

AMSTATNEWS

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Accreditation Long**

**2008 Election Turnout Was
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Too Quick to Impugn

JAMA Editorialists Doubt Integrity of Statisticians Working in For-Profit World

Peter A. Lachenbruch, Donald Stablein, and Janet Wittes

Catherine D. DeAngelis and Phil B. Fontanarosa, in their editorial “Impugning the Integrity of Medical Science: The Adverse Effects of Industry Influence” that appeared in the April 16, 2008, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, aim to influence the way statisticians function in medical research studies. Their proposals would at one fell swoop remove many experienced biostatisticians from performing work they have done for decades and reshape the face of academic departments of biostatistics.

The editorial discusses two articles that appear in the same issue. One article, “Guest Authorship and Ghostwriting in Publications Related to Rofecoxib: A Case Study in Industry Documents from Rofecoxib Litigation,” deals with people who accepted authorship, even first authorship, on a publication for which they had limited roles. The issues raised relate more generally to ghost-written articles—those written by technical writing subcontractors without attribution or acknowledgement.

The second article, “Reporting Mortality Findings in Trials of Rofecoxib for Alzheimer Disease of Cognitive Impairment: A Case Study in Documents from Rofecoxib Litigation,” discusses selective reporting of data on safety and efficacy. The authors comment that the reported results do not agree with reports from the company’s internal documents. Further, the rofecoxib report used a per protocol analysis for safety, rather than an intent-to-treat analysis. While many agree with the authors about preferring intent-to-treat analyses for safety, we recognize many other thoughtful people prefer per protocol analyses for these data.

De Angelis and Fontanarosa propose several solutions to the issues raised in the articles. We agree with many of those solutions. We, similar to the editorialists, are opposed to unacknowledged ghost writing, to adding people to papers as authors when those people have had little to do with the study or the writing, to misrepresenting data, to failing to acknowledge sources of support or conflicts of interest, and to other egregious activities. But the editorial goes further than addressing intellectual dishonesty; the editorial impugns the integrity of all statisticians who work for any for-profit organization. We are frankly baffled by their attack. The cited problems and papers hardly lead to the conclusion that statisticians in for-profit companies cannot be trusted. In fact, it doesn’t make sense.

Surprised and Disappointed

Before reviewing the editorialists’ recommendation for statistical analysis of biomedical research, consider Donald Bentley’s steps in statistical analysis. Citing Lincoln Moses in a discussion published in Volume 2(1) 2008 of *Annals of Applied Statistics*, Bentley mentions five phases of a research project in which an applied statistician should be intimately involved: determining the question, designing

the experiment, gathering and validating the data, analyzing the data, and communicating the results. All are important aspects of the statistician’s role, and the properly prepared statistician will want to participate in each of them. In our experience, however, the first three phases generally require the most thought and often take the most time. The fifth, communication, is often the most difficult. So we are surprised and disappointed that the editorialists appear to separate the statisticians who determine the question and design the experiment from those who gather, validate, and analyze the data and prepare the manuscript. In the editorialists’ own words:

For-profit companies that sponsor biomedical research studies should not be solely or primarily involved in collecting and monitoring of data, in conducting the data analysis, and in preparing the manuscript reporting study results. These responsibilities should be primarily or solely be performed by academic investigators who are not employed by the company sponsoring the research.

This suggestion is in two parts. The first attacks statisticians from the sponsoring institution; the second attacks those working outside of academe. Specifically, the first part of the recommendation removes data collection and analysis from the sponsor; the second puts those responsibilities only in the hands of academics. These two parts are quite different. The first appears to arise from the editorialists’ loss of trust in the intellectual honesty of sponsors; the second implies the editorialists believe that only in the halls of academe can one find honest statisticians.

Okay, But I’m Confused

We recognize that sponsors of research have the greatest interest in showing a product is effective and that such interest can adversely influence the integrity of their analyses; however, if the study involves a new drug, the sponsor must satisfy the FDA, among others, of the validity and integrity of their work. Moreover, statisticians in industry are seriously interested in learning the truth of the effect of their products. The sponsor has the most at stake in presenting data honestly and completely. As Kenneth J. Rothman and Stephan Evans in their 2005 *British Medical Journal* article note, “[Scientific] review ought to rest on the content of a submission, rather than solely on the basis of presumptions inferred from group affiliation, such as [employer].”

While we understand the impetus for the first part of the recommendation, we are truly confused by the second. The editorial would send all analyses to academic institutions. Nowhere do the editorialists provide evidence that statisticians in for-profit organizations

shade data. The wholesale shift of these responsibilities to universities would be problematic. Academic statisticians have their own research programs; performing service activities or analyses of industry data will be of lower value for promotion and tenure decisions.

But the part that puzzles us most is why DeAngelis and Fontanarosa believe money cannot corrupt academic statisticians, but can corrupt those in for-profit companies. (We are not completely clear how the editorialists would classify government workers or those who work for private, not-for-profit corporations.) When a sponsor pays an academic statistician to analyze a data set for submission to the FDA or for publication, that statistician must make a substantial time commitment (weeks or months of analyses) and will generally charge substantial fees. Thus, the academic statistician has a potential conflict of interest. Worse, separating Bentley's components of a statistician's role into the set of activities performed by the in-house statistician removes intellectual coherence from a study.

If the editorialists' real problem is distrust of the sponsor, their solution does not prevent nefarious practice. A company could select a different statistician for each prospective paper, with the potential for inconsistent studies and analyses. Or, they could send the same data set to several statisticians and pick the most favorable analysis.

But Wait, There's More

The editorial says, "All journals must require a statistical analysis of clinical trial data conducted by a statistician who is not an employee of a for-profit company." Why? If this recommendation becomes effective, it pays an academic handsomely for doing work that could be done by a company statistician, a contract research organization, a consultant, or an employee of a private research company. The amount of time involved is no less (and, in many cases, more) and the profit to the individual statistician is hidden.

Why have the editorialists singled out statisticians as the evildoers? Why not prohibit private physicians who do not have an academic appointment from participating in clinical studies? We prefer wide participation in medical research as long as the researchers have scientific integrity; these proposals put forward artificial structural solutions; they do not address integrity. Referring to the phases of statistical involvement in the studies, this proposal unwisely excludes statisticians from the design and data management operations. Does *JAMA* want to pay academic statisticians for a detailed review of the submission with full access to the data? But the fundamental issue is deeper. Having an academic statistician analyze data does not prevent the sponsor from submitting only part of the data to the statistician or the journal. For example, if a safety data set covers only three months after drug cessation (as specified in a protocol), late adverse events would be missed.

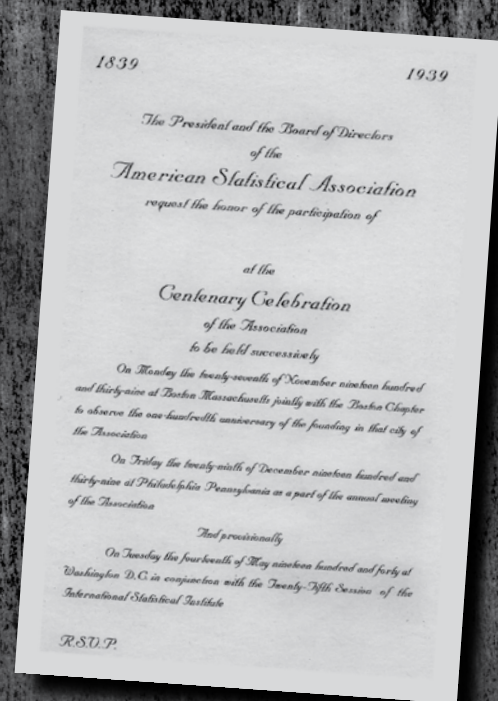
Unworkable 'Solution'

The editorial then recommends penalties for authors who fail to disclose conflicts, suggesting they be reported to the dean or department chair. This 'solution' is unworkable. A journal will rarely discover such violations, and a responsible dean or department chair would be reluctant to take any action without extensive investigation and hearings. A simpler version might be, "If such a conflict of interest is not disclosed and later discovered, the journal will take appropriate action. The journal may include publishing

an account, giving the accused a chance to reply. Other penalties may apply." Does *JAMA* want to list offending individuals on the journal's web site, as FDA does in disbaring scientists from participating in IND investigations?

The *JAMA* editorialists have been too eager to prescribe remedies for the statistical profession—with little input or counsel from those affected. ■

Treasures from ASA Archives



Invitation to ASA's Centenary Celebration (1939), ASA Record Book, Box 9, Folder 1, American Statistical Association Records, MS 349, Special Collection Department, Iowa State University Library

The URL for the archive is www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/manuscripts/MS349.html.

If you have questions, email spclref@iastate.edu or call (515) 294-6672.

Statisticians Get Involved in Public Office

More than 70 scientists, engineers, and students gathered at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, on May 10 to participate in a workshop showing effective strategies for becoming elected to political office. To increase evidence-based decisionmaking in public policy, more scientists, engineers, and statisticians are getting involved in politics on a local and national scale—including ASA members. Why would statisticians want to be involved in politics? To find out, we asked some of our members in public office.



Chris Franklin

Profession: Senior lecturer and honors professor in statistics at the University of Georgia. I have finished my 28th year as a university faculty member. I am also the current chief reader of AP Statistics for College Board.

Area of Science: Statistics

Public Office: Chair, Oconee County Board of Education, Watkinsville, Georgia



Franklin

How long have you been on the County Board of Education in Watkinsville?

Since 1999. From January 2001 to December 2001, I served as vice chair of the board. Since January 2002, I have served and continue to serve as chair. So, I'm in my 10th year as a board member.

Why did you want to be a part of the Oconee County Board of Education?

I strongly believe in serving my community. I felt that my background in education would allow me to contribute to my county school system. I am also the mother of two boys. My older son (now a third-year student at UGA) went through my school system from K–12. My youngest son will begin 8th grade this fall.

How did you campaign? I have been blessed to be unopposed each time I ran. However, I still attended political forums so the voters could hear my views.

What is the hardest part of your political life? The time it takes away from my family! Also, juggling the time commitment of the school board with my professional responsibilities.

How does your statistical training affect your political decisions? Whenever possible, my decisions are data based. I feel this is a major contribution I have brought to the school board—helping my colleagues and school administrators understand the importance of making decisions based on data, not what feels good.

Do you believe you get more or less respect because of your science background? I feel my math and statistical background has brought me much respect.

What advice would you offer a fellow statistician who is considering running for office? This experience of serving on the school board has been one of my most rewarding. It's challenging and hard work; however, I believe I have been able to make a positive difference and impact. One of the initiatives I'm most proud of is supporting a teacher induction program with all local funds. This program provides system support to all our new

first- and second-year teachers. Our retention percentages have stayed in the 90% range since beginning the program in 2002. The school system won a national award in 2007 for this program. We have now expanded the program to mentoring new administrators and providing guidance to aspiring administrators. Serving on the school board also placed me in a position that allowed me to work at the state educational level in Georgia with the revision of our state mathematics standards. I was an advisor to the math committee writing the new standards, and we now have a significant amount of data analysis (based on the pre-K–12 GAISE framework) at the K–12 level in our Georgia math standards.

Jerry Moreno

Profession: Professor

Area of Science: Statistics and mathematics

Public Office: School Board for Kenston Local School District, Geauga County, Ohio, since December 1988



Moreno

Why did you want to be a member of the School Board for Kenston Local School District?

My life is in education, so it was natural to want to serve on a school board. I think the composition of a school board should be balanced across professions, including at least one educator in the five positions. Ours were all business people, so when the opportunity arose to fill a vacancy, I applied and, surprisingly, was chosen.

How did you campaign? My appointment was for 13 months to fill the vacancy. I have run five successful four-year terms thereafter.

What is the hardest part of your political life? As you might imagine, seldom is a school issue clear cut. On issues from the public, both sides invariably remind you that they are taxpayers, etc. Whatever my position on an issue turns out to be, it is always on the side of what is best for our children.

How does your statistical training affect your political decisions? Statistics and mathematics teach you how to make logical decisions. The statistical process of asking a question, collecting appropriate data, analyzing the data, and arriving at a conclusion is applicable and invaluable to solving problems, whether in one's profession, school issues, or in everyday life. The data are seldom numerical, but the process works, nonetheless.

Do you believe you get more or less respect because of your science background? I'm not sure how much respect school board members get, period. I would like to think that

because I am an educator and a statistician people respect my views, but you would have to ask them.

What advice would you offer a fellow statistician who is considering running for office? Don't run if you have a hidden agenda. Don't run if you can't take criticism. Don't run if you want to micromanage the system. Your job is to hire competent administrators to run the district, to evaluate the superintendent and treasurer, and to keep the district fiscally sound. Do run if you have a genuine interest in education. Your background in decisionmaking will serve you well.

James L. Rosenberger

Profession: Statistician (professor of statistics, Penn State University)

Area of Science: Statistical science

Public Office: Member, Borough Council, State College, Pennsylvania

How long have you been a member of the Borough Council? Five months. I took office in January 2008.

Why did you want to be a part of the council? I wanted to offer my experience to maintain and improve our community, which I have lived in for 31 years.

How did you campaign? I attended a few neighborhood teas, handed out cards stating my priorities and values, emailed a letter to several lists of neighborhood associations, participated in TV and newspaper interviews, and ran about four ads in the newspaper the week before the election.

What is the hardest part of your political life? Keeping up with the many reports and documents one needs to read to understand the background of the issues that come before us for a vote.

How does your statistical training affect your political decisions? My background is very helpful for absorbing and understanding the flood of data, both financial and survey, that is available on every issue.

Do you believe you get more or less respect because of your science background? I find my background is highly respected.

What advice would you offer a fellow statistician who is considering running for office? I think we as a profession should take more opportunities to offer our skills and expertise for the good of our communities and society. Talk to your local political committees and see where they think you could be most helpful. I think you would be welcomed to the table.



Rosenberger

Jeff Witmer

Profession: Professor of mathematics and acting dean of arts and sciences until July 1, 2008, at Oberlin College

Area of Science: Statistics! Bayesian decision theory and statistics education, to be more specific.

Public Office: Member, Board of Education of the Oberlin, Ohio, City School District

How long have you been part of the board of education? I served for eight years (1996–2003, including board president in 2000 and 2001).

Why did you want to be part of the board of education? I hoped to improve the functioning of the board and, in so doing, to help students.

How did you campaign? I did almost no campaigning. A few friends wrote letters to the local newspaper on my behalf.

What is the hardest part of your political life? The hardest thing for me was probably dealing with parents who were disappointed or angry when the board made an unpopular decision.

How does your statistical training affect your political decisions? I am accustomed to working with clients from varying fields, so I appreciate how different people see things differently.

Do you believe you get more or less respect because of your science background? More, I hope!

What advice would you offer a fellow statistician who is considering running for office? Be honest. Be fair. Even if unreasonable.

For information about the workshop, visit <http://elections.sefora.org>. If you have suggestions for future workshops on science policy issues, contact Steve Pierson, ASA director of science policy, at pierson@amstat.org. ■



Witmer

ASA's Journey to Consider Accreditation Long

Mary Batcher, Ernst & Young



In March 2007, the ASA board approved the formation of the ad hoc Committee on Individual Accreditation to define the details of an accreditation program, such as criteria for granting accreditation and the application process. This is one in a series of articles examining such an accreditation program.

Formal recognition of applied statistical practice is offered by three statistical societies—chartering by the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and accreditation by the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) and Statistical Society of Australia Inc. (SSAI). Although there are differences in the structure and complexity of the societies' programs, their accreditation decisions are based on a combination of professional and academic credentials, an applicant's body of work and involvement in the profession, and recommendations from experienced statisticians. They all offer two levels of accreditation: a first level for less-experienced statisticians and a second level for senior statisticians.

Longtime ASA members will recall that the ASA explored certification several years ago, but decided not to offer a program. However, with the recent successful experiences of other statistical associations and increasing interest from members, the ASA is exploring whether an accreditation program would be a useful service to offer its members.

The ASA Task Force on Recognition of the Professionalism of those in Business Practice was appointed by Fritz Scheuren during his tenure as ASA president in 2005 to take another look at accreditation or certification of statisticians. The first step in assessing the reasonableness of an accreditation program for individual statisticians was to determine the interest of the membership and solicit ideas about how such a program should look. To that end, focus groups were conducted in three cities—Washington,

DC; Philadelphia; and Seattle. These cities were chosen because of their mix of ASA members in academia, government, and private industry and for the diversity of their universities and companies. Roundtable sessions also were conducted at ENAR and JSM using similar questions to those in the focus groups.

A question about accreditation was included in the series of surveys conducted by another of Scheuren's task forces, the Task Force on Self-Awareness. The survey question listed components of an accreditation program as identified by the focus groups and asked respondents to choose all they thought should be included in an accreditation program, as well as providing an option to add any not listed. The task force also conducted an open meeting at JSM to discuss accreditation with interested members.

Focus Groups

The focus groups included 14 women and 21 men with a range of experience and membership in the ASA. Experience and membership in the ASA were highly parallel, with generally no more than a two-year difference between joining the ASA and becoming a statistician. Recruited for participation in each focus group were a few members with a limited amount of time with ASA membership. Also, there was a small number of practicing statisticians who

had degrees in fields other than statistics. The groups asked to participate included a mixture of university, private, and government practitioners, with a mixture of those working with more than 10 statisticians and those working alone or in smaller groups.

Results

The focus groups were informative and provided many ideas, which were described in a paper by Mary K. Batcher that was published in the 2006 *JSM Proceedings*. Discussion here is limited to the usefulness of accreditation to ASA members. Focus group participants identified a lack of understanding on the part of both researchers in other fields and the general public about the role of statisticians as a barrier to recognition of the profession and noted the potential benefit of enhancing professional understanding and recognition. They also said statisticians often work in teams with people from other disciplines, and the statistical contribution is sometimes not recognized. Interestingly, all the focus groups placed some of the responsibility for the lack of recognition on a lack of "soft skills" among statisticians, referring to a general deficiency of verbal, written, and interpersonal skills. This was expanded by some of the groups to a general inability of statisticians to market themselves and their contributions.

“Will accreditation limit or enhance the field?”

Professional Accreditation

Is it for all statisticians?

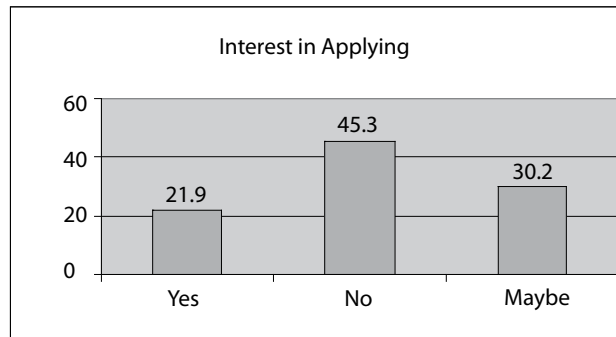
Who will benefit the most?

What do other professional statistical societies do?

The ad hoc Committee on Individual Accreditation recently set up a web site with answers to these questions and more. The site also includes links to recent articles about professional accreditation and a set of frequently asked questions. You may provide your comments (anonymously) or post specific questions to committee members.

Go to
www.amstat.org/comm/accreditation.

Professional Accreditation



Frequency chart showing slightly fewer than half of ASA members interested in seeking accreditation and 30% who might be interested

The focus groups noted that accreditation may be most beneficial to younger practitioners, the lone operator, consultants in the private sector, and those with only a master's degree. It also would be helpful to those without statistical backgrounds who are hiring and for the general public. They also thought accreditation may be helpful internationally.

Participants acknowledged the difficulty of recruitment into the field and felt the effect of an accreditation program on recruitment should be considered. They asked, "Will accreditation limit or enhance the field?"

They also expressed concern about the possible creation of a class system between accredited statisticians who are not accredited. A related concern was that some qualified statisticians might not be able to obtain accreditation due to cost or other factors.

Survey Results

The multipart survey question for long-time members listed components of an accreditation program as identified by the focus groups and asked respondents to choose all they thought should be included in an accreditation program, as well as providing an option to add any not listed. Experience working in the area of specialization, the authoring of technical reports, and good standing with the ASA with no ethical violations were the criteria most often selected as very important. At the time of tabulation, 430 responses had been received. A more extensive discussion is in the *JSM Proceedings* paper by Batcher.

The criterion question was followed by a question about the respondents' interest in personally applying for accreditation. As shown in the frequency chart, slightly fewer than half were not, with about

22% interested in seeking accreditation and 30% who might be interested.

Committee on Individual Accreditation

Based on the results of the focus groups and other input, the task force recommended the ASA board establish a special purpose committee to develop a detailed proposal for an accreditation program that the ASA board can vote on. The committee was formed in March 2007 and is charged with developing a proposed operating structure to include criteria for granting accreditation, length of accreditation, and application and approval process; identifying possible legal constraints, costs, and other relevant details that will need to be resolved; and coordinating with other ASA committees and sections to solicit their views and input.

Following the presentation of a program structure by the committee, the ASA board will vote on whether to undertake the establishment of an accreditation program.

To facilitate communication with the membership through committees and sections, the accreditation committee developed a list of frequently asked questions about individual accreditation, which was published with answers in the December 2007 issue of *Amstat News*.

The committee seeks the input of ASA members. There will be an open meeting at JSM in Denver Tuesday, August 5, at 4:00 p.m. in the Colorado Convention Center, Room 206. Committee members will be there to hear your thoughts and answer questions. The ASA is also hosting a web page at www.amstat.org/comm/accreditation where you can leave comments and ask questions. We hope to hear from many members, either in Denver, in person, or via the web page. ■



Join the ASA's **FIRST EVER** “virtual” Open Meeting

Take part in an **online discussion** forum with any or all of these ASA leaders:

Tony Lachenbruch, President

Sally Morton, President-elect

Sastry Pantula, Treasurer

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director



The ASA's online **open meeting** is available to everyone from August 2–8, 2008, at **www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/openmeeting**.

Learn about the ASA.

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ASA Announces 2008 Election Results

Election Turnout Was Largest in ASA History

Sastry G. Pantula of North Carolina State University has been elected to serve as the 105th president of the ASA. Pantula, who is the head of the North Carolina State University Statistics Department and director of the Institute of Statistics, will begin his term January 1, 2010.

Christy Chuang-Stein of Pfizer Inc. was selected as vice president. Jeri Metzger Mulrow of the National Science Foundation will serve as the board representative for the Council of Sections, and David Marker of Westat will serve as the representative for the Council of Chapters. All their terms will begin January 1, 2009.

“Statistics is the backbone of scientific research,” Pantula said. “[The] ASA, in collaboration with many other international associations and institutes, now has tremendous potential to advance science and guide public policy. The diversity of our membership and the cross-sectoral relationships among our members in academia, business, government, and industry provide a unique talent pool to address global problems related to health, environment, and resources. I am excited and humbled by this opportunity to serve [the] ASA at this pivotal time.”

A 2002 Fellow of the ASA, Pantula was the recipient of the Department Head Award of the SAA-PAMS in 2005. He received the Young Statistician Award from the International Indian Statistical Association in 2002 and the D.D. Mason Faculty Award in 2001. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Mu Sigma Rho. Pantula has been active in the ASA, serving as program officer for JSM 2000; publications

officer, 2001–2004; chair-elect, 2007; COPSS Award Committee, 2002–2005; and Youden Award Committee, 2004–2006. He has served as ASA Board treasurer since 2005 and chaired the finance and audit committees. He was the associate editor of *The American Statistician* from 1987–1993 and the *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics* from 2001–2006.

Pantula earned his PhD in statistics from Iowa State University and an MS and BS in statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, India. He became the statistics department head at NCSU in 2002, after serving the university as assistant department head, director of graduate programs, and professor of statistics. He is the author, with J. O. Rawlings and D. A. Dickey, of *Applied Regression Analysis: A Research Tool*.

