The American Statistical Association

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Since 1928

May, 1996

Joint Biostatistics and General Applications Program

"Adjustment of Cancer Incidence Rates for Ethnic Misclassification"

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Northern California Cancer Center

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Although ethnic population counts measured by the Census are based on self-identification, the same is not necessarily true of cases reported to cancer registries. The use of different ethnic classification methods for numerators and denominators may therefore lead to biased estimates of cancer incidence rates. The extent of such misclassification may be assessed by conducting an ethnicity survey of cancer patients, and estimating the proportion misclassified using double sampling models that account for sample stratification. For two ethnic categories, logistic regression may be used to model self-identified ethnicity as a function of demographic variables and the fallible classification method. Incidence rates then may be adjusted for misclassification using regression results to estimate the number of cancer cases of a given age, sex, and site in each self-identified ethnic group. An example is given using these methods to estimate ethnic misclassification of San Francisco Bay Area Hispanic cancer patients diagnosed in 1990. Results suggest that the number of cancer cases reported as Hispanic is an underestimate of the number of cases self-identified as Hispanic, resulting in an underestimate of Hispanic cancer rates. A second example shows that Vietnamese ethnicity is over-reported to the cancer registry, resulting in an overestimate of Vietnamese cancer rates.

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 1996

Time: 3:30 - 4:00 Refreshments
4:00 - 5:00 Talk

Place: 1011 Evans Hall
University of California, Berkeley

U.C. Berkeley to Offer Summer Short Courses

Two special short courses will be offered by the Department of Statistics at U.C. Berkeley this summer. The first is entitled "Introduction to the SAS system for Data Analysis" (Statistics 100) and covers topics such as accessing SAS on a variety of computer platforms, inputting raw data, managing SAS data sets, and programming in SAS and in the SAS macro language. Emphasis is on large data sets and students are encouraged to bring in their own data. The course consists of 5 hours of lecture per week for 3 weeks (July 29 - August 16), and must be taken on a pass/not passed basis.

The second course, "Learn LaTeX Electronic Typesetting In 3 Hours," is scheduled for one 3-hour session on the afternoon of August 8. The course includes a brief overview of word processors and electronic typesetting systems; the basics of producing documents with LaTeX, including production of tables, figures and lists; a thorough introduction to mathematical typesetting; and case studies of problem solving and macro development techniques in LaTeX. No credit for the course will appear on transcripts but participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Both courses are taught by Phil Spector who is an Adjunct Professor and a staff member of the Statistical Computing Facility (SCF) in the Department of Statistics. Professor Spector received a Ph.D. in statistics from Texas A&M University and was a Senior Research Statistician at the SAS Institute for four years, where he was responsible for the General Linear Models procedure.

More information on the courses and registration can be found by visiting the U.C. Berkeley Statistics Department web site at **http://stat-www.berkeley.edu**, by sending e-mail to latex4u.berkeley.edu, or by calling (510) 643-2459.

Therneau's "Extending the Cox Model" Short Course Offered in June

Statisticians still have time to enroll in Terry Therneau's expanded version of his very popular '95 JSM short course, "Extending the Cox Model," which he will give at the Amgen Conference Center in Thousand Oaks, CA near Los Angeles in June.

Tuition for the 12 hour program will be $495.00 and will include refreshments and lunch Friday and Saturday. A copy of all the data sets and analysis code will be made available electronically as well as in the speaker's notes. A total of 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for those who request it. Hours for the course will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21 and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22.

To reserve a space and receive a registration form for what promises to be a very informative session, contact Sue Kulesher, American Statistical Association, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402. She can be contacted by phone at (703) 684-1221 x 146; or by e-mail at sue@amstat.org.

Hastie and Tibshirani to Teach Modern Regression and Classification Course

A short course entitled "Modern Regression and Classification" will be given by Professors Trevor Hastie of Stanford University and Robert Tibshirani of The University of Toronto on June 10-11 at the Stanford Park Hotel in Menlo Park.

The two-day course will give a detailed overview of regression and classification that covers a range of statistical models from linear regression through various classes of more flexible models to fully nonparametric regression. Specific topics include flexible regression techniques, classification and regression trees, neural networks, projection pursuit regression, nearest neighbor methods, learning vector quantization, wavelets, and bootstrap and cross-validation. Although a firm theoretical motivation will be presented, the emphasis will be on practical applications and implementations.

Both instructors are actively involved in research in modern regression and classification and are well-known not only in the statistics community but in the machine-learning and neural network fields as well. Together they wrote the monograph *Generalized Additive Models* (1990) published by Chapman and Hall, and both have published many research articles in the area of nonparametric regression and classification. Professor Tibshirani is a recent recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship and co-authored (with Bradley Efron) the best-selling text *An Introduction to the Bootstrap* in 1993.

To register, send a check for $700 (payable to T. Hastie) along with your name, company, address, phone and fax numbers, and email address to Professor T. Hastie; 538 Campus Drive; Stanford CA 94305. For more informationcan, send a fax to (415) 326-0854 or browse **http://playfair.staford.edu/~trevor/mrc.html**. on the world wide web.

Seeking Employment

Seeking a position in applied and computational statistics, in areas such as biotech/pharmaceutical, environmental, mining and oil, industry, manufacturing, insurance and finance. Ph.D. in statistics, expertise in modeling and analyzing spatial data, experience in using SAS, S-Plus, programming in FORTRAN, working under UNIX, DOS and Windows 95 operating systems. Excellent interpersonal and communications skills. For a resume or further information contact Zeynep T. Yucel at (415) 349-5255 or at zeynep@csl.sri.com.

