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Living DAGs for Epidemiology: The Example of Cerebral Palsy Etiology

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is an acquired movement disorder that typically results from a perinatal brain injury. However, this definition is greatly oversimplified, as CP has been known to result from heterogeneous causes not only across the pre-, peri-, neo-, and postneonatal periods, but along diverse causal pathways within each. In 2023 an international working group convened with the goal of drawing a comprehensive causal directed acyclic graph (DAG) for CP etiology, adapting a methodology originally developed for NASA's Human System Risk Board to manage 29 spaceflight health risks. Over the two years that followed, the group constructed an initial DAG for CP, with 106 nodes and 378 edges.

This talk will review the working group's experience, showcase the DAG, and discuss the uses of this "Living DAG" for communication and scientific inquiry, as well as how this can generalize to many areas in Epidemiology.

Presenter

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C2E2 Spotlight is held monthly on Mondays from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. To attend in-person or virtually please contact pamela.lee@ubc.ca.