

## Obituary

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### Dr. G. Christian Overton

June 1, 2000

Dear Friends and Colleagues: We are deeply saddened to pass on the news of the death of Dr. G. Christian Overton, Director of the Center for Bioinformatics at the University of Pennsylvania, from complications arising from cardiomyopathy. Penn has lost a major star and wonderful person; his charm, wit, good nature and academic brilliance will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to his wife Carolyn, their children and the entire family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, (send to) the G. Christian Overton Cardiovascular research fund, Medical Center Development, 3535 Market St., Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

The family is also requesting that if you have any stories, anecdotes or remembrances of Chris that you email them to his brother John Overton at [overtonj@ix.netcom.com](mailto:overtonj@ix.netcom.com)

With deep regrets,

Susan Davidson  
Chris Stoeckert

#### About Chris's work

Chris was the founding Director of the Center for Bioinformatics at Penn, established in 1997 as an interdisciplinary venture between the Schools of Medicine, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering and Applied Science. He was also an Associate Professor in the Department of Genetics, and held a secondary appointment in the Department of Computer and Information Science in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Chris is internationally recognized as a pioneer in genomic research. He was among the first to recognize the potential impact of computational approaches for solving biological problems. Chris's training in biophysics, developmental biology and computer science, and his deep understanding of biomedical and computational problems, enabled him to establish many exciting research projects, effectively bridging the gap between collaborators in numerous fields. His own research interests focused on problems associated with database integration, genome annotation, gene prediction, and the recognition of regulatory elements within the sea of nucleotides that comprise the human genome. Through his use of advanced computational techniques to help in the construction of genomic databases, Dr. Overton also gained considerable recognition in computer science.

Electronic publication can be found in *In Silico Biol.* **1**, 000121 <<http://www.bioinfo.de/isb/2000/01/0021/Chris-Overton.html>>, 1 June 2000.

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