WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SEMINARS

Title: **Bio3 Seminar Series:**
             Research at Census, including links to Biostatistcs/Informatics

Date/Time: **October 25, 2013/10-11 a.m.**
             Q&A time until 11:30 am

Speaker: Thomas A. Louis, Ph.D.
             Research & Methodology Directorate, U.S. Census Bureau
             Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins

Location: Warwick Evans Conference Room, Building D,
             Georgetown University Medical Campus

             4000 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20057
             http://bit.ly/X8OKBN (map)

             Detailed directions for public transportation, car, and parking can be
             found here: http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/about/Visitors/

Abstract: In order to meet the challenges of efficiently obtaining valid information
             and making it available to the public, research at the U.S. Census
             Bureau and survey research more generally burgeons. Many research
             goals and methods are similar to those addressed by and used in
             Biostatistics or Informatics. To set the scene, I briefly describe the Census
             Research & Methodology directorate, list major issues and approaches,
             then provide details on a small subset. Candidate topics include
             adaptive design (dynamic survey modes, R-factors in the National
             Survey of College Graduates, timing of mailing hard copy based on K-M
             curves, challenges of learning from experience), stopping rules,
             randomized experiments (the effect of interviewer training in the
             National Crime Victimization Survey), record matching, prediction (of
             response propensity, of occupancy, of the "fitness for use" of
             administrative records), imputation, Bayesian methods (design-
             consistent analyses, post-processed {confidence} intervals,
             benchmarking), small areea/spatio-temporal analysis (estimation of
             poverty rates, estimating omissions in the master address file),
             development and use of paradata (in the National Health Interview
             Survey), double-robustness, dynamic data posting ("OnTheMap" Local
             Origin-Destination Employment Statistics), disclosure
             avoidance/limitation, Big Data (opportunities and challenges), micro-
             simulation (benefits of research in designing the 2020 Census), and IT

infrastructure (the Multi-mode Operational Control System). I close with a call for increased collaboration among statistical agencies and academe, building on the NSF-Census Bureau Research Network.

Committee on National Statistics
THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Public
SEMINAR

Understanding Immigration—Measuring Flows, Stocks, and Economic Effects

Friday, October 25, 2013 • National Academy of Sciences Main Building

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC • Lecture Room

2:00 pm **Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests — First Floor East Court**

2:30 **Welcome**
—Lawrence Brown, CNSTAT Chair and University of Pennsylvania Wharton School

2:35 **Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office**
—Brian Harris-Kojetin

2:45 **Understanding Immigration—Measuring Flows, Stocks, and Economic Effects**

Good statistics are essential for informed policy choices on such complex topics as immigration. This seminar will address the state of current knowledge and challenges for data sources and estimation methods for key aspects of this contentious policy area.

Tom Plewes, director, Committee on Population (CPOP), National Research Council, will outline major questions for two new CPOP-CNSTAT studies: Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Immigration and Integration of Immigrants into U.S. Society.

Alicia Carriquiry, Iowa State University Department of Statistics and CNSTAT member, will address survey and modeling challenges for estimating gross flows across the U.S.–Mexico border, including estimates of people who turn back.

Jeffrey Passel, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, will summarize and critique the "residual" method of estimating stocks of illegal immigrants in the United States and provide estimates of trends in net flows and key characteristics.

David Card, University of California, Berkeley, Department of Economics, and CNSTAT member, will discuss what we know and do not know—identifying data needs—about the socioeconomic impacts of immigrants in American society.

4:00   Floor Discussion

4:30—5:30   Reception – First Floor East Court

This seminar is open to the public. Please help us plan by registering here**.**

For assistance, please contact Jacqui Sovde at (202) 334-1616 or jsovde@nas.edu.

