

Statistical challenges for clinical research in developing settings

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This session will address the challenges of conducting rigorous clinical research in developing settings. It addresses the challenges of data collection in resource and education limited settings, while balancing the need for accurate health information on vulnerable populations where health information is desperately needed. Using examples from Northern Uganda, South Africa and Malawi, this session will demonstrate the need for mentorship between statisticians and data collection coordinators in the field. It will demonstrate the need for clinical investigators to involve statisticians from project onset and well as the need for statisticians to become active partners in the investigative process. Finally, this session will discuss the paucity of statistical services available in the African setting, and the contribution this deficit has had upon health infrastructure.