

SSA Biostatistics & Bioinformatics Newsletter

Q1 2019

We are planning to provide you with quarterly updates on our activities to keep you

Welcome to the first Biostatistics and Bioinformatics section newsletter in 2019!

informed about what we have happening throughout the year and other topics that may be of interest to our members. Our mailing list consists of 240 people from every state and territory across Australia of whom 90% have an interest in biostatistics and 37% in bioinformatics. In this newsletter we are looking forward to our upcoming workshop on gaining skills in biostatistical consultancy in Melbourne in July, meeting one of our members, and lots more.

The SSA Biostatistics and Bioinformatics section committee

Enjoy reading!

Upcoming SSA Biostatistics & Bioinformatics events

Our section has been planning our 2019 events or supporting other events. Please spread

the word to colleagues who may be interested in attending. We hope to see many of you

This event, organised by the Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation, features

presentations from researchers working on issues relating to research waste and a

and your colleagues at these events! AusHSI Research Quality Meeting (April 8, Brisbane)

discussion of potential policies to reduce waste. This event will include a presentation from Professor Brian Nosek, Co-founder and Director of the Center for Open Science in

Virginia, as well as our very own section co-Chair, Sabine Braat. Gaining skills in biostatistical consultancy (July 4, Melbourne) Our section is co-hosting a workshop in conjunction with the Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute on consultancy skills for biostatisticians. We have four fantastic speakers: Dr Emily Karahlios and Professor Julie

Simpson from Melbourne University, Associate Professor Susan Donath from the

Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Dr Emi Tanaka from Sydney University. The workshop will cover a range of subjects including communication skills, how to reach and interact with different clients, how to manage consultancy projects from start to end and how to secure funding as a consultant. Futher details and registration are available here.



conference.





statisticians across all sectors in the country to present their work and network with their peers. Our section is delighted to have nominated the fantastic biostatistician Dr Teresa **Neeman** from the Australian National University to participate in the careers panel at this

 Webinars (October & November) The SSA is in the process of reviving their webinar series to ensure we reach our members across the country. Our section has nominated to deliver both a biostatistics and a bioinformatics webinar later this year and are currently on the lookout for speakers. If you

our section cover in a seminar or workshop, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Additionally, do let us know if you are aware of any visiting international biostatisticians or

bioinformaticians who are coming to Australia who may be interested in presenting on

their research an SSA event. All events organised by the SSA can be found on the SSA

Other Biostatistics & Bioinformatics events



Some other biostatistics and bioinformatics events taking place this year that you may be interested in include:

 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications Saint Petersburg, Russia 1st-4th July 2019

• IWSM 2019

Workshop on Biostatistics & Bioinformatics

Atlanta, Georgia 10th-12th May 2019

Guimarães, Portugal 7th-12th July 2019

• AEA 2019

2019

• ISCB 2019

events calendar.

Leuven, Belgium 14th-18th July 2019 GeoMed 2019

Sydney, Australia 2nd-5th October 2019

Glasgow, Scotland 27th-29th August

 ACTA International Clinical Trials Conference Brisbane, Australia 23rd-25th October 2019

mailing list, please contact one of our co-Chairs, Sabine Braat or Karen Lamb.

occasions, however, there never has been

the proper use and interpretation of the p-

value. Moreover, in this March edition of

(Amrhein, Greenland and McHane) want

the journal *Nature*, three researchers

a call this vigorous to look beyond

statistical significance. In 2016, the

Beyond "p-value" There has been a lot of discussion on the use and abuse of p-value on numerous

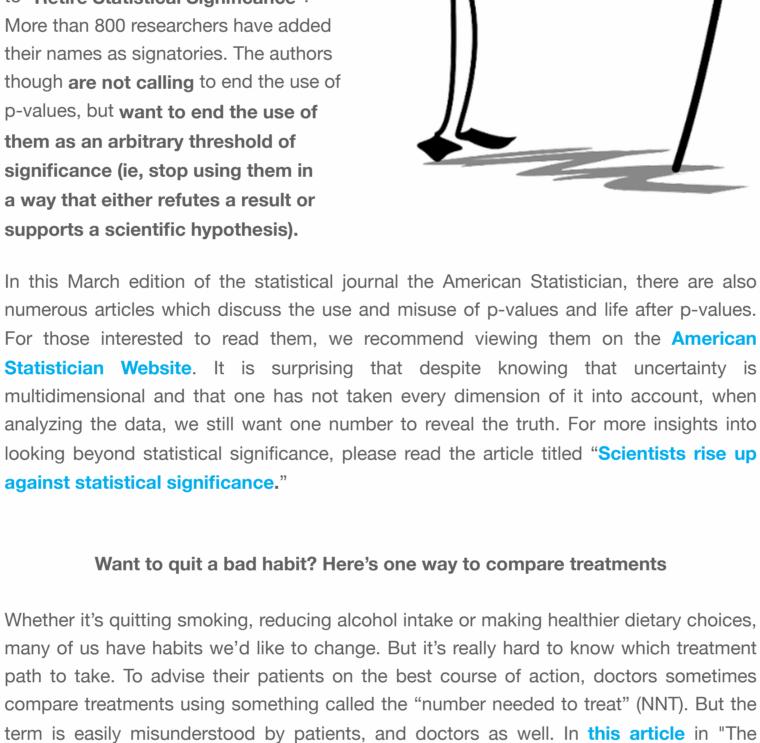
American Statistical Society released a "Statement on Statistical Significance and p-values" with six principles underlying

If you would like to advertise any upcoming biostatistics or bioinformatics events to our

Featured articles

to "Retire Statistical Significance". More than 800 researchers have added their names as signatories. The authors though are not calling to end the use of p-values, but want to end the use of them as an arbitrary threshold of significance (ie, stop using them in a way that either refutes a result or supports a scientific hypothesis). against statistical significance."

means.



