

SHIKHAR UTTAM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Computational and Systems Biology
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Optics and computational imaging, signal and image processing, machine learning, early cancer detection and risk stratification, computational pathology, computational biophysics, cancer systems biology, spatial statistics and intra-tumour heterogeneity, radar signal processing, quantum information theory.

IMMIGRATION STATUS

Permanent Resident (Green card approved under outstanding professor and researcher category.)

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona USA

Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, December 2010 (Minor: Mathematics)

- Dissertation Topic: “Compressive imaging for difference image formation and wide-field-of-view target tracking”
- Advisor: Nathan A. Goodman

M.S., Electrical Engineering, December 2006

- Thesis Topic: “Computer-aided classification of benign/malignant microcalcifications in digital mammograms”
- Advisor: Robin N. Strickland

Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University of the Govt. of India), New Delhi INDIA

B.S., Electrical Engineering, May, 2002

CURRENT POSITION

Research Assistant Professor,
Department of Computational and Systems Biology,
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh USA.

(November 2016 – Present)

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Co-investigator, grant: R01 CA185363, (May 2014 – April 2018),
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health.

Co-investigator, grant: R01 EB016657, (May 2013 – April 2017),
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, National Institutes of Health.

Pitt Innovator Award, November 2014. (University of Pittsburgh award for technology innovation and translation.)

Director’s Award for Scientific Excellence, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI); for pre-clinical cancer research (2013).

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, College of Engineering, University of Arizona. (Chosen from all engineering departments within the University of Arizona (2005-2006).)

Graduate Tuition Scholarship Recipient, University of Arizona, (August 2006 - May 2010).

EMPLOYMENT

Research Associate,
Department of Computational and Systems Biology, University of Pittsburgh.

(July 2016–October 2016)

Research Associate,
Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh.

(September 2013–June 2016)

Postdoctoral Associate,
Biomedical Optical Imaging Laboratory,
Depts. of Medicine and Bioengineering, University of Pittsburgh.
Lab Director: Dr. Yang Liu

(October 2010–August 2013)

BOOK CHAPTERS

S. Uttam, “Introduction to quantum information processing” in Quantum information processing and quantum error correction, an engineering approach (Academic Press, Oxford, 2012)

S. Uttam, “Quantum information theory” in Quantum information processing and quantum error correction, an engineering approach (Academic Press, Oxford, 2012)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. **S. Uttam** and Y. Liu, “Fourier phase based depth-resolved nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping for cancer detection,” *Methods*, Elsevier (2017).[Accepted]
2. **S. Uttam** and Y. Liu, “*Fourier phase* in Fourier-domain optical coherence tomography,” *J. Opt. Soc. Am. A*; 32: 2286-2306 (2015).
3. **S. Uttam**, H. V. Pham, J. LaFace, B. Leibowitz, J. Yu , R. E. Brand, D. J. Hartman, and Y. Liu, “Early prediction of cancer progression by depth-resolved nanoscale mapping of nuclear architecture from unstained tissue specimens,” *Cancer Res*; 75: 4718-4727 (2015).
4. D. Hartman, A. Krasinskas, **S. Uttam**, K. Staton, R. K. Bista, S. Rizvi, A. Slivka, R. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Assessment of nuclear nano-morphology marker to improve the detection of malignancy from bile duct biopsies,” *Am. J. Clin. Pathol*; 141(6): 884-91 (2014).
5. Y. Liu, **S. Uttam**, S. Alexandrov, and R. K. Bista, “Investigation of nanoscale structural alterations of cell nucleus as an early sign of cancer,” *BMC biophysics*; 7:1 (2014). [*Invited*]
6. **S. Uttam**, R. K. Bista, K. Staton, S. Alexandrov, S. Choi, C. Bakkenist, D. Hartman R. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Investigation of depth-resolved nanoscale structural changes in regulated cell proliferation and chromatin decondensation,” *Biomed. Opt. Express* ; 4: 596-613 (2013).
7. **S. Uttam**, S. Alexandrov, R. K. Bista, and Y. Liu, “Tomographic imaging via spectral encoding of spatial frequency,” *Opt. Express*; 21: 7488-7504 (2013).
8. K. E. Fasanella, R. K. Bista, K. Staton, S. Rizvi, **S. Uttam**, C. Zhao, A. Sepulveda, R. E. Brand, K. McGrath, and Y. Liu, “Nuclear nano-architecture markers of gastric cardia and upper squamous esophagus detect esophageal cancer ‘field effect’,” *J. Cancer*; 4(8): 626-634 (2013)
9. **S. Uttam**, N. Goodman, and M. Neifeld, “Feature-specific difference imaging,” *IEEE Trans. Image. Process.*; 21(2): 638-652 (2012).
10. S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, R. K. Bista, and Y. Liu, “Spectral encoding of spatial frequency approach for characterization of nanoscale structures,” *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 101 033702 (2012).
11. S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, R. Bista, R. Zhao, and Y. Liu, “Real-time quantitative visualization of 3D structural information,” *Opt. Express*; 20: 9203-9214 (2012).
12. R. Bista, **S. Uttam**, D. Hartman, W. Qiu, L. Zhang, R. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Investigation of nuclear morphology of cells as a biomarker for cancer risk assessment using a mouse model,” *J. Biomed. Opt.*; 17(6):066014 (2012).
13. R. Bista, P. Wang, R. Bhargava, **S. Uttam**, R. E. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Nuclear nano-morphology markers of histologically normal cells detect the ‘field effect’ of breast cancer,” *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*; 135(1):115-124 (2012).
14. **S. Uttam**, R. Bista, D. Hartman, R. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Correction of stain variations in nuclear refractive index of clinical histology specimens,” *J. Biomed. Opt.*;16: 116013 (2011).
15. S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, R. Bista, and Y. Liu, “Spectral contrast imaging microscopy,” *Opt. Lett.*; 36: 3323-3325 (2011).

