January 2024 • Issue #559

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association • *http://magazine.amstat.org*



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Committee Collaboration Yields Selection of Featured Papers from ASA Journals

ALSO:

Nominations Open for International Prize in Statistics

A Q&A with NSF Program Officers and Awardee

PORTLAND
OREGON
JSM
AUGUST 3–8, 2024

STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE: INFORMING POLICY *AND* COUNTERING MISINFORMATION

August 3-8
2024 Joint Statistical Meetings
Portland, Oregon

ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2024

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Meeting and Event Request Submission

February 1, 2024
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February 1 – April 15, 2024
Late-Breaking Session Proposal Submission

May 31, 2024
Draft Manuscript Deadline

KEY DATES FOR ATTENDEES

May 1, 2024 (11:00 a.m. ET)
Registration and Housing Open

June 3, 2024
Early Registration Deadline

June 4 – July 1, 2024
Regular Registration

July 2 – August 8, 2024
Late Registration

July 5, 2024
Housing Deadline

AMSTATNEWS

JANUARY 2024 • ISSUE #559

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Amstat News welcomes news items and letters from readers on matters of interest to the association and the profession. Address correspondence to Managing Editor, *Amstat News,* American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA, or email *amstat@amstat.org*. Items must be received by the first day of the preceding month to ensure appearance in the next issue (for example, June 1 for the July issue). Material can be sent as a Microsoft Word document, PDF, or within an email. Articles will be edited for space. Accompanying artwork will be accepted in graphics file formats only (.jpg, etc.), minimum 300 dpi. No material in WordPerfect will be accepted.

Amstat News (ISSN 0163-9617) is published monthly by the American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA. **Periodicals postage paid** at Alexandria, Virginia, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Amstat News,* 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA. Send Canadian address changes to APC, PO Box 503, RPO West Beaver Creek, Rich Hill, ON L4B 4R6. *Amstat News* is the member publication of the ASA. For annual membership rates, see *www.amstat.org/join* or contact ASA Member Services at (888) 231-3473.

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WEBSITE: *http://magazine.amstat.org*

Printed in USA © 2024
American Statistical Association

The American Statistical Association is the world's largest community of statisticians. The ASA supports excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Our members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

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CUBE Program: A Student's View of the World of Biostatistics

STAT*tr@k* is a column in *Amstat News* and a website geared toward people who are in a statistics program, recently graduated from a statistics program, or recently entered the job world. To read more articles like this one, visit the website at *http://stattrak.amstat.org*. If you have suggestions for future articles, or would like to submit an article, please email Megan Murphy, *Amstat News* managing editor, at *megan@amstat.org*.

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The 2024 Challenge List: This Year's Most Important Questions in Data for Good

This column is written for those interested in learning about the world of Data for Good, where statistical analysis is dedicated to good causes that benefit our lives, our communities, and our world. If you would like to know more or have ideas for articles, contact David Corliss at *davidjcorliss@peace-work.org*.

Social Shake-Up

We are stepping away from Twitter/X to focus on other projects. You can follow us on LinkedIn at *https://bit.ly/3R5CYbD* or Facebook at *www.facebook.com/AmstatNews* for the latest news and announcements.

Poster Competition

The Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee invites all JSM 2024 poster contributors to compete for a policy applications prize in its Statistical Significance competition. A prize of $300 is awarded to the top entry.

A JSM Statistical Significance poster entry is a one-page illustration of the value of statistics to society whose objective is to illustrate to a lay person how the statistical solution to the problem presented in the poster would help form decisions that improve society in specific areas such as health, agriculture, economy, education, manufacturing, and medicine.

Contest participants must include a one-page Statistical Significance piece with their poster presentation at JSM. Both the scientific merit of the poster and the Statistical Significance piece will be judged.

Visit the competition website at *https://community.amstat.org/spaac/awards/poster-award* for details.





The ASA Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment recently collaborated with the ASA Committee on Publications and ASA staff to promote the ASA's journals and recognize the authors of excellent papers. Read about this Editors' Choice Collection in our first 2024 cover story on **Page 16.**

member news

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Aligning Goals for Success



Madhumita (Bonnie) Ghosh-Dastidar

Warmest wishes to everyone in our ASA community and hopes for a peaceful, healthy, and productive 2024!

I am both honored and humbled to be your ASA president in 2024. One of my first tasks—and a great pleasure—was to select a theme for the 2024 Joint Statistical Meetings, known to many as simply JSM. The theme I chose—*Statistics and Data Science: Informing Public Policy and Countering Misinformation*—reflects my passion for evidence-based public policy. In our era of mushrooming data with a simultaneous increase in pervasive misinformation, statistical science is essential to generating the reliable information on which a healthy democracy depends. Since statistics is an interdisciplinary science with applications to every field imaginable, we are very much on the front line as statisticians. I know it's a role we take seriously.

I am a statistician at the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit institution that seeks to improve public policy and decision-making through research and analysis. I lead RAND's statistics group, an exceptionally talented and dedicated group of individuals who nurture an inclusive and intellectually stimulating community. A consistent focus of my work has been to understand the mechanisms that drive health and social inequality using the interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving that is a RAND hallmark.

"I think the essential thing if you want to be a good statistician … is to talk to people and find out what they're doing and why they're doing it." F. N. David offered this advice in a 1989 interview with Nan Laird published in *Statistical Science*. It's sound advice for an ASA president who is developing her initiatives because successful and sustainable initiatives are those that strengthen or complement ongoing programs. The fundamental import of those concepts is clearly reflected in the themes of the ASA's strategic plan: *Enhancing* the Diversity and Breadth of our Association, *Increasing* the Visibility of our Profession, and *Ensuring* the Future of our Profession.

A sound strategic plan serves as a road map, but the challenge lies in the implementation. We can pursue the ASA's strategic plan by focusing on three principles: **collaboration**, **community**, and **opportunity**. Let me talk briefly about them.

Collaboration

It will require nuanced collaboration across disciplines to address society's greatest challenges. In an era of data ubiquity and rapid analysis, statisticians are positioned to play an essential role in this collaboration, as our work contributes to analysis in nearly every scientific field.

Leveraging my experience and building on 2022 ASA President Kathy Ensor's leadership initiative, I plan to work with members of the Committee on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee, sections, and interest groups to showcase statistical innovation on current pressing topics. The recent White House Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy

Achieve Your Goals

Attend an ASA Meeting, *bit.ly/47Tlu8z*

Join the ASA or Renew Your Membership, *bit.ly/3NoJCaI*

Submit a JSM Abstract, *bit.ly/3Tnf3pI*

Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence provides a unique, timely opportunity for the ASA to demonstrate leadership and influence national discourse and policy.

Following the success of the IDEA Forum, one of my goals is to host another on this topic and initiate a hybrid ASA lecture series to focus on important policy issues highlighting statistical innovation and leadership.

Opportunity

As a first-generation immigrant working in statistics and data science, I know opportunity can change your life and career path. I want to enhance the diversity and breadth of our profession by strengthening our commitment to mentoring.

During his ASA presidency, David Morganstein focused on mentoring. As a result, we have conference mentoring programs, chapter- and section-led mentoring programs, and an ASA award recognizing individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to supporting the career development of others. Dionne Price, the ASA's 2023 president, initiated the StatsForward program to encourage early-career members of our community to become stewards of our profession. And StatFest and the Diversity Mentoring Program, coordinated by the Committee on Minorities and Statistics, are examples of existing initiatives that have demonstrated success.

I want to continue to support these successful programs and bring new opportunities to our community. As a first step, I plan to do an environmental scan to both understand what successful programs are doing and identify potential gaps.

Community

People around the globe experienced a real loss of community during and following the pandemic. The resulting isolation and stress underscored the importance of interpersonal connections and relationships, as well as the value of belonging. The value of affiliation is no less real for our ASA community, which connects us through our shared interests. Building on 2021 ASA President Rob Santos's initiative, I urge you to participate in activities held by ASA chapters, sections/interest groups, and committees such as mixers, hackathons, and conferences. Participation equals engagement.

The strength—and potential outgrowth—of a community is often assessed by metrics such as number of members and meeting attendance. Both are down across professional societies! **How can we increase the strength and influence of our society?**

The ASA represents our interests and ensures our collective voice is heard at the national, state, and local levels. Your active membership helps make this critical work possible. I have been an ASA member since graduate school because it has provided exceptional opportunities for professional and intellectual growth. **I urge you to renew or join today.** If you are a student, an early-career scholar, or an individual from a developing country, you can join at a discounted rate.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Please share your comments, suggestions, and feedback by visiting the new community input microsite at *bit.ly/ASACommunityInput*.

Meeting attendance is also lower than in pre-COVID times. I believe the interruption of in-person meetings has disrupted habits. This past year, I enjoyed my first full year of meetings, starting with the Conference on Statistical Practice, then the Nonclinical Biostatistics Conference, Joint Statistical Meetings, Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference, and San Francisco Chapter's holiday event. At each, I felt palpable energy and joy and witnessed many opportunities to learn, network, or mentor. There is something for every career stage. **I invite you to join me at an ASA meeting in 2024.**

Over the next 10 years, statistics and data science are predicted to be among the fastest-growing occupations. This is an exciting time to be a statistician and data scientist. The potential for personal and professional growth is unprecedented. Let's work together to grow our ASA community by broadening our collaborations and opportunities. I hope to welcome you in person to JSM this summer. Please consider contributing an abstract by February 1. Program chair Debashis Ghosh and the entire committee are putting together an exceptional program. And August is a beautiful time to visit Portland and the Pacific Northwest!



Highlights of the November 17–18, 2023, ASA Board of Directors Meeting

On Friday, November 17, 2023, ASA President Dionne Price brought to order the final Board of Directors meeting of the year. The board, including incoming members, met at the ASA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Highlights of the meeting follow.

Actions

- The board conducted an evaluation of the Conference on Statistical Practice, Symposium on Data Science and Statistics, and Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference and approved changes to them. These will be announced in *Amstat News* and elsewhere once they are finalized.
- The board approved in principle a policy for determining when the ASA should enter conference partnerships with other entities, asking the executive committee members to finalize the policy once suggestions from the board are incorporated.
- The board approved in principle a policy for establishing levels of support from conferences organized by ASA sections, delegating to executive committee members the final details. The policy was developed in consultation with the leadership of the Council of Sections Governing Board.
- The board has given the go-ahead on launching a new journal, *Statistics and Data Science in Imaging*, subject to working out the final details with our publishing partner, Taylor & Francis.
- The board indicated its intention to create an online, open-access journal titled *ASA Discoveries* once the details are worked out to the satisfaction of the board. The envisioned journal will, like our other journals, publish high-quality, peer-reviewed research. It will have broad aims and scope to be able to consider a wide variety of papers, attracting new work from around the world and providing a home for excellent papers that do not fit into our existing journals.

Reports and Discussions

- The board heard and discussed the reports of the Education Council and Professional Issues and Visibility Council. These councils keep the board and its committees connected. The reports reflected tremendous activity across these committees over the last 12 months.
- Derek Curtis II, ASA director of finance and administration, updated the board on the status of the ASA's finances as of September 30. He said we had an overall net loss of $101,000 for the first three quarters. The ASA's assets totaled $19.2 million as of September 30. Curtis noted JSM attendance was fantastic and net revenue nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels. He also noted we have a low long-term debt level of $1.9 million on the building.
- ASA Treasurer Ruixiao Lu reported on the ASA's investments. Members of the Investments Committee met last month to review the portfolio results for the first three quarters. They also modeled long-term results from various investment strategies based on current spending levels. The analysis suggested the ASA's investment portfolio should retain sufficient funds to support its programs, members, and mission in the next 10 years. Therefore, Lu said, the committee concluded there is no need to change investment strategy at this point.
- Steve Pierson, ASA director of science policy, brought to the board's attention a request by members of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights to make an ASA statement about probability and statistics books being rejected by a state because some of the examples contain data related to race or gender. The board asked the executive committee members to work on the proposed statement with the committee before the board acts.

