

Harald Weedon-Fekjær, Researcher/biostatistician, PhD

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(Shared University of Oslo and Oslo University biostatistics center with joint leader)

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Harald Weedon-Fekjær is a biostatistician at Oslo Center for biostatistics and epidemiology [OCBE], Oslo, Norway, splitting his time 50-50 between breast cancer research and consulting of medical doctors in biostatistics. Harald graduated from Oslo University with a master in mathematical statistics in 1999. After working with cancer incidence predictions at the Cancer Registry of Norway and distance teaching of medical statistics at University of Oslo, Harald defended a PhD on modelling of breast cancer progression and screening in 2008 at Department of Biostatics, Oslo University. The fourth paper from his PhD work was in 2008 selected as article of the year by the Norwegian Epidemiological Association. After his PhD he spend the autumn of 2009 at Dana-Farber/Harvard University (Boston, USA), before returning to Norway for a post doc and later joining OCBE in a permanent research position (2013). In recent work he has studied trends in breast cancer incidence and the effect of mammography screening on breast cancer mortality. Generally, Harald loves the complex metrological challenges of evaluating screening programs, looking into the delicate public health balance of benefits and harms of cancer screening. In his consulting working and related co-authorship, Harald deals with all sort of medical topics and biostatistical methods, including many epidemiological projects and applications of mixed effects regression models (at Oslo University Hospital, Oslo University and Vestfold hospital using the Stata, R and SPSS statistical packages). Harald is a fluid R programmer and used to unitize high performance computers and modern software for distance collaboration. Outside work Harald lives at Nesodden outside Oslo spending his spare time with his wife and two kids, often taking on outdoor activities as kayaking, skiing, hiking and tenting with the scouts.

Professional interests:

Statistical modeling and simulation, applied statistics, statistical computing and software, teaching of statistics

Ongoing research topics:

- Modelling of breast cancer progression and mammography screening
- Evaluating of medical screening programs
- Breast cancer epidemiology

Selected publications:

1. "Modern mammography screening and breast cancer mortality: population study", Weedon-Fekjær et. al., BMJ 2014
2. "Understanding recent invasive breast cancer incidence trends using Age-Period-Cohort analysis and registry data on mammography screening and hormone treatment use", Weedon-Fekjær et. al., BMJ 2012
3. "Breast cancer tumor growth estimated through mammography screening data", Weedon-Fekjær et. al., Breast Cancer Research 2008
(Among the journal's 10 most accessed articles; Per 2012-08 no. 6 with 34 987 accesses)

Software packages:

- Nordpred; Cancer incidence predictions,
<http://www.kreftregisteret.no/software/nordpred>
- Addreg; Additive hazard regression survival analysis,
<http://www.med.uio.no/imb/english/research/groups/causal-inference-methods/software/download/addreg-beta.html>

Awards etc.:

- "Breast cancer tumor growth estimated through mammography screening data" (by Weedon-Fekjær et. al., 2008) was selected as article of the year 2008 by the Norwegian Epidemiological Association.

Research groups:

Part of US NCI-sponsored CISNET (The Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network) consortium though Dana-Farber Cancer Institute / Harvard University, USA. See: <http://cisnet.cancer.gov/>

Teaching:

"MF9510E; Rates and poisson regression", Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo