

## **Medical Statistics Consultation: Issues & Challenges**

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Biostatistical techniques are an integral part of research activities in medicine, public health and biology. Reputed medical and research centers world-wide employ qualified and competent Biostatisticians towards this need. But in many countries like India, the specialty of Biostatistics has not yet very much established at the postgraduate level in many universities for the PG students of Statistics to take it up as a specialty. As a result, statisticians without the background of biostatistical nuances are employed as 'Biostatisticians'. Due to the lack of understanding about the basic biology or the knowledge of the health conditions for which the employed 'Biostatisticians' are expected to provide statistical help and support, it will be a challenge for these untrained Biostatisticians to communicate effectively with the subject specialists and to provide the necessary support & guidance, at least for a few initial years.

This is an attempt to share some of these challenges and also how to overcome these so that the consultee and the statistical consultant both derive satisfaction out of the collaboration & consultation, leading to a better research output, specifically in an academic environment.