

Biography

Dr. Zhongming Zhao holds Ingram Professor of Cancer Research. He is also Professor in the Departments of Biomedical Informatics, Psychiatry, and Cancer Biology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His current administrative roles include the Chief Bioinformatics Officer of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC), the Director of the VICC Bioinformatics Resource Center, and the Associate Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Quantitative Sciences. Dr. Zhao has unique, interdisciplinary training: he received his master's degree training from Peking University (Genetics, 1996), University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (Biomathematics, 1998), and University of Houston (Computer Science, 2002) and obtained his Ph.D. in Human and Molecular Genetics from the graduate school of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in 2000. He completed a two-year Keck Foundation Postdoctoral fellowship at the W.M. Keck Center for Computational and Structural Biology and the Consortium for Bioinformatics of the Gulf Coast Consortia, Houston, Texas (2001-2003), before he took a tenure-track assistant professor position at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine (2003-2009). Since 2009, Dr. Zhao has been Associate Professor and Professor in the Departments of Biomedical Informatics, Cancer Biology, and Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Zhao has more than 17 years of bioinformatics and systems biology research experience and has co-authored more than 235 papers in these areas. His broad interests cover the application of integrative genomics and systems biology approaches to complex disease studies and the application of next generation sequencing technologies in precision medicine. His work has been supported by more than 50 funded grants totaling more than \$80 million. Dr. Zhao has served as the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editor, or editorial board member of 18 journals and served as the General Chair, Steering Committee Chair, Program Committee Chair, Session Chair, or has been on the steering, program, and award committees of numerous bioinformatics- and biomedical informatics-related international conferences (more than 75 positions total). Additionally, he has served on numerous grant review panels to review research grants for NIH, NSF, The Wellcome Trust, the German Research Foundation (DFG), The Ontario Research Fund, among others (more than 10 countries total). Dr. Zhao has received several awards, including the Keck Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship (twice: 2002, 2003), the NARSAD Young Investigator Award (twice: 2005, 2008), a NIH-funded VPSD Career Development Award in GI Cancer (2009), an Outstanding Achievement Award from the International Society of Intelligent Biological Medicine (2011), and the 2013 Outstanding Researcher Award from the Vanderbilt Department of Biomedical Informatics.

Keywords: Translational bioinformatics, precision medicine, cancer genomics, psychiatric genetics, integrative genomics, systems biology, pharmacogenomics, biomedical informatics, next generation sequencing, methodology development, statistical modeling, and heterogeneous data analysis.