SpatialEpi 2021

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FOREWORD

The spatial behavior of humans, plants, and animals as well as changing geographical and ecological environments play a role in the spread of diseases. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, recent scientific efforts focus on the development of real time monitoring and response systems, modeling and simulation to predict disease outcomes under existing or hypothetical scenarios, and the analysis of spatiotemporal data to describe or explain behaviors that affect disease trajectories. In general, these efforts seek to generate or leverage spatiotemporal data to improve our understanding, prediction, and response to infectious disease outbreaks.

The 2nd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on Spatial Computing for Epidemiology (SpatialEpi'2021) will focus on all aspects of modeling, simulating, mining, and monitoring the spatial processes and patterns of the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. It is becoming increasingly clear that interdisciplinary collaboration is needed to foster innovation and progress in these areas. Thus, this interdisciplinary workshop seeks to bring together researchers in the SIGSPATIAL community as well as researchers in epidemiology and public health.

This year we received five submissions, of which we selected three quality papers including one full paper and two short papers for final publication for an acceptance rate of 60%. The accepted papers cover a range of topics for better understanding the spread of COVID-19. SpatialEpi'2021 will feature a keynote talk by Dr. Amira Roess, a professor of Global Health and Epidemiology at George Mason University's College of Health and Human Services titled "The practicalities of multiple disciplinary research: lessons from COVID-19".

Taylor Anderson, Jia Yu, Amira Roess, Hamdi Kavak, Joon-Seok Kim, Andreas Züfle

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We would like to thank the program committee whose reviewing efforts are important for ensuring the quality of the accepted papers. In addition, many thanks to our keynote speaker Amira Roess who kindly accepted our invitations and will be sharing their research in SpatialEpi'2021.

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