

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday 21st January 1999 7:15 for 7:45

The Large Seminar Room, Institute of Public Health,
University Forvie Site, Robinson Way, Cambridge

Applying Practical Bayesian Methods to Help Design and Monitor a Clinical Trial

Max Parmar

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Abstract: The talk will take the audience through a real trial in which Bayesian methods were used to help design the trial and monitor the ongoing results. An independent data monitoring committee was appointed to confidentially review the accumulating results. The results and their Bayesian interpretation (as presented to the independent data monitoring committee) will be presented. The audience will be encouraged to actively participate in this presentation taking the role of the data monitoring committee.

Speaker: Max Parmar joined the MRC Cancer Trials Office in 1987 after completing a PhD in Medical Statistics at Oxford University. In his time there he has been responsible for designing, co-ordinating and analysing individual patient data meta-analyses. Recently, the MRC Cancer Trials Office has merged with the MRC HIV Clinical Trials Centre to form the MRC Clinical Trials Unit. Max is the Head of the Cancer Division of this new unit. His methodological research interests include Bayesian methods, design and analysis of clinical trials, interim analysis, meta-analysis, and the design and analysis of observer agreement studies.

Directions: (From Central Cambridge) Turn right off Hills Road into the Addenbrooke's site then turn left at the hospital roundabout onto Robinson Way. Follow Robinson Way until you see an access road on the left signed 'Forvie Site' (but note that the sign is on your right). Turn into the access road and follow signs - first to the Institute and then to the Large Seminar Room. There is ample car parking. The front doors will be locked at 7:45.

Next Meetings:

18th February – Ken Lakhani (Animal Health Trust) on 'Man's Best Friend is Dog, Dog's Best Friend is a Statistician'.

18th March – Alistair Murray (British Antarctic Survey).

May – Nick Goldman (Genetics) on 'Hidden Markov Models of Protein Structure and Protein Sequence Evolution'.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 1998-9 session. Cheques should be made payable to Margaret Corbett and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.

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