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JUNE 2026 • ISSUE #588

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, 277 South Washington Street, Suite 370, Alexandria, VA 22314-3646 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.

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American Statistical Association
277 South Washington Street, Suite 370
Alexandria, VA 22314-3646 USA
(703) 684-1221
ASA GENERAL: *asainfo@amstat.org*
ADDRESS CHANGES: *addresschange@amstat.org*
AMSTAT EDITORIAL: *amstat@amstat.org*
ADVERTISING: *advertise@amstat.org*
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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 *davidjcorliss@peace-work.org.*

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What GStat Can Do for Your Career: Members Share Their Stories

STAT*tr@k* is a column in *Amstat News* and a website geared toward helping people navigate their way in a data-centric 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.*

33 **DECIDING FACTORS**
Winning Isn't the Only Thing: Why Statisticians Must Separate Process from Outcome

Deciding Factors, a column by Mark Otto, explores decision analysis and how statistical scientists can apply their expertise to make better choices in their careers, communities, and personal lives.

Attention Members—We've Moved! Just down the street, actually. You can now find the American Statistical Association at 277 S. Washington St., Suite 370, Alexandria, VA 22314-3646. Same phone, same email, same town … new digs. Take a tour of our new office with Executive Director Ron Wasserstein at *www.youtube.com/shorts/DNGRHl6WcY0*.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

ASA Launches New Community Hub for Students

The ASA has launched ASA Student Central, a new community hub featuring information about ASA student chapters, the ASA Student Meet-Up Group, and the ASA Coding Club. Access to the ASA Discord channel, StatChat, is also available. Designed specifically for students, this site offers opportunities to network, share projects, and connect with fellow members. Interested? Visit the site for details: *https://amstat.connectedcommunity.org/studentchapteractivites/home*.

Share Your Expertise on STAT*tr@k*

Do you have insights or experiences others could learn from? STAT*tr@k* welcomes articles and news items about statistical topics that matter to early-career professionals and the public. Articles should be nontechnical with a journalistic tone. Interested? Check it out at *https://stattrak.amstat.org* and send your article or ideas to ASA Communications Manager Megan Murphy at *megan@amstat.org*.

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Why I Am Optimistic

Jeri Mulrow

My optimism is rooted in the belief that there has never been a more exciting or more consequential time to be a statistician. I don't say this to be pithy, but as a considered conviction shaped by watching our field navigate one of its most complex periods. Yes, there are pressures, and yes, we sometimes struggle to articulate our own value. These are signs of a field that matters, that is being tested, and that is rising to meet the challenge. I am optimistic about the field of statistics, and I want to explain why.

One source of my optimism is captured in an observation from the National Academies report *Frontiers of Statistics in Science and Engineering: 2035 and Beyond.* That observation is that familiar concepts in statistical thinking and theory emerge "in response to new assumptions, new availability of broad classes of data, new linkages between separate data sets, and new questions of interest enabled by new data." This is not a field standing still. It is a field being continually advanced by the problems the world brings to it. The merger of administrative records with survey data, the linking of electronic health records across institutions, the integration of satellite imagery with census data—each of these creates analytical possibilities that demand not just computational power but the careful reasoning about measurement, bias, and inference that is the core of statistical practice. Data work today means negotiating the gap between what was recorded and what we want to know. That negotiation has always been, at its heart, a statistical one.

When Silicon Valley began declaring that "data scientist" was the sexiest job of the 21st century, it sometimes seemed to sideline the statisticians who had been doing that work for decades. The emergence of data science has created an enormous demand for people who can do what statisticians do best: think carefully about data collection; quantify uncertainty; design sound studies; and resist the seductive pull of spurious correlation. The growing community of data practitioners who are coming from computer science, economics, biology, and beyond all need statistical foundations. Programs like the ASA's Data Science Professional (DSP) certification reflect exactly this kind of forward-looking engagement, creating recognized pathways that embed statistical thinking at the heart of the data profession.

> I am optimistic about the future of our field due to the very nature of our discipline and the smart and inquisitive people who choose our field. In the report, we highlight the statistical innovation life cycle, which articulates how statistics continuously evolves in partnership with the frontiers of scientific inquiry. **The field is poised for its most influential decade yet,** shaping progress across science, engineering, medicine, industry, and society.
>
> ~ Kathy Ensor
> *Frontiers of Statistics in Science and Engineering: 2035 and Beyond* Committee Chair

The Frontiers report recognized that "expanded interdisciplinary team science, in which statistics plays a key role, is vital to personalized medicine, public health, ecology, aerospace, applied physics, and climate studies, among others" and points to something I find genuinely exciting. Statisticians are essential collaborators in the most consequential scientific work of our time. When a clinical trial team is determining whether a new therapy

I'm optimistic because the field of **statistics draws to it people who see difficult scientific, policy, and communication challenges as problems to solve, not games to win.** Ultimately, those are the people who create creative and sustainable solutions.

~ Lance Waller
Frontiers of Statistics in Science and Engineering: 2035 and Beyond Committee Vice Chair

MORE ONLINE
To read *Frontiers of Statistics in Science and Engineering: 2035 and Beyond*, visit *https://tinyurl.com/4u3m23kf.*

works for a specific patient population, when ecologists are modeling species response to a changing climate, when aerospace engineers are quantifying uncertainty in a system where failure is not an option, it is in these settings that the statistical contribution is not peripheral. It is the thing that makes the conclusion trustworthy. Team science has expanded both the reach and the responsibility of our field, placing statisticians at the table where discoveries are made and decisions are taken. This is a reason for optimism.

When you read this column, I will be retired, so my optimism comes from watching what young statisticians are doing, and it is extraordinary. They are developing methods for causal inference from observational data that would have seemed impossibly ambitious 20 years ago. They are building interpretable machine learning frameworks that bring statistical rigor to artificial intelligence. They are working at the intersection of statistics and social justice, developing tools for detecting discrimination in algorithms, and measuring inequity in healthcare delivery. They are doing statistics in R and Python and Julia and sharing their code openly, building a culture of reproducibility that is transforming scientific practice.

The students entering our field today are diverse in background and ambition in ways that enrich the discipline enormously. The growth of statistics education at the undergraduate level is producing graduates who see statistical thinking not as a technical specialty but as a fundamental mode of reasoning about the world.

Perhaps the most frequent source of anxiety I hear among statisticians is the rise of artificial intelligence. The concern is understandable. When large language models can answer data questions in plain English and automated pipelines can fit models without human intervention, what becomes of the statistician? My answer is the statistician becomes more important, not less.

AI systems are, at their core, statistical systems. They are trained on data, they make probabilistic predictions, and they fail in characteristically statistical ways. Understanding those failure modes requires statistical thinking. Evaluating whether an AI system is fair, accurate, and calibrated requires statistical methodology. Deciding what data to collect to train a model, how to handle missing data, and how to quantify uncertainty in model outputs are statistical problems. The rise of AI has made statistics urgent.

Finally, I am optimistic because the way we communicate statistics is changing. For much of its history, statistical knowledge lived in journal articles and textbooks accessible only to specialists. That is no longer true. Podcasts, data journalism, open-access publishing, and interactive visualization have opened statistical ideas to broad audiences in ways that are genuinely exciting. Statisticians are increasingly present on social media, in policy conversations, and in public life. This is a version of our field I think our founders would have celebrated.

I am optimistic about the field of statistics because it is needed, because it is honest enough to reform itself, because its next generation is brilliant and broad-minded, because it has a central role to play in the most important technological development of our era, and because we are learning to tell our own story. The challenges are real, but they are the challenges of a field at the center of things. That, to me, is cause for genuine and enduring optimism.

JOURNAL HIGHLIGHT: *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research*

Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research will publish a special section titled "Overall Survival in Oncology Trials and Drug Development" led by guest editors Ruixiao Lu of Alumis, Lisa R. Rodriguez of GSK, and Ying Lu of Stanford University.

This topic was inspired by the 2023 workshop Overall Survival in Oncology Clinical Trials, co-hosted by the US Food and Drug Administration, American Association for Cancer Research, and American Statistical Association. While overall survival remains the gold standard for evaluating treatment benefit and safety, the increasing use of earlier endpoints, such as progression-free survival, has introduced new challenges in assessing long-term outcomes.

Following the workshop and built on its discussions, a new perspective article published in 2024 in the *Journal of Clinical Cancer Research* listed best practices, novel statistical methods, and suggestions for improving benefit-risk assessments. It outlined considerations for clinical trial design to enhance the collection and analysis of overall survival in the context of modern therapeutic treatments. The article was co-authored by researchers, clinicians, statisticians, industry representatives, and patient advocates—the key stakeholders across regulatory agencies, industry, and academia involved in drug development. The goal was to explore how to overcome hurdles associated with traditional analyses of overall survival.

Furthermore, the FDA's August 2025 draft guidance, "Approaches to Assessment of Overall Survival in Oncology Clinical Trials," reinforced overall survival as the "gold standard" primary endpoint to be used whenever feasible. It advises collecting overall survival data to evaluate potential long-term safety concerns to ensure initial observed benefits don't translate to long-term harm.

With the growing use of early endpoints for submissions, such as progression-free survival or durable response rates, the FDA often requires companies to share overall survival data following an accelerated approval or traditional approval. However, several factors pose challenges for monitoring long-term overall survival, including differences between subpopulations, crossover trial designs, subsequent lines of therapy after a patient leaves a trial, and fluctuations in the magnitude of benefit compared to the control arm over time.

Guest Editors

Ruixiao Lu

Lisa R. Rodriguez

Ying Lu

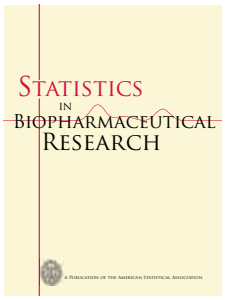
"This special section reflects the vital collaboration between regulators, industry, and academia to address the complexities of monitoring overall survival. By engaging in these discussions, statisticians ensure their research translates into robust evidence and meaningful benefits for patients," said Ying Lu.

The special section features six articles that provide deeper insights, design frameworks, and practical guidance for implementation, with a range of topics:

- Benefit and harm using overall survival endpoint
- Safety assessment with sparse overall survival data
- Pre-specified threshold for safety analysis
- Safety monitoring for overall survival
- Overall survival interim evaluation for pivotal oncology trials

"It is exciting to see the progress that has been made and the different perspectives shared, culminating in this collection, which also highlights the important role statisticians can take in owning strategy and contributing to benefit-risk evaluation in drug development," said Rodriquez.

"We hope these contributions will extend the ongoing dialogue on this important topic and continue to spark future innovation in the field," said Ruixiao Lu. "We look forward to seeing the field evolve as discussions around this topic advance, supporting robust clinical evidence generation and ultimately delivering meaningful benefit to patients." ■



Visit the latest issue of *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research* at *www.tandfonline.com/toc/usbr20/current.*

Highlights of the ASA Board of Directors Meeting from April 17–18, 2026

Ron Wasserstein, ASA Executive Director

2026 Board of Directors

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Ji-Hyun Lee, *Past President*

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Julia Sharp, *First-Year Vice President*

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Ruixiao Lu, *First-Year Council of Chapters Representative*

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Martin Slawski, *First-Year Council of Sections Representative*

Pedro Silva, *International Representative*

Antje Hoering, *Publications Representative*

Amarjot Kaur, *Treasurer*

Ron Wasserstein, *Executive Director and Board Secretary*

On Friday, April 17, ASA President Jeri Mulrow called the first board of directors meeting of 2026 to order. The board met at the conference center above the new ASA HQ in Alexandria, Virginia. Here are the highlights of the meeting.

Actions

The ASA Board of Directors ...

- Approved the appointment of Jay Bartroff as editor of *The American Statistician* for 2027–2029.
- Approved adding the Federation of European Statistical Societies as an accreditation partner society under Section 13 of the ASA's accreditation guidelines. This provision allows the ASA and FENStatS to mutually recognize each other's accredited members.
- Extended the eligibility period for the early-career membership rate from two years to five years.
- Directed staff to work with Taylor & Francis to establish data-driven thresholds for institutional and individual print subscriptions and print-related revenue—which will trigger board discussion of cessation of print runs for individual journals—and to monitor and report on these metrics regularly to the Committee on Publications.
- Approved journal subscription rates for 2027.

Reports and Discussions

- The chair and co-chair of the Membership Council presented the council's annual report. The committee councils are the primary means by which the board stays connected with the committees. The annual reports allow the board to address pending issues and anticipate developing issues.
- Derek Curtis II, director of finance and administration, updated the board on the status of the ASA's finances as of the end of fiscal year 2025. He said the ASA's financial results aligned with budget expectations and that we achieved a positive net change in assets for the year.
- Amarjot Kaur, ASA treasurer, updated the board on the status of our portfolio as of the end of the fiscal year. The portfolio's value at the end of 2025 was about $21 million, an increase of about $1.7 million over 2024.
- Amanda Malloy, director of development, reported on 2025 fundraising results, updated the board on Giving Day, and discussed key strategies she and the Development Committee put together. She highlighted priorities for expanding the ASA Partner Program.
- Executive Director Ron Wasserstein updated the board on the April 1 launch of the ASA's Data Science Certification initiative. The program is the culmination of several years of planning and was developed in partnership with the Alliance for Data Science Professionals. Two levels of certification—Data Science Professional and Advanced Data Science Professional—are available to ASA members.

- Wasserstein updated the board on the status of the sale of our property on N. Washington St. and N. Columbus Street. He said the sale of our current building and related property would close on May 12. The board toured the new headquarters, located at 277 S. Washington St., Suite 370. At the time of the board meeting, the suite was empty, as furniture is expected to arrive and be installed in June.
- The board began work on the development of an AI strategic plan for the ASA. A draft of the plan will be circulated widely to the community for review.
- Mulrow updated the board on the Communities in Action initiative. Its goal is to connect statistical and data science expertise with community needs by helping ASA members turn their knowledge, skills, and abilities into tangible public good while demonstrating the value of statistical thinking and data-informed decision-making. She highlighted three efforts—toolkits, microgrants, and story development—that are underway.
- Past President Ji-Hyun Lee noted the progress of her initiatives. Under the theme "Building Bridges," they include the *Nature Medicine* Statistical Advisory Panel, the StatsForward cohort, and the clinical trials certificate program. She noted that the certificate program will launch this fall.
- President-Elect Brian Millen's initiatives will connect to his theme for JSM 2027: "People powered. Science driven. Future ready." Items under this theme include equipping and cultivating leaders, celebrating the contributions of statistics, advocating for statistics, adapting while preserving our foundations, and long-term health of the ASA.
- Associate Executive Director Donna LaLonde updated the board on the status of the first regional innovation conference at the University of Minnesota and spoke about plans for additional conferences.
- The board brainstormed ideas for the 2027 Dionne Price Public Lecturer. The executive committee will consider these ideas over the next few months and recommend a lecturer to the board at JSM.
- Wasserstein led a board discussion about potential issues associated with ASA programs that promote inclusivity.
- LaLonde presented preliminary findings of the ASA's 2026 Work and Salary Survey, which provides employment and salary findings from a broad cross-section of ASA members. Results will be disseminated widely.

