

March 2023 • Issue #549

AMSTATNEWS

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

Denise Abreu • Rosemary Bailey • Merlise Clyde



CELEBRATING Womenⁱⁿ Statistics and Data Science

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Cathy O'Neill • Becky McNeill • Pamela McGovern • Amanda Koepke • Leah Jager • Kathy Ensor • Jill Dever

ALSO:

2023 ASA Election: BOD Candidate Statements

The JEDI Corner—A Year in Review: JEDI Student and
Young Professionals Committee



BE PART OF THE PROGRAM



Key Dates for Participants

May 31, 2023

Draft Manuscript Deadline

Key Dates for Attendees

May 1, 2023 (11:00 am ET)

Registration and Housing Open

May 31, 2023

Early Registration Deadline

June 1 – June 29, 2023

Regular Registration

June 30 – August 10, 2023

Late Registration

July 6, 2023

Housing Deadline



August 5-10
2023 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETINGS

Toronto, ON, Canada

www2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2023

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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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ADDRESS CHANGES: addresschange@amstat.org

AMSTAT EDITORIAL: amstat@amstat.org

ADVERTISING: advertise@amstat.org

WEBSITE: <http://magazine.amstat.org>

Printed in USA © 2023
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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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 davidcorliss@peace-work.org.

32 STATtr@k Women Who Inspire

STATtr@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.



Share Your News

Help the ASA highlight your accomplishments! It is important to us that everyone know about your research, recent awards, and promotions. Fill out the form at <https://form.jotform.com/zxlalo/highlights> or email your accomplishments to Amstat News Managing Editor Megan Murphy at megan@amstat.org.



Data Is My Job

Visit the ASA homepage to download the latest 11 x 17 poster: Data Is My Job. Highlighted on the poster are four ASA members who used their statistics skills and imaginations to snag sweet jobs: **Dionne Price; Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar; Jun Yan; and Glen Colopy**. We will feature a new poster on the ASA website quarterly. www.amstat.org.

Don't miss the Women's History Month Poster in this issue.



departments

36 meetings

ICES VII to Take Place in Scotland Next June

Up to Two JSM Late-Breaking Proposals to Be Accepted



Invited Session Proposals Due in May. See Page 36.

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This month's Top 10 is the 'Top Ten Things You Can Say About Your Data but NOT About Your Partner.'

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Operator, Can You Help Me Place This Call?

Recently, there have been numerous reports from various media outlets regarding ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformation), which is an artificial intelligence chatbot. The tool is touted as being able to answer questions, write essays, and generate programming code, which seems a far cry from the not-so-distant past when an operator was available to help initiate telephone communication.

I decided to use the 21st-century version of operator assistance and put ChatGPT to work starting this column. I asked, “How do I communicate effectively?” This is the advice I received:

To communicate effectively, you can follow these tips:

- **Know your audience:** Understanding the background, needs, and communication preferences of the person you are communicating with can help you tailor your message.
- **Be clear and concise:** State your message in a straightforward manner, using simple and familiar language.
- **Active listening:** Pay attention to the person you are communicating with, showing that you are engaged and interested in what they have to say.
- **Non-verbal communication:** Use body language and facial expressions to reinforce your message and show engagement.
- **Ask questions:** Encourage dialogue by asking open-ended questions to clarify understanding and build rapport.
- **Confirm understanding:** Repeat or paraphrase what you have heard to confirm that you have understood the message correctly.

• **Consider the medium:** Choose the best mode of communication for your message and audience, whether it be in-person, phone, email, or another platform.

Note: Effective communication is a two-way street, so be open to receiving feedback and adjusting your approach as needed.

While perspectives on ChatGPT vary, my goal was not to judge the utility or effectiveness of the tool, though the answer to my question is impressive. Instead, I made the communication query because one of my initiatives will focus on communication. The AI-inspired advice reminded me to ‘consider the medium’ and ‘know my audience.’

In this column, I want to focus on the methods we use to communicate with both our ASA community and the public. Let’s start with how we communicate with each other. Many of us use ASA Connect to share information about workshops, conferences, and resources and to ask the community for advice. ASA Connect is the discussion list for all members. Discussion lists for section, chapter, and other member-initiated community members also exist.

Additionally, all members receive the monthly Member News e-newsletter (www2.amstat.org/newsletters/NewsletterArchives.cfm). Regular features in the e-news include a list of upcoming events and science policy updates. There is also a request for you to “share your news.” We want to spotlight the accomplishments of our community, so please consider sharing highlights of your life by emailing ASA Marketing Project Manager Kim Gilliam at kim@amstat.org.

If you are reading this column, you know *Amstat News* is an important part of our communication strategy, both online and in print. Loyal



Dionne Price



Communicate with Us!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmstatNews

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LinkedIn: bit.ly/3XAhUtQ

Linked In President's Showcase: bit.ly/3I19YMA

ASA Connect: <https://community.amstat.org/resources>

Feedback Form: bit.ly/3jViwNd

MORE ONLINE

Learn how to become part of ASA Connect by watching this short video: bit.ly/3E7UHZ6.

readers (and if you are not a loyal reader, I recommend you become one) know there are regular columns, articles, and interviews. I encourage you to consider writing an article for *Amstat News* by reaching out to Managing Editor Megan Murphy at megan@amstat.org.

Amstat News and the e-newsletter are our communication pillars, but we use email to share time-sensitive information. I will admit 'inbox zero' is aspirational for me, so I understand some might think there is too much email. Our goal is to keep you informed and use email when it is the best mode of communication.

We also use social media and the ASA website to communicate. With these methods, we have many audiences, which makes it challenging to tailor messages. For example, upcoming events are displayed on the ASA homepage. This is relevant to members but also provides information to the public.

Before I discuss new strategies, I want to acknowledge the advice provided by ChatGPT: "Effective communication is a two-way street, so be open to receiving feedback and adjusting your approach as needed." Part of this initiative is to ask for your feedback so we can adjust our approach.

Please use the feedback form at bit.ly/3jViwNd to share your thoughts with me.

Looking forward, we want to continue evaluating our communication strategies. In this spirit, we have created an ASA president's LinkedIn showcase page (bit.ly/3I19YMA). My goal for this page is to show off the amazing work being done by our community and raise awareness of the role of statistics and data science in decision-making. We are also planning a LinkedIn live event with the ASA Board on March 31. I encourage you all to join.

I shared that my goal for this year was to be mission driven. Promoting the practice and profession of statistics requires contributions from our entire community, so I want to restate my call to action. We need your help to be successful. What other platforms should we consider? How can we stay informed of your work and concerns so we are able to highlight important topics effectively and efficiently?



My ASA Story: Wendy Martinez, Mathematical Statistician

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my ASA story. First, just a few words about where I am now in my career before I travel to my ASA beginnings. I am serving as a senior mathematical statistician for data science in the Research and Methodology Directorate at the US Census Bureau. Before going to the Census Bureau, I worked at the Bureau of Labor Statistics as the director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center and held various research positions at the Department of Defense.

I attended George Mason University in the early 1990s in pursuit of a PhD in computational sciences and informatics. While there, I learned about the American Statistical Association and joined with the reduced student rate. I let my membership lapse once I graduated. I had a family with two teenagers at that point, and I didn't think I could afford the higher membership fees. However, being a statistician was my chosen profession, and I soon realized I had a duty to support it through ASA membership. Not to mention I loved being a statistician and wanted to be around others with the same passion! So, I quickly rejoined this wonderful community of colleagues and friends.

Joining an organization like the ASA is a great first step, but one needs to become involved to get the most value from it—networking, leadership opportunities, training, mentoring, etc. I joined several sections early on, including the Statistical Computing and Statistical Graphics sections, and I was one of the initial members when the Statistics in Defense and National Security Section was established. I ran for and was elected JSM program chair for SDNS, leading to other leadership opportunities ... all the way to being the 2020 ASA president!

I have had many great experiences during my years as an ASA member, and my service as ASA president is at the top of the list. I will highlight a couple of others that mean a lot to me. I was serving on the ASA Archives and Historical Materials Committee in 2017. This led to several conversations with colleagues about the need for a group focusing on the history of statistics, rather than the history of the ASA, which was the committee's focus. So, I spearheaded a successful effort to establish the ASA History of Statistics Interest Group. This enabled me to follow two of my passions: history and statistics.

Another of my passions is organizing data challenges. These have a long history in the ASA. To my knowledge, the first was held in 1982 and sponsored by the Statistical Graphics Section. I helped establish what is now an annual Data Challenge Expo sponsored by the Statistical Graphics and Statistical Computing sections and the Government Statistics Section, during which contestants present their analysis of the designated data set at the Joint Statistical Meetings. I am always amazed at the quality of the entries. What makes this even more meaningful is—through the challenges—students can work on real data and present their results at a conference.

I am happy to report that my leadership journey in the ASA continues. This year, I am honored to serve as chair of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Outreach Group and chair of the newly formed Section on Text Analysis. I am also having a lot of fun serving as editor of *CHANCE* magazine, along with my friend and colleague Donna LaLonde. We are always looking for interesting articles, so please consider submitting one. Speaking of challenges, Donna and I will be issuing one through *CHANCE* this spring, so keep an eye out for it! ■

MORE ONLINE

Look for the ASA History of Statistics Interest Group at <https://community.amstat.org/historyofstats/home>.

You can read the latest issue of *CHANCE* at <https://chance.amstat.org>.

ASA

The ASA announces the candidates for the 2023 election. Voting begins **April 3** and runs through **May 1**. Make sure to look for your ballots in your email inbox.

View the list of section officer candidates at <https://magazine.amstat.org>.

Running for **President-Elect 2024**



Dipak Dey
University of Connecticut

It is [the] most exciting time for me to be a statistical scientist, and I am honored to be a candidate for president of the ASA. I have been learning statistics since my undergraduate years, but I never felt this much excitement. I have seen [with] my own eyes over time that we are becoming more and more valuable in our community in terms of our need. We are now able to capitalize fully on our strong foundations of statistics in the age of data and extensive computational resources. ASA must take a leadership role to understand the changes and expertly address their impact.

In addition, I suggest [creating] a new section on machine learning in statistical science and joint partnership with SIAM, so that members will be able to join meetings and mutually share benefits at a reduced rate. Similarly, partnerships of analytics relating to health solutions and business analytics will also be sought through various established ASA sections.

Over the years of experience in mentoring, I am convinced that it plays a major role in professional development of students, faculty, and staff at every level. I look forward to expanding our mission even further. We definitely need more statisticians to volunteer for mentorship.

ASA can develop multiple strategies for professional development. First [is] to get more involved in memberships of committees and subcommittees of [the] National Academies, which will eventually help in membership of National Academies and AAAS.

My effort toward [an] increase in membership is based on more inclusiveness. Many members in other statistical societies in other countries can be invited to become a shared member of ASA through a cost-reduction approach, following [the] guidelines of ISI [International Statistical Institute].

I am excited about where our profession is heading and will be honored to have the opportunity to help achieve these goals as ASA president. ■

2023 ELECTION

BOD Candidate Statements

Running for **President-Elect 2024**



Ji-Hyun Lee
University of Florida

ASA has played a pivotal role in my career as a statistician. The first step on my ASA journey was volunteering in my local chapter. Many rewarding steps and years later, I served on the Council of Chapters Governing Board as a district vice chair and on the ASA Board of Directors. It would be an honor to give back to the ASA community as president.

