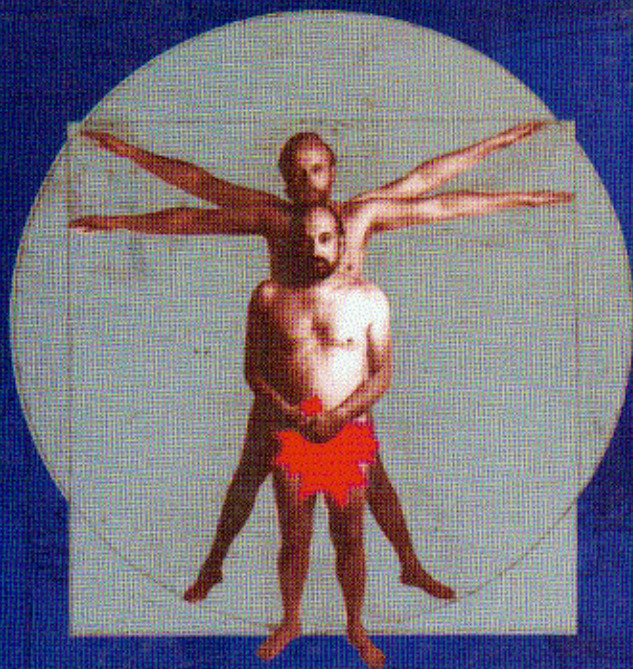




fourth edition

BIOSTATISTICS

THE BARE ESSENTIALS

Geoffrey Norman, PhD and David Streiner, PhD, C Psych

Geoff Norman (the tall one) is a professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University. He received a BSc in physics in 1965 and a PhD in nuclear physics in 1970. While this sounds good at parties, he found that to avoid starvation, he had to switch fields into medical education and later received an MA in educational psychology. He now spends most of his time doing research in cognitive psychology, with a minor in measurement. He is author of about 10 books and over 200 journal articles, most of which are totally forgettable. He has two kids who have grown up and left home to mutual relief, and he now has a granddaughter and a grandson. He lives in Dundas on a largish spread with a wife, two dogs, six cats, and a zillion wild birds. His ambition is to turn his entire backyard into a wooden deck.

David Streiner (the less tall one) spent the first 22 years of his life in New York City (which at least partly explains the way this book was written). After a doctorate in clinical psychology from Syracuse University in 1968, he moved to McMaster University (no, not to escape the draft). After 30 years in the Departments of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and of Psychiatry, he retired. The next day, he began life again as the Assistant Vice-President for Research and the Director of the Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied Research Unit at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, which he did for 10 years. He currently works part time at both universities. He is overjoyed that the revision of this book is finished, so he can return to his regular full-time occupation, which is making furniture and wooden toys.

Professors Norman and Streiner of McMaster University undertake the Fourth Edition of their popular textbook. The new text is designed to open the eyes of both students and practitioners blinded by the biomedical statistics they find in the results sections of medical research literature.

Reflecting advances in the discipline of statistics, this practical guide exposes the statistical methods readers are most likely to come across with the goal of helping them see whether the results can be believed. New content includes a chapter called "Measures of Impact," in which they discuss how to measure incidence and prevalence, risk, morbidity and mortality rates, and the number needed to treat. They've also added a section on the Poisson distribution for doing regressions on count data and new sections on robust estimators of the mean, the problems of multiple hypothesis testing, and bootstrapping and resampling. The section on non-parametric statistics has also been enhanced.

*"I am often asked to recommend a 'good' statistical book, those asking undoubtedly anticipating with dread a tome of soporific statistics, which will likely collect dust on their bookshelves. As an antidote to potential statistical phobia/anhedonia, I heartily recommend **Biostatistics: The Bare Essentials**—a book that undeniably defies such mundane expectations."*

—Naomi Vaisrub, PhD, in a review of the 3rd edition in JAMA.



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