

Psychometry Workshop  
September 20-25, 2004  
University of Washington  
Friday Harbor Conference Center. Friday Harbor, WA  
Organizers:  
Gerald van Belle and Paul Crane  
University of Washington

#### Background

Current measures of health status rely on standardized instruments that have rarely been tested by modern psychometric methods such as item response theory. There is a disconnect between health metrics and educational/psychological metrics.

#### Purpose of the workshop:

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together experts in psychometrics to develop a unified approach to developing instruments to measure health status using modern psychometric methods. The experts will come from education, psychology, biostatistics, and medicine. While the methodology of the workshop will apply to all areas of health, the focus of the application of the workshop will be the assessment of cognitive status in Alzheimer's disease.

#### Format of the workshop:

The model for the workshop is the Gordon Conference. We envisage a week-long, off-campus workshop with 15-25 experts from the above areas. The program will begin with a dinner and orientation on Monday, September 20 and a wrap-up session Saturday morning, September 25. The program for Tuesday through Friday will consist of two talks in the morning with discussion. One talk will be theoretical, the other more applied. The afternoons are free for collaborative work as outlined below. Evening meetings will summarize the afternoon's discussion and provide opportunity for lighter communication. The organizers will arrange to have a large longitudinal data set available for analysis by the participants. This data set will be analyzed during the conference. Specific details of the program are being worked on at this time. Suggestions of topics and ideas about how to conduct the workshop are very much appreciated.

#### Timing of the workshop:

The workshop will be held September 20-25, 2004 at the beautiful Friday Harbor conference center of the University of Washington.

Funding of the workshop:

Limited funds for food, lodging and travel are available by an unrestricted grant from the Seattle Friends of Alzheimer's to Gerald van Belle. No funds are available for honoraria.

Participants are

encouraged to use their own grant sources to enable participation by as many unsupported researchers as possible. We anticipate that we can support all who wish to attend and do not have research funds to cover the costs.

Products of the workshop:

We anticipate at least one paper to come from the workshop dealing with the analysis of the large data set.

If you are interested in attending or finding out more about the workshop, send an e-mail to Gerald van Belle ([vanbelle@u.washington.edu](mailto:vanbelle@u.washington.edu)) outlining your area of interest, your potential contribution

to the workshop, the extent to which you need to be supported for food, lodging, and travel. Feel free to suggest names of person who would contribute to and benefit from the conference.

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If you are not interested or unavailable please send me a notice and I will delete your name from the file. (You will get a notice that I'm out of the country until June 23).

Best regards,  
Gerald

Gerald van Belle

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<http://depts.washington.edu/biostat/faculty/cv/vanbelle.pdf>

<http://www.vanbelle.org/>