

"Lies, damned lies, and bioanalytical statistics" This title is derived from a phrase attributed to Benjamin Disraeli and popularized in the United States by Mark Twain: "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." The statement refers to the persuasive power of numbers, the use of statistics to bolster weak arguments, and the tendency of people to disparage statistics that do not support their positions. The use of statistics is frequently not intuitive. Despite educational requirements for statistics instruction, many scientists, and it seems especially bioanalytical scientists, are poorly versed in their use and, hence, uncomfortable with them.

The aim of this roundtable is to provide a tutorial-style lecture from Prof. Fred Lytle of Purdue on the issues of using statistical analysis in bioanalytical applications. Fred is familiar with the current papers and has some colorful phrases for most of it - no wonder people don't like stats. The time seems ripe for an accessible overview with great folk stories from a semi-retired expert in data analysis.