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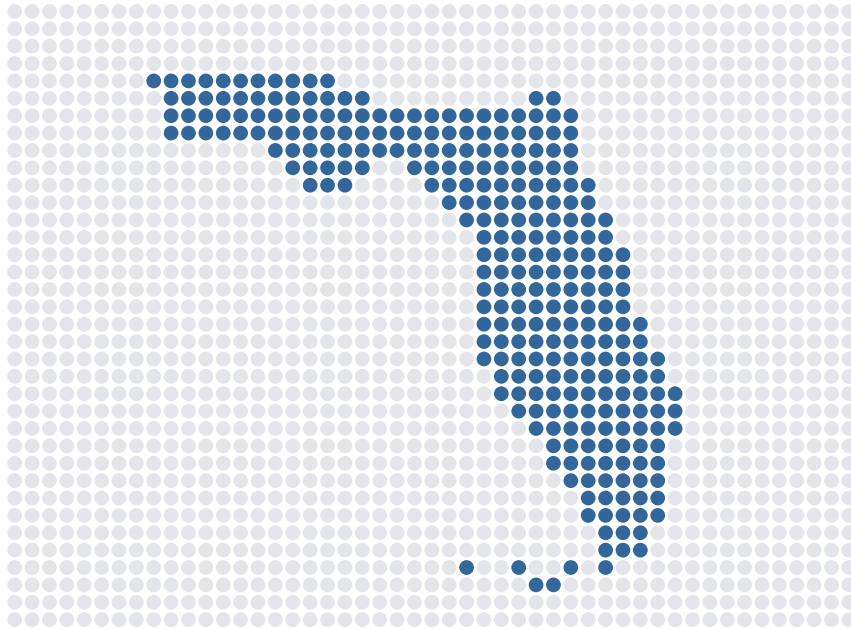
Jean Opsomer, *Treasurer*

Ron Wasserstein, *Executive Director and Board Secretary*

- Lu and Ji-Hyun Lee reported on continued efforts to develop partnerships with associations such as the American Association for Cancer Research and American Society for Clinical Oncology. Lu and Lee proposed a model for developing additional partnerships. The board discussed various options and provided other feedback. The board will more fully develop and discuss the model in the spring.
- The presidents updated the board on their strategic initiatives. 2024 President Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar outlined her plans to date, characterized by three themes: community; collaboration; and opportunity. She continued to receive feedback from the board and many sectors within the ASA. 2023 President Dionne Price reviewed her mission-driven initiatives to promote the practice and profession of statistics. 2022 President Kathy Ensor reviewed her initiatives, noting and encouraging the continuity that has developed from president to president. All three thanked the board for its ongoing support.
- The second annual Influencing Discovery, Exploration, and Action (IDEA) Forum was held at the conclusion of the first day of the board meeting via Zoom and originating from the board meeting room in Alexandria. The topic was open science.
- Donna LaLonde, ASA associate executive director, and Pierson updated the board on the current review of the Education and Visibility and Impact in Policy Policymaking (V&I) components of the strategic plan. They have developed rough drafts for consideration by relevant constituencies over the next few months. The board will receive revised drafts for consideration at the April 2024 board meeting.

The board will meet next from April 19–20 at the ASA headquarters. ■

ASA Board Issues Statement on Probability and Statistics Book Rejections



In early December, the ASA Board of Directors released a statement regarding the rejection of introductory probability and statistics textbooks after the ASA Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights brought to its attention that the Florida Department of Education had four probability and statistics books on its "K–12 Mathematics Instructional Materials Not Recommended List" for 2021–2022. Two remain on that list.

Members of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights cited the following:

- Violation of scientific freedom in probability and statistics education
- Book rejections impacting the future of the statistics profession and the quality and ethics of statistical science
- The opportunity to educate on statistical science as a tool guided by the analysis of empirical evidence

Following is the statement:

> The American Statistical Association (ASA) has noted with concern the rejection of introductory probability and statistics textbooks that appear to be based on issues other than statistical education. The profession of statistics is guided by the principle of "Integrity of Data and Methods [*bit.ly/3JhWHjt*]," which includes a commitment to data-driven research. Research questions cover a wide array of topics, a necessary step to maximize scientific insights and breakthroughs. Banning probability and statistics texts from public classrooms because of an objection to research questions or topics deprives students the opportunity to learn to apply critical, statistical reasoning to topics that might be controversial, therefore compromising their statistics education. Limiting topics that can be subjected to statistical examination in class impedes critical and objective thinking and diminishes the quality of statistics and data literacy learning for students. Statistical methods can be applied to a diverse array of topics, and for students of statistics and data science, engaging ethically and responsibly with new research questions is crucial for their professional growth. For university courses, faculty members should have the academic freedom to choose the most appropriate textbooks for their students.
>
> For these reasons, the ASA urges state and local education agencies across the United States to make public their reasoning for any rejection of probability and statistics books from approved curriculums, establish procedural safeguards that enshrine openness and accountability in the review of these instructional materials, and revisit any existing rejections that are based on decisions unrelated to the subject matter of the text. ■

MY ASA STORY

Ingrid Van Keilegom, Professor



I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my ASA story with others, but first a few words about who I am. I'm a professor of statistics at the University of Leuven in Belgium. The university is situated in the Flemish (Dutch)-speaking part of Belgium and is among the older universities in Europe (600 years old in 2025).

Before moving to Leuven, I held faculty positions at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (in the French part of Belgium)—where I still have a part-time position—at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands, and at Penn State University in the United States. My main research interests are survival analysis, non- and semiparametric regression, measurement error problems, quantile regression, and goodness-of-fit tests, among others, which I study mostly from a methodological/theoretical point of view. But I also enjoy working on biomedical and economic applications.

My ASA story started in 1999, exactly 25 years ago. After finishing my PhD at the University of Hasselt in Belgium, I was hired as an assistant professor by the statistics department of Penn State University in 1998 and soon after decided to become an ASA member. It seemed to me the most natural thing to do since I liked to be informed about and involved in the statistics community.

My first JSM was in Baltimore in 1999, and I remember I was impressed (and a bit overwhelmed) by the size of the conference and the diversity of topics covered. Although I moved back to Europe one year later, I've remained an ASA member ever since and have attended many JSMs.

Being a member of the ASA allows me to stay connected with the largest statistics community in the world and especially to be part of its immense network of statisticians and data scientists. The ASA has been invaluable in my career ever since I started. Not only do I enjoy the yearly JSM, which is an excellent way to reconnect with colleagues I don't see very often and meet new ones, but I also love going to the smaller-scale conferences and workshops the ASA organizes, particularly the ones organized by the sections.

Personally, I love the conferences organized by the Nonparametric Statistics and Lifetime Data Science sections. I get to meet so many researchers working on topics very much related to my own research. Traveling overseas for these conferences is less straightforward than for conferences in Europe, but I always find it worth the effort and time.

I served as chair-elect and chair of the Nonparametric Statistics Section in 2017 and 2018, respectively, during which I learned much about the organization of the section and the importance of enthusiastic volunteers to keep it going. Volunteers are invaluable to our statistical society. I became an ASA Fellow in 2013 and am very grateful for this honor.

Currently, I serve on the Committee on International Relations in Statistics and as an associate editor of *JASA*. I also feel privileged to be the international representative to the ASA Board of Directors. My term on the board started last year, and it has been an interesting and rewarding experience so far. By serving as the international representative, I hope to make valuable contributions to the non-US-based members of the ASA, who often have different needs and expectations than members from the United States. ■

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AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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to the latest episode of the *Practical Signficance* podcast with hosts Ron Wasserstein and Donna LaLonde



Ron Wasserstein



Donna LaLonde

Practical Significance inspires listeners with compelling stories from statistics and propels data-driven careers forward with learning opportunities for all.

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via *Amstat News*

https://magazine.amstat.org/podcast-2



Staff Spotlight: Jonathan Tolentino

Hello, *Amstat News* readers! My name is Jonathan Tolentino. I am the ASA's customer systems administrator and help maintain the association management system that houses our membership data.

After graduating from Cal State – Fullerton with a business administration degree, I moved to Wisconsin to work at the headquarters of a collegiate membership organization. During this time, I consulted with student leaders from across the nation and assisted in the strategic planning of their local chapter. I also provided support for the organization-hosted national convention and regional conferences. Some of my favorite memories come from these events because it was always a blast reconnecting with members.

Shortly after moving back home to California, my career in the technology sector began—first as a technical recruiter and then, more recently, a technical support engineer.

My role as a technical recruiter taught me more about the industry, while allowing me to connect with talented job seekers and match them with their ideal roles. As I became more interested in tech services and software development, I began looking for technical support roles to develop my skills. My most recent role was with a company that provides association management solutions. I gained valuable experience working with various associations over the past two years, providing system support for their customer relations management, membership, and events. I am thrilled to return to the association space, but more importantly, I am beyond excited to be part of ASA and get to know you all.



Outside of work, I would consider myself a homebody. Some of my favorite hobbies include working on puzzles, completing Lego sets, and playing video games. To add to this list, I recently learned how to crochet and make stuffed animals. One of the first things you will notice walking into my room is my collection of more than 500 vinyl figurines. It only started out as a few being displayed on my desk, but as I found more and more figures of my favorite Disney/Pixar and Marvel characters, I ended up covering my whole wall!

My wife, Laura, and I got married in 2022 so we recently celebrated our first anniversary together. We share the house with our two dogs: Sofie, a 7-year-old Pomeranian Chihuahua, and Baylee, a 3-year-old Labrador Retriever. Together, we all enjoy lounging on the couch and watching reality competition shows.

I am grateful for this opportunity at the ASA and look forward to meeting you during the events that take place throughout the year. ■

Statistics Workshop Focuses on Change, Shaping Future

Jing Huang, Jingjing Gao, Jing Du, Tuan Nguyen, Li Zheng, Merrill Birkner, Whedy Wang



A full crowd takes in a session at the 2023 Bay Area Biotech-Pharma Statistics Workshop.

The sixth annual Bay Area Biotech-Pharma Statistics Workshop was held October 24–25 in Foster City, California, and drew more than 300 statisticians, data scientists, and analytical programmers for learning opportunities, inspiration, and networking.

The theme this year, "Embracing Change and Shaping the Future," reflected the dynamic nature of the biotech-pharma field. All presentations and panel discussions aligned with the theme and offered insights into the latest trends, methodologies, and best practices in biotech-pharma statistics and analytical programming, in addition to career and leadership development.

For the first time, participants came from more than 100 organizations, and the American Statistical Association's Biopharmaceutical Section and Bay Area Chapter offered support. This year also saw the introduction of parallel sessions, with one track dedicated to statistical programming. These sessions focused on topics such as data and visualization, statistical engineering, automation, and emerging trends in pharmaceutical science. The panel discussion "Clinical Development Programming Bootcamp" offered actionable insights for start-up leaders and drew attendees from multiple disciplines.

Stephen Ruberg shared multifaceted insights and his vision in his keynote speech, titled "Does This Treatment Cause That Outcome? The Future of Inferring What Is Likely to Be True." He provided a thought-provoking exploration of the future of statistical methods in inference and estimation.

In his keynote speech, Auton highlighted research at 23andMe, underscoring how direct-to-consumer approaches can transform scientific exploration. He emphasized the database's potential to catalyze groundbreaking discoveries that may revolutionize treatments for various diseases.

As a mainstay of the conference, statistical sessions spanning the two days covered topics such as innovative trial design/analysis and new endpoints, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and real-world data/evidence.

The panel discussion titled "Career Paths for Statisticians" explored diverse career trajectories available to statisticians, shedding light on opportunities beyond conventional roles. The panelists offered insights for aspiring statisticians looking to explore unconventional and rewarding career avenues.

The theme this year, "Embracing Change and Shaping the Future," reflected the dynamic nature of the biotech-pharma field.

The conference also featured poster presentations accompanied by two-minute lightning talks from lead presenters, which were another first for the workshop.

As each conference day concluded, attendees participated in raffle drawings, mixers, and networking events. On the first day, the live BBSW band—consisting of statisticians and data scientists—gave a performance.

Visit the conference website at at *www.bbsw.org* for more information. ■

Nominations Open for International Prize in Statistics

The International Prize in Statistics—one of the highest honors in statistics—is awarded every two years to an individual or team for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology, and human welfare.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2025 International Prize in Statistics. When choosing a nominee for the prize, consider the following points:

- The prize is awarded for a major achievement developed through a single contribution or multiple contributions over time.
- The prize is meant to recognize powerful ideas that have led to breakthroughs in statistics and data science and demonstrated impact on applications, methodology, theory, or practice.
- The prize can be awarded to individuals, teams, or organizations.
- Generally, the prize is awarded to individuals, but groups of individuals working on similar ideas—or even teams of individuals or organizations—can be recognized.
- The recipient(s) must be living at the time of selection for the award.

Information about the award will be communicated to the public in a way that will enhance public understanding of the depth and scope of statistical science and its impact on modern life. Part of this information is captured through the nomination process.

A nomination packet consists of the following:

- Contact information for the person(s) being nominated and the person making the nomination
- The nomination form found at *bit.ly/3uXMcye* and all the information requested in it, which includes the following:
  - CV(s) of the nominee(s)
  - Four letters of reference that focus primarily on the contribution, its importance, and impact
  - Information such as descriptions of the nominee's contributions to other areas, their professional leadership, mentoring, etc. (This should be brief.)
  - Description of the relationship between the nominator and nominee(s)
  - Title and brief description of the nomination (major contribution/achievement)
  - Description of importance and impact of the contribution (maximum 1,200 words, explaining the contributions of the nominee(s) in terms understandable to a nonspecialist)
  - Draft citation of the contribution (maximum 150 words)

The committee reserves the right to contact the nominator and writers of the support letters to seek additional information and insight.

Unsuccessful nominations are carried over for one selection cycle (two years). Nominators are responsible for updating their nominations if they so desire. The deadline for updating is the same as the deadline for nominations.

Learn more and download the nomination form from *statprize.org/nominations.cfm*. Email it and related materials to *nominations@statprize.org* by October 1, 2024.

