



NYU

**SCHOOL OF GLOBAL
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Biostatistician Ethical Oath
(adapted from the Data Science Oath)**

I promise to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those biostatisticians in whose steps I walk and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of society, all measures which are required, avoiding misrepresentations of data and analysis results.

I will remember that there is art to biostatistics as well as science and that consistency, candor, and compassion should outweigh the model's precision or the interventionist's influence.

I will not be ashamed to say, "I don't know," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for solving a problem.

I will respect the privacy of my data subjects, for their data are not disclosed to me that the world may know, so I will tread with care in matters of privacy and security. If it is given to me to do good with my analyses, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to do harm, and this responsibility must be faced with humbleness and awareness of my own limitations.

I will remember that my data are not just numbers without meaning or context, but represent real people and situations, and that my work may lead to unintended societal consequences, such as inequality, poverty, and disparities due to existing bias embedded in the data. My responsibility must consider potential consequences of my extraction of meaning from data and ensure my analyses help make better decisions.

I will perform personalization where appropriate, but I will always look for a path to fair treatment and nondiscrimination.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those who need help and those who don't.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy vitality and virtuosity, earn respect for my contributions and be remembered for my ethical leadership. May I always act to preserve the finest traditions of the field of biostatistics and may I long experience the joy of helping those who can benefit from my work.