Chuang-Stein serves as the executive director of the Statistical Research and Consulting Center at Pfizer. She is an associate editor for both the *Drug Information Journal* and the *Encyclopedia of Clinical Trials*. She was a founding editor and currently serves as an editorial board member of *Pharmaceutical Statistics*. A 1998 ASA Fellow, Chuang-Stein is an active ASA member and a current member of the ASA Fellows Committee. She served on the Executive Committee of the Biopharmaceutical Section of the ASA, 1996–1999; president of the ASA’s South-West Michigan Chapter, 1997; chair of the biopharm annual workshop, 1996–1997; and associate editor of *The American Statistician*, 1993–1999.

A complete list of the new ASA board members, governing board members, and section officers follows.

Council of Sections Board Representative

Jeri Metzger Mulrow, National Science Foundation

Council of Chapters Board Representative

David Marker, Westat

Publications Board Representative

Karen Kafadar, Indiana University

(COSGB) Council of Sections Governing Board Chair-elect

Sarah M. Nusser, Iowa State University

(COSGB) Council of Sections Governing Board Vice Chair

John L. Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research Inc.

(COCGB) Council of Chapters Governing Board Chair-elect

V. A. Samaranyake, Missouri University of Science & Technology

(COCGB) Council of Chapters Governing Board Vice Chair, Region 1, Dist. 1

Nicholas J. Horton, Smith College

(SBSS) Section on Bayesian Statistical Science

Chair-elect

Mike West, Duke University

Program Chair-elect

Alyson Wilson, Los Alamos National Laboratory

(BIOM) Biometrics Section

Chair-elect

Barry I. Graubard, National Cancer Institute Secretary/
Treasurer

Thomas R. Belin, University of California, Los Angeles
Council of Sections Representative

Denise J. Roe, University of Arizona

(BIOP) Biopharmaceutical Section

Chair-elect

Katherine L. Monti, Rho Inc.

Program Chair-elect

Dionne L. Price, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Secretary

Richard J. Caplan, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
Council of Sections Representative

Alex Dmitrienko, Eli Lilly and Company

(B&E) Business and Economic Statistics Section

Chair-elect

Richard A. Davis, Columbia University

Program Chair-elect

Graham Elliott, University of California, San Diego

Secretary/Treasurer

Sung K. Ahn, Washington State University

(COMP) Section on Statistical Computing

Chair-elect

Luke Tierney, University of Iowa

Program Chair-elect

Thomas Lumley, University of Washington

Council of Sections Representative

Montserrat Fuentes, North Carolina State University

(CNSL) Section on Statistical Consulting

Chair-elect

Todd G. Nick, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Publications Officer

Cynthia R. Long, Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research

Council of Sections Representative

Marlene J. Egger, University of Utah

Executive Committee at Large

Larry D. Haugh, University of Vermont Emeritus

(EDUC) Section on Statistical Education

Chair-elect

Lori A. Thombs, University of Missouri

Council of Sections Representative

Deborah Nolan, University of California, Berkeley

Executive Committee at Large

Nicholas J. Horton, Smith College

(ENVR) Section on Statistics and the Environment

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Dale L. Zimmerman, University of Iowa

Program Chair-elect

Petrutza C. Caragea, Iowa State University

Treasurer

Joel H. Reynolds, Alaska, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Council of Sections Representative

Alix I. Gitelman, Oregon State University

(EPI) Section on Statistics in Epidemiology

Chair-elect

Ron Brookmeyer, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg

School of Public Health

Program Chair-elect

Ruth Pfeiffer, National Institutes of Health

Council of Sections Representative

M. Elizabeth Halloran, University of Washington

(GOVT) Section on Government Statistics*Section Charter Revision—Approved*

Chair-elect

John S. Dixon, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Program Chair-elect

Lisa M. Blumberman, U.S. Census Bureau

Publications Officer

Sonya L. Vartivarian, Mathematica Policy Research Inc.

Secretary/Treasurer

Lester R. Curtin, U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention

(GRPH) Section on Statistical Graphics

Chair-elect

Simon Urbanek, AT&T Laboratory Research

Program Chair-elect

Heike Hofman, Iowa State University

Publications Officer

Brooke L. Fridley, Mayo Clinic

Secretary/Treasurer

Rick Wicklin, SAS Institute Inc.

(HPSS) Section on Health Policy Statistics*Section Charter Revision—Approved*

Chair-elect

Thomas E. Love, Case Western Reserve University

Program Chair-elect

Susan Paddock, RAND Corporation

(TSHS) Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences

Chair-elect

Jodi Lapidus, Oregon Health and Science University

(MKTG) Section on Statistics and Marketing

Chair-elect

Oded Netzer, Columbia Business School

Program Chair-elect

Wolfgang Jank, Smith School of Business,

University of Maryland

Publications Officer

Douglas Bowman, Emory University

Secretary/Treasurer

Lynd D. Bacon, Loma Buena Associates

(SPES) Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences

Chair-elect

Russell V. Lenth, University of Iowa

Program Chair-elect

George Ostrouchov, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

(Q&P) Section on Quality and Productivity*Section Charter Revision—Approved*

Chair-elect

Mark Bailey, SAS Institute Inc.

Program Chair-elect

Dana C. Krueger, Arizona State University

Publications Officer-elect

William F. Guthrie, National Institute of

Standards and Technology

(RISK) Section on Risk Analysis

Chair-elect

Richard L. Smith, The University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill

Program Chair-elect

Colleen Kelly, Exponent

'Math and Voting' Contest Winner Announced

Members of the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics recently announced **Mace Mateo** of British Columbia, Canada, the winner of the "What Does 'Math and Voting' Mean to You?" YouTube video contest. Mateo received a warm congratulations and a check for \$500.

The contest, which was announced in the March issue of *Amstat News*, invited anyone interested in mathematics and statistics to create a video using music, humor, or another creative element to express their feelings about the connection between

math and voting. Participants were judged on creativity, how well their message was conveyed, the level of entertainment, quality of the video, and relevance to the theme.

Members of the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics—a collaborative effort of the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics—proclaimed "Math and

Voting" the theme for Mathematics Awareness Month 2008 earlier this year. In a presidential election year, the term "voting" brings to mind national elections. But voting is not just about electoral politics. In any situation in which preferences are expressed—where to have dinner, how to raise money for a charity, who makes the team, etc.—voting occurs. Resources for this year's Mathematics Awareness Month were designed to help explain what makes votes matter and how the voting system used affects the outcome, regardless of the context of the voting.

Mathematics Awareness Month, held each year in April, was created to increase public understanding of and appreciation for mathematics. It began in 1986, when President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation establishing National Mathematics Awareness Week. Activities for Mathematics Awareness Month generally are organized on local, state, and regional levels by college and university departments, institutional public information offices, student groups, and related associations and interest groups. For more information, visit www.mathaware.org/mam/08.

The joint committee wishes to thank everyone who participated and helped make Math Awareness Month a success. All the YouTube videos may be viewed at www.youtube.com/group/mathaware.

(SOC) Social Statistics Section

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Sharon M. Stern, U.S. Census Bureau

Program Chair-elect

Joseph J. Salvo, New York City Department of City Planning

Publications Officer

Carrie R. Simon, U.S. Census Bureau

(SIS) Section on Statistics in Sports

Chair-elect

Andrew W. Swift, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Program Chair-elect

Liam M. O'Brien, Colby College

(SRMS) Section on Survey Research Methods

Chair-elect

Howard Hogan, U.S. Census Bureau

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Michael R. Elliott, University of Michigan School of Public Health

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Education Officer

Michael D. Larsen, Iowa State University

(NPAR) Section on Nonparametric Statistics

Chair-elect

Jane-Ling Wang, University of California at Davis

Program Chair-elect

Edsel A. Pena, University of South Carolina

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Omer Ozturk, The Ohio State University

Treasurer

Bhramar Mukherjee, University of Michigan

(SDNS) Section on Statistics in Defense and National Security

Section Charter Revision-Approved

Chair-elect

Lara Schmidt, RAND Corporation

Program Chair-elect

Jeffrey L. Solka, Naval Surface

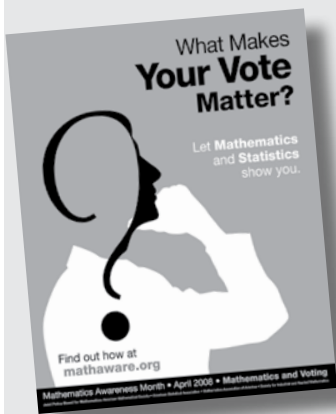
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Aparna V. Huzurbazar, Los Alamos National Laboratory ■



The 2008 Mathematics Awareness Month poster

Mathematical Sciences Institutes Revisited

Keith Crank, ASA Assistant Director of Research and Graduate Education

As many of you know, the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) at the National Science Foundation funds a number of 'math institutes' to enhance research in the mathematical sciences. These institutes generally run topical programs on a yearly or semester basis and cover much of the mathematical sciences, including statistics. (For more information about the institutes, you can visit their joint web page at www.mathinstitutes.org. This also provides links to the individual institutes funded by DMS and other math institutes around the world.)

In looking over these institutes, only one (SAMSI) can be identified as a 'statistics institute.' (In the list of international institutes, Eurandom appears to be the only one that would represent the statistics discipline.) While some of the others are

surveys. (These percentages come from removing the biostatistics PhDs.) And this percentage is probably too low, as statistics departments respond at a much lower rate than math departments and no adjustment is made for nonresponse.

So, the evidence suggests there should either be more statistics programs at the math institutes or more institutes for statistics. As the former is unlikely, I will concentrate on how to increase the number of statistics institutes. With a new solicitation recently issued by DMS, the time to get organized is now. Proposals are due February 27, 2009. (The solicitation is available at www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08565/nsf08565.htm?govDel=USNSF_25.)

In planning for an institute proposal, one first needs an idea for an institute

a plan for expansion, as well as a plan for operating the institute during the expansion. Even if space is plentiful, some thought needs to go into whether it fits the needs of an institute.

Fourth, one needs a scientific advisory board. This should be national or international in scope and be used to help generate ideas for institute programs. The members of this board should be prominent researchers. This will provide credibility that the institute will encourage high-quality research in areas of current interest and that it will be a national resource for researchers in the areas of focus.

There are myriad other details that are important when preparing a proposal for a statistics institute. These include management, inclusion of junior researchers and students, budgets, and travel.

If you are interested in submitting an institute proposal to NSF and would like to discuss it with me, send me an email with your contact information so we can arrange a time to talk. To contact me, send an email to keith@amstat.org. Questions or comments about this article, as well as suggestions for future articles, are always welcome. ■

“The evidence suggests there should either be more statistics programs at the math institutes or more institutes for statistics.”

expected to include statistical topics, it is seldom that this happens. The Institute for Advanced Study has not had a program on a statistical topic for the last 20 years, nor are any planned in the next two years. The American Institute of Mathematics held a week-long workshop on a statistical topic in 2003. The Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications had a year-long program on a statistical topic in 2003–2004. The Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics has included statistics as a relevant discipline in some of its applied programs. The Mathematical Biosciences Institute has had one year-long program that was primarily of interest to statistics. The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute has a program on statistics about once every 10 years. SAMSI, of course, runs programs that are primarily on statistical topics.

Overall, it appears statistics is represented in 10%–15% of the programs run by these institutes. But, statistics makes up 22%–25% of the PhDs in the mathematical sciences, according to the past five AMS

that is distinct from those already existing. Focusing on a specific area of statistics or application is one way of doing this. But, the focus cannot be too narrow. The focus must be broad enough to include a large portion of the statistics community and be sustainable for more than 2–3 years.

Second, there need to be nationally (better yet, internationally) recognized leaders in the field who are willing to manage the institute. An institute generally has a director and one or more associate directors. In addition to their scientific expertise, these people need to have organizational and managerial skills. They also need to recognize that they may need to sacrifice some of their own research time to make the institute operate effectively.

Third, one needs the support of the university(ies) and department(s) involved. Space and personnel are big issues in planning an institute. It is essential to have written agreements about what the university and department will provide. If space is already in short supply, there needs to be

Abraham Wald Prize Ceremony in Sequential Analysis

When: Tuesday, August 5, 2008
12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Where: JSM 2008, Colorado Convention Center, Room 101

Everyone attending JSM is invited.

For more information, contact Nitis Mukhopadhyay at nitis.mukhopadhyay@uconn.edu.

Organizer and Chair: Nitis Mukhopadhyay, University of Connecticut, Storrs, and *Sequential Analysis* editor

Sponsored by Taylor & Francis and *Sequential Analysis*

Editor of Statistics Education Web Selected



W. Scott Street IV is the new STEW editor.

Members of the STEW search committee are pleased to announce W. Scott Street IV as the first editor of Statistics Education Web, the online bank of peer-reviewed lesson plans for K–12 teachers of mathematics and science. Street will serve as editor from 2009–2011, with orientation beginning this year.

Street, who earned his doctorate in statistics at the University of South Carolina in 1997, is a teaching associate professor of statistics at Virginia Commonwealth

University. During his tenure there, he co-wrote a supplementary text and lab manual to accompany David Moore's *Statistics: Concepts and Controversies* and helped create a probability and statistics course for K–8 math specialists in the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition's Statewide Masters Programs. Street also taught courses in probability and statistics to middle school math and science teachers, focusing on how to develop effective lessons plans and teaching techniques to assist them with the skills related to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Street's job as STEW editor will be to select lesson plans that showcase the use of statistical methods and ideas in science and mathematics based on the *Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) Report: A Pre-K–12 Curriculum Framework* (www.amstat.org/education/gaise). STEW will operate similarly to an ASA journal. Authors will submit proposed activities to Street following a specified template. Material meeting the guidelines will be posted on the web site. Templates will be available in the fall of 2008, and STEW should be serving the public in the spring of 2009. Visit www.amstat.org/education/stew for more information. ■

10 Graduate on 10th Anniversary of Survey Class

Terry Richardson, GWU Professor and Program Director

Congratulations to spring 2008 graduates of the Graduate Certificate Program in Survey Design and Data Analysis at The George Washington University! The George Washington University Survey Design and Data Analysis Graduate Certificate Program provides the framework to prepare professionals, from both public and private sectors, for a variety of career opportunities in the survey research field. The program focuses on the skills needed in today's changing survey environment, introducing students to all phases of survey research—designing and pre-testing the questionnaire, sampling cases, collecting and compiling data, computing estimates and margin of errors, and writing reports, as well as managing the entire survey process.

The graduate certificate program, which began in 1997, was developed under the leadership of 2005 ASA President Fritz Scheuren. It consists of four courses and provides the foundation to develop, execute, and analyze survey data, including data from public opinion and market research. Students develop the skills and learn the techniques of sampling, designing, and conducting surveys, as well as compiling and analyzing the resulting statistics. For more information, visit <http://nearyou.gwu.edu/survey>.

Graduates

Betty Anderson

(Howard Community College)

Sydney Ayine

(ICF International)

Cara Carter

(U.S. State Department)

Jessica Holmes

(Council on Social Work Education)

Sherrri Vonderichar

(The Altarum Institute)

Laura Leach

(ICF International)

Kinsey Gimbel

(Macro International)

Gabriel Ayine

(Howard Community College)

Anne Hopewell

(U.S. GAO)

Jason Marley

(SAIC)

IISA Hosts Conference at Storrs

Malay Ghosh, IISA President

The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) held a conference, "Frontiers of Probability and Statistical Science," at the University of Connecticut-Storrs from May 22–25, 2008. The conference—sponsored by a number of companies, including the University of Connecticut and the ASA—was attended by nearly 180 people.

Two plenary lectures were given, one by Jayaram Sethuraman of Florida State University and one by Marvin Zelen of Harvard University. In addition, a number of named lectures were given by Evarist Gine, Sanat Sarkar, Glen Meeden, Lee-Jen Wei, and Barry Arnold. Also, S. R. S. Varadhan received a Life Time Achievement Award from IISA.

The IISA is a nonprofit organization with the following objectives:

Promote education, research, and the application of statistics and probability throughout the world with a special emphasis on the Indian subcontinent

Foster the exchange of information and scholarly activities between various countries, as well as among other national/international organizations for the development of statistical science

Serve the needs of young statisticians

Encourage cooperative efforts among members in education, research, industry, and business

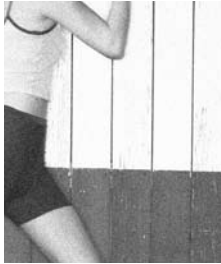
Anyone interested in the objectives of the association is welcome to become a member. Visit www.stat.osu.edu/~hmn/IISA.html for details. ■

The 19th Annual

GERTRUDE COX SCHOLARSHIP RACE

5k Race and 2.5k Fun Run/Walk at JSM in Denver

Tuesday, August 5, 2008



The Caucus for Women in Statistics, in conjunction with the ASA, presents the 19th annual Gertrude Cox Scholarship Race at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, Colorado. All proceeds will benefit the Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship in Statistics.

The Race: Two races running concurrently: a competitive 5k race and a 2.5k fun run/ walk

When: Tuesday, August 5, **early morning (time to be announced)**

Where: Location and logistical information will be posted at the Caucus for Women in Statistics table in the Colorado Convention Center

How Much: The entry fee is \$20

Registration: Those interested in participating are encouraged to register early. You may register online at www.statwomen.org by going to **activities > make a donation** and entering \$20. You also may register during JSM at the hospitality table for the Caucus for Women in Statistics, near the registration area in the Colorado Convention Center. All participants must sign a registration form and waiver. T-shirts for all preregistered runners will be distributed at the race. If you have questions, contact Marcia A. Ciol at marciac@u.washington.edu.

REGISTRATION FORM *(each participant must complete and sign form)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

ZIP/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

SEX: M F **Age** _____ **EVENT:** 5 k Race 2.5k Fun Run/Walk **T-SHIRT SIZE:** S M L XL

THE FINE PRINT. I understand that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I will not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to complete the run safely. I assume all risks associated with running in this event, including, but not limited to, falls; contact with other participants; and effects of weather, traffic, and course conditions. All such risks are known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver, knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the race directors, the race committee, and all sponsors from all claims of liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event, even though such liability may arise as a result of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver.

Signature _____

Date _____

Parent or guardian (if under 18) _____

Make check payable to **The Gertrude Cox Scholarship Fund**
or register online at www.statwomen.org > **activities > make a donation**; enter \$20.

Workshop on Bayesian Methods a Success

Partha Lahiri and Eric V. Slud



Standing (from left): Snigdhanu Chatterjee, Partha Lahiri, Malay Ghosh, Jim Berger, Eric Slud, Carl Morris; sitting (from left): Rod Little and J. N. K. Rao

The Statistics Consortium at the University of Maryland, College Park, hosted its first two-day workshop on Bayesian methods frequentists should know from April 30 to May 1, 2008. The workshop was intended to bring out the potential attractive features of Bayesian statistics in solving real-life problems, including complex problems in sample surveys and official statistics.

There were six invited sessions featuring James O. Berger, Sudip Bose, Snigdhanu Chatterjee, Stephen E. Fienberg, Malay Ghosh, Abram Kagan, Roderick J. A. Little, Thomas A. Louis, Carl N. Morris, J. N. K. Rao, Nathaniel Schenker, Eric V. Slud, and Alan M. Zaslavsky. Average attendance in the sessions was about 100. A special attraction of the workshop was a poster session held the evening of April 30. Ten posters

were displayed in an informal setting, and refreshments and drinks were served.

There were no parallel sessions, so participants were able to attend them all. They covered topics such as Bayesian methods in public policy, missing data problems, objective prior selection, small area estimation, sample surveys, the relationship between parametric bootstrap and Bayesian methods, and accurate approximation to posterior densities. The workshop slides can be found at www.jpsm.umd.edu/stat/workshop.

The role of the University of Maryland Statistics Consortium is to identify and implement mechanisms that take advantage of the expertise and strength in statistics across campus to create a higher level of visibility and cooperative effort for the statistics discipline. In the past, the statistics consortium organized Statistics Day; however, Statistics Day was replaced this year by the workshop and a session of distinguished lectures by James O. Berger and J. N. K. Rao, which was attended by more than 150 people.

The workshop was cosponsored by the ASA's Survey Research Methods Section, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Office of Research and Methodology, National Center for Health Statistics, and Washington Statistical Society. ■

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(ENAR and WNAR)

Institute of Mathematical Statistics
Statistical Society of Canada

Register online at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/onlinereg.

Staff Spotlight

Lidia Vigyázó

Hi. My name is Lidia, and I am one of two graphic designers/production coordinators at the ASA. I am originally from Budapest, Hungary, but came to the United States eight years ago to attend the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and earn a BFA with a concentration in graphic design. Daily, I use what I learned there to communicate your and the ASA's messages to the world and to advance the statistics profession. My job consists of designing and producing *Amstat News*, *CHANCE*, *STATS: The Magazine for Students of Statistics*, newsletters, and a wide variety of marketing materials. I also do a lot of work on the materials distributed at the Joint Statistical Meetings every year.

Design and communication have been a part of me for as long as I can remember. The political climate in Hungary throughout my childhood and the strict religious dogma of my family inspired me to embark on a quest for unbiased information. Despite the powerful influence of the American mass media and the unrelenting propaganda of the corporate world, the United States still symbolizes freedom to me—a place where I can decide in what to believe.

At the University of Connecticut, I was able to offer my artistic abilities to many causes about which I feel passionate, including the Human Rights Institute and the UConn Free Press. I also participated in the Publication Design Club and Arts Festival Club, where I was able to further my skills in graphic design, photography, and public relations. I organized the annual Arts Fest in 2005 and 2006, which incorporated several departments and more than 800 students and community members.

Now that I live in the Washington, DC, area, I volunteer for the Hungarian community, including the Hungarian Embassy and the HungarianAmerica Foundation. I take on different graphic design projects, moving them from the conceptual phase to the final product. I am also a graduate student at the University of Baltimore in the integrated design program. Eventually, I would like to teach part time while cultivating my artistic talents on a more abstract/applied level, such as making a film or starting my own publication. Until then, I'll be here to lend my artistic abilities to you and your causes. If there is ever anything I can do, just email me at lidia@amstat.org. ■




Lidia Vigyázó, ASA Production Coordinator/
Graphic Designer

Newest Issue of CSBIGS Available

Case Studies in Business, Industry, and Government Statistics, Volume 2(1), is available at www.bentley.edu/csbig. Potential authors are invited to submit papers, with the next issue due to appear in November 2008.

**Vol 2, No 1
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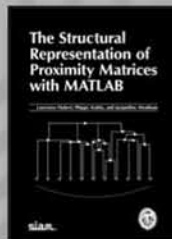


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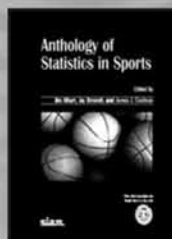


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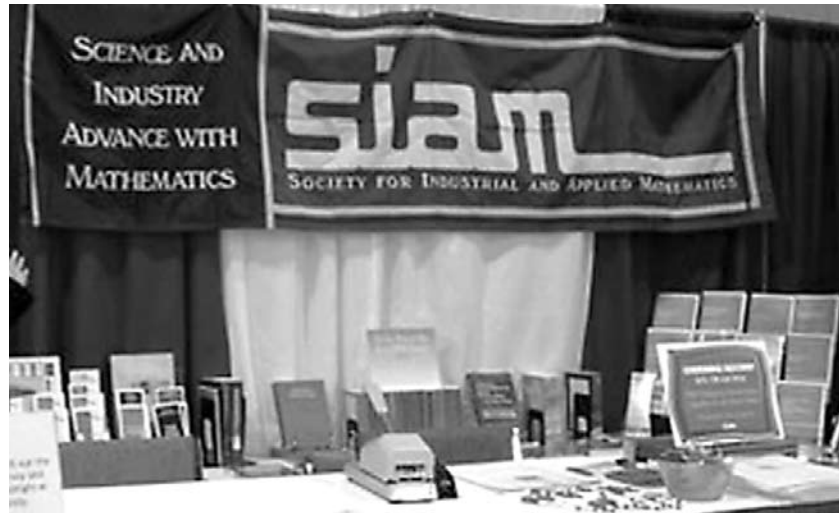
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ASA-SIAM Series

Series Plans Book Booth, Panel for JSM 2008



SIAM's book booth features books from the ASA-SIAM Series on Statistics and Applied Probability at last year's Joint Statistical Meetings in Salt Lake City.