My priority as ASA president is to build strong bridges, both within and outside of the ASA community, to strengthen our association and seize the opportunities in this data-driven era. My strategic plan will focus on three key areas:

Growing Visibility. We need a strategy to ensure our members are represented in science, medicine, society, and policy efforts. Building bridges with other professional societies in STEM and non-STEM fields can promote our discipline. We can strengthen our visibility and impact by working closely with the ASA Professional Issues and Visibility Council, our sections and interest groups, and external partners.

Enhancing Opportunities. As our profession diversifies, we need accessible and tailored training to support the evolving needs of our profession. By offering “precision leadership programs” and building on the ASA Leadership Institute, we can create a clear and robust path for future leaders from all backgrounds and ensure our association remains strong and influential.

Diversifying Membership. Our profession is increasingly diverse, intellectually and culturally. As a founding member of the JEDI Outreach Group and past president of the Caucus for Women in Statistics, I see opportunities to continue to grow our association. I am committed to helping the ASA reach its potential as a diverse and influential community.

Collaboration is fulfilling, and I am excited to work with you to implement my strategic plan. Visit my website at <https://lee.biostat.ufl.edu> for more information. ■



Running for **Vice President 2024–2026**



Susan Paddock
NORC at the University of Chicago

It is an exciting time for our field. ASA is appropriately pursuing numerous strategies to advance the essential role of statistics in data science. These include new conference programming, leadership on educational initiatives, and new committees such as ASA’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (DS) Committee, on which I serve. As ASA vice president, I would work to further advance statistical leadership in these areas. Statisticians have valuable insights into improving data quality and making the most of “big data” while recognizing its limits.

One role of the ASA vice president is to support ASA presidential initiatives. This is something with which I have experience. Under former ASA President Karen Kafadar’s Impact initiative, I interviewed experts from academia, industry, and policy research for a webinar and *Amstat News* article (<https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2020/11/01/make-an-impact>) to bring attention to how statisticians can make an impact on automated driving systems. It is important for ASA to support the

ideas of members, sections, and chapters to build the affiliations, deep collaborations, and interactions across disciplines that are critical for advancing statistical practice, data science, and scientific and technological advancement.

Another vice president role is to serve on ASA’s board and thus have responsibility to lead and respond to members’ ideas and concerns. Leadership and responsiveness are required to advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion and to ensure the goals of ASA’s Antiracism Task Force are met. To mitigate risks to momentum in meeting goals and keeping membership engaged with JEDI goals, the approach I would support as a board member would be to be inclusive, highly communicative, and transparent while working toward implementing task force recommendations.

It would be an honor to serve as ASA vice president. I highly value the educational and scientific opportunities and community provided by ASA and the importance of ASA as a voice for sound statistical practice in our society. ■

Running for **Vice President 2024–2026**



Kelly Zou
Viatrix

Two songs that echo my aspirations the most are “Flying to the Moon” and “Moon River.” To aim high, we need information, technologies, and a spaceship. The magical ingredient that many of us are facing these days is “big data,” though their sheer volume, velocity, variety, and veracity.

It is a great honor and privilege to be considered for the volunteering role [of] vice president [of] the American Statistical Association, known as the “Big Tent for Statistics!” I have been a member since being a PhD student in statistics, [and I am] an elected ASA Fellow and an Accredited Professional Statistician (PStat). I would like to be a change-agent in our professional circle to harness data for insights and make a mark in the real world.

My professional social media headline summarized in a nutshell:

1. Connect people and cultures.
2. Make innovations happen.
3. Have passions for data.

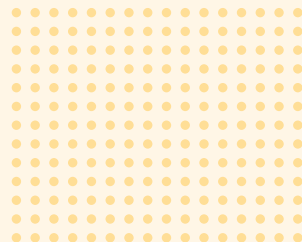
[These] can be achieved through quantitative and qualitative data-driven actions.

Recently in data science, I have been fortunate to have received or [been] part of the winning teams that received the Future Thinking Award from the Chief Data and Analytics Officer Forum, Most Valuable Data & Insights Initiative Award from Reuters Events, and Digital Innovation Award from the CPhI Pharma.

How to be a driving force to support the ASA if I am elected by our members? First, as an industry statistician, I would highly support bridging the gaps across sectors through effective collaborations and [partnerships]. In addition, I would like to highly encourage a diverse membership community to elevate the profiles of statisticians and those in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) more broadly.

Eleanor Roosevelt once famously said, “If life were predictable, it would cease to be life and be without flavor.” Statistics is ever more delightful in the world of uncertainties with an abundance of data.

Please cast your vote today! Let’s take the ASA to new heights! ■





Running for **Treasurer 2024–2026**



Jean Opsomer
Westat

I am honored to be a candidate for the newly created position of ASA treasurer. As treasurer, I will bring expertise in financial and accounting matters to the ASA Board, assisting them in understanding and interpreting ASA financials and in communicating with ASA staff. I will also actively participate in discussions of ASA strategic goals, especially those related to the future financial health of the organization.

I have served as treasurer on the boards of professional organizations, including two terms for the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (2010–2016) and one term for the International Association of Survey Statisticians (2017–2019). I have also served on the ASA Finance Committee (2006–2011), and I recently completed a term on the International Statistical Institute Finance Committee (2020–2022). While the ASA is larger and more complex than these other statistical societies, many financial challenges facing them are similar in nature,

including lack of growth in membership and pressure on traditional revenue sources such as conferences and publications. I believe that these previous experiences and familiarity with nonprofit financials will allow me to contribute effectively as ASA treasurer and board member.

As a statistician working in academia and more recently in industry, I have a deep appreciation for the contributions statistical thinking brings to society. Despite the financial emphasis of the treasurer duties, the ultimate goal of the position is to collaborate with the other board members, the ASA staff, and the membership at large to work towards the ASA's strategic mission: promoting the practice and profession of statistics. As treasurer, I will do my best to help ASA succeed in accomplishing this mission. ■

Running for **Treasurer 2024–2026**



Phil Scinto
The Lubrizol Corporation

Greetings, fellow ASA members. My name is Phil Scinto, and I am honored and humbled to be running for ASA Board treasurer.

There are so many great people to choose from for this position, so why me? Let me first say that in most ASA elections, there are no “bad” choices. However, with your support, I would continue my practice of promoting the need for providing value to all of our members at the board level. There should be value, fun, excitement, and delight in your being or becoming a proud ASA member. As treasurer, I do not dictate the money spent, but I can provide an honest assessment to the board as to our current financial health so that decisions may be made on how best to invest in our current and future members.

Those [who] know me know that I am quite silly and enjoy having fun. If elected, that personality would remain, but also know that I am serious

and responsible about the jobs that I take. As a past officer in various ASA positions, I always attended all meetings, volunteered for assignments, and thought about the best ways I could serve in my position. I volunteered in the initial design of the Conference on Statistical Practice, became chair, and helped kick-start a very successful conference. I was very passionate in my involvement of the ASA Mentoring Award, and I was very diligent in my treasurer roles at the section level and the Council of Sections.

Volunteering and participating in ASA activities has been one of the joys of my 36+-year career. It would be simply amazing to start a new role, and I would appreciate your consideration. Stay well, make your voice heard to ASA, and we’ll see you at future ASA activities. ■



Running for **Council of Chapters Representative 2024–2026**



Tom Krenzke

Westat

My main goal is to help improve ASA by providing assistance and ideas to chapters that need to be revitalized. My experience will be useful in assisting the ASA Board in providing assistance to chapters that need to be returned to active status.

As WSS [Washington Statistical Society] president in 2018–2019, the main theme “Let’s Get Together” was introduced to improve social aspects of a thriving statistical community by bringing statisticians and data scientists together to meet in person. The special activities conducted by volunteers during that year included improved receptions after seminars, happy hours, and a leadership conference.

Each year, WSS offers many activities, including seminars, short courses, and poster competitions. A mentoring program started a short time ago in WSS that grew to 40 mentoring pairs in 2019. Also in 2019, a partnership was formed with other chapters in the northeast to share a webinar series on biostatistics. With online

webinars, it may be beneficial to reach a broader group through partnerships among chapters.

The role as District 2 vice chair has required communication and organization skills. Using the WSS experience, in 2021, I contributed to an *Amstat News* article, “‘How-To’ Succeed Now and in the Post-Pandemic Future” (<https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2021/08/01/post-pandemic-future>). When communicating with chapter officers in District 2’s seven states and Washington, DC, the above experiences are ones that help think through what may work.

I look forward to working with the strong ASA staff with three main focuses. First is to support the ASA Board of Directors. Next is to continue [to] focus on the chapters and be a liaison to the COCGB [Council of Chapters Governing Board]. Last, to be able to take part in the sharing of professional expertise on important issues in our field, such as the opportunities for statisticians to address declining response rates, developing quality metrics for nonprobability data, statistical confidentiality, and record linkage. ■



Motomi Mori

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Iam incredibly honored to be nominated for the Council of Chapters board representative. My earliest involvement in ASA was serving on the Committee on Women in Statistics (COWIS) in 1997. One of my first tasks was to collect data on women’s representation at JSM when there was no gender data on JSM participants. I remember reviewing the abstract booklet in order to guess the gender of the session speakers based on the names alone. We have come a long way since then. I continue to be committed to advancing women in statistics and data science.

Last year, a group of us in the ASA, Caucus for Women in Statistics, and Portuguese Statistical Society organized a 24-hour, virtual, around-the world-conference featuring [female] statisticians and data scientists. If

elected, I would like to continue my passion for advancing women in statistics and data science, and more broadly, to proactively support ASA’s JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, inclusion) initiatives and foster a pipeline to ensure JEDI for future generations of statisticians and data scientists. To achieve this, I believe that we must pay more attention to advocacy work and actively promote the visibility of ASA’s work and our profession within the general scientific community and among the public. We must also educate ourselves to be effective advocates through professional development and leadership training and build stronger alliances with other statistical and data science organizations around the world. ■



Running for **Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026**

Jennifer Parker

National Center for Health Statistics



I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Council of Sections (COS) representative to the ASA Board of Directors. The ASA has been my primary professional home throughout my career, and it would be my privilege to serve as a board member and contribute my effort toward addressing the challenges and opportunities ASA faces toward its mission of promoting the practice and profession of statistics. I am looking forward to being able to bring my perspectives toward ASA efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusiveness through ASA communication, programming, and professional development. I am particularly interested in the career and professional development of early-career statisticians through JEDI activities, mentoring, and opportunities.

The foundation of the ASA is its members, with our diverse interests, specialties, and expertise. I peruse the list of sections each year during my membership renewal and am reminded of the breadth, depth, and impact of our work. I am a member

of several sections, which have varied over time depending on my current professional role and activities, though I have been most involved with the Government Statistics Section (GSS). Through my service as COS representative for GSS, one of my highlights of JSM was [the] opportunity to talk with my counterparts from other sections about our common and unique challenges.

Communication is the key to understanding each other and increasing the understanding of those who use our work. Communication will help us to move toward our ASA strategic vision: a world that relies on data and statistical thinking to drive discovery and inform decisions. If elected, I will bring my skills and experience communicating statistical reasoning and statistical results to nonstatisticians and communicating health-related data needs to statisticians to the ASA Board of Directors. ■

Hao Helen Zhang

University of Arizona



I am honored by the nomination and excited about the opportunity of serving as Council of Sections representative.

Our profession has been making enormous contributions to various aspects of the human society and lives. In the era of data science, statistics plays a core role and is one main driving force of theoretical principles, state-of-the-art optimization algorithms, and powerful learning tools for AI. There are many exciting opportunities and challenges.

