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Estimation of a Conceptual Model for Age-related Macular Degeneration: Statistical Challenges

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3:30pm - 4:30pm, CHS 33-105A

Refreshments served at 3:00 PM in room 51-254 CHS

ABSTRACT: A disease conceptual model is a diagram used to describe relationships among various factors involved in a disease process. It is commonly used as an attractive tool for researchers and clinicians to better understand the big picture of the disease process and the inter-relationship among risk factors, which can then be used to interpret research findings or to plan for future research on disease prevention and treatment. Therefore, it is important to build and develop such conceptual models. However, the lack of statistical tools in the estimation and evaluation of such conceptual models remains a major obstacle for its application in practice. In this talk, I will discuss some of the challenging statistical issues we encountered in our effort to estimate a conceptual model for age-related macular degeneration.