

Driving Interprofessional Collaboration



Eighty five delegates attended the NIHR Statistics Group's Third Annual Conference at the University of Sheffield on 20-21st June 2019.

The meeting brought together NIHR statisticians and researchers for educational and information-sharing talks, breakout groups on hot topics, and networking. New initiatives for this year included an early career pre-conference event and the pilot of the NIHR Statisticians mentoring scheme. Both were organised by the Career Development Working Group.

Dr Louise Wood, Director of Science, Research and Evidence at the Department of Health opened the conference with an update on the NIHR. This included the vision for Health Futures, improving the health and wealth of the nation and how research activity improves health outcomes.

The second day of Conference began with Professor Peter Diggle presenting his experience of working with data scientists. Professor Diggle is Director of Training at Health Data Research UK and Distinguished University Professor of Statistics, Lancaster University. He spoke about the critical role of statisticians and their approach to design and modelling in the world of data science.

Professor Elaine Hay is Director of the Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre, Keele University and gave the final talk.. She spoke from her perspective as Programme Director for NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research. This programme is now encouraging more diverse applications with more focus on methodology while retaining a patient benefit focus.

More details on the content of the presentations and break out groups can be found [here](#).

The NIHR Statistics Group Conference 2020 will be held on June 11th and 12th in Sheffield.



BREAKOUT GROUP TOPICS

- Are reporting guidelines fit for purpose?
- Stratification versus minimisation
- Variation and repeatability of test results
- Issues and guidelines in using routinely collected data
- Feasibility studies and proof of efficacy
- Good Statistical Practice Project
- Benefit-Risk Assessment Project
- Machine learning vs classical statistical methods
- Routinely collected data in clinical trials
- Reproducible code for quality assurance and team working
- Quality Improvement and Data Analytics
- Data collection tools
- Statistical Advising
- Studies within trials (SWATS)
- Statistical issues in Early Phase dose-finding trials

NIHR Statistics Group in brief

The NIHR Statistics Group was formed in 2012 with the aim of linking statisticians from across the NIHR infrastructure to share knowledge and expertise, and to help identify and promote best statistical practice for NIHR research. The Group currently has over 500 members, has held national events attended by >1500 delegates and published over 18 papers discussing best practice.

Professor Janet Peacock co-founded and co-led the group since 2012. She retired from the Steering Committee in 2019. The group is now jointly led by Catey Bunce and Dawn Teare.

Find out more at: <http://statistics-group.nihr.ac.uk/>; nihr-stats@kcl.ac.uk; @Nihrg

NIHR STATISTICS GROUP

Steering Committee

Jacqueline Birks (University of Oxford)
Simon Bond (Cambridge CTU)
Catey Bunce (King's College London)
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Mimoza Hoti (NOCRI)
Sam Leary (University of Bristol)
Sue Mallett (University of Birmingham)
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