The prize will be presented at a major international meeting of statisticians and supported by ceremonies and intellectual activities that enhance the visibility of the award. ■

MORE ONLINE
For details, visit the International Prize in Statistics website at *statprize.org/index.cfm.*

A Q&A with NSF Program Officers and Awardee

To strengthen the connection between the statistical community and National Science Foundation, we continue the series introduced in the May 2023 issue that poses questions to NSF program officers and awardees. If you have questions or comments for the program officers, send them to ASA Director of Science Policy Steve Pierson at spierson@amstat.org.

For the program officer Q&A this month, we have questions and responses from both Cheryl Eavey of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate and Yulia Gel of the Division of Mathematical Sciences in the NSF Directorate for Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

The awardee responses are from Dan Kowal of Rice University, who won an award from the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate.

Program Directors

Cheryl Eavey is program director of the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. She has been at the foundation since 1993. Additionally, Eavey has been involved in several cross-program and cross-directorate NSF activities, including Harnessing the Data Revolution and Cyberinfrastructure for Sustained Scientific Innovation. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and political science from Valparaiso University and a master's and PhD in political science from Michigan State University. Eavey has served on the faculty of the political science department at Florida State University, the business school at Washington University in St. Louis, and the US Business School in Prague, Czech Republic.

What is the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program?

The Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program supports the development of innovative analytical and statistical methods and models for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. It seeks proposals that are methodologically innovative, grounded in theory, and have potential utility for multiple fields within the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

Does the program support statisticians?

Yes, the program supports relevant work from the statistics community. It also supports economists, psychologists, political scientists, geographers, sociologists, and others—all working on the development of methods for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

Does a statistician need to collaborate with a Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate scientist to be considered by the program?

No, a collaboration is not required. That said, the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program welcomes proposals that involve collaborations between statisticians and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate researchers.

Does a proposal to the program need to include applications?

Technically no, a proposal does not need to include specific applications to be in scope for the program. At a minimum, however, a proposal should demonstrate the value of the proposed methods for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences community. And proposals that include applications with real-world data in areas supported by the social, behavioral, and economic sciences are most welcome.

What are the differences between the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program and the Statistics Program in the Division of Mathematical Sciences?

If we think of statistical research on a continuum from basic to applied, one could characterize the Statistics program as more on the basic end and Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics as more on the applied end. Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics–supported projects would be considered basic from the perspective of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, but not perhaps from the perspective of the Statistics Program. That said, there is some overlap in the missions of the programs. Because of that, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics and the Statistics Program have a long history of co-review.

Is there anything else we should know about the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program?

Since 1999, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics has partnered with a consortium of federal statistical agencies to further research related to the production and use of official statistics. Specifics on this collaboration are available at *bit.ly/3RSLhbz*. Over the years, we have had to pause this activity to accommodate administrative procedures. Currently, the activity is on hold, but we are working to reactivate the partnership.

Yulia Gel is on leave from The University of Texas at Dallas. This is her third year as a rotator program director of the Statistics Program of the Division of Mathematical Sciences in the NSF Directorate for Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

If I move to a different university within the United States, what shall I do with my NSF award?

Typically, when the principal investigator moves to a new organization and both their original and new organizations agree, the grant can be transferred to the principal investigator's new institution, subject to NSF approval. The decision to approve such a transfer request is based on the following three conditions:

- The principal investigator's original institution agrees to relinquish the project before its expiration

- The principal investigator's new institution offers facilities and resources that are sufficient for the successful continuation of the project
- There are no significant changes in the research scope and budget with respect to those described in the originally approved project

Each transfer request must be initiated by either the principal investigator or the principal investigator's organization. As the first step, the principal investigator shall notify his/her cognizant NSF program officer about the expected change of institutions and request preliminary approval for the transfer. Then, if the NSF and both institutions agree, the principal investigator shall work with his/her sponsored projects office to initiate the formal notification of transfer. Such a formal request should be electronically initiated by either the principal investigator or the principal investigator's organization through Research.gov. Upon receipt of the request, an NSF program officer will review it and, if it is approved, a new grant number at the new organization will be established.

It is important to note that the principal investigator's original institution has the prerogative to agree to the transfer, nominate a substitute principal investigator, or request that the grant be terminated and closed out. For details, see Chapter VII.B 2(f) at *bit.ly/48gI8Ym*.

I have a CAREER award and plan to move. Are there additional requirements?

If you plan to move to a new institution that is CAREER-eligible, the process is the same as above, except you need to secure a new departmental letter. The new departmental letter must document support for the project goals as described in the original proposal or in a revised scope and provide a plan for mentoring the principal investigator.

If you plan to move to a new institution that is not CAREER-eligible (e.g., outside the United States), your CAREER award shall be relinquished; however, funding may be extended to allow the students or postdoctoral researchers to continue to be supported on the award for the remaining funded year. You should contact your cognizant program officer as soon as you know you will move to inquire about this possibility. Go to *bit.ly/3GGakYS* for details.

Awardee

Dan Kowal is the Dobelman Family Assistant Professor in the department of statistics at Rice University. He works on Bayesian models and algorithms for large and dependent data, with primary applications in public health, epidemiology and environmental justice, and economics/finance.

Kowal was recently funded through the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program in the NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. He has experience submitting proposals to the NSF, but this was his first attempt outside the Division of Mathematical Statistics.

What NSF entity funded or contributed, and how will funding be used?

The proposal "Adaptive Dependent Data Models via Graph-Informed Shrinkage and Sparsity" seeks to improve Bayesian modeling and computation for dependent data such as time-ordered data, high-resolution images, and spatially-referenced measurements. Models that appropriately capture and leverage the dependencies in the data can extract clearer signals, provide more accurate imputations of missing data, and communicate more precise uncertainty quantification.

The proposal was funded by the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences for $287,536. The award includes support for the principal investigator's summer salary, PhD student funding, undergraduate summer research stipends, and conference travel.

What will the proposal accomplish?

The primary innovation of this proposal is the targeted deployment of the data dependence structure along multiple stages of the Bayesian modeling pipeline:

- The model for the signal to provide smoothness and regularization
- The accompanying shrinkage or sparsity prior for enhanced local adaptivity
- The computational and numerical strategies for scalable posterior inference

The data dependence is encoded as a graph that links observational units, allowing broad applicability for important problems in local elections and redistricting; inflation modeling and forecasting; spatial pattern extraction for economic, health, and urban data; and functional regression for monitoring and exposure data.

Describe your approach to the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program.

The idea to target the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program was suggested by a senior colleague, Marina Vannucci, a few years ago. She mentioned the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program often funds statistics proposals—often quite generously. I read through the recent awards granted by the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program on the NSF website and found many were interesting and similar in nature to the statistical problems and application areas in the proposal I wanted to write. I took this as a good sign and decided to go for it!

What advice do you have for others applying for NSF funding?

First, participate in an NSF review panel. You will see a variety of proposal styles, scopes, and topics and learn how panelists discuss and evaluate proposals. It's also important to see firsthand that many good proposals (with names you recognize) don't get funded!

Second, talk to others about the grant process—not just senior mentors, but also peers and colleagues. There's great value in a two-way exchange of stories, successes, and frustrations.

Finally, explore the continuum of "ambitious new project" vs. "logical extension of your work." There's no one-size-fits-all solution—different projects can fall in different places on this spectrum. ■

DHS Elevates, Expands Statistics Office



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas gives remarks during the launch of the Office of Homeland Security Statistics. Photo courtesy of Sydney Phoenix

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas launched the Office of Homeland Security Statistics in a November ceremony that included Chief Statistician of the United States Karin Orvis, Office of Homeland Security Statistics Director Marc Rosenblum, and US Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans Robert Silvers. The office is an expansion of the statistical activities at DHS, where previously the Office of Immigration Statistics—the Office of Homeland Security Statistics predecessor—covered only immigration statistics. The new office's purview will cover all DHS mission areas and, for the current fiscal year, plans data releases on law enforcement, international trade, cybersecurity, airport screening, emergency response to federal disasters, and maritime response operations. In addition, working with the department's chief data officer, the office will oversee the development of department-wide data standards.

In his remarks, Mayorkas hailed the launch of the Office of Homeland Security Statistics, stating, "Data-driven decision-making is an integral part of everything we do, and this new office will inform our policymaking, enhance our law enforcement and investigative operations, and allow us to distribute resources—including grants—more effectively." He added, "Our increased transparency will inform the American people as we work to fulfill our security and safety mission, while safeguarding privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties."

"Demand for immigration data governance, data processing, modeling, and reporting have exploded in the last few years," Rosenblum said. "DHS does incredibly important work, and the OHSS team is 100 percent committed to our piece of the mission, which is to foster transparency and data-driven homeland security decision-making by analyzing and disseminating timely, objective DHS data and statistics."

Rosenblum also spoke to the uniqueness of the new office, stating, "OHSS differs a bit from most existing statistical agencies because our reporting is mainly on DHS activities, rather than external data, and because a major part of our work is to support leadership decision-making."

Furthering the elevation of the DHS statistics activities, the Office of Homeland Security Statistics will also pursue recognition as a federal statistical unit by the Office of Management and Budget. Currently, there are three recognized federal statistical units in addition to the 13 recognized federal statistical agencies. The Evidence Act of 2018 defines a statistical agency and unit as "an agency or organizational unit of the executive branch whose activities are predominantly the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of information for statistical purpose."



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas (center) gathers with Chief Statistician of the United States Karin Orvis (left of Mayorkas), Office of Homeland Security Statistics Director Marc Rosenblum (right of Mayorkas), and Office of Homeland Security Statistics staff. **Photo courtesy of Sydney Phoenix**



From left: Mary Jo Hoeksema, Population Association of America; Karin Orvis, chief statistician of the US; Marc Rosenblum, Office of Homeland Security Statistics; and Steve Pierson, American Statistical Association
Photo courtesy of Steve Pierson

Silvers, who was instrumental in the creation of the office, addressed the OMB recognition in his prepared remarks:

> By providing OHSS with the authority to operate independently, we are better equipping the office to satisfy OMB best practices for releasing timely, credible, and objective data. … DHS has been the largest domestically focused federal department without an OMB-recognized independent statistical unit. … I am committed to working with Chief Statistician Orvis to change that with the creation of OHSS.

In her remarks, Orvis expressed her hope "to see the OHSS become one of the first statistical units to become formally recognized as an 'OMB Recognized Statistical Agency and Unit' under the new procedures required by the Evidence Act." She also noted "the amount of serious thought, dedication, and commitment that DHS has already shown in envisioning, creating, and supporting the OHSS."

A recording of the launch is available at *www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjP9fgUUW1E.* ■

Committee Collaboration Yields Editors' Choice COLLECTION

One benefit of association membership is free online access to ASA-sponsored journals, which span subjects such as statistics applications and methodology, biopharmaceutical research, survey methodology, public policy, and statistics and data science education.

The ASA Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment recently collaborated with the ASA Committee on Publications and ASA staff to promote the ASA's journals and recognize the authors of excellent papers. Committee members asked the editors of each journal to recommend approximately two papers for the Editors' Choice Collection. Following are the papers they chose:



JASA Applications

- "Heterogeneous Distributed Lag Models to Estimate Personalized Effects of Maternal Exposures to Air Pollution," Daniel Mork, Marianthi-Anna Kioumourtzoglou, Marc Weiskopf, Brent A. Coull, and Ander Wilson
- "Overcoming Repeated Testing Schedule Bias in Estimates of Disease Prevalence," Patrick M. Schnell, Matthew Wascher, and Grzegorz A. Rempala
- "Poisson-FOCuS: An Efficient Online Method for Detecting Count Bursts with Application to Gamma Ray Burst Detection," Kes Ward, Giuseppe Dilillo, Idris Eckley, and Paul Fearnhead

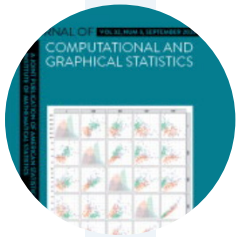
JASA Theory and Methods

- "Optimal Dynamic Treatment Regimes and Partial Welfare Ordering," Sukjin Han
- "Unveiling the Unobservable: Causal Inference on Multiple Derived Outcomes," Yumou Qiu, Jiarui Sun, and Xiao-Hua Zhou



The American Statistician

- "Here Comes the STRAIN: Analyzing Defensive Pass Rush in American Football with Player Tracking Data," Quang Nguyen, Ronald Yurko, and Gregory J. Matthews
- "Distribution-Free Location-Scale Regression," Sandra Siegfried, Lucas Kook, and Torsten Hothorn



Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics

- "Structured Shrinkage Priors," Maryclare Griffin and Peter D. Hoff
- "Fast Community Detection in Dynamic and Heterogeneous Networks," Maoyu Zhang, Jingfei Zhang, and Wenlin Dai



Journal of Business & Economic Statistics

- "Narrative Restrictions and Proxies," Raffaella Giacomini, Tora Kitagawa, and Matthew Read
- "Large-Scale Generalized Linear Models for Longitudinal Data with Grouped Patterns of Unobserved Heterogeneity," Tomohiro Ando and Jushan Bai



Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research

- "Biostatistical Considerations When Using RWD and RWE in Clinical Studies for Regulatory Purposes: A Landscape Assessment," Mark Levenson, Weili He, Jie Chen, Yixin Fang, Douglas Faries, Benjamin A. Goldstein et al.
- "Nonproportional Hazards: An Evaluation of the MaxCombo Test in Cancer Clinical Trials," Yuan-Li Shen, Xin Wang, Mushti Sirisha, Flora Mulkey, Jiaxi Zhou, Xin Gao, et al.



Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education

- "Integrating Data Science Ethics into an Undergraduate Major: A Case Study," Benjamin S. Baumer, Randi L. Garcia, Albert Y. Kim, Katherine M. Kinnaird, and Miles Q. Ott
- "Creating Shared Understanding in Statistics and Data Science Collaborations," Eric A. Vance, Jessica L. Alzen, and Heather S. Smith



Technometrics

- "PERCEPT: A New Online Change-Point Detection Method Using Topological Data Analysis," Xiaojun Zheng, Simon Mak, Liyan Xie, and Yao Xie
- "Maximum One-Factor-at-a-Time Designs for Screening in Computer Experiments," Qian Xiao, V. Roshan Joseph, and Douglas M. Ray



Statistics and Public Policy

- "Changes in Crime Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic," Mikaela Meyer, Ahmed Hassafy, Gina Lewis, Prasun Shrestha, Amelia M. Haviland
- "The Twentieth-Century Reversal: How Did the Republican States Switch to the Democrats and Vice Versa," Andrew Gelman



Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology

- "Preferred Reporting Items for Complex Sample Survey Analysis (PRICSSA)," Andrew B. Seidenberg, Richard P. Moser, and Brady T. West
- "Hansen Lecture 2022: The Evolution of the Use of Models in Survey Sampling," Richard Valliant



Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics

- "Is It Who You Are or Where You Are? Accounting for Compositional Differences in Cross-Site Treatment Effect Variation," Benjamin Lu, Eli Ben-Michael, et al.
- "Estimating Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Within Latent Class Multilevel Models: A Bayesian Approach," Weicong Lyu, Jee-Seon Kim, Youmi Suk, et al.

Read or share the Editors' Choice Collection at *bit.ly/ASAEditorsChoice.* ■

Members of the Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment

Will Eagan, *Chair* • Yingwen Dong, *Vice Chair* • Su Chen • Ann Marie Matheny • Sourav Santra • Mark Ward • John Watts • Erin Wiley • Cong Ye • Amy Farris • Kim Gilliam • Donna LaLonde • Elizabeth Mannshardt, *Membership Council Vice Chair* • Christina Bonner, *ASA Staff*

JEDI CORNER

JEDI, CAUSE Team to Offer Resources for JEDI-Informed Teaching



Jennifer Ward
Clark College



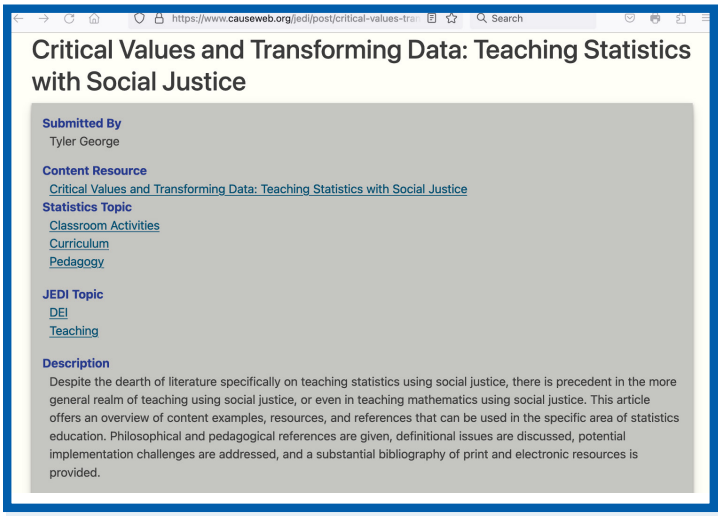
Jo Hardin
Pomona College

MORE ONLINE
To learn more about the JEDI Outreach Group, visit *datascijedi.org*. Peruse the CAUSE website at *causeweb.org*.

The Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Outreach Group Corner is a regular component of Amstat News *in which statisticians write about and educate our community about JEDI-related matters. If you have an idea or article for the column, email the JEDI Corner manager at* jedicorner@datascijedi.org.

If you have been reading the JEDI Corner over the last few years, you know members of the JEDI Outreach Group have worked to make the group an umbrella organization for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in all things statistics and data science. Some of the original JEDI committee members are also actively involved in educational work and revitalizing their classrooms with a JEDI lens. Early in discussions about how to bring JEDI into the classroom, we realized a central repository for JEDI-themed educational resources would be helpful for the entire community.

The Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education, known as CAUSE and supported by the ASA, is a national organization whose mission is to encourage the advancement of undergraduate statistics education by focusing on resources, professional development, outreach, and research. It is also the driving force behind USCOTS and eCOTS, two conferences focusing on teaching statistics and data science. CAUSE's flagship endeavor is a website containing many resources across each of its missions.



Entry Example 1 takes us to a 2017 paper in the *Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education* titled "Critical Values and Transforming Data: Teaching Statistics with Social Justice."

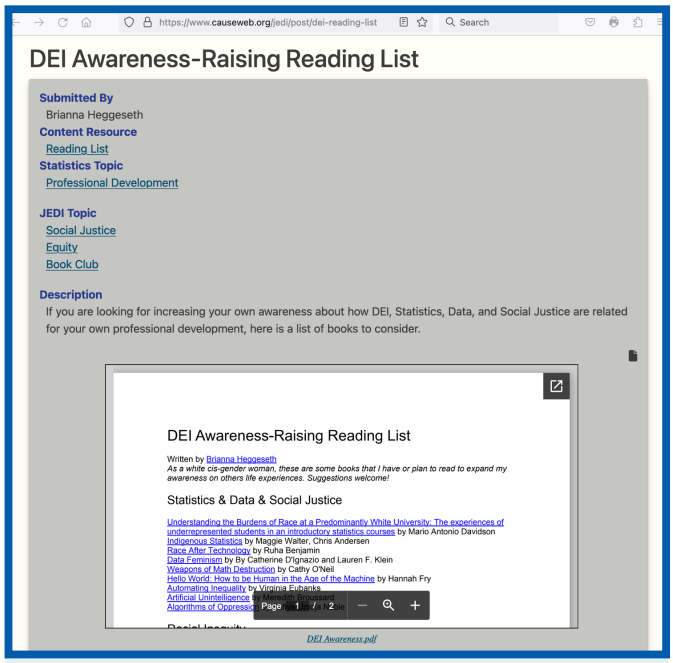
Recently, a group involved in both JEDI and CAUSE came together to create a space to host resources for JEDI-informed statistics teaching: the JEDI-CAUSE website at *https://causeweb.org/jedi*.

JEDI-CAUSE Materials

Each entry on the JEDI-CAUSE website is relevant to statistics and data science education and has a JEDI theme. The entries are broken down into classroom areas such as examples, data, professional development,



Entry Example 2 provides a classroom activity to discuss ethical implications in data analyses. The participants in the study selected their gender from four options: Male, Female, Non-Binary, and Other.



Entry Example 3 provides a reading list for learning about diversity, equity, and inclusion issues.

activities, pedagogy, and humanizing edutainment. They are also organized by JEDI content areas such as racial discrimination, climate change, criminal justice, gender discrimination, and bias.

To get the user started, the top of the page provides a list of the most common searches. Additionally, by random selection, the website spotlights a few entries from the database. Some entries are classroom activities, some are data sets, some are professional resources. All types of entries are welcome, but there are a few examples included above.

The entries found on the JEDI-CAUSE website are varied. One can find curated lists of resources, activities geared to a specific topic, data sets, and links to resources found on other websites.

Contributing Materials

If you have materials to contribute, submit them at *causeweb.org/jedi/form/submit-content*. You will be asked to provide a few details about yourself, the title and description of the entry, and a link to materials (optional) or files to upload (optional).

If there is a resource you would like to see on the JEDI-CAUSE website but you don't have materials to share, fill out the form at *forms.gle/siQDBGpxbDSk7mRT9*.

Questions or comments can be emailed to Jo Hardin at *jo.hardin@pomona.edu* or Jennifer Ward at *jsward@clark.edu.* ■

Data Science Conference Offers Latin American Perspectives

Alba Martínez Ruiz, Universidad Diego Portales, and Katherine B. Ensor, Rice University



MORE ONLINE
Download the conference abstracts from *bit.ly/47XPi3W.*

The International Conference on Data Science, ICDS2023, took place November 8–10, 2023, and brought together both seasoned and young researchers to discuss statistical learning and data science. Organized by the Universidad Diego Portales School of Industrial Engineering and cosponsored by the ASA, the conference consisted of in-person, hybrid, and virtual sessions and aimed to provide an overview of state-of-the-art research in statistical learning and data science, add diverse voices to the global debate in this area, and enrich the interdisciplinary dialogue between theory and application.

Members of the scientific committee received 135 abstracts from people in 35 countries. The program included eight keynote speakers, 22 invited paper sessions, four contributed paper sessions, and nine poster sessions. Keynote speakers included the following:

- **Peter Filzmoser**, Vienna University of Technology, Austria, "Explainable Outlier Identification for Matrix-Valued Observations"
- **Diego Gallardo**, Universidad del Bío Bío, Chile, "A Parametric Quantile Beta Regression for Modeling Case Fatality Rates of COVID-19"
- **Trevor Harris**, Texas A&M University, "Multi-Model Ensemble Analysis with Neural Network Gaussian Processes"
- **Miguel de Carvalho**, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, "Data Science for Extreme Events"
- **Karol Suchan**, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, "Workload Distribution in the Yard of a Multipurpose Port Terminal in Chile"
- **Katherine Ensor**, Rice University, "Statistics: A Foundation for Innovation" and "Multivariate Nonlinear Time Series Nowcasting with Spatial Considerations and Applications to Wastewater Epidemiology"
- **Fabrizio Ruggeri**, National Research Council Istituto di Matematica Applicata e Tecnologie Informatiche, Italy, "Advances in Adversarial Classification"
- **Paulo Canas Rodrigues**, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, "The Usefulness of Singular Spectrum Analysis in Hybrid Methodologies for Time Series Forecasting"

Conference topics included recent advances in outlier detection techniques and robust data analysis, Gaussian processes and deep neural networks, multivariate analysis, extreme value theory, spatio-temporal modeling, high-dimensional data analysis, multiblock data analysis, public

Conference Sponsors

- American Statistical Association
- International Statistical Institute
- International Association for Statistical Computing
- International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics
- Sociedad Chilena de Estadistica

health data science, modern statistical visualization, symbolic data analysis, effective computation and learning, optimization and stochastic modeling, time series analysis, R project package development, and machine learning.

Presenters also gave talks about applications to societal problems such as education, climate change, women in data science, health and epidemiology, the economy, and engineering.

In total, there were 108 presentations, including from undergraduate and post-graduate students. Presentations may be submitted to a special issue of the *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry Journal* until January 30 at *https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15264025*. Guest editors are David Banks, Alba Martínez-Ruiz, David F. Muñoz, and Javier Trejos-Zelaya.

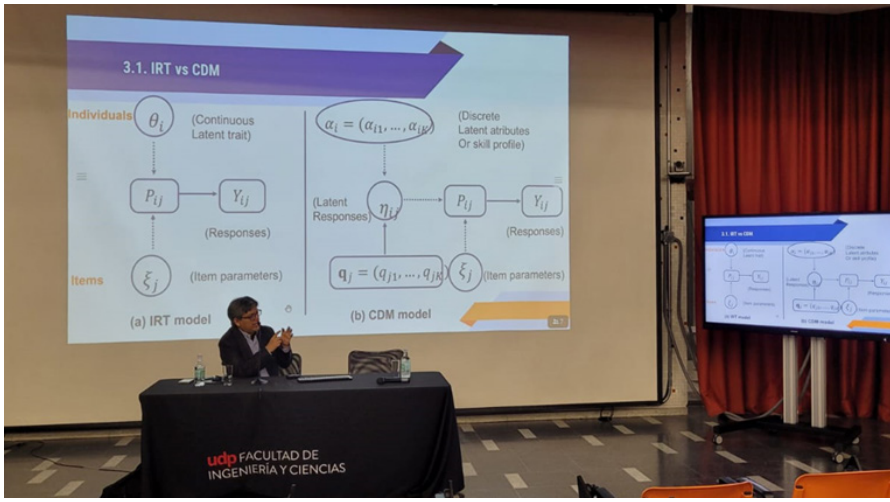
Workshops on Data Science

Prior to the conference, two data science workshops were held on education and climate change. The Workshop on Data Science and Education was organized by Jorge Luis Bazán from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. The program included five presentations focused on cognitive diagnostic models and educational assessment in Chile, Brazil, and the United States using artificial intelligence, Bayesian networks, latent models, and R project packages. View the workshop program at *bit.ly/41mRTlw*.

