Multiple-Treatments Meta-Analysis

For many years the Biometric Society and its members have been working actively on implementing life-long learning. At the DagStat meeting in Dortmund in 2010, we founded a series called **Education for Statistics in Practice** with a successful first lecture by James Carpenter on the Handling of Missing Data. The abundant number of participants showed the great interest in this kind of lecture.

At this year's conference in Zürich, the series will continue with a lecture on **Multiple-Treatments Meta-Analysis** by **Dr. Georgia Salanti**. Aiming to reach a large audience we decided to integrate this series again into the main conference program. The session aims at all researchers for whom the topic is relevant in practicing meta-analyses or in critically reviewing their results.

Dr. Georgia Salanti is Assistant Professor in Epidemiology at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the University of Ioannina School of Medicine, Greece. She has a Diploma in Social Sciences from The Open University of East England, Cambridge, UK, a Ph.D in Statistics from the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Sciences, Ludwig-Maximillians University of Munich, as well as a B.Sc in Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics, National University of Athens. Georgia Salanti has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed medical, statistical and epidemiological journals, comprising a body of work on methodological and statistical issues. She has vast experience in clinical epidemiology by working together with clinicians in cutting-edge research projects. Her responsibility for the statistical analysis usually includes the development of novel statistical methods.

Why is Multiple-Treatments Meta-Analysis such a hot topic?
In many areas of biometry we want to compare groups (e.g. different treatments) with the aim to assess benefits of some groups over the others. Direct comparisons help us to decide, however they are not always available. Methods of using indirect comparisons are emerging to fill the gap. They provide the statistical methodology to combine all the available evidence in order to provide estimates of the effect of each treatment relative to every other. Various other terms have been used such as Multiple-treatments meta-analysis (MTM), network meta-analysis, mixed-treatment or indirect comparisons.
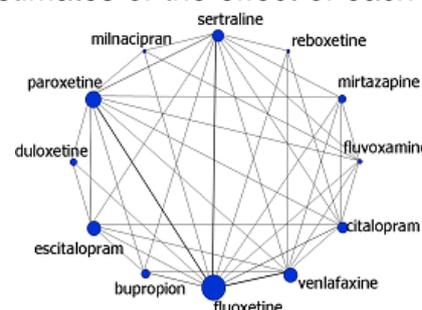
Aim of Dr. Salanti's lecture
As new methods are published constantly there is an increasing need for continued education and life-long learning. A designated place for lectures are international conferences where the broad community gathers. In her three hours lecture, Dr. Salanti will address this need and introduce her audience to the basics, the traditional methods and to "what is new" in multiple-treatments meta-analysis. Specific methodological issues, such as the underlying assumptions of the MTM models, evidence consistency and the role of bias will be discussed.

The lecture on <u>Multiple-treatments meta-analysis</u> will take place on Thursday, 15-Sep-2011, 9-12:30 in Lecture Hall HAH-E-11.