When you attend JSM in Denver next month, plan to attend Session 507: How To Publish Your Book with the ASA-SIAM Series on Statistics and Applied Probability. This topic-contributed panel will take place Thursday, August 7, at 10:30 a.m. Panelists are Lisa LaVange, series editor-in-chief; Keith Crank, the ASA's assistant director of research and graduate education; Sara J. Murphy, series acquisitions editor; and Karen A. F. Copeland, series author.

The first three panelists will talk about what topics are appropriate for the series, how to submit a book proposal, how the peer review and contract consideration processes work, and what benefits you'll reap from publishing in the series. Copeland will be able to specifically address the experience of being a series author and give a first-hand account of how books are marketed before and after publication. Come see what the series is all about and bring your questions.

Sunday through Wednesday, you can shop for books at the series booth in the exhibit hall. Just look for the red book covers! All books on display will be available at a 20% discount for all attendees. Attendees also will be able to browse, purchase, or order a desk or exam copy of *A First Course in Order Statistics*, by Barry C. Arnold, N. Balakrishnan, and H. N. Nagaraja (SIAM Classics in Applied Mathematics Series 54). As always, free shipping will be offered for any onsite orders (domestic and international).

While you're at the booth, we will be asking you to complete a new survey to let us know the types of books you would like to see published and how the series can better serve you. Attendee feedback has been valuable to us in the past, and we encourage everyone to help us out again this year. As a sign of our gratitude, the first 500 people who complete the survey will receive a red, spiral-bound notebook that proudly sports the ASA-SIAM series name.

If you're considering a book project of your own, SIAM Publisher David K. Marshall, Murphy, and series editorial board members will be onsite to speak with you about your ideas and how to go about submitting a proposal. Books appropriate for the series include research monographs; introductory texts; and graduate-level textbooks on topics of interest to statisticians, biostatisticians, applied mathematicians, engineers, and scientists. More information about the series is available at www.siam.org/books/series/sa.php. Contact Murphy at murphy@siam.org prior to the meetings if you'd like to arrange an appointment to talk about your project. ■

JSM Pro Offers Poster, Presentation Tips

Russell V. Lenth, 2008 JSM Program Chair

Many resources are available to provide guidance for preparing oral and poster presentations for statistical meetings. For example, there are guidelines on the JSM web site at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/pdfs/ImprovingStatisticalPosters.pdf and www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/index.cfm?fuseaction=speakers. I recommend all presenters take a look at these materials after reading the following tips that may be especially useful to new presenters or those with limited time to prepare.

Avoid Software Anxiety: Use What You Know

One barrier people face is that it can take a lot of time to master the software needed to make presentation slides or a poster. Perhaps it is not much of a stretch to use PowerPoint if you are accustomed to writing in Microsoft Word, but laying out a poster is likely to be a daunting task. Similarly, LaTeX users may not know of a special-purpose package for making slides or posters—or may not want to deal with learning its intricacies.

It is possible to prepare an excellent presentation using the same tools you use for ordinary writing. You can't do fancy backgrounds, logos, or transition effects, but it does not hurt to sacrifice glitz in favor of content. What you do need to do is alter the page shape and font size, but that is easy. The following trick works well for both talks and posters.

Suppose you type some material as you always do in Microsoft Word or LaTeX, but you make one change. You tell the software to lay it out for paper that is, say, 5 inches wide and 3.75 inches high, with .25-inch margins. If you then save the document as a PDF file and display it in full-screen mode in Acrobat Reader, everything is expanded to fill the width and height of the screen, and all the fonts are expanded accordingly. In LaTeX, this is accomplished with one line in the document preamble:

```
\usepackage[paperwidth=5in,
paperheight=3.75in, margin=.25in]{geometry}
```

To make a presentation, just add enough page breaks and section headings to make each topic fit in one screen. The same idea applies to graphs. To make the lines and symbols bolder and the axis and tick labels big enough to be readable by the audience, construct the graph in a small size so its elements are enlarged when the graph is stretched to fill the screen or page.

Posters on the Cheap

Poster presenters are provided an area that is 8 feet wide and 4 feet high—that's a lot of real estate. While most posters these days seem to be prepared using special software and a poster printer, this approach can consume a lot of time and money (more than you might guess). It is possible to put together a nice poster presentation by making several panels on ordinary-sized paper. You can use full-page prints of a PowerPoint presentation, or use the paper-size trick above to make the fonts bigger when printed using the option to fit it to the page. For a poster I did for Salt Lake City last year, I used virtual dimensions of 4.4 inches by 3.4 inches (with letter-sized paper) and I think it turned out just about right.

The panels can be mounted on construction paper (or even gift wrap) to add color and emphasis. Time spent with scissors and glue can be a relaxing break from your usual routine, and you have infinite flexibility in deciding how to arrange the panels. Unlike a poster-sized print, you can carry your poster presentation to JSM in a suitcase.

One other important matter: You need a big banner at the top with

the title and authors' names and affiliations. This needs to be huge. Think about it. You want to attract interest in people walking by, and, on an 8-foot board, the title will look puny if it doesn't fill at least half that width. I suggest at least 2-inch-high (144-point) letters for the title and 1- to 1.5-inch letters for the authors.

Talk Tips

Finally, a few brief tips for oral presentations. Most speakers require at least one minute per slide. A contributed talk should have 12–15 slides, and definitely no more than 20.

Usually, an 'outline' slide is unnecessary, especially in a short talk. You lose a minute by having one. If you have only 15 or 20 minutes, the whole talk can be just an outline. Make it your goal to attract interest in your work, not to present it in detail.

Learn the keys you need to press (probably F5 or Control-L) to start your presentation. Better yet, have it open in presentation mode (i.e., rename PowerPoint presentations with a .pps extension). You save valuable time and look like you know what you're doing.

Embed your fonts in the presentation, especially in PowerPoint, and most especially if you are from outside the United States (see Options menu, Save options, Embed TrueType Fonts).

This year, you will be asked to upload your talk to a central site before the meetings, and your meeting room will have a PC with your talk installed. This should save a lot of hassles during the sessions, but it also requires advance preparation. I am optimistic that this will provide a better experience for both presenters and attendees. ■

JSM Panel to Feature *The Black Swan* Author, Statisticians

Nassim Nicolas Taleb's popular book, *The Black Swan*, takes numerous jabs at statisticians, financial analysts, and "quants" in general. At the core of his argument is that standard tools used by such analysts for measuring risk are inappropriate; he has gone so far as to call these analysts "incompetent."

Statisticians and quants responded to these criticisms in a series of reviews of Taleb's book that appeared in the August 2007 issue of *The American Statistician*. Following the reviews, Bloomberg News interviewed *TAS* Editor Peter Westfall, who gave further critical comments that can be found on Bloomberg's web site, bloomberg.com (keyword searches: "Taleb outsells Greenspan" and "managers incompetent").

During this year's JSM, there will be a panel discussion that focuses on Taleb's message. The panel will include Taleb, Robert Lund (*TAS* and *JASA* book reviews editor), Aaron Brown (AQR Capital Management), Stanley Young (National Institute of Statistical Sciences), and Donald Rubin (Harvard). Westfall will moderate. The panel will take place Wednesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. It should be lively, so consider attending.

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JSM 2009 Goes to Washington

Wendy L. Martinez, JSM 2009 Program Chair



“Members have a lot of latitude when putting together an invited session.”

JSM 2008 is right around the corner, so now is the time to start planning for JSM 2009, which will take place in Washington, DC. The theme for the 2009 meetings is “Statistics: From Evidence to Policy.”

Members of the program committee encourage potential JSM participants to think broadly about the 2009 program and begin organizing sessions relating to the theme. In particular, consider topics that would be especially appropriate given that the meetings will take place in Washington.

Committee members also would like to have sessions that attract nontraditional attendees. For example, interesting sessions that draw nonstatisticians from the medical, defense and homeland security, diplomatic, law enforcement, and policymaking communities.

Members have a lot of latitude when putting together an invited session. Overall, these sessions can be classified as invited papers, panels, or posters. Invited paper sessions are the most common style, and they include two to six speakers. Invited panels, which also are popular, must have three to six members who are able to provide commentary or a point of view on the panel topic. An invited poster session is organized by the JSM poster chair and usually consists of 10 to 12 participants.

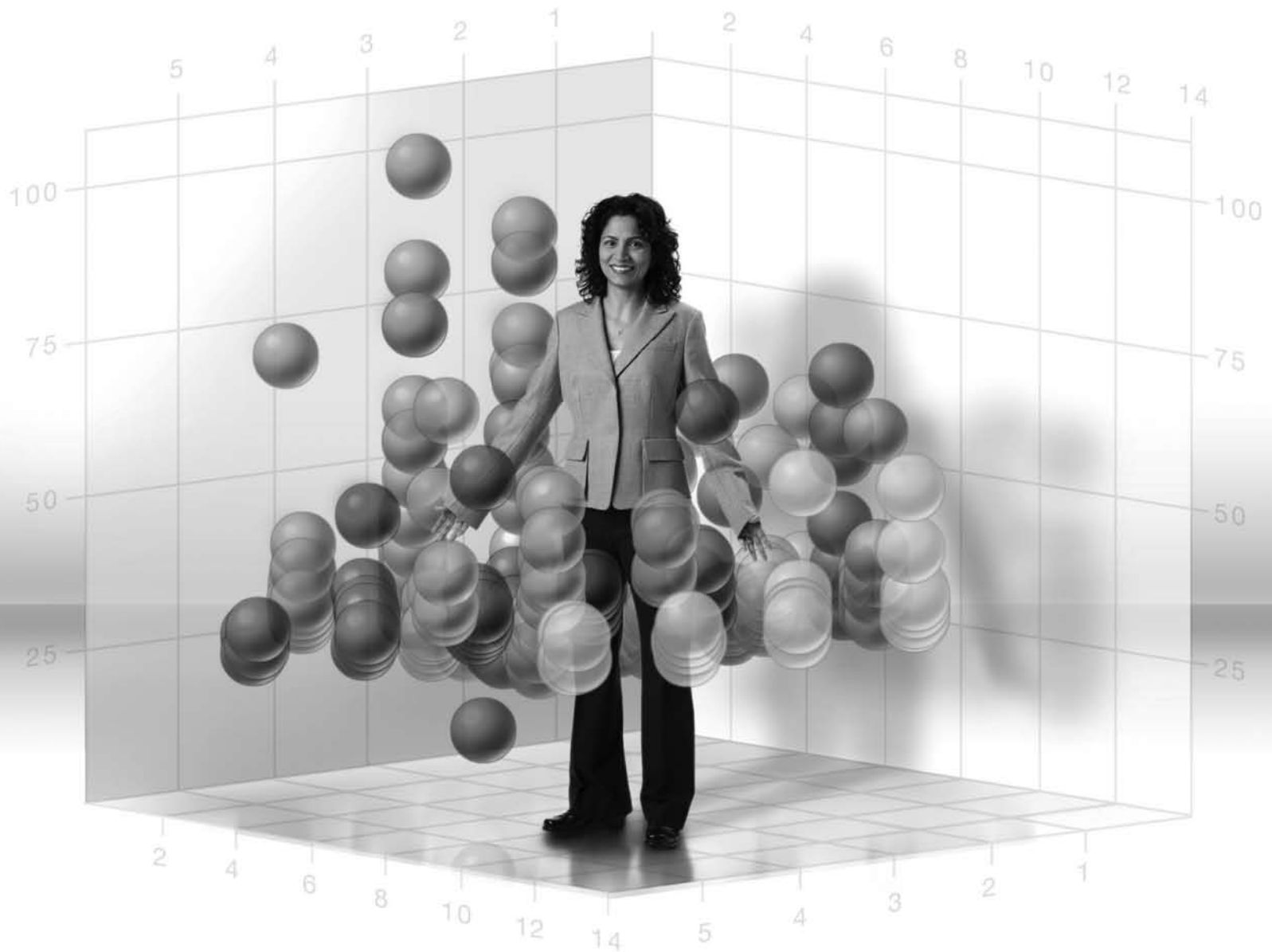
Organizers should first identify the session details and potential participants (e.g., chair, speakers, discussants, panelists) and write a brief description of the session (e.g., topic, purpose, structure). The next step is to contact an appropriate member of the 2009 JSM Program Committee for sponsorship. Finally, if a program committee member wishes to sponsor the session, the organizer should get a commitment from the session participants. Once the session is organized, the sponsoring program committee member will work with the organizer to submit the session proposal.

Program committee members expect online submission of invited session proposals to be open from July 21 to September 9, 2008. Thus, there will be an opportunity during JSM in Denver to network with colleagues and put sessions together. It is important to note that a participant can organize multiple sessions, but can only



present one time in the overall JSM program.

Contact information for members of the program committee, participation guidelines, and important dates may be found at www.amstat.org. Also, new this year, members will be able to submit invited session proposals for 2009 JSM via the Cyber Center page at JSM 2008 in Denver. Ideas for special sessions, such as introductory overview lectures and memorial sessions, should be emailed to 2009 JSM Program Chair Wendy Martinez at martinezw@verizon.net. Suggestions for invited posters should be sent to Poster Chair Lara Schmidt at Lara_Schmidt@rand.org. ■



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Statisticians Can Be Leaders...with Training

Mani Lakshminarayanan,
Committee on Applied Statisticians Chair

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

~ John Quincy Adams

As members of the American Statistical Association, we recently elected our 105th president. There are no training programs or courses offered for leadership roles in most graduate programs in statistics. Interestingly, if we looked at the credentials of our ASA presidents, we would find they all held some type of leadership role in their day-to-day jobs, as well as assuming a leadership role in the ASA.

A leadership role in our careers as statisticians is something to aspire to after graduate school. It is common for a master's graduate to experience anxiety and dilemma when planning his or her career, but that tension can be eased by the U.S. Department of Labor's good news that employment of statisticians is projected to grow 9% from 2006 to 2016, about as fast as the average for all occupations. According to the department, about 30% of statisticians work for government/teaching and the rest are employed in finance/insurance industries and scientific research and development services.

In most organizations that hire statisticians, there are two career tracks a statistician can typically pursue: technical and management. The technical track requires a statistician to have a strong knowledge of methodology, act as the “go-to” person for technical issues, stay abreast of statistical topics, and be active in statistical circles. Sometimes, it may even require people management. The pharmaceutical industry, some high-tech firms, many R&D organizations, and government agencies provide long-term technical track options. Academia is another option, if you are able to get tenured.

On the other hand, the management track requires project management and team leadership. It is worth noting that many studies have shown subtle differences between general management versus leadership. For example, Thomas Cronin, in his article “Thinking About Leadership” notes that “managers do things the right way, while leaders are more concerned with doing the right thing.” Attaining a leadership role in any organization is a feasible goal for most of us. Entry-level statisticians are generally under

supervision initially, but, with experience, they can advance to positions with more technical responsibility and, in some cases, take on a leadership role.

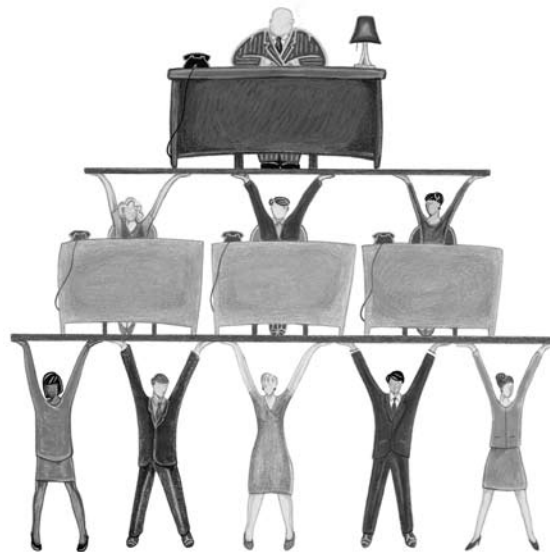
Though analytical skills are crucial for any leader, there are other habits and skills that must be acquired. For example, Stephen Covey, in his highly acclaimed book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, mentions the following important traits: personal vision, leadership, management, interpersonal leadership, empathic communication, creative cooperation, and balanced self-renewal.

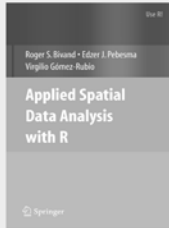
Having a clear vision and influencing the team are two critical qualities for any leader, as quoted by Jack Welch, former chair and CEO of General Electric. “Good business leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion.” To be a successful leader, Welch says one must build relationships with customers; demonstrate character, managerial competence, and influence; build commitment by empowering team members; and pay attention to the team's overall performance. If a statistician is looking for a leadership role, these traits will have to be acquired.

Communicating the vision and consequently influencing the team is one of the key steps a leader must take when in pursuit of the overall objectives of an organization. Research shows that persuasive communication depends heavily on the power of repetition. James O'Tool, author of

Leadership from A to Z, describes the art of communication in broad terms: “The task of leadership is to communicate clearly and repeatedly the organization's vision.” To do this effectively, one needs to develop skills for interpersonal communication and use emotional intelligence, in addition to being an effective speaker and listener. Statisticians will most likely have to learn these special skills on the job, as there are no special courses offered in graduate school.

In summary, statisticians (at all educational levels) have a realistic chance of becoming leaders in their respective organizations. They just need to constantly work to acquire the traits needed to be successful leaders while leveraging their analytical skills. ■





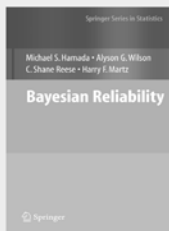
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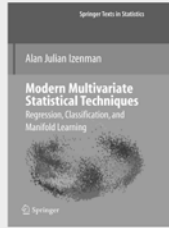
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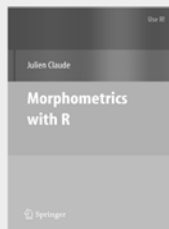
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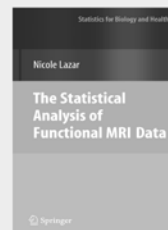


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A ‘Random Walk’ My Statistics Career in the Federal Government

A recent letter to *Amstat News* from a student asked for more information about careers in statistics. The student expressed uncertainty about how one decides on a statistics career, how one decides between pursuing employment after a master’s degree and pursuing further graduate work, and the responsibilities of a statistician in the workplace.

My career began with similar uncertainty before following a path I could not have predicted, but enjoyed nonetheless. In ways, it has been a “random walk” to my current position of chief statistician at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). By highlighting some of the people and situations along the way that contributed to my enjoyable statistics career, I hope you will agree a statistics career in the federal government is one worth considering.

The idea of a “random walk” comes to mind as I think about my career because my career decisions were made somewhat by chance. I am struck by how there was far less information available before the internet. In particular, the search for career information was constrained by the number of employers attending recruiting events, the whim of whoever tacked job and graduate school ads to the department bulletin boards, a few publications with summaries of employers, and the interest and knowledge of one’s faculty and advisers. And though it used to take a long-distance call, you can now email any employer with your questions.

My random walk began with liking math from an early age. Not really knowing what to do with that interest, I became a math major at Rider University, where my interest in courses such as physics, economics, and operations research (OR) grew. I began leaning toward OR as a career possibility. A probability and statistics course I took also seemed appealing and led me to look at graduate statistics departments with OR components.

With my bachelor’s degree in hand, I headed north to the University of Rochester’s statistics department. There, I took a sampling course, not realizing that sampling would play a major role in my career. I suppose my career moved in this direction because I found sampling to be a combination of statistics and OR methodologies.

As I approached my master’s in mathematical statistics, several faculty departures and my desire for more balance of OR and statistics led me to consider other options. While I was considering offers from OR and industrial engineering programs, I took some time to talk with corporate recruiters and review information I came across about federal government employment.

How I Entered the Federal Government

Frankly, in the 1970s, there wasn’t much information available to convince me to pursue a government statistics career. But, the

government was hiring mathematical statisticians, so I applied. I was surprised to get a call from someone at the USDA statistical unit (now the National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS]) who wanted to discuss employment. Recruiting at that time also was different from today. The USDA had no budget to pay for trips to Washington, DC, but they did offer me a job in their California field office. The deal was sealed! Still, I did not think of this random step as the beginning of my career in the federal government. I thought of it as a time to experience working before deciding on what to do next.

In the California office, I was given a number of assignments involving survey sampling, which played to my OR and statistical training and interests. For one assignment, I needed to create models for tree-nut forecasts. These forecasts had been severely underestimating ever-increasing crops for 10 years. Working with industry experts, I was able to identify new growing practices not measured in the data collection, as well as some needed data transformations. The next crop was a record by more than 30%—and my model estimated the crop within a percentage point.

Another assignment was to develop a survey of lemon yield from scratch, which included design, instruction, enumerator training, and code writing. The sense of accomplishment and clear appreciation conveyed by the lemon and walnut industry analysts hooked me. Incidentally, each of these assignments resulted in trade journal cover stories—another nudge down the path.

The career path for NASS statisticians was through headquarters in DC, and there was a research group large enough to offer a variety of experiences and advancement possibilities. I was eager to go. Little did I realize NASS would provide 20 years of enjoyable research and learning experiences.

The DC step began with examining nonresponse to NASS surveys (e.g., using profile analysis to understand the opinions of nonrespondents). A large unit offers opportunities to learn from experienced statisticians, as well as enough colleagues in your age cohort to create after-work activities. (We played a lot of basketball and softball.)

During my next assignment, I learned about record linkage and led a small group that developed systems for efficient list updates. Later, I became familiar with satellite imagery and used it to (1) improve stratification and selection methods for area frame sampling and (2) facilitate remotely sensed estimates of crops in other countries using a grid sampling frame of the globe. The area sampling experience provided opportunities for international travel and consulting: building sampling frames in Guatemala, Tunisia, and



Ronald Fecso



Ron Fecso (left), Barbara Fecso, and Dan Kasprzyk during a past JSM.

Morocco and teaching sampling courses in Pakistan. A favorite trip was a month-long tour of the People's Republic of China in 1980. I also was given the opportunity to teach at the USDA Graduate School, and, some years later, at area universities.

The 1980s brought organizational quality efforts that led to an expanded focus on nonsampling errors. I headed a research section that focused on the surveys and models used to measure and forecast crop yields (i.e., corn, soybeans, and cotton), which evolved into a new research group that focused on nonsampling errors in any of NASS' surveys. This began a decade of recruiting staff members for NASS. Even when I could not convince people to come to NASS, many became friends and colleagues in statistical units of other federal agencies. Those who came to NASS contributed to an exciting time of new research.

NASS has a long history of cooperative research efforts with university staff members. I was fortunate to coordinate an effort with Iowa State University, learning so much from Wayne Fuller and other ISU faculty members that I sometimes think I should attend the departmental reunions at JSM. One memorable cooperative effort in the early 1990s was showing how structural equation models were useful for detecting measurement error in repeated survey measurements taken in NASS' yield surveys. We also developed joint work with the U.S. Census Bureau. This was the first of many opportunities to work with the statistical staff at the bureau.

