Evaluation and analysis of stepped wedge designs
Zhan, Zhuozhao

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2018

Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database

Citation for published version (APA):

Copyright
Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Take-down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): http://www.rug.nl/research/portal. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.
It took me four years of time to complete this thesis. During this exciting journey, I have been blessed with the accompany of many great persons. Without their inspiration, guidance, help, and support, I would not have been able to come this far. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards them.

First and foremost, my deepest gratitude goes to my supervisor Prof. Geertruida H. de Bock. Not only you have taught me the attitude of criticality, positive-ness, and responsibilities during my growth as an academic researcher, but also have helped me to become a better person with your tireless care and enormous understanding. It is great debt that I owe you and no single word suffice to express the appreciation.

I extend my appreciation to my second promotor, Prof. Edwin R. van den Heuvel who has shown and pointed out a direction of a life-long path for me and anchored a theme on the prologue of a new start. Thank you for your support through out the bumpy ride and I look forward to the day to repay your favour with the most beautiful language of mathematics.

Much of the work of this thesis is the results of collaboration with the CEA-Watch project members, to whom I wish to express my appreciation as well. First of all, Prof. Theo Wiggers, it was an amazing experience to just listen to you talking about colorectal cancer. Your thoroughness, and willingness to share your expertise are much appreciated. And I would also like to thank your insightful advice and enjoyable discussions. Dr. Charlotte J. Verberne, it has been delightful to work with you and I am very proud on our joint work which covers substantial part of this thesis. I also like to pass my gratitude to Dr. Irene Grossmann, Prof. Adelita V.
Ranchor, Fabian J. van der Sluis and all other members of the project for their contributions to the project. To Femke Oppers, Anne Marye de Jong who allowed me to work on their master thesis.

I am also thankful to prof. H. M. Boezen, prof. G. J. P. van Breukelen, and prof. G. Beets for being part of my reading committee, for their time to read this thesis and for providing me with valuable feedbacks.

To prof. N. Balakrishnan, prof. Wenli Lu, Dr. Sandra Geurts and Anne Aarts for your hospitalities during my visit to McMaster University, Tianjin Medical University, and Radboud University Nijmegen, respectively; To all the new friends and colleagues in Eindhoven as well, as they have welcomed me as one of their own members during the last year of my Ph.D study; To Ossama Almalik and Dr. Nazanin Nooraee, I cherish every minute we spent together discussing all sort of statistical and non-statistical problems.

To colleagues and friends at University Medical Center Groningen. To Dr. Marcel W. J. Greuter, for introducing me to the world of academia; Hans Burgerhof and Dr. Sasha la Bastide-van Gemert, two amazing statisticians I have ever met, for unselfishly sharing your knowledge about statistics with me; Dr. Tallitha F. Feenstra, for the detailed and insightful comments and discussions during the collaboration of the breast cancer modeling project; Anne Looijmans and Qi Cao, for being such awesome office mates; Oncological epidemiology unit members, Dr. Janet de Vos, Dr. Rositsa G. Koleva-Kolarova, Xuan Anh Phí, and all other members for your kindness, help, and the fruitful discussions from which I have learned a lot about breast cancer screening; Dr. Daan "Coach Daan" Reid and his family, Dr. Douwe Postmus, Dr. Gert van Valkenhoef, for the exciting "gaming night and weekends"; Leane Kuipers, Diana van der Plaats, Brechtsje Kingma, Kim de Jong, and all lunch group members for the enjoyments during the lunch time; Pepijn Vemer, your enthusiasm for statistics, Majong, and ties has never seized to amaze me; Roelian J. Geuze, Aukje van der Zee, and
Marijke Hanania, for their patient secretarial support and finance-related administrative support; and all colleagues I have come across with, whom I have valued no less.

To all my Chinese friends, especially Sun Zhe & Qin Jing, Suhai Zhang, Zetao Chen, Jieqiang Wei, Ze Li, Xin Liu, Kexin Wang, Qi Cao, Congchao Lv, Xiang Zeng, Yi Jiang & Ting Zhao, Bin Han & Haoxiao Zuo, Jun Li, Ming Li, Zhuoran Yin, Qi Wang, Liwen Zhang, and Huishuai Li, for making this memory even more unforgettable.

To my three lovely paranymphs, Anne Looijmans, Xuan Anh Phí and Bronislaw Abramiuc for all the jokes and laughter, all your help and all your accompany. Thank you and AIR HIGH FIVE! Special thanks to Anne Looijmans for spending enormous time on translating the Dutch summary and Anh Phí for helping with the defense when Anne is not available. For “my dear friend” Dada Broni and his ingenious opinions about life and people.

Last but not the least, I dedicate this thesis to my family, to whom I owed too much and would not have finished this thesis without their support and understanding.