

Special Invited Session Speaker

Xihong Lin, is Professor and former Chair of the Department of Biostatistics, Coordinating Director of the Program in Quantitative Genomics at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, and Professor of the Department of Statistics at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University, and Associate Member of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

Dr. Lin is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. She received the 2002 Mortimer Spiegelman Award from the American Public Health Association, and the 2006 Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) Presidents' Award and the 2017 COPSS FN David Award. She is an elected fellow of American Statistical Association (ASA), Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and International Statistical Institute.

Dr. Lin's research interests lie in development and application of statistical and computational methods for analysis of massive data from genome, exposome and phenome, and scalable statistical inference and learning for big genomic, epidemiological and health data.

Title: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Statistician's Reflection

Abstract: In this article, I will discuss my experience as a statistician involved in COVID-19 research in multiple capacities in the last two years, especially in the early phase of the pandemic. I will reflect on the challenges and the lessons I have learned in pandemic research regarding data collection and access, epidemic modeling and data analysis, open science and real time dissemination of research findings, implementation science, media and public communication, and partnerships between academia, government, industry and civil society. I will also make several recommendations on preparing for the next stage of the pandemic and for future pandemics.