Besides the cooperative efforts, the DC area provides statisticians with the opportunity for a stimulating and continuing learning environment. Many agencies have programs that bring faculty for sabbaticals (for example, the ASA/NSF Fellows program). And there are numerous seminar offerings by the Washington Statistical Society and local graduate programs, workshops by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Research Council, and short courses offered by training organizations. In addition, there are ample opportunities for activity in professional societies. Rich Allen, a senior executive at NASS, was active in the ASA and local chapter activities and drafted me into Washington Statistical Society (WSS) service many years ago. With his encouragement (and that of Fritz Scheuren, another active WSS member), the path of service in professional societies continued with other committee appointments, followed by various elected positions—most recently, serving on the ASA Board of Directors. These activities, and the opportunity

to work with statisticians from outside my immediate workplace, have added immeasurably to my career experience.

How I Began Consulting

Rich and a later supervisor, Ron Bosecker, recognized my love for consulting and found opportunities for me to become involved in consulting throughout the USDA. These were dream jobs. I worked on sample design for issues such as acid rain measurement in lakes, land owners' attitudes toward reforestation policy, and farmland values. I also used statistical methods while involved in work on infant nutrition, program evaluations of major agencies, optimization of the large USDA vehicle fleet, loan subsidy programs, and food safety regulations.

With additional assignments to interagency working groups, I was never bored, but—to be honest—there was a time when I wondered about life outside government and NASS. As luck would have it, the phone rang one day and Myron Straf, then the director of CNSTAT, asked if I would be interested in considering directing a study on quality in student financial aid programs. Through the Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment—essentially a sabbatical opportunity for federal employees—I was given the chance to try a very different professional experience, with no break in government service. I worked for more than a year with Myron and several staff members who were influential in the development of the statistical system, as well as with experts on the study panel on quality in student financial aid that I directed. This direction was a great way to recharge my batteries.

After CNSTAT and after I had been back at NASS for a year or so, the phone rang again. This time, Jeanne Griffin, director of the Division of Science Resources Statistics at NSF, called to ask if I would like to discuss the chief statistician position. Accepting this position led to yet another learning experience: survey contracting.

The statistics unit at NSF was small, with almost all the survey work done by contract or through a reimbursable agreement with the U.S. Census Bureau. My activities involved developing standards for the surveys and the reporting of survey results and analyses, refining a license program that provided researchers access to data while maintaining confidentiality requirements, developing survey cost models, consulting on program evaluations, and leading major survey redesigns. The cooperative research experience at NASS came in handy, as I was able to develop an agreement with NASS and Washington State University to have Don Dillman assist in each agency's reviews of survey instruments and the emerging transition to web surveys. These collaborations helped improve survey forms and instructions, increase staff knowledge of visual design principles, and provide research ideas and support for graduate students.

How I Came to GAO

With nine years at NSF and more than 30 in federal agencies in the executive branch, it was time to think about post-government activities. I received a call to interview for the position of chief statistician at GAO, a legislative branch agency, which was yet another random step in my career. Well, maybe not so random. Following decades of being a data producer, the opportunity to be a data user in support of a decisionmaking body such as Congress was very attractive.

At the GAO, my main role is to advise on statistical aspects of GAO's congressionally requested audits and evaluations of federal agencies and programs, including oversight of the federal statistical system. I've collaborated on various census studies, including census coverage measurement, response rate estimation, and the impact of the return to a paper-based nonresponse follow-up. As in the past, this position provides the opportunity to contribute to statistical aspects in many substantive areas. Already, I have assisted with quality reporting guidelines for statistical agencies, unemployment insurance, federal funding allocations, USDA civil rights efforts, prescription drug pricing, cheese markets on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, bilingual voting assistance, minority representation in government and higher education, DC school vouchers, No Child Left Behind, mortgage markets, transportation safety, and the manufactured housing loan program.

The GAO has a wonderful applied research staff, led by Managing Director Nancy Kingsbury with the statistical staff directed by Sid Schwartz (see side bar). At the GAO, staff must assess the quality (fitness for use) of all data used in reports. The role of statisticians in GAO studies varies, but often involves evaluating data quality issues. Our statisticians also play lead roles in setting the study design, conducting analyses, and interpreting analyses results.

The GAO usually hires experienced statistical staff, therefore making it an attractive opportunity for mid-career statisticians. The GAO offers great facilities, a great location, and the opportunity to bring quality statistics into the discussion of major issues (see www.gao.gov/jobs/arm.pdf). There are also opportunities for students to explore, such as an intern program that can lead to entry-level analyst positions or the occasional entry-level statistician position (go to www.fedjobs.gov).

Why I Recommend Federal Government Employment to Statisticians

Now that my account of how the steps in my random walk became my career is complete, it is fair to ask if I would advise someone to consider a career in government statistics? Definitely, *yes!* As a major employer of statisticians (about 20%) and with positions in virtually every agency, government employment provides opportunities in many substantive areas of interest, as well as advancement opportunities at all degree levels. More important, work in the federal government provides you the opportunity to have an impact on critical data series or major policy issues. Although the starting salary can be a little lower than what other employers offer, the leave and retirement programs, steady employment, challenging problems, and other plusses even the score. If you are motivated by service and want to like your work and know it is important, then government may be the place for you.

Government agencies have both management and technical tracks as career options, with each track having similar compensation potential. In government, there are fits for diverse methodological backgrounds. While my career was well served by my having a broad background, others have made successful careers while remaining in one agency or by becoming experts in specific methodological areas. Further, the statistical units of federal government agencies consistently rate near the top of places to work in employer surveys.

Additionally, agencies may have student loan replacement programs or will pay for graduate work at either the master's or doctoral level. There are also government efforts to initiate legislation that will



Sidney Schwartz

Recent Appointment at GAO

Sidney H. Schwartz was recently promoted to director of the Center for Design, Methods, and Analysis in the

Applied Research and Methods team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The center's staff of social science analysts, survey specialists, statisticians, and computer specialists support and extend the work of other GAO teams by helping to conceptualize researchable questions, select appropriate research methodologies, design and implement data collection strategies, and gather and analyze complex data. The center's technical and specialist expertise contributes to the overall quality of the information with which GAO supports congressional and federal agency decisionmaking.

Prior to his promotion, Schwartz was a supervisory statistician in the center for which he is now director. Before coming to GAO, Schwartz was a statistician at the U.S. Postal Service (1985–1997) and U.S. Census Bureau (1979–1985).

For information about careers in the federal government, see www.amstat.org or fedstats.gov.

pay up to \$60,000 of graduate education in fields such as math and statistics in return for a three-year service commitment. Finally, there are opportunities to present papers at conferences or submit them to journals and to meet senior statisticians; they tend to be great advisers and mentors. While I've mentioned some who have been influential in my career, I offer my thanks and apologies to all those I do not have space to mention here.

So, all in all, as a statistician, a career in the federal government has a lot to offer, especially if you like variety as much as I do. Beginning a career with a federal agency can lead to many random steps (or unplanned opportunities) in government, with contracting firms in the private sector, or as a university faculty member. ■

Ronald S. Fecso is chief statistician, U.S. Government Accountability Office. The views expressed in this article are personal.

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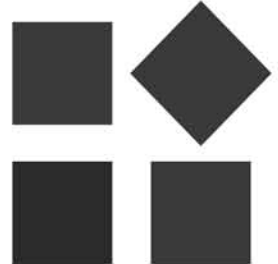
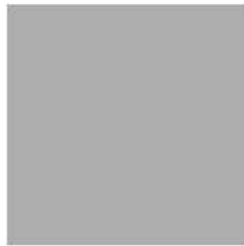
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Speaking Out and Reaching Out on Global Health Policy— The Case of HIV/AIDS

For this month's column, I'm pleased to introduce guest columnist Roger Hoerl of GE, who will lay out his ideas for how statisticians can and should make contributions to health policy. If you would like to be considered as a guest columnist, please contact Steve Pierson, pierson@amstat.org with your idea and a detailed outline.



Roger W. Hoerl, GE Global Research

Throughout the years, numerous ASA leaders have called for expanded efforts by the ASA and individual statisticians for making a greater impact on public policy (See the links at www.amstat.org/scipolicy). One of the most critical areas for such influence is global health.

While tremendous advances are being made in medical technology, millions of people continue to die from preventable diseases each year. Governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) are providing billions of dollars to address these issues, and while some progress is being made, millions continue to die unnecessarily. For example, about 2 million people died of AIDS-related illnesses last year, leaving behind millions of AIDS orphans. While Africa remains the epicenter of the AIDS pandemic, millions in China, India, Russia, and even the United States are infected with

HIV. In fact, AIDS is currently the leading cause of death for U.S. African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34.

What does this have to do with the ASA or statisticians? To answer that question, let me review a few figures. According to the latest UNAIDS estimate, the number of people currently living with HIV globally is 33.2 million, with an “uncertainty interval” (not a formal statistical confidence interval) of 30.6–36.1 million. However, the estimate from the 2006 report was 39.5 million infected, with an uncertainty interval of 34.7–47.1 million. The 2007 point estimate was outside the uncertainty interval of the previous year, with the significant drop in infections not being explained by deaths versus new infections. The 2007 uncertainty interval also does not include the 2006 point estimate. This awkward situation suggests a methodology issue. My point is not to be critical of UNAIDS, but rather to highlight the difficulty in estimating the number of people living with HIV.

One might ask if the accuracy of these estimates matters. The U.S. House recently passed a bill to reauthorize the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief with \$50 billion over the next five years. Organizations such as the Gates Foundation; the World Health Organization; and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria also apportion billions of dollars to AIDS relief. How can such significant funds be allocated between countries to have the greatest impact? How should they be allo-

cated within countries? How should decisions be made about balancing funding for AIDS relief with funding to fight malaria, dysentery, or other preventable diseases? Surely, accurate data on the extent of HIV infection is critical to sound decisionmaking and public policy.

There are a number of other AIDS policy issues being hotly debated in the public arena for which our objective, scientific input could provide guidance. For brevity, I will list only a few.

Estimating the impact on HIV infection of providing/not providing needle exchange programs for intravenous drug users

Estimating the impact on HIV infection of distributing/not distributing condoms in prisons

Providing scientific evidence of the relative effectiveness of different prevention strategies, including abstinence promotion, condom distribution, and various educational programs

While ASA members are already active in these areas, especially in the clinical trials of new anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs or potential HIV vaccines, I believe we can speak out and reach out more.

I became involved in AIDS policy issues during a six-month sabbatical from GE Global Research in 2007 that I used to study

the global AIDS pandemic. The culmination of this sabbatical was a month-long trip to Africa, involving time in Zambia, Uganda, and South Africa. I, along with research partner Presha Neidermeyer of West Virginia University, visited several nongovernment organizations, orphanages, clinics, and AIDS activists, meeting numerous people suffering from AIDS along the way. By design, we tended to avoid the official government establishments and focused more on interacting with people from all walks of life who are on the 'front lines' of the battle against AIDS in Africa. As can be imagined, it was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience, but also disturbing.

We obtained a tremendous amount of information. We also came away convinced that the AIDS crisis will not be solved anytime soon—but it can be solved. Somewhat unexpectedly, my statistical background proved invaluable, not so much from a mathematical point of view, but rather by enabling me to take an objective view of a very emotional topic, to gather relevant

data first hand, and to weigh conflicting and sometimes contradictory evidence to arrive at actionable conclusions. I suppose we could consider these elements of "statistical thinking."

Relative to statistical methods, my GE colleague Huaiyu Ma and I are evaluating uncertainty estimates of published HIV/AIDS infection models, research that will be presented at JSM. [Session 50, "Statistical Methods in Public Health," 4:00 p.m., Sunday, August 3.]

Neidermeyer and I are currently working on a book to document our findings and recommendations, and hopefully to influence public policy. In it, we will discuss five macro issues we think must be addressed to produce a solution to the AIDS pandemic. If you would like to read more about my trip to Africa or the book we are working on, visit www.grcblog.com/?author=51.

For those interested in HIV/AIDS, or global health policy in general, I invite you to attend session 473 at JSM in Denver this August—Statisticians: Speaking Out

and Reaching Out on Global Health Policy, Thursday, August 7, at 8:30 a.m. The purpose of this session is to bring together statisticians interested in global health care issues to share experiences and discuss opportunities to get more involved in reaching out beyond our profession, with the ultimate goal of having greater impact on public policy related to global health crises. I will share my experiences in Africa, and Donna Stroup of Data for Solutions, Inc. will discuss her experiences in the Caribbean and Eastern Europe, researching the consequences of obesity and smoking in the population. Also, Steve Pierson, the new ASA director of science policy, will share his insights into how statisticians can become more active contributors to public policy.

In summary, the ASA and the global statistical community have much to offer public health policy. I urge my fellow members to join me and the ASA in these efforts. ■



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Subhash Aryal

Subhash Aryal, a PhD student in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division and Center for Health Statistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, received the 2008 Haenszel Research Award. The Haenszel Research Award is presented annually to an outstanding student in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division during a special awards ceremony. The intent of the award is to foster high-quality research among epidemiology and biostatistics students.

Sujit Ghosh, Sayan Mukherjee, Anindya Roy

Sujit Ghosh of North Carolina State University, Sayan Mukherjee of Duke University, and Anindya Roy of University of Maryland Baltimore County recently received the International Indian Statistical Association's Young Statistician Award for their outstanding contributions to statistics and its applications. The awards were presented at IISA's conference at the University of Connecticut on May 24.

William Bell and Robert Groves

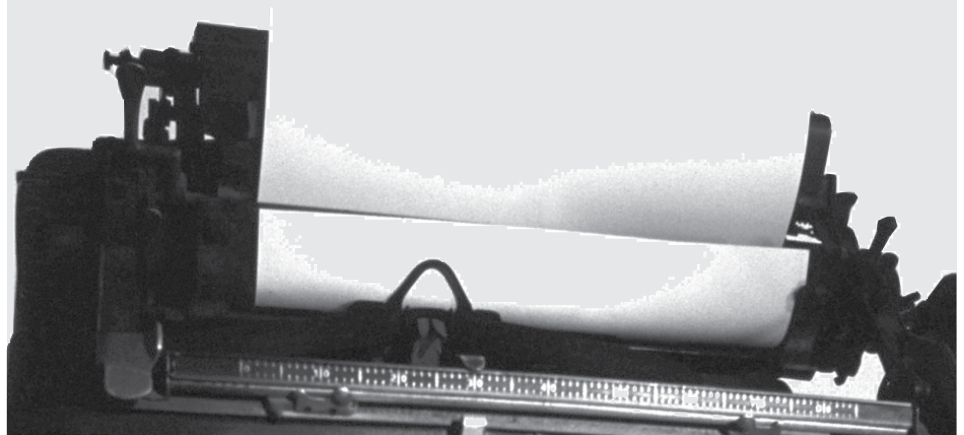
Submitted by Robert Parker,
Julius Shiskin Award Committee Chair

William R. Bell, a senior mathematical statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau, and Robert M. Groves, director of the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, have been selected as the recipients of the 2008 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. This award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy.

Bell is recognized for innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of seasonal adjustment, small area estimation, and time series modeling. Groves is recognized for innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of survey methods for the conduct of sample surveys of both households and establishments. Bell and Groves are the 34th and

STATISTICIANS IN THE NEWS

Read about your colleagues and friends in the news. Go to www.amstat.org and click on "Statisticians in the News."



The Pentagon's Latest Recruits: Professors

The Defense Department formed the first group of the National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellows. Read how the enlisted—including ASA member Carey E. Priebe—will conduct research for the nation's military.

Guatemala: The Secret Files

How Silicon Valley helps uncover a dirty war

PBS' "Frontline World's" Clark Boyd travels to Guatemala and highlights the humanitarian work of statistician Patrick Ball of Benetech. View the video about how a simple database application has the potential to bring human rights perpetrators to justice. www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/guatemala704

Related coverage on Patrick Ball and Benetech's work:

The Forensic Humanitarian - *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com/2008/02/17/magazine/17wwln-idealab-t.html?_r=2&ref=magazine&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

A Human Rights Statistician Finds Truth in Numbers - *The Christian Science Monitor*, www.csmonitor.com/2008/0207/p20s01-wogn.html

Why U.S. Infants Die Too Often

Marian MacDorman, a statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics, helps explain.

Terrorism Study Drops a Bombshell on Boise

Which city in the United States is most vulnerable to a terrorist attack? ASA member Walter W. Piegorsch, a professor at the University of Arizona, shares his coauthored four-year study with Lyndsey Layton and Ashley Surdin of the *The Washington Post*.

35th recipients of the Shiskin award and will be honored at events hosted by the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

David Dickey

Effective July 1, 2008, David Dickey was appointed a William Neal Reynolds Professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

The Reynolds professorships were established in 1950 by William Neal Reynolds—longtime president and board chair of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company—to recognize and support outstanding faculty achievement in research, teaching, and extension.

According to the endowment agreement, the professorships “will be for the purpose of selecting and retaining in the

college’s faculty and staff great scholars, great teachers, great scientists, and great interpreters.”

Imogene Grimes

Imogene Grimes was recently appointed vice president of data sciences strategic services for the biopharmaceutical services organization PAREXEL. Grimes, a leading biostatistician with more than 25 years of experience, is contributing to the continued expansion of PAREXEL’s data science services, including data management, biostatistics, and applications of information technology to the clinical development process.

“The biopharmaceutical industry is undertaking more complex clinical research, such as using adaptive designs with the potential to detect safety and efficacy signals earlier. Grimes will bring experience with advanced statistical methods to PAREXEL, which we believe will be a

tremendous asset to our clients in bringing novel treatments to patients sooner,” said Mark A. Goldberg, president of clinical research services and perceptive informatics at PAREXEL International.

Grimes holds a PhD in biostatistics from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A focus of Grimes’ career has been regulatory submissions of marketing applications using electronic media and, in particular, ensuring an understanding of regulatory expectations for statistics and data management. She currently serves as a board member of the Data Quality Research Institute and is a member of several industry organizations, including the ASA and International Biometric Society. Grimes also has presented several training courses and authored numerous articles about data management and statistics topics.

J. Stuart Hunter



Hunter

A world-renowned innovator and one of the most influential industrial statisticians of the last 50 years received an honorary doctor of science degree from Penn State. The university’s board of trustees approved J. Stuart

Hunter as a recipient; he will receive the degree at one of the university’s future commencement ceremonies.

Considered a pioneer in industrial experimental design, Hunter has spent his life helping to define and quantify basic industrial engineering concepts such as quality, safety, efficiency, and reliability and has made fundamental contributions to industry in the United States and abroad.

His ideas have been applied to a spectrum of pursuits in manufacturing, product design, and production systems development and improvement. He served as staff statistician for American Cyanamid Co. and as a member of the Mathematics Research Center at the University of Wisconsin.

Hunter, who currently teaches at Arizona State University, retired in 1988 as professor emeritus in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University, but has spent many years since as an industry consultant. His fundamental contributions to industry are

ASA Winners Announced at ISEF

The Society for Science & the Public (SSP), in partnership with the Intel Foundation, announced awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2008 Special Awards Ceremony on May 15 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Student winners were 9th through 12th graders who earned the right to compete by winning top prize at a local, regional, state, or national science fair. Special awards were presented by nearly 70 scientific, professional, and educational organizations and included scholarships, summer internships, book and equipment grants, and scientific field trips.

The American Statistical Association awards included the following:

First Award of \$1,000

Crowding-Out or Crowding-In: What Is the Relationship Between Government and Private Funding for Public Libraries?

Xiaomeng Zeng, 18, West High School, Iowa City, Iowa

Second Award of \$500

Application of Machine Learning Methods to Medical Diagnosis

Michael S. Cherkassky, 16, Edina High School, Edina, Minnesota

Third Award of \$250

The Effect of Visually Enhanced Medicine Labels on Recall Ability

Reed Hurdle Falkner, 18, Oxford High School, Oxford, Mississippi

Taylor Michael McGraw, 18, Oxford High School, Oxford, Mississippi

Bradley Douglas Shields, 18, Oxford High School, Oxford, Mississippi

All students will receive one-year subscriptions to *STATS: The Magazine for Students of Statistics* and *CHANCE*. Their schools also will receive a one-year school membership in the American Statistical Association.

ISEF is sponsored by Intel and has been administered by the SSP since its inception in 1950. SSP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the public engagement in scientific research and education. Its vision is to promote the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement: to inform, educate, inspire.

For details, visit www.societyforscience.org.

used daily to reduce process failure and efficiently allocate and deliver resources.

As the author or coauthor of some of the seminal books in his field, Hunter also has lectured extensively throughout the United States and overseas, particularly in Korea and China. He is a founding editor of *Technometrics*, published by the ASA and American Society for Quality (ASQ).

Hunter is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and has won several of the most prestigious national and international awards in statistics and industrial engineering. He is a fellow of the ASQ, the Royal Statistical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Hunter earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in engineering mathematics, and a doctorate in experimental statistics from North Carolina State University.

Courtesy of the Penn State web site,
<http://live.psu.edu/story/30900>

Jeannette Y. Lee

Jeannette Y. Lee recently joined the faculty of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock. She is responsible for directing the statistical activity within the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, located at UAMS.

Lee was previously with the Biostatistics Unit of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she was a professor in the Department of Medicine. She is the director of the statistical center for the AIDS-Associated Malignancies Clinical Trials Consortium, funded by NCI, and for the Sexually Transmitted Infections Clinical Trials Group, funded by NIAID. She has coauthored more than 100 papers and serves on a number of NIH review and advisory groups.

Larry Nelson



Nelson

Larry Nelson of North Carolina State University will receive the Rob Kempton Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Biometry in the Developing World on July 15 at IBC Dublin 2008.

Obituary

Daniel Goodman Horvitz



Horvitz

A devoted son, brother, husband, father, soldier, teacher, and mentor, Dan Horvitz died June 1 in Boca Raton, Florida, at 87. He was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and graduated from the University of Massachusetts, where he met his wife, Shirley. He earned a PhD in statistics at Iowa State University. He served in the U.S. Army on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, New Mexico, during WWII. He spent two years in Burma for the Ford Foundation and was among the earliest scientists to join the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) in 1962, rising to executive vice president in 1983.

Horvitz joined with Donovan Thompson, a fellow graduate student at Iowa State College, to advance the fledgling field of statistics in 1952 by creating the Horvitz-Thompson Estimator. The statistical tool—in wide use today—provides better estimates than simple random samples by allowing statisticians to weight factors within a population for improved accuracy.

At RTI, Horvitz helped design samples for the annual National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which rated U.S. student progress in mathematics, science, reading, and other disciplines. Students 9, 13, and 17 years old were tested. RTI helped launch the national test in 1969 and conducted the surveys, with an average annual sample of 75,000 students, until 1983.

In the mid-1970s, Horvitz directed survey design and data collection for the National Medical Care Expenditure Survey (NMCES). The study, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, required following patients' visits to hospitals and doctors to determine how the bill for each visit or stay was paid. It surveyed patients, doctors, hospitals, employers, and insurance companies. The education and health-cost surveys are still carried out by the federal government to guide policy changes.

Horvitz worked on new ways to model human populations and improve accuracy when asking sensitive questions about behaviors such as the use of illegal drugs and abortion. He taught at North Carolina State and UNC-Chapel Hill. His work helped federal policymakers better understand issues of health care expenditures, drug abuse, and educational progress. Horvitz was a former vice president and executive director of the American Statistical Association and received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences. He also received the ASA's Founders Award in 1993. Horvitz was a former trustee and president of the Blumenthal Jewish Home, now in Greensboro, and a former president of TempleBeth Or in Raleigh, North Carolina.

He is survived by three children—Gary of Richmond, California; Paul of West Newton, Massachusetts; and Barbara of Delray Beach, Florida—and three grandchildren, Casey, Eva, and Zachary.

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Obituary

Andrei Yakovlev

Jack Hall and Leonid Hanin

Andrei Yakovlev, professor and chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the University of Rochester, died on February 27, 2008.

Amstat News published an obituary provided by the press office of the university's medical center in the April issue. However, Yakovlev was an unusual and broadly accomplished scholar—a medical scientist, a cell biologist, a biomathematician, a probabilist, and a statistician. We therefore wish to publish additional information about his remarkable personality and career.