The Workshop on Data Science and Climate Change was organized by Rodrigo Salas from the University of Valparaiso, Chile, and Orietta Nicolis from Andres Bello University, Chile. The program included five presentations with applications of machine learning to the prediction of short-term stream flows in several basins of Chile, the prediction of seismic events, the spatio-temporal analysis of Chilean drought, the functional analysis of spatio-temporal data, and the application of spatial econometric model in the spatio-temporal modeling of forest fires in Brazil. View the program at *bit.ly/3TluBKM*.

A milestone for the Chilean and Latin American Scientific Community, the International Conference on Data Science is the first international conference held in Chile and supported by the International Statistical Institute and American Statistical Association.

Download the conference abstracts from *bit.ly/47XPi3W*. For more information about the conference, visit *https://icds2023.cl.* ■



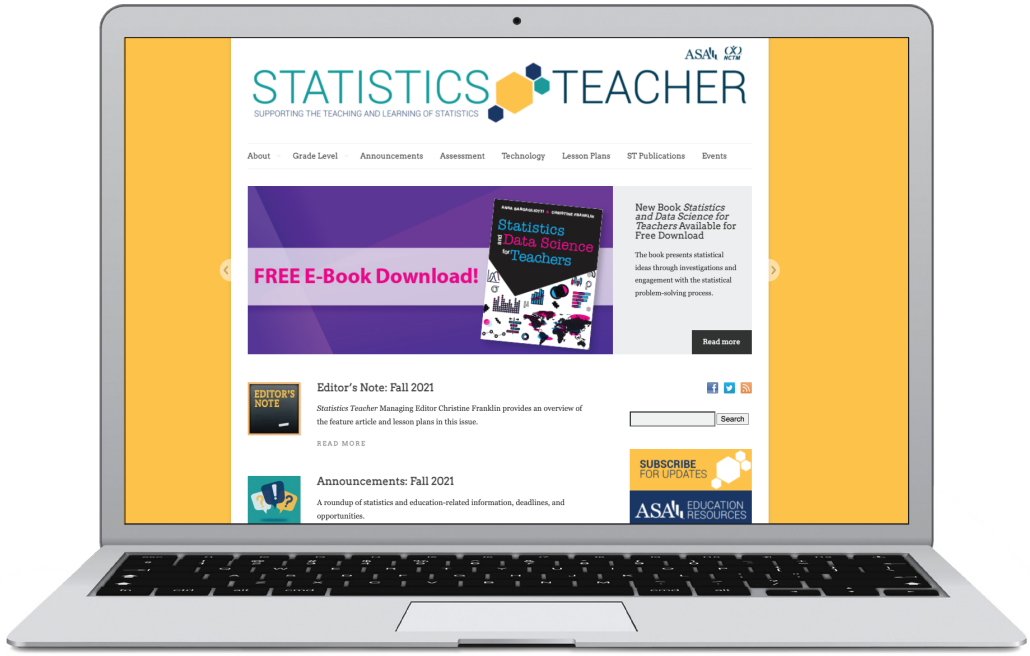
Jorge Luis Bazán of the University of São Paulo presents "Classification in Educational Data: Cognitive Diagnostic Models Using Different R Packages" during the Workshop on Data Science and Education.



Leaders and participants of the Workshop on Data Science and Climate Change gather for a quick smile at the Universidad Diego Portales.

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ASA, INFORMS Lead Webinar on Data Literacy



Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar



Laura Albert

ASA President Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar and Laura Albert, 2023 president of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, led a November webinar about data literacy aimed at congressional staffers.

Why Data Literacy?

The ASA and Data Science for Everyone developed three one-page infographics to promote greater data literacy in workforce development, artificial intelligence, and national security. Download these resources from *bit.ly/WhyDataLiteracy* and spread the word.



The webinar was hosted by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, known as INFORMS, and moderated by INFORMS Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer Jeff Cohen. Stating that "America has a data literacy crisis that threatens our shared security and prosperity" in his introductory remarks, Cohen then asked Albert and Ghosh-Dastidar such questions as the following:

- What does data literacy mean?
- What professions are suffering the most from a lack of data literacy, data science, and statistics?
- How does data literacy help the United States remain globally competitive and strengthen our economic and national security?

The Data Science and Literacy Act, introduced in the US House of Representatives in February of 2023, served as an impetus for the webinar. The ASA and INFORMS have been collaborating and building support for the bill, which would establish a voluntary grant program for the US Department of Education to support such activities as ensuring access to data science, data literacy, and statistics education for all students; expanding access to STEM classes; and addressing equity gaps in access to STEM courses. Twelve US representatives have sponsored or cosponsored the bill to date.

View the webinar at *www.youtube.com/watch?v=gonCUIdKXsU*. Also, learn about the Data Science and Literacy Act and how to request your representatives' support for it at *https://community.amstat.org/spaac/dsla23/support.* ■

STAT*tr@k*

CUBE Program: **A Student's View of the World of Biostatistics**

Kayla Williams



Kayla Williams
Drexel University

Note: This article originally appeared on *This*IsStatistics in May.

During the summer of 2022, I participated in the Collaborative Undergraduate Biostatistics Experience program at Virginia Tech. I enjoyed learning about the application of mathematical and statistical concepts to answer real-world questions and realized this is something I want to do as a career.

The CUBE program introduced me to the field of biostatistics. I was not just learning about introductory biostatistics concepts and topics; I was immersed in the work that an actual collaborative biostatistician would be doing. I helped form hypotheses for research questions, applied the appropriate statistical methods, summarized my results using various tables and figures, and presented those results to my peers and other researchers.

A Glimpse into Biostatistics Careers

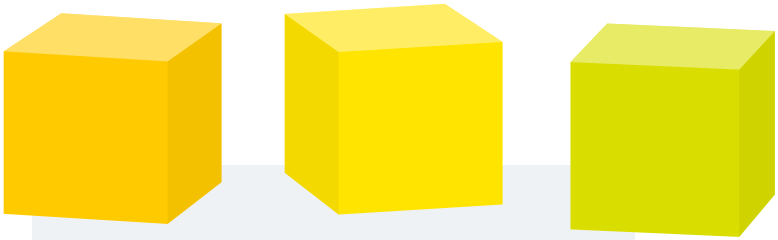
With my peers, I was given the opportunity to explore many aspects of collaborative biostatistics, from the beginning of the research cycle to the end. We utilized R programs to assess sociodemographic predictors of anterior cruciate ligament injuries diagnosed in the emergency department using data from the nationwide emergency department sample of the Healthcare Utilization Project. Completing the research cycle, we interpreted our results and communicated those results through oral and poster presentations at summer research symposiums.

The eight-week CUBE program gave me the experience and knowledge I needed to become aware of collaborative biostatistics as a potential career. My career goals are to eventually engage in collaborative research at a university as a statistician. Without the CUBE program, I may have never fully realized my passion for biostatistics, because it's not a field that is easily understood with online research.

A Statistics Power Skill: Collaboration

I also learned how much collaboration there is in the field of biostatistics. As part of the CUBE program, we visited several research labs and centers, including an animal cancer center and a smoking and alcohol lab to study addictive behaviors. We interacted with those researchers and learned how biostatistics can be used to analyze and publish the data they collect.

For my collaborative group project, I worked closely with my CUBE peers and Charlotte Baker, an epidemiologist who studies the control and prevention of sports and recreation injuries among



More About the CUBE Program

The CUBE program is an eight-week training program designed to give motivated, underrepresented undergraduate students in STEM the opportunity to engage in a full-time (~40 hours/week) collaborative data science experience with related professional development activities. CUBE is aimed at promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the STEM fields. The CUBE program is built on the following four pillars:

- Training in introductory biostatistics
- Training in R programming
- Professional development
- Collaborative research project addressing research questions in various disciplines

CUBE is accepting applications through March for the summer of 2024.

Learn more about the CUBE program at *bit.ly/410fzvC*.

youth. Actively collaborating and learning about how biostatisticians can be engaged in different areas of research was something I liked about the CUBE program and the field of collaborative biostatistics.

Start Anywhere—Just Start

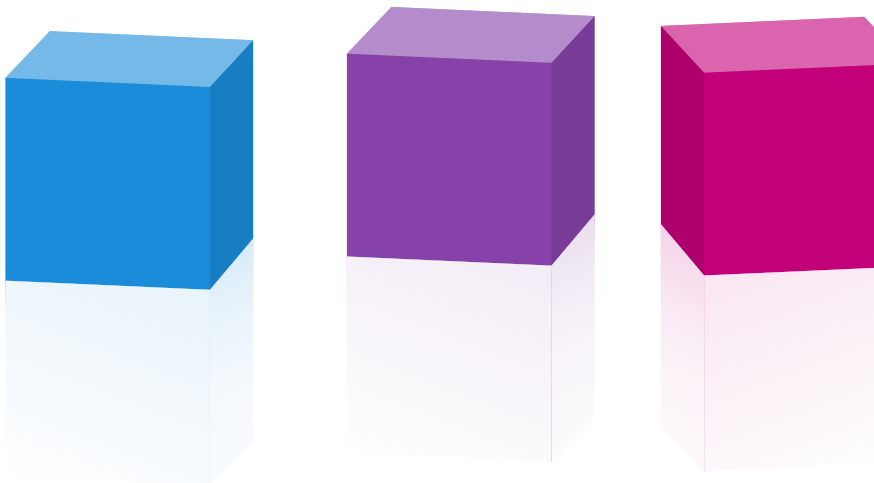
For students who want to pursue a career in collaborative biostatistics, my biggest piece of advice would be not to worry too much about your undergraduate major. There were so many collaborative biostatisticians I met who didn't study mathematics or statistics as undergraduates and still found their way to the field.

I also think it is important to gain experience through internships or programs like the CUBE program to get a glimpse into a day in the life of a collaborative biostatistician and to connect with mentors and other people who care about your success and want to help you early on in your career.

Ask for Help and Get Involved

My biggest takeaway from this experience is to never be afraid to ask for help. I used to think if I didn't know how to do everything before choosing a certain career path, I shouldn't take that route. However, I've learned even the most experienced professionals ask for help when they don't know how to approach a research question or know little about a specific method. Having the confidence to ask for help and believing there are no stupid questions when it comes to research was important for me because that's something I have always struggled with.

Through this experience, I also learned to have more patience. For my collaborative group project, we would have to wait 30 minutes to an hour for our code to run in R because the data we were working with was so large. I learned that good research takes time and cannot be completed in a day. ■



STATS4GOOD

The 2024 Challenge List: This Year's Most Important Questions in Data for Good



David Corliss is the principal data scientist at Grafham Analytics. He serves on the steering committee for the Conference on Statistical Practice and is the founder of Peace-Work.

With the new year, Stats4Good presents our Data for Good Challenge List. This annual call to action highlights a challenge in five areas: biostatistics; environmental advocacy; human rights; data; and organization and infrastructure. The list is presented to draw attention to important current cases, with a particular interest in problems that might be overlooked. We hope the list will inspire and guide new research, student projects, collaborations, conference presentations, and government action. Without further ado, here is our Data for Good Challenge List for 2024.

Biostatistics: Local and Community Studies

Much of the work in biostatistics involves major projects undertaken by large organizations with a global reach, but biostatisticians also have the opportunity to take on local projects conducted by small teams or individuals. This year's biostatistics challenge highlights these local projects, often leveraging community-based partnerships.

Statistical skills are needed to investigate the effects of environmental hazards like toxic waste or smoke from forest fires and prevalence studies of local health risks. This can also include effects of larger problems such as a community's response to the opioid crisis or long COVID.

Biostatistics in the community offers the opportunity to make an impact where we live and work while driving changes in how science is perceived by the public, leading to stronger support in the future for the benefit of everyone.

Getting Involved

In opportunities this month, consider looking at the topics outlined in this column and how they connect to your interests. Mine the presentations from JSM 2023 (*ww2.aievolution.com/JSMAnnual/index.cfm?do=ev.pubSearchOptions&style=0*) and other conferences to find important examples, programs, and potential collaborators.

One great way to get connected to a new D4G project is entering the Data Challenge Expo at JSM 2024 from the ASA's Computing, Government, and Graphics sections. Each year, student teams analyze a specific data set. This year, the data is from the General Social Survey from NORC at the University of Chicago (*https://gss.norc.org*). All entries must include GSS data in their analysis, either alone or in combination with other data. Abstracts and an associated JSM submission are due by February 1. Visit the Data Challenge Expo website at *community.amstat.org/dataexpo/home* for details.



Environmental Advocacy: Threatened and Endangered Species

The data is in: We are in the midst of a mass extinction event. Unlike earlier events in recorded history, this sixth mass extinction is driven by human activity.

