Position title: Statistician at Veterans Affairs Portland Healthcare System

Projects: COVID-19-related observational research using national Veterans Affairs (VA) data

Project PIs (Portland): Kristina Bajema, MD, MSc and Denise Hynes, MPH, PhD, RN

We are seeking to hire a full-time statistician to join our team of investigators, biostatisticians, and analysts working on two VA-funded projects conducting observational research on COVID-19. These include a new Cooperative Studies Program, COVID-19 Pharmacotherapy Effectiveness in the VA Healthcare System (COPE-VA) and the Health Services Research & Development Program, COVID-19 Observational Research Collaboratory (CORC):

- COPE-VA is an exciting interagency collaboration between BARDA, FDA, VA, and other federal partners to use an adaptive platform observational study design to determine the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of novel therapeutic agents authorized for the outpatient treatment of COVID-19 in Veterans.
- CORC is based within the Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care (CIVIC) and includes several VA collaborating sites across the U.S. to conduct research to understand the long-term effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

We are seeking a statistician to support data management, study design, development of analytic plans, and execution and interpretation of analyses under the direction of the principal investigators and senior biostatisticians. We are a highly collaborative team with investigators across Portland, Puget Sound, West Haven, and other VA centers. Members participate in many aspects of study development as well as co-authorship on scientific manuscripts.

The Statistician will have master’s or PhD-level training in statistics, epidemiology, computer science, data science, or closely related field. Desired skills include expertise on the aggregation, collation, and the analysis of data from electronic health record (EHR) and claims databases including the development, implementation and updating of data extraction queries, data mining and developing strategies, action plans, data queries modification and maintenance, quality control and validation of collected data as well as conducting statistical analysis on the data including descriptive analysis, logistic regression and survival models and creation of high quality figures and graphs to summarize the findings. Experience with propensity scores, inverse probability weighting and other causal models preferred. Experience with research in the VA and/or experience in clinical-epidemiological research with use of large EHR databases is preferred. Knowledge of SQL and statistical software such as R, SAS, or STATA is required.

Responsibilities for the statistician would include some of the following, depending on skillset:

- Preparing data from multiple data sources for analysis
- Performing data validity checks and descriptive analyses using datasets received from study analysts
- Developing and executing propensity score matching, inverse probability weighting, time-to-event analyses, multivariable logistic regression, and other analyses
- Interpreting and presenting preliminary results to the team
- Designing statistical methods of upcoming studies
- Scientific writing for grant applications, manuscripts, and statistical reports
- Communicating with other study analysts and study investigators to relay results and optimize analytic plans
Salary is set by HR based on the candidate’s education and experience, target GS-12 ($84,923-110,404) or GS-13 ($100,984-131,277) depending on qualification. The position is available at 1.0 FTE (i.e., full-time). Candidates must be US citizens. This position is potentially eligible for teleworking, early, late, or compressed work schedules, a transit pass if applicable, as well as paid vacation, sick leave, and a range of healthcare and retirement benefits.

VA Portland is committed to developing and sustaining a workforce that supports the inclusion and professional growth of all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, Veteran status, familial status, disability status, or genetic information.

CIVIC values individuals at all points in their career trajectories, and CIVIC is committed to fostering the professional growth of its staff. Within CIVIC and the broader VA and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) communities, there are many opportunities for continuing education, didactics, and training related to a broad variety of topics. Such opportunities include OHSU Departmental Grand Rounds or larger events, research in progress meetings, CIVIC conferences, analyst drop-in sessions, qualitative forums, and more.

For more information or to apply, please contact: Kristina Bajema (kristina.bajema@va.gov) and Denise Hynes (denise.hynes@va.gov)