

# Pedagogy in a large-enrollment simulation-based introductory biostatistics course

Matthew Beckman  
Kari Lock Morgan  
*Pennsylvania State University*

Joint Statistical Meetings  
Baltimore, MD  
August 3, 2017

## Description of STAT 250 (Matt)

- ▶ Large enrollment (about 210-225 students)
- ▶ Mostly life science majors
- ▶ 2015: Kari Morgan revamped course and converted to SBI approach

# Pedagogical considerations: General (Matt)

- ▶ Question of the day (GAISE #1, 3)
  - ▶ usually life science
  - ▶ often real data from real studies
  - ▶ sometimes PSU research
  - ▶ translate scientific questions into statistical investigation (EDA, estimation, testing, etc)
- ▶ Weekly labs
  - ▶ real data that cite real studies (GAISE #1, 3)
  - ▶ low-stakes lab quizzes (GAISE #6)
- ▶ Assessment strategy
  - ▶ Short answer exam questions (GAISE #2, 6)
  - ▶ Islands project (GAISE #6)

## Pedagogical considerations: SBI (Matt)

- ▶ building intuition (GAISE #2)
- ▶ tangible machinery
- ▶ revisit key concepts through SBI & non-SBI (GAISE #2)

## Pedagogical considerations: Large Enrollment (Matt)

- ▶ Smart phones to the rescue (?!)
- ▶ Google Sheet data collection in lecture (GAISE #3, 4, 5)
- ▶ Clickers (GAISE #4, 6)
- ▶ [www.polleverywhere.com](http://www.polleverywhere.com)

# Pedagogical considerations: SBI in Large Enrollment (Matt)

- ▶ M&M simulation (GAISE #4)
- ▶ StatKey in lecture (GAISE #2, 4, 5)

Compare/Contrast with other approaches (i.e. Kari as informal discussant)

# References

- ▶ GAISE (2016)
- ▶ Rossman (2008)
- ▶ Bulmer