## Xianjun Dong, Ph.D.

Address: 60 Fenwood Road, 9th Floor, BTM 09002EE, Boston, MA 02115 USA

**Phone**: +1 857-307-5423 Fax: +1 857-307-5476

Email: xdong@rics.bwh.harvard.edu Website: http://www.sterding.com

## **PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **Education**

1998 - 2002	B.Sc., Biomedical Engineering, Southeast University, China
2002 - 2005	M.Sc., Biomedical Engineering, Southeast University, China
2005 - 2010	Ph.D., Bioinformatics, University of Bergen, Norway (Advisor: Dr. Boris Lenhard)

## **Postdoctoral Training**

09/10-09/13 Postdoctoral Associate, Program of Bioinformatics and Integrative Biology, University of

Massachusetts Medical School (Supervisor: Dr. Zhiping Weng)

# Appointments at Hospitals/Affiliated Institutions

12/16-present Director of Computational Neuroscience, Neurogenomics Lab and Parkinson Personal

Medicine Program of Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Instructor, Department of Neurology, Harvard Medical School 11/13-present

09/13-11/16 Faculty in Neurology, Brigham and Women's Hospital (Mentor: Dr. Clemens Scherzer)

## **Other Professional Positions**

2005 - 2005 Manager Trainee / Process Engineer, P&G

## **Major Administrative Leadership Positions**

2005 - 2007	President, Chinese Students and Scho	lars Association (CS	SSA) of Bergen, Norway	
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Organizer of the "EnsEMBL in a Nutshell" Bioinformatics Workshop, University of Bergen 2007 - 2007

Bioinformatics team lead in Neurogenomics Laboratory, Harvard Medical School 2013 - present

## **Professional Societies**

2016	A .	. 1	CAT 1	( A A 3 T)	3 ( 1
2016 - present	American A	1 cademy	of Neurolo	συιΔΔΝΙ	Member

International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), Member 2006 - present

2013 - present American Society for Human Genetics (ASHG), Member

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual DNA Day Essay Contest, Judge 2015

### **Honors and Prizes**

2015

2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize of the National Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling
2000	Liu Yonglin Fellowship Award, Southeast University, China
2000	Distinguished Student with 1 <sup>st</sup> grade Scholarship, Southeast University, China
2001	1 <sup>st</sup> prize of 2001 "Sony Cup" National Undergraduate Electronic Design Contest, China
	(winning by designing a robot-controlled electronic car)
2001	Meritorious winner (top 10%) in the international Mathematical Contest in Modeling
	(MCM) (winning by modeling the growth control of zebra mussels in the Great Lakes)
2001	Distinguished Student with 1 <sup>st</sup> grade Scholarship, Southeast University, China
2002	Distinguished Graduate Student Award, Southeast University, China
2009	Full Scholarship, "Chromatin Domains and Insulators" Workshop, Spain
2009	Travel Fellowship, MCB Research School, University of Bergen, Norway
2010	Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad, Ministry of
	Education, China (1 of 500 annual awardees in the world wide)

(ASHG) meeting, US

Reviewers' Choice – top 10% best posters in the American Society of Human Genetics

Page 1 of 9 v20170228

## **Service to Professional Publications**

- Ad hoc reviewer - (Total: 26 times for 15 journals)

2011 - present *PLoS Computational Biology* (1 paper)

2011 - present Genome Research (1 paper)

2012 - present Nature Biotechnology (1 paper)

2013 - present *PLoS ONE* (2 paper)

2013 - present Genome Biology (2 paper) 2014 - present Bioinformatics (5 paper)

2014 - present *PLoS Genetics* (1 paper)

2014 - present Evolutionary Bioinformatics (2 paper)

2014 - present International Journal of Biological Sciences (3 paper)

2014 - present *Journal of Biomedical Informatics* (2 paper)

2014 - present *Movement Disorders* (1 paper)

2014 - present The Pharmacogenomics Journal (1 paper)

2015 - present *Current Bioinformatics* (2 paper)

2015 - present *Neurogenetics* (1 paper)

2015 - present Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biologys (1 paper)

# **Funding Information**

## - Past -

2008 - 2012 Title: EDAC: ENCODE Data Analysis Center

Grant number: U01 HG004695-04

Goal: The goal of this project is to perform integrative analysis on ChIP-Seq, FAIRE-Seq

and RNA-Seq data as a part of the ENCODE data analysis center.