Responding to this challenge is a global issue. Statisticians in environmental advocacy should note that while a loss of apex predators can attract a lot of attention, harm at the bottom of the food chain threatens entire ecosystems. Another important but sometimes overlooked dimension of this problem is a loss of biodiversity, as a handful of species most able to adapt to human habitation thrive while species loss accelerates.

This D4G challenge seeks to drive the science that will lead to a more sustainable future for everyone.

Human Rights: Ethical AI

Best practices for ethical and responsible artificial intelligence, AI, are important for all areas of Data for Good. This is especially the case in human rights analytics, where issues include the ethics of large language models, algorithm problems such as bias and unintended consequences, data ownership, and privacy.

The needs in ethical AI are diverse and significant, and the opportunity for D4G projects to have an impact on people's lives has never been greater.

Data: Globalization

The world we live in becomes smaller and more interconnected every day. This is especially true of Data for Good, with more projects leveraging data that needs to cross borders to be effective.

Globalization presents several important challenges for the storage, use, and protection of data—both across borders and between societies, where expectations of privacy can differ. Innovative D4G research offers the promise of informing new projects around the world, but only if data globalization is addressed first. This makes developing best practices for data in a global ecosystem a priority in Data for Good.

Organization and Infrastructure: Collaboration with Industry

Data and analytics serving the greater good thrive best in an environment in which all voices are included and we draw inspiration, innovation, and best practices from everyone.

Following an opportunity to serve as the nonacademic representative for the Statistics Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2023, I have to say the ASA and other statistical societies often could do a better job reaching beyond academia and governmental organizations to partner with industry.

Now is the time to take up your own challenge. Chose an area that speaks to you, identify data sources and collaborators, and plan your work. Be inspired and be an inspiration to others. ■

ASA member **D. Anthony Miles and his Analytix Group team** won two Best Paper awards for the following papers at the Academy of Business Research Conference in San Antonio, Texas, this fall:



D. Anthony Miles

- "STATISTICS RESEARCH: Movie Sequel Marketing and Predictive Analytics: The Movie Marketing Analytics of Marvel's Sequel, Wakanda Forever"
- "STATISTICS RESEARCH: The New Remote Work Revolution: An Empirical Study on the Management Crisis with the Rise in Remote Work Preference with Employees"

Additional team members included Earnell La'Shaun Seay, Shantana L. Robinson, Joshua Garcia, Wanda Goodnough, dt ogilvie, Eniola Olagundoye, and Nathan Tymann. ■

Jessica Roydhouse was awarded the 2023 International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Bernie O'Brien New Investigator Award. The society is for health economics and outcomes research professionals and sponsors this award to recognize a new investigator who has shown exceptional promise.

Roydhouse, who earned her PhD from the Brown University School of Public Health, is the Select Foundation Senior Research Fellow in health services research at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research at the University of Tasmania.

The ASA External Nominations and Awards Committee sponsored Roydhouse's nomination. In a letter of recommendation, committee members noted "Roydhouse's impressive body of work has not prevented her from service to the profession—in fact, it has inspired her. She has served as an associate editor for the Journal of Patient-Reported Outcomes and Health and Quality of Life Outcomes; she regularly reviews journal submissions for several prominent journals; and she has organized sessions and presented at ISPOR, the Joint Statistical Meetings, and other statistical conferences."

Roydhouse also serves as director of the Tasmanian Cancer Registry, the population-based cancer registry for the state, and academic lead for the Prostate Cancer Outcomes Registry Tasmania, a clinical quality registry. She currently serves as chair of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Patient-Centered Special Interest Group and is a member of the GP5 Working Group in the National Cancer Institute Cancer Treatment Tolerability Consortium.

The award was established in 2004 to honor Bernie O'Brien, who demonstrated a long-standing commitment to training and mentoring new scientists in the field.

For more information about this award, visit the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research website at *https://bit.ly/46Hr1gV*. ■

Ofer Harel has been awarded the APHS Achievement in Academia Award for 2023.

Harel's citation reads, "In recognition of your distinguished career in statistical research and applications. Your contributions to public health and health policy through research and commitment to the American Public Health Statistics section. Your mentoring of students, current and future statisticians and biostatisticians and tireless pursuit of knowledge with impact on public health policy which make you a true inspiration to all members of the American Public Health Association. And for substantial contributions promoting the use of advanced statistical methods in medical and public health research."

For more about the American Public Health Association and achievement award, visit *https://bit.ly/3RvPGkf*. ■



How Can We Help?

We want to help you share your own news with colleagues and showcase your latest successes.

It is important to us that everyone knows about your research, recent awards, and promotions!

If you have any news you would like to share, email *megan@amstat.org*.

Obituaries

Colin Lingwood Mallows

Siddhartha Dalal and James Landwehr

Colin Mallows was born on September 10, 1930, in Great Sampford, a small village in Essex, England. His father was the village policeman and later became chief inspector at the police headquarters in Chelmsford, responsible for education and record-keeping regarding road safety. In this role, his father created statistical procedures, and perhaps this sparked Colin's interest.

In 1940, at the beginning of the Battle of Britain, Mallows' parents evacuated him and his brother to Cape Town, South Africa. He returned to England in 1945 and, in 1948, began studying at University College London in the department of mathematics. He soon moved to the department of statistics, founded by Karl Pearson in 1911 as the first statistics department and the place where modern statistics began. When Mallows began his studies, Egon Pearson was the professor and the faculty included F. N. David, N. L. Johnson, and H. O. Hartley. Colin finished his PhD in 1953 under David and Johnson, and all four parts of his thesis were published. For the following two years, he served his national service in the Royal Artillery.

While at University College, he met his wife, Jean, at a local dance in Essex and the first thing he asked her, while the lights were dimmed, was whether she could trust him in the dark. The rest was history. Colin and Jean married in 1956 and continued folk dancing for many years.

Following his graduation, he had one year at University College London, another year at Princeton University where John Tukey recruited him, and another two years at University College. Finally, in 1960 he joined Bell Labs, Murray Hill, New Jersey. He felt that he had "lucked into the best job in the world" with early colleagues like John Tukey, Brad Murphy, Martin Wilk, Ram Gnanadesikan, Bill Williams, Dave Brillinger, and Frank Anscombe. He enjoyed the stimulating environment of Bell Labs due to the highly technical management that allowed researchers to explore new directions without constraints and the presence of a constant stream of new problems and collaborations with colleagues in engineering and the mathematical, physical, and social sciences. He was greatly influenced by Tukey's path-breaking work on data analysis and invention of statistical tools such as box plots and stem-and-leaf diagrams. For years Colin taught data analysis courses based on these and other ideas at Bell Labs.

As the statistical effort grew, he and Gnanadesikan became department heads at Bell Labs and recruited John Chambers, Siddhartha Dalal, Trevor Hastie, Jon Kettenring, Jim Landwehr, Vijay Nair, Yehuda Vardi, and others. In 1995, at one more breakup of AT&T, he joined AT&T Labs, from which he formally retired in 2000 and then began consulting at Avaya Labs (a second-generation spin-off from AT&T).

Colin was a prolific researcher and wrote over 200 papers and several research notes and was a co-inventor on five patents. He is probably most well-known for inventing, with stimulation from Cuthbert Daniels, what came to be known as "Mallows Cp Statistic," a regression model diagnostic procedure still used every day around the world. He felt that Cp should be used only as a descriptive tool to assess whether a set of variables was as good as another one and that min Cp should not be used as a criterion.

"A Conversation with Colin L. Mallows" was published in the *International Statistical Review* in December of 2013 (see *www.jstor.org/stable/43299641*). In that conversation, Mallows described his approach to statistical problems, the Bell Labs research environment and how it appealed to him and enabled him to thrive, his work on AT&T regulation issues, and how he approached research and mathematical problems in general.

Besides Cp, he worked on rank models, regression diagnostics, inequalities, robust statistics, experimental designs, matrix methods, privacy and security, combinatorics, and Apollonian packing with numerous colleagues across the world. Some of the problems were purely mathematical, though his approach was unique in that he always tried to think of relevant data that would give him insight into deeper mathematical arguments. A classic example of this was in the context of a challenging problem with a major prize

posed by John Conway on Conway Sequences. Colin solved the problem with his unique insights from data analysis and simulations.

He felt statisticians were spending comparatively little time on the so-called "Zeroth problem"—the first problem being the formation of specifications for the data, the second being design procedures for dealing with data that makes sense in context of the specification, and the third being distributional aspects and inference. Before all these, the Zeroth problem involves how one thinks about what data ought to be collected for the problem at hand. He wove these ideas into his Fisher Lecture at the 1997 Joint Statistical Meetings.

He always believed in looking at data before making any assumptions. Thus, he felt uncomfortable with Bayesian assumptions on prior distributions as well as truly believing the distributional model. Nevertheless, he often approached problems from a Bayesian perspective to identify a method of analysis and later would question its assumptions.

He felt statistics was similar to engineering in that in engineering one has to deal with the real world—a bridge either stands up or it doesn't. In statistics, the procedure either makes sense and helps with the real problems or it doesn't. He felt that the statistics profession has opportunities everywhere, but it has sometimes been unwilling to take the lead on new emerging areas such as machine learning. Another concern he had was how best to teach applied statistics in the classroom.

Colin was a fellow of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Royal Statistical Society. He was chosen as Fisher Lecturer in 1997 and Deming Lecturer in 2004, and he received the Wilks Memorial Award in 2007. He also received the AT&T Science and Technology medal in 1999.

Colin stayed interested and engaged in research until his final days. In the summer of 2023, he was approached by a psychologist researcher from his Bell Labs days about reviving and revising a technical memorandum they had written and distributed internally at Bell Labs but never published. The revision was completed in August, with the most important change being the addition of some data—the original memorandum was purely theoretical. It is currently under review at a psychological journal.

One of his main hobbies was table tennis. He played in a league at a club in Westfield, New Jersey, at least one night a week for over fifty years and competed in tournaments and league play well into his 80s. Another pleasure was writing limericks for special occasions. Colin and his wife owned a 70 acre farm in northwestern New Jersey for about 20 years. It was heavily wooded, and they raised sheep. Colin fixed fences and really enjoyed cutting down trees.

Colin Mallows died on November 4, 2023, at the age of 93. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, three daughters, eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandson.

Download a PDF of Mallows' key publications by areas of research at *https://bit.ly/48nKVPB.*

Richard Olshen

ASA Fellow Richard Olshen passed away on November 8, 2023. He was emeritus professor of biomedical data science at Stanford Medicine.

As well as being an ASA Fellow, Olshen was a fellow of the Institute for Mathematical Statistics, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was also a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow. Olshen's research was in applications of statistics to medicine and biology, focusing on tree-structured algorithms for classification, regression, survival analysis, and clustering.

Olshen was born in Portland, Oregon, on May 17, 1942. He spent his early years in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and later attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his statistics degree. He finished his PhD in statistics at Yale University, writing his dissertation under the direction of Jimmie Savage and Frank Anscombe.

To learn more about Olshen, visit the Stanford University website at *https://stanford.io/3GnbND3* or download the interview he did with John Rice in 2015 for *Statistical Science* from *https://arxiv.org/pdf/1504.03131.pdf.*

Deadlines and Contact Information for Select ASA National Awards, Special Lectureships, and COPSS Awards

AWARD	DEADLINE	QUESTIONS & NOMINATIONS
Gottfried E. Noether Awards	January 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Bob Riffenburgh Award	January 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Karl E. Peace Award	February 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
W. J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting	February 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Harry V. Roberts Statistical Advocate of the Year Award	February 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Waller Awards	February 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award	February 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
W. J. Youden Award in Interlaboratory Testing	February 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Statistics in Physical Engineering Sciences Award	February 20, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship	February 23, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund	March 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award	March 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Fellows of the ASA	March 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
ASA Mentoring Award	March 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Outstanding Statistical Application Award	March 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Statistical Partnerships Among Academe, Industry, and Government (SPAIG) Award	March 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Annie T. Randall Innovator Award	March 15, 2024	Sherri Rose (*sherrirose@stanford.edu*)
Biopharmaceutical Section Scholarship Award	March 15, 2024	Biopharmaceutical Community website (*community.amstat.org/biop/awards/scholarship*)
Founders Award	March 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
ASA Pride Scholarship	March 31, 2024	Donna LaLonde (*DonnaL@amstat.org*)
Causality in Statistics Education Award	April 5, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Government Statistics Section Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship	May 1, 2024	Nathan Cruze (*nathan.cruze@gmail.com*)
Links Lecture Award	July 1, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Dorothy Marie Lamb and Annette Lila Ryne Memorial Scholarship	July 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Health Policy Statistics Section Achievement Awards	September 15, 2024	Health Policy Statistics Section website (*asahealthpolicy.org/for-students*)
Lester R. Curtin Award	October 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Deming Lecturer Award	October 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*
Lingzi Lu Memorial Award	October 15, 2024	*awards@amstat.org*

Data Challenge Expo

The Annual Data Challenge Expo—to be held in conjunction with the Joint Statistical Meetings in Portland, Oregon, August 3–8—is open to students and professionals from the private and public sectors who submit a contributed speed poster abstract by February 1.

