

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 1st February 2006 7:15 for 7:45

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics,
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,
Wilberforce Road,
Cambridge

Some issues of evaluation in mammographic screening

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Abstract: Mammographic screening for breast cancer is now essentially beyond Phase III, in that the trials establishing its efficacy in reducing mortality from breast cancer are for the most part completed. In the current epoch of delivery of mammographic screening as part of routine health care, evaluation issues include:

Observational estimation of the effect of screening services;
Estimation of absolute as well as relative benefit of the intervention;
Estimation of potential harms such as overdiagnosis;
Identifying room for improvement;
Possible technical innovations and rapid evaluation of their impact.

Speaker: Stephen trained as a statistician at the University of Edinburgh and Imperial College, London. He has worked in the UK, France, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark and Russia. Stephen currently works as a Professor of Cancer Screening at Queen Mary University of London, funded by Cancer Research UK. Previous employers include the MRC, IARC, and the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham. Specialisms include evaluation of cancer screening programmes, cancer epidemiology, and statistical methods for epidemiological studies.

Directions: The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going along the footpath to the right of the Newton Institute, and turning left through the gatehouse towards the main building (Pavilion A), which has a glass front and a curved grassed roof. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Free Parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads and by entering the site off Wilberforce Road. Admittance may be difficult after 7:45.

Provisional Next Meetings:

13th March – Ian White (Biostatistics) on 'Analysing imperfect randomised trials'.

3rd April – Rebecca Turner (Biostatistics) on 'Design of cluster randomised trials, using empirical evidence on the intracluster correlation coefficient'.

4th May – Adam Kleczkowski (Plant Sciences).

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 5-45pm. Feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds are now due for attending the 2005-2006 session.

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