Contents

CHAPTER

1. A Survey of Probability Theory 1

1.1. Notation and Definitions 1
1.2. The Evaluation of a Screening Test 3
1.3. Biases Resulting from the Study of Selected Samples 7
Problems 11
References 12

2. Assessing Significance in a Fourfold Table 14

2.1. Methods for Generating a Fourfold Table 15
2.2. Yates' Correction for Continuity 19
2.3. One-Tailed versus Two-Tailed Tests 20
Problems 22
References 22

3. Determining Sample Sizes Needed to Detect a Difference Between Two Proportions 23

3.1. Specifying a Difference Worth Detecting 24
3.2. The Mathematics of Sample Size Determination 28
3.3. Using the Sample Size Tables 30
3.4. Some Additional Comments 32
Problems 32
References 34

4. How to Randomize 35

4.1. Selecting a Simple Random Sample 36
4.2. Randomization in a Clinical Trial 36
References 38

5. Sampling Method I: Naturalistic or Cross-Sectional Studies 39

5.1. Some Hypothetical Data 39
5.2. Measures of Association Based on χ^2 41
5.3. Other Measures of Association: The Odds Ratio 43
5.4. Some Properties of the Odds Ratio and Its Logarithm 46
Problems 49
References 50

6. Sampling Method II: Prospective and Retrospective Studies 53

6.1. Prospective Studies 53
6.2. Retrospective Studies 56
6.3. Criticisms of the Odds Ratio 59
6.4. The Retrospective Approach versus the Prospective Approach 62
Problems 63
References 65

7. Sampling Method III: Controlled Comparative Trials 67

7.1. The Simple Comparative Trial 68
7.2. The Two-Period Crossover Design 70
Problems 70
References 71

8. The Analysis of Data From Matched Samples 72

8.1. Matched Pairs: Dichotomous Outcome 73
8.2. Matched Pairs: More Than Dichotomous Outcome 77
8.3. Multiple Controls: The Case of Two Samples 80
8.4. Multiple Controls: The Case of *m* Samples 83
8.5. Advantages and Disadvantages of Matching 88
Problems 89
References 89

9. The Comparison of Proportions From Many Samples 92

9.1. The Comparison of *m* Proportions 92
9.2. Gradient in Proportions: Samples Quantitatively Ordered 96
9.3. Gradient in Proportions: Samples Qualitatively Ordered 99
9.4. Samples Qualitatively Ordered: Ridit Analysis 102
Problems 107
References 107

10. Combining Evidence From Fourfold Tables 109

10.1. Some Theory of Chi Square 109
10.2. Cochran's Method 112
10.3. Combining the Logarithms of Odds Ratios 115
10.4. The Mantel-Haenszel Method 117
10.5. An Alternative to Matching 118
10.6. Methods to Be Avoided 119
10.7. Multiple Contingency Tables 124
Problems 126
References 128

11. The Effects of Misclassification Errors 130

11.1. An Example of the Effects of Misclassification 130
11.2. The Algebra of Misclassification 134
Problems 137
References 138

12. The Measurement and Control of Misclassification Error 140

12.1. Statistical Control for Error 140
12.2. Estimating the Magnitude of Error 143
12.3. The Experimental Control of Error 148
Problems 151
References 153

13. The Standardization of Rates 155

13.1. Reasons for and Warnings against Standardization 157
13.2. Indirect Standardization 158
13.3. A Feature of Indirect Standardization 160
13.4. Direct Standardization 162
13.5. Some Other Summary Indices 164
13.6. Adjustment for Two Factors 166
Problems 170
References 171

Appendix Tables 173

Author Index 209

Subject Index 213