

MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science
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Next Monday's Colloquium

Title: Polygenic Risk Scores
Speaker: Brandon Coombes
Time: 3:30 PM
Date: March 18
Place: RNS 310

About the talk: Genetic variations in our DNA are what make us unique from every other human on this planet. These variations can also give us increased risk for certain diseases and disorders. In statistical genetics, we are usually interested in determining which genetic variations contribute to disease. However, it can also be of interest to know whether certain diseases are being caused by a similar set of genetic variations. Knowing this information helps further our understanding of the genetic mechanisms of disease as well as why some diseases present similarly. To study the genetic similarity of different diseases, we can compute a statistical measure known as a polygenic risk score (PRS). In this talk, Brandon will demonstrate how researchers use PRSs at the Mayo Clinic to better understand genetic similarities of bipolar disorder with other psychiatric disorders.

About the speaker: Brandon currently works at the Mayo Clinic as a Psychiatric Geneticist and earned his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of Minnesota.

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Mathematics Tenure-Track Candidate Chosen!

Congratulations to Dave Walmsley for being the candidate chosen for a tenure-track position in the Math department!

Some fun facts!

1. A pizza with a radius z and height a has volume *Pizza*. You can confirm this yourself at the Pause!
2. There is a 50% chance that a room with 23 people contains a pair with the same birthday!
3. You can find the fibonacci sequence in the fraction $\frac{1}{89} \approx$
 - (a) 0.01 +
 - (b) 0.001 +
 - (c) 0.0002 +
 - (d) 0.00003 +
 - (e) 0.000005 +
 - (f) and so on!
4. Pi rounded to two decimal places and written backwards resembles the word pie!
5. $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$ (Euler's identity!)

Will Jadkowski, Editor
Dave Walmsley, Faculty Adviser
Ellen Haberoth, Mess Czar