Role: Bioinformatics engineer

2011 - 2016 Title: Epigenetic Markers in Huntington's Disease Brain

Grant number: R01 NS073947

Goal: The goal of this project is to map, genome-wide HD disease-related changes in histone

methylation markings in prefrontal neurons.

Role: Bioinformatics analyst

2013 - 2016 Title: A Next Generation of Biomarkers for Incipient Huntington's Disease

Grant number: U01 NS082080

Goal: The goal of this project is to establish a national RNA biobank resource and develop

digital biofluid markers useful for tracking disease progression.

Role: Co-investigator

## - Current -

2016 – 2019 Title: Parkinson Disease: Predicting the Future

Grant number: U01 NS095736-01A1

<u>Goal</u>: The goal of this project is to identify genetic variants in susceptibility loci and familial genes that predict cognitive or motor progression, and replicate and verify forwarded genetic

variants in independent populations.

Role: Co-investigator

2016 – 2021 Title: GBA pathway markers for Lewy body dementias

<u>Grant number</u>: U01 NS100603-01 Role: Bioinformatics engineer

# - Pending -

2017-2018 Title: Cracking the Code of Chromosome 17q21 for Parkinson: From GWAS to Novel Drug

**Targets** 

Grant: American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) Research Grant

Page 2 of 9 v20170228

Xianjun Dong, Ph.D.

<u>Goal</u>: The goal of this project is to discover the causal variants in chr17q21 locus and validate them in iPSC-derived neurons.

Role: PI

Page 3 of 9 v20170228

# **Teaching of Students in Courses**

2007 EnsEMBL in a Nutshell, Bergen Center of Computational Science, University of Bergen,

Norway Role: Lecturer

National-wide bioinformatics students / researchers, 8-hr sessions per day for 5 days

# Laboratory and Other Research Supervisory and Training Responsibilities

2013 - present Bioinformatics training and supervision of the bioinformatics staff, students, engineers

Daily mentorship for 3 years

# **Formally Supervised Trainees / Students**

2009 - 2012	Yogita Sharma (graduate student in University of Bergen, Norway)
	Mentor, co-supervisor for her research project & thesis, and co-author of one article in BMC
	Bioinformatics
2013 - 2014	Carmen Portenkirchner (medical student in Paracelsus Medical University, Austria)
	Thesis co-advisor, research advisor
2013 - 2014	Dr. Shuilin Jin (visiting research scholar from Harbin Institute of Technology, China)
	Co-supervisor, Bioinformatics trainer
2014 - 2015	Alyssa Ehrlich (medical student in Harvard Medical School)
	Supervisor, research advisor for her proposal and her internship in the laboratory
2014 - 2015	Ruoting Wang (undergraduate in University of Massachusetts)
	Supervisor, research advisor for his summer internship in the neurogenomics laboratory
2014 - 2016	David Gritsch (postdoc in BWH Neurogenomics laboratory)
	Research advisor for his research in the laboratory
2015 - 2015	Will Nemirovsky (junior high school student in BB&N)
	Supervisor, research advisor for his summer bioinformatics training in Harvard
2015 - 2016	Dr. Yunfei Bai (visiting scholar from Southeast University, China)
	Co-supervisor, Bioinformatics trainer
2015 - 2017	Tao Wang (PhD Joint Training Program student, Harbin Institute of Technology, China)
	Supervisor, research advisor for his two-year bioinformatics training in Harvard
2016 -2016	Ellen DeGennaro (graduate student in Harvard-MIT HST PhD program)
	Supervisor, research advisor for her proposal and her internship in the laboratory
2016 - 2018	Zhuo Wang (PhD Joint Training Program student, Harbin Institute of Technology, China)
	Supervisor, research advisor for her two-year bioinformatics training in Harvard

## **Invited Presentations**

- Local -	
2011	Correlate histone modifications and gene expression / BIB seminar (UMass Medical School)
2012	Redefining the piRNA-producing loci of the mouse testis as genes / Invited Bioinformatics talk (UMass Medical School)
2014	From ENCODE to PD Brain Map: Bioinformatics in Big Data Research / The Center for Neurologic Diseases' ADPD seminar series (Harvard Institute of Medicine, BWH)
2015	The BRAINCODE consortium: Decoding neuronal genome function in human brain / The Center for Neurologic Diseases' ADPD seminar series (Harvard Institute of Medicine, BWH)

