

DONNA J. BROGAN LECTURE IN BIOSTATISTICS

“The Women’s Health Initiative: History, Contributions and Ongoing Research”



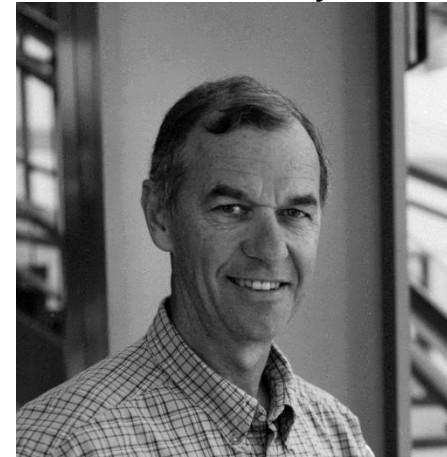
Donna J. Brogan, Ph.D.
Emerita Professor
Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Rollins School of Public Health

Donna J. Brogan received her Ph.D. in statistics from Iowa State University and was Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at UNC School of Public Health before joining Emory in 1971 as the first female faculty member in its Statistics/Biometry Department, later becoming only the fourth female full professor in its School of Medicine. In the Rollins School of Public Health, she was its first female full professor and its first female chair of the Department of Biostatistics. Dr. Brogan’s research interests, reflected in her 150 publications, include design and analysis of complex sample surveys and collaboration with health scientists.

Dr. Brogan’s honors include fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), Emory University’s Thomas Jefferson Award, three distinguished alumni awards [Gettysburg College (BA), Purdue (MS), Iowa State (Ph.D.)], and the ASA’s Elizabeth Scott Award for significant contributions to the advancement of women within the statistics discipline. Dr. Brogan’s leadership talent in academic and government realms was applied to selected activism. Based on her experience in a male dominated discipline, she founded the Caucus for Women in Statistics in 1971. Dr. Brogan’s experience as a breast cancer researcher and patient motivated her to help found the U.S. breast cancer advocacy movement in the 1990’s.

Since her retirement in 2004, Professor Emerita Brogan continues to advise government agencies on design and analysis of complex sample surveys and teach continuing education courses on this topic. She is an avid participant in challenge level square dancing, a complicated activity that uses concepts from mathematics and geometry.

Presented by:



Ross L. Prentice, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and
University of Washington

The Women’s Health Initiative was launched in 1992 following some years of developmental work. It enrolled 161,808 healthy postmenopausal women at 40 U.S. clinical centers. A randomized, controlled trial among 68,132 such women examined the health effects of postmenopausal hormone therapy, a low-fat dietary pattern, and calcium and vitamin D supplementation, in a partial factorial design. The remaining 93,676 women enrolled in a prospective cohort study. The hormone therapy component led to a greatly reduced use of these preparations, nationally and internationally, especially combined estrogen plus progestin therapy and can be projected to have resulted in 15,000 to 20,000 fewer women/year developing breast cancer in the United States alone. Reduced breast cancer was also suggested for the low-fat dietary intervention, and that trial has stimulated much additional research on the use of dietary exposure biomarkers to strengthen nutritional epidemiology research. These topics will be summarized, along with brief comments on ongoing WHI research, and on needs and opportunities in population science research more generally.

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**“The Women’s Health Initiative: History,
Contributions and Ongoing Research”**

**April 18, 2016
4:00 PM**

**Lawrence P. & Ann Estes Klamon Room
Rollins School of Public Health
Claudia Nance Rollins Building, Rm. 8030
1518 Clifton Road, N.E.**

Welcome: Amita Manatunga, Ph.D.
Chair, Brogan Lecture Committee
Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

Donna J. Brogan Lecturer:
Ross Prentice, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
University of Washington

Ross Prentice, Ph.D.

Dr. Ross Prentice is a Member and former Director of the Public Health Sciences Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington. His research focuses on chronic disease population science and disease prevention, and in related methodology developments. His statistical research areas include failure time data analysis methods; cohort study design and analysis methods; the use of biomarkers to address measurement error issues, especially in diet and physical activity epidemiology; surrogate outcome methods and limitations; and genomic and proteomic methods. He served as PI of the Clinical Coordinating Center for the Women’s Health Initiative from its inception in 1992 to 2011, and continues as co-PI. The WHI involves a multifaceted randomized controlled trial and cohort study among 161,808 postmenopausal US women, the results from which have markedly changed clinical practice in the use of postmenopausal hormones. Ross has received the COPSS Award and the Fisher Lecture Award from the ‘Joint Statistical Societies’; the Research Excellence in Epidemiology and Prevention Award from the AACR and ACS; and he is a member (1990) of the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Medicine.

Reception immediately following the lecture

This lecture honors Donna J. Brogan, an outstanding former faculty member and chair in the Department of Biostatistics of the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH), and is made possible in large part by the generous support of Donna, her colleagues and friends.