Dr. Karl E. Peace Receives Notable Book Reviews

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Dr. Karl E. Peace, Professor of Biostatistics and Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University, receives notable reviews (1,2) of one of his twelve published books.

This book aims to provide a thorough overview of the design, analysis, and interpretation of clinical trials in which the time to an event is the critical endpoint (e.g. death in cancer treatment studies; serious adverse event (AE) in drug safety studies. Although this book is a compilation of contributions by various authors, it is less heterogeneous than one might expect. However, being a compilation, this is not the standard textbook that you want to get in order to learn time-to-event analysis.

Several of the Chapters are written by Dr. Peace himself; e.g. Chapter 12. Using antibiotic trials as an example, he shows that some methods which compare the status of a patient at the end of a given time (in this example the micro-biotical cure and the clinical cure) neglect the time to cure. Peace gives a practical example of a trial where the time to cure was taken into account. Overall a rather short chapter but a good reminder that when designing a trial one should ask the question “does time matter” more often.

Overall, this book provides a good overview of problems one may face when having to deal with time-to-event data and how these could be handled. Furthermore it gives examples of where time-to-event data are currently not analysed with time-to-event methods, notably AE data. Although there are some points for critique and some chapters fall behind others in terms of quality or appropriateness, and I feel that some topics would deserve more space, I would recommend this book to every practitioner who has to deal with time-to-event data. The reader can easily skip chapters that are not relevant but those chapters that are relevant will justify purchasing this book (1).

… One of the strengths of the book is the collection, discussion and illustration of the many diverse time-to-event problems that may occur in practice. … this publication provides a comprehensive overview of classical and emerging ideas in the analysis of time-to-event problems. Written by experts in their area, the book has a wealth of references in each topic should the reader wish to learn about or extend their understanding of individual concepts or analysis methods. It is a worthwhile book to have in the library for anyone working in designing, conducting, analysing or interpreting studies with time-to-event outcomes (2).


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