The board will meet virtually on June 26 to discuss the FY 2027 budget. It will convene again in person on July 31 and August 1 in Boston before the start of JSM. ■

SIGNIFICANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Finding the Statistics in the Prelude

"I have never enjoyed Chopin's 'Preludes'," writes David S. Hill in this issue's cover feature. "But when I first saw his distribution of register, the curve moved me more deeply than his music ever will."

The intertwining of music and mathematics has been recognized since Ancient Greece, and Hill, who's discovered a pattern in tonal music, is not the only member of the stats community we know to be a huge fan of classical music. The application of statistical methods to musical analysis is becoming more widespread, but so many questions remain unanswered in this area that are ripe for interdisciplinary research.

Another example of harmony in this issue comes from our interview with Pekka Pere, who is president of the Finnish Statistical Society and co-founder of an online Finnish–English dictionary of statistical terms that enables Finnish data professionals to glide more easily between international and national milieux. Our conversation made me think more deeply about the challenges facing statisticians whose first language is not English. It's a major inclusivity issue we don't talk about enough. Not that linguistic difference is always a problem. Indeed, Pekka's interview might have you wishing for some Finnish flair in your own tongue.

May 2026 Issue Highlights

Breast cancer research | When so many findings remain invisible, should statisticians force a culture shift?

Horse racing | Winning and losing at Triple Crown horse-races like May's Kentucky Derby

OpenSAFELY's health data goldmine | How a smart new platform is revolutionizing open working

FBI bullet analysis | The technique used to identify JFK's assassin is full of flaws

Medieval marriage and family | Statistical adventures in three ancient Austrian cemeteries

Access the digital version of *Significance* through the membership portal. Print issues will be mailed to subscribers soon. *Significance* is also online at *www.significancemagazine.com.*

Member Showcase: Jennifer Park

This month, we're featuring Jennifer Park, a leader in statistical policy and data governance, working to strengthen the US federal statistical system through improved data access, transparency, and innovation. With a career spanning federal service, international collaboration, and research, she is driven by a commitment to building data systems that support evidence-based decision-making to serve the public good.

Jennifer Park

What is your current role or area of expertise in statistics and/or data science?

After 20 years of federal and international service, I currently consult in several capacities. As a senior adviser to America's DataHub Consortium, I assist the federal statistical system in measuring the impact of the National Secure Data Service Demonstration Project. I also serve as secretariat for the ASA's Federal Statistical System Modernization Project and as a study director at the Committee on National Statistics at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. My work focuses on strengthening the US federal statistical system by improving access to data for evidence-building, advancing shared data infrastructure, and reducing barriers to innovation.

What has been one of your biggest professional achievements?

I feel fortunate to have contributed to many elements of national and international statistical policy, along with so many dedicated colleagues in times of great change.

One of my most meaningful professional achievements has been contributing to the development and modernization of core US statistical policy frameworks. While serving in the Office of the US Chief Statistician, I authored Statistical Policy Directive No. 1, Fundamental Responsibilities of Federal Statistical Agencies. I also led several interagency teams charged with developing or revising other statistical policy directives and guidance, including Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, which provides minimum standards for federal collecting and reporting of race/ethnicity statistics and federal guidance on measurement of same-sex marriage, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

I also contributed to the development of Title III of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, which established a modern framework for secure data access and evidence-building across the federal government.

In parallel, I initiated and advanced national reporting platforms for the Sustainable Development Goals—first in the US and now used by more than 20 countries—to communicate statistical progress toward global goals. Around that same time, I also worked on improving AI-assisted approaches, guided by human expertise, to translate and standardize metadata, improve data harmonization, improve accessibility, and reduce barriers for countries to participate in global statistical systems.

Also, deeply meaningful to me has been leading major consensus studies at the National Academies, including work on a 21st-century national data infrastructure and the 8th edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency.*

What career advice do you live by, and who gave it to you?

Throughout my career, I've embraced the idea of being "brave, not perfect"—to move forward thoughtfully even in uncertain environments. This is advice that I found myself giving to my daughter, and learned,

as parents often do, that I should follow the same advice.

This perspective has been especially important in working at the intersection of statistics and data science, where innovation requires balancing uncertainty with rigor, transparency, and trust.

Other advice I think of often is from Stefan Schweinfest, former director, UN Statistical Division. He challenged me by advising, "It's more important to be together than [absolutely] right." That is hard for any expert to hear, but essential for a person working in policy. We achieve nothing alone. We must consider different perspectives.

> Throughout my career, I've embraced the idea of being 'brave, not perfect'—to move forward thoughtfully even in uncertain environments.

What experiences and past roles have led you to where you are today?

My career spans federal service, international statistical leadership, and academic research. I have moved around a lot compared to some. I have followed ideas that give me energy. It was metadata standards before metadata became cool. It was generative AI tools before we called them that. Following the energy of ideas is exciting but can also be stressful. Always ask questions. Be prepared to fail and keep trying. Stay focused on the benefit.

What is the biggest career challenge you've had to overcome?

Without a doubt, adapting to changing priorities—understanding them and finding a way to meaningfully engage. Sometimes, priorities that change are external. I've worked across several administrations and federal and international agencies. And sometimes, those priorities are internal. I am a breast cancer and ovarian cancer survivor. Whatever the source of changing priorities, one needs to listen to them and understand them, and then find a way to address them while still being your authentic self. It takes equal parts humility and confidence.

Are you a member of an ASA chapter, section, or special interest group? Why did you decide to join, and what have you learned from your experiences?

Yes, I am a member of the Government Statistics Section and the Washington Statistical Society. I am an invited member of the Committee on Professional Ethics. I am also contributing to the ASA Federal Statistical System's Modernization Project. For many years, I was not in a position to volunteer for the ASA. I am delighted to do so now.

What led to your participation with the Federal Statistical System's Modernization Project, as well as your leadership in establishing the Katherine Wallman Award?

I heard about the modernization project from colleagues. Our federal statistical system faces a critical juncture—the opportunity to address long-held challenges and an openness for policy change necessary to do so. It is ambitious. But the time has come for boldness.

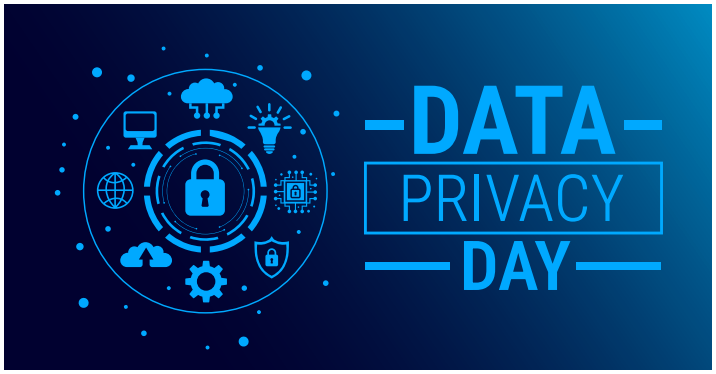
Katherine Wallman was my boss while I was at OMB [Office of Management and Budget]. She was a mentor to me while I worked at the UN and World Bank. She was a close friend as I managed career and life changes after my cancer diagnosis. She was tough. She was brave. And she was always a lady. We all need heroes in our lives to inspire us. Then, we can inspire others to thrive. I gathered other close friends of Katherine—Connie Citro, Hermann Habermann, and Brian Harris-Kojetin—to share that inspiration.

What is something you'd like people to know about you that we haven't asked?

I am grateful to the ASA for supporting our professional community over the years. We thrive together. Now more than ever, the ASA provides ways—large and small—for us to be present for each other. Thank you for helping us build the connections and ideas that inspire us. ■

Privacy and Confidentiality Committee Webinar Tackles 'Statistical Purpose'

Felipe Barrientos and Jae June Lee, Privacy and Confidentiality Committee



New Webinar Series: Statistical Confidentiality and Data Access

Interested in learning more about how to protect confidentiality when publishing statistics or expanding data access? The ASA Privacy and Confidentiality Committee—in partnership with the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Confidentiality, and Data Access interest group—is sponsoring an upcoming seminar series on statistical confidentiality and data access.

This monthly series will explore topics such as assessing disclosure risk, commonly used disclosure avoidance techniques, governance of the disclosure review process, methods for generating and evaluating synthetic data, differential privacy, tiered data-access models, and more.

The series will kick off this summer with an introductory overview of disclosure avoidance across the federal statistical system. Visit *https://tinyurl.com/448xxpf6* for updates and information about the webinar series. To learn more, sign up for the FCSM Confidentiality and Data Access Interest Group's listserv by sending an email to *FCSM-CDAC-subscribe-request@listserv.gsa.gov.*

The American Statistical Association's Privacy and Confidentiality Committee, in collaboration with the Social Data Science Center at the University of Maryland, hosted a Privacy Day webinar on January 28 as part of Privacy Week.

Titled "Balancing Statistical and Non-Statistical Uses of Federal Data: Privacy, Governance, and Public Trust," the event examined a longstanding principle in federal statistics—the distinction between statistical and nonstatistical uses of data. This distinction has evolved over more than a century of federal statistical practice and is now encoded in laws such as US Code Title 13 and the Confidential Information Protection and the Statistical Efficiency Act.

At the heart of the discussion was a deceptively simple question: What is meant by "statistical purpose"? Although the term appears frequently in legislation, policy, and public communication, it's often left underspecified. As the speakers noted, statistics span a broad range of applications, making the meaning of "statistical purpose" far from self-evident. This webinar explored how this concept has evolved, how it is interpreted in practice, and why greater clarity is increasingly important in an evolving federal data landscape.

The first presentation was delivered by Sallie Ann Keller, chief scientist and associate director for research and methodology at the US Census Bureau, and Michael B. Hawes, senior statistician for scientific communication at the US Census Bureau. They examined the historical and legal foundations of "statistical purpose" within the federal statistical system. Tracing developments from early 20th-century legislation through the suspension of confidentiality protections during World War II and the establishment of modern frameworks like Title 13 and CIPSEA, their presentation explored how the notion of "statistical purpose" has evolved gradually and through contestation.

The concept of a functional separation was introduced in the 1970s and later codified into statute. As reflected in CIPSEA, "statistical" uses refer to uses of data aimed at producing aggregate information, without identifying the individuals or organizations that comprise such groups. "Nonstatistical" uses refer to using data to make decisions about identifiable individuals, such as in law enforcement. This functional separation has guided federal data practice and is intended to help protect confidentiality and prevent harm to individuals.

Building on this foundation, the speakers highlighted two key dimensions underlying "statistical purpose": restrictions on access to identifiable information and limitations on how such information may be used. Together, these dimensions are intended to ensure data is protected from unauthorized disclosure and used only for appropriate, nonharmful purposes. They also noted that the statistical community has often been "nonchalant" about the term, despite its central role in maintaining public trust. In this context, the presentation referenced the 2025 executive order on "restoring gold standard science" and related guidance from the Office

of Science and Technology Policy, which articulates nine tenets of scientific practice, such as transparency, reproducibility, and the communication of error and uncertainty. Keller and Hawes argued that these tenets strengthen the scientific and ethical foundations of "statistical purpose." As new data sources, particularly administrative data, become more prevalent, the speakers emphasized the need to more carefully examine what the term entails and to improve how it's communicated to the public.

The second presentation, delivered by Alexandra Wood, visiting assistant professor of artificial intelligence, policy, and society at Purdue University, framed "statistical purpose" as a special case of purpose limitation that defines the boundaries of permissible data use. Wood emphasized that despite its central role in privacy and data governance, the term lacks a consistent and operational definition across legal and regulatory contexts. The presentation also noted that, when adopted in consumer privacy frameworks like GDPR, "statistical purpose" is often used to balance data access with privacy protection. But this balance can become unclear when its original context is not preserved. As a result, the concept may be interpreted in ways that emphasize data access without corresponding safeguards, which contributes to ambiguity, inconsistent applications, and uncertainty on acceptable use.

To address this ambiguity, the presentation introduced a multi-dimensional framework that illustrates the discrepancies in how "statistical purpose" is constructed across regulatory definitions such as population-level analysis, aggregation, and exclusion of individual-level decision-making. The framework illustrated the risks of unclear or inconsistent interpretations through historical examples like the use of census data during the internment of Japanese Americans and post-9/11 tabulations. These cases highlight the need for clearer definitions and more consistent safeguards as data use expands in scope and complexity.

Taken together, the two presentations highlighted both the importance and the evolving challenges of "statistical purpose." Keller and Hawes emphasized its role as a longstanding legal and institutional safeguard, while Wood focused on its conceptual ambiguity and the risks that arise when it's not clearly defined. Both perspectives point to a common concern: Although the term is central to maintaining public trust, it is not consistently understood or applied. As data systems evolve and new uses emerge, these discussions highlighted the need for clearer definitions and more transparent communication about how data is used and protected.

