Heuberger	Intermediate
MATH580A2	Topological Data Analysis	Henry Adams	Intermediate
NSCI696E	Capstone in NGS Data Analysis	Asa Ben Hur	Capstone
STAT512	Design & Data Analysis for Researchers II	varies	Basic

Other Relevant Courses

These courses generally have more credits than the short GAUSSI courses, may not be aimed at interdisciplinary students, and may have significant pre-requisites. However, they may be relevant/useful for some students.

Course #	Title	Credits	Instructor
MIP570	Functional Genomics	3	Ric Slayden
CS425	Introduction to Bioinformatics Algorithms	4	Asa Ben Hur, Hamidreza Chitsaz
CS581	Big Data	4	Sangmi Lee Pallickara
MATH532	Mathematical Modeling of Large Datasets	3	Mike Kirby
GRAD510	Fundamentals of High Performance Computing	3	Pat Burns
GRAD511	High Performance Computing and Visualization	3	Pat Burns
BZ/MIP577	Computer Analysis in Population Genetics	2	Bill Black/Mike Antolin
BZ360	Bioinformatics & Genomics	3	Tai Montgomery
MATH676	Topics in Mathematics	3	Jennifer Mueller
BIOM400	Biomolecular Kinetics and Cell Dynamics	3	Ashok Prasad
BZ/MATH548	Theory of Population and Evolutionary Ecology	4	Colleen Webb
BZ/BSPM520	Advanced Systematics	3	Mark Simmons
ERHS535	R Programming for Research	3	Brooke Anderson
STAA574	Methods in Multivariate Analysis	2	Daniel Cooley
STAA551	Regression Analysis (online)	2	Jana Anderson
STAT561	Probability & Applications (online)	2	Mary Meyer
STAA566	Computational & Graphical Methods (online)	2	Jana Anderson
STAA577	Statistical Learning and Data Mining (online)	2	Darren Homrighausen

Questions about GAUSSI Courses

In addition to consulting with your graduate and academic advisors, GAUSSI trainees can also consult the following GAUSSI faculty about the relevance of GAUSSI courses.

Math courses:	Dr. Michael Kirby (kirby@math.colostate.edu)
Statistics courses:	Dr Zaid Abdo (Zaid.Abdo@colostate.edu)
Life Science courses:	Dr. Carol Wilusz (Carol.Wilusz@colostate.edu)
Computer Science courses:	Dr. Asa Ben-Hur (Asa.Ben-Hur@colostate.edu)
Bioengineering courses:	Dr. Tom Chen (Thomas.Chen@colostate.edu)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

The GAUSSI program aims to provide researchers with the skills needed to be successful in academic and non-academic careers. This goal is met in part through completion of coursework covering Ethics, STEM Communication & Grant Writing (Ph.D. students only):

NSCI580A2	Ethical Issues in Big Data Research	Brad Woods	1CR FA
†GRAD544	Ethical Conduct of Research	varies	1CR FA, SP
GRAD550	STEM Communication	Stu Tobet, Jeff Wilusz	1CR FA, SP
*BME750	Grant Writing	Stu Tobet	1CR FA
*MIP643	Grant Writing	Jeff Wilusz	1CR SP

†GRAD544 is acceptable to meet the ethics requirement, but the Big Data ethics course is preferred.

* Trainees should complete one Grant Writing course. The two listed are recommended but those offered through other programs are also acceptable.

Generating, Analyzing and Understanding Sensing and Sequencing Information

In addition to formal courses described above, GAUSSI trainees must participate in at least 4 events comprising a minimum of 6 hours per semester of workshops, seminars or discussions related to professional skills development. These events should be selected to cover skills directly connected to the trainee's career goals and may include:

Communication	Teaching
Civic Engagement/Cultural awareness	Mentoring
Innovation	Regulatory Affairs
Team Building	Leadership
Grant Writing	Project Management
Entrepreneurship	Budget Planning
Ethics	Conflict Resolution
Networking	Time Management

Training opportunities will be highlighted through the GAUSSI Gazette, a weekly email, and on the GAUSSI website. Programs offered through TILT, the Professional Learning Institute (PLI), and the Graduate School can be used towards this requirement. Participation will be logged by the student and approved by the GAUSSI Coordinator each semester.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

All GAUSSI trainees who are currently enrolled in a graduate degree program will have the unique opportunity to participate in personalized career planning (surveys, MyIDP, personal consultations). They are encouraged to identify one or more career mentors and participate in career panel discussions. Dr Rich Feller oversees this aspect of the program.