To further empower the community, the ASA Board should continue to advocate the leading role of statistics in data science, find innovative strategies to identify leadership and funding opportunities for statisticians, enhance public visibility and impact, and form unified standard of statistics and data science education at all levels—from modernizing undergraduate curricula and promoting professional degrees to broadening statistics education and awareness at high schools. Given the fast growth of the profession, one priority is to increase membership and diversity.

One critical challenge in today's statistical practice is to build trust and safety in statistical decision-making, which has become more essential to society, from science to industry to daily lives. There have been increasing efforts in the community to enhance fairness, transparency, and interpretability in statistical learning. The ASA should organize efforts and advance trustworthy learning by formulating guidelines and solutions for the wider society.

Recently, I had privileges to involve various national and local data science programs and initiatives as chair of [the] Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science, leading PI of NSF TRIPODS research centers on data science, and director of the university's statistics and data science graduate program.

If elected, I hope to leverage these experience and work wholeheartedly with the Council of Sections to form the long-term vision and actionable plan for ASA and the community. ■



Running for **Publications Representative to the Board 2024–2026**



Jing Cheng

University of California, San Francisco

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the publications representative to the Board of Directors of [the] American Statistical Association (ASA). I have served ASA for years in various ways as associate editor of *The American Statistician* since 2018, chair of [the] Section on Statistics in Epidemiology (SIE) in 2020, SIE program chair in 2013, SIE publications officer in 2009–2011, and organizer and chair of Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) sessions since 2005.

I would love to serve on the ASA Board of Directors as the publications representative. If elected, I would continue the successful activities in the past [and] welcome new ideas from and work with all members, stakeholders, and the Board of Directors about ways in which the ASA can best represent members' interests, accomplish our mission, and raise our visibility within and beyond the statistical community.

With impressive advances in information technology, large electronic data in all fields—

along with genetic data and genomic sequencing data—provide big opportunities and challenges for understanding and helping people and solving issues in the world with powerful statistical tools. With increased attention on personalized care and service, I believe that ASA should emphasize our mission to advance solid statistical methods and applications worldwide with rich potential resources at every level (individual, community, state, nation, and world) to serving the public in cost-effective ways.

Among the worldwide open-access movement, I would be happy to work with the Board of Directors, university libraries, and other stakeholders to establish an effective way to translate remarkable statistical research into serving the public and improving the world.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the ASA members via supporting publications and all other ASA activities. ■



Antje Hoering

Cancer Research and Biostatistics

I am honored to be nominated to run as the publication representative on the ASA Board and am excited to contribute to the ASA in this role. Since 2013, I have enjoyed serving as an associate editor of the *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research (SBR)* journal. It has been particularly rewarding to contribute to a relatively new journal and watch its impact factor increase every year. We are faced with new challenges that are not unique to this particular journal.

I believe the peer-review process is vital to our profession to ensure quality, accuracy, and relevance of publications. Yet this process can be lengthy and costly, and open-access journals have become a real competition. I would hope to address this issue by listening and learning from other statisticians, associated editors, and editors who are faced with this dilemma.

In addition to representing publications, I look forward to contributing to other ASA activities. I am particularly passionate about membership

engagement, especially for early-career statisticians. As a member of the board, I would like to help find ways to develop opportunities for early-career ASA members to feel welcome and included in the activities of this society. This could help with membership, as well as the JEDI initiative.

As a collaborative statistician, I am a member of the American Society of Hematology and have served on the faculty for the Clinical Research Training Institute for the past six years. I have witnessed increased engagement from early-career hematologists as they learn and receive mentorship from others more advanced in their careers. I believe similar efforts could help with ASA membership.

Thank you for considering me for the opportunity to further serve ASA members. I look forward to working with others on the board in advancing ASA activities and initiatives that provide our members opportunities to advance their knowledge and careers. ■

MORE ONLINE

View the list of section officer candidates at <https://magazine.amstat.org>.

NISS to Sponsor Statistics on Combatting Human Trafficking Forum

David Banks, Duke University, NISS Ingram Olkin Forums Committee



The National Institute of Statistical Sciences is sponsoring an Ingram Olkin forum to bring world experts together to discuss statistical strategies for estimating the prevalence of human trafficking. The forum will kick off with a webinar from 1–4 p.m. ET on March 15.

The panelists are Sir Bernard Silverman of Oxford University, Rowland Seymour of the University of Birmingham, Tyler McCormick of the University of Washington, Nancy Hagan of the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, and Margaret Henderson of The University of North Carolina.

The first presentation will summarize current challenges in estimating prevalence, the second will describe a respondent-driven sampling approach, and the third will focus on multiple systems estimation. The presentations will be followed by a brief discussion among the experts, followed by small-group breakout sessions in which participants can discuss developing an agenda of statistical action items needed to better inform public policy and generate reliable evidence that can be used to mitigate the problem.

Ingram Olkin forums aim to bring the latest innovations in statistical methodology and data science into new research and public policy collaborations, working to accelerate the development of innovative approaches that affect societal problems. The forum aims to

generate energy and synergy that will create a flurry of new ideas and approaches.

To register for the event, visit bit.ly/3x9lela.

The forum will be recorded through Zoom and published on the NISS YouTube channel at bit.ly/3YCcXlu. ■

ASA History of Statistics Group Wants Input

Penny S. Reynolds

The History of Statistics Special Interest group is expanding its reach. Founded in 2017 (with former ASA president Wendy Martinez as the first chair), its stated mission is to “bring together individuals and groups who have an active interest in the history of statistics to share research and resources.”

The interest group has been an online educational resource almost since its inception. Its virtual library (bit.ly/3YhS3YO) provides links to activities designed to incorporate history into teaching statistics, including classroom lessons, projects, and even puzzles.

Group members also conducted webinars about Thomas Bayes and the Rothamsted school, had a virtual book club, and sponsored the Sir David R. Cox Memorial Session at JMS 2022, which featured Nancy Reid, Peter McCullough, and Heather Battey. In January 2022, the group began daily Twitter posts (micro-blogs) about historical items of interest to statisticians, including biographies, methodology origin stories, and “On This Day” features.

Now the group is moving into new territory and would welcome help. Beginning in April, *CHANCE* will debut a new column called History Chronicles, with Penny Reynolds of the ASA and Chaitra Nagaraja of the Royal Statistical Society serving as co-editors. Suggestions and submissions for future columns can be sent to chancemag.editor@gmail.com.

The group is also looking to develop biographical offerings on lesser known but influential statisticians, especially those belonging to historically excluded and overlooked groups. For example, there is almost no readily available information (or even pictures) for many female statisticians who are now deceased, such as Yvonne Bishop or Olive Jean Dunn. Additionally, there is little biographical information for statisticians outside the usual orbit of the US and UK. The group wants to hear from colleagues, associates, and family members with information they wish to share.

To further their aim, group members have coordinated collaborative Wikipedia ‘edit-a-thons’ to add new articles and improve existing Wikipedia offerings.

If interested in helping or joining the group, send an email to PReynolds@anest.ufl.edu (Subject: ASA-HoS) and follow the group on Twitter @HOS_ASA.

THE JEDI CORNER

A Year in Review: JEDI Student and Young Professionals Committee



Lydia Gibson is a second-year, master's-level graduate student at California State University East Bay, where she is president and cofounder of their American Statistical Association student chapter. Gibson served as the 2022 co-chair of the ASA JEDI Outreach Group Student and Young Professionals Committee, alongside Robert Tumasian III. In her free time, Gibson enjoys learning about data visualization, attending workshops and other events to deepen her knowledge of the R programming language, and hanging out with her classmates.

The Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Outreach Group Corner is a regular component of Amstat News in which statisticians write 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.

The Student and Young Professionals Committee of the ASA Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Outreach Group was established in 2022 to address the unique challenges faced by students and young professionals—those within five years of their highest terminal degree—as they navigate the statistics community. The committee provides students and other early-career folks the opportunity to build a diverse, inclusive, and respectful community to connect and share ideas with like-minded individuals as they develop their career aspirations. Through collaborating with other JEDI committees, the committee members publicize and address their JEDI-related concerns and interests and learn how to advocate for their unmet needs within their institutions, whether at school, work, or elsewhere.

Vision

In February of 2022, Robert Tumasian III and I were featured in the JEDI Corner article titled, “Cochairs Discuss Plans for Student and Young Professionals Committee,” in which we shared our vision for what we hoped to achieve during our one-year tenure as co-chairs. Our goals included compiling a repository of scholarship and fellowship opportunities (bit.ly/3YDpcxQ)

The committee members publicize and address their JEDI-related concerns and interests and learn how to advocate for their unmet needs within their institutions.

for underserved and historically excluded groups in the statistics community; encouraging and providing resources for students to build ASA student chapters at their schools; and sharing resources and useful tools for career preparation, internships, and job applications. We envisioned building a lasting community for students and young professionals intent on upholding the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all their institutions and other communities.

Community

The JEDI Student and Young Professionals Committee held meetings in March, June, September, and December of 2022. During the first meeting, Robert and I announced the establishment of the committee Slack workspace, where members

can discuss JEDI-related topics between quarterly meetings.

Following the second meeting, Robert and I began hosting a series of 30-minute coffee chats on Slack, which allowed members to discuss JEDI and ASA events, as well as other relevant topics of interest.

Previous coffee chats included discussions about our experiences with networking and attending conferences and tips for applying to graduate school, along with factors to consider and how and from whom to request letters of recommendation.

The Slack workspace has grown to include more than 50 student and early-career committee members.

Collaborations

Committee members are active participants in many of the other

Learn More

Find the ASA JEDI Outreach Group on:

 **Instagram**, www.instagram.com/datascijedi

 **Twitter**, <https://twitter.com/DataSciJedi>

 **LinkedIn**, bit.ly/3XbUY3X

 **Facebook**, www.facebook.com/DataSciJEDI

For more information about becoming a JEDI, visit datascijedi.org.

To become a JEDI, complete the membership form at <https://form.jotform.com/zzlalo/jedi-og-membership>.

To join the JEDI Outreach Group Student and Young Professionals Slack workspace, email admin@datascijedi.org.

JEDI Outreach Group committees, including the awards, communications, professional development, and program committees. From its inception, the JEDI Outreach Group Student and Young Professionals Committee Awards Working Group collaborated with the JEDI Awards Committee to tabulate a list of non-ASA funding opportunities to make available on the ASA website.

Our members also help manage JEDI Outreach Group social media accounts, marketing upcoming events and sharing JEDI-related content.

In collaboration with the Professional Development Committee, the Student and Young Professionals Committee launched a three-month pilot mentorship program in October of 2022 to provide students and young professionals from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to learn from early, mid-career, and senior professionals, as well as gain career insights into their sector of interest.

Committee members also played a vital role in developing and executing the JEDI Outreach Group Fall Webinar (bit.ly/3jV9qQt), which focused on graduate school admissions. Two members served as co-moderators for the event.

Future

The work of a Jedi is never done, so committee members continue to address pertinent JEDI-related issues and pursue initiatives that allow students and young professionals to thrive in the statistics community. One such initiative is advocating to make networking opportunities such as in-person conferences more accessible by addressing the financial, geographical, and other barriers students and young professionals face in attending.

As I prepare to graduate from my MS statistics program this spring, I look forward to passing the torch to the future committee co-chairs and continuing as committee member. ■

Texas A&M to Host CBMS Conference

The Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University will host the five-day CBMS conference, “Foundations of Causal Graphical Models and Structure Discovery,” May 15–19 in College Station, Texas.

Causal discovery is becoming increasingly popular in both statistics and machine learning. It is a tool to generate causal hypotheses and bring new insights into existing association-based methods.