The webinar "Balancing Statistical and Non-Statistical Uses of Federal Data: Privacy, Governance, & Public Trust" is available at *https://tinyurl.com/2a5cyukw.* ■

Survey Research Methods Section to Sponsor Multitude of Sessions at JSM

Kristen Olson

At the Joint Statistical Meetings this year, the Survey Research Methods Section is sponsoring the following sessions on integrating AI and machine learning into the survey lifecycle; training survey statisticians and researchers; and examining innovations in sample design, data collection, small area estimation, and data integration:

Sunday, August 2

(Invited) Survey Research and Education in the Age of AI

(Contributed) Sample design innovations and approaches

Monday, August 3

(Invited) Advances in AI and Machine Learning for Official Statistics and Survey Methodology

(Contributed) Sampling, Weighting, Missing Data, and Variance Estimation

(Contributed) Data Collection, Field Effort, Screening, and Survey Costs

Tuesday, August 4

(Invited) Best Practices for Leveraging Nonprobability Samples

(Contributed) Small Area Estimation, Bayesian Estimation, and Multilevel Models

(Contributed) AI, LLMs, Machine Learning, and Survey Research

(Contributed) Integrating Surveys and Alternative Data Sources Throughout the Data Life Cycle

Wednesday, August 5

(Invited) Strategies in Creating Community Area Estimates in Health Surveys

(Contributed) Data Integration, Disclosure Limitation, and Combined Data Approaches

(Contributed) SRMS/SSS/GSS Student Paper Competition Winners

(Contributed) Data Quality, Measurement Error, and Questionnaire Design

Thursday, August 6

(Invited) Survey Research at the Crossroads: Novel Pathways to Better Data Science

(Contributed) Innovations in Analysis of Complex Survey Data

(Contributed) Multiscale Data Integration Techniques for Official Statistics and Health

Celebrating Two Years of SDSA: Building Community and Advancing Aging Research

SDSA Interest Group

Zheyu Wang
Johns Hopkins University

Lihua Li, *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

Xiaoying Yu
University of Texas Medical Branch

Panpan Zhang
Vanderbilt University

Mary Jeanne Kwasny
Northwestern University

Jaime Lynn Speiser
Wake Forest University

SeonJoo Lee
Columbia University

Hong Li
University of California, Davis

Ana Capuano
The University of Chicago

Cynthia Sopko
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Caterina Gregorio
Karolinska Institutet

Mehmet Koçak
Istanbul Medipol University

Charles Hall
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Michelle Shardell|
University of Maryland School of Medicine

As members of the Statistics and Data Science in Aging Interest Group complete their second year, they have many milestones to celebrate. Founded in 2024 by Charles Hall and Michelle Shardell, SDSA serves as the ASA home for advancing statistical and data science methods and applications in aging research. It is dedicated to strengthening both methodological and substantive work on aging, building community, and providing a platform for collaboration among statisticians, data scientists, and researchers in aging.

A Fast-Growing Global Community

In two years, SDSA has grown to 454 members, spanning five continents, more than 20 countries, and all three professional sectors (academia, government, and industry). This growth reflects the need for a welcoming space within the ASA where people working across the aging research ecosystem—from methodology development to clinical and population applications—can connect, learn from each other, and build collaborations.

Year-Round Programming

The SDSA delivers a wide range of educational, career development, and networking activities. Programming includes monthly webinars that feature methods and applications across aging, dementia, and broader geroscience topics, along with career development sessions and journal-focused discussions. All sessions are free and open to the public. Recordings of most webinars can be found on the SDSA website at *https://sdsaamstat.github.io/SDSA_website*.

Group members launched the ARISE (Aging Research—Innovations in Statistical Exploration) webinar series, designed by Ana Capuano, to spotlight early-career researchers working at the intersection of aging, statistics, and data science. ARISE also gives the community a concrete way to support emerging scholars through visibility and feedback. The winners of ARISE 2025 were Tianying Wang of Colorado State University (first place), Margaret Gacheru of Columbia University (second place), and Alessandra Pescina of Karolinska Institutet (third place).

Beyond the SDSA's own webinar series, members have organized additional webinars and sessions across conferences—including the Joint Statistical Meetings, International Biometric Conference, International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science Virtual Conference, and the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Meeting—in collaboration with the Gerontological Society of America's Measurement, Statistics, and Research Design Interest Group.

Networking and Career Development

The SDSA also emphasizes networking and career development. Members have organized conference meet ups

Top row, from left: Charles Hall, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, founding and past chair; Zheyu Wang, Johns Hopkins University, chair; Mary Kwasny, Northwestern University, chair-elect; Michelle Shardell, University of Maryland School of Medicine, founding and past program chair; and Jaime Lynn Speiser, Wake Forest University, program chair. Middle row, from left: Panpan Zhang, Vanderbilt University, program chair-elect; Theresa Kim, National Institute on Aging, founding and past publications officer; Lihua Li, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, publications officer; Ana Capuano, The University of Chicago, founding education officer; and Xiaoying Yu, The University of Texas Medical Branch, founding secretary. Bottom row, from left: Hong Li, University of California, Davis, founding treasurer; Seonjoo Lee, Columbia University, founding communications officer; Cynthia Sopko, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, membership and outreach officer; Caterina Gregorio, Karolinska Institutet, volunteer; and Mehmet Koçak, Istanbul Medipol University, volunteer.

and mixers at major statistical and aging-focused meetings—the 2025 Alzheimer's Association International Conference, the 2025 Lifetime Data Science Conference, the 2025/2026 ENAR Meeting, and the 2025 JSM mixer. These events create welcoming spaces for members to meet, exchange ideas, and spark collaborations.

In addition, SDSA has led career-focused programming, such as sessions on grant writing and career development, including "Top 5 Pro Tips for Successful Biostatistics Grant Writing" at the 2025 Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers Annual Meeting.

The SDSA also regularly shares time-sensitive opportunities for members, including funding announcements, postdoctoral positions, and prominent service roles. Additionally, it facilitates session and panel proposals at conferences.

These activities help strengthen member connections, expand professional visibility, and support career development across stages.

Partnerships and Service to the Broader Aging Research Ecosystem

The SDSA's mission includes partnering with other organizations and ASA communities. The group has fostered collaborations with other ASA sections, including joint mixers and shared outreach activities at JSM with the Health Policy Statistics Section and Mental Health Statistics Section.

Most notably, SDSA has been facilitating a partnership with the journal *Nature Aging*, including efforts to establish a statistical advisory board and recruit statistical reviewers. The group is also supporting the launch of a new methodological column, Aging by the Numbers, aimed at improving rigor and clarity in aging research by highlighting key methodological challenges, common approaches, limitations, and appropriate use.

In addition, the SDSA supports reviewer recruitment efforts across the community to help identify experts for peer review, NIH scientific review, and journal service (including the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* and *JAMA Network Open*). These contributions may not always be visible, but they matter for strengthening the quality of aging research literature and ensuring statistical expertise remains central to aging research.

Looking Ahead

As the SDSA looks to the future, its goals are simple: Keep the community welcoming and the science strong, while making it easier for members to connect, collaborate, and contribute.

To join the SDSA, visit *https://form.jotform.com/zzlalo/friends-of-sdsa*. ■

To join the SDSA, visit *https://form.jotform.com/zzlalo/friends-of-sdsa.*

Welcome TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Enock Kumi Ackaah
Franklina Addae
Grace Olamide Adenuga
Manal Aditi
Edith Maria Aguirre
William Ofosu Agyapong
Ken A. Aho
Parastoo Akbari
Tamuno Alfred
Cora Allen-Savietta
Alexander Alsup
Laura L. Andrews
Alli K. Anema
Adora Anthos
Julia Naomi Aptekar
Jesus Aquino
Nalin Arora
Odafe Fred Arugba
Nehemiah Aviles
Kay Bacalla
Amjila Bam
Deepak Bastola
Will H. Beadle
Nicholas S. Berry
Saurabh Bhandari
Yuan Bian
Niyati Bishop
Natalie R. Block
Sarah J. Boese
Jayden Bonilla
Ruta Brazauskas
Aysegul Buber
Emilie Bui
Xiaoxuan Cai
Sandra R. Castro-Pearson
Alfonso Cervantes Maldonado
Teryn Cha
Chris Chapman
George Charalambous
Fern Chatters
Qiaochu Chen
Khaja Chinnakondepalli
Youngjin Cho
Avery Cloutier
Grace Corathers
Vrianna Juliet Cruz
Joel Ofoe Dadiboe
Christos Deligkaris
Joshua Derenski
Lise DeShea
Monisha Dey
Aqi Dong
Dominic Donkor
Cheku Dorji
Maureen Doyle
Avery Chawner Drennan
Sylvia Du
Lauren Duhigg
Gabe Nicholas Dunbar
Joey William Dunbar
Aidan Cole Dunwoody
Matthew Esmaili
Mallory Oluwasayo Farotimi
Jocelyn Faydenko
Robyn A. Ferg
Audrey Ford
Hayden R. Freed
Ziang Fu
Ziyu Gao
Aditya Ghosh
Akash Goda
Priyanka Goel
Margaret Gonzalez
Kuldeep Goswami
Elizabeth Gray
Jiaqi Gu
Yongyi Guo
Yiyan Hao
Amjed Hedhli
Joon Heo
Shelby R. Hoover
Eleanor Hopkins
Truman J. Horst
Aaron Noah Horvitz
Dharma Elizabeth Hoy
Alycia Hu
Sarah Hu
Yichen Hu
Zhaowei Hua
Baisong Huang
Chun-Yuan Huang
Benjamin Jacobs
Nainy Jain
Debarghya Jana
Wenlong Ji
Feiyi Jia
Jia Jia
Tymothee Jones
Hunter Jue
Kwonsang Jung
Sampath Kalluri
Saee Kamat
Madhav Kannan
Laura Ring Kapitula
Nicholas Kaukis
Sanya Kejriwal
Nathan J. Kellerman
Joey Kim
Peter Kim
Steven Kim
John Patrick King
Ozan Kirtac
Mehmet Kocak
Thiloni H. Konara
Brad David Kreider
Alona Kryshchenko
Siddhant N. Kulkarni
Gayun Kwon
Nate Christian Landis
Emma Landry
Ricky Leavell
Hana Lee
Jay Lee
Kangwoo Lee
Yee Lee
Daiyang Leng
Tyler Lenk
Bin Li
Tiandong Li
Tiantian Lian
Hazel Zhan Lim
William Lindblad
Igor Litvinovich
Rachael Liu
Xiaoxi Liu
Yujing Liu
Ziyu Liu
Hashani Lokugama
Patrick Lopatto
Elizabeth C. Lorenzi
Yichen Lou
Yong Lu
Alan Luna
Davis Paul Lynn
Samipan Majumder
Vajira Manathunga
Jennifer Karen Mares
Margareth A. Marquez
Vince Marshall
Sam David Mateer
Pamela B. Matheson
Sarah E. Mattern
Robert McNutt
Sabir N. Meah
Catalina Mari Medina
Nirali Nishant Mehta
Carlos R. Melendez
Sam A. Meyer
Ethan Meyers
Ezra G. Miller
Shreyansh Misra
Alan Morales
Charity J. Morgan
Ryan Mullins
Sabina Murphy
Nezamoddin N. Kachouie
Zora Nakato
Jineshwar Nariani
Corina Erika Navarrete Macedo
Yuxiao Nie
Randolph Nordby
James O. Notoma
Ann Nwosu
Killian O'Reilly
Seokchan Oh
Jeff Okamoto
Riccardo Pajno
Canaan Pakter
Longhao Pang
Aniruddha Pathak
Saril Pattnaik
Qingyun Pei
Yumo Peng
Benjamin Phalane
Antonio M. Pierrottet
Chelsea Powell
Xiaoyu Qi
Haoyu (Yuli) Qin
Natalie M. Rader
Rajender Radharam
Maisha Maliha Rahman
Mohan Ram
Uma Ravat
Connor Reed
Zewei Ren
Benjamin Risk
Miguel Rocha Malaga
Eric Rose
Arkajyoti Saha
Martin Salgado-Flores
Sarah Samad
Sanatan Saraf
Christina Tripp Saunders
Ethan Matthew Schneider
Aubrey Schrameck
Bernard Sefah
Ian Sequeira
Premkumar Sethumadhavan
Daniel K. Sewell
Noah Bradley Shaffer
Bilal A. Shaikh
Lulu Shang
Michael Sharbaugh
Arun Sharma
Tamaryn Lee Shaw
Qinyan Shen
Xinyu Shi
Dakota Shields
Amy Shui
Eli Simon
Micah Snook
Minyoung So
Sidra Sohail
Thomas Barber Stockton
Eric Sun
Jimmy Sun
Ke Sun
Shan Sun-Mitchell
Iyue Sung
Junhyoun Sung

Ram Suresh
Susan Switzer
Jonathan D. Ta
Anna Takai
Qianwen Tan
Chin-Sheng Teng
Terri Burdette Torres
Oliver K. Totic
Maik Ulmer
Mikhail Urinson
Janet van Niekerk
Jordan L. VanVels
Yogasudha Veturi
Kevin T. Vitale
Yubing Wan
Anran Wang
Yanshan Wang
William Welsh
Ellen Wight
John Wilson
Thiruni Withana
Pamelyn Witteman
Yong Ming
Jeffrey Woo
Haiyan Wu
Jimin Wu
Lu Xie
Jianyi Xu
Kristen Xu
Jingwen Yan
Huyuan Yang
Jingbo Yang
Wenjing Yang
Rhea Salome Yenubari
Jingxuan Zhang
Lei Zhang
Rui Zhang
Shubo Zhang
Wenxin Zhang
Yin Zhang
Anqi Zhao
Kun Zhao
Tian Zhao
Yao Zhao
Jiayin Zheng
Yixin Zhou ■

New Member Spotlight: APSARA PITIGALAARACHCHI

This month, we spotlight new member and University of Louisville PhD student Apsara Pitigalaarachchi, who answered the following questions so we could get to know her better.

How did you become interested in statistics and/or data science?

Since childhood, I have been fascinated by mathematics. Since my school days, I've enjoyed solving intricate mathematical problems. At university, I decided to specialize in statistics because, with statistics, I saw better opportunities to use my analytical knowledge to solve problems of practical interest. After enrolling at the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka, I was selected through a highly competitive process to pursue a Bachelor of Science with a specialization in statistics. After completing my undergraduate degree, I worked as an instructor at several academic institutions before joining the International Institute of Health Sciences in Sri Lanka, which offers healthcare-related programs. At IIHS, I applied my statistical expertise to practical healthcare scenarios and participated in international workshops, including the International Week at Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Finland. While working, I developed a strong interest in biostatistics, which led me to pursue and complete an MS in biostatistics and transition fully into the biostatistics field. I am currently pursuing a PhD in biostatistics at the University of Louisville.

