

Clinic on the Meaningful Modelling of Epidemiological Data

SACEMA, in collaboration with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), is holding a modelling clinic from 30 May to 10 June 2011 in Muizenberg, Cape Town. The clinic will emphasize the use of data in understanding infectious disease dynamics and engages the participants in epidemiological modelling projects that use real data to grapple with practical questions in a meaningful way. It will consist of a series of discussions and tutorials that will guide participants through the process of data based epidemiological modelling. Participants are encouraged to bring data sets and questions and to start collaborative projects with each other or the organizers. Various statistical and modelling paradigms will be discussed. Computer exercises and group projects will reinforce and extend the various concepts covered.

Participants are encouraged to continue research projects begun during the clinic when they return to their home institutions. "Last year's clinic (MMED 2010) made huge strides in training mathematicians and epidemiologists in the meaningful application of mathematical modelling to real infectious disease problems. Many participants left the clinic with a new appreciation for how and when modelling fits in public health.", says Steve Bellan, one of the organisers. The application process is highly competitive and the deadline for receipt of applications is 18 March 2011. For more information and the application form you can visit the SACEMA website, as well as read the report of the MMED 2009 at the SACEMA Quarterly website.