Kun Zhang from the departments of philosophy and machine learning at Carnegie Mellon University and Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence will deliver 10 lectures on causal discovery. Tentatively, he will cover representations and usage of causal models, how causality is different from and connected to association, recent machine learning methods for causal discovery, and why and how the causal perspective helps in several learning tasks.

The conference registration fee is \$25, and lunch will be provided.

Visit the conference website at web.stat.tamu.edu/~yni/cbms and register by April 30.

Denise Abreu • Rosemary Bailey • Merlise Clyde • Jill Dever • Kathy Ensor • Leah Jager • Amanda Koepke • Pamela McGovern • Becky McNeill • Cathy O'Neill

CELEBRATING Womenⁱⁿ Statistics and Data Science

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Women's History Month, we are once again celebrating female ASA members who work in statistics and data science. These accomplished women were chosen because they inspired other women in their field. Read their biographies and find out why they chose statistics, who influenced them, and what they have accomplished.

Read their complete stories online at
<https://magazine.amstat.org>.



Growing up, **Denise Abreu's** favorite subject was math. Thinking math and computer science were the same thing, she attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook to major in computer science. To her amazement, she genuinely enjoyed deriving maximum likelihood estimators, finding means and standard deviations, and doing matrix algebra more than she did programming, thus she switched majors. Today, Abreu is a mathematical statistician who has served within the federal statistical system for more than 23 years, first at the Census Bureau and then at the US Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Rosemary Bailey grew up in the countryside northwest of London. In primary school, her classmates mocked her for being good at arithmetic, but her parents told her she should decide for herself who she wanted to be and ignore such comments. She did and earned both her first and second degrees in mathematics from Oxford University. She was president of the British Region of the International Biometric Society from 2000–2002 and is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and mathematics and statistics professor at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.



Growing up, **Merlise Clyde** loved science, math, and the outdoors but really had no idea about careers in mathematics, let alone statistics. She discovered statistics while at Oregon State University studying forestry ecology. There was no major in statistics then, but she took every statistics course she could fit into her degree. Clyde ultimately earned her PhD in statistics from the University of Minnesota. She is best known for her research in Bayesian model selection/model averaging with mixtures of g-priors (and the associated R package BAS); however, her greatest accomplishment has been in Bayesian nonparametric regression using Lévy processes for Lévy adaptive regression kernels.

Jill Dever spent the first 22 years of her life in the suburbs of Louisville, Kentucky. Her interest in statistics started with her parents and math flashcards at the kitchen table. Later, her brother heightened her interest in math and taught her computer programming logic by sharing fun facts and projects from school. However, it was her University of Louisville professor who encouraged her to investigate biostatistics, owing to her interest in medical-based TV shows. So, off to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill she went to earn her MS in biostatistics and later the University of Maryland to earn her PhD. She ended up at RTI International, where she has been for 25 years. One of her greatest achievements is coauthoring two books, including *Practical Tools for Sampling and Weighting*.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

As an undergraduate, **Kathy Ensor** was fascinated by probability, statistical graphics, statistical theory, and computers. At age 19, she wrote a Fortran program that could play chess and optimize the next move based on a simplistic probabilistic algorithm and data gleaned from the user of the program. She was thrilled to eventually land in a statistics career, though, as it captured all her interests. Hired at Rice University, she built the statistics department from the ground up and served as chair from 1999–2013. In 2021, she was elected president of the ASA and established the IDEA Forum to showcase how statisticians improve lives. While Ensor believes all these accomplishments are important, she says she derives her energy and continued commitment to the profession from the amazing community of statisticians and data scientists, her collaborators, doctoral alumni, and students whom she mentored throughout the years.



Leah Jager was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her dad was a college mathematics professor and her mom taught middle-school math and English. From a young age, she liked playing school and hoped to someday be a professor like her dad. Jager's first encounter with statistics occurred during a summer internship in a food lab within the R&D division at Amway Corporation. The goal of her project was to improve the taste of a beverage using varying concentrations of a flavor additive. She never succeeded in making the drink taste any better, but she did become interested in statistics. Today, as a statistics and biostatistics professor at Johns Hopkins, she is inspired when she sees a student realize the relevance statistics has in their life.

Amanda Koepke knew from an early age she loved math and was introduced to statistics in high school. Despite loving statistics, she didn't know what careers would be available to her upon graduation, so she majored in accounting at Texas Tech University. Eventually, she switched her major to psychology and mathematics and statistics. After finishing her undergraduate work, becoming a statistician seemed like the perfect way to merge her love of math and the social sciences, so she pursued her PhD in statistics from the University of Washington. Today, she is a mathematical statistician at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where she works side-by-side with scientists on cutting-edge research.





Pamela McGovern grew up in Connecticut and majored in mathematics in college while working as an actuarial intern during the summer. Being an actuary seemed like a good fit for a math major, but the job also exposed her to statistics and she changed course. McGovern went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Connecticut. Through the ASA, she learned about career opportunities in the federal government and decided to pursue a mathematical statistician position. After graduating, she began her career in the federal statistical system at the US Census Bureau. She currently works as a senior mathematical statistician at the US Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. Throughout her 27-year career as a federal statistician, her work has focused on survey statistics and methodology.

Becky McNeil's enchantment with statistics and mathematical modeling began during her undergraduate studies, when she learned about ecological models and population dynamics. After completing her undergraduate degree in mathematics and biology, she took a job in billing at a pharmacy that served long-term care facilities. This was her first exposure to raw data—the stories of health told by billing records—and those stories sparked a deep interest in using mathematical tools to improve health. Eventually, McNeil earned her graduate degree in biostatistics and additional training in epidemiology and bioinformatics. She is now a research statistician at RTI international.



Cathy O'Neil grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts, and was always interested in both music and math. She entered finance in 2007, right before the credit crisis, and became alarmed by what she saw as the misuse of mathematics as an intimidating cover used to exploit less sophisticated investors. In 2011, she became a data scientist and joined Occupy Wall Street. It was there she saw how data science was being used to make lucky people luckier and unlucky people unluckier. The result was the book *Weapons of Math Destruction*, published in 2016, and the formation of her algorithmic auditing company, ORCAA, also in 2016. The mission of ORCAA is to develop standards around algorithmic accountability in general and algorithmic fairness towards individuals in protected classes specifically.



GiveASA | Fund the Future: Support Statistics

Donations Help ASA's Work, Affect National Interests

Amanda Malloy, Director of Development

Last year, the White House released the 2022 National Strategy that outlined our nation's top interests. Included on the list are climate change, investing in high-quality education and training in STEM fields, and attracting and retaining the world's best STEM talent to make advances in technology—from AI to vaccines.

So how does the ASA fit in?

To achieve these goals, we need better statistics and data science education, and we need to inspire more students to pursue careers in these fields. Having enough well-trained statisticians and data scientists is key to solving some of the world's most critical issues, including climate change, infectious disease, poverty, and food insecurity. Specifically, the ASA is doing the following:

- **Improving statistics education** at all levels through teacher training and workshops, free resources, classroom projects and competitions for student engagement, networking opportunities, and guidelines for assessment

and instruction of statistics through the college level.

- **Cultivating the next generation of leaders in statisticians and data science** through providing scholarship opportunities; travel awards to attend ASA meetings and conferences; mentoring; and opportunities to hone leadership skills through involvement in student chapters, committees, and contests such as the ASA Leadership Challenge. The ASA also provides professional development opportunities at any career stage through ASA Leadership Institute initiatives like StatsForward.
- **Advocating for sound policymaking** by educating and providing resources to policymakers, defending the federal statistical agencies, and raising awareness of important issues affecting the practice and profession of statistics.
- **Showcasing the contributions statisticians and data scientists make** to science and society

through programs like *ThisIsStatistics*. Through the IDEA forum, the ASA is bringing together statisticians, leaders, and policymakers to create solutions for problems facing the world community such as climate change.

None of this is possible without your membership and donations in support of the ASA. Thank you to the individual and corporate donors who contributed more than \$304,000 in 2022. We could not do this work without your help.

To learn more and to make your 2023 donation, visit ww2.amstat.org/giving or scan this QR code.



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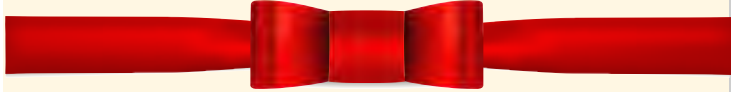
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Call for Papers: Inclusive Statistics Education with Digital Resources

For the 2024 special issue of *Statistics Education Research Journal*, the guest editors are interested in scholarly articles that address the aspects of inclusion and digital resources in statistics education.

From the editors' perspective, the topic of inclusion is considered and interpreted in a broad sense. With the expansion of and shift to inclusion, learners' individual interests, learning opportunities, attitudes, language or linguistic diversity, and cultural backgrounds are gaining attention in the design of instruction, at least since the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Inclusion in education aims to ensure all learners, regardless of their individual competencies, are recognized in the classroom with their personal needs and special characteristics addressed so they can participate in the classroom both professionally and socially. Recognition and participation include the adequate and individual support of all learners. Digital resources are one way to address inclusion.

The editors encourage empirical research (both quantitative and qualitative); design-based research with learners in K–12, tertiary/academic, and adult education contexts; and conceptually oriented articles that address issues of learning and teaching—including curricular issues and issues for teacher education and professional development—within the context of inclusive statistics education with digital resources. Issues and questions that may be discussed in manuscripts for this special issue can be viewed at bit.ly/3JUSrIo.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions need not be a paper presented at the International Conference on Teaching Statistics nor about teaching and learning during the pandemic. Any paper based on an ICOTS paper needs to be an expansion of that paper to allow for additional grounding in extant literature; more detailed descriptions of methods and theoretical grounding; expanded results that include additional data, whether additional results for those ICOTS papers that presented preliminary results or additional examples to support theoretical constructs, etc.; and additional couching of results to make the contribution of the work to the field clear.

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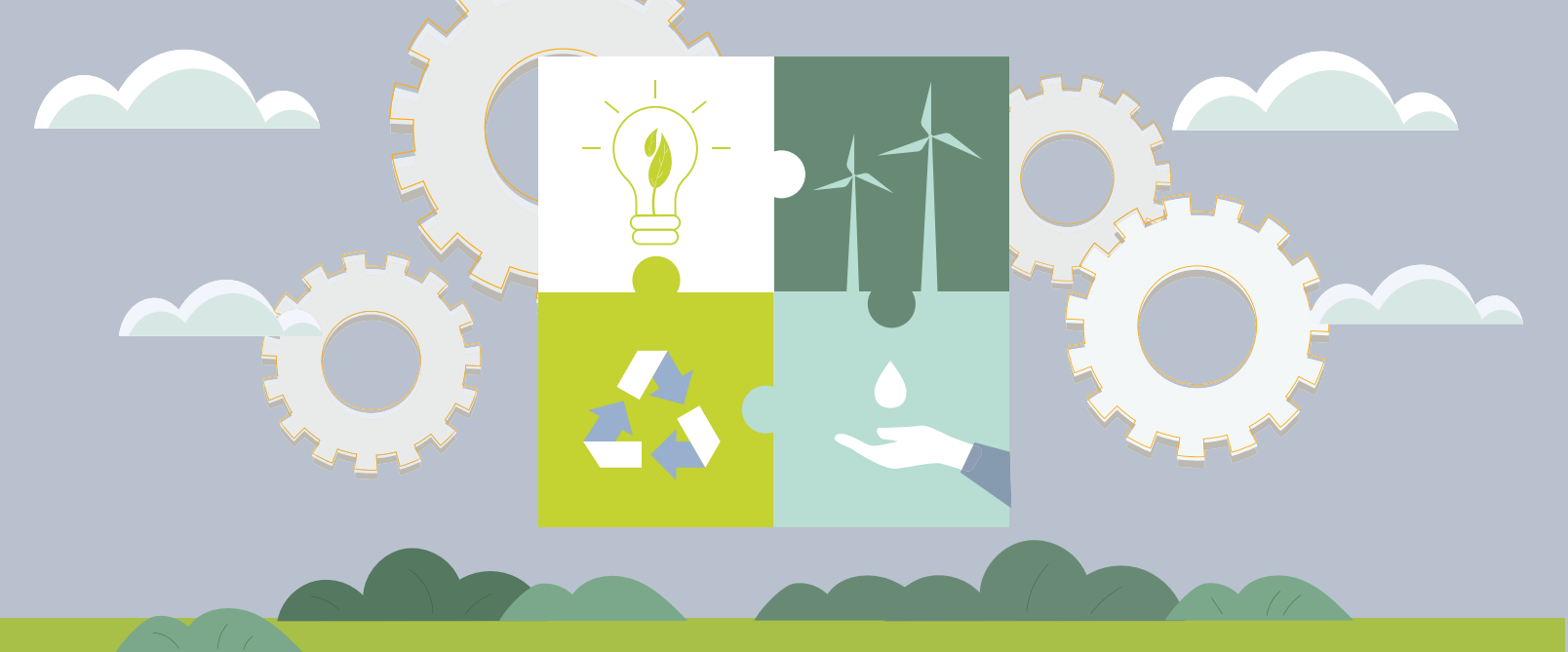


