



Laura Bassi Centre of Expertise

**Centre for Visual Analytics  
Science & Technology**



*Guest Lecture*

## **Interactive Tools for Translational Bioinformatics: Preliminary Lessons from the FaceBase Coordination and Management Hub**

Harry Hochheiser

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Biomedical Informatics

### **Abstract**

Translational science challenges biomedical researchers to establish broader collaborations involving increasingly diverse data and scientific perspectives, with the goal of using basic research to advance clinical practices. Information tools - particularly interactive systems and visualizations - play a key role in this work, helping researchers find otherwise unknown collaborators from unfamiliar fields, and build connections between disparate data sets.

The FaceBase Consortium is a group of research projects focusing on the syste-

matic compilation of the genetics underlying human midfacial development. Our ongoing work on the FaceBase coordination and management hub ([www.facebase.org](http://www.facebase.org)) provides a case study of the informatics opportunities and challenges associated with translational bioinformatics. Preliminary work in user requirements analysis, visualization probes, and open technological questions will be discussed, with a focus on lessons learned to date and challenges anticipated in the near future.

### **Short Bio**

Harry Hochheiser is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University in Maryland, with a dissertation focusing on interactive visualization of time series data sets. Dr. Hochheiser's research has covered a range of topics, including human-computer interaction, information visualization, bioinformatics, universal usability, security, privacy, and public policy implications of computing systems. Dr. Hochheiser has published more than 25 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers, two book chapters, and he is a co-author of *Research Methods in Human-Computer Interaction*.

**Date:** November 30, 2010 1 p.m.

**Location:** Seminar Room 187/2, Favoritenstr. 9-11, 2nd floor