

Full-time Analyst: Individual Participant Data Meta-analysis with the DEPRESSion Screening Data Project

The DEPRESSD Project at McGill University Montreal, Quebec, Canada

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The DEPRESSion Screening Data (DEPRESSD) Project (<https://www.depressd.ca>) is a collaborative endeavor, set up by Drs. Brett Thombs and Andrea Benedetti, to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of depression screening tools and answer other important mental health research questions using individual participant data meta-analyses (IPDMAs). The DEPRESSD Project includes almost 400 investigators from 60 countries who have contributed datasets. DEPRESSD investigators publish studies on screening tool accuracy, statistical methods for IPDMA, and other methodological and meta-research studies that advance work on screening questionnaires and their application.

DEPRESSD studies have been published in top journals, including (1) studies on the accuracy of the PHQ-9 (Levis et al., *BMJ*, 2019; Negeri et al., *BMJ*, 2021), the PHQ-2 (Levis et al., *JAMA*, 2020), the EPDS (Levis et al., *BMJ*, 2020), and the HADS-D (Wu et al., *BMJ*, 2021); (2) statistical research evaluating models for IPDMA of ordinal screening questionnaires, modelling missing data for IPDMA, estimating sample parameters from incompletely reported data, and using optimal test assembly methods to create short-form measure; and (3) meta-research on bias from data-driven cutoff selection, selective cutoff reporting, using depression screening tools for prevalence estimation, the comparative performance of commonly used major depression diagnostic interviews, adherence to reporting standards in diagnostic accuracy studies, and factors influencing data contribution in IPDMA studies, among others (52 total DEPRESSD studies; 5,159 citations).

We are currently seeking a full-time Analyst to join the team.

Role of the Analyst:

- Conducting data analyses, including descriptive statistics and generalized linear models, accounting for participant clustering and missing data with IPDMA analyses;
- Designing, programming and running simulation studies to address biostatistical methodologic objectives;
- Contributing to drafting manuscripts for publication (particularly methods and results sections);
- Working within a team of research assistants, students, and other analysts and providing support to the group.

The ideal candidate will meet the following qualifications:

- A Master's degree in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Public Health, Quantitative Psychology or any other field focused on data management and quantitative analysis;
- Strong analytical skills;
- Research experience, including data management;
- Good interpersonal skills and a strong capacity for teamwork;
- Good programming skills (e.g., SPSS, R);
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.

Opportunities: Team members with Dr. Thombs and Dr. Benedetti take on significant responsibility and have published extensively. In the past 5 years, student and staff members under their joint supervision have first-authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles and have co-authored articles more than 150 times (for details, see <https://www.thombsresearchteam.ca/>)

Salary: Salary to be negotiated based on relevant experience and training.

Start Date: Flexible. The position will remain open until filled.

Location: Ideally in Montreal but remote work is also possible.

To apply: Interested candidates should submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) an unofficial transcript, (4) a writing sample, and (5) contact information for three references to Nadia González Domínguez (nadia.gonzalez@mail.mcgill.ca), the DEPRESSD Project Coordinator.