

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide features a green grid pattern that curves downwards from the left side, creating a wave-like effect. The grid consists of squares, and the overall color is a light, vibrant green.

My UNC Biostatistics Experience

Che Smith

Doctoral Student

My Journey to UNC

- « I like math »
- « I want to positively impact the world »

Choosing UNC

- Department reputation
 - Competitive funding package
 - Opportunities for mentoring
 - Collaborative environment
 - Ideal location
-
- These are all things I learned from my visit!

My Dissertation

Model Selection for Nonnested
Linear Mixed Models

Advisor: Dr. Lloyd Edwards

Dissertation - Background

- Model Selection
 - Choosing a simple and accurate model
- Linear Mixed Models
 - Useful for longitudinal data
- Nested vs. Nonnested Models

Dissertation – General Approach

- Defining cases of nonnested-ness
- Extended Information Criterion

Application

- Interest in aging research
- Using the EPESE dataset to build and compare models
 - National Institute on Aging study, 1982-1997
 - Four study sites, including Duke Univ., NC
 - Blood pressure, age, visit

My Progress

- Reviewing current literature
- Defining terms and notation
- Accessing and working with data
- Programming the EIC

Implications

- Better defining EIC for mixed models
- Improving statistical computation
- Enhancing model building for aging research

Other Activities

- Aging Research Working Group
- IMSD: Teaching and Consulting
- Health Disparities Certificate
- Minority Student Caucus

Career Aspirations

- Professor of Biostatistics
- Teaching, Collaborative Research, and Service

Enjoy your visit!