

STATS CENTRAL

*The UNSW Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Unit
Part of the Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre*

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Welcome to the Autumn newsletter for Stats Central—the UNSW Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Unit, established in 2016. Below you will find recent news and what’s coming up next. In particular note we have had confirmation of our funding renewal through to 2025, and a few short courses and seminars coming up.



*David Warton and Nancy Briggs
Stats Central leadership*

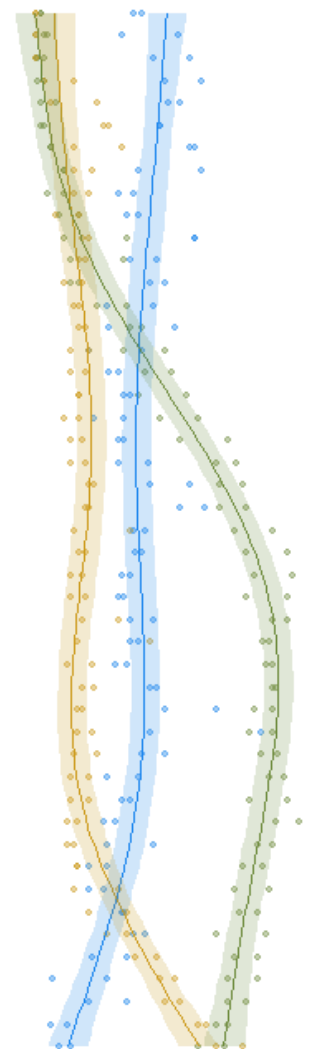
Stats Central funded to 2025

Stats Central’s research funding has been renewed, under the 2025 Strategy, until 2025. Over the first two years of operation, we exceeded (other people’s) expectations in terms of demand for a central statistical unit offering advice to UNSW researchers, consulting on over 800 projects across all nine UNSW Faculties, offering more than a dozen short courses, and reviewing almost 100 grant proposals. In 2016 we had four funded positions, two from the Division of Research and another two from partner schools, but both sources of income have been growing and we are currently looking for our seventh appointment. This will be a *Data Science consultant*, as we expand into Big Data analytics—more details will be forthcoming!

[Book a consultation](#)

Questions or comments?

Email us at
Stats.Central@unsw.edu.au



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Upcoming events

Below are upcoming [short courses](#) and [seminars](#):

Introductory Statistics for Researchers: 25-26th September, 2018
Our most popular courses, which runs through fundamental design/
analysis tools for researchers

Introduction to R: 24th September, 2018

R is the most powerful statistical package that is available, and
(according to Google Scholar) will soon be the most widely used
stats package in research. This course offers a gentle primer in R.

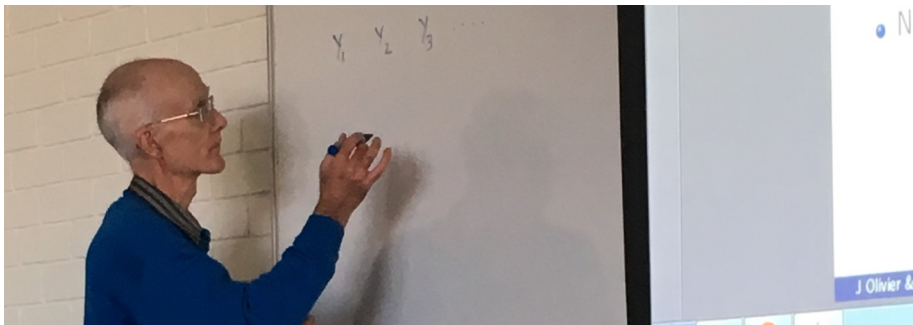
August seminar:

Mark Donoghoe

[Regression to the mean and how to deal with it](#)

Thursday, 9th August 2018, 3:00- 4:00 pm

Central Lecture Block, Theatre 3



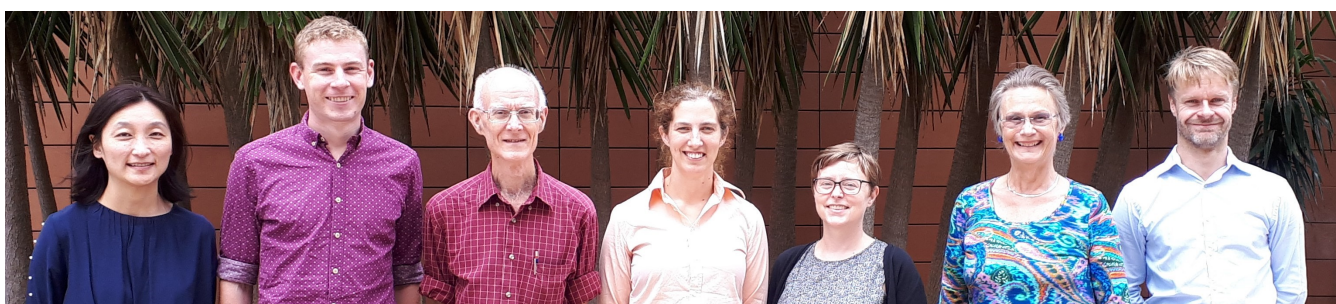
New look team

Late last year we hired Matt Donoghoe, with a decade of expertise in clinical trials and biomedical research, and Eve Slavich, with expertise in spatial modelling, especially in the environmental sciences. We recently said farewell to Brigid Betz-Stablein, one of our first appointments, who has moved inter-state.

Gordana Popovic is also back on the team doing some contract work on a project developing on-line chemometrics tools, in collaboration with the School of Chemistry.