Joining the Bay Area ASA Chapter

If you are not currently a member of the local chapter of the ASA and would like to join, send a note with your name and address to Jim Lenihan, 15 Moonlight Ct, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Please enclose a check for one year's membership, $9, payable to "ASA, Bay Area Chapter". Student membership dues are $3 per year.

Job Opportunities

Biostatistician/Epidemiologist
Environmental Risk Analysis, San Mateo

Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc. is a new and rapidly growing scientific consulting firm that offers services in biostatistics, statistics, epidemiology and environmental risk assessment. We are seeking an individual with a Masters or Doctorate degree in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology with 3+ years of experience including quantitative health risk assessment. Responsibilities of the position include: Performing critical reviews of health and medical literature related to epidemiology and environmental health; Communication (written and oral) of findings and conclusions to team members, clients and health professionals; Performing and supervising statistical analyses of health and environmental data sets using statistical software packages, primarily SAS and SUDAAN; Assist in conducting quantitative health risk assessments and statistical analyses.

The ideal candidate will have experience and/ or course work in occupational and environmental epidemiology; quantitative risk assessment; research design; and statistical methods including linear models, categorical data analysis, survival analysis, survey sampling and multivariate analysis. Demonstrated ability to communicate technical information is required as is experience with IBM compatible PCs and SAS. Experience with one programming language (Fortran, S-Plus) is desired.

For confidential consideration please send a resume to: William Butler, Ph.D.; Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc.; 1670 Amphlett Blvd., Suite # 115; San Mateo, CA 94402-2512; FAX: 415-655-7281. We are an equal opportunity employer.

M.S. Biostatistician
Environmental Risk Analysis, San Mateo

Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc. is a new and rapidly growing scientific consulting firm that offers services in biostatistics, statistics, epidemiology and environmental risk assessment. We are seeking an individual with a Masters degree in Biostatistics or Statistics with courses or experience in environmental epidemiology. 1+ years of research experience is desirable. Responsibilities of the position include: Performing statistical analyses using statistical software packages, primarily SAS; Performing critical reviews of health and medical literature related to epidemiology and environmental health; Assist in conducting quantitative health risk assessments and statistical analyses; Writing computer code to perform specialized statistical analyses (SAS Macros; Fortran; S-Plus).

The ideal candidate will have course work or experience in linear models, categorical data analysis, survival analysis, epidemiologic methods, survey sampling, multivariate analysis and occupational and environmental health and epidemiology. Experience with IBM compatible PCs and using SAS on PCs is required. Experience with one programming language (Fortran, S-Plus) is desired. Good oral and written communication skills are necessary.

For confidential consideration please send a resume to: William Butler, Ph.D.; Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc.; 1670 Amphlett Blvd., Suite # 115; San Mateo, CA 94402-2512; FAX: 415-655-7281. We are an equal opportunity employer.

Biostatistician I/II
Behring Diagnostics, San Jose

The primary responsibilities of the position are, but not limited to, the following: develop, document, implement and review new statistical procedures for all aspects of product development; provide statistical education and training to internal clients; interact with other statisticians to provide uniform statistical approaches company-wide; participate in clinical study design and data analysis to ensure a valid statistical approach for submissions to FDA.

Requirements include either an M.S. or Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, biometry, or equivalent major. Level I requires an M.S. plus 1 year of directly related work experience; Level II requires an MS plus 3 years or Ph.D. plus 0 years of directly related work experience.

Please send resume to Behring Diagnostics Inc. (BDI); Human Resources - Code: JS; Mail Stop E1-224; 3403 Yerba Buena Rd.; San Jose, CA. 95161-9013. Fax (408) 239-2516.

Applied Health Services Researcher
Health Net, Van Nuys

You will develop health care studies in response to issues which could impact health care delivery, design and implement primary research studies and prepare detailed analyses on trends and variations. Requires a Ph.D. in Biostatistics and/or Psychometrics, or M.D. with strong applied research experience. Experience processing and analyzing large databases and proven ability to interpret and analyze survey data. Must have knowledge of various survey methodologies and SAS programming in a health care/managed care setting. Prior publications in peer review journals desired. Outstanding writing skills are essential. Will consider new graduates.

Our competitive compensation and benefits package includes medical, dental, vision and life insurance and a 401(k) plan. For consideration, please send resume with salary history and daytime phone number to: Health Net, Attn: Human Resources/NLJO1022A, P.O. Box 9103, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9103. Fax (818) 593-7391. Nonsmoking environment. No agencies please. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Biostatistician III
Berlex, Richmond

Berlex has built its reputation on FDA-approved product successes and a proven track record in the pharmaceutical industry. Currently we are seeking a Biostatistician III to join our Richmond facility in the San Francisco Bay Area. The selected candidate will apply his/her knowledge of statistics to the design and analysis of clinical trials and act as a consultant to scientific and marketing professionals. Requires: Ph.D. in Statistics or Biostatistics, 2+ years experience as a Statistician in the pharmaceutical industry, SAS programming skills and excellent written and verbal communication abilities. Must be knowledgeable in the design and analysis of clinical trials planned for FDA submissions.

To apply, send you CV/resume to: Berlex, Human Resources Employment, 15049 San Pablo Ave., Job L96-001, Richmond, CA 94804-0099. Principals only, please. EOE

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