

Jinghui Zhang, Ph.D. Department of Computational Biology chair St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Jinghui Zhang, Ph.D., is chair of the Department of Computational Biology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She holds the St. Jude Endowed Chair in Bioinformatics.

Computational biology efforts at St. Jude took shape five years ago with the creation of the St. Jude– Washington University Pediatric Cancer Genome Project (PCGP), an unprecedented effort to map the genomes of some of the deadliest childhood cancers. Data generated from the project—100 trillionplus pieces—encompass the complete normal and cancer genomes of more than 800 children and adolescents with 23 different childhood cancers.

Zhang joined St. Jude in 2010, leading the effort to analyze PCGP data and the creation of several new computational tools that have been adopted by researchers worldwide. Her work has helped define the landscape of mutations, leading to new directions in research involving high-risk leukemia, brain and solid tumors.

Prior to working at St. Jude, Zhang led genetic variation analysis of the first assembled human genome. She also contributed to key discoveries in the pilot phases of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Genome Atlas Project and the Therapeutically Applicable Research to Generate Effective Treatment (TARGET) initiative.

Zhang received her undergraduate degree from Fu Dan University in Shanghai and her doctorate from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Conn.