Robert Gentleman (statistician)

Robert Clifford Gentleman (born 1959) is a Canadian statistician and bioinformatician[2] who is currently the founding executive director of the Center for Computational Biomedicine at Harvard Medical School. He was previously the vice president of computational biology at 23andMe.[3][4] Gentleman is recognized, along with Ross Ihaka, as one of the originators of the R programming language[5][6] and the Bioconductor project.[7][8]

Education

Gentleman was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the University of British Columbia.[3] He was awarded a Ph.D. degree in statistics from University of Washington in 1988; his thesis title was *Exploratory methods for censored data*.[9]

Research and career

Gentleman worked as a statistics professor at The University of Auckland in the mid-1990s, where he developed the R programming language alongside Ross Ihaka.[5][10] In 2001, he started work on the Bioconductor project to promote the development of open-source tools for bioinformatics and computational biology. In 2009, Gentleman joined the Genentech biotechnology corporation, where he worked as a senior director in bioinformatics and computational biology.[11][12] Gentleman joined personal genomics and biotechnology company 23andMe as vice president in April 2015,[3] with the goal of bringing expertise on bioinformatics and computational drug discovery to the company.[4] Gentleman has also served on the board of the statistical software company Revolution Analytics (formerly known as REvolution Computing).[10]

Awards and honors

Gentleman won the Benjamin Franklin Award in 2008, recognising his work on the R programming language, the Bioconductor project and his commitment to data and methods sharing.[13] He was made a Fellow of the International Society for Computational Biology in 2014 for his contribution to computational biology and bioinformatics.[14] He became a fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2017.[15]

References

Robert Gentleman	
Robert Gentleman	
Born	Robert Clifford Gentleman 1959 (age 63–64)
Alma mater	University of Washington University of British Columbia
Known for	R (programming language)
Awards	Benjamin Franklin Award (Bioinformatics)
Scientific career	
Institutions	Genentech University of Washington Harvard University University of Waterloo The University of Auckland
Thesis	*Exploratory methods for censored data* (http://search.proquest.com/docview/303589316) (1988)
Doctoral advisor	John James Crowley[1]

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