NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

School of Biological Sciences

Seminar Announcement

Ancient admixture between 'archaic' and modern human groups

Date: 08 April 2015 Wednesday

Time: 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: SBS Classroom 3 (SBS-01n-23)

Host: Dr Hie Lim Kim



Speaker: A/Prof Jeff Wall
Division of Biostatistics
UCSF *Institute for Human Genetics* (IHG)
University of California, San Francisco

Abstract

As modern humans expanded out of Africa, they encountered various 'archaic' human groups such as Neanderthals, Denisovans and Homo erectus. We present new methods for identifying regions in contemporary genomes that were inherited from these archaic human groups, and quantify the amount of Neanderthal and Denisovan ancestry across a wide range of human populations. Our results suggest that the highest proportion of archaic human ancestry is found in Melanesians, and support the idea that there were at least two major waves of migration out modern humans out of Africa and into Eurasia.

Dr. Wall received his PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago and trained as a postdoc both there and at Harvard University. Before joining the faculty at UCSF in 2007, he spent 3 years as a faculty member in the Department of Molecular and Computational Biology at USC. His research spans a wide range of topics in evolutionary and human genetics, including models of speciation, inference of population history from sequence polymorphism data, and analyses of whole genome association study data in admixed populations.