Information sheet for the statistical consulting module (STA490)

This information sheet summarizes the organisation of the statistical consulting module of the master program in biostatistics.

General
At the beginning of each semester a set of possible projects will be presented. As far as possible students may choose among these projects, if necessary they will be assigned by the responsible of the module. Students have to work independently but under supervision on a project and, in general, no two students will work on the same project, they will write a reproducible report and present the results orally.

Agenda
In the first week of the semester projects are assigned, around mid-semester intermediate and towards the end of the semester final presentations of the projects are mandatory (justified exceptions to this rule may be possible). The final report has to be submitted (electronically) approximately a week after the final presentation. Length of presentations will be approximately 15 to 30 minutes, the exact length depends on the number of participants and will be fixed each semester.

Software
Statistical analyses have to be carried out with R, reports and presentations have to be reproducible and should hence (preferably for the presentations and necessarily for the report) be created using Sweave. Justified exceptions to this rule may be possible. At the beginning of the semester an introduction to Sweave will be provided if necessary.

Presentations
Depending on the project the structure of a presentation might differ but it should roughly contain the following points:

- explanation of scientific problem
- statistical approach
- results
- conclusions

Since presentations are graded in this module it is also important that the form and the content of slides are appropriate and clearly arranged, that the verbal explanation of the slides is correct, understandable and concise and, finally, that the given time frame is approximately respected. After and during the presentation students need to show that they are able to understand and answer questions. For the intermediate presentation not all points above may be possible to include, on the other hand the final presentation may include the same structural points as the intermediate presentation with more complete results and certainly a complete conclusion.

Report
Again, depending on the project the structure of a report might differ, but it should roughly contain the same points as the presentation. The use of Sweave is required (apart from justified exceptions) for the final report, i.e. submission is not (only) through a pdf but an Rnw file. Again, since the report is graded it is important to appropriately and correctly formulate its contents. Clarity, conciseness and structure will certainly beneficial.

EF June 2012
Grading

In total 100 points can be earned for the entire module, the pass grade will be (approximately) 50 points and the following partitioning will be used:

- intermediate presentation: 20 points
- final presentation: 30 points
- final report: 40 points
- commitment/proactivity: 10 points

After successful completion of the module 6 CP will be awarded.