WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A CLINICAL TRIAL STATISTICIAN?

Statisticians play a critical role at every stage of the trial lifecycle, from study design to data analysis. Their expertise in crafting rigorous methodologies and interpreting data is essential for the success of these trials, advancing medical knowledge & improving patient outcomes.

UK Registered Clinical Trials Unit Network

What can YOU expect in an academic statistics role?

Alex Mitchell - York Trials Unit



My name's Alex Mitchell and I work as a trial statistician for York Trials Unit at the University of York.

What's your background? For my undergraduate degree I studied theoretical physics but in my final year I decided I wanted to work in a field with more immediate benefits to society, and after some research I thought medical statistics was a great fit!

After graduating I did a Masters in Statistics with Medical Applications at the University of Sheffield and was then lucky enough to get a job as a trainee statistician at York Trials Unit. In the seven years since I've been promoted twice and now work as a senior statistician at the unit.

What do you like best about your job? There is a lot of variation each week in what I do, one week I could be helping design a study database, drafting an analysis plan and writing a presentation, whilst another week I might be discussing trial design with clinical colleagues, writing some code and carrying out methodological research. I've had lots of exciting opportunities including being involved in nationally important research and going on a trip to meet research collaborators in Pakistan!

What next for you? My aims while working are focussed on continuing to challenge myself by working on new and interesting studies, which the role of a trial statistician certainly provides! Currently I am in the initial stages of drafting a fellowship application that would enable me to study for a PhD while working.

Any advice to share? To anyone interested in working as a trial statistician, I would recommend getting in touch with your local CTU to see if there are any shadowing opportunities available, as this is a really great way to get a sense of what the job is about!

For more about CTUs & the Network visit https://ukctunetwork.org