Are you aware of a recently published article that may be of interest to our biostatistics and bioinformatics members? Please do not hesitate to let Murthy know. Meet our mailing list

Name: Dr Stephen T. Wright

Where do you currently work?

Australian Red Cross Blood Service

What field do you associate with,

biostatistics or bioinformatics (or

both)? Biostatistics

Conversation" our section co-Chairs Sabine Braat and Karen Lamb break down what NNT

What are your background studies in and how did you join this field? I completed a Bachelor of Mathematics at QUT with a focus on data visualisation and

computational mathematics. After graduation I started working as an insurance pricing

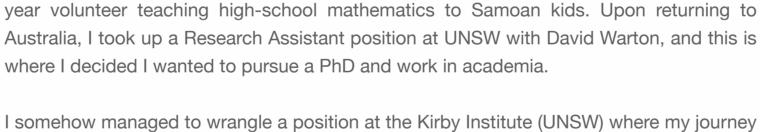
analyst, and worked in a corporate environment for the next few years. During this time I

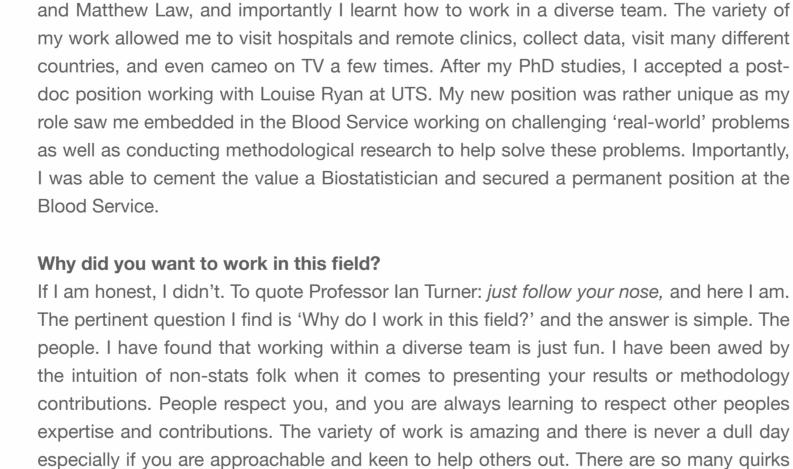
completed a Masters of Applied Statistics (Macquarie Uni). Following the experience of a

fifth corporate re-structure, I threw in the towel and had a gap year. I spent a wonderful

as Biostatistician began. I completed my PhD under the supervision of Kathy Petoumenos

(Sydney)





Barista, hands down.

member profile?

Please let Nicole know.

Want to be featured in the next

to data these days, and just trying to work out what to do is a fun challenge. I love it! What is the most exciting concept/idea upcoming in your work or field? The uptake of Causal Inference for observational data. More non-stats professionals are starting to take analysis design more seriously and are seeking our help. The rise of secondary use data for primary analysis is pushing our understanding of how-to best answer causal-relationship type questions with these messy datasets. The pitfalls of the big administrative datasets are vast, but developing new, but mostly discovering old techniques to tackle them is exciting. If you didn't pursue biostatistics and/or bioinformatics, what would have been your alternate career?

Interested in a good statistics blog? We've started a list of some interesting and entertaining statistics blogs.

Biostatistics & Bioinformatics blogs

Flowing data This great site looks at how data is used to understand society. The majority of posts are on data visualization with some amazing use of R. **Dataists** This blog has links to interesting stories on a wide range of topics including data analysis, data visualisation, machine learning and R. **Lies & Stats** Lies and Stats is a tongue-in-cheek reference to the quote "lies, damned lies, and statistics". This blog covers interesting facts about statistics, but also focuses on the bad

This is a blog on biostatistics, clinical trial design, critical thinking about drugs and

Run by seven biostatisticians at the University of Tasmania. This blog provides a

A stats blog with pictures of cats thrown in for good measure. **Statistical Thinking** This blog is for the Bayesian's among us. It focuses on describing problems caused by

the frequentist approach and describing advantages of Bayesian methods.

and dishonest use of statistics.

Realizations in Biostatistics

Stats with Cats

Biostatistics blog

It's a Stat Life

it to the list.

queries.

healthcare, scepticism, and the scientific process.

beginners guide to statistics and research.

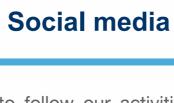
Another blog on the uses and abuses of statistics, with a few educational pieces thrown We'd love to have your input to grow this list. Do you have a blog that you love to read? Do you have a blog of your own that you want to promote? Please let Jaimi and we'll add

Closing comments

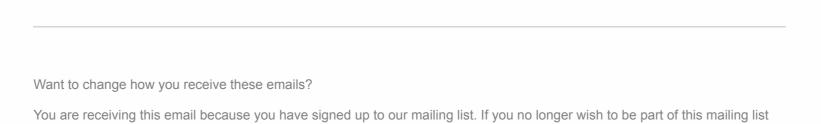
event or presentations held by the SSA Biostatistics & Bioinformatics section, featuring member profiles or papers, or promoting materials on the mailing list. Please contact us via our section co-Chairs, either Karen or Sabine regarding these or any other related

We are always interested to hear from our members, especially regarding ideas for future

If your colleagues would like to receive this newsletter, they can sign up via **Google form**. To view previous newsletters please see our **section's webpage**.



We encourage all our members to follow our activities on our social media accounts below where we promote upcoming events, job opportunities and relevant material. If you have any material you would like us to promote on our social media outlets or share with the fellow members, please let **Alysha** know.



and you wish to be removed, please contact us at karenlamb.work@gmail.com or s.braat@unimelb.edu.au.

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