What do you consider your dream job?

My dream job is to become a university professor, where I can share my knowledge with students, guide them in their academic growth, and engage in meaningful research. I hope to collaborate with students and colleagues on data analysis and research projects that contribute to society.

What do you hope understanding statistics and/or data science helps you accomplish?

Understanding statistics/biostatistics enables me to relate analytical techniques to practical healthcare issues and support studies that enhance public health and patient outcomes.

What is your favorite hobby?

My favorite hobbies are listening to music, singing, and spending time in nature.

If you are a new member interested in being featured, email ASA Communications Manager Megan Murphy at *megan@amstat.org*.

THE ASA CELEBRATES DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS, AWARD WINNERS

The American Statistical Association is honored to grant the esteemed Founders Award to three individuals this year for demonstrating exceptional dedication to advancing the mission of the association. The association is also bestowing the prestigious distinction of Fellow on 46 members for their professional contributions, leadership, and commitment to the field of statistical science.

Founders will have served the association for an extended time, usually in a variety of leadership roles, wherein effective service or leadership was provided within the ASA or through ASA outreach. A founder's contributions will have had significant impact on the association beyond their time of service.

The designation of ASA Fellow has been a significant honor for nearly 100 years. Under ASA bylaws, the Committee on Fellows can elect up to one-third of one percent of the total association membership as fellows each year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 FOUNDERS

Alexandra Hanlon
Virginia Tech

Donna LaLonde
American Statistical Association

Cyndy Long
Palmer College of Chiropractic

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 FELLOWS

Jonathan Bradley
University of Missouri

Lane Burgette
RAND Corporation

Snigdhansu Chatterjee
University of Maryland Baltimore County

Sixia Chen
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Andrea Cook
Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute

David Corliss
Grafham Analytics

Xinwei Deng
Virginia Tech

Carolina Franco
NORC at the University of Chicago

Jennifer Green
Michigan State University

Roee Gutman
Brown University

Dorit Hammerling
Colorado School of Mines

Lulu Kang
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Theresa Kim
National Institute on Aging

Dehan Kong
University of Toronto

Judy Xiang Li
AstraZeneca

Jingyi Jessica Li
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Benmei Liu
National Cancer Institute

Jingyi Liu
Eli Lilly and Company

Miguel Marino
Oregon Health & Science University

Volodymyr Minin
University of California, Irvine

Lisa Mirel
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Pushpal Mukhopadhyay
US Energy Information Administration

Susan Murray
University of Michigan

Amy Nowacki
Cleveland Clinic

Rebecca Nugent
Carnegie Mellon University

Herbert Pang
Genentech/Roche

Sharina Person
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Eric Rancourt
Statistics Canada

Sandra Safo
University of Minnesota

Kendra Schmid
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Weijie Su
University of Pennsylvania

Loni Tabb
Drexel University

Simon Urbanek
University of Auckland

Jo Wick
University of Kansas Medical Center

Jeffrey Wilson
Arizona State University

Dacheng Xiu
The University of Chicago

Gongjun Xu
University of Michigan

Yanxun Xu
Johns Hopkins University

Shu Yang
North Carolina State University

Qingzhao Yu
Louisiana State University Health - New Orleans

Binbing Yu
AstraZeneca

Hui Zhang
Northwestern University

Anru Zhang
Duke University

Jiwei Zhao
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Yingqi Zhao
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Vadim Zipunnikov
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 ASA AWARD WINNERS

The American Statistical Association celebrates individuals in academia, industry, and government who've been recognized for their work and dedication to the statistics discipline. Of the hundreds of nominations received, ASA committees members and leadership choose recipients for their roles in promoting the practice and profession of statistics.

Below is a compilation of all the ASA's awards conferred in 2026. Those receiving ASA awards will be recognized at the awards ceremony following the ASA President's Address Tuesday, August 4, during the 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston, Massachusetts.

ASA Pride Scholarship

Hannah Goldfarb, *Stanford University*

Bob Riffenburgh Award

Dave Osthus, *Los Alamos National Laboratory*

David R. Cox Foundations of Statistics Award

Peter McCullagh, *The University of Chicago*

Deming Lecturer Award

Sallie Keller, *US Census Bureau*

White

Karim

Dorothy Marie Lamb and Annette Lila Ryne Memorial Scholarship

Sydney White, *High School Senior, 2025 Awardee*
Sayda Karim, *Wake Forest University, 2026 Awardee*

Douglas A. Zahn Grant for Advancing Interpersonal Excellence

Sarah Peskoe, *Duke University*

Edward C. Bryant Scholarship

Ujjayini Das, *University of Maryland*

Smith

Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award

Molly Smith, *Bloomberg News*
Ryan McNeill, *Reuters (not pictured)*

Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship Honorable Mentions

Pragati Kore
Baylor College of Medicine
Kayla Irish
University of Washington

Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship, Early Career Award

Iris Horng, *University of Pennsylvania*

Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship, Advanced Stage Career Award

Rachel Gonzalez, *University of Michigan*

Gottfried E. Noether Awards, Noether Distinguished Scholar

Runze Li, *The Pennsylvania State University*

Kuchibhotla

Sur

Gottfried E. Noether Awards, Noether Early Career Scholar

Arun Kumar Kuchibhotla, *Carnegie Mellon University*
Pragya Sur, *Harvard University*

Harry V. Roberts Statistical Advocate of the Year Award

Erica Groshen, *Cornell University*

Dr. Jean Dickinson Gibbons Endowed Scholarships

Ellery Galvin, *University of Colorado, Boulder*

John J. Bartko Scholarship Award

Breanna Brown, *University of Washington*

Lester R. Curtin Award

Kimberly Webb, *University of Pittsburgh*

Lingzi Lu Memorial Award

Yizheng Wang, *The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*

Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research

Barry Graubard, *National Cancer Institute (Emeritus)*

Mentoring Award

Erin E. Blankenship, *University of Nebraska Lincoln*

Baidoo

Stickney

Upadhayay

Norman Beery Memorial Scholarship for First-Generation College Students

Dennis Baidoo, *The Ohio State University, 2025 Awardee*
Tyson Stickney, *University of Vermont, 2026 Awardee*
Sushma Upadhayay, *Bucknell University, 2026 Awardee*

Wigle

Béliveau

Outstanding Statistical Application Award

Augustine Wigle, *McGill University,* **and Audrey Béliveau,** *University of Waterloo*

Braverman

Ravishanker

Karl E. Peace Award

Amy Braverman, *California Institute of Technology*
Nalini Ravishanker, *University of Connecticut*

Katherine K. Wallman Award for Transformative Impact on Federal, State, or Local Statistics

David Johnson, *International Association for Research in Income and Wealth*

Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award

Heping Zhang, *Yale University*

W. J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting

James J. Cochran, *The University of Alabama*

Waller Education Awards, Distinguished Career Education Award

Richard De Veaux, *Williams College*

Waller Education Awards, Early Career Education Award

Alana Unfried, *California State University, Monterey Bay*

Jackie Dietz Best *Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education* Paper Award

Nicole Dalzell, *Wake Forest University;* **Allison S. Theobold,** *Cal Poly San Luis Obispo;* **and Zoe Rehnberg,** *Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*

Statistical Partnerships Among Academe, Industry, and Government (SPAIG) Award

DOOR; Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University; and the US Food and Drug Administration

This Month in Statistics History: Spotlight on Pride Month

Penny S. Reynolds

This month is LGBTQ+ Pride Month and an opportunity to honor the history and impact of LGBTQ+ statisticians and their contributions.

MORE ONLINE
For details, download the references at *https://tinyurl.com/3wkynd9f.*

Katherine Coman (*November 23, 1857 – January 11, 1915*)
A professor of political economics at Wellesley, Coman was the first American woman to teach statistics, and Wellesley was the only American women's college to offer statistics courses before 1900. For 25 years, Coman lived in a "Boston marriage" with Wellesley professor and poet Katharine Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful."


Katherine Coman


Edith Abbott

Edith Abbott *(September 26, 1876 – July 28, 1957)*
Named an ASA Fellow in 1945, Abbott was only the second woman to earn a PhD in political economy from The University of Chicago. She was dean of The University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration—one of the first female deans in the US. She pioneered applying statistical methods to policy development on crime; welfare; education; and protections for immigrants, working women, and children. She was the same-sex partner and professional collaborator of Sophonisba Breckinridge, a lawyer, social scientist, educator, and fellow dean at Chicago.

Evelyn Fix *(January 27, 1904 – December 30, 1965)*
An IMS Fellow and professor of statistics at the University of California, Berkeley, she is best known for developing, with co-author Joseph Hodges, the k-nearest neighbors (k-NN) algorithm, a nonparametric discrimination analysis method used for classification, regression, and data reduction. This algorithm later became an integral part of machine learning methods. She was the life partner of fellow statistician F. N. David.


Evelyn Fix

F. N. (Florence Nightingale) David *(August 23, 1909 – July 23, 1993)*
F. N. David was named an ASA Fellow in 1954 and Elizabeth Scott Award winner in 1992. A professor of statistics at the University of California, Riverside, she's known as a "renaissance statistician," having made major contributions to combinatorics, correlation, and history of probability. She was also the first female professor of statistics at University College London (in the world's first academic statistics department). During WWII, she produced 20 classified statistical papers that were crucial for planning UK offensive and defensive operations, civilian evacuation, and optimal minelaying and clearance. Named after Florence Nightingale, a family friend, she was the life partner of Evelyn Fix until Fix's death in 1965.


F. N. David


Alan Turing

Alan Mathison Turing *(June 23, 1912 – June 7, 1954)*
Named an officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1946, Turing is best known as the father of AI and his pioneering work in theoretical computer science and information theory. As a 22-year-old undergraduate at Cambridge in 1935, his independent proof for the central limit theorem earned him the Smith Prize and distinction of Fellow of Kings College. During WWII, as part of his Bletchley Park codebreaking work, he developed several statistical techniques, including sequential analysis (independently of Abraham Wald) and Bayesian and Good–Turing frequency estimation with Jack Good. As this work was classified until the 1980s, his contributions to statistics are only now becoming recognized. In 2013, Turing was posthumously pardoned for his 1952 conviction for homosexuality. ■

University of South Carolina Statistics Department Celebrates 40th Anniversary

David Hitchcock, Edsel Peña, and Joshua Tebbs

From March 27–28, former faculty and alumni joined current faculty, graduate students, and friends of the department of statistics at the University of South Carolina for a conference to celebrate the department's 40th anniversary. Around 80 participants joined the festivities, which included retrospectives of the department's history, presentations from distinguished alumni, and the 15th edition of the Palmetto Lecture, given by Chancellor's Distinguished Professor Bin Yu of the University of California, Berkeley. Yu was also the featured speaker at the South Carolina Chapter's annual symposium the previous day.

Opening remarks were offered by Carl Dahlman, associate dean of the McCausland College of Arts and Sciences, and current and former department chairs Edsel Peña and Joshua Tebbs. Department founder and distinguished professor emeritus William (Joe) Padgett presented the history of the department from before its founding until 2002. The statistics group dates to the early 1970s when several statisticians, including Bob Taylor and Padgett, were hired in the department of mathematics. The academic footprint of statistics grew in the 1970s and early 1980s, with course designators changing to STAT and the department name changing to include "statistics." In the 1980s, BS, MS, and PhD programs in statistics were developed, and tenure and promotion processes were separated from mathematics.

In July 1985, a new independent department of statistics was created, with Padgett as chair and John Spurrier and Steve Durham in other leadership roles. The first PhD graduate of the new department, André Lubecke, followed later that year. Many new statistics courses were developed, and early strengths of the department included reliability and quality control, with a Center for Reliability and Quality Sciences led by Jim Lynch.

Nonparametrics and multiple comparisons and an active consulting presence on campus with a statistics laboratory were also strong points of the new department. The department had notable teaching successes, with a National Science Foundation grant funding an introductory statistics course and numerous faculty and students receiving university and national teaching awards.

Professor David Hitchcock gave the recent history, from 2003–present, detailing how the department continued to grow steadily with rising enrollments. During this time, faculty earned research awards, including ASA Fellows (Padgett, Don Edwards, Spurrier, Walt Piegorsch, Peña, Tebbs, Tim Hanson), IMS Fellows (Padgett, Ian Dryden, Peña), and elected ISI members (Padgett, Spurrier, Peña, Tebbs).

The department has hosted several internationally recognized conferences on reliability (2003), nonparametrics (2007), and latent variables (2016). In 2023, the department moved back into its renovated building on campus, LeConte College.

Participants gather on the campus of the University of South Carolina to celebrate the department of statistics' 40th anniversary.

It has continued to attract faculty engaged in cutting-edge research on modern topics such as Bayesian analysis, functional and object data, spatiotemporal data, neuroimaging, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

After the historical presentations and remarks by McCausland College Dean Tommy Hodges, Yu's Palmetto Lecture covered veridical data science and its role in statistics and data science education. In the afternoon, eight graduate alumni of the department—from university professors and data scientists in industry to real estate entrepreneurs—spoke about their careers and how their connections to the department contributed to their professional successes.

The conference culminated with a banquet, during which four former faculty (Spurrier, Lori Thombs, John Grego, and Edwards) gave remarks about what the department has meant to their careers and lives. ■

A Statistician's Roadmap Toward an AI-Driven Paradigm for Precision Oncology

Notes from the Dionne Price Public Lecture at the University of Kansas

Megan Murphy, ASA Communications Manager

During the Dionne Price Public Lecture, Lorin Crawford highlights the vital role statisticians play in improving lives.
Photo by Rachel Mills/ASA

What does it look like to bring AI into cancer research? Lorin Crawford, principal researcher at Microsoft Research, shared the answer to that question while giving the Dionne Price Public Lecture April 21 at the University of Kansas. He also made the case that statisticians are essential to making AI work.

The lecture opened with remarks from ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, who honored Price, the former ASA president who passed away in February 2024. After a brief introduction from Matt Mayo, department of biostatistics and data science chair, the focus shifted to Crawford, co-leader of Project Ex Vivo, a joint cancer research collaboration between Microsoft and the Broad Institute.

Project Ex Vivo: Building an End-to-End System

For Crawford, the answer to the question means building something that didn't exist—a pipeline that runs from computational modeling to lab experiments to patient care and back again.