Title: **Unseasonal Seasonals?**

Date/Time: **October 30, 2013/10 a.m.-noon**

Speaker: Jonathan Wright, Johns Hopkins University

Chair: Richard Tiller, Bureau of Labor

Discussant: David Findley, Bureau of the Census

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 8
To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Program

Abstract: In any seasonal adjustment filter, some cyclical variation will be mis-attributed to seasonal factors and vice-versa. The issue is well known, but has resurfaced since the timing of the sharp downturn during the Great Recession appears to have distorted seasonals. In this paper, I find that initially this effect pushed reported seasonally adjusted nonfarm payrolls up in the first half of the year and down in the second half of the year, by a bit more than 100,000 in both cases. But the effect declined in later years and is quite small at the time of writing. In addition, I make a case for using filters that constrain the seasonal factors to vary less over time than the default filters used by US statistical agencies, and also for using filters that are based on estimation of a state-space model. Finally, I report some evidence of predictability in revisions to seasonal factors.

Title: **Bio3 Seminar Series:**
Estimation of mean response via effective balancing score*

Date/Time: **November 8, 2013/10-11 a.m.**
Q&A time until 11:30 am

Speaker: Zonghui Hu, Ph.D.,
National Institutes of Health

Location: Warwick Evans Conference Room, Building D,
Georgetown University Medical Campus

4000 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20057
http://bit.ly/X8OKBN (map)

Detailed directions for public transportation, car, and parking can be found here: http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/about/Visitors/

Abstract: We introduce effective balancing scores for estimation of the mean response under MAR (missing at random). Unlike conventional balancing scores, the effective balancing scores are constructed via dimension reduction free of model specification. Three types of effective balancing scores are introduced, carrying the covariate information about the missingness, the response, or both. They lead to consistent estimation with little or no loss in efficiency. Compared to existing estimators, the effective balancing score based estimator relieves the burden of model specification and is the most robust. It is a near-automatic procedure that is most appealing when high dimensional covariates are involved. We investigate both the asymptotic and the numerical properties, and demonstrate the proposed method in a study of HIV disease.

*Full list of authors for this paper: Hu Z., Follmann D.A., Wang N.

Title: **The Remarkable Robustness of Ordinary Least Squares in**
                 Randomized Clinical Trials

Date/Time: **November 19, 2013/12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Speaker: David R. Judkins, Abt Associates

Chair: Dan Liao, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 8
                 To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics
                 you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to
                 wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance
                 of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to
                 the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to
                 Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Program

Abstract: There has been a series of occasional papers in *Statistics in Medicine* about
                 robust covariate control in the analysis of clinical trials. The robust
                 semiparametric and nonparametric methods for statistical inference of
                 estimated effects are fairly easy to apply with 21st century computers, but many
                 prefer to continue using t-tests and confidence intervals based on ordinary least
                 squares for outcomes that clearly do not follow normal
                 distributions. Presumably, issues of tradition and communication make it very
                 hard to deflect this inertia. In addition, recent papers have demonstrated that
                 the tests are asymptotically equivalent and the more complex but less
                 parametric procedures make little difference in practice. However, in this
                 journal, there is not sufficient examination of whether these tests and confidence
                 intervals are robust to substantial excess kurtosis, particularly in small sample
                 sizes. This paper indicates through simulation where the boundaries lie for two
                 types of strongly nonnormal outcomes: binary outcomes and compound
                 binary/gamma outcomes. We found that traditional ANCOVA methods work
                 very well down to very small sample sizes for these outcomes.

CONFERENCES

The NCRN Mini-Symposium, **Record Linkage and Metadata**, originally scheduled for **October 4, 2013** been postponed due to the uncertainty surrounding the government shutdown.

All those who have signed up for the event will be notified via email of the new date.

If an individual wants to be on the mailing list for that announcement, please contact Sandie Heineck at Sandra.L.Heineck@census.gov.

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference

November 4-6, 2013
Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

Registration is now **OPEN** and the advance program is available for the 2013 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference! This three-day conference will bring together researchers in the statistical community from government, private sector, and academia to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to statistical programs.

The conference will offer papers on a wide range of topics including:

Adaptive survey design	Imputation
Address-based sampling	Mobile devices
Administrative records	Multi-mode and web data collection
Bayesian statistical methods	Nonresponse and measurement error
Coding	Paradata and metadata
Confidentiality and disclosure	Questionnaire and survey design
Crowdsourcing	Record linkage
Data quality	Small area estimation
Economic statistics	Survey redesign
Editing	Variance estimation
Frame development	Weighting

Registration: The registration fee is $195. To register on-line, go to the conference registration website, http://www.regonline.com/2013FCSMResearch.