# - Regional -

2007	Remnants of lost bystander genes under non-coding selection pressure in human-zebrafish
	synteny blocks (BREW 2007, Norway)
2012	Modeling gene expression with chromatin features (ENCODE conference, MIT)
2013	Studying gene regulation using comparative genomics and epigenomics (DFCI / HMS)
2013	Studying gene regulation using comparative genomics and epigenomics (BWH / HMS)

# - National -

Page 4 of 9 v20170228

Modeling gene expression with chromatin features / Invited talk (ENCODE conference,

Stanford University)

2013 Long-range gene regulation in vertebrates genome (Berkeley Lawrence Laboratory)

- International -

2010 Translog, a web browser for studying the expression divergence of homologous genes (The

8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference, India)

Web resources to study the expression divergence of homologous genes (Huazhong

Agricultural University, China)

2010 Evolutionary mechanisms of developmental long-range gene regulation in vertebrate

genomes (GIS, Singapore)

2013 Studying gene regulation using comparative genomics and epigenomics (Southeast

University / Huazhong Agricultural University / Tongji University, China)

NGS and its application in translational medicine (Tongji Hospital, China)

## **PART III: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND INNOVATIONS**

## **Technological and Other Scientific Innovations**

Synorth A website designed for genome research, allowing to explore the evolution of synteny and

long-range regulatory interactions between vertebrate genomes

URL: http://synorth.genereg.net

Published as first author on Genome Biology (Impact factor: 10.30), 13 citations

Translog A website designed to study the expression divergence of homologous genes

URL: http://translog.genereg.net

Published as first author on *BMC Bioinformatics* (Impact factor: 3.02)

Factorbook A Wiki-based database for transcription factor-binding data generated by the ENCODE

consortium

URL: http://factorbook.org

Published as co-author on *Nucleic Acid Research* (Impact factor: 8.28), 4 citations

# **Educational Activities to the Community**

2012 Innovation Month in the Worcester Public Schools: How to extract DNA from an onion

Claremont Academy, Worcester

http://www.umassmed.edu/news/2012/education/gsbs-students-take-science-on-road.aspx

Founder of bioinformatics blog, "One Tip Per Day" (http://onetipperday.blogspot.com/),

which has 200 visit per day on average and more than 520,000 visits in total

#### Media Coverage

2008 – present

ENCODE CNN: http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/05/health/encode-human-genome/

consortium, Dong et

BBC: http://www.bbc.com/news/health-19202141

al. *Nature*, 2012 Scientific American: http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/junk-dna-encode/

Evolution News: http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/09/junk\_no\_more\_en\_1064001.html New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/06/science/far-from-junk-dna-dark-

matter-proves-crucial-to-health.html

LA Times: http://articles.latimes.com/2012/sep/05/science/la-sci-dna-encode-20120906 The Guardian: http://www.theguardian.com/science/2012/sep/05/genes-genome-junk-dna-

encode

8398-0327ab83ab91\_story.html

Dong et al. Genome

Genomeweb: http://www.genomeweb.com/blog/week-genome-biology-59

Biomed Central: http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcblog/2012/09/07/human-genomics-