Expressions of interest (including an abstract of a maximum of 250 words) must include authors' names with affiliation details and email addresses and be sent as a pdf file to dafr@math.upb.de by March 30. Authors will be informed about the invitation to submit a full manuscript by April 30. Full papers are expected to be submitted to the *SERJ* online submission system at <https://iase-web.org/ojs/SERJ/> by September 15.

Manuscripts for this special issue will be limited to 8,000 words of body text, and authors are encouraged to aim for approximately 6,000 words of body text (apart from abstract, tables and graphs, references, and appendices). Manuscripts should be submitted in accordance with the author guidelines and *SERJ* template, which can be downloaded from <https://iase-web.org/ojs/SERJ/information/authors>.

Manuscripts written in Spanish or Portuguese will be accepted but need to be accompanied by an English-translated version.

The special issue should be published by June 30, 2024. ■



Statisticians Contribute to Climate Science, Policy

Philip W. “Bo” Hammer, Executive Director, Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Innovation

Scientists from across the disciplines, including statisticians, have spent decades making the case that our planet is rapidly warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. The catastrophic consequences of global warming are becoming undeniably obvious. Scientists, economists, and social scientists are collaborating to improve our understanding of and predictions for how Earth’s changing climate will affect humanity and the ecological and social systems upon which life relies.

As a key element of its mission, IMSI, the NSF-funded Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Innovation, held a long program on the mathematics and statistics needed for confronting global climate change September 19 to December 9, 2022. IMSI is designed to convene applied mathematicians, statisticians, and scientists who research topics with major societal implications. This long program was divided into six workshops that explored a range of key scientific issues that have direct bearing on humans’ understanding of our warming planet; the regional impacts on annual weather resulting from this evolving dynamical system; and predicting future risk, hazards, and damages due to extreme weather events and the social cost of carbon.

The Earth’s climate is a complex dynamical system whose physics takes place on spatiotemporal scales ranging from nanometers to kilometers and microseconds to centuries. Modeling such a complex system and making predictions about future outcomes (that is, how climate begets weather) is further complicated by unknowns in, for example, the physics of aerosols and clouds and by imperfect data sets requiring novel statistical methods for analysis. To improve some of the current shortcomings in climate models, researchers turn to statistical and machine learning strategies that use existing weather and climate data sets.

Much of the discussion throughout the program focused on the verifiability, validity, and uncertainty quantification of climate models, particularly when applying these models to future weather and climate prediction at spatiotemporal scales that are useful for risk planning and adaptation to a warming planet. One key technical challenge lies in ‘downscaling’ the relatively low resolution of the global climate models to the high resolution needed to make local climate impact studies of key variables such as precipitation and temperature.

High-resolution climate models are particularly important to those responsible for managing the socioeconomic risks and impacts of extreme events.

For example, events like flooding and heat waves have major effects on farmers, emergency management agencies, insurance companies, and just about everyone else thinking long-term about where to live, build, or work. Spatial downscaling introduces uncertainties that are necessary to quantify (i.e., uncertainty quantification), reduce, and communicate, so the public and policymakers can rely on climate scientists and meteorologists with increasing confidence in their decision-making.

Generally, peoples' experiences of climate change are two-fold. They experience the slow evolution of annual patterns in local weather such as droughts becoming a way of life, winters that aren't as cold, and summers that seem muggier than they used to be. Or they are caught by the seeming onslaught of fearsome extreme events such as freak heat waves in typically cool summer regions (such as the Pacific Northwest or UK), two new seasons of extensive extremes—wildfire (the western US) and hurricane (the southeast)—and massive flooding on the regional scale of states and nations (Pakistan).

Statisticians are working with climate scientists to explore new approaches to understanding how the frequency, intensity, and global distribution of extreme events may be changing because of climate change. Statisticians have much to contribute here, particularly in developing tools for quantifying and predicting rare and extreme events within a system that is nonstationary and for which there is a shortage of relevant data.

One major challenge in understanding the dynamics of extreme events is that the climate and weather systems under study are changing due to a warming Earth. As such, the known geographic distribution of phenomena such as wind, temperature, humidity, and precipitation that are based on historical data may not follow its current spatiotemporal statistical distributions in the future. Extremes are the events that occur in the tails of these distributions. Yet there is evidence to support the conclusion that as the distributions change with global warming, phenomena thought to be extremes today may be less extreme, in the statistical sense, in the future—that is, more likely to occur in the future than in the past.

Karen McKinnon of the University of California, Los Angeles noted that the upper tail of temperature distributions is getting longer than the lower tail; that is, the distribution is skewed toward the hot end. This suggests there will be

more heat waves than unusually cold days in the future. In addition, she showed that, globally, very humid areas are getting more humid and dry areas are getting drier. These observations have major implications for human health (impacts of heat waves coupled with high humidity) and so-called “fire weather”—extended hot, dry conditions that amplify the probability of wildfires.

The impact of hot, humid weather on human health is a major area of scientific debate. Matt Huber of Purdue University is working to reconcile differing opinions among physiologists and epidemiologists about how extremes in heat and humidity contribute to heat stroke and death. Physiologists argue that hot, moist conditions (high wet bulb temperature) increase human health risks, while epidemiologists observe that the data doesn't back up this conclusion at the population level. Huber takes as a given that there are thresholds in wet bulb temperature above which mammals' (including humans) ability to function (dissipate metabolic heat from the core of the body) declines precipitously. These types of weather conditions will become more frequent and extreme in tropical and subtropical regions (e.g., in many developing nations), with negative impacts on human health and regional economies due to declines in peoples' ability to sustain outdoor labor (agriculture and construction, for example).

Epidemiologist Kristi Ebi of the University of Washington uses statistical tools to quantify excess deaths during heatwaves caused by the statistical extremity of the heat wave and anthropogenic climate change. Attributing excess heatwave deaths directly to climate change is difficult because of the complex set of factors that contribute to each death such as individual vulnerability to heat and humidity, socioeconomic status and access to cooling, and local baseline weather. Her conclusion, after taking these factors into account, is there will be statistically significant excess deaths during heat waves that are attributable to climate change.

Federal investments in climate research that cut across the disciplines, such as the collaborative opportunities provided by IMSI, are critical to advancing our understanding of the complex interconnectedness of Earth and human systems, anthropogenic impacts, and developing strategies for carbon reduction while also mitigating and adapting to the effects of our warming planet. ■

MORE ONLINE

Visit the IMSI long program webpage for detailed information about each workshop, including agenda, presentation recordings, and speaker bios: <http://bit.ly/3E7c2S6>.



STATS4GOOD

Finding Your Voice in Data for Good



David Corliss is lead, Industrial Business Analytics, and manager, Data Science Center of Excellence, Stellantis. He serves on the steering committee for the Conference on Statistical Practice and is the founder of Peace-Work

One of the joys of writing this column is exploring the many ways statisticians and data scientists are involved in Data for Good. It's an endless variety of scientific areas, tools, and people!

Generally, I have focused this column on a particular project, task, or organization doing statistics for the greater good. However, D4G is more than doing the science; it also includes advocating for science, itself, and the good it can do. The purpose of Stats4Good is to inspire and support, as well as provide ideas, tools, and opportunities to help you find the science that matters most to you. This month's column is about finding your voice as a scientist speaking for science to achieve richer lives, stronger communities, and a better world.

Scientific study and analysis are essential to drive better outcomes for everyone, but science—all by itself—isn't enough. To have the greatest impact, Data for Good studies need directors just as much as data, advocates as well as algorithms, and socializing the work in addition to the science. While there are many amazing scientists to do important work, there is a critical shortage of people with the

skills and experience needed to turn scientific study into tangible impact.

In January, the 2023 Stats4Good Challenge list identified the need for more project managers as the single biggest challenge to starting more D4G projects. The Data for Good community now has a wealth of dedicated people eager to work on high-impact projects, but the most needed skills to be taught aren't software or algorithms; they are identifying and prioritizing projects, putting resources together, partnering with people and organizations in need of scientific answers, and pulling together and leading a team.

Advocacy for science for the greater good also takes the form of advocacy for science, itself—particularly statistical and data science. Fact and the truth matter, yet are often disregarded in public spaces where the loudest voices can prevail over facts and data. Science advocacy can include writing, blogging, and writing social media posts and op-ed pieces for news media. I recently had the opportunity to teach a session on statistics blogging at the ASA's Conference on Statistical Practice (get this and other great presentations at <http://bit.ly/40URSoi>).



For we are all advocates,
not for ourselves, but for
each other and the vision
we share of a better world
through Data for Good.

In addition to individual contributions, there are many organizations that can help you find your voice to advocate for Data for Good. The ASA Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights' mission is to address "violations of and threats to the scientific freedom and human rights of statisticians and other scientists throughout the world." Committee members work on important cases here and abroad, such as former Greek Chief Statistician Andreas Georgiou.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is a world-renowned leader in supporting, encouraging, and recognizing science. The AAAS 2023 annual meeting is early this month in Washington, DC, so there will be many opportunities to connect. AAAS has a statistics section, a.k.a. Section U, involved in activities that promote the use, development, public understanding, and financial support of statistics and data science.

Many organizations are specific to a particular area, such as the Consortium of Social Science Associations, of which the ASA is a member. COSSA will hold a Science Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, April 24–25.

Another important area of advocacy is in government at all levels. Science is under attack in places where the voices of local scientists at school board and city council meetings can have far more impact than anything in public media. Even at the national level, members of Congress will be interested first and foremost in the voices of their constituents. The voices against trust in and use of science and data-driven solutions for the public good are already there, making it one of the best



Getting Involved

In opportunities this month, DataKind continues to recruit volunteers for their many high-impact projects (bit.ly/3Ywl6rG). Also, after several years on the steering committee for the Conference on Statistical Practice, my term has ended. My last task is helping to recruit the next group of leaders in advocacy for statistical practice. CSP and the other ASA entities below need new members to carry forward their important work.

Conferences

(www.amstat.org/meetings)

Sections and Interest Groups

(bit.ly/3RkaumJ)

Committees

(bit.ly/3DVh6sA)

places to have an impact for the greater good with statistical science.

