



## **Department of Biostatistics**

Monthly Seminar Series

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Erma Byrd Room 301**

Speaker:

**Akbar Esfahani**

Senior Data Scientist

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

Pittsburgh, PA

Topic:

**Nuts and Bolts of being a Data Scientist**

Mr. Esfahani is a senior data scientist and the head of innovation for data science at Highmark. He will discuss the relatively new profession of data science, and his path to becoming a data scientist. At Highmark, he works on insurance claims to help members become healthier by creating recommendation models or creating a social network of providers to see how and where they provide services to members of Highmark. Before Highmark, he was a statistician with the California Health Interview Survey at UCLA, where he worked on quality control of data and developing NLP methods for surveys. Before that, he worked with the US Geological Survey working on developing machine learning approaches for earth and space sciences. He received his master's degree from the University of Colorado, where he did independent study on advanced artificial intelligence for spatial and temporal problems.