16. R. Bista, **S. Uttam**, P. Wang, L. Staton, S. Choi, C. Bakkenist, D. Hartman, R. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Quantification of Nanoscale Nuclear Refractive Index Changes during the Cell Cycle,” *J. Biomed. Opt. Lett.*; 16(7): 070503 (2011).
17. **S. Uttam** and N. Goodman, “Superresolution of Coherent Sources in Real-Beam Data,” *IEEE Trans on Aerosp. Electron. Sys.*; 46(3):1557-1566 (2010).
18. P. Wang, R. Bista, W. Khalbuss, W. Qiu, **S. Uttam**, K. Staton, L. Zhang, T. Brentnall, R. Brand and Y. Liu, “Nanoscale nuclear architecture for cancer diagnosis beyond pathology via spatial-domain low-coherence quantitative phase microscopy,” *J. Biomed. Opt.*; 15(6):066028 (2010).
19. **S. Uttam**, N. Goodman, M. Neifeld, C. Kim, R. John, J. Kim, and D. Brady, “Optically multiplexed imaging with superposition space tracking,” *Opt. Express*; 17:1691-1713, (2009).

COLLABORATIVE
ACKNOWLEDGE-
MENTS

For **performing biostatistics** in:

1. D. Parikh, E. Fouquerel, C. T. Murphy, H. Wang, and P. Opresko, “Telomeres are partly shielded from ultraviolet-induced damage and proficient for nucleotide excision repair of photoproducts,” *Nat. Comm.*; 6:8214 (2015).
2. E. Fouquerel, J. Lormand, A. Bose, T. Lee, G. Kim, J. Li, R. W. Sobol, B. Freudenthal, S. Myong, P. L. Opresko, “Oxidative guanine base damage regulates human telomerase activity,” *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.*; Published Online Nov 7 (2016).