As ASA President Dionne Price recently said in an interview in *CHANCE*, "Statisticians and data scientists use data to solve problems and thus we are all leaders." The most powerful voices for science are the scientist, themselves, in partnership with the people whose lives have been made better by our work. For we are all advocates, not for ourselves, but for each other and the vision we share of a better world through Data for Good. ■

STATtr@k

Women who INSPIRE

To celebrate Women's History Month, we asked prominent statisticians **Nancy Potok**, **Dionne Price**, and **Dooti Roy** to tell us about their early jobs, mentoring, networking, and the influential women in their lives. Here is what they said.

What was your first job?

POTOK: My very first job was babysitting as a young teen. It taught me a lot about getting along with people and saving money. My first adult job post-college was technical writing for a government agency. I realized technical writing was quite a bit different than the other kinds of writing I enjoyed, so I went back to graduate school, got a master's degree in public administration, and was accepted into the Presidential Management Fellows program. That entailed a move to Washington, DC, to work at the US Department of Transportation, and it was also my real entrance into my professional career.

Being a Presidential Management Fellow was a great experience. I got to work on a congressional appropriations committee, participate in a major strategic Coast Guard study, and work at the Federal Aviation Administration and in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. I made wonderful contacts, and most of my future jobs followed a trajectory set by that experience and the people I met.

ROY: I really must give a three-part answer here. Before starting my PhD, I worked as a financial analyst at HSBC for a year in India. During my

PhD in the USA, I worked part time with Cigna for a couple of years, which also funded part of my thesis, and I had another internship at Pfizer. After my PhD, I joined Boehringer Ingelheim, a family-owned German pharmaceutical company, as a biostatistician.

PRICE: While in high school and as an undergraduate, I had several summer internships I considered 'jobs,' since I received a stipend or payment. My first summer internship was at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. I worked with researchers studying diseases that affected the oyster population in local waters. The work involved dredging for oysters followed by cleaning, dissecting, and preparing specimens for microscopic evaluation. The final step was to draw conclusions from our findings. Our work that summer received special recognition, but needless to say, I have not had a desire to partake in oyster feasts since that summer.

My first full-time job was as a statistical reviewer in the Office of Biostatistics in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration. I enjoy the work and believe in the mission. Thus, I have remained at the FDA throughout my professional career.



Nancy Potok is the chief operating officer of NAPx Consulting. She served as the chief statistician of the United States in the executive office of the president until January 2020. She also served as a commissioner on the US Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making and co-chair of the Federal Data Strategy.



Dionne Price is the 118th president of the American Statistical Association and director of the Division of Biometrics IV in the Office of Biostatistics, Office of Translational Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration.



Dooti Roy is a senior associate director at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutical. In her role, she leads a group of clinical data scientists and owns and leads another global initiative on research and methodological applications of Bayesian statistics in all phases of drug development. She is a passionate promoter of organizational learning and development, diversity and inclusion, mentorship, collaboration, and leadership.

Why did you choose your career?

POTOK: I think it chose me. I was never interested in business or making money as a career. I was much more interested in contributing to making the world a better place, especially environmental issues. I majored in environmental studies, worked during school at the California Water Quality Control Board, and initially hoped to work for the Environmental Protection Agency. But after I got to Washington, I realized that, in fact, I was interested in working with data to understand whether publicly funded programs were working as intended and how I could make them better.

I worked in several agencies, in a nonprofit, and in the private sector, but that common theme ran through all my jobs throughout my career.

ROY: Following up from my last answer, I chose this career quite thoughtfully after trying it out as an intern at Pfizer and exploring some other available options. I really enjoyed my internship and therefore was curious and motivated to discover more about the world of clinical trials.

PRICE: During the summer after my freshman year in college, I had an internship at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Throughout the summer, I worked under the direction of three biostatisticians studying the impact of treatments on epilepsy. I had an opportunity to learn about how the data was captured, as well as conduct data analyses to provide answers to research questions of interest. The summer exposed me to biostatistics, which combined my fascination with medicine and biology with my love of mathematics and statistics. As a result of that experience, I decided to become a biostatistician.

Have you drawn inspiration from other women? Tell us about someone who inspired you.

POTOK: At my workplaces, my immediate bosses were all men until much later in my career. But I was active in organizations such as the Women's Transportation Seminar very early on. I became president of the Washington, DC, chapter, and we

held a conference in which Sally Ride, Elizabeth Dole, and Nancy Kassebaum—all at the peak of their power and influence—spoke. I got to meet all three, and they were all incredible role models for me in developing a sense of what was possible career-wise.

I was also inspired by two other women I worked for. Rebecca Blank recruited me to be her deputy when she was Under Secretary for Economic Affairs at the US Department of Commerce. She was brilliant and an incredible strategist for getting things done at high levels of government and influencing policy in significant ways. I took a lot of lessons away from that job.

And I was inspired by Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker when I was deputy director of the Census Bureau. She was far and away one of the best executives of an enormous enterprise that I have had the pleasure to work with, male or female. I learned a lot about leadership from observing her and still share some of those takeaways in the classes I teach.

In the realm of ‘how to be a good person in the world,’ whether at work or with family, I would have to give a lot of credit to my mother as my inspiration. She was the first in her family to go to college, and she became an educator with a very strong moral backbone, incredible integrity, unapologetic ambition, and boundless love of her family.

ROY: I have been fortunate to meet many inspiring women in my journey. I was raised by my grandmother and mother, so from the very beginning, I grew up watching two strong, loving women taking care of me and ensuring all my needs were met. My mother is a teacher in mathematics, and her love of the discipline and dedication to her countless students inspire me to this day.

My love for literature and books was inspired by yet another teacher—Milly Mukherjee. Today, she lies in her bed, too sick to move, yet when I met her a few weeks back, she told me in her characteristic way to never forget to respect people and pursue knowledge.

There are countless more women, mentors, peers, and mentees who continue inspiring me every day.

PRICE: Other women have inspired me throughout my life. I find it challenging to identify just one person as so many have inspired me. I have been inspired by the stories of women such as Florence Nightingale, Gertrude Cox, Dorothy Vaughan,

Katherine Johnson, and Mary Jackson, to name a few. From my perspective, all these women faced challenges and made the decision to persevere in their meaningful work for the greater good. Not only did their efforts contribute to the advancement of science, but they also paved the way for other women to become scientists, mathematicians, and statisticians.

While a student, I was inspired by the work of Louise Ryan and Amita Manatunga. These women both laid the foundation for statistical programs designed to expose diverse student populations to statistics and biostatistics.

In your opinion, how do you get the mentors or help you need to enhance your career?

POTOK: Sometimes you must ask someone to be your mentor. I’ve had people approach me and ask for mentoring. Usually, although not always, they are in a professional development program that requires having a mentor. But for me personally, my best mentors have been the people I work for.

I always chose my bosses carefully, and if I had a boss who was not mentoring and supporting me, I changed jobs. A good boss will teach you how to be successful, support your advancement, and make sure you have the professional development you need to advance. A good boss/mentor will also show you how to get things done in your organization and how to keep out of trouble.

Other people I know have found mentors through alumni relationships and specific mentoring programs, things that never worked for me but worked for them.

ROY: In my career, I have always been driven by curiosity—to know more, to understand the ‘why’ before the ‘how.’ As I strived to make an impact on the world I belonged to and discover my own strengths, I invested my time in discovering and connecting with people across the organization. When I came across someone inspiring, interesting, I took the initiative to reach out, introduce myself, and explore the connection. Often, that translated into working on a project together, which facilitated deeper mutual understanding. Many such relationships converted naturally to mentorships and a select few to sponsorships.

I discovered many people are quite open to helping others grow if they find them genuine, passionate, accountable, trustworthy, and a finisher. Finishing what you start; delivering what you promise; and being a compassionate, empathetic, and collaborative team player are all super important ingredients of success.

PRICE: I have learned that networking plays an important role in identifying mentors. I once took a course that defined networking as a process of building, reinforcing, and maintaining relationships to further your professional development and growth. Through these relationships, you may meet a mentor, or your network may be instrumental in assisting with identifying a mentor.

At the outset of a mentor-mentee relationship, establishing expectations is germane to the success of the relationship and obtaining the desired guidance to enhance your career.

What advice do you wish someone had given you before you started your career?

POTOK: Talk to a lot of people in different careers before you finish school and keep an open mind. Jobs are changing rapidly, as are skills needed to be successful in certain jobs, so what you think you want may not turn out to meet your aspirations and expectations. You need to find out what the day-to-day reality of working in a particular profession is like. If you are already out of school, still talk to lots of people because many roads are open at the beginning of your career.

ROY: To be honest, I got a lot of advice from my mentors and teachers about this career before I joined. I had been warned that such a job in a large pharmaceutical company can be routine and, dare I say, a bit boring for the more adventurous. Later, I discovered how fascinating, multi-pronged, multi-dimensional, and dynamic this job can be. There are so many opportunities to grow, bring our skills to the table, and shape our own career. I really hope for others to discover this.

I started a biopharmaceutical summer academy with my ex-colleague and mentor in 2017 in collaboration with the UConn Statistics Department, which aims to expose students to this fascinating world of opportunities. The academy is now officially a course at UConn and a conference,

“Statistics in Pharmaceuticals,” where people can explore more.

PRICE: Networking is important to career success, and it is never too early to start.

What is something you thought you knew but later found out you were wrong about?

POTOK: In life, there are too many things I’ve been wrong about to mention or to pick out one. From a career perspective, I used to believe I knew how much time it would take to get certain things done. However, I invariably grossly underestimated the amount of time it would take to achieve various outcomes. That ranged from writing a presentation for a conference to the modernization of federal statistics. Now I set more realistic expectations.

ROY: All through my career, I have heard about patient centricity. This is what motivates me and many of my colleagues to come to work every day—to try our best to make a difference to patients, people in this world who are suffering. I thought I understood this world well.

But recently, something brought me out of my complacency—my father was diagnosed with cancer and later passed away from a combination of the disease and COVID-19.

When he was sick in India, I discovered a little bit about the world from the perspective of the patient. I learned about lack of access to medication in countries like India; severe lack of clinical trials for patients; the enormous financial cost of overseas treatment; and—at times—dispassionate, emotionless, behavior from the people at certain facilities, organizations, and hospitals.

Now, I feel we need to do more—much, much more—before we start patting ourselves on the back. The value of human life should not be different depending on where you are born. Today, working for better education, awareness, and access to medications globally is something that brings me motivation.

PRICE: As a student, I often thought established statisticians and career professionals would not have time to engage students and early-career professionals. However, I later found that most are generous with their time and are happy to provide nuggets of wisdom. ■

ICES VII to Take Place in Scotland Next June

Invited Session Proposals Due in May



The seventh International Conference on Establishment Statistics (ICES VII) will return to an in-person format and be held in Glasgow, Scotland, June 17–20, 2024. Participants will join colleagues from academia, government statistical agencies, private businesses, statistical associations, and other sectors to collaborate on international best practices in concepts, design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination of establishment statistics.

The conference will explore new areas of establishment statistics and exhibit state-of-the-art methodologies and leading-edge technologies based on census data, administrative or other organic data, and sample survey data.

The domain of establishment statistics is facing new challenges and opportunities. ICES VII will showcase the integration of new data sources, application of emerging methods and techniques, and innovative data products while promoting discussion of all aspects related to statistics of businesses, farms, and institutions.

