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

CTUs are experts in the design, execution, analysis, and publication of clinical trials and other studies that assess the efficacy and effectiveness of clinical therapies and treatments. To achieve Network Registration, CTUs must demonstrate their expertise and ongoing capability to an international panel of experts.

UK Registered Clinical Trials Unit Network

What can YOU expect in an academic statistics role?

Yunli Ou - Pragmatic CTU



My name is Yunli Ou, and I am currently a statistician in the Pragmatic Clinical Trials Unit at the Queen Mary University of London (PCTU).

What's your background? I had a master's degree in Statistics with a focus on applications in medicine, where I developed a strong interest in applying statistical methods to address health-related issues, particularly through the course on Clinical Trials that I really enjoyed. I then worked at the University of Exeter as a medical statistician for one year, which was a great start to my journey in clinical trial statistics.

Which clinical areas/methodological areas are you currently working in? I am currently working on two psychiatry trials in the PCTU, what I do on an everyday basis really depends on what stage the trials are at. I am now involving in tasks such as data checking, sample size calculations, statistical analyses, conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis, and learning some new statistical methods.

What do you like best about your job? The best part about working as a trial statistician is the opportunity to work in medical studies that I am passionate about. It's rewarding to apply my statistical skills to help improve patient outcomes. And it has been wonderful to work with such excellent teams and enrich my perspective through collaboration across the wider disciplines within clinical trials.

Any advice to share? I would advise anyone interested in working in a CTU to explore the websites of National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and various CTUs. They often provide detailed information about the trials they are involved in, along with publications related to those trials. This can be a good start to gain a better understanding of the breadth of clinical trials conducted and the various aspects involved in running a trial. They often have very useful links to resources and training opportunities as well!

For more about CTUs & the Network visit https://ukcrc-ctu.org.uk/