CONFERENCES,
PRESENTATIONS

1. **S. Uttam**, F. Pullara, and C. Chennubhotla, “Comparative dynamics – An information theoretic perspective,” *Biomolecular Machines Conference Protein Flexibility and Allostery*, May 18–21, 2017, Banff, Alberta, Canada (2017).
2. F. Pullara, N. Bouhenni, **S. Uttam**, and C. Chennubhotla, “Integrative strategies for probing energy landscapes and dynamics of IDPs,” *Workshop on Intrinsically Disordered Proteins, TSRC 2017*, July 11–14, 2017; Telluride, Colorado, USA (2017)
3. **S. Uttam**, “Nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping for cancer-risk stratification and prediction,” *Computational Pathology Lecture Series*, April 14, 2017; *Computational Pathology Interest Group and Lecture Series*, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA (2017). [*Invited*]
4. Y. Liu, **S. Uttam**, H. V. Pham, and D. J. Hartman, “Improved cancer risk stratification and diagnosis via quantitative phase microscopy,” *SPIE Photonics West (BIOS)*, Jan 28 – Feb 2 2017, San Francisco, USA; Conference: *Quantitative Phase Imaging III*; Paper 10074-40 (2017). [*Invited*]
5. **S. Uttam**, J. LaFace, J. Y. Tang, J. Al Hashash, D. J. Hartman, R. E. Brand, and Y. Liu, “Multi-dimensional nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping (md-nanoNAM) for prospective prediction of cancer progression in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) colitis patients,” *Applied Pathology Informatics, Pathology Informatics Summit 2016*, May 23–26, 2016, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA (2016).
6. **S. Uttam** and Y. Liu, “Theory of Fourier phase within the framework of Fourier-domain optical coherence tomography,” *SPIE Photonics West (BIOS)*, Feb 13–18, 2016, San Francisco, CA; Conference: *Optical Coherence Tomography and Coherence Domain Optical Methods in Biomedicine XX*; Paper 9697-99 (2016).
7. **S. Uttam**, H. V. Pham, J. LaFace, D. J. Hartman, and Y. Liu, “Depth-resolved nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping for early prediction of cancer progression,” *SPIE Photonics West (BIOS)*, Feb 13–18, 2016, San Francisco, CA; Conference: *Optical Coherence Tomography and Coherence Domain Optical Methods in Biomedicine XX*; Paper 9697-79 (2016).

8. **S. Uttam** and Y. Liu, "Eigenmoment-based estimation of correlation length from spatial-frequency profile for structural characterization of continuous random medium," in Biomedical Optics, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, 2014), paper BS3A.36.
9. H. V. Pham, **S. Uttam**, and Y. Liu, "Multimodal hyperspectral full-field quantitative phase microscopy," in Biomedical Optics, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, 2014), paper BT3A.7.
10. Z. Li, R. Bhargava, K. Staton, H. Wang, **S. Uttam**, R. Brand, A. Soran, G. Ahrendt, and Y. Liu, "Nuclear Nano-Morphology Markers Predict Breast Cancer Risk in Patients with Atypical Breast Epithelial Hyperplasia," Lab. Invest., Vol. 94, 64A (2014).
11. **S. Uttam**, K. Staton, R. Bista, R. Bhargava, D. Hartman, R. Brand, and Y. Liu, "Analysis of nano-morphology characteristics as a novel marker for cancer risk assessment," UPCI Scientific Retreat, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, June 2013.
12. S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, R. Bista, K. Staton, and Y. Liu, "Spectral encoding of spatial frequency approach for characterization of 3D structures," SPIE Photonics West (BiOS), San Francisco, CA, Feb. 2013.
13. Y. Liu, S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, R. Bista, and C. Zhao, "Real-time quantitative structural imaging of label-free objects," SPIE Photonics West (BiOS), San Francisco, CA, Feb. 2013.
14. **S. Uttam**, S. Alexandrov, R. Bista, and Y. Liu, "Spectral encoding of spatial frequency approach for imaging and characterization of 3D structures," USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting (along with IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society), January 2013, Boulder, Colorado.
15. S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, R. Bista, and Y. Liu, "Spectral encoding of spatial frequency approach for quantitative visualization and characterization of 3D structures," in Biomedical Optics, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, 2012), paper BTu3A.57.
16. **S. Uttam**, S. Alexandrov, R. Bista, and Y. Liu, "Model-based demonstration of spectral tomographic imaging," in Biomedical Optics, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, 2012), paper BSu3A.61.
17. Y. Liu, S. Alexandrov, **S. Uttam**, and R. Bista, "Probing cell nanoscale structural properties using intrinsic contrast of light scattering," Biophysical Journal, Vol. 102, Issue 3, S1 (2012). [*Invited*]
18. R. Bista, **S. Uttam**, D. Hartman, W. Qiu, J. Yu, L. Zhang, R. Brand, and Y. Liu, "Investigation of nuclear nano-morphology markers as a novel biomarker for cancer risk assessment using a mouse model," Digestive Disease Week 2012, May 19-22, 2012, San Diego, California, USA (Abstract).
19. D. Brokl, D. Lo, W. Khalbuss, P. Wang, R. Bista, **S. Uttam**, Y. Liu, and R. Brand, "Spatial-domain low-coherence quantitative phase microscopy to improve the cytological diagnosis of pancreatic cancer," Gastroenterology - Orlando, 2011; 140(1):S-53. [*Plenary talk*]
20. **S. Uttam**, N. Goodman, and M. Neifeld, "Difference imaging from linear spatial-domain projections," SIAM Conference on Imaging Science, San Diego, CA July 2008.
21. **S. Uttam**, N. Goodman, and M. Neifeld, "Direct reconstruction of difference images from optimal spatial-domain projections," in Proc. SPIE Conference on Optics & Photonics, San Diego, CA, Aug. 2008.
22. **S. Uttam**, N. Goodman, M. Neifeld, D. Brady, J. Kim, and C. Kim, "Optically multiplexed imaging with superposition-space tracking," in Proc. SPIE Conference on Optics & Photonics, San Diego, CA, Aug. 2008.