The program committee invites you to submit a proposal for an invited paper session from March 1 – May 15. To ensure that all invited sessions are of consistently high quality, organizers must provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the quality of its contributions. Members of the program committee encourage proposals addressing one or more related topics and incorporating presenters and perspectives from different countries and organizations.

Suggested topics for invited sessions include the following:

- Data sources for establishment statistics (including administrative, open, and private sources)
- Establishment statistics in times of crises (including lessons learned from COVID, war, energy shortages, and climate change)
- Establishing and updating business registers (e.g., considering globalization issues)
- Sample design and sample coordination challenges
- Use of and experiments with new technologies and methodologies for collecting and using data from businesses (including web-scraping and unstructured data)
- Survey communication, respondent relations and motivation (including minimizing nonresponse, confidentiality, and survey ethics) for establishment surveys
- Big data applications and machine learning methods as applied to establishment statistics
- Data science—usage and integration of different data sources in establishment statistics

- New techniques in statistical data editing and imputation
- Estimation and variance estimation challenges (e.g., robust, model-based, small-area estimation; treatment of nonresponse; probability vs. nonprobability samples)
- Confidentiality, disclosure avoidance, differential privacy, and formal privacy as applied to skewed distributions
- Treatment of economic time series (including price adjustment, seasonal adjustment, and benchmarking)
- Quality issues and trade-off with costs, response burden, and timeliness of establishment statistics
- Management issues regarding running business surveys and producing business statistics (including generalized survey systems, IT issues, process monitoring, use of paradata)
- Producing establishment statistics in developing countries
- Environmental statistics, energy statistics
- Indicators focused on timeliness such as high-frequency data from businesses and real-time indicators
- Impact of international manual changes (including revisions of the System of National Accounts, changes to economic classifications, and how to ensure comparisons over time)
- Capturing price data from establishments (including administrative sources, surveys, and calculation of price indices)
- Inclusiveness in establishment statistics (e.g., gender dimension)
- New measures related to labor market and work
- Network statistics, statistics on supply chains and global value chains (GVC), new statistics on globalization



ICES Publications

Publications originating from past ICES conferences provide a historical repository of valuable information related to the development and use of establishment statistics. The latest publication is an edited volume based on ICES VI contributions and discussions that can be found at bit.ly/3xhEqNx.

Publication opportunities in *Survey Methodology* and the *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, in addition to conference proceedings, are also planned for ICES VII.

- The impact of globalization on producing statistics (e.g., collecting data from businesses in a globalized world, defining the business population and business sample frame, estimation challenges)
- Unit problem(s)—identification of statistical units and inference about the effects (of misidentification/misclassification) on estimates
- The position of national statistical institutes, survey research agencies, and similar organizations in the modern information market (e.g., statistical leadership, building capability and skills, changing relationships with respondents, other producers of statistics and users)

The conference will include diverse sessions following traditional and modern formats, as well as demonstrations from around the globe to highlight new, improved, and upcoming establishment statistics. Stay tuned for additional calls for contributions to ICES VII over the next year. ■

MORE ONLINE

Stay in the know!
Bookmark the ICES VII
website: www2.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2024.

Up to Two JSM Late-Breaking Proposals to Be Accepted



Planning for the 2023 Joint Statistical Meetings program started last July, and most technical sessions have already been organized. This advanced planning is required to organize such an expansive meeting as JSM but may preclude scheduling sessions on contemporary topics of emerging interest as the year progresses. Therefore, two invited session slots have been set aside for such late-breaking topics, and any member of one of the JSM sponsoring organizations or partnering societies can propose such a session.

A late-breaking session must cover one or more technical, scientific, or policy-related topics that have arisen during the one-year period prior to JSM 2023. Proposals for late-breaking sessions should be submitted via

the online submission system at ww2.aievolution.com/JSMAnnual by April 17. The proposal must include the following:

- Session description—including a title, summary of statistical and scientific content, and explanation of the subject's timeliness and significance—and comments about the intended target audience
- Format of the session (e.g., a chair, 2–3 speakers, and a discussant)
- Names, affiliations, and contact information for the session organizer, chair, and all participants (speakers, panelists, discussants)
- Web links to relevant technical or news reports, if applicable

Organizers should make sure participants have agreed to participate before the proposal is submitted. The JSM participation guidelines state a speaker can give a main presentation and participate in a late-breaking session at the same meeting, so a previous commitment to a regular session does not preclude participation.

Two late-breaking sessions will be selected from the proposals received by the deadline (subject to approval by the JSM Policy Committee). Proposals will be judged on statistical and scientific quality, timeliness, significance and impact, potential audience appeal, and completeness.

To learn more about late-breaking sessions, visit ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2023/iolslatebreaking.cfm. ■

Causality in Statistics Education

The Causality in Statistics Education Award was created to encourage teaching basic causal inference in introductory statistics courses. Donated by Judea Pearl, the prize is motivated by the growing importance of introducing core elements of causal inference into undergraduate and lower-division graduate classes in statistics.

The award provides a \$5,000 cash prize each year, and nominations are due April 5.

For additional information, visit bit.ly/3RShcXT.

Wray Jackson Smith

Awarded jointly by the ASA's Government Statistics and Social Statistics sections, this scholarship encourages promising young statisticians to consider a career in government statistics by providing up to \$1,000 for use in exploring any of a broad number of opportunities.

The scholarship is for students and others early in their careers who show an interest in government statistics. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the Government Statistics Section, Social Statistics Section, or ASA is not required.

Applications will be evaluated based on relevance of the proposed activity to government statistics, quality of the proposed activity, innovation/ingenuity of the proposed project, feasibility of completion of the activity, the applicant's career stage, and past performance as reflected in the letters of recommendation.

The scholarship was created to honor the memory of

Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Government Statistics Section and a longtime contributor to federal statistics. Smith's federal career spanned four decades and included positions in the Office of Economic Opportunity, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and the Energy Information Administration. After retiring from the federal

government in 1983, he continued to play a role in federal statistics from the private sector.

The deadline for applications is April 1.

To apply for the scholarship, visit the ASA website at bit.ly/3HH7zqa. ■

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

AWARD	DEADLINE	QUESTIONS & NOMINATIONS
Annie T. Randall Innovator Award	March 15	Sherri Rose (sherrirose@stanford.edu)
Biopharmaceutical Section Scholarship Award	March 15	Biopharmaceutical Community Website (community.amstat.org/biop/awards/scholarship)
Founders Award	March 15	awards@amstat.org
ASA Pride Scholarship	March 31	Donna LaLonde (donnal@amstat.org)
Government Statistics Section Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship	April 1	David Banks (banks@stat.duke.edu)
Causality in Statistics Education Award	April 5	awards@amstat.org
Links Lecture Award	July 1	awards@amstat.org
Dorothy Marie Lamb and Annette Lila Ryne Memorial Scholarship	July 15	awards@amstat.org
Health Policy Statistics Section Achievement Awards	September 15	www.asahealthpolicy.org/for-students
Lester R. Curtin Award	October 15	awards@amstat.org
Deming Lecturer Award	October 15	awards@amstat.org
Lingzi Lu Memorial Award	October 15	awards@amstat.org

ASA member **Kanti Mardia** has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. A senior research professor at the University of Leeds, Mardia is a distinguished Indian statistician who is known for his pioneering work on multivariate analysis, directional data, and statistical measures of shape. His book, *Multivariate Analysis*, is a household title among statistics students.

Mardia is the founder of the Royal Statistical Society's Mardia Prize, awarded for interdisciplinary research. Among his many



Kanti Mardia

honors, Mardia received the Guy Medal in Silver by the RSS and the Wilks Memorial Award by the American Statistical Association. He was also awarded the IISA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. ■

Melissa Chiu became the seventh director of the Committee on National Statistics on February 25, succeeding Brian Harris-Kojetin.

Chiu has served as deputy director of CNSTAT since 2021. She also served as the study director for the consensus panel that produced the report *A Vision and Roadmap for Education Statistics*.

Before joining the National Academies, Chiu spent 15 years leading data governance and analytics in the federal government, most recently as executive director (acting), director of analytics, and director of data governance in the Office of Data Governance and Analytics, Office of Enterprise Integration, Department of Veterans Affairs. She also represented the VA as the statistical official on the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy and the senior agency official for geospatial information (alternate) on the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

Prior to joining the VA, Chiu worked for the US Census Bureau, where she expanded and promoted the data linkage infrastructure to increase the use of integrated administrative data in high-quality research for evidence-based decision-making.

Brian Harris-Kojetin served as CNSTAT director since July 2017. He will continue with CNSTAT as a part-time senior scholar.

Harris-Kojetin is the co-editor of the seventh edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*. He joined CNSTAT as deputy director in 2015 and served as the study director for the consensus panel that produced the reports *Innovation in Federal Statistics: Combining*

AAAS Elects 8 Statistics Section Fellows



In October, the American Association for the Advancement of Science council elected nearly 505 members as fellows, and a virtual induction ceremony took place on February 13. Election as a fellow honors members whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications in service to society have distinguished them among their peers and colleagues.

The eight new fellows of AAAS Section U (Statistics) are listed below:

- **Catherine A. Calder**, The University of Texas at Austin
- **Jacqueline M. Hughes-Oliver**, North Carolina State University
- **Marek Kimmel**, Rice University
- **Ping Ma**, University of Georgia
- **Wendy L. Martinez**, US Census Bureau
- **Dionne L. Price**, US Food and Drug Administration
- **Peihua Qiu**, University of Florida
- **Hui Zou**, University of Minnesota

Data Sources While Protecting Privacy and Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps.

Previously, Harris-Kojetin served as a senior statistician in the Statistical and Science Policy Office at the Office of Management and Budget and a research psychologist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association. ■

ASA member **Prabhakara Narasandra** recently earned his doctorate in literature for his thesis “The Economic Activity of Children and Child Labor in India: Causes and Concerns.”

After earning his master’s in statistics from Bangalore University in Karnataka, Narasandra worked in the Population Research Center at the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bangalore. Eventually, he came to the US to earn his PhD from Claramont Graduate School before transferring to the University of California, Irvine. He worked as a teaching assistant there in the mathematics department until he retired. ■

Prithwis Kumar De

recently authored *Towards Net-Zero Targets: Usage of Data Science for Long-Term Sustainability Pathways*, published by the Springer Nature Group.

The book discusses the use of technology, AI, machine learning, and data to achieve the net-zero carbon emission target. It includes case studies to explain the use of AI and machine learning in combating climate change.

For more information, visit bit.ly/40W5f7x. ■

Obituary

Jerome S. Sacks

Jerome S. Sacks, 91, passed away peacefully January 2, 2023. He was born on May 8, 1931, in the Bronx.

Jerry was a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science and earned his BA (1952) and PhD (1956) in mathematics from Cornell University, with Jack Kiefer as his adviser. From 1956 to 1961, he had positions at the California Institute of Technology, Columbia University, and Cornell, at which point he moved to Northwestern University as associate and then full professor. He stayed at Northwestern until 1984, with leaves at Rutgers University (1979–1981) and the National Science Foundation (1983–1984). Jerry moved to the University of Illinois in 1984, serving as head of the department of statistics until 1990. In 1991, he became the founding director of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences—located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina—and professor at the Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences at Duke University. When he retired from NISS in 2001, Jerry assumed full-time duties at Duke, becoming emeritus professor in 2005.

Jerry was a visionary as the first director of NISS,



Jerome Sacks

recognizing it was crucial for NISS to focus on broad interdisciplinary activities in research and education. The creation of NISS was recommended in the 1988 report Cross-Disciplinary Research in the Statistical Sciences, which was co-authored by Jerry and Ingram Olkin. The many dozens of postdocs at NISS were trained in this cross-disciplinary style of research and carried it into their professional lives.

