Swiss Epidemiology Winter School 2026

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Epidemiological Research With Administrative Healthcare Records

19 – 21 January 2026

Faculty	**Prof. Julie Werenberg Dreier** Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark **Dr. Natalie Momen** Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark
Venue	**CH – 3823 Wengen | SWITZERLAND** Hotel Edelweiss
Course description	Large-scale individual-level secondary health data (i.e., administrative data from hospital registers, electronic healthcare records, claims databases etc.) constitute a gold-mine for epidemiological research. This course consists of a broad range of topics relevant to epidemiological research based on administrative healthcare data sources, including data linkage, different possibilities for study designs, strengths and limitations of secondary data analysis, and good data management and analysis practices. There will be special focus on how to avoid common pitfalls (e.g. issues related to immortal time, right-censoring and left-truncation), as well as approaches to address confounding, selection bias, and misclassification in epidemiological research based on administrative data, including an introduction to quantitative bias analysis. Hands-on exercises with artificial data where participants will be managing data from multiple databases will put theory from the course into practice, in order to provide the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their own research projects. Finally, there will be discussions on potential limitations or different approaches to answer specific research questions, which can include specific issues related to participants' own projects.
Course objectives	By the end of this short course participants will: • Be familiar with different epidemiological designs used in research based on administrative health data • Have an in-depth understanding of how to avoid common pitfalls in analysis of administrative data and be familiar with epidemiological approaches to address and quantify biases.

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- Be able to discuss the strengths and limitations of research based on administrative health data
- Be able to perform simple data management tasks using artificial data
- Have knowledge of how to plan their own research using administrative data

Course audience

This course is aimed at epidemiologists, statisticians and other health researchers who want to use secondary data sources in their research.

Stata® or R (https://www.r-project.org/) will be used for the computer practical sessions, and so familiarity with one of the two software applications is desirable, although code and solutions will be provided.

Course outline

The course runs over three days and consists of lectures and computer practical sessions.

Morning sessions will consist of lectures. During the extended afternoon break, participants review course materials, catch up on email, or ski. We reconvene at 4:30 pm for the computer sessions.

Monday, 19 January	***8:00 am – 12:00 pm | 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm***
Tuesday, 20 January	***8:00 am – 12:00 pm | 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm***
Wednesday, 21 January	***8:00 am – 12:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm***

Credits

1.0 ECTS

Course materials

Bring a portable computer. A temporary course license for Stata® will be available to install before arrival. Instructions how to install Stata or R on your laptops will also be provided.

Onsite University of Bern IT staff provides support upon e-mail (it.ispm@unibe.ch) request.

Course book

Not applicable

Course fee

PhD Bern Students:	CHF	600
PhD Students:	CHF	800
Academic:	CHF	1’000
Industry:	CHF	2’000

Registration

Register on the Winter School website. Pre-registration will open on 11 August 2025 at 12:00 (CET) and close on 17 August 2025 at 23:59 (CET).

Accomodation

Book your accommodation separately. Please see recommendations for special prices on our website.

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