comes-of-age-encode-open-access-and-biomed-central/

Umassmed News: http://www.umassmed.edu/news/news-archives/2012/09/umms-faculty-

integral-to-consortium-decoding-human-genome/

Page 5 of 9 v20170228

## **Original Articles**:

- 1. Mungpakdee S, Seo HC, Angotzi AR, **Dong X**, Akalin A, et al. Differential evolution of the 13 Atlantic salmon Hox clusters. *Molecular biology and evolution*. 2008; 25(7):1333-43. PMID: 18424774
- 2. **Dong X**, Fredman D, Lenhard B. Synorth: exploring the evolution of synteny and long-range regulatory interactions in vertebrate genomes. *Genome biology*. 2009; 10(8):R86. PMID: 19698106, PMCID: PMC2745767
- 3. Akalin A, Fredman D, Arner E, **Dong X**, Bryne JC, et al. Transcriptional features of genomic regulatory blocks. *Genome biology*. 2009; 10(4):R38. PMID: 19374772, PMCID: PMC2688929
- Dong X, Akalin A, Sharma Y, Lenhard B. Translog, a web browser for studying the expression divergence of homologous genes. *BMC bioinformatics*. 2010; 11 Suppl 1:S59. PMID: 20122234, PMCID: PMC3009532
- 5. **Dong X**, Navratilova P, Fredman D, Drivenes Ø, Becker TS, et al. Exonic remnants of whole-genome duplication reveal cis-regulatory function of coding exons. *Nucleic acids research*. 2010; 38(4):1071-85. PMID: 19969543, PMCID: PMC2831330
- 6. A user's guide to the encyclopedia of DNA elements (ENCODE). *PLoS biology*. 2011; 9(4):e1001046. PMID: 21526222, PMCID: PMC3079585
- 7. Yildirim O, Li R, Hung JH, Chen PB, **Dong X**, et al. Mbd3/NURD complex regulates expression of 5-hydroxymethylcytosine marked genes in embryonic stem cells. *Cell*. 2011; 147(7):1498-510. NIHMSID: NIHMS343144 PMID: 22196727, PMCID: PMC3252821
- 8. **Dong X**, Greven MC, Kundaje A, Djebali S, Brown JB, et al. Modeling gene expression using chromatin features in various cellular contexts. *Genome biology*. 2012; 13(9):R53. PMID: 22950368, PMCID: PMC3491397
- 9. Wang J, Zhuang J, Iyer S, Lin X, Whitfield TW, et al. Sequence features and chromatin structure around the genomic regions bound by 119 human transcription factors. *Genome research*. 2012; 22(9):1798-812. PMID: 22955990, PMCID: PMC3431495
- 10. Cheng C, Alexander R, Min R, Leng J, Yip KY, et al. Understanding transcriptional regulation by integrative analysis of transcription factor binding data. *Genome research*. 2012; 22(9):1658-67. PMID: 22955978, PMCID: PMC3431483
- 11. An integrated encyclopedia of DNA elements in the human genome. *Nature*. 2012; 489(7414):57-74. NIHMSID: NIHMS381381, PMID: 22955616, PMCID: PMC3439153
- 12. Wang J, Zhuang J, Iyer S, Lin XY, Greven MC, et al. Factorbook.org: a Wiki-based database for transcription factor-binding data generated by the ENCODE consortium. *Nucleic acids research*. 2013; 41(Database issue):D171-6. PMID: 23203885, PMCID: PMC3531197
- 13. Li XZ, Roy CK, **Dong X**, Bolcun-Filas E, Wang J, et al. An ancient transcription factor initiates the burst of piRNA production during early meiosis in mouse testes. *Molecular cell*. 2013; 50(1):67-81. NIHMSID: HHMIMS469552 PMID: 23523368, PMCID: PMC3671569
- 14. Hoss AG, Kartha VK, **Dong X**, Latourelle JC, Dumitriu A, et al. MicroRNAs located in the Hox gene clusters are implicated in huntington's disease pathogenesis. *PLoS genetics*. 2014; 10(2):e1004188. PMID: 24586208, PMCID: PMC3937267
- 15. Haberle V, Li N, Hadzhiev Y, Plessy C, Previti C, et al. Two independent transcription initiation codes overlap on vertebrate core promoters. *Nature*. 2014; 507(7492):381-5. PMID: 24531765
- 16. **Dong X**, Tsuji J, Labadorf A, Roussos P, Chen JF, et al. The Role of H3K4me3 in Transcriptional Regulation Is Altered in Huntington's Disease. *PloS one*. 2015; 10(12):e0144398. PMID: 26636336, PMCID: PMC4670094
- 17. Bai G, Cheung I, Shulha HP, Coelho JE, Li P, et al. Epigenetic dysregulation of hairy and enhancer of split 4 (HES4) is associated with striatal degeneration in postmortem Huntington brains. *Human molecular genetics*. 2015; 24(5):1441-56. PMID: 25480889, PMCID: PMC4321450
- 18. Locascio JJ, Eberly S, Liao Z, Liu G, Hoesing AN, et al. Association between α-synuclein blood transcripts and early, neuroimaging-supported Parkinson's disease. *Brain*. 2015; 138(Pt 9):2659-71. PMID: 26220939, PMCID: PMC4643625

Page 6 of 9 v20170228

19. Liu G, Boot B, Locascio JJ, Jansen IE, Winder-Rhodes S, et al. Specifically neuropathic Gaucher's mutations accelerate cognitive decline in Parkinson's. *Ann Neurol*. 2016 Nov;80(5):674-685. PMID: 27717005; PMCID: PMC5244667.