Andrei was born and raised in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg, Russia), his father a mathematician and senior naval officer. Although engrossed in mathematics—often carrying a mathematics book about as a child—he sought a different career. He earned an MD (Leningrad, 1967), followed by a PhD in

cell biology (Pavlov Institute of Physiology, 1973), and finally a DSc—the highest degree in Russia and required to qualify for full professor—in mathematics (Moscow State University, 1981). He set out on a career of research, applying mathematics and statistics to basic questions in biology and medical science. His unusual combination of training positioned him to transcend boundaries and cultures in the worlds of mathematics, statistics, biology, and medicine, and he did so consistently throughout his career.

After 25 years of research and teaching in Russia—14 as a department chair—and finding academic science under tight bureaucratic restrictions frustrating, Andrei left Russia in 1992. He then visited universities and research institutes in Europe, Australia, and the United States before settling at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah, as chair of biostatistics (1996–2002). His final posi-



Yakovlev

tion was as chair at Rochester (2003–2008), with a mandate to expand the activities of biostatistics into computational biology. Under his leadership, the faculty tripled and grant support expanded greatly. He was a natural leader, chairing departments during 26 of his 41-year post-MD career.

Andrei was honored by membership in the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (1992), a von Humboldt Award (1994), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1999), Fellow of IMS (1998) and ASA (2000), Honorary DSc at Idaho State (2002), among others. He gave more than 150 invited lectures in Europe and the United States (after leaving Russia) and served as associate editor of IMS's *Annals of Applied Statistics* and of *Biology Direct*. He became a U.S. citizen in 2005.

Andrei was foremost a researcher. He authored four research monographs and more than 200 publications, done jointly with many dozens of collaborators, including 10—biomathematicians, probabilists, statisticians, biologists, geneticists, and medical scientists—with 10–40 joint papers each. Every publication was directed toward the solution of a biological or medical science problem, but included innovative mathematical developments. Even a largely probabilistic or statistical paper was identified as having such a purpose.

Andrei made definitive and lasting contributions to a stunning number of fields: branching stochastic processes—especially multitype, age-dependent processes and associated statistical inference—stochastic models in radiation biology, cell population dynamics, carcinogenic risk assessment, stochastic models of carcinogenesis, cancer growth/progression/detection, optimal schedules of cancer surveillance and screening, optimization of radiation cancer treatment, cure models in survival analysis, statistical inference from microarray gene expression data, genetic regulatory networks, and on and on. His collaborators, without exception, attribute the innovative direction of their joint work to Andrei, their unquestioned leader. He was at the height of his scholarly activity, with seemingly endless energy.

Obituary

David Freeman Votaw

David Freeman Votaw Jr.—a mathematics professor, author, humanitarian, and 40-year resident of Winchester, Massachusetts—died Thursday, May 8, 2008.

He was born in Ava, Missouri, the son of the late David F. and Vivian May (Snow) Votaw. He was raised and educated in Missouri and Texas, earning his undergraduate degree from Texas State University in San Marcos and his master's degree from The University of Texas at Austin. Votaw also attended Princeton University, where he earned a doctor of philosophy degree in applied mathematics.

His studies at Princeton were interrupted when he enlisted in the service during World War II, serving as a Navy specialist. While stationed in Washington, DC, he met the love of his life, Sarah Jane Buster, who was working for the federal government. They shared 49 years of marriage until her passing.

Upon his return from the Navy, Votaw taught mathematics, statistics, and business administration at Yale, Boston College, Clark University, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Besides being a member of the American Statistical Association, he was a member of other technical professional societies, published one book, and authored a number of technical papers.

Votaw is survived by his children, James David Votaw of Quincy and Catherine Jane Votaw of Woburn.

Indeed, he was a master at stimulating colleagues and fellow researchers to think afresh. He regularly uncovered faults and omissions in established work and sought new approaches and solutions. Here is brief mention of a few drawn from his work in microarray analysis: The popular technique of normalization hides more than it clarifies; false discovery rate methods are highly unstable in correlated data; strong dependencies in gene expression data erode usefulness of pooling across genes; and since gene expression data are invariably aggregated over a random and unobserved number of cells, ignoring this leads to faulty statistical and network analysis. He and his colleagues made important contributions directed toward overcoming each of these shortcomings.

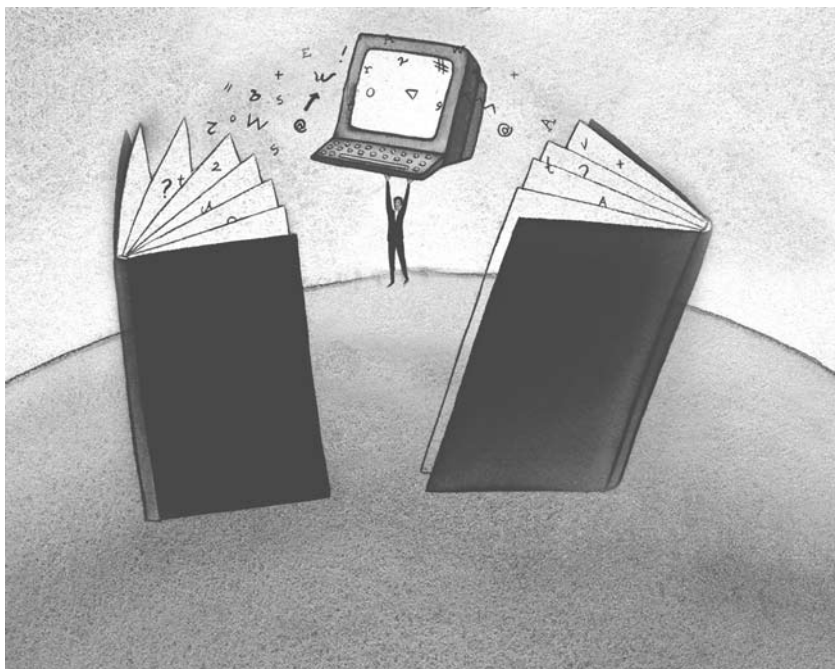
He was often appalled at the quality of refereeing and grant reviewing, feeling that personal biases often trumped open discussion and the advancement of science. He argued for an open system, as adopted by *Biology Direct*.

Andrei had uncanny power of persuasion, often motivating people to seek new directions and attain seemingly unattainable goals. He took special care of junior colleagues—providing inspiration, assurance, and research ideas—and tirelessly assisted with grant submissions. Although a person with strong opinions on virtually every subject—and never shy about expressing them—Andrei was a gentle man who genuinely cared deeply about the people with whom he interacted.

Andrei's scientific legacy does not consist only of ideas, methods, and results. Most importantly, he left behind scientific principles and research paradigms that will guide his coworkers and students for decades to come. He forged them through incisive analysis, trial and error, and excruciating—sometimes heated and fierce—debates with his colleagues, disciples, and coworkers.

On February 26, after sending a revised manuscript to colleagues late in the evening, Andrei retired. In the early morning hours, he suffered a massive heart attack and died. He will be sorely missed by his family—wife, Nina, and 11-year-old son, Yuri—friends, collaborators, colleagues, and, indeed, the scientific community at large. ■

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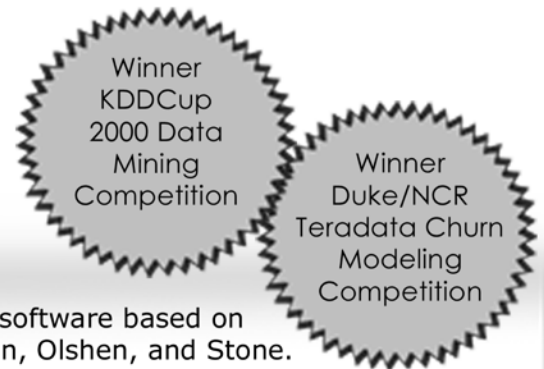
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TreeNet, Jerome Friedman's latest data mining tool, is based on boosted decision trees. TreeNet is an astonishingly accurate model builder and function approximation system that also serves as a powerful initial data exploration tool. Use TreeNet to extract the most important relationships in your data and calibrate how predictable the outcomes are. Then either use the TreeNet model directly or incorporate the results in CART, MARS, or conventional statistical models.



Random Forests, Leo Breiman's latest data mining technology, is based on learning ensembles of CART trees. By judiciously injecting randomness into the tree building process and then combining hundreds of these trees, RF is able to deliver high performance predictive models and a variety of novel exploratory data analysis results. RF also incorporates new metric free CLUSTER analyses that automatically select the variables used to define each cluster, with potentially different variables defining each cluster.

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Committee on Applied Statisticians

Dream Mile-High in Denver

Show Your Support for Applied Statistics

Mani Lakshminarayanan, Committee on Applied Statisticians Chair

If you are planning to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver this August, members of the Committee on Applied Statisticians would like you to participate in their three sponsored topic-contributed sessions. They also encourage you to share your thoughts about applied statistics at their annual business meeting, scheduled for Monday from 7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m. at the Hyatt, Capitol Ballroom 2.

Recent Developments in Method and Application in High-Dimensional 'Omics' Data, Sunday, August 3, 4:00 p.m.–5:50 p.m.

Shrinkage Approach to Gene-Set Analysis: SAGA, by Daniel C. Parks, Xiwu Lin, and Kwan Lee, all of GlaxoSmithKline

Estimation Equation–Based Causality Analysis with Application to Microarray Time Series Data, by Jianhua Hu of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Feifang Hu of the University of Virginia

Non-Negative Matrix Factorization of Microarray Data, by Katja S. Remlinger of GlaxoSmithKline, S. Stanley Young of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences, Paul Fogel (consultant), and Kejun (Jack) Liu of OmicSoft

Analysis of Multiple Cancer GEO Microarray Data Sets, by George Luta of Georgetown University, Paul Fogel (consultant), Kejun (Jack) Liu of OmicSoft, and S. Stanley Young of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences

Segmentation of Treatment Effect via Analyzing Genetic Marker Profiles, by Peter Hu of Merck & Co.

Statisticians Impacting Policy and Practice in the Real World: Case Studies from Medicine, Fisheries, and Banking, Monday, August 4, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Stochastic Modeling of Oyster Demographics in Support of an Ecological Risk Assessment To Address Management of the Chesapeake Bay Fishery, by Mary C. Christman and Thomas Bohrmann, both of the University of Florida

Statisticians Influencing Policy and Practice in Banking, by Leonard D. Roseman of Capital One Services, Inc.

Bedside Analysis of Cerebral Autoregulation in Very Low-Birth-Weight Infants, by D. Keith Williams of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Discussant: Gary Cutter of the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Presentation and Interpretation of Safety Data in Clinical Trials, Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Interactive and Exploratory Safety Data Analysis and Review, by Michael O'Connell of Insightful Corporation

Exploring the Individual, by Matthew Austin of Amgen Inc.

Analysis and Summarization of Longitudinal Clinical Lab Data Toward Detection of Hepatotoxicity, by Jonathan Schildcrout of Vanderbilt University

Detecting Potential Safety Issues in Clinical Trials by Bayesian Screening, by A. Lawrence Gould, Merck Research Laboratories

Discussant: Marie-Pierre Malice of Merck & Co.

Meet the Members

While you are at JSM and attending sessions, you may meet committee members. With support from ASA President Tony Lachenbruch and President-elect Sally Morton, the committee recently added four members: Marlene Egger of the University of Utah, Amarjot Kaur of Merck & Co., Andrea Piccinin of Oregon State University, and Ying So of SAS Institute. ■

Survey Review Committee

Need Help with a Survey? Visit Us at JSM

The ASA Survey Review Committee (SRC) reviews and approves surveys of the ASA membership and surveys sponsored by ASA sections and committees. The SRC is charged with maintaining methodological standards, minimizing respondent burden, and ensuring proposed surveys achieve their intended goals.

To assist ASA sections and committees planning surveys, the SRC will hold an open meeting during the 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings on Monday, August 4, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Denver, Agate C. Members and representatives of ASA sections and committees currently developing a survey or considering one in the near future are encouraged to attend. During the meeting, SRC members will be available to discuss all aspects of the survey process, including sample election methods, questionnaire design, survey implementation plans, and data processing and analysis. Representatives should bring any helpful information, such as a current draft or a past survey, and an implementation and sample selection plan.

SRC members review all aspects of the survey, from process to analysis. If you know of any ASA sections, chapters, or committees currently developing a survey or considering one, contact SRC Chair Virginia M. Lesser at lesser@science.oregonstate.edu.

More Volunteers Join ASA Committees

Jim Dickey, Committees Coordinator

With this August's Joint Statistical Meetings fast approaching, 2008 President-elect Sally Morton continues to name volunteers to serve on the ASA's more than 50 committees.

Beginning with the new committee chairs for 2009, **Edward A. Blair** of the University of Houston will take on that role for the Committee on Energy Statistics. **Vincent Iannacchione** of RTI International was just appointed to the committee and began serving immediately to replace a resigning member. Interestingly, both Blair and Iannacchione joined the ASA in 1978.

Three new members join the Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment: **Jeanne Lorenson** of Silver Spring, Maryland; **Ronald D. Fecso** of the General Accounting Office; and **Michael T. Longnecker** of Texas A&M. While Lorenson is new to both the association and committee service, Longnecker and Fecso

have long histories as ASA volunteers. Both have been association members for more than 30 years.

Immediately joining the Committee on Applied Statisticians (to complete the term of a resigning member) is **Marlene Egger** of the University of Utah. Egger, a long-time ASA member, comes to the committee with a strong volunteer résumé, including service as chair of both the Council of Chapters Government Board and the Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences.

Marilyn M. Seastrom of the Department of Education will become a member of the Deming Lectureship Committee next year. Seastrom recently served as secretary of the Section on Survey Research Methods.

Nandini Kannan of The University of Texas-San Antonio takes a slot on the Committee on Outreach Education. No stranger to educational matters, Kannan served in 2004–2005 as the chair of the

Advisory Committee on Continuing Education. She also has been the president of the ASA's San Antonio Chapter.

Another education committee appointee is **Brian A. Harris-Kojetin** of the Office of Management and Budget to the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education. Harris-Kojetin was recently a member of the Survey Review Committee.

Roger E. Tourangeau of the University of Maryland reverses Harris-Kojetin's volunteer path. A former member of the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education (as well as the Census Advisory Committee), Tourangeau will join the Survey Review Committee in 2009. Appropriately, he is also a past chair of the Section on Survey Research Methods.

Finally, **Michael Messner** of the EPA takes on the task of helping select the recipient of the W. J. Youden Award in Interlaboratory Testing, given by the ASA committee of the same name. This will be his first volunteer assignment.

Each year, more than 100 ASA volunteers are appointed to serve on the association's more than 50 committees. You can volunteer for committee service or recommend another at www.amstat.org/comm/nominations. ■



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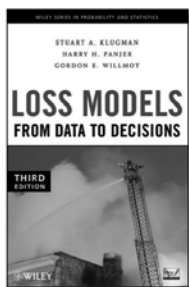
Volunteers Wanted

Have you ever thought about serving on an ASA committee of interest to you? The success of the ASA depends on the ASA committees and the volunteers who serve on them.

Each year, vacancies are filled in nearly all of the ASA's 50+ committees, usually for a three-year term. A list and description of all the committees can be found at www.amstat.org/comm.

You can volunteer or recommend another by going to www.amstat.org and clicking on the blue-gray button in the right-hand column, labeled "Volunteer or Make Recommendations for ASA Committee Membership."

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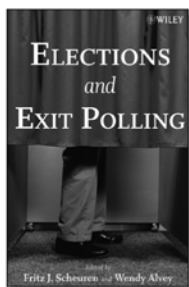
Loss Models: From Data to Decisions, 3rd Edition

Stuart A. Klugman, Harry H. Panjer, Gordon E. Willmot

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This book covers the essential material needed for a clear understanding of the classical areas of risk theory, loss distributions, and survival models for both aspiring and practicing actuaries.

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This book draws on the most modern research by active scholars and practitioners on the issues, processes, and people involved in modern-day elections and exit polling.

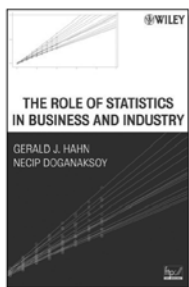


Statistical Methods in e-Commerce Research

Wolfgang Jank, Galit Shmueli

9780470120125 • Cloth • 448 pages • \$94.95 • Jul 2008

This edited volume integrates, for the first time in book format, statistical thinking into the process of collecting, cleaning, displaying, and analyzing e-commerce data.

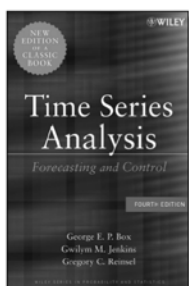


The Role of Statistics in Business and Industry

Gerald J. Hahn, Necip Doganaksoy

9780471218746 • Paper • 352 pages • \$79.95 • Jun 2008

This book illustrates the use of statistics for solving key problems that exist in modern day business and industry.



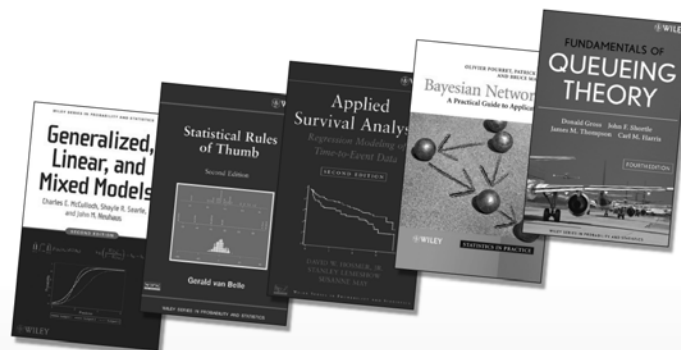
Time Series Analysis: Forecasting and Control, 4th Edition

George E.P. Box, Gwilym M. Jenkins, Gregory C. Reinsel

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Donald Gross, John F. Shortle, James M. Thompson, Carl M. Harris

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The EM Algorithm and Extensions, 2nd Edition

Geoffrey J. McLachlan, Thiriyambakam Krishnan

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Statistical Rules of Thumb, 2nd Edition

Gerald van Belle

9780470144480 • Paper • 312 pages • \$54.95 • Jul 2008

Applied Survival Analysis

Regression Modeling of Time-to-Event Data, 2nd Edition

David W. Hosmer, Stanley Lemeshow, Susanne May

9780471754992 • Cloth • 416 pages • \$110 • Feb 2008

Bayesian Networks: A Practical Guide to Applications

Olivier Pourret, Patrick Naïm, Bruce Marcot

9780470060308 • Cloth • 446pp • \$110.00 • Apr 2008

Statistical Issues in Drug Development, 2nd Edition

Stephen Senn

9780470018774 • Cloth • 524pp • \$130.00 • Jan 2008

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www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/placement

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Biometrics

JSM Activities, Winners Announced

Edited by Ralitzia Gueorgieva, Biometrics Section Publications Officer

The David P. Byar Young Investigator Award is given annually by the Biometrics Section to a new researcher who presents an original manuscript at the Joint Statistical Meetings. The award commemorates David Byar, an internationally known biostatistician who made significant contributions to the development and application of statistical methods during his career at the National Cancer Institute. This year, there were 22 papers submitted, with three travel award winners chosen in addition to the Byar award winner.

Rebecca Hubbard, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington, was chosen for the David P. Byar Young Investigator Award. She will receive a \$1,000 award for her paper, "Modeling Risk Factors for Alzheimer's Disease Progression Using a Nonhomogeneous Markov Process," which she will present at JSM in Denver.

Additionally, the following three section members were given this year's travel awards:

Hongyu Miao, a faculty member in the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, for "Differential Equation Modeling of HIV Viral Fitness Experiments: Model Identification, Model Selection, and Multimodel Inference"

Megan Othus, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard University, for "A Class of Semiparametric Mixture Cure Survival Models with Dependent Censoring"

Ronglai Shen, a member of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, for "Reconstructing Tumor-Wise Protein Expression in Tissue Microarray Studies Using a Bayesian Cell Mixture Model"

Byar Award Committee

Katie Kerr
University of Washington

Amita Manatunga
Emory University

Paul Vos
East Carolina University

Jeremy Taylor
University of Michigan

Daniel Heitjan
University of Pennsylvania

Tom Ten Have
University of Pennsylvania

Travel award winners will receive \$500 to apply toward their travel expenses so they may present their papers at JSM. All winners will receive a certificate and plaque commemorating their awards at the Biometrics Section business meeting Monday, August 4, at JSM.

The committee was enthusiastic about the response and exceptional quality of applications. Section officers thank all applicants and committee members for their excellent work.

Business Meeting at JSM

The Biometrics Section mixer and business meeting will take place Monday, August 4, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Room 208 of the Colorado Convention Center. In addition to a brief summary and discussion of section business, the David P. Byar Young Investigator Award and section travel awards will be presented. All are encouraged to attend, and refreshments will be served. Come meet your fellow Biometrics Section members.

JSM Program

The theme of this year's Joint Statistical Meetings is "Communicating Statistics: Speaking Out and Reaching Out." Be sure to check out the following events sponsored by the Biometrics Section.

Continuing Education

August 3, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Statistical Challenges in Proteomics, by Scott C. Schmidler

Invited Sessions

August 3, 4:00 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

"Statistical Methods for Multivariate Dental Data"

August 4, 2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

"Challenges of Statistical Inference in 'Large p, Small n' Problems"

August 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

"New Statistical and Computational Methods for Analysis of Genomic Data with a Graphical Structure"

August 6, 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

"A New Paradigm of Statistical Data Analysis: 'Omics' Data"

August 7, 8:30 p.m. to 10:20 p.m.

"Time Series Analysis via Mechanistic Models"

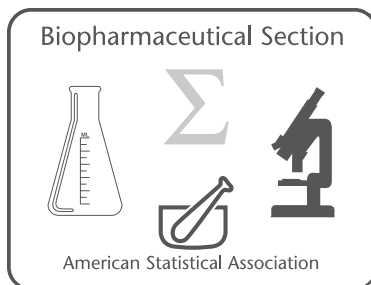
Check the online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/onlineprogram for updates on locations and times.

JSM 2009

It is already time to start thinking about invited sessions for next year's Joint Statistical Meetings, which will be held August 2–6 in Washington, DC. Anyone interested in organizing an invited session or who has ideas for one should contact the section's 2009 Program Chair, Wensheng Guo, at wguo@mail.med.upenn.edu. Also, ideas for short courses should be submitted to 2009 Continuing Education Chair Gerald Heatley at jerry.heatley@thoratec.com. ■

Sponsored Sessions Numerous in Denver

Kalyan Ghosh, Program Chair, 2008, Biopharmaceutical Section of ASA



The 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings are coming up in Denver, Colorado, starting Sunday, August 3, and ending Thursday, August 7. Continuing Education classes start Saturday, August 2.

The Biopharmaceutical Section, one of the largest sections of the ASA, is sponsoring or cosponsoring a number of sessions this year. Four invited, 24 topic-contributed, and 17 contributed sessions will be primarily sponsored by our section and cover a variety of topics, from the discovery to the late phase of drug and device development. The section also is sponsoring 16 roundtables with lunch—five on Monday, six on Tuesday, and five on Wednesday. Additionally, section officers have organized three Continuing Education (CE) courses on relevant topics in drug development. Significant efforts have been made to distribute the large number of section activities across the five days, including Sunday afternoon and Thursday morning.

