

Robert Gentleman (statistician)

Robert Clifford Gentleman (born 1959) is a Canadian statistician and bioinformatician^[2] currently vice president of computational biology at 23andMe.^{[3][4]} He is recognized, along with Ross Ihaka, as one of the originators of the R programming language^{[5][6]} and the Bioconductor project.^{[7][8][9]}

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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*.^[10]

Research

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][11]} 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.^{[12][13]} 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).^[11]

Awards

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.^[14] He was made a Fellow of the International Society for Computational Biology in 2014 for his contribution to computational biology and bioinformatics.^[15] He became a fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2017.^[16]

Robert Clifford Gentleman	
Born	1959 (age 60–61)
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 The University of Auckland
Thesis	<i>Exploratory methods for censored data</i> (http://search.proquest.com/docview/303589316) (1988)
Doctoral advisor	John James Crowley ^[1]

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