Advance Program: Visit the FCSM Web site or the COPAFS Web site to view the advance program.

SHORT COURSE

WSS Short Course
Introduction to R

October 15, 2013
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

This course introduces R to those who are interested in using R for their statistical analysis and have little or no prior experience using R. R is open-source software that is widely used in the statistical community. It provides a flexible platform for both analysts who prefer performing analysis with pre-packaged functions and those who wish to develop their own routines. Because of its open-source nature and flexibility, many R&D and academic researchers have been developing R packages and functions for state of the art statistical methods. R is also highly customizable for producing visual presentations.

The course will cover four introductory subjects: R basic operations, data manipulation, univariate statistics and simple graphics. The goal of the course is to provide sufficient fundamental knowledge to start using R and enable users to further advance their knowledge of R from various sources as desired.

The format of the course will include lecture and hands-on opportunities. Lunch will be provided.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops with R installed (http://www.r-project.org/).

Who Should Attend: This course is designed for those who are interested in using R for their statistical analysis with little or no prior experience using R.

About the Instructor: Cha-Chi Fan is a Mathematical Statistician from the US Energy Information Administration. Her work has focused on dynamic system modeling and simulation, uncertainty and risk assessments, and spatial methods.

Course Schedule:

9:00-10:30	R Basic Operations
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	Data Manipulation
12:15-1:15	Lunch (provided)
1:15-2:45	Univariate Statistics
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:30	Simple Graphics

Registration Fee	Online (by October 8th)	At the Door
Full-time students (limited to 8)	$40	$50
WSS members	$150	$170
All other registrants	$200	$220

Register for this course online at URL: https://www.123signup.com/register?id=dqffn
For more information about this course, please contact Brian Meekins: meekins.brian@bls.gov

WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Washington Statistical Society
Member Spotlight
Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership

Meet WSS Student Representative Tim Allen...

1. Where do you work and what do you do?
I'm a Deputy Division Director at FEMA. Our Division takes care of HR, Contracts, Finance, and IT needs for the Recovery Directorate of FEMA. Before FEMA I was a programmer for Oracle and later a GIS guy.

2. Where do you go to school and what do you study?
I'm in UDC's MS in Applied Statistics program. My thesis will involve using Bayesian statistics to help make decisions in disaster recovery operations. I got my Bachelor's in Computer Science in 1986 from the Naval Academy; on graduation day I became a Marine Corps officer.

3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."
I joined WSS because there was an opportunity to become the Student Representative! I think it's a valuable resource for networking and learning for students. The WSS has given me the opportunity to meet enthusiastic students as well as working statisticians, and to see the broad range of statistical work here in DC. If I've learned one thing from my time in WSS, it's that statisticians are nice people.

4. What was your first job?
My parents were artists. My dad built his own kiln and spun pots on a wheel. When I was eight, he paid me eight cents a pot to clean the clay off of the wheel.

5. What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?
This may sound cliché, but I think soft skills such as creativity, problem solving, and communicating well with clients will make the difference for the next generation. In my past life as a computer programmer and database administrator I was in another highly specialized, technical field... and over the years I've seen that those abilities have come to be considered a commodity. But listening well, working in a team, and turning understanding of the needs of clients into solid solutions can set a technician apart and make him or her a valuable resource.

6. What field other than your own would you like to study?
Physics. It's fascinating. I wish I had paid a lot more attention to this in undergrad.

7. What is the last book you read?
Introduction to Mathematical Statistics by Hogg, McKean & Craig. It's the most important text in our program at UDC, so I carry it with me all the time. It starts great conversations; people can't help but tell me how much they hated statistics when they had to take it in college.

8. What is your favorite vacation spot?
For the last few years, my wife and son and I have spent summer vacation windsurfing in a tiny beach town in Spain called Sant Feliu de Guixols. My wife was born near there in Barcelona. It's quiet, sunny, and has a fascinating history. We'll probably retire there.

