

BACKGROUND

The Department of Health Evaluation Sciences (HES) evolved from the Center for Biostatistics and Epidemiology which was formed in 1988. HES provides leadership in statistical, methodological, data management, and research computing aspects of clinical, basic science, and epidemiological research projects within Penn State College of Medicine. HES faculty conduct research on topics in biostatistics, epidemiology, and health services, and collaborate with investigators in other departments on a wide range of projects. HES faculty teach classes and offer seminars and lectures for students, residents, fellows, faculty, and other professionals. HES is also engaged in project management, scientific coordination, data management, and statistical analysis for multi-center clinical trials.

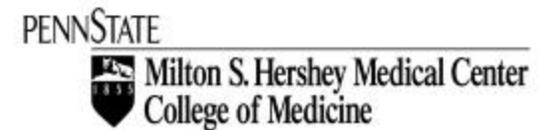
HES offers paid internship opportunities to juniors and seniors majoring in mathematics, statistics, computer science, or other life sciences. Internships are available during the fall and spring semesters, as well as during the summer.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

The *Asthma Clinical Research Network* (ACRN) was established in 1993 by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The ACRN was designed to evaluate new and existing therapies for asthma treatment and to disseminate the results to the health care community. The ACRN is comprised of six Clinical Centers across the United States, and one Data Coordinating Center (DCC).

The *Childhood Asthma Research and Education Network* (CARE) was established in 1999 by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The CARE Network was formed to evaluate current and novel therapies and management strategies for children with asthma by implementing multiple clinical trials. The CARE Network was modeled after ACRN with five Clinical Centers across the United States and HES functioning as the Data Coordinating Center.

Functioning as the ACRN DCC since 1993 and the CARE Network DCC since 1999, HES has established systems and procedures which lead and support the networks in implementing well-designed clinical trials. This includes collecting pristine data sets to address important issues in asthma treatment and establishing a firm clinical investigative database from which treatment decisions can be based and further hypotheses generated.



Department of Health Evaluation Sciences

- ***Biostatistics***
- ***Clinical Epidemiology***
- ***Health Services Research***
- ***Health Informatics***

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Statistical Analyst Intern

Job/Project Description: The statistical analyst intern will work closely with biostatisticians on a variety of biomedical research projects. Under the guidance of a biostatistician, the stat analyst intern will meet with epidemiologists, project coordinators, and biomedical investigators in the design and analysis of research projects. The intern will be responsible for editing and finalizing research databases for statistical analysis; performing data quality checks; performing descriptive and inferential statistical methods; and summarizing results using tables and graphs for presentation to the biomedical investigator or for manuscript preparation. To accomplish these responsibilities, the intern will use statistical programming software, such as SAS or S-Plus.

Experience and Skills Desired: A junior or senior majoring in mathematics or statistics. Excellent analytical/problem-solving skills; attentive to details; effective organizer with the ability to prioritize; familiarity with SAS is a plus.

Contact: Allen Kunselman, MA, Senior Research Assistant, Section of Biostatistics, akunselm@psu.edu

Data Manager Intern

Job/Project Description: The data manager intern will assist the data management staff in various stages of research projects. During development s/he will assist in developing data collection forms, designing, testing and maintaining data management systems, and creating and testing validation error checks that identify missing, illogical or inconsistent data. After a project begins, tasks include resolving problem data, monitoring data quality, performing data audits, maintaining current website postings, and preparing data management reports and technical documents associated with clinical research projects. The data manager intern will have the opportunity to correspond with the clinical staff and work directly with research project coordinators, statisticians, and other data management staff in a team approach.

Experience and Skills Desired: A junior or senior majoring in mathematics, statistics, or a life science. Candidates should possess effective interpersonal and communication skills and logical thinking/problem solving skills. Familiarity with a statistical and/or database programming package is highly desirable.

Contact: Rosanne Pogash, Manager, Data Management, rpogash@psu.edu

Research Computing Intern

Job/Project Description: The research computing intern will work with either the networking group or the application developers within the department. The local area network within the department consists of a TCP/IP network merged with Windows 2000 and Solaris UNIX operating systems. The hardware is a mixture of Pentium PCs and Sun workstations networked to both Dell and Sun servers. The department programmer analysts develop applications using PHP, MySQL, Coldfusion and Oracle. Web services are hosted on iPlanet web servers. The research computing intern will assist existing computer helpdesk personnel, program, design and update existing web sites, and may take a secondary role in the application development.

Experience and Skills Desired: A basic working knowledge of microcomputer hardware, web development applications, familiarity with Windows 2000 and UNIX. Background knowledge in systems analysis and database design is desired for interns who wish to work with the applications developers. Working knowledge of HTML, PHP, or MySQL is a plus.

Contact: Richard Evans, Manager, Research Computing, revans@psu.edu