The George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center is hosting two demonstrations of the

Causal Analytics Toolkit (CAT)

developed by PhD statistician Louis Anthony (Tony) Cox

What is CAT? A new Excel-based tool for examining the causal relationship between exposure to substances and health effects.

When: Both sessions are on Thursday, May 5, 2016

9 am – 10:30 am (optional Q&A from 10:30 – 11)

-OR-

3 pm – 4:30 pm (optional Q&A from 4:30 – 5)

Where: The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
(exact location will be emailed to registered attendees)

Please Note: Registrations for each session are limited to 20 people. Once 20 spots have been filled, we will add interested attendees to our waitlist on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please email Sydney Allen to reserve your place at sydneyeallen@gwu.edu

Background:

Environmental policies are often supported by evidence of statistical associations between exposure to a substance and health effects, but these associations usually rely on untested (and often potentially biased, mistaken, or uncertain) modeling assumptions. As a result, they may not describe a true cause and effect relationship. Policy decisions based on unreliable models are not only at risk of failing to achieve desired results, but may divert scarce resources from more productive uses.

While objective and rigorous methods of causal analysis can help to formulate and test causal hypotheses and to estimate causal impacts of changes in exposures on changes in public health, they are not readily accessible to users who are not specialists in causal modeling and modern computational methods and software. This may include many in the public health, epidemiology, risk analysis, environmental, and policy analysis communities who might want to carry out appropriately sophisticated causal analyses of exposure-response relations, but who are currently limited by software packages and methods that only calculate measures of association, such as regression models, odds ratios, and confidence intervals.

The Causal Analytics Toolkit (CAT) provides powerful, easy-to-use software to help overcome these limitations. It makes state-of-the-art causal analytics available in an easy-to-use software toolkit that is readily accessible to anyone who has Microsoft Excel.