9. How do you like to spend your free time?
I like to run a lot; I've run a few ultramarathons. But mainly I spend time with my wife, Sonia, and my 11 year old son, Daniel.

10. What is your greatest accomplishment?
I'd probably say raising my son, but that's more of a privilege than an accomplishment. Other than that, after the Marine Corps, I spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Seychelles. It was an eye-opening experience that has touched every aspect of my life since.

BE INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!

Latest News on International Year of Statistics

You Are Invited to Participate in the "Unconference"

The Unconference, which will focus on the future of statistics from the perspective of junior statisticians, will be held October 30 from noon to 1 p.m. EST on Google Hangouts and simultaneously live-streamed on YouTube.

The event will feature several of the most exciting and innovative statistical thinkers discussing their views on the future of the field, especially those issues that affect junior statisticians the most: education, new methods, software development, collaborations with natural sciences/social sciences, and the relationship between statistics and industry.

Confirmed presenters are:

- Daniela Witten, assistant professor, Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington
- Hongkai Ji, assistant professor, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University
- Joe Blitzstein, Professor of the Practice, Department of Statistics, Harvard University
- Sinan Aral, associate professor, MIT Sloan School of Management
- Hadley Wickham, chief scientist, RStudio
- Hilary Mason, chief data scientist, Accel Partners

You can sign up for the Unconference here. During the lead-up to the conference, organizers ask that you submit your thoughts on the future of statistics via Twitter using the hashtag #futureofstats. They will compile all comments and make these available along with the talks.

A recorded version of the Unconference will be available for viewing on YouTube after the event. Be sure to share the news of the Unconference with your friends and coworkers!

All other news are available in the latest International Year of Statistics newsletter, at http://www.statistics2013.org/files/2013/09/September-23-2013.pdf.
Past newsletters can be reviewed at http://www.statistics2013.org/participant-newsletter-archive/.

~ Donsig Jang, WSS Liaison for the International Year of Statistics

Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.
1. *Your* name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be great be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, John Finamore (jfinamore@nsf.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

STUDENT CORNER

The International Student

As the WSS Student Representative, I get to meet and talk with Statistics students from different universities across the DC area. I am impressed by the large number of international students who choose to study Statistics in the United States. I often wonder what their experience is like. I talked with **Arlan Henry**, a Grad Student at UDC from Antiga, and two students who I'll call **Sam** and **Mary** as they preferred anonymity. The former students were **Dr Valbona Bejleri** (Albania, PhD Stats AU '05; WSS Grad Student of the Year 2004), Program Head of Statistics at UDC, and **Dr Eloi Kpamegan** (Benin, PhD Stats AU '97), who is the Director of Clinical and Nonclinical Biostatisticians at Novavax in Rockville.

Applications and Visas. **Sam** and **Mary** applied for school while they still lived in their home countries. Acceptance letter in hand, they applied for an I-20: the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status. **Mary** told me, "The I-20 is everything: it's really what lets me be here". The I-20 is good for the expected duration of the academic program, and permits the student to apply for an F-1 visa.

To get the F-1 visa, **Sam** and **Mary** had to pass a *Visa Interview.* I asked if the interview was difficult; **Mary** told me it was not so bad, but she had to demonstrate that she had the means to support herself financially. This is important; since 9/11, the United States doesn't automatically allow F-1 visa holders to work off-campus.   **Dr Bejleri** was able to work as an on-campus math and statistics tutor while she was in school.

F-1 Visas are good for one year. They can usually be renewed by mail as long as they have not expired. Once they expire, the student has to pass another Visa Interview to receive another visa. This becomes an issue if the student has to leave the United States: they can't return without a valid visa.

Money and Work. Being an international student can be expensive. **Arlan** explained that his tuition is several times that of an in-state student. He also pays significantly more for health insurance. Even though he finds inexpensive ways of staying in touch with family, he has to work on-campus to pay expenses. But work for international students can be tricky. The F-1 Visa permits on-campus work; **Mary** explained to me that "even if the job is working at a Starbucks within the university, it's considered on-campus". But to work off-campus, the student must apply for a Curricular Practical Training work permit.

