

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Monday 16th November 2015 7:15 for 7:45**

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics,  
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,  
Wilberforce Road,  
Cambridge, CB3 0WB

## **Variation in measures and markers of timeliness of diagnosis in cancer**

**Yoryos Lyratzopoulos**

Cancer Epidemiology & Cancer Research-UK

**Abstract:** Continuing reductions in cardiovascular disease mortality have brought about a new type of epidemiological transition, characterised by increasing disease burden associated with cancer. In spite of many critical breakthroughs in cancer treatment, prognosis for advanced stage cancer remains poor for most cancers. Screening interventions with proven efficacy and cost-effectiveness remain stubbornly limited to few cancers (such as bowel and cervical cancer) whilst debate about “over-treatment *vs* mortality benefit” trade-offs bedevil breast and lung cancer screening. These realisations have sharply focused attention to efforts to diagnose cancer as soon as symptoms present, in the hope of diagnosing cancer at an earlier stage. Nonetheless, cancer symptoms (as at least understood currently) have low to very low specificity and predictive value. In this lecture I will summarise a range of epidemiological studies on variation in diagnostic intervals before and after presentation, together with evidence on variation in markers of diagnostic timeliness (such as diagnosis through an emergency presentation or stage at diagnosis). These findings provide insights into the complex psychological factors associated with late help-seeking for symptoms likely to be due to cancer; and mechanisms likely to be responsible for delays in suspecting cancer after presentation. I will conclude with recommendations for better targeting of policy initiatives and research that could help to bring about more timely diagnosis of cancer for the greatest possible number of current and future cohorts of cancer patients.

**Speaker:** Yoryos (Georgios) Lyratzopoulos (MD, FFPH, FRCP, MPH) researches variation in cancer care, including the timeliness of diagnosis, and patient experience. He was National Institute for Health Research Post-Doctoral Fellow (2012-14) and is now Cancer Research-UK Clinician Scientist Fellow (2). He has previously worked for the English National Health Service and NICE as a public health physician and hospital doctor. His PubMed/ Medline record can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/lncqq7f>

**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 (2016):**

8th February 2016 – Anthony Edwards (Gonville & Caius) on ‘My Fisher: Memories of R.A.Fisher by his last student’.

10th March – Katie Saunders (Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research) on ‘Measuring Ethnicity in the NHS’.

7th April – Ioanna Tachmazidou (Sanger Institute).

28th April – Lisa Pennells (Department of Public Health and Primary Care).

11th October – Katrina Gore (Pfizer Neusentis).

**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 2015-2016 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](mailto:peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk).

**Slides and .mp3 files of old talks:** <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html>

## Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2013-2014

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2013-2014 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 21st October 2014. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Danielle Belgrave, Margaret Corbett, Nelson Kinnersley, Adrian Mander, Paul Metcalfe, Clive Moncrieff, Jayantha Ratnayake, Ann Smith, Adam Wagner, Peter Watson, Caroline Whately-Smith. **Apologies:** Susana Conde, Mary Garratt, Martin Gibson, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. The secretary reported a total attendance of 103 for the 2013-2014 session. He also invited anyone with suggestions for speakers or venues or anyone interested in joining the committee to please contact a committee member.

### Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2013-2014:

The CSDG started the year in October 2013 with £20.64 cash in addition to £212.22 in the Cambridge Building Society (plus ~£6.00 interest). The table below shows the financial activity during the current year (Oct13 to Sept14).

| Expenditure        |        | Income              |        |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Speakers' expenses | £42.00 | Balance at Oct 2013 | £20.64 |
|                    |        | Subscriptions       | £55.00 |

Cash balance at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 £20.64, cash remaining 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 £33.64.

There remains £212.22 (plus interest) in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society.

The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Adam Wagner (current treasurer). These names can be changed on application. The principle holder is the treasurer. Any of the three account holders can deposit and withdraw money. It is suggested subscriptions should stay at £1 for the 2014-2015 session.

**Election of officers and committee:** After many years on the committee Pamela Morris has stepped down to be replaced by Tony Sabin. Pamela has, and continues to be, a staunch supporter of the group and was thanked for her long service. Committee for 2014-2015: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Adam Wagner; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Haidee Philpott, Tony Sabin.

**Any Other Business:** None.

## Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2014-2015

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2014-2015 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 13th October 2015. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Daniel Bacioiu, Maxime Bolut, Tim Drye, Shenghan Gao, Mary Garratt, Martin Gibson, Khyla Kadeena-Miller, Frank Kelly, Trevor Lewis, Felicia Ng, Chris Rogers, Roger Sewell, Catherine Saunders, Basil Smith, Shahih Tavakoli, Adam Wagner, Peter Watson, Alec Woods. **Apologies:** Dean Buckner, Margaret Corbett, David Galloway, Jurek Gurycz, Sheila Miller, Pamela Morris, Ian Nimmo-Smith, Haidee Philpott. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. The secretary reported a total attendance of 61 for the 2014-2015 session. He also invited anyone with suggestions for speakers or venues or anyone interested in joining the committee to please contact a committee member.

### Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2014-2015:

The CSDG started the year in October 2014 with £33.64 cash in addition to £212.22 in the Cambridge Building Society (plus ~£6.00 interest). The table below shows the financial activity during the current year (Oct14 to Sept15).

| Expenditure        |        | Income              |        |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Speakers' expenses | £40.21 | Balance at Oct 2014 | £33.64 |
|                    |        | Subscriptions       | £50.00 |

Cash balance at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 £33.64, cash remaining 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 £43.43.

There remains £212.22 (plus interest) in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society.

The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Adam Wagner (current treasurer). These names can be changed on application. The principle holder is the treasurer. Any of the three account holders can deposit and withdraw money. It is suggested subscriptions remain at £1 for the 2015-2016 session.

**Election of officers and committee:** Committee (unchanged) for 2015-2016: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Adam Wagner; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Haidee Philpott, Tony Sabin.

**Any Other Business:** None.