

"We are a community dedicated to leading and promoting the use of statistics within the healthcare industry for the benefit of patients"



**Student
Newsletter**



Your opinion matters

Is the content of this newsletter relevant to you?

Yes

No

Your feedback is valuable! [Email us](#) with your suggestions.

PSI Events

See what's happening in 2025.

PSI apprenticeship

Great news from universities.

SIG Spotlight: AI and ML

Learn their objectives.

Placement Students in Medical Research

Hear about their experiences.

Undergraduate Prizes

Learn how to get involved.

PSI Conference 2025

Register for this year's conference.

Careers Fair and MEDMathS 2024

Hear about other successful events PSI held

Recent Media Coverage

Learn about FDA's priority review.

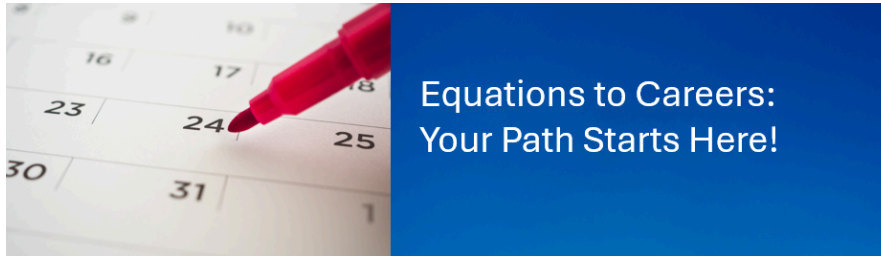
WELCOME

Welcome to our Spring 2025 student newsletter aimed at providing you useful information and links to resources while you study a maths-related degree at University and start to think about future career options. PSI is a non-profit organisation run voluntarily by statisticians from industry. Our PSI Careers website can be found [here](#).

Just For Fun

Markings on animal bones indicate that humans have been doing maths since around 30,000BC!

Events



PSI Events

PSI offers a range of opportunities to learn about statistical techniques used in the Pharmaceutical industry, as well as valuable personable skills. Sessions range from a couple of hours to all day events. Upcoming events and how to register can be found on our [Events page](#).

Maths Meets Medicine: Exploring Careers in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Date and time: Tuesday 11th March 2025 | 17:00-19:00 BST

Location: Online via Zoom

Costs: Free

Who is this event intended for? This webinar is designed for students, and anyone interested in learning how mathematics plays a critical role in the pharmaceutical industry.

What is the benefit of attending? An opportunity to meet statisticians from across the pharmaceutical industry in a relaxed and informal setting

To register for this event, please click [here](#).

Visualisation SIG 'Wonderful Wednesday' Webinars

Date and time: The Second Wednesday of every Month | 16:00-17:00 BST

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

To register for this event, please click [here](#).

PSI Medical Statistics Careers Event

Date and time: 19th November 2025

Location: AstraZeneca's Discovery Centre, Cambridge.

Cost: Free

Registration details will be announced later. Check back [here](#) and follow PSI on social media for updates. Scroll down to learn more about our 2024 careers event!

Updates from the PSI Medical Statistics Apprenticeship scheme

Over 30 people have now embarked on the MSc Apprenticeship scheme, hosted by 14 companies and 2 universities (Strathclyde and UCL, both delivered online). LSHTM are set to welcome apprentices on a face to face course from Autumn 2025.

Past events



Students on the Apprenticeship have recently set up a PSI Apprentice Network, and launched the network by hosting a virtual conference for apprentices. The event took place on 14th February, and brought together apprentices from Strathclyde and UCL for the first time. The virtual conference included an inspiring presentation from a Statistician who has recently finished a part-time MSc, a Q&A panel with current apprentices, and the opportunity for students to network.

[Visit our Website](#)

SIGs Spotlight: AI and ML

Group Objectives:

- Align Machine Learning efforts across all SIGs.
- Identify AI & ML applications in clinical research while considering regulatory requirements.
- Host webinars to share insights with industry colleagues.

For more information, or to get involved, see this [webpage](#).