Friendship. I asked the students how they formed friendships. **Sam** and **Arlan** felt they had about the same experience as students from the US: they formed friendships with their classmates, regardless of nationality. **Dr Kpamegan** echoed this: "My friends were the others in my program. You like math, they like math; you get along with each other." He still maintains friendships with his fellow students. I asked if learning English had been an issue; **Sam** had found that his school English had to improve a lot when he got here. But eventually

his English improved greatly. It didn't seem to be a big impediment to forming friendships. One unpleasant experience that **Dr Bejleri** had was that some people saw her as a foreigner first before understanding her other characteristics.

Advice. I asked **Sam** and **Mary** if they had any advice for international students. Both said, "keep your grades up!" For graduate students, the I-20 is valid only as long as the student is Full-Time and carrying a GPA of at least 3.0. So international students are highly motivated to keep up with their work.

Answer to Probs & Stats Brain Teaser #1:

Last month's problem: Imagine you have two one-liter glasses. You can put any level of water you want into the first glass. Then you can put water into the second glass, up to the level of the first glass. Pour the contents of the second glass into the first glass. What is the probability that the first glass will overflow?

Thanks to **Dr Valbona** Bejleri of UDC; I adapted this from a Math Stats problem she assigned.

Answer: Let the random variable X ~ U(0, 1) represent the level of glass 1. Let Y ~ U(0, X) represent glass 2. We want to find P(X + Y > 1). The PDF of X is f(x) = 1/(1 − 0) = 1. The PDF of Y is f(y) = 1/(x − 0) = 1/x. The joint PDF f(x, y) is 1 * 1/X = 1/X. The conditional PDF f(y|x) = f(x, y)/f(x) = 1/x.

To overflow, glass 1 must be at least 1/2 at the start, so (1/2 < X < 1). Glass 2 is at most the value of glass 1, but at least 1 − x to overflow, so (1-X < Y < X).
P(X + Y > 1) = P(X + Y > 1 | X > 1/2) =

$$\int_{x=\frac{1}{2}}^{1} \int_{y=1-x}^{x} \frac{1}{x} \, dy \, dx \quad = 1 - \ln(2) = \mathbf{0.3069}$$

A bit of R Code to try this out:
```
overflow <- 0
TRIES <- 1000000
for (try in 1:TRIES) {
        x <- runif(n=1, min=0, max=1)
        y <- runif(n=1, min=0, max=x)
        if (x+y > 1) {
                overflow <- overflow + 1
        }
}
overflow/TRIES
[1] 0.307164
```

I received one answer from **Michael Lee** of UMBC. Thanks Michael! I'd encourage the rest of you, students and non-students, to take a crack at this month's problem!:

Probs & Stats Brain Teaser #2:

Here's a problem from Hogg, McKean, and Craig 2005 from our Math Stats class:
Bowl I contains 6 red chips and 4 blue chips. Five of these 10 chips are selected at random and without replacement and put in bowl II, which was originally empty. One chip is then drawn at random from bowl II. Given that this chip is blue, find the conditional probability that 2 red chips and 3 blue chips are transferred from bowl I to bowl II.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Adjunct Faculty
Statistics for Managerial Decision Making Graduate School
Local MD, VA and DC Locations

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) seeks an adjunct faculty to teach Statistics for Managerial Decision Making. UMUC is one of 11 degree-granting institutions in the University System of Maryland (USM). Working adults, military personnel, and other students around the globe are achieving their academic goals through UMUC's innovative educational options, including online instruction, accelerated academic programs, and classroom-based courses taught during the daytime, evenings, and weekends. Currently, more than 42,000 students attend UMUC nationally, and an additional 37,000 students attend UMUC at on site classes in more than 25 countries throughout the world; about 58,000 students are active duty military, veterans, and their families. In 2012, UMUC had over 262,000 online course enrollments.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Teaching graduate level students either:

