



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

## In this issue...

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New consultants  
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Happy new year! Welcome to the second newsletter for Stats Central—the UNSW Statistical Collaboration and Consulting Unit, established last year. Below you will find details on what trouble we've been getting up to since establishment, recent news, and what's coming up next. In particular note our list of short courses for 2017 (**Upcoming Events**, right) and that we have two **new consultants** on board (Zhixin Liu and Chris Parady, below centre) to bring our team to six available for one-on-one assistance.

Writing an ARC or NHMRC grant this year? [Request a statistical review now](#) (our NHMRC deadline is 17th February)



*David Warton and Nancy Briggs  
Stats Central leadership*

## Upcoming events

[Request a statistical review of your grant application](#)

2017 Short courses:

**Intermediate Statistics for Biologists** (February 13-17)

**Study design** (April)

**Statistical Methods for Research Workers** (June, November)

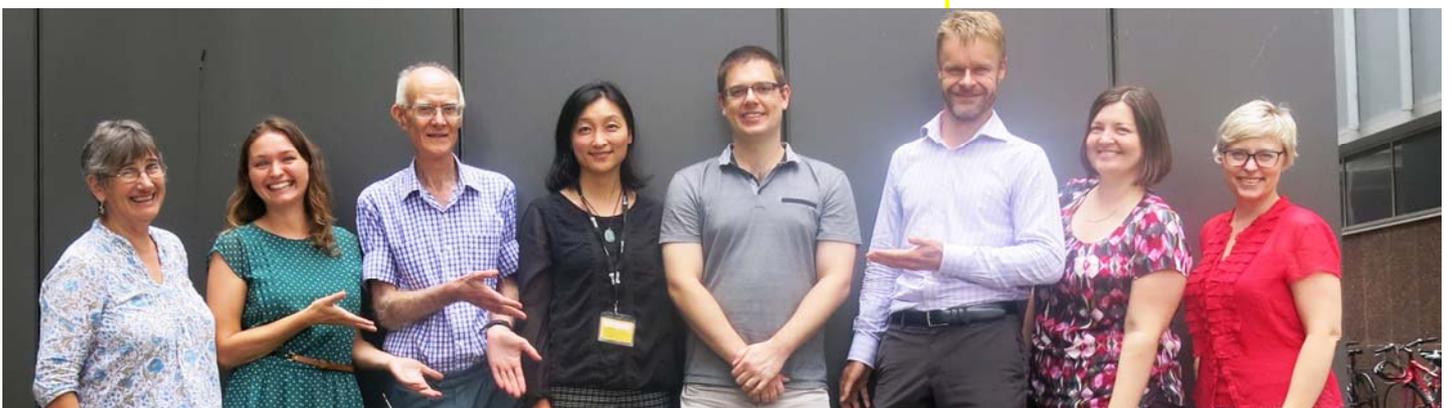
**Introduction to regression analysis** (September)

**Statistics for epidemiology** (November)

[Book a consultation](#)

*Questions or comments?*

Email us at  
[Stats.Central@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Stats.Central@unsw.edu.au)

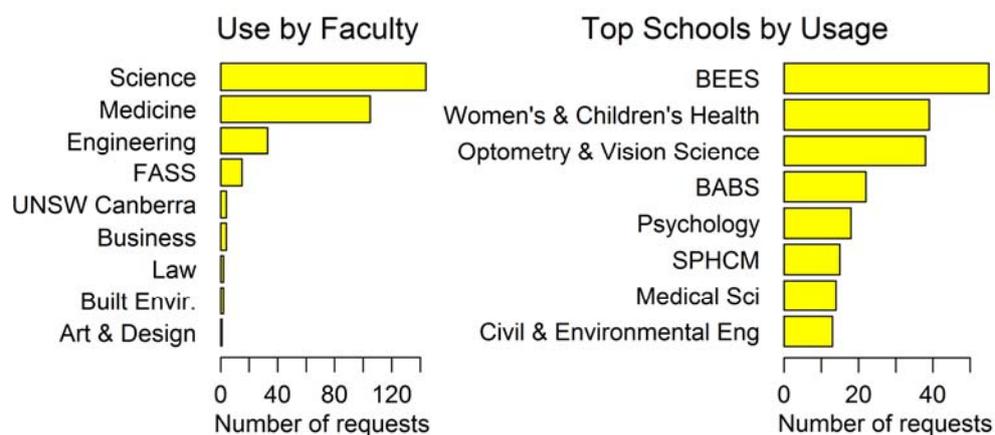


## 2016 activities in brief

Last year, we had four consulting staff on deck from April 1, with decades of collective experience collaborating with researchers across disciplines. And we have been busy...

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

Happily, we achieved our goal of assisting researchers from **all nine UNSW Faculties in 2016.**



In the 8 months from April we assisted 310 UNSW research projects across 51 schools/units in each of UNSW's nine Faculties. Super busy.

The highest-usage schools are our partner schools, who contract an in-house statistical consultant part-time to provide dedicated expertise. Partner schools account for about half of all Stats Central requests, and provide about half of our funding. This emphasises that becoming a partner is a mechanism to maximise benefit from Stats Central.

**Short courses and seminars:** We offer short courses at heavily discounted rates for UNSW researchers, also the occasional free seminar (11 to date, mostly in partner schools). In 2016 we delivered five short courses to over 120 attendees from over 25 Schools.

**Grant review:** we offered free statistical review of NHMRC grant applications early 2016, led by Prof Sue Wilson, who has extensive experience reviewing NHMRC design and analysis plans. In total, 47 grants were reviewed. Anecdotally it appears that design/analysis plans we reviewed were quite well-received in the review process. [Contact us early](#) in 2017 to make the most of the support we offer.

**Regional leadership:** We led the formation in 2016 of an Australasian group on Statistical Consultants in Academia, and hosted the first meeting. A proposal to join the national statistics society as a section has our Senior Consultant Nancy Briggs as the chair.

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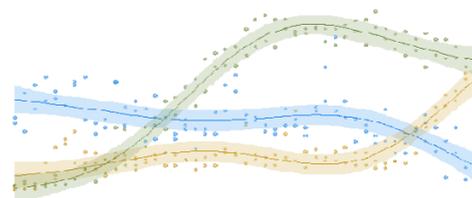
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## New consultants

Stats Central has made two new appointments as we expand our operations to cater for demand from all nine Faculties.

Zhixin Liu came to Australia to retrain as a statistician after a few years working as a doctor in China. She has particular expertise in clinical trials and has previous experience working as a consultant in research groups in two schools in UNSW Medicine. Chris Parry is a UNSW graduate with expertise in bioinformatics, clinical trials, and previous experience working in a UNSW Science lab (at BABS).

We are excited about both appointments, excellent statisticians and communicators with PhDs in applied statistics.

## Current partners and projects

Funding for Stats Central comes from the Research Division, with support from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, and a growing 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. One of our two new appointments was made using partner funding. 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, ...

Our most recent partners are the St Vincent's Clinical School and Prince of Wales Clinical School, joining the following list:

- Graduate Research School
- Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre
- 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 Mathematics and Statistics
- School of Public Health and Community Medicine
- School of Women's and Children's Health
- St Vincent's Clinical School

We also collaborate with research groups on projects requiring specialised expertise, under similar funding arrangements, recent projects:

- Maintain Your Brain (Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and Centre for Healthy Brain Aging)
- Flood modelling in the Yantabulla Swamp (Centre for Ecosystem Science)

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

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