PATENTS AND
TECHNOLOGY
DISCLOSURES

Spatial-domain low-coherence quantitative phase microscopy, US Patent App.: US 13/695,230; Publication date: Sep 5, 2013; Filing date: May 9, 2011.

(Depth-resolved) Spatial-domain low-coherence quantitative phase microscopy, US Patent App.: US 14/562,092; Publication date: July 23, 2015; Filing date: Dec 5, 2014.

Depth-resolved spatial-domain low-coherence quantitative phase microscopy for unstained tissue and cells, US Patent App.: 15/055,222; Publication date: Sep 1, 2016; Filing date: Feb 26, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS AND
SERVICE

Member,

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Optical Society of America (OSA), SPIE, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), and Association for Pathology Informatics (API)

Reviewer,

Scientific Reports (Nature research journal),
Diagnostic Pathology (BioMed Central),
Computers in Biology and Medicine (Elsevier),
Methods (Elsevier),
IEEE Access,
IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems,
IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing,
IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS, 2013),
Journal of Optical Society of America A (Optical Society of America),
Optics Express (Optical Society of America),
Biomedical Optics Express (Optical Society of America),
Optics Letters (Optical Society of America),
Applied Optics (Optical Society of America),
Optical Materials Express (Optical Society of America),
Journal of Biomedical Optics (SPIE),
Applied Sciences (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute),
Symmetry (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute)

STUDENT
SUPERVISION

Stephen Kita (TecBio 2013, a 10-week National Science Foundation funded undergraduate summer research program at University of Pittsburgh.)

Topic: Feature-based registration of histology images.

Nassima Bouhenni (TecBio 2017)

Topic: Probabilistic modelling of structure and dynamics of intrinsically disordered proteins.

TEACHING

BIOENG 1383/2383: Biomedical Optical Microscopy (Spring 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017)
Department of Bioengineering, University of Pittsburgh
(Instructor: Dr. Yang Liu)
My role: Lectures on computational imaging and image analysis.

MSCBIO/CMPBIO 2065: Scalable Machine Learning for Big Data Biology (Fall 2016, 2017)
Department of Computational and Systems Biology, University of Pittsburgh
(Co-instructors: Drs. Chakra Chennubhotla and David Koes)
My role: Lectures on spectral clustering , sparse coding, compressive sensing, and graphical models.

ECE220: Basic Circuits (Fall 2003, Spring and Fall 2004)
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Arizona
(Instructor: Dr. Robin N. Strickland)
My role: Teaching Assistant; tutorials and lectures five days a week

NATS102: The Universe and Humanity: Origin and Destiny (Spring 2003)
Lunary and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona.
(Instructor: Dr. Tom Gehrels)
My role: Tutorials and Questions/Answer sessions.

ASSISTANTSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Graduate Research Assistant, (January 2005 – September 2010)
Sensor and Array Processing Laboratory,
Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Arizona.
Lab Director: Dr. Nathan A. Goodman

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, (August 2003–December 2004)
Teaching: ECE220 Basic Circuits,
Digital Image Processing Laboratory,
Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Arizona.
Lab Director and Course Instructor: Dr. Robin N. Strickland

Research Intern, Image Analysis and Photometry, (May 2003–August 2003)
Steward Observatory, University of Arizona.
Lab Director: Dr. George Rieke

Graduate Teaching Assistant, (January 2003–May 2003)
NATS102 The Universe and Humanity: Origin and Destiny,
Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona.
Course Instructor: Dr. Tom Gehrels

Undergraduate Summer Intern, (May 2001–August 2001)
Center for VLSI Design and Prototyping,
Department of Electronics and Information Technology,
Govt. of India, New Delhi INDIA.
Lab Director: Dr. Debashis Dutta

Grader,
ECE435 Introduction to Digital Communication Systems (senior level undergraduate course),
ECE538 Radar Signal Processing (graduate level course)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages: C, C++, Python, Java
Computational languages/packages: Matlab, Mathematica
Statistical packages: R
Operating systems: Linux, Windows