**Informational Interview Request**

**Name**: Ms. Shao Yiren

**Title**: computational biologist

**Organization**: Dana Farber Cancer Institute

**Contact** **Info**: [Elmo\_shao@outlook.com](mailto:Elmo_shao@outlook.com)

**Reason for Contact**: I am very interested in computational biology and its applications in cancer research, and I hope to learn from your career path and professional experiences.

Dear Ms. Shao,

I came across your profile while exploring Duke alumni working in cancer research, and I am very inspired by your role as a computational biologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. I am currently a Master’s student in Biostatistics at Duke University, and I am eager to learn more about career paths that combine computational biology and oncology.

Would you be open to a brief 20-minute conversation to share your career journey and advice for students like me? I am available most afternoons next week and would be happy to connect virtually at your convenience.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jiaqi Wang

Word Count: 102 words

1. Could you share a recent project where computational analysis directly influenced a biological or clinical decision at Dana-Farber?

2. Which data types do you work with most (e.g., single-cell/bulk RNA-seq, WES/WGS, spatial, proteomics), and what tools or pipelines are core to your workflow?

3. For a Biostatistics MS student aiming at computational oncology, what 3–4 skills or experiences should I prioritize over the next year?

4. How do collaborations among clinicians, bench scientists, and computational teams typically run at DFCI, and what makes them successful?

5. What early-career opportunities (internships, fellowships, conferences, open-source projects) would you recommend—and how would you suggest approaching potential mentors?