Structural equation modeling can provide a framework for testing associations among observed variables and latent constructs in longitudinal studies. However, the models rely on underlying assumptions that can affect the validity of conclusions.

In this talk, Dr. Slaughter will discuss assumptions about the error distribution and directionality of effect in a generalized growth mixture model. The model utilizes repeated measurements on a subject to estimate growth trajectories, predictors of class membership, and associations with future outcomes.

He will then discuss a more flexible approach to relax Normality assumptions by allowing latent factors to follow finite mixture distributions. Researchers apply their methods to a study of early fetal growth and pregnancy outcomes.

The VKC welcomes persons with disabilities. Contact kc@vanderbilt.edu for disability access information.