Sponsored CE Courses

Analysis of Clinical Trials: Theory and Applications, by Alex Dmitrienko, Christy Chuang-Stein, and Keaven Anderson

Analysis of Censored Health Outcomes Data: Developments for Last 10 Years, by Heejung Bang and Hongwei Zhao

Evaluating Probability of Success for Internal Decisionmaking in Early Drug Development, by Narinder Nangia, Martin King, and Jane Qian

Sponsored Invited Sessions

New Directions in Safety Planning and Analysis for Clinical Development

Nested and Crossed Random Effects in Nonlinear Models

Adaptive Designs: Perspectives from Academia, Industry, and Regulatory

Imaging Biomarkers in Oncology

In addition to the above sessions, the section is cosponsoring 20 other invited sessions. And as is the case every year, the section will award the presenters of the 2007 best contributed paper and 2008 best student paper at the Biopharmaceutical Section meeting and mixer. Information about section activities will be available at the mixer, and members will have a chance to network with others and give feedback.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver this August. ■

FDA/Industry Statistics Workshop

Jeff Maca, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and Ning Li, FDA

The 12th FDA/Industry Statistics Workshop is scheduled for September 15–17 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Virginia. It is cosponsored by the Biopharmaceutical Section of the American Statistical Association and the Food and Drug Administration Statistical Association. Short courses are scheduled for the first day, followed by two days of sessions on the science and statistics associated with developing medical products (e.g., pharmaceuticals, biologics, and devices). The workshop has been popular since its inception because it is designed to bring together statisticians from industry, academia, and the FDA, and it provides a unique opportunity for open dialogue about issues of mutual interest.

The short courses include Clinical Trial Adaptive Designs, by James Hung and Sue-Jane Wang; Biomarkers in Risk Prediction, by Margaret Pepe; Statistical Graphics, by Frank Harrell; Multiple Testing Problems in Pharmaceutical Statistics, by Alex Dmitrienko; Meta-Analysis of Clinical T, by Anne Whitehead; and Applications of Bayesian Statistics in Clinical Trials, by Tom Louis, Andy Mugglin, and Scott Berry.

A series of plenary and parallel sessions will focus on a variety of important, timely issues, including safety risk assessments, adaptive designs, clinical trial strategies, noninferiority trials, statistical challenges/issues in various therapeutic areas and vaccines, clinical trial simulation and modeling, preclinical statistics, and mixed effect modeling.

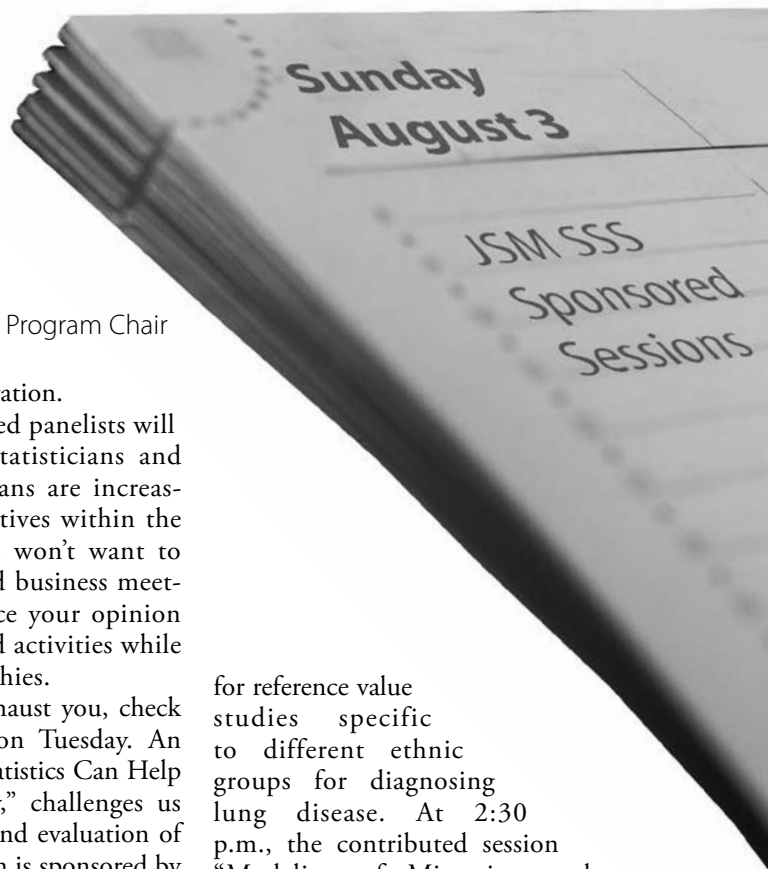
Based on continued positive feedback from previous attendees, luncheon roundtables—with moderated discussion on a variety of topics—will take place on September 16.

The Marriott Crystal Gateway is a premier meeting site, located minutes from downtown Washington, DC, and Reagan National Airport. The hotel offers a full suite of amenities and services, including direct access to the Washington Metro from the lobby. A block of sleeping rooms has been arranged for workshop attendees. Visit www.amstat.org/meetings/fdaworkshop for details, including the preliminary program, a list of workshop organizers, the registration form, and information about hotel reservations.

The FDA/Industry Statistics Workshop is a unique forum for statisticians to discuss topics of mutual interest. The organizing committee looks forward to seeing you in September.

JSM 2008: A Program You Won't Want to Miss

Jana Asher, SSS Program Chair



This year, the Social Statistics Section will be the primary sponsor for an exciting and diverse set of sessions, including four invited, three topic-contributed, and six contributed—a total of 13. That number may seem familiar. In fact, there are exactly 13 general session slots on the JSM program, and the SSS is the primary sponsor for exactly one session in each slot.

Sunday, August 3, the SSS will sponsor two contributed sessions: “Linear Modeling Methods for Education Statistics and Other Social Statistics” at 2 p.m. and “Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Principal Components Analysis” at 4 p.m. The first session will look at specific analysis projects related to a kindergarten Spanish immersion program, high-school coursework and university student retention, self and peer evaluations in a medical school student survey, and modeling of infant survival rates. The second will cover such topics as multiple confirmatory factor analysis, Toeplitz structures, and multitrait and multimethod models.

The next day is full, with a topic-contributed session titled “Value-Added Models for Student Achievements” at 8:30 a.m., a contributed session called “Rethinking Established Practice” at 10:30 a.m., a roundtable with lunch at 12:30 p.m., an invited session titled “To the Nth Power: Younger Statisticians Taking the Lead” at 2 p.m., and the section’s open business meeting and social at 5:30 p.m.

The first session will include both the study of teacher effects on student learning and test score ceiling effects on teacher and school rankings. The second session will look at many problematic aspects of established statistical practice, from potential dependency issues in meta-analysis to the use of physics-based models for social science applications to the real beginning

of the “baby boom” generation.

After lunch, the invited panelists will discuss how younger statisticians and nontraditional statisticians are increasingly leading new initiatives within the profession. Finally, you won’t want to miss our social hour and business meeting, where you can voice your opinion about SSS initiatives and activities while enjoying delicious munchies.

If Monday doesn’t exhaust you, check out the SSS offerings on Tuesday. An invited session, titled “Statistics Can Help Reduce Child Mortality,” challenges us to improve monitoring and evaluation of aid programs. This session is sponsored by eight committees and sections and promises to be a popular and important event. At 10:30 a.m., the winners of the Joint Student Paper Competition (sponsored by SSS, GSS, and SRMS) will receive their awards and present their papers in a topic-contributed session. Topics discussed during this session will include an approach to dual system estimation for the census via local post-stratification and the calculation of cell bounds and disclosure risks in contingency tables. At 2 p.m., SSS will sponsor a contributed session, titled “Bayesian Methods for the Social Sciences,” which will focus on Bayesian methods for a diverse set of data, from crop insurance contracts to electoral vote totals.

Our jam-packed schedule continues on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. with a topic-contributed session, titled “Recent Developments in Transportation Statistics.” That session will be followed by an invited session, “Measuring Health Care Disparities,” at 10:30 a.m., which will explore the relationship between geographic area, race/ethnicity and health care disparities, discrimination in cancer screening, weight-loss interventions for African-American women, and the need

for reference value studies specific to different ethnic groups for diagnosing lung disease. At 2:30 p.m., the contributed session “Modeling of Migration and Social Networks” will bring together papers that explore respondent-driven sampling, the relationship between home ownership and neighborhood stability, modeling of migrations flows, and social network models.

If you are still with us on Thursday, two excellent sessions are planned. The first, at 8:30 p.m., is the invited session “Statistical Measures Can Help Restore Confidence in U.S. Elections.” That session will include a look at the first poll on the experience of voters during the voting process, as well as information about how ASA members are helping the voting reform process. Finally, at 10:30 a.m., a contributed session titled “Causal Inference and Factor Analysis in the Social Sciences” will complete the SSS program.

As well as being the primary sponsor for these activities, the Social Statistics Section is a secondary sponsor for many other exciting sessions. Chances are that the SSS is cosponsoring a session of interest to you, so check out the entire JSM 2008 program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/onlineprogram, and we’ll see you in Denver in August. ■

We thank the following JSM 2008 Sponsors for their financial support:

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Course to Cover Methods for Obtaining Samples from Networks

S RMS is pleased to cosponsor Sampling in Networks—a short course to be taught by Steven K. Thompson of Simon Fraser University—Sunday, August 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at JSM in Denver. Registration for JSM 2008 is now open, and significant cost savings can be had if you register for the meetings and short courses on or before July 17.

This short course will cover methods for obtaining samples from networks and using the sample data to make inference about characteristics of the population network. Network models are increasingly used to describe populations, including socially networked human populations, computer and communication networks, and gene regulatory networks. A network has nodes (e.g., people) and links (e.g., relationships between people). The nodes may have characteristics of interest, and the relationships may be of different types and strengths. However, network data generally represent a sample from the wider population network of interest.

In many cases, the only practical way to obtain a large enough sample from the population is to follow links from sample individuals to add more participants to the sample. For example, in studies of the risk behaviors of people at risk for HIV/AIDS, the population is hidden, so standard sampling designs cannot be applied. Instead, researchers follow social referrals from individuals in the sample to find more members of the hidden population. Similarly, in studies of the World Wide Web, links or connections from sites in the sample are followed to add more sites to the sample.

Network methods also turn out to be useful for spatial sampling in environmental and ecological sciences, where the populations tend to be highly clustered or rare. Link-tracing sampling designs will be described, together with design-based and Bayes methods for estimating population characteristics based on such samples. Computational methods and available software also will be described.

Course participants will learn basic ideas and modern methods for network sampling and inference. Introduction to available software and computational methods will facilitate course participants in implementing network sampling and inference methods in their own work.

For details about this course, visit www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/onlineprogram or contact Leyla Mohadjer at leylamohadjer@westat.com. Anyone who has suggestions for short course topics or is interested in finding out more about how to submit a proposal to teach a short course at a future JSM conference also should contact Mohadjer. ■

Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences

SPES Gives Generously to 2008 JSM Program

Randy Tobias, SPES JSM Program Chair, SAS Institute Inc.

More than 70 independent abstracts were submitted to the Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences for the 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver. The SPES program chair, with the help of fellow members of the JSM program committee, strove to put these abstracts into coherent sessions that reflected broad themes. About half the 11 contributed sessions thus constructed reflect the general statistical problems with which SPES members are typically concerned: experimental design and analysis, reliability, and computer experimentation.

Many of the remaining contributions involve novel applications of statistics to problems in physical and engineering sciences, so several contributed sessions were organized around applied themes. Some of these applications are isotope identification for detecting nuclear threats, wireless sensor network design, disaster recovery planning, and predicting surface roughness in a micro-cutting process.

In addition to traditional paper presentations, more and more JSM participants are recognizing that a poster is a great way to present contributed work to as many colleagues as possible—without the time constraints of a contributed talk. Thirteen posters were submitted to SPES for the Denver meetings, and they will be presented in the regular poster sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Topics run from theoretical to applied, including “Numerical Error in ODEs,” “Equivalency Criteria in Pharmaceutical versus Engineering Applications,” “Software To Support Weibull Inference,” and “Parameter Estimation in Astrophysical Accretion Disk Models.”

SPES Mixer

Don't forget the joint business meeting/mixer of SPES and Q&P (Quality and Productivity). It will be held in Capitol Ballroom 6 in the Hyatt Regency Denver Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Come meet the section officers, hear the very latest section news, congratulate the winners of the best paper and best posters from JSM 2007 (see last December's issue of the SPES/Q&P newsletter for who they were), eat and drink, and generally enjoy one another's company. And don't forget the fantastic door prizes! If your organization would like to donate door prizes for the mixer, contact Tom Loughin at tloughin@sfu.ca.

Consulting Sessions Communicate Statistics

Paul Stewart, Statistical Consulting Section Publications Officer

Communicating statistics is the theme of the annual Joint Statistical Meetings, held this year in Denver from August 3–7. Whether by a nonstop flight or iteratively, those converging on the Colorado Convention Center will have the opportunity to attend many excellent theme-focused sessions. Among them, the Statistical Consulting Section will sponsor or cosponsor a roundtable with coffee, two roundtables with lunch, five invited sessions, four topic-contributed sessions, and numerous contributed paper and poster presentations.

The following section-sponsored sessions will focus on the myriad aspects of communicating statistics in the context of statistical consulting.

Invited

August 5, 10:30 a.m. Consulting Service Models for Academic Medical Centers: What Works, What Doesn't Work, and Filling the Growing Need

August 5, 2:00 p.m. Communicating Technical Material with Nonstatisticians

August 6, 8:30 a.m. Statistical Consulting and Collaboration in Private Industries

August 6, 2:00 p.m. Statistics Education in the Health Sciences During the Clinical and Translational Science Era: Bench to Bedside to Populations

August 7, 8:30 a.m. Communicating Statistics: Speaking Out and Reaching Out

Topic-Contributed

August 3, 2:00 p.m. Generalized Linear Mixed Models with Applications in Biometry

August 4, 10:30 a.m. Communicating Statistics Through Collaborative Problemsolving

August 5, 8:30 a.m. Statistical Consulting in Civil Litigation

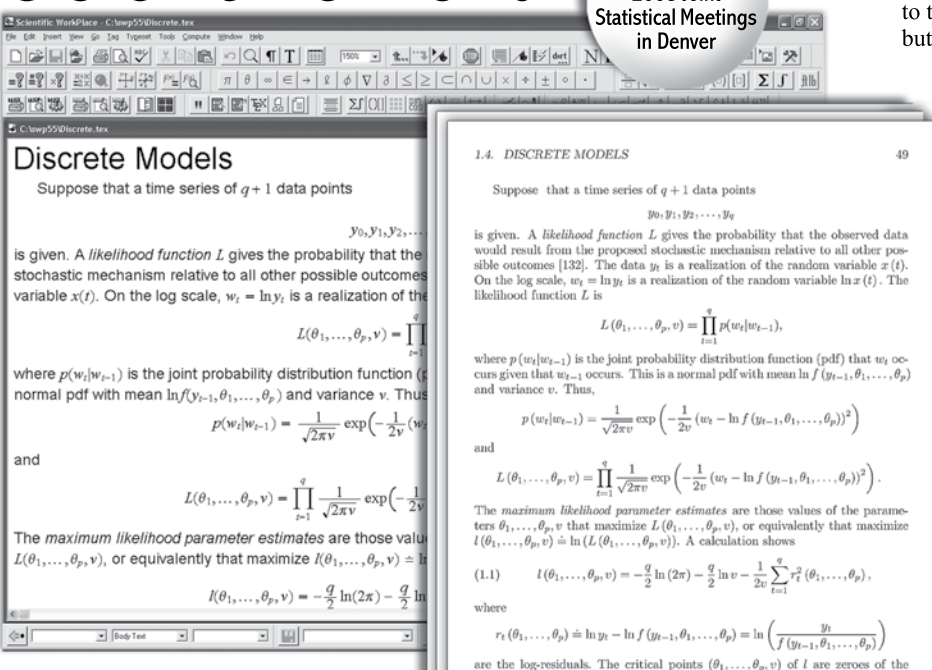
August 6, 10:30 a.m. Where Training Diverges: Nontraditional Paths to Statistical Consulting

By the way, the organizers of these topic-contributed sessions received the 2008 travel awards from the Statistical Consulting Section. Congratulations to Janet Myhre, Duane Steffey, and Dale Glaser. Details of those awards can be found at www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl/newsletter.cfm.

Finally, for a fabulous communication experience, come to the Statistical Consulting Section's open business meeting August 5 at 5:30 p.m. ■

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Statistical Meetings
in Denver

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Section JSM Lineup Offers Host of Opportunities

Jackie Miller, Program Chair

JSM 2008 in Denver is shaping up to be exciting for the Section on Statistical Education. We have five invited, 13 topic-contributed, and eight contributed sessions. In addition, we have cosponsored five sessions, which means you will have at least two opportunities to hear about section-related topics during each session slot throughout JSM.

Invited Sessions

Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Training TAs To Teach in Graduate School and Beyond

Monday, 2:00 p.m. Pedagogical Issues in an Introductory Statistics Course

Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. Innovative and Controversial Approaches to Student Assessment

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Stirring the Pot: Radical Ideas in Statistics Education

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Teaching Introductory Statistics Online

Topic-Contributed Sessions

Sunday, 2:00 p.m. An Overview of K–16 Poster and Project Competitions

Sunday, 4:00 p.m. Clickers in the Statistics Classroom

Monday, 8:30 a.m. Best Practices in Statistics Training: Lessons Learned from VIGRE Programs

Monday, 10:30 a.m. Teaching Through Service Learning: Getting Statistics Out of the Classroom While Enhancing Learning

Monday, 2:00 p.m. Getting It Real: Group Projects and Critical Thinking Through Exposure to Reality

Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. Spanning the Globe: The Introductory Stats Course as a Gateway to the Rest of the World

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Research Using the Survey of Attitudes Toward Statistics

Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. NSF Programs Supporting Statistics Education and Strategies for Becoming a Successful Investigator

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Statistical Literacy 2008

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. Collaborative Projects in Statistics Education Research

Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. Teaching Ethics in the Statistics Class

Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Challenges and Opportunities for Using R and Other Software in Introductory and Intermediate Probability and Statistics

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. How To Publish Your Book with the ASA-SIAM Series on Statistics and Applied Probability

Contributed Sessions

Sunday, 4:00 p.m. Student Success in K–12 and Beyond

Monday, 8:30 a.m. Statistics as Liberal Arts, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Outreach

Monday, 10:30 a.m. Graphical Displays, Maps, and Active Learning

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Technology for Teaching Statistics in the Traditional and Online Classrooms

Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. Teaching Advanced Topics

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. From Teaching Business Students to Teaching Paradoxes

Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. From the Golden Ratio to Elephants: A Collection of Viewpoints on Teaching Statistics

Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Reform, Redesign, and Innovation in Teaching and Assessment of Learning

There are excellent sessions throughout the week, as the program chairs were encouraged to have a strong program on each day. I hope you enjoy the lineup.

Even More To Attend

In addition to technical sessions, the section is sponsoring a meeting for isolated statisticians Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and a

business meeting Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. This year, we are celebrating the 100th birthday/anniversary of Student's t distribution with a "students' tea," which will be held immediately before the business meeting. Tell your students about the Students' Tea: A Get-Together for Students Interested in Statistics Education. Chris Malone and Tisha Hooks, both of Winona State University, will host the event.

Also, think about signing up for some of the exciting roundtables with coffee or lunch that Peter Westfall, the section's 2009 program chair, organized. In his words:

Coffee and/or lunch. What better way to meet fellow statistics teachers, share ideas, and learn new skills and tricks? The Section on Statistical Education will sponsor an excellent set of coffee and luncheon roundtables from August 4–6 at this year's JSM in Denver. There will be three roundtables with coffee and three roundtables with lunch each day. Topics include assessment, outreach, computing, biometrics, quantitative literacy, nonstatisticians teaching statistics, barriers to learning, student evaluations, distance education, active learning, myths and fallacies, and multivariate thinking. There is an excellent lineup of presenters, including Bernie Harris, Cynthia Gargano, Deborah Nolan, Dexter Whittinghill, John Bailer, Mark Berenson, Milo Schield, Monnie McGee, Patricia Rutledge, Patti Collings, Paul Fields, and Sue B. Schou. Consider attending multiple roundtables.

On behalf of Peter Westfall and me, we welcome you to the 2008 JSM program for the Section on Statistical Education. Register early and often (okay, just once), and we'll see you in Denver! ■

Roundtables, Short Courses Highlight This Year's JSM

Bill Barlow, Section Program Chair, and Dylan Small, Section Publications Officer

The Statistics in Epidemiology (SIE) Section is pleased to serve as primary sponsor of two short courses, four invited sessions, six topic-contributed sessions, 15 contributed sessions, four roundtables with lunch, and three roundtables with coffee at this year's Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver. We encourage our members and other interested persons to attend these courses and sessions. Here are the details:

Short Courses

Sunday, August 3, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Design and Analysis of Epidemiologic Studies of Gene-Environment Interactions, by Raymond Carroll of Texas A&M University and Nilanjan Chatterjee of the National Cancer Institute.

Most common human diseases have a multifactorial etiology involving a complex interplay of genetic and environmental exposures. Understanding how genetic and environmental exposures interact and jointly influence the risk of a complex disease can be important for both biological and public health purposes. We will present the state of the art of efficient design and analysis for studies of gene-environment interaction by statisticians, epidemiologists, and geneticists. Topics covered will include population- and family-based case-control designs, stratified sampling designs, modern semiparametric methods for analysis of case-control data, estimation of haplotype-environment interactions, and flexible modeling approaches to empirical Bayes methods. We will blend theory and applications with illustrations using real examples and software implementation.

Monday, August 4, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Statistical Evaluation of Medical Tests and Biomarkers for Classification, by Margaret S. Pepe and Holly Janes of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Todd A. Alonzo of the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Attention Students

If tickets for roundtables with coffee or lunch are still available at the start of JSM, you may purchase tickets for those sponsored by the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology and be reimbursed. Contact Bill Barlow at williamb@crab.org for details.

Development of biomarkers and medical diagnostic devices has accelerated. Their rigorous evaluation is a high priority for research, yet principles and techniques for the design and analysis of these studies are not widely known. There are fundamental differences among methods for therapeutic and etiologic studies. Moreover, much basic methodology has developed recently. We will cover estimation and comparison of Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves and describe extensions to adjust for covariates that affect biomarker/test measurements. For assessing factors associated with test performance, we will present ROC regression methods. We also will consider how to evaluate the benefit of a new test when standard tests or clinical variables exist. Second, we will consider the design of case-control studies most common in this field. We will present sample size calculations and optimal choice of case-control ratio and discuss the attributes and limitations of matching controls to cases. Third, we will consider prospective studies. Finally, we will discuss problems incurred when the gold standard reference test is, itself, subject to error. A suite of freely available Stata programs will implement analyses. Prerequisite: introductory statistics.

Invited Sessions

Monday, August 4, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Current Issues in Molecular Epidemiology: Heterogeneity and High Dimensionality

Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Causal Inference in Vaccine Studies

Wednesday, August 6, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Disease Prediction and Model Validation: Tools for the Real World

Thursday, August 7, 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

Radiation Exposure Effects Research:

Moving Forward After 60 Years of Following A-Bomb Survivors

Topic-Contributed Sessions

Sunday, August 3, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Methodological Challenges Encountered at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention

Monday, August 4, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

New Statistical Methods and Challenges in Neurodegenerative Disease Research

Tuesday, August 5, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Statistical Issues in Biomarker and Imaging Studies

Wednesday, August 6, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Multimarker Analysis in Genetic Association Studies

Wednesday, August 6, 10:30 a.m.–

12:20 p.m. Counting the Dead in Iraq

Thursday, August 7, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Assessing Bias in Pre-Clinical and Clinical Diagnostic Studies

Contributed Sessions

Sunday, August 3, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Spatial Variation and Risk Factors for Disease

Sunday, August 3, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Applications of Survival Time Models

Sunday, August 3, 4:00 p.m.–5:50 p.m.

