

# **Quantitative biomedicine –interdisciplinary training for the clinician scientists of the future**

CompBioMed 2019

@BennyChain

Innate2Adaptive

Division of infection and immunity

Department of computer science

UCL

**Medicine will become a science when  
doctors learn to count**

*Sir William Osler 1849 – 1914*

## **Personal motivation : in order to address**

- The complexity of the immune system
- The increased size and complexity of immunological data

**we need to harness mathematics and computer science.**

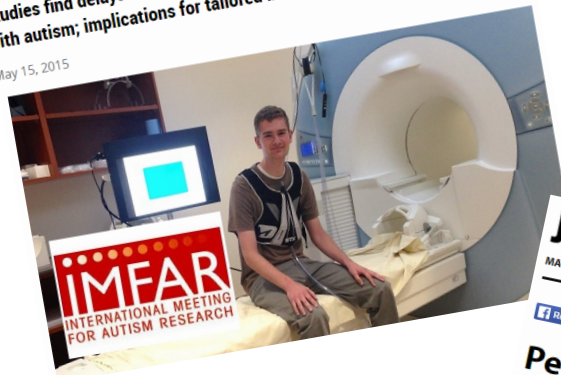
**Where do I find these PhD students !**

# What will medicine be like in 2030 ?

## Brain Imaging Produces New Insights into Autism-Anxiety Connection

Studies find delays in how brain processes danger vs safety in adults with autism; implications for tailored interventions for anxiety

May 15, 2015

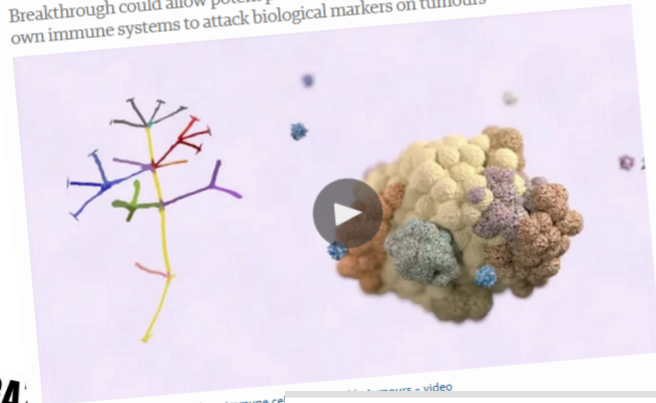


## Revolutionary cancer imaging scan 'could save months of useless treatment

A CANCER imaging technique which could save months of unnecessary and damaging treatment has been used in Britain for the first time.

## Cancer tumour genetics reveal possible treatment revolution

Breakthrough could allow potent personalised treatments which prime patients' own immune systems to attack biological markers on tumours



## JOHNS HOPKINS MAGAZINE

MAGAZINE HOME PAST ISSUES ABOUT CONTACT GIVING SUBSCRIBE CONTENTS: SPRING 2015

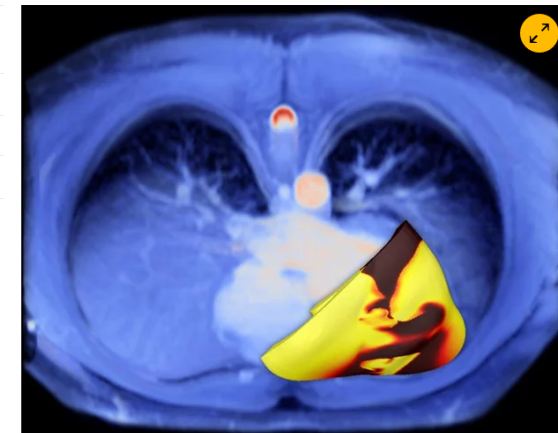
## Personalizing health care through big data

Jim Duffy / Spring 2015  
Posted in Health  
Tagged individualized health, personalized health care, big data, johns hopkins individualized health initiative, signature initiatives



## Virtual hearts help doctors spot patients most at risk from fatal arrhythmias

Personalised 3D heart models more effective than standard tests at identifying cardiac patients at risk of developing lethal arrhythmias, new study shows



**Aim – establish a new IBsc which will bridge the gap between medicine, computers and mathematics**

**Objective - to train a cohort of doctors who can be at the vanguard of exploiting the data-driven computational revolutions which will transform medical care in the 21st century**

# New iBSc – mathematics, computers and medicine

The degree is **INTERDISCIPLINARY** and is delivered by a joint initiative of Infection & Immunity and Computer Science



Cartoon by Anoushka Sharp; medical student



## Maths

Mathematical Methods in Medical  
Physics (MPHY3893, Term 1)

## Modeling

Mathematical modelling in biomedicine  
(INIM0004, Term 2)

## Programming

Introductory Programming  
(Comp0066, term 1)

## Machine Learning and Big Data

Machine Learning for Domain Specialists  
(Comp0142, term 2)

## Research project

INIM0038 Research Project in Computational Biomedical Sciences

Elective module in term 1 or 2

# Research project

- Automatic detection and processing of sleep data from actigraphy
- Automated digital pathology : detecting relevant objects in malaria blood smears
- Comparing reinforcement learning models and humans
- Identification of functional molecular interactions in the immune system through eQTL data
- Modelling intra-individual variation in T-cell differentiation
- Optimisation of quantitation of early disease features on low dose CT



## Challenges

- Strong institutional barriers to inter-disciplinary teaching
- A LOT to learn in a very short time !!

## But

- Very high calibre of students - the iBSc students out-performed their peers
- Lots of enthusiasm
- Lots of interested academics

# The future

- More quantitative and computational skills earlier in the curriculum
- But what can we leave out !

# Acknowledgements

John Shawe-Taylor

former HOD UCL Computer Science

UNESCO professor of artificial intelligence