



Rex Parsons

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rwparsons.github.io/

 GitHub: RWPParsons  LinkedIn: rexwp

Education

PhD (Statistics) - Queensland University of Technology Thesis: High dimensional data for predicting inpatient falls. Supervisors: A/Prof Susanna Cramb, Prof Steven McPhail and Dr Ahmad Abdel-hafez.	2020–Feb 2024
MSc (Medical Statistics) - University of Newcastle GPA: 6.88/7.	2019–2020
BSc (Biomedical Science) and Honours (Neuroscience) - University of Queensland Thesis: The Role of Melatonin on Hippocampal Rhythmicity. Supervisors: Dr Oliver Rawashdeh and Dr Prasad Chunduri.	2015–2017

Employment

Data Scientist <i>Health Policy Analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Shiny and R package development.– Statistical analyses using large linked datasets, including spatial and time-series data.	Jun 2023–Present <i>Sydney, Australia</i>
Senior Research Assistant <i>QUT (Centre for Data Science and Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation)</i> Several roles on a near-continual basis for a range of projects where I performed statistical analyses. For each appointment, supervisor's name and brief description of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Nicole White; (1) Risk factors associated with COVID-19 with the COVID Critical Research Group.– Nicole White; (2) Interrupted time series analysis and risk model implementation projects at large hospital network.– Nicole White; (3) Meta-research on registered clinical prediction model studies.– Gentry White; Development of (DSSP), an R package for fitting Bayesian spatial models by direct sampling.– Susanna Cramb; Spatial data analysis and visualisations of access to care with R, presented as a shiny app.– Sanjeewa Kularatna; Health economic evaluation of policy change by the Department of Veteran Affairs.	Nov 2020–Present <i>Brisbane, Australia</i>
Research & Development Scientist <i>Ellume</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Redesigned the algorithm development workflow to improve performance and reduce time for optimisation.– Algorithm developed was used for FDA application for serological diagnostic and was the best performing diagnostic test approved by FDA at the time of approval.	Mar 2020–Aug 2020 <i>Brisbane, Australia</i>
Healthcare Data Analyst <i>City Fertility</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Dashboard development (shiny) with direct odbc for up-to-date analytics on KPIs.– Streamlined monthly reporting processes for marketing team using R.– Data extraction, cleaning and statistical analysis for clinician-led research projects and prediction model development.	Jun 2019–Mar 2020 <i>Brisbane, Australia</i>
Project Coordinator <i>UnitingCare Medical Imaging</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Occupational lung disease and radiology research (data collection and analyses).– Questionnaire development with Qualtrics.– Preparation of grant applications and project reports to for funders.	Mar 2018–Jun 2019 <i>Brisbane, Australia</i>
Research Assistant <i>Ellume</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Worked in a multidisciplinary team to develop immunoassays for diagnostic medical devices.	Jan 2016–Mar 2018 <i>Brisbane, Australia</i>

Technical Skills

Proficient: R, Shiny, Data Analysis and Visualisation, Statistical Modelling, OOP and Functional Programming
Competent: Python, SQL, Machine Learning, Git & GitHub

Statistical Software Development

GLMMcosinor	pkg site
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An R package to fit a cosinor model to rhythmic data using the glmmTMB framework.– Unlike existing cosinor modelling packages, allows fitting of GLMs and mixed-models.	
hpa.spatial	pkg site
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An R package for accessing and manipulating spatial data, focusing on the Australian (health) context.	
predictNMB	CRAN and rOpenSci March 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An R package that allows the user to perform simulations to estimate the cost-effectiveness of using a prediction model to assign a healthcare intervention.– Can be used to determine whether or when a clinical prediction model or clinical decision support system may be worthwhile before development or implementation.	
DSSP	CRAN June 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An R package that allows users to fit Bayesian spatial models with direct sampling (<i>fast</i>).– Draws samples from the direct sampling spatial prior model which is 100-1000 times faster than MCMC.	
simMetric	CRAN January 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An R package that provides functions to calculate useful metrics (and their Monte Carlo standard errors) for the assessment of statistical methods in simulation studies.– This allows for easy integration with other simulation study frameworks and the tidyverse-style workflow.	
circacompare	CRAN February 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An R package that allows users to analyse circadian datasets using nonlinear regression models.– Documented with a vignette; also available as a shiny app and in python.	

Teaching

Queensland University of Technology	Brisbane, Australia
– PUB358: Digital Health Perspectives (Guest Lecturer)	Semester 1, 2023
– PUN108: Clinical Informatics for Intelligent Healthcare (Guest Lecturer)	Semester 2, 2021
– SEB113: Quantitative Methods in Science (Sessional Tutor)	Semester 2, 2021
– MXN500: Statistical Data Analysis (Sessional Tutor)	Semester 1, 2021

Selected Papers

1. *N White, R Parsons, G Collins, A Barnett* **BMC Med (2023)**
Evidence of questionable research practices in clinical prediction models.
2. *RD Blythe, R Parsons, AG Barnett, SM McPhail, NM White* **J Clin Epi (2023)**
Vital signs-based deterioration prediction model assumptions can lead to losses in prediction performance.
3. *R Parsons, RD Blythe, AG Barnett, SM Cramb, SM McPhail* **JOSS (2023)**
predictNMB: An R package to estimate if or when a clinical prediction model is worthwhile.
4. *R Parsons, RD Blythe, SM Cramb, SM McPhail* **JAMIA (2023)**
Integrating economic considerations into cutpoint selection may help align clinical decision support towards value-based healthcare
5. *R Parsons, RD Blythe, SM Cramb, SM McPhail* **Gerontology (2022)**
Inpatient Fall Prediction Models: A Scoping Review.
6. *R Parsons, R Parsons, N Garner, H Oster, O Rawashdeh* **Bioinformatics (2020)**
CircaCompare: a method to estimate and statistically support differences in mesor, amplitude and phase, between circadian rhythms.

Funding and Awards

1. Venables Award runner-up for predictNMB R package development. (2023)
2. Student travel prize winner at the International Conference on Health Policy Statistics. (2023)
3. SuperHERO award winner for outstanding engagement/collaboration. (2021)
4. Queensland AI Hub Medical Datathon winning team. (2020)
5. Digital Health CRC Industry Scholarship Recipient: \$45,000 p.a. for four years during PhD studies. (2020)