#### **Reviews:**

- 1. Fredman D, **Dong X**, Lenhard B. Making enhancers from spare parts of the genome. *Genome biology*. 2011; 12(12):138. PMID: 22206586, PMCID: PMC3334608
- 2. **Dong X**, Weng Z. The correlation between histone modifications and gene expression. *Epigenomics*. 2013; 5(2):113-6. NIHMSID: NIHMS598474, PMID: 23566087, PMCID: PMC4230708

## **Public Science:**

1. **Dong X**. The brainstorm. *IEEE Potential*. 2009 Vol. 28, No.1.

## Thesis:

1. **Dong X**. Evolutionary mechanisms of developmental long-range gene regulation in vertebrate genomes. 2010.

# **Abstracts, Poster Presentations Presented at Professional Meetings:**

- 1. **Dong X**, Xie J, Lu Z. PatternExplorer2.0: a tool to explore related genes with random pattern sequence in genome. *The International Forum on Biochip Technologies (IFBT2004)*, Beijing, China, 2004.
- 2. **Dong X**, Zhang L, Lu Z. Why SARS virus only infects the lung of human? A model to analyze the association of virus attachment proteins and cell receptors. *The 2nd International Forum on Post-Genome Technologies (2'IFPT)*, Nanjing, 2004.
- 3. Xie J, Sun X, Lu Z, Xue W, **Dong X**, Lu Z. gWord: A Tool for Genome-Wide Word Search and Count. *Proceeding of Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering*, 2007. ICBBE 2007.
- 4. **Dong X.** Remnants of lost bystander genes under non-coding selection pressure in human-zebrafish synteny blocks. *Bioinformatics Research and Education Workshops (BREW)*, Bergen, Norway, 2007. **(Oral)**
- 5. **Dong X**, Fredman D, Engström P, Lenhard B. Reconstructing the Evolutionary History of Genomic Regulatory Blocks in Vertebrates. *The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB)*, Austria, 2007.
- 6. **Dong X**, Akalin A, Fredman D, Lenhard B. Distribution of highly conserved non-coding elements in *Danio* rerio. The 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC), Hong Kong, 2007.
- 7. **Dong X**, Sheng Y, Gupta P, Lenhard B. Computational prediction of ncRNAs as target genes in genomic regulatory blocks. *The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC)*, Japan, 2008.
- 8. **Dong X**, Fredman D, Lenhard B. GRB Evolution Browser: a web resource for exploring evolutionary behaviours of vertebrate genomic regulatory blocks. *The 4th EMBO Conference: From Functional Genomics to Systems Biology*, Germany, 2008.
- 9. **Dong X**, Akalin A, Fredman D, Lenhard B. Evolutionary dynamics of genomic regulatory blocks: HCNEs and HARs, the content and the boundaries. *The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC)*, China, 2009.
- 10. **Dong X.** Translog, a web browser for studying the expression divergence of homologous genes. *The 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC)*, Bangalore, India, 2010. **(Oral)**
- 11. **Dong X**. Predicting gene expression using histone modifications. ENCODE Conference, Stanford, 2011.
- 12. **Dong X**. Correlating histone modifications and gene expression. *Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression*, CSHL, 2012.
- 13. Dong X. Modeling gene expression with chromatin features. ENCODE Conference, MIT, 2012. (Oral)
- 14. Liao Z, Zheng B, **Dong X**, Vanderburg CR, Locascio JJ, Pochet N, Regev A, Portenkirchner C, Altmann P, Jin S, Beach TG, Adler CH and Scherzer CR. The PD Brain Map: Mapping the Transcriptional Architecture of Dopamine Neurons in Human Brain. *The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)*, Boston, 2013.
- 15. **Dong X**, Liao Z, Gritsch D, Guennewig B, Hadzhiev Y, Bai Y, Liu G, Zheng B, Blauwendraat C, Hu Q, Adler CH, Hedreen JC, Frosch MP, Faull R, Nelson PT, Locascio J, Vanderburg C, Rizzu P, Cooper AA,

Page 7 of 9 v20170228

Heutink P, Beach TG, Mueller F, Mattick JS, Scherzer CR. BRAINCODE: How does the Human Genome Function in Specific Brain Neurons? *The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)*, Baltimore, 2015.

Page 8 of 9 v20170228