Margit Burmeister, Ph.D.

Molecular & Behavioral Neuroscience Institute

Associate Chair and Professor, Computational Medicine &Bioinformatics

Co-Director, Bioinformatics Graduate Program

Professor of Psychiatry and Human Genetics

University of Michigan

Dr. Burmeister received her Ph.D. in Biology from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory and the University of Heidelberg for mapping the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Gene (Nature 1986). As postdoc at the University of California San Francisco, she co-invented Radiation Hybrid mapping with David R. Cox and Richard M. Myers (Science 1990), which was used in the Human Genome project. Since 1991, she has been on the faculty at University of Michigan, where in addition to her research she directs the Bioinformatics graduate (MS and PhD) program, which has much expanded in recent years.

Her research as a geneticist has resulted in >150 publications, including Nature, Science, Nature Genetics, Neuron, PNAS, eLife etc. She also reviews for these and many other journals. She was a permanent member of the Genomics, Computational Applications and Technologies study section of NIH, and continues to review grants in >20 countries. She is on the board of directors of the International Society for Psychiatric Genetics.

Dr. Burmeister uses an integrative genomic approach to understand rare genetic neurological diseases and common brain disorders. Current approaches include integration of data from next generation sequencing, mRNA, DNA, tissue culture and animal models, molecular follow-up of genetic association studies, and gene x environment interaction studies in human behavioral disorders such as depression and alcohol addiction. She collaborates widely, including recent success stories with neurologists in Turkey, and has teaching experience and several ongoing collaborations in China. She is engaged in an ISPG spin-off society of psychiatric geneticists in China, now in its 4th year.