- Statistics for Managerial Decision Making (MGMT 650): An examination of how managers organize, analyze, and interpret data for decision making. Focus is on developing skills in using statistical tools to make effective business decisions in all areas of public and private-sector decision making, including accounting, finance, marketing, production management, and human resource management. Topics include collecting data; describing, sampling, and presenting data; probability; statistical inference; regression analysis; forecasting; and risk analysis. Microsoft Excel is used extensively for organizing, analyzing, and presenting data.
- Research Methods for Health Care Managers (HAIN 650): An examination of how managers organize, analyze, and interpret health data for decision making. Focus is on developing skills in using statistical tools to make effective business decisions in all areas of public- and private-sector health care decision making, including accounting, finance, clinical practice, public health, marketing, production management, and human resource management. Topics include collecting data; describing, sampling, and presenting data; probability; statistical inference; regression analysis; forecasting; and risk analysis. Microsoft Excel is used extensively for organizing, analyzing, and presenting data.

REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Ph.D. required in Statistics, Business Statistics, Information Systems and/or related field is required from an accredited institution of higher learning.
- 4-5 years prior teaching experience, and experience with online teaching environments is preferred.
- Professional experience with large databases used for management decision making is preferred.

POSITION AVAILABLE & WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FILLED
SALARY COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE

All submissions should include a cover letter and résumé. For detailed benefits information, please visit http://www.umuc.edu/visitors/careers/benefits.cfm

Adjunct faculty candidates will be required to provide official transcripts as required during the candidate selection process.

UMUC –an Equal Opportunity Employer. The University distributes an annual information report which includes campus security information that is available to prospective employees.

Please apply online at:

http://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH13/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=ALLEGISGROUPSERVICES&cws=1&rid=8942

Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Biometric Research Branch

The Biometric Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute is seeking candidates with a Ph.D. in statistics or biostatistics. Statisticians in the group have the following main functions: conduct research in biostatistics, bioinformatics, and computational biology on topics ranging from methodology to facilitate understanding at the molecular level of the pathogenesis of cancer to methodology to enhance the conduct of clinical trials of new therapeutic and diagnostic approaches; provide consulting and statistical leadership for the national and international research programs of the NCI in clinical trials to evaluate therapy, developmental therapeutics, developmental diagnostics, and diagnostic imaging.

The Biometric Research Branch (BRB) is the statistical and biomathematical component of the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis of the National Cancer Institute (of the National Institutes of Health). Its members provide consulting and statistical leadership for the national and international research programs of the division in developmental therapeutics, developmental diagnostics, diagnostic imaging, and clinical trials to evaluate therapy. The members of the Branch (BRB) conduct research in biostatistics, bioinformatics and computational biology on topics ranging from methodology to facilitate understanding at the molecular level of the pathogenesis of cancer to methodology to enhance the conduct of clinical trials of new therapeutic and diagnostic approaches. In particular, the BRB staff collaborates in the design and implementation of analytic tools to predict clinical efficacy, or action against a molecular target, for potential anti-cancer agents, from the NCI in-vitro and in-vivo tumor cell line screens. The BRB collaborate in research to elucidate the inter-related roles of agent biochemical mechanism and tumor molecular characteristics. The BRB conduct independent and collaborative research on the effects of new cancer treatments, and on improved statistical methodology for the evaluation of new treatments and they develop mathematical models for the design of treatment regimens for evaluation in clinical trials. The BRB also develops statistical and computational methods and bioinformatic systems for the analysis of genome and gene expression data.

BRB offices are located in the suburbs of Washington D.C. on the NCI Rockville, MD headquarters, 15 minutes from the NCI/NIH Bethesda campus. Candidates must be U.S. citizens. Experience in the statistical methodology of clinical trials design and analysis, in particular, the role of biomarkers in diagnosis and therapeutic decision making is advantageous. This is a pre-vacancy announcement to gauge interest. Individuals should send their resume and a statement of interest to Dr. Richard Simon, Chief BRB, at rsimon@nih.gov. Additional information is at http://brb.nci.nih.gov.

DHHS, NIH and NCI are Equal Opportunity Employers.

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