Syllabus: BIOL 4803C "HEALTH, GENES and SOCIETY" Spring 2015

Overview

This is a non-traditional course designed to engage you in projects that relate to personalized medicine, particularly incorporating consideration of the impact of genome analysis. Rather than absorbing lecture material, the emphasis will be on self-directed learning and realization of deliverable projects in small teams working throughout the semester. We will start with a survey of predictive health (past, present and future), and lay down the essentials of genetic risk evaluation. Then each week a pair of students will be responsible for a presentation on the assigned topic and leading discussion, and we will work together in class to make constant progress on your projects.

Objectives

- To understand the potential contribution of whole genome sequencing and genomic profiling for personalized medicine
- 2. To place genomic medicine in the context of other emerging trends in healthcare including mobile health, evidence-based medicine, and big-data driven public health
- 3. To deliver an actual product that can be used in a practical manner to influence health behavior

Evaluation

- 50% Term Project (evaluation criteria will be discussed in class, and include peer assessment)
- 25% Class presentation and participation in weekly discussion
- 25% Final Exam

Sample Ideas for Term Projects

(see http://genomestake.blogspot.com/2014 05 01 archive.html for a summary of the 2014 projects)

- Intern with OneCare.me to bring a cohort of Cystic Fibrosis adolescents and young adults into their mobile health platform and begin to evaluate whether and how it changes their behavior
- Develop educational materials for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation by working with partners at Emory University that highlight the positive impact of simple health behaviors
- Generate an App that will take an individual's whole genome genotype profiles (for example, downloaded from 23andme) and return up-to-date genetic risk scores for dozens of conditions
- Create a module of 3 or 4 lectures on a personalized medicine topic that high school teachers may use in lesson planning (see http://teachthemicrobiome.weebly.com for an example from last year)
- Work with Georgia Tech Dining Services to institute an incentive program to improve the healthy eating behaviors of students at the University

Help establish a new curriculum in Predictive Health joint between Emory and Georgia Tech

Weekly Topics

Week 14

Week 15

Designer Babies

Final Project presentations

Introduction – Professor Gibson		
Week 1	What is Predictive Health, and what can I do about it now?	
Week 2	Whole Genome Sequencing and Genetic Risk Profiles	
The Internet and Mobile Health Applications		
Week 3	The role of Social Media in Medicine	Spark People
Week 4	Self-knowledge and health networks	OneCare.me, mdRevolution
Week 5	Personal Genome Projects	23andme, Harvard PGP
Domains of Health		
Week 6	Eating behavior	Should fast food be regulated?
Week 7	Drinking behavior	How does binge drinking affect you?
Week 8	Exercise behavior	Does FitBit make a difference?
Week 9	Smoking and drug abuse	Should marijuana be legalized?
Week 10	Parenting behavior	TV, stress, and healthy families
<u>Public Health</u>		
Week 11	Global foundations: Gates to Clinton	Does philanthropy work?
Week 12	The Carter Foundation	Eradicating infectious disease
Week 13	The Socioeconomic burden	Are there racial differences in disease?

Is there a new eugenics emerging?