



Statistics



expect more from your career

At the heart of scientific endeavour

Statistics at Pfizer has recently been aligned with the company's Clinical R&D organisation. It's an exciting development that signals the opportunity to demonstrate our contribution to science.

There are five core functions in Statistics whose work spans each phase of the product pipeline. Working closely with our scientific colleagues, we help to design laboratory experiments and clinical trials; assemble, analyse and interpret data; and conduct statistical analyses.

There is considerable scope for opportunity here at Pfizer Sandwich. With a supportive and stimulating environment, our statisticians are able to develop their professional and statistical skills, whilst contributing to the research and development of innovative, new medicines.

“The people I work
with are really supportive
and friendly.”

A graduate perspective

Jane studied Medical Statistics at Leicester University. She joined Pfizer's Clinical Statistics group in October 2006 and is gradually finding her feet. “Although it's somewhat daunting joining a company of this size; Pfizer definitely left me with the best impression. The relaxed atmosphere made me feel very much at ease, everyone was really friendly and there was an opportunity for one-to-one discussions with Statistics colleagues.

“I really enjoy the work I do; liaising with global clinicians and study managers, developing clinical statistics plans and providing input to protocols.” Jane has also settled well into life outside work. “I live in Canterbury so I'm at the heart of a great social scene. My housemates have been fantastic too, introducing me to the many benefits of city centre living!”

After graduating from Queen Mary University London, Shaonee joined Research Statistics in December 2004. “Being a city girl through-and-through, my initial plan was to get a couple of years’ experience here, then move back to London.” Since then, Shaonee has really planted her roots in East Kent. “I’ve been so impressed with the company and the opportunity for development. I have taken on more and more responsibility and built up some great relationships with a truly diverse group of people.

“I certainly don’t plan to move on any time soon. I’ve even just bought a property by the sea – something I would never have been able to do living in London!”

Five core functions

Clinical Statistics, Research Statistics, Veterinary Medicine,
Statistical Applications and Pharmacometrics

Clinical Statistics

Our Clinical Statisticians work closely with clinicians and pharmacologists in the design, interpretation and analysis of clinical trials. It is the largest group within Statistics at Pfizer and their remit is concerned with providing trial data in the most effective and efficient ways. A current key focus for Clinical Statistics is adaptive trial design, a pioneering way to deliver more considered designs in our clinical trials.

Carol is an experienced statistician. In 1999, she moved from an academic background in Scotland to an exciting role in Clinical Statistics. She has never looked back. “I was initially unsure of a career in pharma as I had no previous experience. However, when I visited Pfizer Sandwich I knew instinctively; this was where I wanted to progress my career.”

Currently working as project statistician, Carol’s role has led to her involvement in various clinical study phases. “I have gained experience across such a broad area. By working on several projects within a therapeutic area, I’m actively contributing to a range of potential, new medicines.”

“Our group encourages
and provides the freedom to
explore and experiment.
By its very nature, that is
what drug discovery
is all about.”

Research Statistics

Research (or Non-Clinical) Statisticians at Pfizer provide statistical support in all phases of drug discovery. The team collaborates regularly with scientists on experimental designs in pre-clinical efficacy and safety studies; and plays an integral role in the effective analysis and interpretation of the data. The role of the statistician is an instrumental one – helping to deliver quality data that will facilitate the decision to progress a drug through the pipeline.

Phil is the *In Vivo* team leader. He has a wealth of Pfizer experience and statistical expertise, and is still as passionate about his job as the day he started. “The interesting thing about working in Research Statistics is the involvement with many smaller projects; sometimes 60-80 in one year. In the time I have been here, I have worked with many people across many fields, and I find it fascinating. That’s why I’ve stayed at Pfizer – because of the opportunity to use and develop my statistical knowledge in new and different areas.”

Veterinary Medicine

Joining our Veterinary Medicine group is a great opportunity to contribute to the development of novel livestock and companion animal medicines. Liaising closely with experienced clinicians, you will get to work on a huge variety of projects, utilising many statistical methods.

The team provides statistical consulting and programming support. More specifically, they advise on study design; provide statistical input to protocols and reports; and respond to regulatory queries.

Fiona is a Biometrician in our Animal Health organisation – the world's largest. She began her career in human health, before joining Pfizer to support our Veterinary Medicine group. “I found the transition from human to animal health quite seamless. Generally, you need the core skills and there are similar aspects in terms of the statistics, even though the two areas have different regulatory bodies. Within Pfizer Animal Health, I get the opportunity to be much more involved with both statistics and programming – an aspect to my role that I really enjoy.”

Statistical Applications

Another opportunity to consider at Pfizer is Statistical Applications. A support function for clinical and non-clinical colleagues, key areas of focus are methodology and biomarker studies, internal and external consultancy, and data interpretation. The team also provides specialist support and emerging techniques in global clinical technology, '-omics' technologies and outcomes research; as well as industrial statistical support to Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Among Trevor's credentials are a Maths degree, teaching in Kenya and environmental statistics. His diverse background has proven invaluable for his role in Statistical Applications. "Our work is very much involved in design and exploratory analysis; and as there are no real constraints, we get to develop our own ideas and solutions to the design issues we come across."

Trevor also enjoys the collaborative nature of his role. "In addition to working internally with Pfizer clinicians, we partner with external groups, mainly academic experts. It's a fantastic opportunity to get together; and the mutual effort, with their scientific expertise and our experience of design and analysis, produces rewarding results."

“It’s OK to say,
‘I don’t know the answer’.
There’s always someone here
to support and point you in the
right direction.”

Pharmacometrics

Collaborating with clinical pharmacology, the Pharmacometrics group focuses on quantitative drug development. Using state-of-the-art tools, statistical and mathematical modelling and simulation, the team integrates all available clinical and non-clinical data. In doing this, they contribute to improved trial design; predict outcomes and select doses to aid better decisions about our candidate drugs.

Paddy joined Pfizer in 1999. He is a strong advocate for doing what you love – and not being afraid to ask questions along the way. “For as long as I can remember, this is the type of work I’ve wanted to do. I enjoy the fact it is technical and mathematical; yet I still get to be creative. The people I work with are always open to new ideas, but that’s not to say the innovative way is always the right way. It’s all about common sense.”

And Paddy talks a great deal of sense when it comes to making the most of your career here at Pfizer. “If you want something – extra training or development; help with a problem – you simply have to ask. The same goes for life outside work too. The company is very flexible and will support you in achieving the right work-life balance for you.”