Below is a recent photo of the Stats Central team, left-to-right:

Zhixin Liu, Mark Donoghoe, Peter Geelan-Small, Eve Slavich, Nancy Briggs, Sue Wilson, David Warton





Recent activities

Consulting: We offer free design and analysis advice to UNSW HDR students and free design advice to staff, and can be contracted to collaborate on larger projects.

In the last 12 months, we assisted 390 UNSW research projects across 38 schools/units from all nine UNSW Faculties. The main recent change in usage has been a higher usage rate in Medicine, as more Medical schools and research groups partnered with Stats Central. We offer our services across all UNSW campuses, and over the last year 45% of consultations were with researchers not based on the main Kensington campus (Prince of Wales, St Vincent's, St George, Sydney Children's Hospital, Liverpool, UNSW Canberra).

Short courses and seminars: In the last 12 months we have delivered seven short courses at heavily discounted rates to 128 attendees from eight Faculties, we organised a monthly seminar series, and gave over a dozen occasional seminars or guest lectures. We can do this off campus, in fact we are currently teaching an introductory biostatistics course at St George Hospital.

Grant review: We offer free statistical review of any grant application to an external funding agency. In 2018, to date, we have reviewed 50 grants, submitted from 20 schools/units across five Faculties.

Book a consultation

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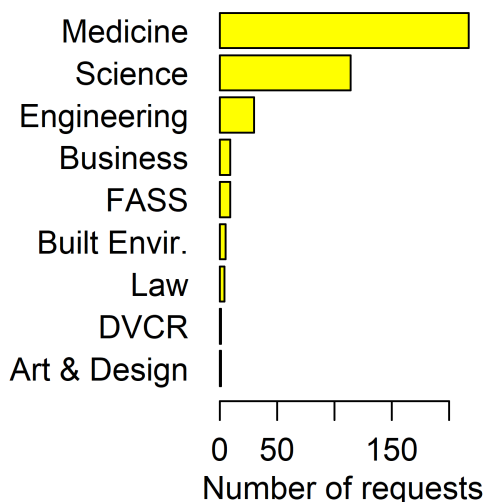
Introductory Statistics for Researchers: 25-26 Sept

Introduction to R: 24 Sept

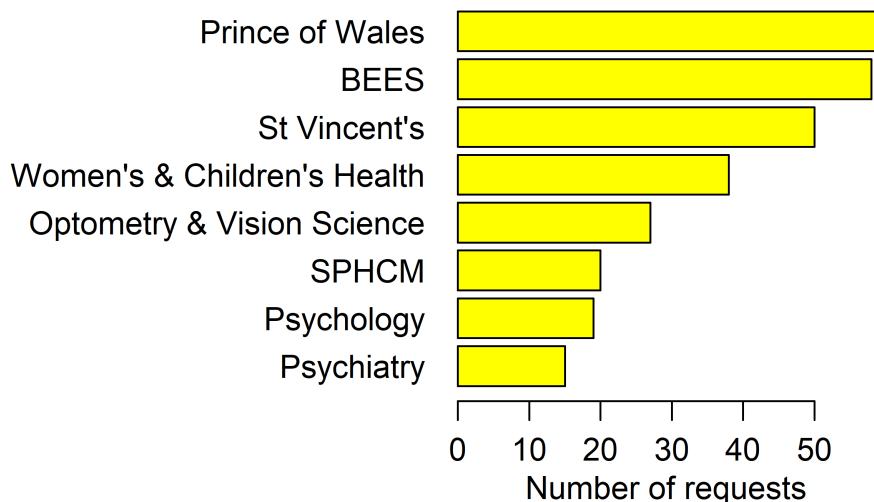
Regression to the mean and how to deal with it

Thurs 9th August 3-4pm, CLB3

Use by Faculty Jul 17 - Jul 18



Top Schools by Usage Jul 17 - Jul 18



[Book a consultation](#)

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Trevor Hastie short course

Trevor Hastie, Stanford Statistics Professor, visited UNSW School of Mathematics and Statistics earlier this year as a fractional SHARP appointment. Stats Central organised a six-week short course “Statistical Learning and Big Data”, delivered to a full house (below).



Current partners and projects

Stats Central is funded by the Research Division, with support from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, and a suite of Partner Schools.

Schools and units can partner with Stats Central, buying out a portion of a consultant’s time to dedicate to the partner. The consultant can be physically based in the partner school or unit for that time to increase access, facilitate specialisation and deeper collaborations. Basically, to enable best-practice consultancy and to tailor what we offer based on the partner’s needs—consulting, teaching assistance, workshops, grants advice, support for Honours or ILP students...

Stats Central uses funding from partners to grow our unit in response to demand, so there is broader institutional benefit to partnering with Stats Central. 2018 partners:

- Prince of Wales Clinical School
- School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences
- School of Optometry and Vision Sciences
- School of Women’s and Children’s Health
- St Vincent’s Clinical School
- Kids Cancer Centre

We also collaborate with research groups on projects requiring specialised expertise, under similar funding arrangements, and have had considerable recent growth in this area. Current projects:

- Maintain Your Brain (Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and Centre for Healthy Brain Aging)
- Opendatafit: data analysis and storage for drug activity, kinetics and flow cytometry (Chemistry)
- Latent emotion trajectories among blood donors (Psychology)
- Early hospitalisation for RSV as a risk factor for later respiratory problems (Paediatrics)
- Health outcomes amongst urban and rural residents (Kirby)
- Antibiotic prophylaxis in prevention of catheter-related infection (St. George)

Consider writing Stats Central funding into your grant applications and joining this list!