



The American Statistical Association

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Since 1928

CALENDAR

October 17, 1991 Thursday: Noel Cressie
"Regional Mapping of Incidence Rates"

October 23, 1991 Wednesday Wesley Johnson
"Cost Effective Screening with Quality Control"

JOINT MEETING:

S. F. Bay Area Chapter of the American Statistical Association, Biostatistics Programs
and the
Stanford Workshop on Biostatistics

Speaker: Noel Cressie
Professor of Statistics
Iowa State University

Topic: "Regional Mapping of Incidence Rates"

Date: October 17, 1991. (Thursday)

Time: 3:30 P. M. (Coffee)
4:00 P. M. (Talk)

Place: Medical Center
Stanford University
Room M106
(See Map on Reverse Side)

Suppose that special data are aggregated into regions (usually for administrative purposes). In epidemiological studies the regional variable of interest is often a rate whose base varies from region to region. The numbers of sudden infant deaths per thousand live births in the counties of North Carolina are featured in this talk. A map of the counties coded or colored according to the values of the sudden-infant-death rate is misleading for the purposes of cluster detection and comparison with other time periods. This talk will illustrate how the map can be smoothed to take into account the special heteroscedasticity and dependence between regions.

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Abstract
(Continued)

The speaker will discuss one aspect of this problem. Suppose a simpler model calculates only monthly averages of ozone concentration, and that it does so with acceptable accuracy. Then with what accuracy can one infer the statistical distribution of the parameter of regulatory interest--the daily maximum one hour concentration?

Chapter Business

Nominations for New Officers:

The nominating committee of Kelvin Lee (Chair), Mike Ardley, and Al Wiggins has proposed the following slate of officers for the 1992-1993 business year:

President-Elect	Dave Kimble Pacific Bell
Vice-President Biostatistical Programs	Rose Ray Failure Analysis Associates
Vice-President General Applications Programs	Loren Schoof Pacific Bell
Secretary	Ronald Thomas Dept. of Veteran Affairs
Treasurer	Lenny Ayyengar Token Technology, Inc.
Council of Chapters Representative (Jan. 1993 - Dec. 1995)	Anthony Thrall Electric Power Research Institute

These recommendations will be voted on at the business meeting. In accordance with the constitution, the current President-Elect, Mike Tarter of the University of California at Berkeley, will succeed Dean Fearn as President.

The chapter wishes to extend its thanks to the members of the nominating committee for their efforts.

GENERAL APPLICATIONS MEETING

Speaker: Wesley Johnson
University of California Davis

Topic: "Cost Effective Screening with Quality Control:
Possible Applications to AIDS and Drug Testing"

Date: October 23, 1991 (Wednesday)

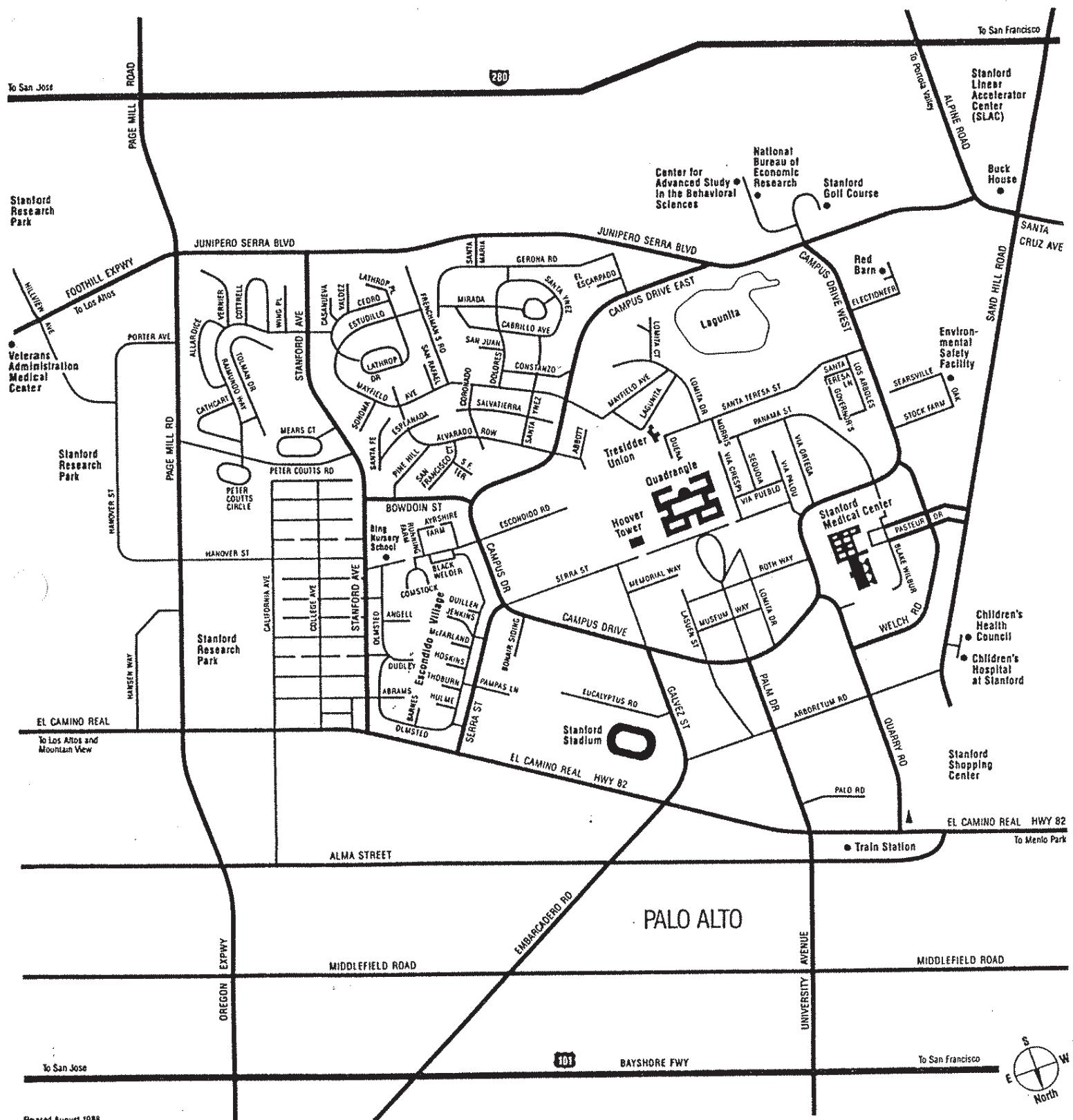
Time: 4:00 P. M. (Coffee)
4:30 P. M. to 5:30 P. M. (talk)

