Developing customized reference values: Issues in variability modeling

Abstract:

There are many well known statistical methods for studying central tendency (e.g. mean or median). Methods for the investigation of variability (e.g. standard deviation) have received much less attention. In the studies of human growth and development as well as laboratory medicine, the development of reference values forms the basis of many research activities. The development typically involves some form of modeling of variability of the end-points, usually in relation to age and possibly in relation to multiple covariates.

In the context of developing “customized small-for-gestational age” reference values, the speaker will discuss some problems and solutions concerning the estimation of variability in relation to multiple covariates such as gestational age, gender, parity and ethnicity.

Biography:

Yin Bun is an epidemiologist and biostatistician. He has been the principal investigator of five NMRC-funded projects to improve statistical methods and quality of life measurement in clinical trials. He has also been studying child growth and development in developing countries.

All are welcome to attend. No RSVP is required. Lunch will be served from 12.00pm onwards, outside the amphitheatre.