

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 5th March 2013 7:15 for 7:45

Tom Ap Rees Lecture Theatre, Department of Plant Sciences,
Downing Site, Cambridge, CB2 3EA

**Constructing a Predictor of Treatment Benefit when there is no
Overall Treatment Effect: *A Cancer Vaccine Study***

Peter Treasure

Eastern Cancer Registration and Information Centre & Department of Public Health
and Primary Care

Abstract: A large trial of a therapeutic vaccine in metastatic kidney cancer showed no overall survival benefit. Within the active group there was a strong correlation between immunological response and survival (which had also been seen in pilot studies). These correlations could of course be merely due to the more robust subjects having a healthier immune system and also living longer. The speaker will demonstrate that an indirect comparison with placebo, using a surrogate for immune response, provides evidence of treatment benefit over and above a 'healthy patient' effect.

Speaker: Peter Treasure started his academic career as a physicist and looks like he will be ending it as a statistician. He has been based part-time at the Eastern Cancer Registration and Information Centre since 1989, spending the rest of his time making occasional visits to the Statistical Laboratory and giving advice to local and distant pharmaceutical, biotechnology and diagnostic device companies. This talk (his fifth to CSDG) combines two of his interests: survival analysis and dataset resuscitation.

Directions: The Department of Plant Sciences is located on the Downing site situated between Downing Street and Tennis Court Road (Please see the map on the reverse). Go through the second door you come to in the building immediately on your left as you enter from Tennis Court Road. Once inside the building follow the arrows. Refreshments will be served in the first floor kitchen. It is not possible to park on the Downing site in the evening. The nearest car park is at Lion Yard. Arrivals after 7-45pm can gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436.

Provisional Next Meetings:

25th March – Stephen Kaptoge (Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit) on 'Large-scale meta-analysis of individual participant data: methods and challenges'.

25th April – David Greenberg (Eastern Cancer Registration & Information Centre).

15th October – Mike Bithell (Geography).

25th November – James Wason (MRC Biostatistics).

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at **6pm**. Feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2012-2013 session.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EF; telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

Take a look at our website: <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html>

PLANT SCIENCES

