

Feedback regarding the lectures of "Biostatistics" (provided by NWSMU) Feb 14-22, 2022

For Master Course students on Disaster and Radiation Medicine Sciences lectures of "Biostatistics" provided by NWSMU were performed via Zoom online conference format. Course included 7 lectures that were scheduled on February 14-22, at 18:00-21:10 (JST).

Notwithstanding the fact that lectures were organized via Zoom conference meeting, Prof. Sviatoslav Plavinskij did a great job presenting all course materials in a structured and easy to understand manner gradually including more complex concepts of biostatistical science during all course lectures. Course included such topics as history of development of biostatistical science, introduction to probability and statistics, observational and experimental studies, statistical software (SAS and R), descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, quantitative variables and their analysis.

Professor used advanced English language vocabulary discussing different aspects of biostatistical research and further data analysis, thus everything was clearly understandable and digestible in terms of acquiring knowledge and getting insights about how to use biostatistics for possible future research experiments. As well, Prof. Plavinskij shared his Power Point presentations with students that gave us the ability to revise and try out different concepts from the Professor's examples and explanations.

Besides, during the course we got the opportunity to work and practice some important skills in operating software for statistical data analysis (SAS on Demand for Academics). The Professor presented all problem sets during his lectures, so even for newbie with zero experience in the use of statistical software there was no problem in understanding how software works. Within full duration of course students had a possibility to ask questions and discuss topics that they are interested in with Prof. Plavinskij, additionally Professor encourage students to try different examples from his lectures in SAS and give our feedback to him. Moreover, Prof. Prof. Sviatoslav Plavinskij convinced students that even after ending of the course, we are able to directly email him and discuss different aspects of biostatistical techniques in our future research activity.

To summarize, all lectures of Biostatistics were performed in good manner with up to date information and useful educational tools, which without doubt will be useful in future research work and data analysis for each student.

***ASHURKEVICH ALIAKSEI,
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ATOMIC BOMB DISEASE INSTITUTE
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Feedback Biostatistics

I am a first-year student of graduate school of biomedical sciences, Department of Disaster and Radiation Medical Sciences master course. During our studies we had a biostatistics course, which was organized in collaboration with the "National North-West Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov", and the course was prepared by a Professor Sviatoslav Plavinskij.

There was a lot of useful information throughout the course, all lectures were clear, well formulated and structured. Also during the course we were shown how to work with various statistical programs, which we will need in further scientific research. One of these programs was SAS OnDemand for Academics, professor presented excellent lectures, and kindly answered any questions that came up.

Unfortunately, we were unable to visit the university in person due to Covid-19, but even online we have gained invaluable knowledge.

All in all, I learned a lot during the course and I am very grateful for it.

Sincerely,

Adiya Kerimbayeva

First-year student of Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Master Course

Department of Disaster and Radiation Medical Sciences

Nagasaki University

Feedback on the “Biostatistics” course

In 2022 the lectures on Biostatistics were provided by North-Western State Medical University were provided via “Zoom” due to the coronavirus pandemic. Despite that, professor Sviatoslav Plavinskij was able to explain such complicated topic as Biostatistics and answer all our questions. The professor not only explained how different statistical tests work, but he also told a story of how it was created. Professor Pavlinskij taught us how to use SAS® OnDemand for Academics software product for statistical analysis and calculations.

The course can be further improved by increasing the clarity of its content. Sophisticated statistical concepts can be explained using simple and understandable examples from everyday life. However, oversimplification of the course material should be avoided. Furthermore, to improve students' engagement in lectures some additional interactivities can be included in presentations.

Disaster and Radiation Medical Sciences Course student Korzun Uladzislau.

Feedback on the “Biostatistics” course (February 2022) at Nagasaki University.

Provided by Zmushka Valeryia, first-year student at the master course “Division of Disaster and Radiation Medical Sciences”.

I want to express my gratitude to Professor Plavinsky S.L. for the course. Unfortunately, due to the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, students who now stay in Japan did not have the opportunity to come to St. Petersburg to attend the lectures in person, as it was in previous years. However, video communication via ZOOM was established well, and we had no problems accessing the lectures.

Professor sent all lecture materials to us personally by email so that we could prepare for the exam. Professor Plavinsky was always open to answer any of our questions that could appear during the preparation for the classes. To successfully complete the course and pass the exam, we needed to install the SAS program. Due to the differences in regions, some difficulties appeared, but professor gave advice on how to eliminate them for further correct work.

The lecture material gave step-by-step instructions for working with SAS, because for all of us it was the first experience of interacting with this program. However, by the end of the course, we had mastered data processing with its help quite well, and I can say that I am considering this program for data analysis in further scientific research.

I have got my bachelor’s degree at a medical university in Belarus, that is why the basics of statistics from the first lectures were familiar to me. However, it was necessary to brush up on them. Professor spoke very interestingly about the history and the theory of probability using examples.

Big gratitude one more time to Professor Plavinsky for such an interesting course, as well as gratitude to NWSMU for organizing inter-university cooperation, which allows us to study things that are so necessary for any person of science!

