



## Applied (and appealing...) Epidemiology

Giuseppe La Torre has, in his manual “Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics”, drawn upon his experience (long and intense despite his young age) as applied epidemiology expert in the Catholic University of Sacred Heart. For some years, in fact, he has offered valuable advice to many researchers who had failed to publish in international journals because of an inappropriate use of epidemiological methods and biostatistics, and has helped many of them present the results of their research. After numerous rejected papers, researchers would turn to his expertise and knowhow of the most modern epidemiological tools. The results were flattering: the papers which Professor La Torre and his staff had dealt with the epidemiological issues, as if by magic, were accepted for publication. It is therefore justified and understandable that the author has decided to propose, to a wider public, his epidemiological expertise about applied epidemiology. But there is no magic. The author simply focuses on the need to apply epidemiological methods to areas of public health practice for determining disease etiology and the “real-life” applications to public health and health services research.

He highlights important issues in etiological studies, outbreak and cluster investigations, and public health surveillance. *The final purpose is to introduce epidemiological and bio-statistical methods as applied to clinical research, and to develop the capacity of computer software for performing the analysis of clinical datasets.*

This book should also be useful in the training of many epidemiologists who receive rigorous training in epidemiological methods but little or no training in public health, and it will be most useful to epidemiologists working in public health departments. This goal will surely be achieved because the book is well written and clearly presented and the references are pertinent and quite current.

“Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics” is really a useful map that explains methodological tools which can be precious both for an epidemiologists’ professional knowledge and for clinicians’ researches which may need further and deeper epidemiological consideration. The book deals with important and timely applications of epidemiology and serves many audiences well. It can be also highly recommended for health science libraries at all levels and can be considered as a practical and informative tool in academic institutions, public health agencies and health care organizations. *“Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics” can be considered an essential tool to address public health issues. The book can also be useful under these particular aspects providing more than pure theory. Each chapter presents one or more specific example on how to perform an epidemiological or statistical data analysis and includes download access to updated software and databases. The reader is able to replicate the analyses described and is helped in this by the reproduction of the software’s screens.*

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**Giuseppe La Torre. Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Torino: Seed, 2010.**

The manual is addressed to public health practitioners, clinicians, health managers, teachers of epidemiology, teachers of biostatistics