Abbreviations: Special Interest Group=SIG, AI=Artificial Intelligence, ML=Machine Learning

Placement Students in Medical Research

Find out which companies offer placements and explore video testimonials on the [PSI website!](#)



Many pharmaceutical and healthcare companies offer placements, mainly for undergraduates with a year in industry, plus some short-term roles for PhD students. These experiences build confidence, soft skills, and real-world expertise—boosting CVs for future graduate roles.

Hear from 2023/24 placement students about their experiences, top tips, and key takeaways, along with insights from supervisors on the benefits of hiring placement students.

A big thank you to all students who shared their experiences—best of luck in your final year and beyond!

Undergraduate Prizes

PSI awards cash prizes to undergraduate students who were nominated by their University for excelling in their BSc or MSc with mathematical and statistical content. Each University can only nominate one student and the PSI Careers team are always very impressed with the nominations received.

This annual award is a great opportunity, so please encourage your institution to engage with the nomination process when it opens in Spring!



8 - 11 JUNE 2025

WEMBLEY STADIUM
LONDON



Join us at the PSI Conference 2025 in Wembley, London from Sunday 8th to Wednesday 11th June 2025.

Registration for the conference is now open. Click the button to see more details and register now!

There is a Student Day Pass option available for Monday 9th June. Do not miss out!

[Visit our Website](#)

Medical Statistics Careers Fair

PSI hosts an annual free careers fair for students interested in Medical Statistics, offering insights into career paths and practical advice on getting started.

When: Join us on *19th November 2025* at AstraZeneca's Discovery Centre, Cambridge. Hear from industry experts, take part in panel discussions, and network with professionals from the pharmaceutical and academic sectors.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Check out details from last year's event below.



On 20th November, students with an interest in Medical Statistics came together at Yeomanry House in Bloomsbury for PSI's Medical Statistics Careers Event 2024-25. This annual event is designed to give attendees an inside look at the variety of careers available in the field, along with practical advice for getting started.

The day began with refreshments followed by a welcome introduction from Rachel Phillip, who outlined PSI's role in supporting students and early-career statisticians. The first presentation was given by Angus Jennings, a new starter at the MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL. He shared his experience working on HIV treatment and prevention trials across Africa and Europe, offering a glimpse into the global impact of medical statistics.

The panel discussion that followed featured professionals from across the industry. Angus was joined by Paul Terill (independent consultant), Fiona Grimson (UCB), Violeta Balinskaite (Medpace), and Elliot Thomas (AstraZeneca and MSc apprentice at the University of Strathclyde). Each panellist shared their career journey, daily responsibilities, and advice for students. The discussion covered a range of topics, from transitioning into the workforce to managing the challenges of the role.



The talks set the tone for the rest of the event, which featured opportunities for students to ask questions and learn more about careers in medical statistics at the Exhibitor Session. The Exhibitor Session featured 9 pharmaceutical companies, 3 Contract Research Organisations (CROs), 2 Clinical Trials Units (CTUs), and 1 professional society, along with 5 universities promoting postgraduate opportunities. Attendees interacted with both seasoned and new industry professionals, gaining diverse insights for their career paths.

"I first came [to this event] in my first year of university, where I learned about medical stats, and that's really opened the door to my whole career. I found a summer placement a couple of years ago as well, so the opportunities are endless. It was great to hear the talks. I thought all the new starters were particularly interesting. It's good to hear about a wide range of perspectives. [I'm interested in statistics in healthcare because] I love statistics and it's good to use it when it's something that provides such a benefit to society. It's a great thing to do and something to be proud of as well as a really interesting topic."



Jakob Holton, Masters Student in Medical Statistics, University of Leicester

MEDMathS Annual Webinar

MEDMathS is an annual webinar run by PSI Careers, targeted at undergraduate and postgraduate students and aiming to:

- Introduce the world of Medical Statistics
- Provide an awareness of career opportunities within Medical Statistics
- Demonstrate how PSI can help in pursuing such a career

Check back [here](#) later in the year when registration opens for our November 2025 event.

