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Cover letter, Applied Epi

To whom it may concern,

Here is my cover letter to be part of Applied Epi’s roster of part-time R instructors.

I have a strong theoretical background in biostatistics and epidemiology. I have a masters degree in biostatistics (2009), which I followed with a 2 year training to field epidemiology (the French FETP program, PROFET, 2009-2011, which has since then merged with EPIET) and I will be defending my thesis in statistics applied to epidemiology in 2023.

For the past 14 years I have worked in the field of statistics and data science applied to epidemiology, medical research and public health, both in France and in the USA (2012-2016).

I am a passionate R user, strong advocate of the tidyverse and I strongly believe in the promotion of free open source tools for science in general and public health in particular. I also am a great supporter of the Epi R Handbook initiative and share it whenever I have the opportunity.

I have taught R to my colleagues throughout my career, e.g. when I was working in Bordeaux’ public health school (Isped) I taught R and the tidyverse to many members of the Alima NGO with whom I was sharing offices (ggplot2, dplyr, tidyr, etc). I have given many R related talks with the R user group of my city (Grenoble, FR) of which I have been the coordinator since 2019 (website and links to YouTube channel here : https://r-in-grenoble.github.io/sessions.html). I have also taught several applied statistics classes for the Grenoble University, mainly linear and logistic regression, applied to epidemiology for healthcare practitioners : nurses, doctors, etc.

I know many of the R packages used for applied epidemiology, I am the co-author of the Epidemiology CRAN task view (https://cran.r-project.org/web/views/Epidemiology.html) and was a project manager for the R Epidemics Consortium (RECON) to develop their task manager (https://tasks.repidemicsconsortium.org/).

I hope this experience illustrates that I have the knowledge and experience to undertake your « general » R/epi modules and also many of the more specific ones. Among the specific skills that are mentioned, I have strong experience in data visualisation with ggplot2, reporting with Rmarkdown and now Quarto, working with Git and GitHub/GitLab, working with geospatial data and I use RedCap weekly. However I don’t have much experience with using Shiny as I have never had a project that I needed it for, and have never used SQL with R.

I speak French (mother tongue) and English (my mother is British) and a little German. I am willing to travel internationally. I live in Grenoble (FR). Regarding availability, I am open to discussion but for 2023 I will probably be available for one or two week-long courses plus a couple of half day courses each month. I am comfortable with teaching at a distance but I prefer working in-person, especially for teaching.

I am a sociable and patient person and enjoy teaching, R and field epidemiology, and truly believe my application is worth considering.

I am available for any further question and hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,

Matthieu