

The April meeting of the New South Wales Branch will be held on

Tuesday, 20 April 2010

6:00pm for refreshments and 6:30pm for talk

at

Seminar Room 100, New Law School Building, University of Sydney

Xue Qin Yu

Cancer Epidemiology Research Unit, Cancer Council NSW

Estimating Relative Survival Using Population-based data

Relative survival is widely used as preferred method for estimating patient survival using data from population-based cancer registries. Relative survival is the ratio of the observed proportion surviving in a group of patients to the expected proportion that would have survived in a comparable group of people (with the same distribution by age and sex) from the general population. In this talk, I will first explain why relative survival analysis is preferred over cause-specific survival for the study of cancer patient survival using population-based cancer registry data. Then I will briefly define what relative survival is and how to estimate observed survival and expected survival. After that I will illustrate the method using examples [1-3] of relative survival analysis. Finally, I will discuss the strengths and limitations of population-based cancer registry data and survival analysis and their usefulness in evaluating and potentially improving the quality of cancer care.

1. Yu XQ, O'Connell DL, Gibberd RW, Armstrong BK: Assessing the impact of socio-economic status on cancer survival in New South Wales, Australia 1996-2001. *Cancer Causes Control* 2008, 19(10):1383-1390.
2. Yu XQ, O'Connell DL, Gibberd RW, Coates AS, Armstrong BK: Trends in survival and excess risk of death after diagnosis of cancer in 1980-1996 in New South Wales, Australia. *Int J Cancer* 2006, 119(4):894-900.
3. Yu XQ, O'Connell DL, Gibberd RW, Smith DP, Dickman PW, Armstrong BK: Estimating regional variation in cancer survival: a tool for improving cancer care. *Cancer Causes Control* 2004, 15(6):611-618.

Dr Xue Qin Yu is a Research Fellow with Cancer Council. He spent 12 months in the United States in 2008 working on the Global Burden of Cancer project after his PhD study. Currently he works on a NHMRC funded project "Projecting prevalence by phase of care for colorectal, lung, breast and prostate cancer in NSW" and continues working on the Global Burden of Cancer project.

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GETTING THERE

By Train from Redfern station

Follow the path shown in the map

By Train from Central station

Take bus (422, 423, 426, 428) to Wentworth Building on City Road OR

Take bus (other routes) to USYD entrance on University Avenue from Parramatta Road

By Car

Parking at Camperdown and Darlington Campuses: \$ 6 flat rate (from 3pm – 6am)

– underground parking at the New Law School Building is available (entrance on Barff Road)