Rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Genital Herpes

January 22, 2014

A collaborative study including Dr. Macaulay Okwuokenye, alumni, Dr. Karl E. Peace, Professor of Biostatistics, and Dr. Gulzar Shah, Director of Research, at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University examine rates of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Genital Herpes before and after spring break and homecoming at a Southeastern American University. This study estimates the rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and genital herpes simplex virus before and after spring break and homecoming week (and during summer terms) at a southeastern American university. Participants comprised students who utilized the campus student health center from January 1st 2006, to December 31st, 2008. Retrospective de-identified participants’ data were extracted using the specific diagnoses codes for each illness via the on-campus student health center’s electronic medical record and practice management system. Enrollment data were obtained from the university’s catalogue on the registrar’s website. The rates of the three illnesses and average times to diagnoses from the first date of infected participants’ enrollment are estimated.

Research showed that the rates of these illnesses at this campus’s student health center were higher after spring break, homecoming, and summer Term A. Infected participants were on average diagnosed within their first two years of enrollment at the university.

Posted in Alumni, Archive, Biostatistics, Health Policy & Mgmt, JPHCOPH, Research
**Student Experiences at BASS XX**

January 22, 2014

The 20th Anniversary of the Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium (BASS XX) took place November 4-8, 2013 at the Downtown Orlando Hilton. The program consisted of 18 tutorials, a key-note address and 3 two-day short courses by leading experts from academia, government and industry. The Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium (BASS) provides (1) a forum for pharmaceutical and medical researchers and regulators to share timely information concerning the application of biostatistics in pharmaceutical environments; and (2) funding to support graduate studies in Biostatistics.

BASS was founded in 1994, by Dr. Karl E. Peace, Fellow of the American Statistical Association and The Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar/Scientist, and Professor of Biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University. BASS is regarded as one of the premier conferences in the world. Since 1994, more than 320 tutorials and 52 1-day or 2-day short courses have been presented at BASS, by the world’s leading authorities on applications of biostatistical methods attendant to the research, clinical development and regulation of biopharmaceutical products. Presenters and attendees represent the biopharmaceutical industry, academia and government, particularly the NIH and FDA. Student attendee Viral Panchal commented “It has been a great experience at BASS XX considering educational value, networking value and possible career value” is one among many similar remarks demonstrating that knowledge shared at BASS is not limited to professionals.

Funding for biostatistics students to attend the two different BASS courses: (1) Biosimilars taught by Shein-Chung Chow, and (2) Applied Meta Analysis using R by Din Chen & Karl Peace, was provided by Dr. Peace and JPHCOPH. In referencing fellow students, Student attendee Haresh Rochani stated “After my experience at BASS XX, I would like to advice my fellow students that if they get a chance to participate in BASS 2014, they should never miss the chance to go there. Participation in these kinds of meetings where we have people from different areas helps to learn things which we cannot learn in a whole semester as a student. From my experience at BASS XX, I would like to convey the message to my fellow students that they must attend these kinds of conferences to achieve a highly successful career. “Without the $9,000 in funding from Dr. Peace and JPHCOPH, these students would not have been able to attend these courses taught by the world’s leading authorities of the presented topics. A total of 9 MPH or DrPH in Biostatistics from JPHCOPH and 3 students pursuing the PhD in biostatistics from VCU School of Medicine attended.

Dr. Greg Evans, Dean of JPHCOPH, commented: “being able to attend BASS courses is a unique advantage to students pursuing biostatistics degrees at JPHCOPH; one that is not easily available to biostatistics students from other Schools or Colleges of Public Health.”