CIFELLOWS PROGRAM

ANTONINA MITROFANOVA
PostDoctoral CIFellow (CRA, CCC, NSF)
Columbia University
PhD student in computer science at NYU, Courant Institute, with Bud Mishra.

MY STORY

- Predicting protein complexes from noisy data for malaria parasite

- Predicting functions for proteins isolated in their own network

- Predicting classification
-In April 2009, I interviewed for Postdoctoral and research positions in NY.
- I chose Columbia University, dep. of Biomedical Informatics (with Prof. Andrea Califano, a leading scientist in this field).

- In May, 2009 I received an e-mail from my department head about the CIFellow and applied, listing Andrea as my only adviser.
WHAT WAS IMPORTANT?

• My passion about the proposed research
  ---you should not be afraid to show passion about your research

• How realistic my proposed research was: specific goals, tools and approaches
  ---be specific

• Close collaboration with my proposed adviser
  ---Do not prepare your application in isolation - talk to your proposed adviser, communicate to him your ideas, ask advice!
MY RESEARCH: PROSTATE

Collaborators:
Cory Abate–Shen and Michael Shen
A “human-to-mouse-to-human” discovery approach
Meetings on Biological Networks at Columbia University

- one hour seminar-

style talk

- informal discussion and

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
WHAT IS CIFELLOW FOR ME?

• CIFellow is not a regular postdoc: it is an extremely prestigious fellowship that offers a very competitive salary, accompanied with travel and relocation funds.

• It supports the most promising graduates in times of economic difficulties, encouraging new PhDs to stay in academia.

• I would call CIFellow a "young scientist" fellowship as opposed to a "postdoc" fellowship: since you have a lot of freedom and independence.

• Freedom of research, supervising students, attending...