This year, the data set is from the General Social Survey, which collects data on topics in contemporary American society to monitor and explain trends in opinions, attitudes, and behaviors. A complete list of survey variables can be found on the GSS Data Explorer at *https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org*.

To enter, contestants must do the following:

- Submit an abstract for a contributed speed poster session to the JSM 2024 website at *ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2024* and specify the Statistical Computing Section as the primary sponsor.
- Forward the JSM abstract submission email with abstract number, title, and authors to Edward Mulrow at *mulrow-edward@norc.org* and Wendy Martinez at *wendy.l.martinez@census.gov*.

For details about the challenge and General Social Survey data set, visit *bit.ly/3R7f4LX*. ■

Biopharmaceutical Section Scholarship

The Nonclinical Biostatistics Working Group of the ASA's Biopharmaceutical Section is offering a scholarship program for students in US graduate programs. Possible disciplines include (bio)statistics, data science, and engineering.

To apply, a student and faculty mentor (industry co-mentor optional) must submit a research proposal addressing a topic in nonclinical biostatistics. The proposal should lead to a publishable manuscript.

The scholarship provides up to $15,000, with at least $10,000 going directly to the student and the balance available to the faculty mentor. Any overhead or indirect costs are the responsibility of the faculty mentor and cannot be paid from these funds. Applicants without a named industry co-mentor will be assisted in locating one by the scholarship steering committee.

The directing professor and student will receive free admission to the 2025 Nonclinical Biostatistics Conference and make either an oral or poster presentation. The research will be published in the *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research* special conference issue subject to the normal refereeing process.

Students from currently underrepresented groups in the nonclinical biostatistics community are strongly encouraged to apply. The application due date is February 1.

Interested applicants should submit the following by email to John Kolassa at *kolassa@stat.rutgers.edu:*

- Names and contact information for the student, faculty sponsor, and industry mentor
- A research proposal of no more 1,000 words
- Student CV and transcript
- Anticipated period of research (e.g., a summer, a semester, or longer)
- A plan for allocating the funds

To learn about nonclinical biostatistics, visit the following:

- A discussion about the nonclinical biostatistics field in the Spring 2021 *Biopharm Report*, *bit.ly/481kBdJ*
- Nonclinical biostatistics LinkedIn group, *www.linkedin.com/groups/8547808*
- Past presentations at the Nonclinical Biostatistics Conference, *community.amstat.org/biop/events/ncb/past-presentations*
- Working groups of the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section, *community.amstat.org/biop/workinggroups/ncbwg/index* ■

Wilks Award

The Army Wilks Memorial Award (*http://armywilksaward.org*), which recognizes an individual who has made substantial contributions to research and/or the application of statistical methodology affecting the practice of statistics in the Army, is open for nominations.

The award was established in 1981 to commemorate the career of Samuel S. Wilks and his dedication to the solution of analytical problems for the Army.

Nominations are due February 15 and must include the following:

- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of nomination detailing service to the Army
- One additional supporting letter (optional)

Submit nomination packages and any questions to Nick Clark at *nicholas.clark@westpoint.edu*.

The award will be presented at the 2024 Defense and Aerospace Test and Analysis Workshop, to be held April 16–18 at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, Virginia. For additional information about the workshop, visit *https://dataworks.testscience.org*. ■

IAOS Launches Young Statisticians Prize

The International Association for Official Statistics has launched the 2024 IAOS Young Statisticians Prize for young statisticians who take an active interest in official statistics. In addition to monetary prizes, first-place winner(s) receive travel funds to present their paper at an international conference.

Paper submissions should address and propose solutions to pressing methodological or strategic issues in official statistics at the regional, national, or international level; be no more than 4,000 words; be submitted in English; and not have been previously presented in a public forum or published. A maximum of three co-authors is allowed for each submission, and an author can participate in only one submission.

An international panel will judge submissions based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and/or strategic merit
- Originality
- Applicability of the ideas in the practice of statistical organizations
- Quality of the exposition

The author(s) of the winning paper will be awarded the following:

- A cash prize valued at €1,500 (divided among co-authors, if applicable)
- An opportunity to present the paper at a mutually agreed upon international statistical conference, with airfare and hotel accommodation provided (for only one author in situations of co-authorship)
- Two years of IAOS membership
- A certificate of award from the IAOS acknowledging success in this competition

The deadline for submissions is February 10. Visit the IAOS website at *https://iaos-isi.org/ysp* for details.

SIAM Outstanding Paper Award

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Student Paper Prize is awarded annually to the student author(s) of the most outstanding paper(s) accepted by SIAM journals within the three years preceding the nomination deadline. The focus of the prize is to recognize outstanding scholarship by students.

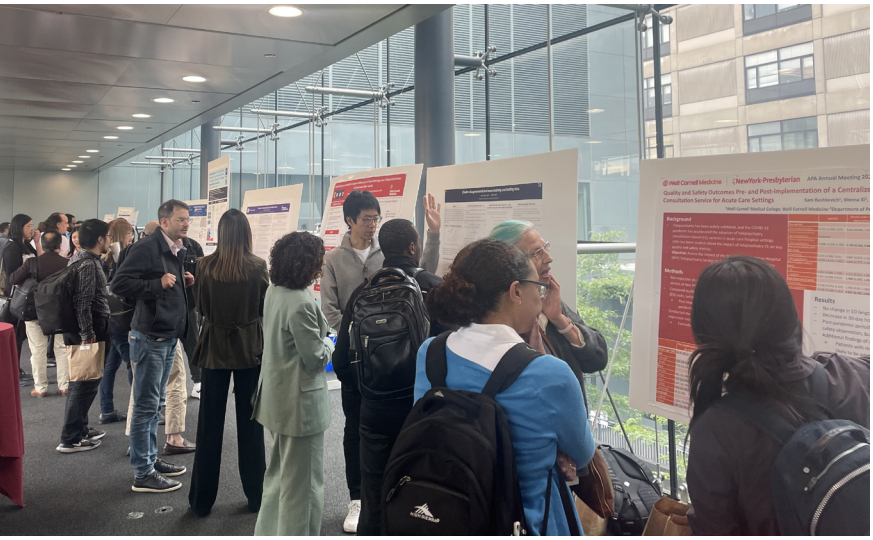
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

The nominator, typically the student's adviser or a senior co-author, must submit the following:

- Nominator's letter certifying the candidate and paper meet the eligibility criteria, attesting that all co-authors (if any) have agreed to the nomination, and describing the paper's research contribution and candidate's role in the scholarship
- Candidate's CV (two or fewer pages)
- PDF of the paper

The nomination deadline is February 15. Visit the SIAM website at *bit.ly/48fFOkr* for details. ■

Symposium Gathers Mental Health Experts, Honors Thomas R. Ten Have



Participants view the poster presentations during the Thomas Ten Have Symposium on Statistics in Mental Health at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Photo courtesy of Ryan Zamora

The annual Thomas R. Ten Have Symposium on Statistics in Mental Health took place in June of 2023 in Boston, Massachusetts, bringing together an international group of professionals and experts.

The keynote presentation by Susan Murphy addressed the intersection of statistics and machine learning and focused on improving robustness and the quality of statistical inference when applying reinforcement learning to individual participant data. This work has implications for future research at the intersection of statistics, machine learning, and personalized medicine.

An array of presentations touched on structural equation modeling, genetic and driven profiles of depression in diverse populations, N-of-1 clinical trials, and the use of covariates for calibrating regression and multivariate models. Presenters included the following:

- Doug Gunzler, Case Western Reserve University
- Hanga Galfalvy, Columbia University Medical Center
- Jin Jin, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
- Chris Schmid, Brown University
- Wenna Xi, Weill Cornell Medicine
- Xin Zhou, Yale School of Public Health
- Hyung Park, New York University
- Justin Baker, Harvard Medical School

A poster session and group dinner complemented the presentations and provided opportunities for networking and collaboration.

This annual event was established in 1999 by Thomas R. Ten Have and Eva Petkova as a forum for statisticians engaged in mental health research to explore innovative statistical methodologies and address emerging challenges.

In 2011, Thomas Ten Have passed away. To honor his many statistical contributions to mental health research, the symposium was renamed the Thomas R. Ten Have Symposium on Statistics in Mental Health.

This year's event, chaired by Alex De Nadai from Harvard Medical School, marked the 10th anniversary of the symposium being dedicated to Ten Have's memory and attendees reminisced about his legacy as a colleague and innovator. ■

Florida

Three Assistant Professor Positions Department of Statistics at Florida State University. Fall 2024. The Department of Statistics at Florida State University invites applications for three tenure-track assistant professor positions starting in August 2024. A doctoral degree from an accredited institution in biostatistics, data science, statistics, or a related field with a demonstrated record of achievement in teaching and academic research is required. Please apply at *http://jobs.fsu.edu* (Job ID 56158). The deadline is January 10, 2024. FSU is an Equal Opportunity/Access/Affirmative Action/Pro Disabled & Veteran Employer. FSU's Equal Opportunity Statement can be viewed at: *https://hr.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu2186/files/PDF/Publications/diversity/EEO_Statement.pdf.*

Maryland

National Cancer Institute. Submit Your Letter of Interest for Chief of the Statistical Research and Applications Branch (SRAB) of the National Cancer Institute! Provide visionary leadership in the development of statistical measures and methods for the collection, analysis, presentation, and interpretation of cancer data. The location is Rockville, Maryland. US Citizenship is required. To learn more, please send CV and letter describing your background/interests to Trish Murphy: *patricia.murphy@nih.gov*. *https://surveillance.cancer.gov/jobs/srab-chief.html.* The National Cancer Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Michigan

The Department of Statistics at Grand Valley State University invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position of Assistant Professor to begin August 6, 2024. This is an open field search, and candidates from statistics, biostatistics, data science or a related field with a commitment to quality teaching and strong data analysis and

Professional Opportunity listings may not exceed 65 words, plus equal opportunity information. The deadline for their receipt is the 20th of the month two months prior to when the ad is to be published (e.g., May 20 for the July issue). Ads will be published in the next available issue following receipt.

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

Professional Opportunities vacancies also will be published on the ASA's website (*www.amstat.org*). Vacancy listings will appear on the website for the entire calendar month. Ads may not be placed for publication in the magazine only; all ads will be published both electronically and in print.

These listings and additional information about the 65-word ads can be found at *ww2.amstat.org/ads.*

Employers are expected to acknowledge all responses resulting from publication of their ads. Personnel advertising is accepted with the understanding that the advertiser does not discriminate among applicants on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation.

Also, look for job ads on the ASA website at *https://jobs.amstat.org/jobseekers.*

Columbia University, Department of Statistics
Founder's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Statistics Starting Fall 2024

Position Description: The Department of Statistics invites applications for the 2024 Founder's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Statistics at Columbia University. This fellowship seeks to bring exceptional scientists of outstanding potential to Columbia University. This two-year fellowship, with no teaching obligations, is to begin between July and September 2024. The Fellow will hold the rank of postdoctoral research scientist in the Department of Statistics. A competitive annual salary will be supplemented with generous funding for conference travel and research support.

Applications in all areas of statistics and probability will be considered: the primary selection criterion will be the candidates' exceptional promise to produce high quality and visible research. Candidates must have a PhD in statistics or related field by the date of appointment. Fellows will be expected to pursue a vigorous research agenda and to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Department.

The Department currently consists of 38 faculty members and 55 PhD students. The department has been expanding rapidly and, like the University itself, is an extraordinarily vibrant academic community. We are especially interested in candidates who, through their research, teaching and/or service, will contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. For further information about the department and our activities, centers, research areas, and curricular programs, please go to our web page at: *http://www.stat.columbia.edu*

Qualifications: PhD in statistics or related field by the date of appointment

Application Instructions: All applications must be submitted through Columbia's online Academic Search and Recruiting portal (ASR). *http://apply.interfolio.com/136121*
The application must include the following:

- A cover letter that explains your motivation for applying for this position and indicates your choice of mentors from the statistics faculty.
- A curriculum vitae *(including a list of publications)*
- A brief research statement that summarizes current research interests, past accomplishments, and future research goals. It should contain a short proposal for the research activities you plan to conduct while at Columbia.
- The names of 3 references—references will be asked to upload letters of recommendation in ASR.

Review of applications begins on January 13, 2024, and will continue until the position is filled. Inquiries may be made to Dood Kalicharan at *dk@stat.columbia.edu.*

Salary range: $70,000-$100,000
The salary of the finalist selected for this role will be set based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to departmental budgets, qualifications, experience, education, licenses, specialty, and training. The above hiring range represents the University's good faith and reasonable estimate of the range of possible compensation at the time of posting.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement:
Columbia University is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Disability / Veteran.

