This course is intended for consumers of statistics in the biological and medical fields. It will concentrate on the interpretation and comprehension of graphical and statistical techniques that are important components of scientific literature. Presentation of statistical material will be linked to its application as reported in the medical literature. Although some mathematics will be presented it is not expected that the student will memorize formulas. Mathematical ability at the level of high school algebra is assumed.

**Class Schedule**

**Sept 9, 2004:** Introduction – Data summary – numeric and graphic.


*E-links:* Gould, SJ “The median isn’t the message” [External links section]

**Sept 16, 2004:** Conclusion of Data summary – numeric and graphic


*Chapters:* 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1, 2.2

**Sept 23, 2004:** Probability

*Papers:* None

*Chapters:* 3.1 – 3.4

**Sept 30, 2004:** Concept of statistical hypothesis tests – Random Chance, Purpose, Errors, Power and Sample Size.

*Papers:* None

*Chapters:* 5.1-5.3

**Oct 7, 2004:** Two independent sample tests - T, Mann Whitney Wilcoxon, Permutation

Paired sample tests - T, Wilcoxon, Permutation


*Chapters:* 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3
**Oct 14, 2004:** ANOVA – One way, two way, repeated measures, non-parametric equivalents


*Plante TG, Coscarelli L, Ford M. Does exercising with another enhance the stress-reducing benefits of exercise (2001); 8(3):201-213 [EJOURNAL]*

*Chapters: 7.4, 7.5*

**Oct 21, 2004:** Correlation and introduction to regression


*Chapters: 2.4, 4.5, 8.1*

**Oct 28, 2004:** Regression


*Chapters: 8.1, 8.2*

**Nov 4, 2004:** Categorical - Odds ratios, Diagnostic tests, Chi Square, Logistic regression


*Chapters: Review Chap 1, 6.1-6.7*

**Nov 11, 2004:** Survival Analysis – Kaplan Meier, Cox Proportional Hazard


*Chapters: 2.3*

**Nov 18, 2004:** Measurement – Reliability and Validity


*Chapters: None*

**Dec 2, 2004:** Research Design – Controls, Randomization, Clinical trials, FDA Phases.

*Papers: Handout*

*Chapters: None*

**Dec 9, 2004:** Miscellaneous topics and in class research project

Dec 14, 2004: Evidence based medicine and wrap up (THIS IS A TUESDAY)


Chapters: None

Papers are available as follows:

[JSTOR] : Article is available via JSTOR from Bobst E-Journals web page.
[EJOURNAL] : Article is available via E-Journal from Bobst E-Journals.
[RESERVE] : Article is on reserve in Bobst Library.

Term Paper

A paper (3-4 pages maximum) will be required. This paper will be a review and evaluation of one paper chosen by the student from a choice of several specified papers. The review should include the hypotheses, statistical methods and results of the paper based on the student’s interpretation of what is reported in the paper. The student will then critically evaluate the paper from a statistical standpoint. This may include items such as: Are the statistics reasonable? Are they presented in an understandable sample? Is the sample adequate? Are the results and conclusions supported by the statistics? What are some possible alternative explanations for the results obtained?

Homework

Homework will be assigned periodically. Assignments will be based on material covered in class, in the text and in the papers. The due date will be stated when the assignment is given. Homework may be handwritten (neatly) or typewritten. Late submissions will be penalized.

Grades

Homework 20 pts
Class participation 20 pts
Paper 40 pts
Quizzes (4) 20 pts

WHY SHOULD A “CONSUMER” STUDY STATISTICS?

“...In an ideal world, editors of medical journals would do such an excellent job of ensuring the quality and accuracy of the statistical methods of the papers they publish that readers with no personal interest in this aspect of the research work could simply take it for granted that anything published was correct. If past history is any guide, however, we will probably never even approach that ideal. In the meantime, consumers of the medical literature – practicing physicians and nurses, biomedical researchers, and health planners – must be able to assess statistical methods on their own in order to judge the strength of the arguments for or against the specific diagnostic test or therapy under study.”

Stanton A. Glantz
Primer of Biostatistics
McGraw-Hill