QUOTES

• “Perhaps, after all, our best thoughts come when we are alone. It is good to listen, not to voices but to the wind blowing, to the brook running cool over polished stones, to bees drowsy with the weight of pollen. If we attend to the music of the earth, we reach serenity. And then, in some unexplained way, we share it with others.” Gladys Taber

• “The Navajo have that wonderful image of what they call the pollen path. The Navajo say, 'Oh, beauty before me, beauty behind me, beauty to the right of me, beauty to the left of me, beauty above me, beauty below me, I'm on the pollen path.'” Joseph Campbell

• “Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind.” James Russell Lowell

• “We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.” Mother Teresa
UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

• None, Lance will be at the Global Burden of Disease Independent Advisory Committee meeting.

KUDOS

• Congratulations to Mike Kutner who will be the recipient of the American Statistical Association’s Mentoring Award at the 2018 JSM in Vancouver!

INTERESTING READS (good things to “Read, read read!”)

• “The Scientific Paper is Obsolete”
• Interesting careers with an MPH: Wildlife Epidemiology Facebook page from Florida Atlantic University
  o [https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeEpidemiology/](https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeEpidemiology/)
  o 12 foot hammerhead pictures included!
• Interesting listen (Stats and Stories podcast)
  o S+S Episode 54, "Jaguar corridors, koala conservation and reef health - statistics in celebration of Earth Day" is now available. Kerrie Mengersen (@KerrieMengersen), Distinguished Professor at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, and past-President of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), describes how environmental and ecological applications of statistics.
• Women’s History Month Spotlight: Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor
NIH NEWS

- The impact of Teams Receiving NIH Support
- Do reviewers read references? Does it matter?
- Looking for a NIH Program Officer in your area? Try Matchmaker!
OPENINGS

Abt is seeking an experienced Survey Sampling Statistician to join its growing team in the Data Science, Surveys and Enabling Technologies (DSET) Division. This division plays a key role within Abt providing survey sample design, data science methods, statistical consulting, and advanced analytics to a broad range of government agencies, university researchers, foundations, the media, and corporations. Much of their work is focused on public policy and policy evaluation in such areas as health policy, epidemiology, education, food safety, and urban planning, the environment, and public opinion both within the US and internationally.

The Statistician / Sr. Statistician works with internal and external clients on the valid and reliable uses of primary and secondary data, including survey data, administrative records, social media data, sensor and other available data; develops complex sampling designs for data collection, communicating the strength and weaknesses of various sampling strategies; identifying and applying appropriate analytic techniques across a range of data types; provide mentoring and guidance to more junior staff; and representing Abt at research conferences (e.g., the Joint Statistical Meetings, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Federal Committee on Survey Methodology, Total Survey Error, American Public Health Association, and others).

The location of the position is preferred in Abt's Rockville, MD office but may be located in our Cambridge, MA or Durham, NC office as well.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

- Lead statistical/methodological/analytic sections of proposals
- Develop sampling designs for complex surveys across various modes – telephone, in-person, web, etc.
- Identify strategies for sampling rare populations
- Work with large federal public use datasets, such as ACS, NHIS, CPS, QCEW and PDB, to develop optimal sampling strata, and to inform weight calibration procedures
- Conduct power analyses to determine required sample sizes
- Develop and implement weighting protocols for complex surveys (including creation of replicate weights)
- Perform hot-deck and/or model-based imputation
- Implement quality control procedures, including nonresponse and mode effect analyses
- Calculate response rates, standard errors and design effects
- Prepare methodological reports on sampling and weighting procedures
- Provide thought leadership through statistical & data science research
- Analyze and model structured data using advanced statistical methods (e.g. classification, clustering, regression, matching, latent variable modeling, etc.)
- Mentor junior staff and others seeking statistical/analytic guidance
OPENINGS

Abt continued:

Preferred Skills / Prerequisites

- Ph.D., ABD or Master's degree in statistics, quantitative survey methodology, or a quantitative social science field. Master's-level applicants should have extensive prior experience working on complex surveys in a setting of a survey research organization.
- Strong SAS, Stata, R or Python programming skills
- Working knowledge of sampling inference and applied sampling strategies
- Working knowledge of the total survey error paradigm, models of survey response, cognitive and social aspects of survey measurement
- Strong writing, presentation, and interpersonal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to conduct methodological research
- Complementary expertise in one or more areas of statistics and data science, including, but not limited to, mixed models, missing data, machine learning, text analytics, econometrics, or other quantitative social science areas

Minimum Qualifications

- Depending on the education level and years of experience of the successful candidate, the role will be either a Statistician (Senior Analyst) or a Sr. Statistician (Associate).
  - Statistician (Senior Analyst level): PhD with 0-2 years of experience OR MA/MS with 3+ years of experience or BA/BS with 6+ years of experience OR the equivalent combination of education and experience.
  - Sr. Statistician (Associate level): PhD with 4-6 years of experience OR MA/MS with 7-10 years of experience OR the equivalent combination of education and experience.

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