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

Cydney Bruce - Nottingham CTU



My name is Cydney Bruce. I'm a Medical Statistician at Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit.

What's your background? I started my BSc in Mathematics at Keele University in 2014. However, my career trajectory didn't become obvious until my third year when the course had a module and dissertation in Medical Statistics, both of which I did.

From there, in 2017 I started an MSc in Medical Statistics at the University of Leicester. After graduation, I went to work at the Institute of Cancer Research for a few years as an epidemiologist but after two years in this role, I moved my focus to clinical trials. In 2020, I came to the University of Nottingham to start a PhD in clinical trials methodology and in 2021, I moved to part-time study and took up a role as a medical statistician in the trials unit.

What do you do in a typical week? For me, the best part of being a trial statistician is that every week looks different. I work across a few trials all in different stages of set up. Typically, I spend most of my time contributing to trial specific documents (today I have a statistician analysis plan to finalise) and writing up code to produce reports throughout trial conduct.

However, the role has also allowed me to get involved in the updating of standard operating procedures, contribute to the writing of academic papers, get involved in teaching and to join University committees. I have also had opportunities to attend additional training to learn more specific skills (most recently diagnostic testing) and gotten involved in the process of putting the grant application together.

Any advice to share? For anyone interested in working as a trial statistician, my advice is to practice coding, it is a big part of the job and for many of us not something we get a lot of experience of during undergrad!