Place: California State University Hayward
South Science Building: Room 205

Directions: From I-880 in Hayward, take the Jackson Street exit east and turn right onto Harder Rd. Continue up Harder to the campus and park in pay lot G. From the peninsula, take the San Mateo-Hayward bridge to Hayward. This road becomes Jackson. Turn right onto Harder rd. and continue onto the campus.
(See map on reverse side for campus locations.)

In this talk, we illustrate the applicability of group testing, introduced by Dorfman and now used in a variety of fields, for checking the accuracy of screening tests and for making inferences about the prevalence of infection in the transfusion pool, or the prevalence of drug users in the workplace. Currently, blood banks test each donation for HIV with a screening test (ELISA) and retest (confirm) only the positive units. We develop a quality control procedure by sampling a fraction f of the screened negatives and testing them in groups of size k . Even if the prevalence of infection is in the moderate range (.05-.20), the prevalence in the screened negatives is small enough to make group testing a cost effective way of estimating it. Our overall procedure has two stages. At stage one it allows for the possibility of grouping samples initially, for cost effectiveness; and at stage two it allows for the possibility of grouping a fraction of the negatives for retesting, for quality control. The second stage, of course, provides the added benefit of detecting errors that were made in the initial screen. Our results are potentially applicable in any screening situation, where the number of individuals screened is large, and provided positive units or groups are given confirmatory tests. This work is joint with Joe Gastwirth at GWU.

VICINITY MAP



Employment Opportunities

The V. A. Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center at the Palo Alto V. A. Medical Center (Menlo Park Division) has a vacancy for a biostatistician.

Responsibilities Include:

- Consulting with medical investigators in the design, implementation and analysis of multi-center clinical trials in the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Being the team leader for clinical trials in the ongoing and final analysis stages, including data coordination, statistical analysis, programming, and data processing.
- Providing support for the administrative and operational aspects of assigned clinical trials, functioning as a project manager.

Candidates should have a Ph. D. in statistics, biostatistics, or related field, with experience in medical consulting. Alternatively, the candidate could have a Masters degree with three to four years of experience in multi-center clinical trials. Good verbal and written communication skills are required with the ability to make effective presentations of research proposals.

Salary Range: \$40,278 to \$47,890.

If interested, send C. V. to:

Kenneth E. James Ph. D.
CSPCC (151K)
VA Medical Center
3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, Ca. 94304
Telephone: (415)-852-3253

Xoma Corporation, a leader in monoclonal antibody technology, has an opening for a biostatistician.

Responsibilities:

- Design protocols, write analysis and program specifications.

- Interact with ~~statistical~~ programmers to develop program logic, statistical summaries and

Requirements:

A Ph. D. in statistics or equivalent. Two or more years of related experience at least one of which was in a pharmaceutical environment. Proficiency in SAS. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Xoma offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. (An Equal Opportunity Employer)

Send Resume and Salary History To;
Xoma Corporation, Attn: Technical Recruiter
2910 7th Street
Berkeley, Ca. 94710

If Your Local Membership Has Expired:

There are two ways you can renew a local membership--directly through the chapter or indirectly through the national organization.

- 1) Local dues are \$9 for regular members and \$3 for students. Payments can be sent to the chapter treasurer, Lenny Ayyengar at the address shown on the bottom of the first page of this newsletter.
- 2) When you become (or renew) your ASA national membership, you have the option to pay your local dues through them. The national offices are at
1429 Duke Street
Alexandria, Va. 22314-3402
Phone (703)-684-1221



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