Feedback
“Biostatistics” provided by NWSMU

From February 14 to 22 in 2022 classes on “Biostatistics” were provided for Nagasaki University students. During this time, Professor Sviatoslav Plavinskij held 7 lectures including the basics of Public Health statistics and practical exercises. The provided presentations were filled with history, definitions, and meaningful illustrations. The professor explained all the practical work with examples and full step-by-step guidance. Furthermore, various statistical methods and software were deeply provided for students, which will help for the correct processing of statistical data in research. All difficult points were explained in accessible language.

Unfortunately, classes were organized online by ZOOM-program. However, this fact did not prevent the professor from arranging lectures informative and interesting. This professor has a unique approach to students, which helped in understanding the foundation of Biostatistics.

I would like to thank the North-West State Medical University, in particular Professor Sviatoslav Plavinskij, for the great opportunity. I look forward for the further cooperation.

Respectfully,
Shara Bakytbek

First-year student at Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Master Course
Department of Disaster and Radiation Medical Sciences
Nagasaki University

Dear Mr. Plavinskij S.

Thank you very much for the work done on the subject of biostatistics. You have explained well how to work with data collection and analysis of experimental results. Moreover, biostatistics is a discipline that deals with the design and analysis of biomedical research data. It includes a set of principles and methods for obtaining and using quantitative data to solve scientific questions, estimate unknown quantities, and quantify the uncertainty of our estimates. Statistical analysis of research results allows you to solve several types of problems:

1. Visually present the results of describing the diversity of the studied objects;
2. It is reasonable (with a certain probability of error) to accept or not to accept assumptions about the presence of patterns reflected in the variation of the studied value;
3. To detect implicit patterns hidden in the variation of the studied data.

In addition, I would like to highlight detailed instructions on how to work with a statistical software package called SAS on demand. Detailed instructions were provided that explain step by step how to solve problems using certain methods. The screen shots that were attached to each slide of the presentation especially helped. In my opinion, it helped to better assimilate and remember the material.

With the help of this software, I learned how to extract, modify, manage and extract data from sources and perform statistical analysis on them. I learned that SAS programs have DATA steps that extract and manipulate data, and PROC steps that analyze data.

Each step consists of a series of statements.

The DATA step contains executable instructions that cause the software to perform an action, and declarative instructions that provide instructions for reading a dataset or changing the appearance of the data. The DATA step consists of two stages: compilation and execution. At the compilation stage, declarative statements are processed and syntax errors are detected. After that, at the execution stage, each executable statement is processed sequentially. The datasets are organized into tables with rows called "observations" and columns called "variables". In addition, each piece of data has a descriptor and a value.

The PROC step consists of PROC statements that call named procedures. These procedures perform analysis and reporting on datasets to produce statistics, analyses, and graphs.

SAS macros are code snippets or variables that are encoded once and referenced to perform repetitive tasks.

In the end, I would like to add biostatistics is a science that uses statistical methods to solve set and emerging biological problems. It is not necessary to assume that biological statistics are fundamentally different and do not come into contact with mathematical statistics at all. However, it should be known that biostatistics is only a tool for solving biological problems, interpreting results and substantiating hypotheses.

Sincerely,
Ardak Ramazan.

feedback on “Biostatistics”

It was a very enjoyable seven days of study.

I was able to refresh my knowledge about biostatistics through the course and learned a lot of interesting cases and backgrounds. I have gained new insights.

This is also my first time with SAS software, I have been using spss before and I think SAS is very convenient and efficient.

Xu Xiao
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Feedback on the Biostatistics course

(NGUYEN Van Phu Thang, Department of Pathology, Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences)

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the SAS On Demand for Academics course: Biostatistics.

I would like to thank you and Professor Plavinsky.

I would like to express some feelings about this course.

First of all, I am very grateful for the enthusiasm of the organizers in announcing the information about the course as well as how to register to install SAS software, and how to contact Professor Plavinsky...

I am also grateful to Professor Plavinsky. His lectures are very helpful and well prepared. Professor Plavinsky was very enthusiastic in teaching and answering our questions. The duration of each study session is well guaranteed.

After completing the course, I understood more about Biostatistics. I think this course will help me a lot in the future.

Thank you very much.

With best regards,

Nguyen Van Phu Thang

Feedback on the “Biostatistics”

I have finished the course of “Biostatistics” which was taught by Professor Sviatoslav Plavinskij. Professor ‘s explanation was clear and intelligible during the course even though Biostatistics was a difficult course, and the courses were conducted online due to epidemic of COVID-19. I learned many new methods about collection, analysis, presentation et al. of data during this course. In addition, I learned knowledge on how to use statistical software, “SAS on Demand for Academics,” and applied to practice using some examples.

In conclusion, after listening to this course, I developed an understanding of biostatistics. I think that the biostatistics course was very useful and important for me. I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Sviatoslav Plavinskij, North-Western State Medical University for the given opportunity to study Biostatics.

Koichiro Hamada

Nagasaki University

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences