**MSc BBSS08 Introduction to Biomedical Statistics 2018**

**Guidelines for the case studies**

Work in groups of 2-3 students. You have received a short description of a clinical study with a research question and a dataset. Analyse the dataset to answer the research question(s).

Write the abstract, the statistical methods section and the results section of a scientific journal publication (follow the APA guidelines). The abstract should not exceed a maximum of 250 words; the methods and results (together) should not exceed a maximum of 800 words. If there are important aspects of your statistical choices that do not belong in a scientific manuscript but that you feel you need to explain further, you may add a brief appendix (maximum 200 words, no figures or tables) describing/explaining those choices. The maximum number of tables you may use is 3 and the maximum number of figures is 2. Please note that these maxima should **not** be exceeded. Manuscripts that exceed these maxima will not be graded.

Notice that we do not want you to write the introduction and discussion sections, nor do we wish to see any output of software programs!

Most of the cases include one or two aspects to be examined closely, but for all cases: perform the statistical analyses necessary to answer the research question; take any step you think is necessary and explain your choices; do not forget a baseline table; and do not forget to report meaningful effect sizes.

Save your manuscript as a ***Microsoft Word file*** and submit the file via Blackboard assignments before the deadline (23 May 2018 at 3:00 p.m.).

Please submit *three* files:

1. One version of the manuscript as described above with your names and student numbers at the top of the file. (Word format only, please!)
2. One anonymous version of the manuscript (no names or identifying characteristics) for the peer review. (This may be a PDF if you wish.)
3. The statistical software code on which your results are based.

Grade for the case study report will be for the group. Please make sure that everyone your group contributes equally to the pre-analysis discussion, analysis, interpretation and written manuscript. Case study reports will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Are the statistical choices explained/supported?

- Are the statistical/modelling choices correct?

- Are descriptive statistics (numerical and/or graphical) given, and are they correct and complete (without unnecessary information)?

- Were the statistical method(s) performed correctly, and are the results presented/interpreted correctly?

- Are the results and conclusions described in the context of the case? Is there a sufficient answer to the research question(s)?

- Spelling/grammar/organization/composition (including: no methods in the results section, no results in the methods section)

- Figures and tables necessary and clear, with clear and informative titles?