That pipeline is Project Ex Vivo. The team (statisticians, mathematicians, computer scientists, AI and ML experts, as well as experimentalists) generates massive datasets from tumor samples to map how cancer cells interact within their environment, then uses those datasets to train AI models to predict outcomes and guide drug discovery. The goal is to move from understanding cell states to predicting drug responses—and, eventually, identifying treatments that effectively kill cancer cells while minimizing harm.

Rethinking Cancer Models

That vision reflects a broader shift in how scientists understand and treat cancer.

Traditionally, oncologists have relied on a patient's DNA to guide treatment decisions—matching specific mutations with targeted therapies. While this approach has led to breakthroughs, it has a major limitation: Many patients do not have actionable mutations that can point doctors toward a clear course of treatment.

Crawford's work instead focuses on cell state—a concept rooted in how genes are expressed (via RNA) and how cells behave within their environment. Unlike DNA, which is static, RNA reflects the real-time activity of a cell. This makes it a more dynamic way to track how cancer develops and changes over time.

Where Statistics Comes In

Despite the prominence of AI in this work, Crawford demonstrated that building a better model is ultimately a data problem.

Early experiments showed that even sophisticated AI models struggled to generalize, especially in "zero-shot" settings (making predictions on entirely new data). Surprisingly, adding more

data did not always improve performance. In some cases, models reached a saturation point, learning little from additional data.

This is where statistical thinking becomes essential. Statisticians help answer critical questions: How much data is enough, and how do we train these models using statistical knowledge? Crawford's team analyzed millions of cells and found model performance often reached a plateau after using only a fraction of the data. To study this effect, they used down-sampling, reducing the dataset size in a controlled way to see when performance stopped improving.

Crawford made clear that statisticians are not the support staff for AI teams. Addressing the statisticians in the audience, Crawford said, "You're more than a strategic architect—you're driving the cycle." In the age of machine learning and large language models, statisticians are the key to driving the system.

A Legacy in Motion

When asked what he hopes to report on if he gives this talk again in three years, Crawford pointed to both scientific and cultural progress: more effective cancer treatments; greater confidence in AI systems; and a statistics community that is more visible, influential, and outward-facing.

That message echoes Dionne Price's own. "My greatest accomplishment," she once wrote, "is the daily knowledge that my statistical leadership and expertise positively contribute to ensuring the efficacy and safety of drugs and therapeutic biologics for the public."

Whether ensuring drug safety or guiding AI toward better cancer therapies, statisticians play a central role in improving lives. And as Crawford made clear, that role is only becoming more important. ■

From Ideas to Impact: Lessons from a Student-Led Healthcare Innovation Challenge

Siddhesh Kulkarni and Julia Cai

Mentors and organizers, from left, include Stephan Jung, Aman Mistry, Julia Bear, Julia Cai, Siddhesh Kulkarni, Matt Miller, Lauren Baguette, Siddhant Desai, Jonathan Kornreich, Anh Le, Alex Wang, and Alisha Raiker.

Student-led innovation challenges are important spaces where interdisciplinary thinking meets real-world problem solving.

The 3rd Annual Healthcare Innovation Challenge, hosted by Stony Brook Scholars for Medicine at Stony Brook University, brought together nearly 120 students from diverse academic backgrounds to tackle the theme "Restore & Rehabilitate: Rebuilding Function, Independence, and Life." Participants worked in teams to develop innovative solutions within a timeframe, moving rapidly from idea generation to structured proposal. The format encouraged creativity and emphasized feasibility, impact, and communication.

The day began with a keynote address by Anne Felicia Ambrose, chief of neurorehabilitation at Stony Brook University. Her perspective on the growing need for scalable, patient-centered rehabilitation solutions set the tone for the projects that followed.

Students worked throughout the day, culminating in presentations evaluated by a panel of judges representing clinical medicine, statistics, engineering, and entrepreneurship. The judging criteria emphasized innovation, feasibility, impact, and scientific rigor, reflecting the multifaceted nature of healthcare problem-solving.

From a statistical and translational perspective, one of the most notable aspects of the event was how quickly students adapted to the constraints of real-world problem-solving. Within a matter of hours, teams moved from broad ideas to structured

Events like this underscore the evolving role of statisticians in interdisciplinary innovation environments.

proposals, often incorporating elements of digital health, patient-centered design, and data-driven thinking.

A noticeable pattern was the prevalence of wearables and app-based solutions, reflecting current trends in healthcare innovation. While many of these ideas demonstrated technical creativity, the strongest teams distinguished themselves through clarity, particularly in explaining how their solutions would be used and by whom.

This distinction highlights an important lesson for early-stage innovation: The value of a solution lies not only in its technical sophistication, but in its ability to inform or improve decision-making. Teams that were able to connect their ideas to a clear use case—whether for patients, clinicians, or healthcare systems—presented more compelling and realistic proposals.

Another aspect of the event was the level of engagement from participants. Students actively sought feedback from mentors, iterated on their ideas, and demonstrated a willingness to refine their approach in response to critique.

Events like this underscore the evolving role of statisticians in interdisciplinary innovation environments. While statistical methods were not always highlighted in student presentations, underlying principles such as uncertainty quantification, data quality, validation, and interpretability remain central to the success of any healthcare solution.

There is an opportunity for statisticians to play a more visible role in such settings by guiding teams toward realistic data assumptions, emphasizing the importance of validation, and helping translate complex models into actionable insights.

Framing problems in terms of decision-making under uncertainty can significantly strengthen early-stage proposals. Even simple questions—what data is required, how will a solution be evaluated, and what constitutes success—can shift a project from conceptual to credible.

Participation extended beyond Stony Brook, with students from multiple institutions and a wide range of disciplines contributing to nearly 40 projects. What connected them was not their academic background, but a shared enthusiasm for solving meaningful problems.

The healthcare focus further elevated the experience. Teams explored a broad range of topics, from memory recovery and addiction support to maternal health and elderly care. What was particularly striking was the level of awareness of real-world challenges. Students were not simply building for the sake of innovation; they were attempting to address tangible needs.

From a judging perspective, the strongest teams were not necessarily the most technically complex, but those that demonstrated clarity in feasibility, real-world application, and evaluation. Even within a limited timeframe, some teams were able to thoughtfully connect ideas with implementation.

Another clear takeaway was the accessibility of technology, particularly artificial intelligence, in shaping how this generation builds. Most participating students were not computer science majors, yet many teams incorporated coding or AI-driven components into their solutions. This reflects a broader shift: Building is no longer limited to traditionally technical backgrounds. Increasingly, students across disciplines are comfortable developing products and applications to solve problems. This expanding accessibility is reshaping how innovation happens, making it more inclusive, rapid, and closely tied to real-world needs.

The success of the Stony Brook Healthcare Innovation Challenge reflects both the enthusiasm of participating students and the dedication of the organizing team. Led by Aman Mistry, Siddhant Desai, and their colleagues, the event demonstrated strong coordination, attention to detail, and a commitment to creating a meaningful learning experience.

The contributions of mentors and judges from academia, industry, and clinical practice—including members of the ASA NYC Chapter—were equally important in shaping the environment. Their engagement provided students with diverse perspectives and helped bridge the gap between theoretical ideas and practical implementation.

Experiences such as this are a reminder of the value of collaboration across disciplines and the importance of supporting the next generation of innovators. As student-led initiatives continue to grow, they offer meaningful opportunities not only for participants, but also for the broader statistical community to help shape the future of data-driven innovation. ■

Webinar Explores How AI Is Reshaping Healthcare

Evagoras Xydas, IREROBOT; Or Shaked, Briya; and Kelly H. Zou, AI4Purpose

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming healthcare, and the webinar "Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare," (*https://tinyurl.com/yc2sdte7*) presented by Or Shaked, Evagoras Xydas, and Kelly H. Zou, provided a look at this transformation unfolding across research, clinical practice, and the broader health workforce.

As part of the AI Era Career Journeys series, the webinar brought together experts from robotics, clinical research, and responsible AI strategy to help participants understand not only what AI can do today, but also how it's reshaping skills and mindsets of future healthcare careers. The event attracted graduate students, early career researchers, clinicians, and professionals from diverse backgrounds who wanted to understand how AI is influencing their fields and how they can prepare for the changes ahead.

Xydas opened the webinar with a discussion about the growing role of AI powered robotics in healthcare. Robotics and haptics have long been associated with surgical and disability assistance, respectively. Xydas emphasized how the field has expanded far beyond the operating room into daily living. AI now enables robots to interpret complex environments, adapt to patient needs, and collaborate more naturally with human clinicians. These systems are being deployed in rehabilitation centers, hospital logistics, infection control, and patient companionship scenarios. Xydas highlighted how AI enhanced surgical robots improve precision and reduce complications. But equally important are the less glamorous robotic systems that support nurses and technicians by handling repetitive or physically demanding tasks.

This shift isn't about replacing healthcare workers. It's about augmenting their capabilities and reducing burnout. Robots that can lift patients, deliver supplies, or monitor vital signs free up clinicians to focus on the human centered aspects of care that machines cannot replicate. Xydas stressed that the future of healthcare will involve hybrid teams of humans and intelligent machines working side-by-side, each contributing their strengths.

Led by Shaked, the conversation then moved into clinical research, where AI is accelerating discovery and reshaping how evidence is generated through its AIRE agentic AI system for generating real-world evidence.

Shaked explained that healthcare research is becoming increasingly data rich, with information coming from electronic health records, imaging, genomics, wearables, and patient reported outcomes. Traditional analytical methods struggle to keep up with this complexity, but AI excels at identifying patterns, predicting outcomes, and synthesizing large datasets.

Shaked described how machine learning models can help design more efficient clinical trials by predicting recruitment challenges, identifying optimal patient subgroups, and simulating potential outcomes before a trial begins. Natural language processing is transforming the analysis of unstructured clinical notes, enabling researchers to extract insights that were previously buried in text. AI is also playing a growing role in real world evidence generation, helping researchers validate findings outside of controlled trial environments.

Shaked emphasized that AI is not replacing scientific judgment, but enhancing it, allowing researchers to ask better questions and explore hypotheses that would have been impossible to test manually.

The third speaker, Zou, focused on the risks and challenges associated with deploying AI for patient-centric digital health in the forms of smart sensors, devices, and apps. While AI offers enormous potential, it also raises concerns about bias, transparency, data privacy, and accountability. Zou explained that AI systems trained on biased datasets can inadvertently perpetuate or amplify inequities in healthcare. For example, if an algorithm is trained primarily on data from one demographic group, it may perform poorly for others. Ensuring fairness requires careful dataset curation, ongoing monitoring, and a commitment to inclusive design.

Transparency is another critical issue. Clinicians need to understand how AI systems arrive at their recommendations, especially when those recommendations influence diagnoses or treatment decisions. Black box models may be powerful, but they can undermine trust if their reasoning is opaque. Zou

Editor's Note: Views expressed by professionals in this article may not necessarily reflect those of their respective organizations.

Speakers stressed that professionals don't need to become data scientists, but they do need to be comfortable working in environments in which AI is integrated into everyday workflows.

argued that explainability should be a core requirement for any AI system used in clinical care.

A recurring theme throughout the webinar was the importance of responsible and ethical AI implementation. Throughout all talks, data privacy and security were central to the discussion. Healthcare data is highly sensitive, and AI systems often require large amounts of it. Speakers emphasized the need for robust safeguards, clear consent processes, and strict governance frameworks to ensure patient information is protected.

The webinar speakers highlighted that responsible AI isn't just a technical challenge—it's a cultural one. Organizations must foster environments where ethical considerations are prioritized, and clinicians must be empowered to question and challenge AI outputs when necessary. Speakers encouraged participants to view responsible AI as an ongoing process, rather than a one time compliance task.

Speakers also emphasized that future workforces will need a blend of clinical expertise, data literacy, and technological fluency. Participants were encouraged to develop skills in interpreting AI generated insights, collaborating with digital tools, and understanding the limitations of machine-learning models. Speakers stressed that professionals don't need to become data scientists, but they do need to be comfortable working in environments in which AI is integrated into everyday workflows. Curiosity, adaptability, and a willingness to engage with new technologies will be essential traits for success.

The event concluded with a Q&A session, where the remaining 50 participants were asked to offer their real-world pain points in the AI healthcare space, strategies for staying current with rapid advances, and ways to balance innovation with ethical responsibility. Speakers encouraged attendees to seek interdisciplinary collaborations, engage with open source tools, and participate in professional communities focused on AI and healthcare. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining a patient centered perspective, reminding participants that technology should always serve humans.

Overall, the webinar explored how AI is reshaping healthcare, offering participants the benefits and risks of an AI driven future. The session made clear that amid rapid evolution, the most important factor will be the people who design, implement, and use AI. By fostering a workforce that is informed, ethical, and adaptable, the healthcare community can harness AI to improve outcomes, enhance efficiency, and create a more equitable and resilient system. ■

STATS4GOOD

Data for Good and the Courts: The Science of Justice

In our work as advocates for using statistics and data science for the greater good, we often encounter situations in which analytics fail to deliver the benefits they are designed to produce. Data for Good is such a powerful practice because it takes us beyond searching for mathematical answers to problems into empowering the development of real solutions.

One of the most concerning areas in which practice can fall short of promise is the law and courts. This month, Stats4Good looks at some of the ways statisticians and data scientists can support equity and fairness in our legal system.

Why Local Action Matters

Issues in our legal systems can be detected—or caused—by statistics and data science. Especially highly local issues that disproportionately affect certain communities. National studies can explore and document mass incarceration, but acting on those findings is subject to state laws and community-level practices. Local action is needed. This is why Data for Good activists must bridge science and advocacy to support positive action. There are many instances in which our unique skill sets are essential for working with others to develop and implement changes in policies and practices.

After years of working with Department of Justice data, I know lack of completeness and consistency are at the core of many problems—so much so that pulling the data together into a format amenable to analysis is often the greatest challenge. This is why our skills are so important for driving change for the better. To help address these weaknesses, the Prison Policy Initiative provides information and training on data sources.

The Human Stakes of Algorithmic Justice

We have all seen how the explosive growth of AI has led to using it in almost every conceivable scenario. The law is certainly no exception. But the problems with AI algorithms in legal applications are especially acute because of the impacts courts can have on peoples' lives—contexts in which accuracy, reliability, and potential for bias and hallucinations become especially concerning.

