

The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at the University of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health (www.ispm.unibe.ch). Groups cut across divisions, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to research in the fields of clinical epidemiology, social and behavioural health, biostatistics, and international and environmental health.



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The Child and Adolescent Health Group, headed by Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kuehni, conducts population-based and clinical studies in child health.

We are looking for a highly motivated

PhD or MD-PhD student: Big data - growth and obesity in children

Obesity is becoming an increasing health problem in children worldwide. Country-specific growth data are important to understand regional variation and time trends in growth and to identify, monitor, and treat overweight and obese children. Switzerland lacks representative national reference data for height and weight in children. **In your PhD you will extract height and weight data from the main paediatric hospitals across Switzerland (data from >1 million children),** assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity, describe characteristics of obese children, and contribute to the development of Swiss growth reference curves. You will also investigate how overweight is recognised and managed in Swiss hospitals. In an international collaboration, you will be able to compare your findings to those from >12 million children in the US. This PhD position is integrated in the Swiss-wide National Data Stream “SwissPedHealth” and funded by the Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN).

Your PhD will contribute to new national growth charts for children and provide novel data on the extent and management of childhood obesity in Switzerland. You will collaborate with a multidisciplinary team of data managers, clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, and researchers, gain a broad understanding of epidemiological methods and statistical techniques while working with big data, present your results at (inter)national conferences, and publish in peer-reviewed journals

Period: PhD contract for 3 years, start as soon as possible

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kuehni

Place: ISPM University of Bern, Switzerland

You have:

- A university degree (MD, MSc or equivalent) in medicine, biostatistics, biology, or related fields
- A strong interest in child health and epidemiology
- A strong interest in biostatistics, ideally experience in working with big datasets. Clinical experience would also be helpful.
- Fluency in English; German and French would be an asset

What we offer:

- Work in a motivated and competent research team
- Preparation for a research career in a clinical setting (paediatric teaching hospital), in a University (epidemiology or preventive medicine) or a public health institution
- The PhD counts as training towards and FMH in Paediatrics or Public Health
- A lively and international graduate school at the University of Bern
- Salary according to the Swiss National Science Foundation Salary Scales for PhD students

If you are looking for an exciting position in a highly motivated interdisciplinary team please send your CV with motivation letter to Fabien Belle (fabien.belle@ispm.unibe.ch). For further information, please contact us by e-mail. Please send your application as soon as possible, at the latest by October 28th, 2022.