



Template for Subgroup/Unit/Centre reports

UCBC , January 1, 2019

Subgroup description: {insert blurb that outlines the purpose and activities of your portfolio; this blurb will be used on the Institute website, and can be modified as the group evolves}

Our site is already posted here on OIPH and is up-to-date

<https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/research/centres-programs-research-groups-and-units/biostatistics-centre-ucbc>

A) People

1. **Current number of members:** 33
2. **Thought leaders of your subgroup:** Herman Barkema, Rob Deardon, Tyler Williamson and Karen Kopciuk
3. **Member 'phenotypes' and approximate numbers** (eg., trainees, community partners, affiliations): most members are faculty members associated with several faculties and departments. Eight members are employed by Alberta Health Services (AHS) , with academic appointments in most cases. Community partners include the Calgary R User group as well as AHS. Trainees are generally not members of our Centre per se but participate in our activities through their supervisors.
4. **How new members find your subgroup** (eg. website, active recruitment, events, word-of-mouth): OIPH website, invitation from current members, through our events
5. **Gaps in membership that subgroup wants to fill:** we are always seeking to include anyone who wishes to join our centre and actively invite individuals who are newly arrived in Calgary or are new to us.

We would like to have more members from relevant industries, such as pharmaceutical or biomedical device companies in Southern Alberta the Interior of B.C., etc.

B) Activities

6. **Events/activities of your subgroup:**
 - a. Previous:

Workshops:

2018	Regression Modelling Strategies, August 2-3
2018	Visualization using R Workshop, March 3
2017	Joint Analysis Workshop, September 6
2016	Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis Workshop, December 3
2016	Causal Inference Workshop, June 8
2015	Missing and Incomplete Data Workshop, December 5

Internships:

2018 – 4 Biostatistics students placed into short term positions through our Rocky Mountain Data Science Network. One worked with a colleague from UBC – Okanagan in Kelowna, one with a researcher in Veterinary Medicine and two with AHS.

Graduate Education:

Applied Biostatistics Graduate courses are now cross-listed biostatistics in the faculties of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Kinesiology, Science and Cumming School of Medicine;

Introduced an Interdisciplinary specialization in Biostatistics at the MSc-thesis and PhD levels, jointly administered by the Departments of Community Health Sciences and Mathematics and Statistics. First students enrolled in September 2018.

The UCBC group, in conjunction with the Data Science & Analytics group, are in the process of introducing Health Data Science & Biostatistics diploma and course-based MSc options, as part of the Professional Course-based Data Science & Analytics graduate training program.

Preparing and plan to submit an NSERC Create Training grant.

b. Planned:**Workshops:**

April 08, 2019 Analysis of Life History Data with Multistate Models (confirmed)
2019 Prof. Martin Bland

Internships:

Seeking funding and supervisors for 2019. Revised application form to also request transcript and to limit participation to University of Calgary or RMDSN students.

Graduate Education: Creating 4 new courses for the Master's component of the Professional Course- based Data Science degree (Advanced Statistical Modeling, Machine Learning for Health Data Science, Big Data in Health, and Advanced Exploration & Visualization in Health)

Conference: Pursuing application for 2022 International Society for Clinical Biostatistics conference. This will substantially increase our international reach. Supported by Calgary TELUS Convention Centre and Meetings + Conventions Calgary.

Consulting/Collaboration Centre: There may be two new centres opened on campus, with input from UCBC. These new centres in addition to our existing members who devote substantial effort to consulting and collaboration will benefit from support and communication amongst the members.

7. Method and frequency of subgroup communications (including any mass communication channels to engage with its members (eg. Events, newsletter, Basecamp, etc) and externally-facing communication tools (eg. Brochures, web page, social media channels, podcasts, public-facing events, etc)):

A group email list is used to communicate our activities and those of our partners to our members.

We have prepared a brochure that we distribute at universities and conferences we attend.

We have created a logo and are currently seeking approval from the University of Calgary Marketing and Brand group.

We now have a banner that we display at all our events.

Our main web page is this one on OIPH:

<https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/research/centres-programs-research-groups-and-units/biostatistics-centre-ucbc>

8. Academic outputs and societal impacts leveraged by subgroup (general description/estimated numbers sufficient):

Instructors in the cross-listed courses are teaching an increasing number of graduate students from across campus. Enrollment has increased in VETM 605/MDCH 605 and VETM 610,611/MDCH 610,611 about 2-3 times pre-cross listing of the courses.

Workshops typically have 100-135 local attendees and 50-75 attending online. Evaluations have been very positive with many participants describing the impact a workshop has made in their work or research. We have heard from many colleagues across Canada who have attended our workshops remotely and our Statistical Society of Canada is pursuing webinars now as well, in part because of our success. Students applying to our graduate programs also frequently mention these workshops as one reason they are applying to the University of Calgary.

C) Operations

- 9. Administrative human resources for your subgroup:** We do not have any administrative support for our group and have relied on support from our academic administrative support staff for those who have such a person. The majority of our work is carried out by the 4 members of the UCBC Executive. Additional administration support is needed. Financial support for workshop grants obtained in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is provided by Ms. Melissa Wrubleski.
- 10. O'Brien human resources upon which your subgroup relies:** Angela Taylor, Marie-Claude Proulx and Pablo Fernandez
- 11. Entities other than O'Brien Institute supporting subgroup, and type of support** (eg. financial, HR, etc): We have submitted funding requests for every workshop to the following groups: Canadian Statistical Science Institute (CANSS), Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS), Vice President Research (University of Calgary) and to the Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (when conference funding was available).
- 12. Approximate yearly expenditures of subgroup:** \$10,000

D) Other feedback (strategic questions, advice)

We would like to offer summer schools and continuing education courses on a regular basis. We want to increase our national and international reputation and reach.

Submit completed template to dayj@ucalgary.ca