The cross-disciplinary focus resulted in NISS becoming a melting pot, involving people from academia, industry, and government. Jerry was personally active in almost all facets of NISS and could often be found vocally contributing at the research group meetings and workshops happening at NISS. According to Alan Karr, associate director under Jerry and later director, “Jerry’s attention to quality and innovation was relentless, and has enabled NISS to thrive throughout its 32 years of existence.”

Jerry was also important to the creation of the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), which functioned as a sister institute to NISS for many years. At his retirement, NISS established the Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research in his honor, which has now been presented to 21 leading statistical scientists, including Jerry's PhD student, the late Cliff Spiegelman.

Jerry had an exceptional research career. An enduring interest of his was design of experiments. Much of this work was with the late Don Ylvisaker, the most influential being the papers on design aspects of regression problems; these started in classical mathematical statistics and eventually came to include calibration, response surfaces, and computer experiments.

Jerry did outstanding work in a host of other areas, including ecological regression and voting rights, chemometrics, and environmental health. To learn more about this research and its evolution from mathematical statistics to interdisciplinarity, see *After 50+ Years in Statistics, an Exchange* (*Statistical Science*, Vol. 27, 308–318).

Jerry was recognized for his research by becoming a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the American Statistical Association.

Sacks' paper in 1989, "Design and Analysis of

Computer Experiments" (*Statistical Science*, 4, 409–435), arguably initiated what is now a huge field that spans statistics, applied mathematical modeling, engineering, and many other disciplines. The field is called uncertainty quantification outside statistics and involves the interaction of computer models (or other complex models) with data, taking into account the many uncertainties inherent in the problem, including uncertainty in the computer models. (Of course, most statisticians interpret "uncertainty quantification" more generally.)

At NISS, Jerry made uncertainty quantification one of the central initiatives, studying highly complex scientific problems such as circuit optimization, traffic simulation, air pollution measurement, and automotive design using both experimental design strategies and computer models. This eventually resulted in a joint initiative in uncertainty quantification between the ASA and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) that involved interest groups, a new journal, and meetings. The first international conference in uncertainty quantification of the ASA/SIAM initiative was in 2012; recognizing his central role in founding the field, Jerry was one of two plenary speakers at the meeting. He remained active in uncertainty quantification research, participating extensively in SAMSI

uncertainty quantification programs as late as 2019.

Jerry was also a major contributor to the advancement of the statistics discipline through structural changes. NISS (and SAMSI) were, of course, the major examples. Another was his stint at the NSF from 1983–1984 as director of the statistics program; he was able to significantly affect NSF support for statistics for the future. For his contributions to the advancement of the discipline, Jerry received the ASA Founders Award in 1998.

Jerry was a lover of arts, especially jazz. He had a keen wit and was a joy to be around. His kindness and generosity were legendary and endeared him to all who knew him. There will be an invited memorial session for Jerry at JSM 2023 in Toronto, which will allow opportunities to share memories of Jerry.

Predeceased by his wife, Karin, Jerry is survived by daughters Sophia Sacks and Monica Freeland (Ryan), grandchildren Roxanne and Elliot, niece Anne Greenberg and nephew Richard Sacks (Marcia), and partner Mary Ellen Bock (the renowned statistician). Services were private. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104, www.splcenter.org.

Save April 17th for the 2023 Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials!

Registration will open shortly.

April 17, 2023

Advances in Time-to-Event Analyses in Clinical Trials

MORNING SESSION
Terry Therneau, PhD (Mayo Clinic) <i>Overview</i>
Lu Tian, ScD (Stanford University) <i>On estimating the survival distribution of the duration of response</i>
Zhenzhen Xu, PhD (Food and Drug Administration) <i>Design of immuno-oncology studies involving biomarker-defined subgroups</i>
Fan Li, PhD (Yale University) <i>Multiply robust estimation of causal effects with noncompliance and time-to-event outcomes</i>
AFTERNOON SESSION
Devan Mehrotra, PhD (Merck and Co.) <i>Time-to-event analysis approaches for randomized clinical trials with composite endpoints</i>
Lu Mao, PhD (University of Wisconsin) <i>Non- and semi-parametric analysis of composite time-to-event endpoints</i>
Ann Eaton, PhD (University of Minnesota) <i>Statistical approaches for component-wise censored composite endpoints</i>
Richard Cook, PhD (University of Waterloo) <i>Estimands in clinical trials with complex life history processes</i>
PANELISTS
Ionut Bebu, PhD (George Washington University) Rebecca Betensky, PhD (New York University) Michael Fay, PhD (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases) Pralay Mukhopadhyay, PhD (Otsuka Pharmaceutical) Douglas Schaubel, PhD (University of Pennsylvania) Mei-Cheng Wang, PhD (Johns Hopkins)



Text Analysis and ChatGPT

David Banks, Duke University

For obvious reasons, the newest ASA section is interested in the issues posed by ChatGPT, the new chatbot introduced by OpenAI. It has been much in the news, but a relevant article can be found at bit.ly/3lppWZd. I especially note the response to the prompt, “Write a biblical verse in the style of the King James Bible explaining how to remove a peanut butter sandwich from a VCR.” (For my younger colleagues, VCR stands for videocassette recorder, a dated technology.)

Statisticians are broadly interested in ChatGPT—the Royal Statistical Society has produced a video about it at bit.ly/3YxtjMk. Many members of the ASA Section on Text Analysis are professionally interested in the performance and impact of ChatGPT. The section invites ASA members to share their experiments with the chatbot and their ideas about its influence and potential threats and promises. If you email them to me at banks@stat.duke.edu, I will post them to the STA community discussion board. Or, better, you can join STA and participate in the discussion directly.

I used the prompt, “Describe moral philosophy, including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics, in terms of Marvel superheroes.” I got the following, which impressed me:

Moral philosophy deals with ethical questions and principles, such as what is right and wrong, good and evil, and justice.

Consequentialism evaluates actions based on their consequences, where the rightness of an action is determined by the overall outcomes it produces.



Section on Text Analysis

For example, in Marvel, Iron Man can be seen as a consequentialist as he makes decisions based on the results they will produce, even if they may not align with strict moral codes.

Deontology, on the other hand, holds that there are certain moral duties and rules that must be followed regardless of the consequences. Captain America is a good example of a deontologist, as he follows a strict code of ethics and sticks to his principles, even if it goes against his personal interests or the greater good.

Virtue ethics focuses on the character and habits of the moral agent, rather than rules or consequences, as the key element of ethical thinking. This approach values moral character traits like bravery, honesty, and compassion. For instance, Spider-Man can be considered a virtue ethicist as he strives to embody these traits and use his powers for good, regardless of the situation he is faced with.

On the other hand, although ChatGPT is able to correctly distinguish Petrarchian, Spenserian, and Shakespearian sonnets, when given the prompt to produce a sonnet on the significance of John Donne’s poetry in each of these forms, it produced four quatrains—not sonnets—all with the same rhyme structure.

I conjectured that ChatGPT might not be able to describe the difference between finger tight and tool tight. Every mechanic knows this intuitively, but I felt it was difficult to glean that information using the internet text on which ChatGPT was trained. So, I gave it the prompt, “Write a poem on the difference between finger tight and tool tight,” and it generated:

Finger tight, a gentle hold,
 Just enough to keep it bold.
 With ease it can be moved around,
 A light touch, not too profound.
 Tool tight, a different story,
 For stability, it's all the glory.
 Tightened down with all one's might,
 It won't budge, withstanding any fight.
 Finger tight's for quick adjustments,
 Tool tight's for heavy loads and enhancements.
 One's for ease, the other for strength,
 Choosing which, depends on the length.
 So when you need a secure bind,
 Rely on your tool, be tool-tight inclined.
 And when a gentle touch is best,
 Remember finger tight will do the rest.

The scansion limps a little, but it exceeded my low expectations by a long chalk.

Finally, there has been much chatter about the threats ChatGPT may pose, especially in education

with the possibility of easy-access automatic essays. This is a concern, of course. Some people claim to have software that can detect essays generated by (the current beta test version of) ChatGPT (see bit.ly/3jYdmjq). Of course, we don't yet know the error rates of such systems.

On the other hand, I am interested in the possibility that next-generation ChatGPT might be able to provide personalized tutoring to K–12 students, tailored to each student's interests and academic preparation, anywhere in the world. If realized, it could be a very positive outcome. ■

Biometrics

This year's David P. Byar Early Career Award goes to **Sarah Lotspeich**, who did her training at Vanderbilt University and is currently at Wake Forest University, for her paper, “Optimal Multi-Wave Validation of Secondary Use Data with Outcome and Exposure Misclassification.”

Paper awards winners for JSM 2023 are (in no order) the following:

- **Rong Ma**, currently at Stanford University, for “A Spectral Method for Assessing and Combining Multiple Data Visualizations”
 - **Cole Manschot**, currently at North Carolina State University, for “Interim Monitoring of Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trials Using Partial Information”
 - **Chao Cheng**, currently at Yale University, for “Doubly Robust Estimation and Sensitivity Analysis for Marginal Structural Quantile Models”
 - **Bangyao Zhao**, currently at the University of Michigan, for “Bayesian Learning of COVID-19 Vaccine Safety While Incorporating Adverse Events Ontology”
-

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>.

Indiana

■ For our Presidential Hiring Initiative, the Department of Statistics in the College of Arts & Sciences at Indiana University invites applications for one tenured faculty position at the rank of associate or full professor in imaging data analysis. Applicants should have a strong record of research productivity and external funding, and a commitment to teaching excellence at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and to department service. Visit <https://indiana.peopleadmin.com/postings/16295>. ■



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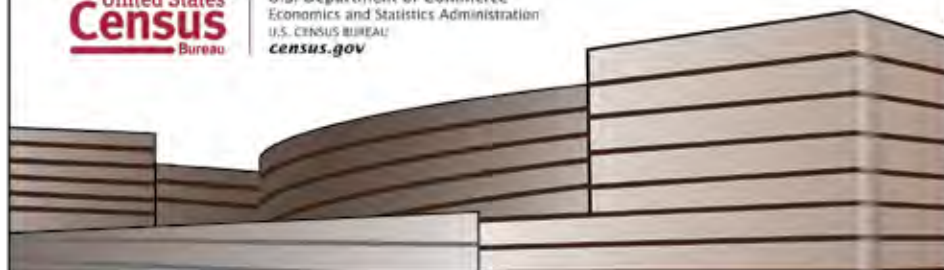
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www.amstat.org/your-career



This month's Top 10 is the 'Top Ten Things You Can Say About Your Data but **NOT** About Your Partner.'



Wasserstein

Amstat News continues its hilarious offering by ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, who delivers a special Top 10 that aired during a recent edition of *Practical Significance*. In its constant pursuit to provide useful information, *Practical Significance* features sage advice for the couples out there with the "Top Ten Things You Can Say About Your Data but NOT About Your Partner."

10

You will need a lot of cleaning before you are useful.

09

Hmmm. It appears you have missing values.

08

Oh my gosh! So much bias!



07

So ... how many others have analyzed you?

06

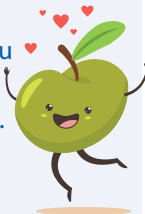
You are small and underpowered.

05

It's going to take some serious transformation before you will be compatible.

04

Easy to see you were not well designed.



03

My exploratory analysis shows you have fat tails.

02

No way you will turn out to be significant.

#01

You know I am required to share you, right?



PODCAST



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



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