One example of this issue is using risk algorithms to predict recidivism, the likelihood of a person committing another offense in the future. These algorithms are used to set bail, make sentencing recommendations, and decide whether a prisoner is paroled. Such practices have come under heavy criticism for the potential bias against poor defendants, minorities, and racial groups.

A landmark 2016 study by investigative journalists at *ProPublica* showed systematic disparities by race in the use of one such commercial algorithm in Florida. The local nature of these AI applications and their usage creates a great need for statistical experts to scientifically test them for bias.

Another area of concern is the United States' longitudinal and sustained increase in incarceration rates. Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* covers this subject in detail. The problem has only gotten worse over time.

Through much of the 20th century, the US had incarceration rates in the middle 100s per 100,000 in population. Starting around 1970, this rate gradually rose to more than five times the incarceration rates of Western Europe and Canada.

The past few years in the US have seen an especially sharp rise. During this time, the incarceration rate increased 29% above levels from just 10 years ago—despite crime rates falling over the same period by 14% for violent crime and 38% for property crime, according to FBI data.

Justice advocacy through Data for Good is uniquely qualified to address these issues. By supporting equal justice for all, Data for Good activists are empowered to go beyond questions of law and use science to address problems in our justice system—because if we aren't treated equally under the law, there is no justice. ■

Getting Involved

Now is a great time for Data for Good activists to find summer volunteer projects. A great way to start is with an organization you already know or are already involved in. Look for ways statistical science can help with their mission.

Readers, our work together has received some important recognition recently, including this author being named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Statistics and data science for the benefit of all has played such an important part in reflecting the impact we're making. Let us be encouraged and empowered to carry on our work together in Data for Good!

With a PhD in statistical astrophysics, **David Corliss** works as a data scientist in industry. He serves on the ASA Board as a Council of Chapters representative and is the founder of Peace-Work, a Data for Good nongovernmental organization.

STAT*tr@k*

What GStat Can Do for Your Career: Members Share Their Stories

Offered by the American Statistical Association, the Graduate Statistician accreditation recognizes academic achievement in statistics and provides early-career professionals a way to demonstrate their training, connect with the broader statistical community, and begin building professional credibility.

We reached out to a few ASA members who earned their GStat credential to find out why they chose to pursue the GStat and how it has benefited them.

Carlon Zephirin

Zephirin is a statistical programming manager at Genmab with more than a decade of experience in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry. His work focuses on clinical trial data, including CDISC standards, regulatory submissions, and statistical programming using SAS and R. He earned his bachelor's degrees in biological sciences and psychology, as well as a master's degree in biomedical science and health. He is passionate about advancing data-informed decision-making in healthcare and continues to grow in leadership and management within the field.

When did you earn your GStat?

I earned my GStat accreditation in 2018. I was working as a statistical analyst at Hershey Medical center, and I was building my foundation in statistical programming.

What motivated you to pursue the GStat accreditation?

I pursued the GStat accreditation to distinguish myself in a competitive job market and to become more actively involved in the statistical community, particularly through the American Statistical Association.

At the time, I was working in clinical programming and saw firsthand how important it was to pair technical execution with a strong understanding of statistical principles. The GStat provided a way to formally demonstrate that foundation while signaling my long-term commitment to the field.

Has the GStat helped enhance your career or created opportunities you might not have had otherwise?

While the GStat has not directly led to specific opportunities, it has strengthened my professional profile in more subtle but meaningful ways. It has been a consistent way to demonstrate my commitment to the field, particularly as I continue progressing toward a statistician-focused career path.

In a space like clinical research—where credibility and rigor are essential—the designation reinforces that my work is grounded in both technical skill and statistical understanding.

How do you explain the value of GStat to colleagues or supervisors who might not be familiar with it?

I describe the GStat as a professional credential that validates a strong academic foundation in statistics and a commitment to the profession.

For colleagues and supervisors, I often frame it in practical terms—it shows that my work goes beyond programming and is rooted in statistical thinking, which is especially important in regulated environments like clinical trials. It also reflects ongoing engagement with the broader statistical community through organizations like the American Statistical Association.

Do you hold or plan to pursue the Professional Statistician (PStat) accreditation? Why or why not?

Yes, I do plan to pursue the PStat accreditation. As I've gained more experience and taken on greater responsibility, pursuing PStat feels like a natural next step.

It will allow me to formally demonstrate not only my technical and statistical knowledge but also my applied experience and professional contributions. More broadly, it aligns with my long-term goal of continuing to grow into a statistician role.

What advice would you give to other early-career statisticians considering the GStat accreditation?

I would strongly recommend the GStat accreditation to early-career statisticians. It's a valuable way to differentiate yourself in a competitive job market and to demonstrate initiative early on.

My advice would be to view it not just as a credential, but as part of a broader career strategy. It may not create immediate opportunities on its own, but it consistently signals commitment, credibility, and direction. Over time, those signals matter—and they can help position you for the next steps in your career.

McBeth Ahortor

McBeth Ahortor earned his master's degree in statistics in May 2023 and is currently a PhD candidate at Montana State University. His research focuses on high-dimensional statistical inference within online multiple hypothesis testing frameworks. Outside of his research, McBeth is a soccer enthusiast who enjoys both playing and watching soccer.

When did you earn your GStat?

I officially transitioned into the Graduate Statistician (GStat) cohort on November 6, 2025.

What motivated you to pursue the GStat accreditation?

For me, the motivation was a desire to bridge the gap between academic theory and professional practice. My PhD training provides mathematical depth and statistical modeling. I wanted a credential that spoke to my commitment to the ethical and professional standards of the field.

Has the GStat helped enhance your career or created opportunities you might not have had otherwise?

It adds significant weight when applying for internships. It distinguishes my profile in a competitive field as employers immediately recognize that I have met a trusted professional benchmark.

How do you explain the value of GStat to colleagues or supervisors who might not be familiar with it?

I describe it as a seal of integrity for the data era. GStat moves you from the role of student to that of practitioner in the eyes of your peers since it identifies you as someone who is already invested in the long-term standards of the statistical community.

Do you hold or plan to pursue the Professional Statistician (PStat) accreditation? Why or why not?

I definitely plan to pursue the PStat once I have the necessary post-degree experience. If the GStat is the foundation of my career, the PStat is the capstone.

What advice would you give to other early-career statisticians considering the GStat accreditation?

Don't wait until you think you're "ready." The process itself helps make you ready. The GStat is a low-barrier, high-impact way to begin building your professional brand while you are still in school. It shifts your perspective from passing the next exam to participating in a global professional community. It's a small investment in your future that pays dividends in how you carry yourself as a professional from day one.

Sarah Mensah

Sarah Mensah is a PhD student in statistics at Montana State University in Bozeman. Her research focuses on analyzing high-dimensional data, with an emphasis on functional data analysis. Much of her work is motivated by aging-related conditions such as osteoarthritis. She earned her master's in statistics from Montana State University in May 2024.

When did you earn your GStat?

I earned my GStat accreditation on November 3, 2025.

What motivated you to pursue the GStat accreditation?

I met a friend at JSM with a GStat ribbon, and they explained that it helps start conversations and build trust with employers. It also seemed like a good way to meet and connect with other statisticians, so I decided to go for it.

Has the GStat helped enhance your career or created opportunities you might not have had otherwise?

It is still pretty new for me, so I haven't seen any major changes yet. But I believe it adds some credibility, especially when talking to people outside of statistics. It is also a way to show potential employers that my training has been recognized by a professional organization.

How do you explain the value of GStat to colleagues or supervisors who might not be familiar with it?

The GStat accreditation shows you have reached a good level of preparation and are committed to the statistics field.

Do you hold or plan to pursue Professional Statistician (PStat) accreditation? Why or why not?

Yes, I plan to pursue the PStat. The GStat accreditation will make that process much easier once I have the required work experience.

What advice would you give to other early-career statisticians considering the GStat accreditation?

If you are already putting in the work to build your statistical skills, I'd say go for it. It gives you more confidence when talking about your background, gives your résumé a nice boost, and could make conversations with employers a bit easier.

Theophilus Gyedu Baidoo

Theophilus Baidoo is a PhD candidate in biostatistics at Indiana University Bloomington and a Pfizer Fellow for the 2025–2026 academic year. His work centers on developing statistical methods for complex biomedical and public health data, and he has interests in genomics, survival analysis, and causal inference. He holds a bachelor's degree in actuarial science from the University of Energy and Natural Resources (Ghana) and a master's in applied statistics and data Science from the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley.

When did you earn your GStat?

I earned my GStat accreditation from the American Statistical Association in July 2025.

What motivated you to pursue the GStat accreditation?

I pursued the GStat accreditation because I wanted formal recognition of my graduate-level training in statistics and a credential that reflected my commitment to the profession. As an early-career statistician, I viewed the GStat as an important step in demonstrating both my academic preparation and my dedication to applying statistical knowledge responsibly. I was also motivated by the connection between the GStat and the broader professional standards of the American Statistical Association. Earning the credential allowed me to show my commitment to ethical practice, continued learning, and professional growth as I continue developing my career in statistics.

How do you explain the value of GStat to colleagues or supervisors who might not be familiar with it?

I describe the GStat as a credential from the American Statistical Association that recognizes graduate-level preparation in statistics. For colleagues or supervisors who may not be familiar with it, I explain that it provides an external validation of my statistical training and reflects a recognized professional standard. I also emphasize that the value of the GStat goes beyond the credential itself. It signals a commitment to professionalism, ethical statistical practice, and continued development in the field. For employers and collaborators, it offers additional confidence that I have a strong foundation for contributing to statistical work in a responsible and meaningful way.

What advice would you give to other early-career statisticians considering the GStat accreditation?

My advice would be to consider the GStat if you are looking for a meaningful way to mark your early professional development in statistics. It can be especially helpful if you want a credential that reflects your preparation and helps you communicate your qualifications more clearly. I would also encourage early-career statisticians to think of the GStat as part of a larger professional journey. The process is a good opportunity to reflect on your training, your goals, and the kind of statistician you want to become. It is not just about adding a credential; it is about being intentional about your growth in the field.

Do you hold or plan to pursue the Professional Statistician (PStat) accreditation? Why or why not?

I do plan to pursue the Professional Statistician accreditation in the future. At this stage in my career, I am focused on gaining the professional experience and applied practice needed to support that next step. I view the PStat as an important recognition of professional growth in statistics. It reflects the ability to apply statistical methods thoughtfully, exercise sound judgment, communicate effectively, and contribute to real-world work with professionalism. When I have developed the depth of experience needed, I would be proud to pursue the PStat as a continued step in my career. ■

TELLING OUR STORIES

The goal of the Telling Our Stories video project is to highlight the profound impact of statistics on society. Each video tells the story of how statisticians and data scientists are advancing science, informing public policy, and contributing to a world in which decisions are data-driven.

Check out the videos in the series on the STAT*tr@k* website: *https://stattrak.amstat.org/telling-our-stories.*

DECIDING FACTORS

Winning Isn't the Only Thing: **Why Statisticians Must Separate Process from Outcome**

Mark C. Otto and MinJae Lee

Annie Duke is short-stacked and all-in-or-fold with a pair of tens. (She tells her story on *The Moth* podcast: *https://tinyurl.com/5yp9bz6d)* She picks up Greg Raymer's tell. The rest of us on the couch in front of the TV, watching every player's hole card, are sure we could have played it better. Really? The deeper question isn't whether we can read the table—it's whether we judge the hand by who claims the pot. Statisticians should know better.

And yet we don't. Not consistently. In poker circles, assessing a decision by how it turned out is called resulting. Resulting is a cognitive bias we need to understand and avoid to make good decisions.

As statisticians, we are supposed to separate decision quality from outcomes. Yet, in practice, even in scientific and clinical work, we often judge decisions by how they turned out rather than what was known at the time. This shows up all the time in how we interpret evidence, evaluate studies, and make policy decisions.

Forecasts, Smoothed Estimates, and the View from the Couch

Resulting is the difference between forecasting and smoothing. The blue line is the one-step-ahead forecast, jumping around with a wide confidence band. The green line is estimated using all future data and smoothed with a narrow confidence band. At $t=50$, the series jumps—a level shift. The blue forecasts continue to track the old level for a few periods before catching up. The green smooth glides up through the shift as if it had been expecting it all along.

Now the catch: In real life, we can make decisions like the blue one-step forecasts. We only have data up to the present. Our process can be sound, our model well-specified, and we will still be late to a level shift when the world changes. Watching Annie on TV, we are looking at the green line. We can see where the hand went. Judging her decision from that vantage point is the same as scoring last week's forecast against this week's smoothed value.

This is evident in clinical research. A well-designed trial can appear to fail because of variability or a small sample size, while a weaker analysis might appear successful by chance or bias. If we judge these decisions solely by their outcomes, we end up rewarding the wrong things and discouraging the right ones.

Decisions are process and luck. In our models, our process is the prediction, and luck is the residual; we need to be careful not to confuse them. In life, it is much harder to tell which is which, but it is worth the work—studying our decisions using the information we had at the time, no matter how they turned out.

In other words we choose one outcome from many possible ones but tend to forget the others we didn't choose. Each of those possible outcomes has a different likelihood of succeeding or failing in ways we cannot fully control. That's luck. If we mix these up, we reward luck and penalize sound decisions.

Mark C. Otto is a retired (but not retiring) US Census Bureau and US Fish and Wildlife Service statistical scientist. He is an ASA Fellow and chair of the American Statistical Association Committee on Applied Statisticians. He's also served as president of the Washington Statistical Society and vice chair of the Membership Council. He works toward creating long-term cultural change with the Alliance for Decision Education and Braver Angels.

MinJae Lee is a biostatistician and professor at McGovern Medical School, UTHealth-Houston, where she leads the division of clinical and translational sciences. Her research focuses on developing and applying innovative statistical methods to address real-world research challenges. She is a member of the ASA Committee on Applied Statisticians and serves on the *Nature Medicine* Statistical Advisory Panel.

The 2×2 That Earns Its Keep

Cross decision quality (good or bad process) with outcome (good or bad result):

Good decision, good outcome — *deserved win* (pat on the back, but don't get cocky)	**Good decision, bad outcome** — *bad beat* (hard, but don't change the process)
Bad decision, good outcome — *dumb luck* (dangerous because it teaches repetition of bad decisions)	**Bad decision, bad outcome** — *just deserts* (live and, with luck, learn)

A good decision should be judged by what it was likely to lead to, not by how things turned out this one time.

