We are seeking a highly motivated
PhD Student in Biostatistics - Cancer in Children

The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health (www.ispm.unibe.ch). Groups cut across divisions, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to research in the fields of clinical epidemiology, social and behavioral health, biostatistics, and international and environmental health.

The Child and Adolescent Health Group, headed by Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kuehni, conducts population-based and clinical studies in child health.

The Childhood Cancer Registry is a national registry that records cancer in children and adolescents in Switzerland. It records new cases and data about the entire course of the disease and its treatment. Childhood cancer is a rare disease that affects approximately 1 in 350 children per year. Currently more than 85% of children with cancer can be cured. The registered data help to understand epidemiology of cancers in young people and to improve the chances of cure.

Your PhD project will seek novel ways to measure and improve data quality in the Childhood Cancer Registry data and to estimate the burden of cancer in young people. Specific aims may include new ways of assessing the completeness of registration, estimating the proportion of young people living with a previous diagnosis of cancer (prevalence) or developing prognostic scores for long-term outcomes.

You will be part of a dynamic and multidisciplinary team and work closely with researchers, epidemiologists, statisticians, data managers, and clinicians. You will gain an in depth understanding of epidemiological and biostatistical techniques, present your results at (inter)national conferences, and publish in peer-reviewed journals.

Period: PhD contract for 3 years, start as soon as possible
Supervisors: PD Dr. Ben Spycher and Dr. Grit Sommer
Place: ISPM University of Bern, Switzerland

You have:

- A university degree (MD, MSc or equivalent) in statistics, mathematics, data science, biology, medicine, or related fields
- A strong interest in biostatistics, ideally with experience in data analysis and statistical software such as R or Stata.
- An interest in child health and/or public health
- Fluency in English; German and French would be an asset

What we offer:

- Work in a motivated and competent research team
- Preparation for a research career in a university (epidemiology or preventive medicine) or a public health institution
- A lively and international graduate school at the University of Bern
- Salary according to the Swiss National Science Foundation Salary Scales for PhD students

If you are looking for an exciting position in a highly motivated interdisciplinary team, please send your CV with motivation letter to Corinne Matti (corinne.matti@unibe.ch), Ben Spycher (ben.spycher@unibe.ch), or Grit Sommer (gritti.sommer@unibe.ch) until October 29th, 2023.

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