Models for Longitudinal Data

Monday, August 4, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Model-Fitting

Monday, August 4, 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

Genetic Association Studies

Monday, August 4, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Variations on Designs

Tuesday, August 5, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

Modeling Mortality

Tuesday, August 5, 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
Methods for Survival Time Analyses

Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.
Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Wednesday, August 6, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.
Testing and Estimation

Wednesday, August 6, 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
Alternative Measures of Association

Wednesday, August 6, 10:30 a.m.–
12:20 p.m. Association of Genetic Factors
with Outcome

Wednesday, August 6, 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m.
Measurement Error and Control of Bias

Thursday, August 7, 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.
Applications of Epidemiologic Models

Thursday, August 7, 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
Linkage Analysis

Roundtables

Roundtables with coffee are from 7:00
a.m.–8:15 a.m. and include the following:

August 4 Bayesian Methods for High-
Dimensional Data, by David Dunson of
the National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences

August 5 Statistical Analysis of Causal
Intermediate Effects, by Giovanni
Filardo of Baylor Research Institute and
Cody Hamilton of Edwards Lifesciences

August 6, Methods for Assessing
Exposures to Mixtures of Chemicals, by
Enrique F. Schisterman of the National
Institute of Child Health and Human
Development

Roundtables with lunch are from 12:30
p.m.–1:50 p.m. and include the following:

August 4 Analysis of Longitudinal
Complex Survey Data Sets, by
Punam Pahwa of the University of
Saskatchewan

August 5 Statistical Methods in Breast
Cancer Research, by Philip S. Rosenberg
of the National Cancer Institute

August 5 Nonparametric Methods in
Genetic Epidemiology: Multilocus
Genetic Predisposition, Environmental
Risk Interaction, and Complex
Phenotypes, by Knut M. Wittkowski,
The Rockefeller University

August 6 Statistical Innovation in
Submissions to FDA and Other
Regulatory Bodies, by Diane Fairclough
of the University of Colorado-Denver ■

Nonparametrics

Timely Topics Plentiful at JSM

Robert Serfling, NPAR Section Program Chair

Nonparametric statistics, broadly defined and including semiparametric statistics, occupies a dynamic, critical, and pervasive place in the forward-moving, overall picture of statistical science. Continual updating and redirection is paramount. To help us in this need and as a highlight of NPAR's progress as a relatively new section, our first roundtable is co-hosted by Peter Hall, University of Melbourne, and Jianqing Fan, Princeton University. Their title is "Nonparametric Statistics: A Look Into the Future." The roundtable was organized by Simon Sheather of Texas A&M University, who is the NPAR program chair for 2009 JSM.

NPAP's Invited Sessions

Topics and organizers (in order scheduled) are

- Semiparametric Regression and High-Dimensional Data, David Ruppert, Cornell University
- Nonparametric Classification, Malay Ghosh, University of Florida
- Data Depth-Based and Related Nonparametric Multivariate Procedures, Yijun Zuo, Michigan State University

NPAP's Topic-Contributed Sessions

Topics and organizers (in order scheduled) are

- New Developments in Rank-Based Nonparametric Methods, Lan Wang, University of Minnesota
- Recent Methodological Developments in Analysis of Large Data Sets, Kae Keun Yoo, University of Louisville, and Lingsong Zhang, Harvard University
- Ranked Set Sampling, Omer Ozturk, The Ohio State University
- Theory and Applications of Curve Estimation, Sam Efromovich, The University of Texas at Dallas
- Dimension Reduction, Variable Selection, and Correlation Pursuit in Semiparametric Settings, Wenxuan Zhong, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Theil-Sen Estimates in Modern Regression, Hanxian Peng, University of Mississippi
- L-Moments: Recent Developments in Theory and Applications, Jonathan Hosking, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center
- Bootstrap Methods for Complex Problems, Dan Nordman, Iowa State University
- Applications of Nonparametric Statistics on Manifolds, Florida State University

Time To Begin Thinking About NPAR at JSM 2009

Anyone interested in organizing an invited session or suggesting ideas for one to be sponsored by NPAR should contact Sheather at sheather@stat.tamu.edu. A recommended invited session format consists of two to six participants. However, other formats are possible. Decisions about invited sessions are made in August, so act soon. On the other hand, topic-contributed sessions must have five participants and can be a combination of presenters and a discussant, which can be arranged during the fall. Ideas for those sessions also may be sent to Sheather.

Award Winners, JSM Program Announced

Robert Oster, TSHS Publications Officer;
Jodi Lapidus, TSHS Program Chair; and Scott Evans, TSHS Chair

Officers of the Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) Section are pleased to recognize the section's JSM 2007 award winners, describe the awards available this year, and present the section's exciting portion of the JSM 2008 program.

The recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award is Ralph O'Brien, then of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and now of Case Western Reserve University. The Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes an individual with outstanding service to the TSHS section. This award represents the most prestigious award bestowed upon an individual by the section, is given only once every two years, and includes a plaque and \$1,000 prize. O'Brien's numerous contributions to TSHS were summarized in the fall 2007 issue of the TSHS newsletter at www.bio.ri.cf.org/ASA_TSHS/pdf/TSHSnews07fall.pdf.

Also awarded was the 2007 Best Contributed Paper Award. It was given to Harry Norton of the Carolinas Medical Center for "Use of Interesting Examples from Medicine and Biology."

This year, the TSHS section will present a new young investigator award and best paper and poster awards for respective presentations at JSM. The young investigator award includes a plaque and \$500. Awards will be presented at JSM for the best invited paper, best topic-contributed paper, best contributed paper, and best contributed poster. Each includes a plaque and \$250. We look forward to announcing our 2008 award winners in *Amstat News* after JSM in Denver.

JSM Offerings

The TSHS section is sponsoring a short course, titled "Hot Topics in Clinical Trials." The course will be team taught by Scott Evans, Lingling Li, and LJ Wei, all of Harvard University, and Lu Tian of Northwestern University. It will cover non-inferiority trials, benefit-risk analysis, meta-analysis, causal inference, use of prediction to identify biomarkers, data monitoring



Distinguished Achievement
Award recipient Ralph O'Brien

committees, and use of prediction for interim data monitoring. There will be motivating examples and discussion of standard and novel approaches to analysis.

On Monday, from 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m., the section will conduct its business meeting and mixer, which is open to all JSM participants. The section is also cosponsoring several invited and contributed sessions in which presenters will discuss a range of topics, including innovative teaching methods, distance education, and statistical literacy. Search the online JSM program for a full list of all TSHS-related activities. We look forward to seeing you in Denver.

Invited

"Statistics Education in the Health Sciences During the Clinical and Translational Science Era: Bench to Beside to Populations" will take place Wednesday, August 6, from 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m. The session features presenters from academic centers that are part of a national consortium funded through Clinical and Translational Science Awards from the National Institutes for Health. The recent shift in focus from clinical to translational research, which is sometimes referred to as a bridge from discovery to delivery, has caused many biostatistics faculty to rethink their curricula and teaching strategies. Speakers will introduce strategies they have designed and implemented.

The TSHS section also worked with the Committee on Outreach Education

to organize an invited panel in line with the theme of this year's JSM. The session, titled "Training Community Collaborators To Understand and Effectively Use Health-Related Data," will be held Sunday, August 3, from 4:00 p.m.–5:50 p.m. The panel will discuss statistics training strategies that are outside the normal realm of academic teaching, including research training activities conducted as part of community-based collaborative research.

Topic-Contributed

"Integrating Statistics and Bioinformatics Curricula" will take place Monday, August 4, from 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m. Presenters in this session include Mark Segal of the University of California, San Francisco; Monnie McGee of Southern Methodist University; Paul Schliekelman of the University of Georgia; and Olga Vitek of Purdue University. The discussant is John Stevens of Utah State University.

Contributed

Monday, August 4, will be a busy day for section-sponsored activities. TSHS contributed poster presentations will be on display, with authors available for discussion from 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

To learn about "Ideas for Improving Statistical Competence of Health Science Professionals and Graduate Students," attend the TSHS-sponsored contributed session on Tuesday, August 5, from 8:30 a.m.–10:20 a.m. Presenters in this session will discuss a range of topics, from quantitative literacy skills required to perform clinical research to ways of introducing Bayesian methods in the classroom.

Roundtables with Coffee

The TSHS section has organized two roundtables with coffee. "A New Statistics Student: The Translational Researcher" will take place Tuesday, and "Enhancing Statistical Literacy in the Medical Professions" will take place Wednesday. This type of informal forum is ideal for thought exchange and networking. These events have a modest fee that includes breakfast. ■

For more information about these events, visit www.amstat.org/datetime. Announcements are accepted from educational and not-for-profit organizations only. Commercial enterprises should contact the ASA Advertising Department at advertise@amstat.org.

* Indicates events sponsored by the American Statistical Association or one of its sections, chapters, or committees

► Indicates events posted since the previous issue

2008

July

14–17—Integrating Computing into the Statistics Curricula, Berkeley, California

This workshop is a hands-on program for faculty members interested in innovating statistics courses and curricula to better prepare statistics students to engage in creative statistical practice in today's dynamic, data-rich scientific environment. For details, visit www.stat.berkeley.edu/users/statcurl/Workshop2/index.html or contact Deborah Nolan, Dept. of Statistics, 367 Evans Hall MC 3860, Berkeley, CA 94720-3860; (510) 643-7097; nolan@stat.berkeley.edu.

14–19—7th World Congress in Probability and Statistics, Singapore

The World Congress in Probability and Statistics is a major international event in probability and statistics held every four years. It features the latest scientific developments in the fields of probability and statistics and their applications. The program will cover a range of topics and feature more than a dozen keynote lectures presented by leading specialists. In addition, there will be invited paper sessions highlighting topics of current research interest and many contributed talks and posters. For more information, visit www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/wc2008/index.htm or contact Irene Tan, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, 6 Science Drive 2, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore, Singapore, International 117546, Singapore; wc2008_general@nus.edu.sg.

15–17—LASR 2008: The Art and Science of Statistical Bioinformatics, Leeds, United Kingdom

The 27th Leeds Annual Statistical Research workshop will continue to explore the LASR themes of statistical bioinformatics, shape and image analysis, and interdisciplinary statistics. For details, visit www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/lasr2008 or contact Stuart Barber, Department of Statistics, Leeds, International LS2 9JT, UK; +44(0)1133435146; workshop@maths.leeds.ac.uk.

16–18—APA Advanced Training Institute: Geographic Information Systems for Behavioral Research, Santa Barbara, California

This course introduces the science and technologies of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to psychologists and other behavioral scientists. There will be morning presentations by GIS experts and afternoon lab sessions that focus on technical aspects of GIS. For more information, visit www.apa.org/science/ati.html or contact Nicolle Singer, 750 1st Street NE, Washington, DC 20002; (202) 336-6000; nsinger@apa.org.

20–26—BIT's 1st World Summit of Antivirals, Kunming, China

This is a focused event for updating the current advances in worldwide R&D of novel antiviral therapeutics. Attendees will represent top-level decisionmakers from leading biotech, pharmaceutical, and health care organizations. The conference also will provide an ideal forum for the promotion of relevant companies, products, technologies, and services. For more information, visit www.bitlifesciences.com/wsa2008 or contact

Chris Han, 26 Gaoneng Street, Room 405, Dalian High-Tech Zone, Dalian, International LN 116025, China; 0086-411-84799479; chris@bitlifesciences.com.

►21–22—Third Workshop on Statistics, Mathematics, and Computation and First Portuguese-Polish Workshop on Biometry, Lisbon, Portugal

This workshop will bring together researchers in the fields of statistics and mathematics, with emphasis on areas such as biostatistics, biometry, biomedicine, biomathematics, mathematical epidemiology, and computation. For more information, visit www.univ-ab.pt/wemc2008 or contact Teresa Oliveira, Rua Fernão Lopes, n° 9, Lisbon, International 1000, Portugal; +351 213916347; wemc2008@univ-ab.pt.

21–25—9th World Meeting of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Hamilton Island, Australia

ISBA 2008 will combine an excellent scientific program—including five keynote speakers, 90 oral presentations, three parallel sessions, and two poster evenings—with an active social schedule. For details, visit www.maths.qut.edu.au/asba/docs/isba08 or contact Clair Alston, School of Mathematical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane, International 4001, Australia; isba08@qut.edu.au.

23–26—17th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics, IWMS'08, Tomar, Portugal

For information about this conference, being held in honor of T. W. Anderson's 90th birthday, visit www.ipt.pt/iwms08 or contact Francisco Carvalho, Estrada da Serra-Quinta do Contador, Tomar, International 2300-313 TOMAR, Portugal; +351 249 328 100; fpcarvalho@ipt.pt.

24–26—Current Trends and Challenges in Model Selection and Related Areas, Vienna, Austria

This workshop will provide a forum for discussion and presentation of current trends and challenging problems in model selection and related shrinkage methods. Invited

speakers include Yannick Baraud, Ruudy Beran, Ed George, Patrik Guggenberger, Ching-Kang Ing, Paul Kabaila, Gabor Lugosi, and Yuhong Yang. For details, visit www.univie.ac.at/workshop_modelselection or contact Hannes Leeb, 24 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, CT 06510; (203) 508-2339; hannes.leebl@yale.edu.

28–29—2nd CensusAtSchool International Workshop, Los Angeles, California

Leaders of the CensusAtSchool project will give hands-on presentations for teachers to illustrate how they use data in the international C@S database. Statistics education leaders from the United States will open the meeting with a series of plenary talks. For more information, visit www.stat.ucla.edu or contact Juana Sanchez, UCLA Department of Statistics, 8125 MS Building, Box 951554, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1554; (310) 825-1318; jsanchez@stat.ucla.edu.

29–8/2—New Researchers Conference, Boulder, Colorado

The Eleventh Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability provides an opportunity for new researchers to exchange research ideas in an informal setting and interact with invited senior participants. For more information, visit www.stat.rutgers.edu/~rebecka/NRC or contact Rebecka Jornsten, 501 Hill Center, Piscataway, NJ 07030; (732) 445-3145; rebecka@stat.rutgers.edu.

August

*3–7—2008 Joint Statistical Meetings, Denver, Colorado

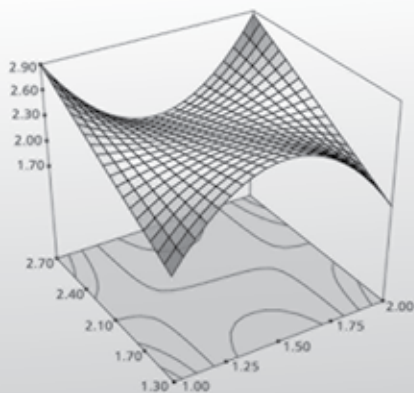
JSM (Joint Statistical Meetings) is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America. It is jointly held with the American Statistical Association, the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Statistical Society of

Canada. Attended by more than 5,500 people, activities of the meeting include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, Continuing Education courses, an exhibit hall, the Career Placement Service, society and Section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities, and networking opportunities. For more information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings or contact Elaine Powell, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 684-1221; elaine@amstat.org.

5–6—3rd International Conference on Mathematics and Statistics (ICoMS-3), Bogor, Indonesia

This conference is an opportunity for academicians, researchers, and practitioners of statistics and mathematics to share their ideas and contribute to the development of quantitative methods. There will be several invited speakers, and professors from around the world will discuss statistical and

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7–9—14th ISSAT International Conference on Reliability and Quality in Design, Orlando, Florida

This annual conference is an international forum for the presentation of new results, research development, and applications in all aspects of reliability and quality in design. For more information, visit www.issatconferences.org or contact International Society of Science and Applied Technologies, P.O. Box 1504, Piscataway, FL 08855; cs@issatconferences.org.

11–15—Statistics in Industry and Business: Joint Statistical Meeting, Cartagena, Colombia

This meeting is to promote research in Latin America in statistical methods that address problems in industry, banking, and finance. The program includes invited sessions and conferences, contributed oral sessions, and contributed posters. There is also a social program, including a welcome reception and conference dinner. For details, visit www.ciencias.unal.edu.co/estadistica/simposio/eng or contact Jose Vargas, National University of Colombia, javargasn@unal.edu.co.

12–14—useR! 2008: The R User Conference, Dortmund, Germany

This conference is focused on R as the “lingua franca” of data analysis and statistical computing, providing a platform for R users to discuss and exchange ideas about how R can be used for statistical computations, data analysis, visualization, and applications in various fields. It also will give an overview of the new features of the rapidly evolving R project. For more information, visit www.R-Project.org/useR-2008 or contact Uwe Ligges, Vogelpothsweg 87, Dortmund, International 44221, Germany.

17–21—29th Annual Conference of ISCB, Copenhagen, Denmark

This conference will provide a forum for the international exchange of theory, methods, and applications of biostatistics in

medical research and practice among clinicians, statisticians, and members of other disciplines who are working or interested in the field of clinical biostatistics. For more information, visit www.iscb2008.info or contact Bjarne Nielsen, Datavej 24, Birkerød, International DK-3460, Denmark; +45 70202058; BN@cyncron.com.

►18–20—Measurement, Design, and Analysis Methods for Health Outcomes Research, Boston, Massachusetts

This program is geared toward introductory-intermediate learning levels to help you design, implement, and analyze outcomes studies and critically review and use outcomes data for clinical decisionmaking, health care planning, and technology development. Participants must have an advanced degree (e.g., MD, PhD, MS, MPH, DPharm) in a relevant discipline. For more information, visit www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/MDA.shtml or contact Shelly Akers, 677 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115; (617) 384-8692; contedu@hsph.harvard.edu.

26–29—Sample Surveys and Bayesian Statistics: Workshop and Conference, Southampton, United Kingdom

The aim of this meeting is to highlight the potential advantages of Bayesian methodology and discuss and illustrate its possible applications in diverse areas of sample survey design and inference. The meeting will begin with a 1.5-day workshop followed by a 2.5-day conference consisting of invited and contributed research and applied papers and a special panel discussion. For more information, visit www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/ssbs08 or contact Christina Thompson, S3RI, University of Southampton, Southampton, International SO17 1BJ, UK; ssbs08@s3ri.soton.ac.uk.

September

1–5—RSS 2008 International Conference, Nottingham, United Kingdom

This scientific program aims to encompass the range of statistical interests within the Royal Statistical Society and beyond. It will include a range of special topic sessions with invited speakers from both the UK and overseas. There also will be a special

Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter

The ASA's Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter cosponsored a symposium, “Innovations in Design, Analysis, and Dissemination: Frontiers in Biostatistical Methods,” May 8–9, 2008, at the Cerner Vision Center in Kansas City. The other cosponsoring institutions were Cerner Corporation and the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dallas Johnson and Walter Stroup gave keynote addresses to a total of 45 people, including eight student attendees. Sponsors hope to continue the symposium.

program for young statisticians. For more information, visit www.rss.org.uk/rss2008 or contact Paul Gentry, 12 Errol Street, London, International EC1Y 8LX, UK; conference@rss.org.uk.

1–12—Introduction to Mathematical Models of the Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases, London, United Kingdom

This course is the ideal introduction for mathematical modelers who are considering entering the field of infectious disease epidemiology and control. Course teachers are experienced in multidisciplinary collaboration and have backgrounds in mathematics, physics, statistics, molecular biology, microbiology, and epidemiology. The course emphasizes how to express biological and clinical principles mathematically, and how to interpret results from a biological and clinical perspective. For more information, visit www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/epidemiology or contact Ulrika Wernmark, Centre for Professional Development, 58 Prince's Gate, London, International SW7 2PG, United Kingdom; +44(0)2075946886; cpd@imperial.ac.uk.

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1-15—Myrto Lefkopoulou Distinguished Lecture at Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts

Each year, the Myrto Lefkopoulou Lectureship is awarded to a promising biostatistical scientist who has made contributions to either collaborative or methodologic research in the applications of statistical methods to biology or medicine and/or excellence in the teaching of biostatistics. For more information, visit www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostats/events/awards/myrto or contact Myrto Lefkopoulou Lecture Committee, Department of Biostatistics, 655 Huntington Ave., Bldg. 2, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02115; (617) 432-1056.

5-6—Statistical Modeling for University Evaluation: An International Overview, Foggia, Italy

The scope of this conference is to create a space for the exchange of experiences and ideas among researchers from different scientific backgrounds on the university evaluation and ranking methodologies already implemented in the United States, Australia, Canada, Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Spain. For more information, visit www.unifg.it/unirank or contact Corrado Crocetta, Largo Papa Giovanni Paolo II, 1, Foggia, International 71043, Italy; c.crocetta@unifg.it.

8-12—International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) 2008, Antalya, Turkey

The aim of this conference is to bring together established and young researchers from around the world who are actively working on and/or interested in the theory, application, and overall development of robust statistics and related fields. The conference will provide a forum for leading experts and young researchers to discuss recent progress in the field, exchange ideas, and make informal contacts. Although, robust statistics is the core of the conference, special emphasis will be laid on interdisciplinary research and the interaction between theory and practice. For more information, visit www.icors08.org or contact Olcay Arslan, Çukurova University, Department of Statistics, Adana, International 01330, Turkey; +3223386084/2577; oarslan@cu.edu.tr.

***15–17—2008 FDA/Industry Statistics Workshop, Arlington, Virginia**

This workshop will feature sessions organized by statisticians from industry, academia, and the FDA. It will include four plenary sessions, 15 concurrent sessions, and luncheon roundtables. To maintain the seminar atmosphere, the workshop is limited to 650 registrants. Short courses offered September 15 for an additional fee. For information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings/fdlaworkshop or contact Ning Li, 520 Skidmore Blvd., Gaithersburg, MD 20877; (240) 276-3166; ning.li@fda.hhs.gov.

21–24—Applied Statistics 2008, Ribno (Bled), Slovenia

This conference will provide an opportunity for statistics researchers, data analysts, and other professionals from various statistical and related fields to come together, present their research, and learn. For details, visit <http://conferences.nib.si/AS2008> or contact Andrej Blejec, Vecna pot 111, Ljubljana, International SI-1000, Slovenia; +386 1 423-33-88; info.AS@nib.si.

22–24—ENBIS-8, Athens, Greece

The European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics invites papers and presentations about innovative applications of statistical thinking and statistical tools in business and industry. For more information, visit www.enbis.org or contact Winfried Theis, ENBIS Permanent Office, Plantage Muidergracht 24, Amsterdam, International 1018 TV, The Netherlands; enbis8@enbis.org.

► 23–25—Conference on Emerging Quantitative Issues in Parallel Sequencing, Boston, Massachusetts

The goal of this conference is to examine the interplay between emerging sequencing technologies, basic and population sciences, and data analysis methods. It will engage geneticists, computational biologists, and statisticians through discussions of technology, data, analysis, and applications of massively parallel sequencing. The conference will consist of keynote and session presentations, along with panel discussions, roundtable discussions, and a technology forum. For more information, visit www.hsph.harvard.edu/research/pqg-annual-conference or contact Artemis Moore, 655 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115; (617) 432-1088; aemoore@hsph.harvard.edu.

October**3–4—International Conference on Price, Liquidity, and Credit Risks, Konstanz, Germany**

This conference is targeted to researchers in financial economics, financial econometrics, and financial mathematics. For information, visit <http://cofe.uni-konstanz.de> or contact Beran Jan, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, International 78457, Germany; 049 7531 88 2653; jan.beran@uni-konstanz.de.

***9–10—52nd Annual Fall Technical Conference, Phoenix East/Mesa, Arizona**

The goal of this conference is to engage researchers and practitioners in a dialog that leads to a more effective use of statistics to improve quality. It will feature the latest developments in statistical methods as they relate to quality improvement and decisionmaking. It also will highlight discoveries in innovative statistical methodologies and quality tools. For information, contact J. D. Williams, One Research Circle, K1-5A-61, Niskayuna, NY 12309; (518) 387-7322; james.williams@research.ge.com.

