

December 21, 2011

15:00-16:00

Aula Tesi

Edificio U7, 2° piano, Via degli Arcimboldi 8, Milano

**Epidemiologic methods are useless.
They can only give you answers**

Dr. Miguel Hernan
Department of Epidemiology
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston

Abstract

The first duty of any epidemiologist is to ask a relevant question. Learning and applying sophisticated epidemiologic methods is of little help if the methods are used to answer irrelevant questions. This talk will discuss the formulation of research questions in the presence of time-varying treatments and treatments with multiple versions, including pharmacological treatments and lifestyle exposures. Several examples will show that discrepancies between observational studies and randomized trials are often not due to confounding, but to the different questions asked.



Società Italiana di Statistica Medica ed Epidemiologia Clinica