INTERNSHIPS/EXTERNSHIPS/CAREER MENTORING

Although internships/externships are not a required component of GAUSSI training, trainees are encouraged to consider gaining experience in this way. Links to internship opportunities will be posted on the GAUSSI website and GAUSSI faculty are happy to provide guidance in how to go about applying. Generally, an internship will last for 2-3 months during the summer. The GAUSSI program may support travel, but stipend support would usually need to be identified through other sources. Externships are shorter (1-3 weeks) and would normally be conducted at a local company. Students interested in this type of experience should consult with Dr Tobet or a faculty member with experience in a relevant field.

During the course of the training program, trainees will identify one or more possible career paths. They will identify individuals who have pursued similar paths and may be willing to act as mentors or participate in a panel discussion. GAUSSI faculty will assist in engaging mentors/panelists.

OUTREACH

Outreach is a central component of the GAUSSI program. As such, all GAUSSI trainees are required to participate in outreach-related activities during each of the Fall & Spring semesters. This requirement can be met through organized programs coordinated through GAUSSI faculty and staff, or through other activities arranged by the trainee. All outreach activities should be STEM-related and ideally connected with computational and systems biology, biosensing or DNA sequencing. Some ideas for acceptable outreach activities will be listed on the GAUSSI website. Each trainee should submit a brief description of their planned outreach activity by the beginning of the Fall Semester, provide a one paragraph description of progress at the end of the fall semester and submit a one page final report by the end of the Spring semester. Lesson plans and other deliverables should be shared with the Program Coordinator and submitted to public repositories if appropriate.

GAUSSI COMMUNICATION

GAUSSI will provide relevant information to trainees and faculty through two main communication channels. The GAUSSI Gazette is sent out on a weekly basis during the fall and spring terms. It highlights upcoming opportunities and events hosted by GAUSSI. The Gazette also features information on professional development opportunities, seminars, and conferences that are being hosted locally on campus or along the front-range. Trainees are responsible for the information that is communicated through these emails and when action is required are encouraged to respond in a timely manner.

GAUSSI's website <http://gaussi.colostate.edu> is home to information related to fellowships, semester course modules, outreach activities, meeting minutes, a calendar for GAUSSI sponsored events, and other topics that have are directly related to program initiatives. GAUSSI trainees are encouraged to provide the program coordinator with a short biography and photo to be included on the trainee page.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A non-transcripted Certificate of Completion can be requested by trainees who have consistently met the requirements of the program over the course of at least two years.

FUNDING

GAUSSI is supported through NSF award DGE-1450032 with additional support from the Provost Office, OVPR, CVMBS, CoE, and CNS. These funds support fellowships, curriculum development, training and outreach activities, the annual symposium, and trainee research and travel.

GAUSSI NRT FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships provide \$32,000 stipend, plus tuition for up to 8 fellows per year. Fellows must be US citizens or permanent residents, must be enrolled in a graduate degree program at Colorado State University, and must be performing interdisciplinary research connected with Biosensing or Next Generation Sequencing. Each fellowship is awarded for one year and is non-renewable. Fellowship applications can be submitted online at gaussi.colostate.edu. The application deadline is March 15 each year and awards start June 1st.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards are available to all GAUSSI trainees to support attendance at conferences and workshops related to professional development or research projects. Travel funds may also be used to support travel for internships/externships. Applications for travel funds will be evaluated on a case-by-case, first come / first served basis. Details on how to apply can be found on the GAUSSI website (gaussi.colostate.edu).

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AWARDS

Funds are available to support interdisciplinary research projects involving two or more GAUSSI trainees. The research awards are intended as a supplement for materials & supplies for exploratory activities leading to more sustained long-term collaborations. The awards cannot be used for salary and other personnel costs. For details on how to apply contact the GAUSSI program coordinator.