16–18—Winemiller 2008 Conference on Survival Analysis and Its Applications, Columbia, Missouri

This workshop will bring senior and junior researchers together to discuss recent advances and issues in survival analysis, with a focus on its applications in fields such as biology, economics, finance, medical studies, psychology, and public health. For more information, visit <http://faculty.missouri.edu/~Winemiller2008> or contact Tony Sun, 146 Middlebush Hall, Columbia, MO 65211; (573) 882-6667; sunj@missouri.edu.

22–24—International Conference on Machine Learning and Data Analysis 2008, San Francisco, California

This conference is held under the World Congress on Engineering and Computer Science. Registration and camera-ready papers are due July 30. Accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings. For information, visit www.iaeng.org/WCECS2008/ICMLDA2008.html or contact IAENG Secretariat, Unit 1, 1/E, 37-39 Hung To Road, Hong Kong, International HK, Hong Kong; wcecs@iaeng.org.

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28–31—24th International Methodology Symposium, Gatineau, Ottawa

The theme for this conference is “Data Collection: Challenges, Achievements, and New Directions.” It will bring together statistical methodologists and analysts from the data collection community—including those from private, government, university, and other research organizations—to address a variety of topics related to data collection. The first day will consist of workshops, while the following days will consist of both plenary and multiple streams of parallel sessions. Additional research and results will be presented via poster sessions. For details, visit www.statcan.ca/english/conferences/symposium2008 or contact Chris Mohl, 100 Tunney’s Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6, Canada; symposium2008@statcan.ca.

November

3–7—Fifteenth Annual Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium, Savannah, Georgia

Donald A. Berry will deliver the keynote address, “New Developments in Bayesian Clinical Trials.” For more information, visit bass.georgiasouthern.edu or contact Ruth Whitworth, Georgia Southern University, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, P.O. Box 8015, Statesboro, GA 30460; bass@georgiasouthern.edu.

8–10—The Impact of Information and Integrated Statistical Systems on Socio-Economical Development, Ras-Al-Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

This conference aims to shed light on the role and importance of information systems and integrated statistical systems in the socioeconomic development of modern societies in general and of Ras-Al-Khaimah in particular. The organizing committee invites you to be part of this conference. For details, visit www.rakeconconf.ae or contact Mohamed El-Bassiouni, P.O. Box 17555, Al-Ain, UAE, International 17555, United Arab Emirates; +9713 7133386; y.bassiouni@uaeu.ac.ae.

►12–14—International Workshop on Flexible Modeling: Smoothing and Robustness, Leuven, Belgium

The general theme of this workshop is semi and nonparametric analysis and robust statistical methods. Other themes include flexible smoothing and penalization, model selection, nonparametric functional estimation, modeling dependencies and inference for copulas, robust multivariate outlier detection, and semi and nonparametric methods in time-series analysis. There will be invited talks, contributed talks, and poster sessions. Also, a short course for doctoral students will follow. For details, visit wis.kuleuven.be/stat/fmsr2008.php or contact Irène Gijbels, Celestijnenlaan 200B, Leuven (Heverlee), International B-3001, Belgium; +32-16-322018; irene.gijbels@wis.kuleuven.be.

December

1–3—2008 International Conference on Applied Probability and Statistics (CAPS 2008), Hanoi, Vietnam

This conference aims to promote practical applications of probability and statistics, particularly in business and industry, and to strengthen international relations among researchers in these areas. Contributed papers may be on applied probability or any area of statistics. The conference will be of interest to both researchers and practitioners from business and industry. For more information, visit www.action-m.com/CAPS2008 or contact Nam-Ky Nguyen, IPO Box 135, Hanoi, International Hanoi, Vietnam; (844) 754-5125; nkn@designcomputing.net.

*8–12—64th Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics, Atlantic City, New Jersey

The purpose of this conference and the following two-day short courses is to provide a learning experience around recent developments in statistical methodologies. The conference is composed of 12 three-hour tutorials on current statistical topics of interest. Recognized experts in applied statistics will give lectures and short courses based on their recently published books. For more information, visit www.demingconference.com or contact Walter Young, 16 Harrow Circle, Wayne, PA 19087-3852; (610) 989-1622; demingchair@gmail.com.

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2009

March

►18–20—IAENG International Conference on Data Mining and Applications 2009, Hong Kong, China

Topics for this conference include soft computing, statistical data mining, and applications. For more information, visit www.iaeng.org/IMECS2009/ICDMA2009.html or contact IAENG Secretariat, Unit 1, 1/F, 37-39 Hung To Road, Hong Kong, International HK, Hong Kong; (852) 3169-3427; imecs@iaeng.org.

May

►*27–29—2009 Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology, Vancouver, British Columbia

This conference aims to promote research in statistical methods that address problems in industry and technology and to stimulate interaction among statisticians, researchers in the application areas, and industrial practitioners. It also strives to encourage graduate students to pursue careers in industry and technology; students are charged a reduced registration fee, and scholarships are given to selected graduate students who present contributed papers. For details, visit www.stat.sfu.ca/~boxint/src2009 or contact Boxin Tang, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6, Canada, (778) 782-4898, boxint@stat.sfu.ca.

31–6/3—37th Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, Vancouver, Canada

This conference will bring together academic, governmental, and industrial researchers, as well as users of statistics and

probability. It will present workshops and invited and contributed sessions. The SSC features sections in biostatistics, survey methods, business and industrial statistics, and probability. Consequently, the program will include papers in all areas of statistics and probability. About 450 statisticians are expected to participate. For more information, visit www.ssc.ca or contact Christian Léger, University of Montréal, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, CP 6128 Succursale Centreville, Montréal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada; (514) 343-7824; leger@dms.umontreal.ca.

July

►20–22—International Symposium in Statistics on GLLMM, St. John's, Newfoundland

The objective of this symposium is to bring together a set of speakers and discussants to describe the latest research in GLLMM with applications to biostatistics, econometrics, and ecological and environmental studies, among others. For more information, visit www.iss-2009-stjohns.ca or contact Brajendra Sutradhar, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5S7, Canada; 7097378731; bsutradh@math.mum.ca.

August

*2–6—2009 Joint Statistical Meetings, Washington, DC

JSM (Joint Statistical Meetings) is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America. It is held jointly with the American Statistical Association, the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Statistical Society of Canada. Attended by more than 5,500

people, activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, continuing education courses, an exhibit hall, a placement service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities, and networking opportunities. For more information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings or contact Elaine Powell, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; (888) 231-3473; jsm@amstat.org.

16–22—International Statistical Institute 57th Biennial Session, Durban, South Africa

This session will include meetings of the Bernoulli Society, the International Association for Statistical Computing, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association for Official Statistics, and the International Association for Statistical Education. For more information, visit www.cbs.nl/isi or contact Shabani Mehta, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, Voorburg, International 2270 AZ, The Netherlands; +31-70-3375737; isi@cbs.nl.

September

►21–22—6th International Meeting on Statistical Methods in Biopharmacy, Paris, France

This meeting will focus on innovative statistical approaches to design and analysis of clinical trials, specifically missing data, flexible designs, multiplicity, and meta-analysis. Contributed papers are welcome if they are relevant to these areas; contributed posters are welcome if they describe unrelated, but innovative, research on the design and analysis of clinical trials. For more information, visit www.biopharma2009-sfds.fr or contact Claude Petit, 900 Ridgebury Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877; (203) 798-4303; claudette.petit@boehringer-ingelheim.com. ■

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Professional Opportunity Listings may not exceed 65 words, plus equal opportunity information. Ads must be received by the first of the preceding month to ensure appearance in the next issue (i.e., September 1 for the October issue). Ads received after the deadline will be held until the following issue.

Listings are shown alphabetically by state, followed by international listings. Vacancy listings may include the institution name and address or be identified by number, as desired.

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California

■ Seeking a biostatistician to work with clinical, health services, and basic science investigators to design studies in all areas of medical and health systems research. An appropriate academic affiliation with Stanford University will be considered. PhD/ScD in statistics/related field, at least 3 years experience in consulting roles, excellent communication skills; will work with large/diverse group of active researchers. Full benefits. For details/apply visit <http://www.paire.org>. VA Palo Alto Health Care System and Stanford University. PAIRE values diversity and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

■ UCLA Biostatistics is searching for three new faculty with demonstrated excellence in biostatistical research and teaching. Positions are: (1) non-tenured assistant professor in HIV/AIDS research; (2) tenure-track assistant professor; and (3) tenure-track assistant professor with strong methodological interests in cancer research. Higher rank possible for qualified candidates. First position to be filled immediately, interviews for tenure-line positions begin in fall. For more information: www.biostat.ucla.edu/CurrentFacultySearch.htm UCLA values diversity and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Illinois

■ Faculty biostatistician, Department of Internal Medicine. PhD in biostatistics or related field required. Background in longitudinal analysis and field epidemiologic studies highly desirable. Excellent communication and computing skills required. Level of appointment commensurate with experience. Letter, curriculum vitae, three references to Carlos F. Mendes de Leon, PhD, Rush Institute for Healthy Aging, Rush University Medical Center, 1645 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 675, Chicago, IL 60612. Rush University Medical Center is an EOE.

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Maryland

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Ohio

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■ The University of Texas School of Public Health invites applications from senior investigators in biostatistics to fill a tenure track faculty position at the associate or full professor level at the Houston Campus in the Texas Medical Center. Review of applications will begin immediately. Mail or email a letter describing qualifications and interest along with your curriculum vitae and contact information for three professional references to Barry R. Davis, MD, PhD Chair Biostatistics Search Committee, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, 1200 Herman Pressler, E-809, Houston, Texas 77030, Barry.R.Davis@uth.tmc.edu. EOE.

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Professor Edward Baker, Chair
Department of Management Science
P.O. Box 248237
Coral Gables, FL 33124-6544

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Faculty Position Biostatistician

The Division of Public Health Sciences of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center invites applications for a faculty level biostatistician with an interest in the conduct and analysis of cancer clinical trials and associated correlative studies to work primarily with the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) Statistical Center. SWOG is an NCI-funded national research network that conducts clinical trials and related studies aimed at the prevention or cure of cancer. Experience with methodological and collaborative research in clinical trials or high dimensional data analysis (genomics, proteomics) in the context of clinical studies is desired. The position will be at the rank of either Assistant or Associate Member (equivalent, respectively, to Assistant or Associate Professor at a university). An established track record is required for a position at the Associate Member level. The incumbent will be expected to conduct an active program of independent and collaborative research pertinent to the mission of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Division of Public Health Sciences. The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is a world-renowned research institution with large and active efforts in basic biological sciences, human biology, clinical research, epidemiology, biostatistics and cancer prevention research. Its mission is the elimination of cancer as a cause of human suffering and death. The Center conducts research of the highest standards to improve prevention and treatment of cancer and related diseases.

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is an equal opportunity employer. The Center has a culturally diverse faculty and strongly encourages applications from female and minority candidates. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Please send applications including curriculum vitae, a letter describing research interests, and the names of four references to:

Search Committee Chair
Division of Public Health Sciences
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1100 Fairview Avenue North, M2-B500, Box 19024
Seattle, WA 98109-1024

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Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Director of Biostatistics and Epidemiology Division

The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, a research division of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), seeks an energetic and visionary director. The division currently includes 40 faculty and staff, generates more than \$2.5 million in its own extramural grants each year, provides collaborative support to 25 divisions of CCHMC and is connected with graduate teaching programs in biostatistics and epidemiology. Faculty appointments are with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (UCCOM).

Qualified candidates must have a doctoral degree in Biostatistics, Epidemiology or a related statistical field and have progressed to the rank of Associate Professor or Full Professor. A strong candidate is expected to have an outstanding record of independent and collaborative research; strong communication skills; and provide leadership and oversight of the divisional operations and academic program. The director will be expected to develop a long-term vision for the division to advance the role of biostatistics and epidemiology in the academic health center; mentor junior faculty and trainees; increase the success of existing programs; and successfully develop new initiatives. This position is at the academic rank of Full Professor with tenure in the Department of Pediatrics.

Interested candidates should send a letter describing their qualifications and interests along with their curriculum vitae, and contact information for three professional references to:

Teresa Nangle
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
3333 Burnet Ave., MLC 9008
Cincinnati, OH 45229

Or e-mail: Teresa.Nangle@cchmc.org
See: www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/div/ceb/

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Research Assistant/Associate/ Full Professor

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Center for Epidemiology and Biostatistics

The Center for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CEB) and the growing bariatric surgery/obesity research program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center have an immediate need to fill a faculty level position. Responsibilities of the position include the management and direction of an NIH-sponsored data coordinating center focused on adolescent bariatric surgery outcomes, and analysis of data from ongoing obesity studies and other obesity research projects. This position requires a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in biostatistics, epidemiology, or a closely related field. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in staff and project management, data coordination, analysis of longitudinal outcomes data, and obesity research. Rank and salary will be commensurate with training and experience. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. Send CV to: **Elizabeth Higgins, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, 3333 Burnet Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229, ML 5041** or fax to **(513) 636-1254**. Please find the job position posted at www.cincinnatichildrens.org. Cincinnati Children's Medical Center is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.



Contacts

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Senior Mathematical Statistician Program Director

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), located within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health & Human Services, is inviting applications for a Mathematical Statistician to serve as Program Director for the largest statistical methods grants portfolio at NIH, which currently consists of over 60 grants and approximately \$12 million dollars per year in funding commitments (<http://statfund.cancer.gov>).

This senior statistician will interact with current grantees and university statisticians to stimulate new, cutting-edge statistical research in areas of interest to NCI. Goals of this position include helping the research community optimize the quality of proposals, guiding the direction of future research by initiating targeted funding opportunities, educating and encouraging statisticians (especially those starting their careers) in the grant application process, and taking a leadership role across NIH in advocating for research in statistical methodology. In addition to these activities, the successful candidate will pursue collaborative methodological research with NCI investigators. This position is within the Statistical Research and Applications Branch (SRAB) of the Surveillance Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. Research within SRAB (<http://srab.cancer.gov/>) is targeted at improving statistical methods and models for use in the analysis and presentation of our population-based cancer statistics, as well as in the broader areas of cancer surveillance and cancer control research. We promote and facilitate the use of these methods and models at NCI, in other federal agencies, and throughout the extramural research community.

Applicants should have a doctoral level training and at least 5 years of broad experience in statistics. Knowledge and experience with the grants process is desirable, as well as an interest in statistical issues relevant to SRAB's mission. The successful applicant will be an innovative self-starter and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, which are essential for working in this interdisciplinary setting. U.S. Citizenship required. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Located in Rockville, MD, near Washington, DC. Excellent benefits. DHHS and NIH are equal opportunity employers and this position is subject to a background investigation. Please e-mail CV and letter of interest to: Dr. Eric J. (Rocky) Feuer, Chief, SRAB (rf41u@nih.gov) or call (301) 496-5029, Fax: (301) 496-9949





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Join the talented group of Mathematical Statisticians at the CPSC, an independent Federal regulatory agency that is responsible for protecting the American public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products. Your statistical training and experience will play a major role in helping us characterize the prevalence and hazard patterns associated with consumer products. These statistics are integral to identifying emerging trends, supporting development of safety features and standards and informing consumer product related enforcement and regulatory decisions.

Successful candidates will have a Masters or PhD degree in statistics, biostatistics or related areas with the ability to communicate – orally and in writing – statistical findings and conclusions to a wide audience. Specifically, experience with generation of parametric and non-parametric point and interval estimates, statistical modeling, design of experiments, sample size determination, and analysis of data from complex surveys is necessary. The ability to process, integrate, analyze and interpret results from multiple sources of national incident data and to formulate solutions that produce quantitatively defensible products is required.

Two positions are available at the GS-14 level. The GS-1529-14 Emerging Hazards Team Leader will plan, direct and perform statistical efforts to identify emerging hazards and monitor the conduct of product safety assessments. The GS-1529-14 Mathematical Statistician will develop statistical designs and conduct statistical analyses to characterize consumer product related hazards and evaluation of reduction options. The Civil Service Salary for GS-14 is \$98,033 to \$127,442.

Mid-level positions are also available at the GS-1529-9/11/12/13 levels (\$48,108 to \$107,854). Successful candidates will analyze national data to characterize the frequency, severity, and distribution of injuries and fatalities associated with consumer products. They will also work in multidisciplinary teams to plan and analyze special studies and to assess the efficacy of safety enhancements.

All of these positions are located in Bethesda, Maryland and are open to qualified U.S. citizens with or without prior Federal experience.

The CPSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for these positions shall be determined on the basis of merit and without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, political preferences, marital status, sexual orientation, labor affiliation or non-affiliation or other non-merit factors.

For more information and to submit an application, please click on the Vacancy Announcements link at <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/hr.html>. There are two vacancy announcements for each position. One is open to the public. The other is for candidates that are former and current federal employees. The vacancy announcements are numbered 4320EPHA-2008.

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■ **Teaching Statistics: Resources for Undergraduate Instructors** is a publication of the ASA and the Mathematical Association of America. For more information and to order, visit www.amstat.org/publications/TeachStats.pdf.

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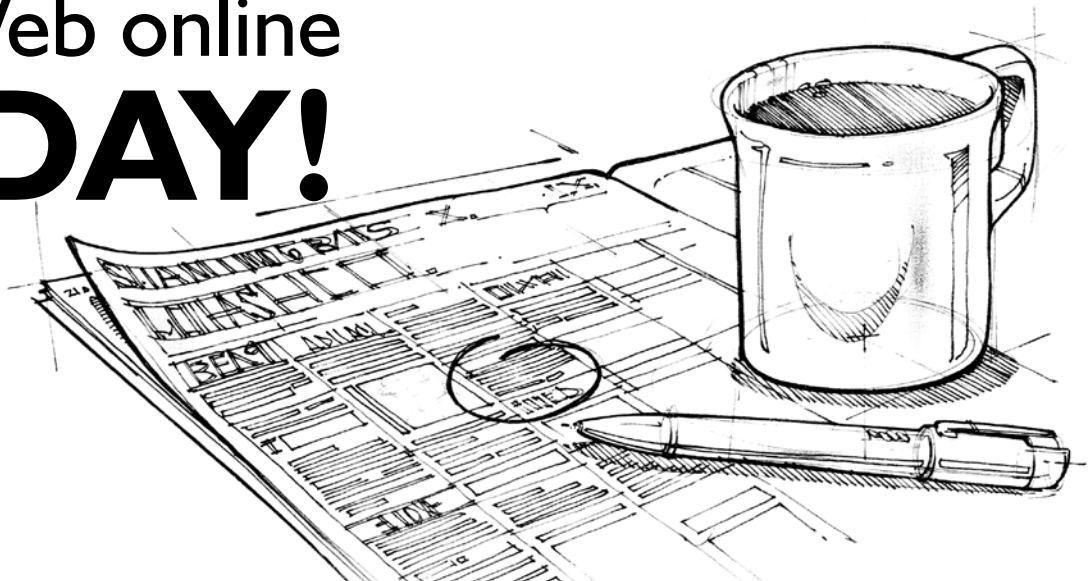
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Senior Biostatistician Mayo Clinic CTSA Biostatistics Core Director

The Mayo Clinic Division of Biostatistics, Department of Health Sciences Research and the Mayo Clinic Center for Translational Science Activities (CTSA) are seeking a Biostatistics Core Director. The Mayo Biostatistics Core Director will gain immediate, broad exposure participating on a national CTSA work group identifying and implementing the best approaches to integrating biostatistics, epidemiology, and research design into the Mayo and the national clinical research effort.

Qualified candidates will have broad experience in biostatistics and medical research, and interest and demonstrated success in clinical, translational, or basic research. The successful candidate will possess excellent leadership skills, communication skills, and the ability to direct and develop a core and work as part of a multidisciplinary team of doctoral-, master's-, and bachelor's-level statisticians and programmers. Minimum qualifications include a Ph.D. degree in statistics, biostatistics, bioinformatics, or a closely aligned quantitative area at the Associate Professor level or equivalent, with computational experience and with demonstrated success in collaborating with clinical and/or basic scientists.

The Department of Health Sciences Research (HSR) at Mayo Clinic is a multidisciplinary group of more than 60 doctoral level and 400 allied health staff who are dedicated to improving patient care through medical research. HSR includes a broad range of expertise and is the academic home of four divisions: Biomedical Informatics, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Health Care Policy and Research. For more information on Biostatistics and HSR, visit <http://www.mayo.edu/biostatistics>.

The Mayo Clinic CTSA is the academic home for clinical and translational research at Mayo Clinic. As part of a national consortium of NIH-funded research institutions, the Mayo Clinic CTSA trains the next generation of clinical/translational research teams and provides research facilities, staff, support services, and community engagement programs to help translate medical research discoveries into better health for all. For more information, visit <http://ctsa.mayo.edu> and www.ctsaweb.org.

Applicants should submit their curriculum vitae with a cover letter summarizing their research background, interests, and goals, representative publications, as well as three letters of recommendation, sent separately. Review of applications will begin May 19, 2008, and will continue until the position is filled. For further information, please contact:

Walter Kremers
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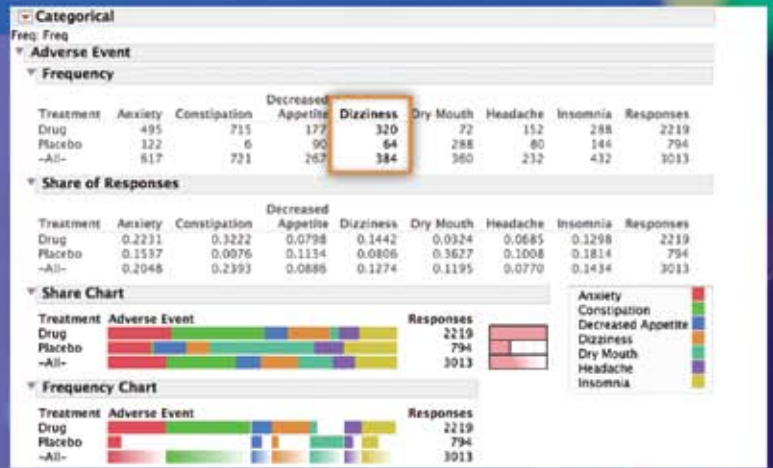
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What are these? A FREQUENCY TABLE, SHARE OF RESPONSES TABLE, SHARE CHART AND FREQUENCY CHART SHOWING RESULTS OF CATEGORICAL ANALYSIS

What are they for? They show summarized responses and the color-coded relative proportions of responses for the two groups studied.

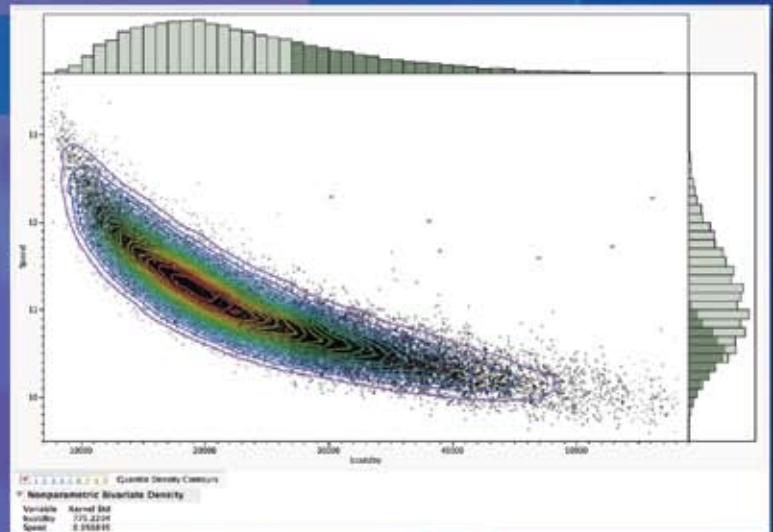
What can they do? In this instance, a pharmaceutical company can see adverse events from a drug's clinical trial. Using color and length of the bars, the analysis compares the drug to the placebo. The relative length of the orange bars (dizziness) for the drug and placebo stands out. Looking at the data, you see that the drug resulted in 320 cases of dizziness while the placebo resulted in 64.



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