PSI Careers virtually hosted the latest edition of our MEDMathS (Medicine Empowered by Data, Maths and Statistics) event on Wednesday 6th November 2024.

57 students attended from a wide range of backgrounds and were highly engaged with 20+ questions being submitted during the presentation!



What's the difference between statisticians, data scientists, and data managers?

The labels "statistician" and "data scientist" are sometimes used interchangeably. Some companies have renamed their statistics departments as "Data Science".

A data science role could include less work directly related to designing, running and analysing a clinical trial and more AI/ML and analysis of large data sets, potentially in the early stages of drug discovery before clinical trials or the phase after a drug is on the market. In reality there is no clear definition and a lot of crossover.

A data manager is responsible for data, for example from a clinical trial. This could involve ensuring records are accurate. A data manager is a less statistical role. See this [article](#) for more information.

Recent Media Coverage

Twice-Yearly Lenacapavir Gets Priority Review For HIV PrEP

What is HIV?

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system, specifically the CD4 cells, which are crucial for fighting infections. If untreated, it can lead to AIDS, where the immune system becomes severely weakened, making the body vulnerable to opportunistic infections and certain cancers. HIV is primarily transmitted through blood, sexual contact, and from mother to child during childbirth or breastfeeding. While there is no cure, antiretroviral treatments can help manage the virus, allowing those infected to live longer, healthier lives.

What is lenacapavir?

The FDA has accepted Gilead's new drug application for lenacapavir, a twice-yearly HIV prevention injection, under priority review. A Priority Review designation means FDA's goal is to take action on an application within 6 months (compared to 10 months under standard review).

What were the clinical trials?



PURPOSE 1

A Phase 3, Double-Blinded, Multicenter, Randomized Study to Evaluate Safety and Efficacy of Twice Yearly Long-Acting Subcutaneous Lenacapavir, and Daily Oral Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide for PrEP **in Adolescent Girls and Young Women at Risk of HIV Infection**

Trial information: [Purpose 1](#)



PURPOSE 2

A Phase 3, Double-Blind, Multicenter, Randomized Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Subcutaneous Twice Yearly Long-Acting Lenacapavir for HIV PrEP **in Cisgender Men, Transgender Women, Transgender Men, and Gender Nonbinary People ≥ 16 Years of Age Who Have Sex With Male Partners and Are at Risk for HIV Infection**

Trial information: [Purpose 2](#)

Statistical Methodologies Used in the Trials

In these clinical trials, participants are randomly assigned to receive either an active drug or a placebo for both the daily pill and the six-month injection, with follow-up visits scheduled every 4 to 13 weeks.

- **Primary Endpoint:** HIV incidence is assessed by measuring the number of new HIV-1 infections per 100 person-years (PY) of follow-up.
- **Understanding Incidence Per 100-PY:** This metric accounts for varying follow-up times, allowing for comparisons across studies or groups. For example, if 100 participants are each followed for one year, totalling 100 person-years, and 2 new HIV infections occur, the incidence rate would be 2 per 100 person-years.
- **Safety Endpoint:** The proportion of participants experiencing treatment-emergent adverse events, providing insights into the safety profile of the interventions.

Reminders

PSI student membership

PSI student membership is **free** to join and has many benefits during your journey to becoming a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry: [Join PSI \(psiweb.org\)](https://psiweb.org)

PSI run many webinars which are free to members (but cost for non-members), so as a free PSI Student member you can also join these events for free.

Keep your contact details up to date

If you are finishing your studies at the end of this academic year, please remember to change your email address to a personal one on your PSI account, so you don't miss important updates and continue to receive our regular emails. To edit your contact details, you can log into Glue Up and go to "My profile": <https://app.glueup.com/my/profile/>.

Job Vacancies

Many companies employing statisticians advertise their job vacancies on the [PSI website](#). Career Opportunities are updated on a regular basis, and is always worth a look to see what options are available.

PSI | St James House Vicar Lane | Sheffield, S1 2EX GB

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