

Janet Sinsheimer
Professor of Biostatistics,
Biomathematics, & Human Genetics
University of California-Los Angeles

1. Where did you grow up?

Ann Arbor, Michigan

2. What do you do (i.e. what career or field are you in, what is the title of your position)?

I am a statistical geneticist. I'm a Professor in the Departments of Human Genetics, Biomathematics and Biostatistics and a faculty member in the Program in Bioinformatics and the Center for Society and Genetics.



3. How did you choose your career? When did you first know this is the career you wanted?

In a way it just happened. I started out as an experimental chemist after I graduated college and worked at Hoffmann-La Roche. However, I was always happier doing mathematics and computing than being in the Laboratory so I went back to school in Biomathematics at UCLA.

4. Did your family support your decision to pursue your career?

Yes,

5. What is the highest level of education you have?

PhD

6. What is the highest level of education reached by other members of your family?

PhD (my Dad)

7. What is the salary range for a person in your position?

~\$125,000 to \$300,000/year (\$60-\$144/hour)

8. What do you like most about your job?

Working with students

9. What do you like least about your job?

Administration

10. What's an abbreviated day in the life of your job?

Research, meetings with Students, meetings with faculty.

11. In one to two sentences, how would you say you either use bioinformatics in your work? If you don't use bioinformatics directly in your work how has bioinformatics impacted your career field?

I use bioinformatic tools to help me figure out which genes are important determinants of disease.

12. Do you have any recommendations for students who are interested in entering your field?

Get as much Mathematics training as possible and don't give up if you find you don't like or aren't good at one type of Mathematics. Mathematics, just like biology, comes in a lot of forms and not everybody is good at all types. So even if you don't like Geometry, you might still like and be good at Statistics or Combinatorics.

13. What are your favorite hobbies?

Playing with my Dog, gardening and traveling.