

The Year in Statistics

2018 has been a busy and successful year for the NIHR Statistics Group with **six national meetings**. This included our **2nd Annual conference, “Real World Statistics”** held in Sheffield and attended by 80 delegates where we heard keynote policy talks by NIHR and DHSC leaders and where we engaged in lively roundtable discussions on key topics for the NIHR statistics community. Our **Routine Data** and **Career Development** sections that came directly from the 2017 conference breakout groups, met for the first time. All these events pushed forward our vision to make medical statistics real, relevant and accessible to the practicing statistical community.



Clockwise from top left:
Delegates at: Annual Conference (Sheffield), First meeting of the Routine Data Section (London), Applied Statisticians as Principal Investigators (Bristol)

Looking ahead, we’re holding our **3rd Annual Conference on 20-21 June 2019** in Sheffield. This year the title is “Driving Interprofessional Collaboration” and we will also be piloting a mentorship scheme at the conference. Several other one-day or half-day research meetings are planned —please see our website for more details.

We continue to be grateful to NOCRI and NIHR Academy for their invaluable practical support. We also must thank you all in NIHR—Senior Investigators, Directors, managers and grassroots staff for encouragement and support. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge support from local BRCs for specific meetings in 2018 at Moorfields, Bristol and King’s College London.

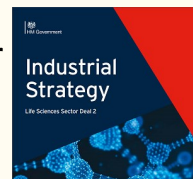
NIHR Statistics Group in brief

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 19 papers discussing best practice.

www: <http://statistics-group.nihr.ac.uk>

Email: nihr-stats@kcl.ac.uk

Government 2nd Life Sciences Sector Deal



The NIHR Statistics Group has committed to run a series of workshops nationally that will provide training opportunities for statisticians and trialists in novel clinical trial methodology and conduct. The 1st will take place on 28th February 2019 in Birmingham, hosted by Birmingham BRC.

www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-welcomes-new-life-sciences-sector-deal/9798

2018 Publications

Nick R., Parsons, N.R., Teare M.D. and Sitch A.J., Science Forum: Unit of analysis issues in laboratory-based research *eLife* 2018;7:e32486

Bunce C., Simplified Ophthalmic Statistics (SOS) Part 1: An introduction to data – how do we classify it and why does it matter? *Eye News* 2018; 24 (6)

Bunce C., (Simplified Ophthalmic Statistics) Part 2: How to summarise your data and why it’s a good idea to do so *Eye News* 2018; 24 (2)

Wheeler G.M., *et al.*, How to design a dose-finding study using the continual reassessment method, *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 2019, 19:18

NIHR STATISTICS GROUP

Steering Committee

- Janet Peacock (King’s College London)
- Dawn Teare (University of Sheffield)
- Catey Bunce (King’s College London)
- Simon Bond (University of Cambridge)
- Sue Mallett (University of Birmingham)
- Alice Sitch (University of Birmingham)
- Sam Leary (University of Bristol)
- Laura Flight (University of Sheffield)
- Jacqueline Birks (University of Oxford)
- Andy Vail (University of Manchester)
- Lucy Allen (NOCRI)
- Mimosa Hoti (NOCRI)

Research Sections — Event Roundup

A Roundup of 2018's Events

In the last year, the NIHR Statistics Group has held six events attracting around 250 delegates. This included the first meetings of our new Routine Data and Career Development sections. These two sections were both started after the success of breakout sessions that were held at our June 2017 Annual Conference.

Many of the slide presentations from these events are available on our website.

Second Workshop of the NIHR Statistics Group's Early Phase Trials Research Section

16 February 2018, London

Among the topics discussed were rare diseases, practical application of dose-response models and time-to-toxicity-event trials.

Applied Statisticians as Principal Investigators

9 March 2018, Bristol

This workshop was aimed at applied statisticians interested in becoming Principal Investigators on research grants. It included sessions on funding opportunities, the personal experiences of those who have secured funding as an applied statisticians, demonstrating patient benefit in methodological research and improving practical skills.

First meeting of the Routine Data Section

23 April 2018, London

Around 25 NIHR Statisticians met in London on 23 April 2018 for the first workshop within this new group. There were six presentations and very lively discussions around handling large datasets of routinely-collected data, such as HES data and CPRD data, and data linkage issues.

Ophthalmology Research Section Meeting

7 June 2018, London

This group has been particularly involved in education and training activities and these issues were discussed along with presentation on glaucoma and spatial statistical modelling approaches to ophthalmic imaging data.

Real World Medical Statistics – NIHR Statistics Group Second Annual Conference

21-22 June 2018, Sheffield

The groups second annual conference attracted around 80 delegates. As well as keynote talks on statistical career structures and policy issues, a large proportion of the event was given over to breakout groups on hot topics suggested by the membership.

Ophthalmology Research Section Meeting

9 November 2018, London

Topics discussed included unit of analysis issues, the statistical analysis of an NIHR funded HTA trial and an interesting finding relating to a possible interaction between anti-oxidants and genes on disease progression.

2019 Workshop Diary

21/01/19 — Second Meeting of the Routine Data Section, Oxford

28/02/19 — NIHR Statistics Early Phase Trials Group Meeting, Birmingham

02/06/19 — Ophthalmic Statistics Group meeting, London

Further events are being planned by the Laboratory Studies and Imaging Working Groups, see website for details .

NIHR Statistics Group 3rd Annual Conference

Driving Interprofessional Collaboration — Statisticians as key collaborators underpinning NIHR developments and initiatives

20-21 June 2019, University of Sheffield

www: <http://statistics-group.nihr.ac.uk> Email: nihr-stats@kcl.ac.uk

NIHR Statistics Group


National Institute for
Health Research