A good decision should be judged by what it was likely to lead to, not by how things turned out this one time. The 2×2 framework shows how easily those two can diverge.

Our instinct is to evaluate column-wise, by outcome. The decision analyst evaluates row-wise, by process. The cell that quietly does the most damage is the bottom-left—dumb luck—because the world rewards it before we notice the process was flawed.

A Liberal Season in a Dry Year

In the early years of adaptive harvest management, waterfowl regulations were liberal year after year. Then came a dry year—low pond habitat and low duck counts—and the model surprisingly prescribed another liberal season. The model had a built-in learning component, and much could be learned from a heavy harvest in a poor year. But there was also a duty to the resource. We had a real conflict: protect ducks or protect adaptive harvest management?

In the end, the technical team adopted the model's prescription to keep regulators and the hunting community committed to adaptive harvest management, even when the answer was uncomfortable. What they learned afterward was that none of the regulatory teams took their full liberal seasons; the duty to the resource showed up downstream as restraint.

Was it a good decision? Should the team have understood the model's prediction more deeply before deferring to it? Did we end up in the top-left or bottom-left cell? Good outcomes deserve the same audit as bad ones because a good outcome from a shaky process is the surest way to repeat that shaky process next year.

We Were Not Trained for This

In statistics, we design the survey or run the experiment, then collect the data to answer the question. The luxury is that the data is built to fit the question. In decision analysis, we frame the decision as best we can, scrape together whatever data exists (never enough), and decide in the moment. We may know the odds, as Annie knew the odds with her tens, but we cannot know what will happen around the table. We decide on a single outcome, not the long-run distribution.

Annie fell in with a group of the world's best players who debriefed every difficult hand in extraordinary detail—cards, position, table image, opponents' tendencies, and other things I cannot imagine remembering. The rule was to describe the situation without revealing what you did or how it turned out. Eric Seidel cut Annie off the first time she opened with a bad-beat story. If it's bad luck, why are we talking about something we can't learn from? We can explore our decisions the same way.

The Hard Part Is Doing It on Purpose

The hardest part is making decisions consciously. If you don't examine your decisions, you can't learn from them, and it's harder to separate process from luck. You must track what you knew and when you knew it. A decision journal works for personal choices; a shared log works for projects. It feels awkward at first, but it gets easier over time.

In scientific work, we try to guard against this by setting things up in advance, being transparent about our data analysis, and checking results through replication. At the end of the day, these practices focus on the decision process rather than the outcome. Bringing that same mindset into everyday decisions is not easy, but it is important.

The payoff is real. As you sweat the outcome less and grow curious about the process, the "I should have known" of hindsight bias loses its sting. You can look back at what you actually knew and forgive yourself for not knowing more. You can lose a hand and still respect how you played it, taking things as they come, even at the poker table.

Decisions are predictions. Next time: Why are we so bad at making them? Remember, our 90% intervals were correct only about 25% of the time. Let's see what we can do about that. ■

The Empty Seat: A Commentary on the Absence of Black African Statisticians at the African International Conferences on Statistics (2014–2025)

Saralees Nadarajah, University of Manchester, and Samuel Manda, University of Pretoria

The list of the African International Conferences on Statistics from 2014 to 2025 reads like a hopeful journey across the continent. From the vibrant streets of Dakar to the highlands of Addis Ababa, the savannas of Limpopo, and the medinas of Marrakesh, the intention was clear: to create a pan-African platform for statistical discourse. The themes evolved, mirroring global trends—from "Recent Developments in Applied Statistics" to "Big Data," "Artificial Intelligence," and "Sustainable Development." Yet, beneath this promising itinerary lies a persistent and uncomfortable silence, a gap not in the program, but in the room itself: the conspicuous lack of Black African statisticians.

This is not a commentary on the organizers, whose Herculean efforts kept the flame alive through a global pandemic. It is, instead, an observation on a deeply entrenched paradox. Conferences held on African soil, ostensibly for African development, often struggle to be populated by the very statisticians and data scientists who are the children of that soil. The "African" in the conference title risks becoming a geographical descriptor rather than a reflection of the demographic.

The Numbers That Don't Add Up

If one were to compile a simple demographic survey of presenters and attendees at these gatherings, a stark picture would likely emerge. The attendees often comprise a significant contingent of international experts from Europe, North America, and Asia, alongside a diaspora of African academics based at Western institutions. The missing variable in this equation is the locally-based Black African statistician—the lecturer from the University of Yaoundé I, the government data analyst from Addis Ababa, or the PhD student from the University of Botswana.

The locations themselves highlight the issue. A conference in Jimma, Ethiopia, or Arsi, Ethiopia, requires a level of logistical and financial commitment that is a significant barrier for a Cameroonian or Senegalese academic. The costs—visa fees, international flights, accommodation, and conference registration—can easily exceed several months' salary. While the organizers of the 9th Satellite Conference in Nairobi in 2025 are to be commended for explicitly naming "development in Africa" and inviting "emerging analytical tools," the fundamental economic equation remains unsolved.

Beyond the Cost Barrier: A Crisis of Ecosystem

However, to frame this solely as a financial issue is to miss the deeper, structural crisis. The low attendance is a symptom of a weakened academic ecosystem. The statistician who isn't at the conference in Gaborone or Hammamet is likely at their home institution, overwhelmed by teaching loads, starved of research funding, and disconnected from the high-speed internet required to even learn about funding opportunities. Their absence is not a choice, but a consequence of systemic underinvestment in higher education and research across much of the continent.

Furthermore, there is an often-unspoken issue of intellectual confidence and belonging. When the keynote addresses are consistently delivered by non-African experts, and the prevailing academic currency (publication in specific journals, citation indices) is defined elsewhere, a local researcher can feel like a perpetual student in their own field, rather than a peer. The conference becomes a place to listen and learn, not to challenge and collaborate. This dynamic can be profoundly disempowering, subtly signaling that the "advanced statistics" being discussed are generated elsewhere and merely "applied" in Africa, rather than being innovated from and by it.

The Post-COVID 'New Normal'

The pandemic-induced hiatus from 2020 to 2023 offered a moment for reflection. When the conferences resumed in Marrakesh (2023) and Tunis (2024), the world had adopted virtual and hybrid models that,

ironically, could have been the great equalizer. Yet, the reliance on in-person, high-fee international conferences risks re-entrenching the old inequalities. While virtual attendance can lower barriers, it does not solve the core problem of recognition and integration. Logging onto Zoom does not grant a young Malian data scientist the same networking opportunities as a coffee break in Hammamet.

The Way Forward: From Passive Attendance to Active Ownership

For the "African International Conference" to truly live up to its name, a radical shift in focus is required. It must transition from being a conference held in Africa to one that is fundamentally of and by Africa. This requires the following intentional, almost affirmative, action:

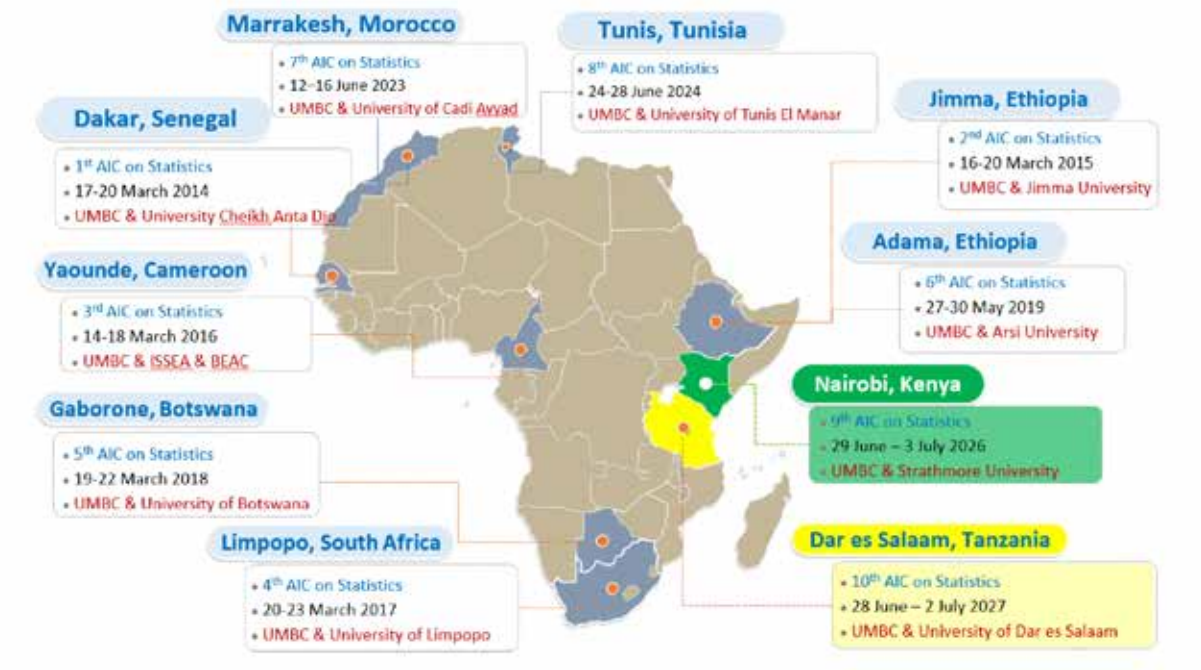
1. Decentralized Funding: Conference budgets must explicitly include large-scale, easily accessible travel and subsistence grants specifically for African-based statisticians, not just as an afterthought but as a primary budgetary line item.
2. Rotating Hubs and Satellite Events: The Nairobi model of a "satellite conference" is a promising start. Building on this, conferences could be designed as a series of interconnected, lower-cost regional hubs feeding into a central event, reducing travel burdens.
3. Redefining Excellence: Keynotes and plenary sessions must be intentionally populated with leading Black African statisticians working within African universities and institutions, showcasing home-grown research and methodologies.
4. Mentorship and Capacity Building: The conference cannot be a one-off event. It must be woven into a year-round program of virtual journal clubs, collaborative grant writing, and mentorship that pairs established statisticians (both within and outside the continent) with early-career researchers in Africa.

The empty seat is not just an absence; it is a lost opportunity for the continent to solve its own complex problems.

The conferences from 2014 to 2025 provide a valuable historical record of intent. The 9th conference in Nairobi stands at a crossroads. It can be the moment in which the conversation finally shifts. The alternative is a future where the AIC continues to be a mirror reflecting the global north's image of African statistics, while the vibrant, struggling, and brilliant community of Black African statisticians remains in the shadows, their potential forever the subject of a presentation they were not there to give. The empty seat is not just an absence; it is a lost opportunity for the continent to solve its own complex problems. ■

From Participation to Impact: Advancing Statistical Capacity in Africa

Yehenew Kifle, University of Maryland



The locations and timeline of the African International Conference on Statistics highlight its rotating model across the continent.

The African International Conference on Statistics has become a powerful continent-wide platform to advance statistical science, build human capital, and strengthen academic institutions in Africa. Since its small-scale launch in 2014, AIC has evolved into a sustained engine for capacity building, collaboration, and long-term academic development.

The conference's strength lies in its design. Its rotating, Africa-centered model—spanning countries such as Senegal, Ethiopia, Cameroon, South Africa, Botswana, Morocco, and Tunisia—ensures access to global statistical engagement is not confined to a single location. Instead, it brings opportunity directly to local African institutions, enabling universities across the continent to host, lead, and benefit. This structure reduces geographic barriers while fostering ownership and institutional visibility.

At the core of AIC is a strong emphasis on training and building the skills of the next generation of African statisticians. Each conference integrates pre-conference workshops designed for graduate students and early-career faculty, providing hands-on exposure to modern statistical methods and data science tools. AIC also promotes inclusive academic development, including initiatives aimed at empowering women in statistics through leadership and professional development workshops. These efforts expand access, strengthen networks, and contribute to a more inclusive statistical community. These opportunities are particularly impactful in settings where access to advanced training is limited.

This commitment is further strengthened in the 2026 conference, which will feature a specialized workshop titled Artificial Intelligence for Advanced Statistical Analysis. Supported by the American Statistical Association and Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the workshop is designed for African statisticians, particularly PhD students and early-career faculty. This initiative reflects AIC's forward-looking vision of equipping African researchers with the tools needed to engage in contemporary statistical topics.

AIC's contributions extend beyond training into long-term academic investment. Each conference

African participants registered for the 9th AIC as of April 2026.

supports host African institutions through the donation of advanced statistics textbooks, strengthening graduate-level teaching and research infrastructure. This ensures the benefits of AIC persist well beyond the conference itself.

Moreover, the most compelling measure of AIC's success is its contribution to academic pathways and leadership development. Through mentorship and sustained collaboration, many participants have secured fully funded PhD opportunities at leading institutions around the world. Importantly, several of these scholars return to African universities as faculty and researchers, contributing to local capacity and creating a multiplier effect across the continent. AIC is thus helping to build a self-sustaining pipeline of highly trained statisticians.

Equally significant is AIC's role as a global connector. Through partnerships with organizations such as the ASA and IMS, the conference has facilitated joint research, co-supervision of graduate students, and long-term institutional collaboration. A notable strength is the active involvement of African statisticians in the diaspora, who take leadership roles in organizing increasing invited and keynote speakers based within Africa, ensuring that emerging statisticians can engage with and be inspired by strong role models.

Funding from the ASA and IMS is primarily directed toward strengthening conference infrastructure, supporting local accommodation for participants from Africa, and running conference workshops. This support is especially focused on participants from the host country and the broader region, where the impact on access and capacity building is greatest. While AIC's long-standing tradition is that invited speakers cover their own international travel expenses, the conference provides local accommodation for a select number of international invited speakers, ensuring both broad participation and high-quality scientific engagement. This partnership has enabled AIC to significantly strengthen participation across the continent, as evidenced by the strong and growing registration for AIC 2026. The conference continues to attract participants from East, West, North, and Southern Africa, demonstrating an expanding continental footprint and increasing engagement.

Beyond individual development, AIC has contributed to institutional transformation. Collaborations initiated through the conference have led to joint PhD programs, faculty exchanges, and sustained partnerships between African and international universities. These outcomes underscore a central point: AIC is not merely a conference; it is a platform for building durable academic ecosystems.

