



The VADA Program

Visual and Automated Disease Analytics
Graduate Training Program

Faculty Terms of Reference

October 2, 2018

What is the VADA Program?

The Visual and Automated Disease Analytics (VADA) Program is a graduate training program funded by the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) as part of its Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) grants program.

The goal of the VADA Program is to train Master's and PhD students to develop and use automated techniques and tools to collect, analyze, and visualize chronic and infectious disease data. The objectives of the VADA Program are to:

1. Advance student **technical skills** in the development and integration of interactive data visualization, visual analytics, and automated approaches for data mining, mathematical and statistical modeling, and predictive analytics;
2. Improve student **knowledge of applied problems** relevant to the detection, prevention and management of infectious and chronic diseases;
3. Develop student **professional skills** in communication and relationships, entrepreneurship, responsible conduct of research, and project management.

In brief, the VADA Program will assist students to develop technical and problem-solving skills to address the challenges of working with complex health data, as well as professional skills that focus on collaboration, project management, career development, ethics and privacy, and entrepreneurship.

What are my obligations as a VADA Program faculty member?

1. I have agreed to participate in bi-monthly VADA Program team meetings.
2. I have agreed to join and actively participate in one of the VADA Program subcommittees:
 - a. Internship/Lab Exchange Committee
 - b. Summer School Committee
 - c. Recruitment and Selection Committee
3. I have agreed to supervise one or more VADA Program trainees.
4. I have agreed to serve on a VADA Program trainee's thesis committee if requested.
5. I have agreed to lead a class in the Foundations of Disease Analytics course in the 2018/19 academic year and/or I agree to lead a session in the 2019 VADA Program Summer School.

Committee Structure and Term

For each committee, membership will be re-evaluated annually and one committee chair must be identified. No more than five faculty members will sit on any given committee.

What are the responsibilities for each subcommittee?

Internship/Lab Exchange Committee – Works to identify potential partners, build and maintain relationships with them and match them to interested students. This subcommittee is also involved in evaluating the processes around and outcomes of the internship.

Summer School Committee – Works to organize and oversee the annual summer school, liaising with the George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation at the University of Manitoba as needed. This includes recruiting speakers, setting up time tables and schedules, identifying the big data challenge and deciding on which technical/professional skills should be developed through the summer school. After the summer school has been completed, the committee also gathers to evaluate the summer school.



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Recruitment and Selection Committee – Works to identify venues for recruiting students and faculty to program. This committee also establishes processes and criteria for evaluation of candidates and recommends new and existing students to the leadership team. For students who have received another major funding award, a top-up amount will be determined by the VADA Program Recruitment and Selection Committee.

