Departmental Colloquium

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Charting the Evolution of Statistics: From Learning to Lifesaving

Abstract

Over the past few decades, statistics has evolved into an indispensable tool for almost every realm of learning. Despite its rapid evolution, it remains an uncharted territory with boundless potential. In this talk, I will share my journey through diverse roles as a statistician. I will begin by delving into my educational background, tracing my experiences in solving real-world problems in finance and banking, and explaining how this journey propelled me towards pursuing a Ph.D. in statistics. Subsequently, I will describe the path that led me to my current role as a biostatistician at the National Cancer Institute. Finally, I will provide an overview of my project related to COVID-19. This project led to the development and validation of a COVID-19 mortality risk calculator for individuals in the U.S. adult population. Additionally, it offered community-level risk projections at various geographic levels through a web-based interactive map. These resources aimed to assist policymakers in identifying small, high-risk groups where mortality was most likely to be concentrated, facilitating a fair and effective risk-based allocation of new COVID-19 vaccines.

This talk will be accessible to Juniors and Seniors.

Refreshments will be served.