Mathematical Statistician

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH
OFFICE OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

The Office of Biostatistics is seeking individuals with strong statistical methodology skills and an interest in biomedical applications to serve as mathematical statisticians. Incumbents work with multidisciplinary teams of review scientists in a dynamic, highly challenging, and innovative atmosphere of development, evaluation, and research of drug and therapeutic biologics. The Office of Biostatistics is responsible for reviews in all therapeutic areas CDER supports and can be as diverse as cardio-renal, oncology, rare disease, and antimicrobial products. Incumbents have an opportunity to employ a broad variety of statistical procedures relevant to pre-clinical and clinical evaluation decisions for new and generic drugs as well as new and biosimilar biologics and the emerging field of quantitative risk assessment.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Evaluate and advise on protocols for clinical studies and assess the evidence for safety and efficacy from clinical studies submitted in drug and biologics applications.
- Employ a broad variety of statistical procedures relevant to pre-clinical and clinical evaluation decisions for new and generic drugs as well as new and biosimilar biologics and the emerging field of quantitative risk assessment.
- Work with multidisciplinary teams of review scientists in a dynamic, highly challenging, and innovative atmosphere of development, evaluation, and research of drug and therapeutic biologics.
- Refine your consulting, communication, and presentation skills and present at domestic and international professional meetings.
- Engage in an active collaborative regulatory research program which will allow you to advance your skills and professional development.
- Interact with national, international, public, and private organizations on statistical issues, and help develop guidance for the pharmaceutical industry.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should possess an advanced degree with specific coursework in Statistics, Biostatistics or Mathematical Statistics. Applicants with a doctoral degree and associated experience are highly desirable. In addition to a background in statistics, applicants should have an interest in biostatistics, clinical trials, epidemiology, genomics, or risk assessment.

The ability to communicate statistical issues to non-statisticians is vital.

Non-US citizens may apply for term appointments.

BENEFITS

Health and Life Insurance
Long-term Care Insurance
Dental and Vision Insurance
Annual and Sick Leave
Paid Holidays
Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)
Federal Retirement Plan
Thrift Savings Plan (401k)

WORK/LIFE BALANCE

Telework & Alternative Work Schedules
Child Care Center | Fitness Center
Employee Assistance Program/Resource Groups
Commuting and Transportation Programs



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING AT FDA?

SEND YOUR RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE TO:
CDEROTSHires@fda.hhs.gov

LOCATIONS

Mathematical Statisticians are located in the Washington, D.C. area.
Remote employment may be available.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ● CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH ● OFFICE OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

computing skills are encouraged to apply. Applications are accepted online at *https://jobs.gvsu.edu/en-us/job/495062/assistant-professor-of-statistics*. The equal opportunity information is: Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from candidates from underrepresented groups, candidates who have interest and/or experience in working with diverse student and community populations, and candidates working in emerging fields that can contribute to diversifying the expertise in our department.

INTERNATIONAL

Korea

SUNY Korea. SUNY Korea, a global campus of Stony Brook University, seeks applicants for a tenure-track faculty position starting Fall 2024. Qualifications: American education experience, fluent English, PhD in mathematics, statistics or a related field. To apply: Send the following items to *hongshik.ahn@stonybrook.edu*: Cover letter, CV, Teaching statement, Research statement, List of three references. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Websites: *www.sunykorea.ac.kr, www.ams.stonybrook.edu*, *https://bit.ly/46LCLPu*.■

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If you've been thinking about joining an ASA section or regional chapter, we have made it easier than ever. With a few clicks, you can add section and chapter membership and pay online.

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ASA

Add section and chapter membership at *ww2.amstat.org/membersonly/additems*.

Statistical Analyst

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH
OFFICE OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

The Office of Biostatistics is recognized for excellence in the application and communication of statistical science in drug regulation and development. We play a central role in promoting innovative, science-based, quantitative decision-making throughout the drug development life-cycle. To support our Center's mission, we provide statistical leadership, expertise, and advice to ensure that safe and effective drugs are available to the American people.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with a multidisciplinary review team to provide statistical programming and data management support, assess the quality and completeness of submissions, prepare clinical trial analysis datasets, validate sponsor results, assist in modeling and simulation, and suggest possible additional statistical analyses required to fully evaluate the evidence in the submission.
- Collaborate with scientists from the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, statistical reviewers in OB, and management on a variety of computationally intensive projects to support and improve the efficiency of regulatory product review, evaluation of pharmaceutical quality and applied regulatory research.
- Use machine learning and natural language processing to assess internal and external data sources to support assessment of quality intelligence throughout the product life cycle.
- Develop, validate, implement, document, maintain and support programming tools and software according to standards and accepted validation procedures; Support efforts to develop, document and apply reusable code and/or tools.
- Develop software using the appropriate statistical programming packages for statistical reviewers to support programming-intensive review-related activities such as sensitivity analysis, Bayesian approaches, clinical trials modeling, genomic studies, psychometric Clinical Outcome Assessment (COA) validation, and simulation.
- Promote and improve the Center data standards initiatives mandated by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act; Monitor the quality of the implementation of data standards used in New Drug Application submissions.
- Apply your skills to address unique and precedent-setting problems, while refining your consulting, communication, and presentation skills.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Master's degree in statistics or biostatistics.
Familiarity with R, SAS, data science tools, machine learning predictive techniques and natural language processing.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Experience in clinical trials, epidemiology, genomics, or risk assessment. Strong skills in multiple programming environments.

Candidates should also have excellent oral and written communication skills.

The ability to communicate statistical issues to non-statisticians is vital.

BENEFITS

Health and Life Insurance
Long-term Care Insurance
Dental and Vision Insurance
Annual and Sick Leave
Paid Holidays
Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)
Federal Retirement Plan
Thrift Savings Plan (401k)

WORK/LIFE BALANCE

Telework & Alternative Work Schedules
Child Care Center | Fitness Center
Employee Assistance Program/Resource Groups
Commuting and Transportation Programs



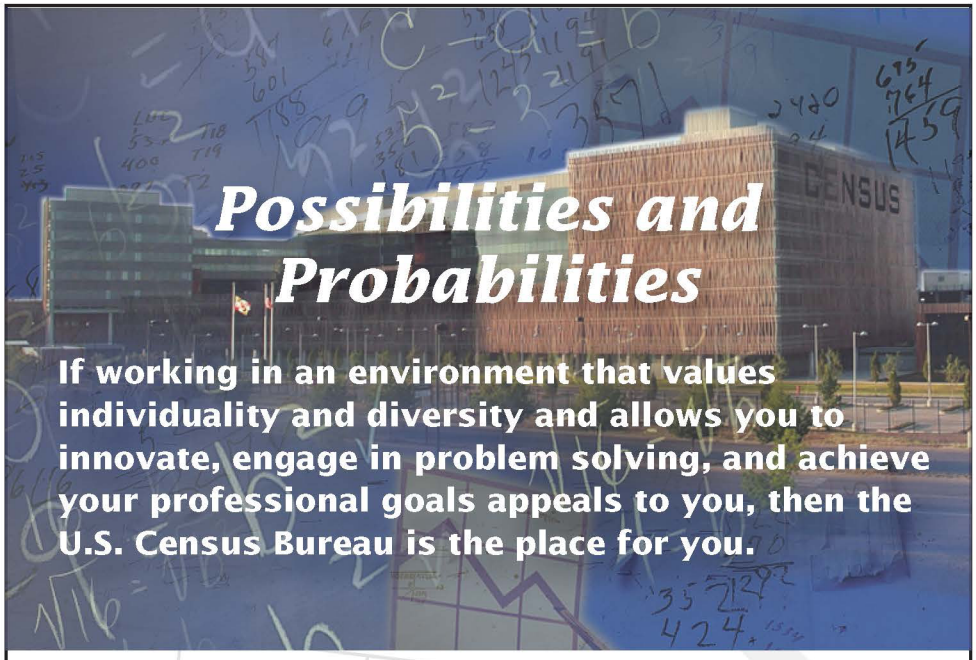
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING AT FDA?

SEND YOUR RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE TO:
CDEROTSHires@fda.hhs.gov

LOCATIONS

Statisticians are located in the Washington, D.C. area.
Remote employment may be available.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ● CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH ● OFFICE OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES



Your Work as a Mathematical Statistician at the Census Bureau

- Design sample surveys and analyze the data collected.
- Design and analyze experiments to improve survey questionnaires and interview procedures.
- Improve statistical methods for modeling and adjustment of seasonal time series.
- Perform research on statistical methodology that will improve the quality and value of the data collected.
- Publish research papers and technical documentation of your work.

Requirements

- U.S. citizenship
- Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D with at least 24 semester hours in math and statistics (see Web site for more specifics on required coursework)

Apply at www.census.gov, click on Census Careers, Type of Position, Professional/Scientific/Technical, Math Statistician

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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census.gov

AMSTATNEWS

ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

Listed below are our display advertisements only. If you are looking for job-placement ads, please see the professional opportunities section. For more job listings or more information about advertising, please visit *www.amstat.org*.

professional opportunities

Columbia University 35
FDA 36, 38
US Census Bureau 39

Looking for a JOB?

Let the ASA help you realize your professional goals.

JobWeb—A targeted job database and résumé-posting service
www.amstat.org/your-career/asa-jobweb

JSM Career Placement Service—A full-service recruiting facility held annually at JSM, with hundreds of statistical employers seeking qualified applicants
ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2024/careerservice.cfm

ASA

This month's Top 10 is the 'Top Ten **Twisted Statistical Terms**'



Wasserstein

Amstat News continues its hilarious offering by ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, who delivers a special Top 10—one that aired during a recent edition of *Practical Significance*. This month, he shares the "Top Ten Twisted Statistical Terms," which he explains are "common statistical terms twisted by changing a word or part of a word to give new meaning and insight."

10

The Mental Limit Theorem—the point where my ability to prove theorems ends.

09

Regression Meddling—why don't you just mind your own business?

08

Chai Square—a latte for old-fashioned folk like me.

PODCAST

To listen to the *Practical Significance* podcast, visit *https://magazine.amstat.org/podcast-2*.

07

Stochastic Princesses—now *that* is a Disney movie I'd like to watch.

06

Machine Yearning—the next step in AI.

05

Asymptomatic Convergence—getting closer to deciding about whether to take a COVID test.

04

Extrapollution—the fairly safe bet that pollution will get worse in the future if nothing changes.

03

Interquartile Range Rover—the must-have vehicle for statisticians.

02

False Discovery Rat—the whistleblower on faked research (thank goodness for people who call that out).

#01

Standard Eras—the normal ticket price for a Taylor Swift concert.

SDSS
SYMPOSIUM ON DATA SCIENCE & STATISTICS
RICHMOND, VA • JUNE 4–7, 2024

BEYOND BIG DATA: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

SDSS is designed for data scientists, computer scientists, and statisticians who analyze and visualize complex data sets.

PLAN TO BE ON THE PROGRAM!
Lightning Abstract Submission
February 5 – March 10, 2024

KEY DATES
Early Registration and Housing Open
February 5, 2024

Early Registration Deadline
April 30, 2024

Regular Registration
May 1 – June 7, 2024

Housing Reservation Deadline
May 14, 2024

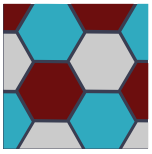
Innovative sessions focus on the following six tracks:


STATISTICAL DATA SCIENCE
(Formerly Machine Learning)

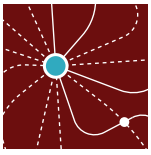

EDUCATION

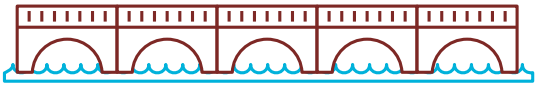


SOFTWARE & DATA SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES


COMPUTATIONAL STATISTICS


PRACTICE & APPLICATIONS


DATA VISUALIZATION



SYMPOSIUM ON DATA SCIENCE & STATISTICS
OMNI RICHMOND HOTEL
RICHMOND, VA • JUNE 4–7, 2024

Learn more at ***ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2024.***

ICES VII

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ESTABLISHMENT STATISTICS

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND • JUNE 17–20, 2024

Save the Date!

- Short courses
- Introductory overview lectures
- Invited sessions
- Topic-contributed sessions
- Contributed sessions
- Speed sessions
- Software demonstrations

Exploring Perspectives in Establishment Statistics

PARTICIPATE

Contributed Abstract & Software Demo Proposal Submission
Closes January 15, 2024

ATTEND

Early Registration
February 15–April 14, 2024

Regular Registration
April 15–June 20, 2024

Scan to learn more!

Join us at Glasgow Caledonian University!

Join participants from all over the world in Glasgow, Scotland—famous for its art, architecture, and culture—to discuss emerging issues and improved techniques related to business, farm, and institution data. Topics will include statistical techniques, survey methods, and emerging technologies and feature data from sources such as censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records.

Participation is open to all who are interested in establishment surveys, which is typically those in academia or at national statistical institutes, private businesses, and statistical organizations. Whether your area of interest is estimation strategies, frame development, questionnaire design, data collection, dissemination, or data visualization, you will find something to like at ICES VII.

ICES values its truly international character—plan to gather in Glasgow in 2024.

Learn more at *ww2.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2024.*

ASA