Looking ahead, the 2026 AIC at Strathmore University in Kenya represents a significant milestone. With strong participation from across the continent, targeted training initiatives, and continued international collaboration, AIC is well positioned to deepen its impact in graduate education, research, and regional integration.

AIC offers a compelling model for how scientific initiatives can drive meaningful change. Its achievements are tangible: training early-career statisticians; strengthening institutions through resources and partnerships; building global research networks; promoting inclusivity; and developing a growing pipeline of African statistical leaders. Overall, the story of AIC is not one of limitation, but of progress, investment, and transformation. It reflects what is possible when a conference is designed not just to convene, but to build.

While AIC has made strong progress, there is still more to be done. We invite all statisticians, especially those with strong connections to Africa, to join future AIC conferences and contribute to building a lasting and transformative impact.

For additional information, contact the conference chair, Yehenew Kifle, at *yehenew@umbc.edu.* ■

A Statistician Is *Not* a Wrench! (An Allegory)

Nancy L. Geller, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

A wrench is a tool you pick up when you need it. Many investigators at medical centers regard statisticians as wrenches.

Why would anyone write this titillating sentence? An investigator group designs a study and has a hypothesis—an "interesting question"—they think they can answer. They have no idea what the sample size should be and little idea what success will be, but the question is really, really interesting. So, these investigators go and perform the experiment(s) and collect data. Then, they realize the usual *t*-test they have always employed might not work. Or maybe they try it and *know* the experiment worked, but the *t*-test doesn't show it.

They've heard there's a statistics group at their institution, so this is a great time to call on them. Plain and simple: they need a wrench, so they try to find one! (Actually, they may try to buy one.)

A statistician is assigned to meet with this investigational group and very politely questions what kind of difference the investigators think would be meaningful. The investigators give a tentative answer, and the statistician politely inquires about the variability of the responses (and gets another tentative answer). The statistician does a calculation on a little piece of paper and points out that the sample size was inadequate to detect the meaningful difference that was anticipated. For example, they experimented on six mice and they really needed 12 to detect the anticipated difference (at the 0.05 significance level) with adequate power (say 80%). The investigators go back to the lab, do another six mice and analyze the data (on all 12 mice) using a *t*-test. Success! They write the paper (not including the statistician as a coauthor) and submit it.

The review comes back with the reviewer complimenting them on their positive result and asking for justification of the sample size and their analysis methods.

Oh dear! They need the wrench (again). So, they contact the same statistician who undoubtedly gets more than a little angry that she has spent a couple of hours on an applied project and gotten no credit whatsoever. Not even an acknowledgment. (Who acknowledges a wrench??) There are three possible actions.

The statistician can take a deep breath, sigh, write a brief paragraph addressing that particular referee's comment, and hand it over passively. Everything is peaceful and the next time these investigators need a wrench, they will inevitably call on this same statistician. This possibility does no good for the contributing statistician nor any good for the statistics profession, as these investigators will continue to regard statisticians as wrenches.

The second possible action is for the statistician to mention that the investigators couldn't have succeeded with this experiment without her and her contribution is worth at least an acknowledgment. This might be polite and charming but very difficult to pull off in such a manner. It is quite possible at this point that the investigators discover what it feels like to be hit by a wrench. This, too, will not do much good for the statistician's career nor the statistics profession, for certainly the investigators will go away and may never seek statistical help again.

Of course they might request another wrench, saying the current one was simply incompetent. An improvement on this method is for the statistician to ask her supervisor to intervene on her behalf. That might work, but it might not, and might well depend on whether the supervisor herself is regarded as a wrench.

But there is a third possibility, and it needs to be initiated from the first contact. First, the statistician should set up a meeting with the investigators and make sure the head of the investigative team can attend. Then, she should ask for a description of the research; for example, ask for the protocol in a human or animal study, read it in advance, and then ask questions.

So, the first step is to become involved in the research and make sure you (the statistician) understand what the specific aims are and what the primary hypothesis is. Then, the statistician can appreciate why the study is being done.

If the criteria for "success" seem unrealistic, the statistician can ask questions such as, "Why do you think your intervention will be that good?" It is scientifically useful to reset expectations if they are unrealistic. As for variability, it's legitimate to ask about where the estimate comes from. Overall, the statistician proceeding this way engages herself in the project.

At that time, it might be useful to suggest a modification of the experimental plan, for example, a protocol amendment if the biostatistician decides an increase in sample size is appropriate and the investigators agree. That might be a time when the biostatistician asks to be added as an investigator on the protocol. (If a biostatistician is going to do this, she should "have a feeling" the suggestion will be well received.) She also should suggest that she should undertake the data analysis (or at least oversee it) at the end of the study, because the t-test just isn't the best approach.

Now the biostatistician is on the right path. She is no longer a consultant, but she is now a collaborator. She should be sure to mention that when the investigators are writing up the results, she will be happy to write a brief biostatistics section for the paper. And everyone will realize (since they are already on good terms) that the biostatistician should be one of the coauthors.

To some biostatisticians, this third path is a natural one, but to others it must be taught. One biostatistician remembers going to an American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting in her early days and standing at the poster she helped create with the principal investigator. Someone he knew asked who she was. He put his arm around her and said, "She's my biostatistician. I never go anywhere without her!" It was, perhaps, her very first professional compliment.

He went on to be chair of a prominent medical center, and his career is lauded on the internet. On that site, his many medical collaborators are interviewed about his career, but she who wrote many papers with him was never contacted. However, she went on to become head of a biostatistics group and has come to realize that if she had wanted to be a real star, she would have gone to medical school!

Yet all she wants for her chosen profession is to be respected and appreciated by those "real stars"! ■

Barry Graubard Honored with Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Research Methods

Julia N. Soulakova, Sirken Award Committee Chair

Barry Graubard

Barry I. Graubard, scientist emeritus at the US National Cancer Institute, has been named the 2026 recipient of the Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Research Methods.

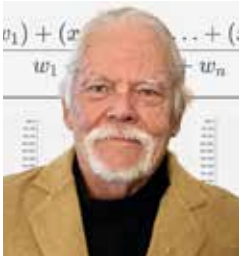
Graubard has made major interdisciplinary contributions throughout his career, bridging survey methodology with epidemiology, cancer research, and related fields. He began as a mathematical statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics in 1977 and earned his PhD in mathematical statistics from the University of Maryland in 1991. Since 1997, he has served as a senior investigator in the biostatistics branch at the National Cancer Institute, holding leadership roles at several federal agencies along the way.

His work in survey sampling established foundational standards for the design, conduct, and analysis of national surveys. His methods—including linearization-based variance estimation and Korn-Graubard confidence intervals—have been implemented in statistical computing packages.

Beyond research, Graubard has mentored dozens of statisticians and scientists and taught the Analysis of Health Surveys course at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland. An ASA Fellow, he has also received the ASA Mentoring Award and Founders Award.

Graubard will deliver the Sirken Lecture, titled "Intersection of Sample Survey Research and Biostatistics in Public Health and Epidemiology," at the 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston on August 5 at 10:30 a.m. ■

Longtime Member David Swanson Honored With Distinguished Service Award



David Swanson

David A. Swanson, ASA member for more than 50 years, recently received the 2026 Distinguished Service Award from his undergraduate alma mater, Western Washington University.

Swanson, professor emeritus of the University of California at Riverside and graduate of Western Washington University class of '72, has spent his career helping communities make sense of the numbers that define them. An internationally recognized demographer, Swanson is known for advancing the methods used to estimate and forecast populations at the local level. His work helps inform decisions about schools, infrastructure, and public resources, giving communities the data they need to plan and adapt. Through both his research and public service, he has helped shape how population information is used across the United States and around the world.

Swanson began his academic journey at Western Washington University, then Western Washington State College, where he became the first graduate to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology in 1972. He went on to earn graduate degrees from the University of Hawai'i and the University of Stockholm, launching a distinguished career spanning universities, research institutes, and government agencies.

He later served as an Edward A. Dickson Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Riverside, where he is now distinguished professor emeritus. His public service includes six years on the US Census Bureau's Scientific Advisory Committee, including two as chair, along with testimony before Congress and state legislatures and service as state demographer for both Alaska and Arkansas.

A prolific scholar, Swanson has authored or co-authored more than 130 peer-reviewed articles and nine books. His work has been supported by more than $2.7 million in grants and recognized with numerous honors, including two Fulbright awards and the Southern Demographic Association's E. Walter Terrie Award.

Through his scholarship, teaching, and service, Swanson has helped communities better understand who they are and how they are changing. His work continues to shape the way population data is used to inform decisions and strengthen institutions. Swanson directly affects Washington through his ongoing work as an active member of the Washington Academy of Sciences in support of its mission to serve the state. ■

Peter McCullagh to Give David Cox Foundations of Statistics Lecture

For foundational contributions to statistical science that have shaped both the theoretical underpinnings and applied practice of the discipline across more than four decades, Peter McCullagh is the third recipient of the David R. Cox Foundations of Statistics Award, presented by the American Statistical Association. McCullagh will receive the award and deliver a lecture titled "What Is a Regression Model?" at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston Massachusetts at 10:30 a.m. on August 5.

McCullagh is the John D. MacArthur Distinguished Service Professor of Statistics at The University of Chicago. He is best known for co-authoring the textbook *Generalized Linear Models*, winner of the inaugural Karl Pearson Prize (now the Founders Prize) in 2013. His 1980 paper in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B* on regression models for ordinal data introduced cumulative logit models that have found broad application across the biological and social sciences. The paper was selected as the *JRSSB* retrospective paper for presentation at the 2022 RSS International Conference, celebrating 50 years of the proportional hazards model. McCullagh has contributed four read papers to the Royal Statistical Society, underscoring the consistent originality and conceptual reach of his research.

Beyond generalized linear models, McCullagh has pursued a deeper foundational program to place statistical modeling on a rigorous logical and algebraic footing. His 2002 *Annals of Statistics* discussion paper, "What Is a Statistical Model?", proposed an axiomatic framework in which treatment effects are defined as group elements perturbing outcome distributions from baseline, a formulation that exposes logical inconsistencies in much of the mainstream methodology literature. His monograph, *Tensor Methods in Statistics,* introduced algebraic tools for high-dimensional inference, while his 2022 book, *Ten Projects in Applied Statistics,* applies decades of statistical wisdom to challenging real-world problems, offering critiques of causal inference and statistical modeling. Throughout his career, McCullagh has exemplified the combination of theoretical depth and practical insight that characterized David Cox's own approach to the discipline.

McCullagh's influence extends across probability theory, biostatistics, and computational statistics. His contributions to quasi-likelihood, local sufficiency, approximate conditional inference, Cauchy-family parametrizations, and the structure of exchangeable arrays have shaped the field for decades. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a recipient of the Guy Medal in Silver from the Royal Statistical Society. He was also recognized by COPSS in 1990 as an outstanding statistician under the age of 40.

The David R. Cox Foundations of Statistics Award was created in 2022 through an endowment by Deborah G. Mayo, professor emerita of philosophy at Virginia Tech. ■

Hackathon Brings Students Together for Hands-On Coding

West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School recently hosted its biannual Hoosier Hacks, a free, student-centered hackathon that continues to grow in both size and impact. The event, highlighted by *West Lafayette News*, brings together students with a shared interest in coding,

> The event truly felt inclusive, giving everyone an equal opportunity to contribute and succeed.

collaboration, and creative problem-solving. It gives students the opportunity to work intensively on projects in a supportive, fast-paced environment.

Now in its fourth year, Hoosier Hacks has become a signature event for the school. Students form teams, develop ideas, and build solutions over the course of the event, gaining hands-on experience in programming and computational thinking while also learning how to collaborate under time constraints. Organizers emphasize that the hackathon is designed to be welcoming to students of all experience levels.

West Lafayette senior Riwan Azeroual noted in the *West Lafayette News*, "The event truly felt inclusive, giving everyone an equal opportunity to contribute and succeed."

The American Statistical Association supports initiatives like Hoosier Hacks that strengthen quantitative and data science education at the K–12 level. Events such as this help students see how data-informed thinking connects to real-world problem-solving and future academic and career pathways in STEM fields.

For more information about the hackathon, visit *https://tinyurl.com/25un5nhe*. ■

Obituary

William S. Cleveland

William S. Cleveland, Shanti S. Gupta Distinguished Professor of Statistics and courtesy professor of computer science at Purdue University, passed away on March 27, 2026, at the age of 83. A pioneering statistician and visionary scholar, Bill transformed the way generations of researchers think about data, graphics, and scientific inquiry. His work helped establish data visualization as a rigorous intellectual discipline, and his broader vision of statistics as a field grounded in learning from data helped shape what we now call data science.

Born in Sussex, New Jersey, on January 24, 1943, Bill studied mathematics at Princeton University and earned his PhD in statistics from Yale University in 1969 under Leonard J. Savage. He began his career at Bell Laboratories, where he became a distinguished member of technical staff and served for 12 years as head of the statistics research department. At Bell Labs, he worked alongside some of the most influential thinkers in modern statistics and computing, contributed to the development of the S programming language, and advanced a culture of hands-on data analysis that would leave a lasting mark on the field. He joined Purdue in 2004 and was later named Shanti S. Gupta Distinguished Professor of Statistics.

Bill's research contributions were foundational. He was internationally known for his work in local regression, nonparametric smoothing, graphical perception, and statistical computing. His books *The Elements of Graphing Data* and *Visualizing Data* became classics, teaching scientists not merely how to draw graphs, but how to think clearly and honestly with data. His scholarship combined mathematical care, computational innovation, and extraordinary practical insight.

Bill was also extraordinary for the breadth of his vision. In a 2001 publication, he gave one of the earliest and most influential articulations of "data science" as an expansion of statistics, integrating computing, subject-matter knowledge, and analytic thinking. What many now regard as a new field, Bill recognized and framed with exceptional clarity decades ago. His ideas anticipated the transformation of statistics in the 21st century and continue to shape how universities, industries, and scientists approach data-driven inquiry.

At Purdue, Bill brought distinction, intellectual breadth, and generosity of spirit to the department of statistics and the wider university. He was a scholar of uncommon originality, but also a valued colleague and mentor whose insight and encouragement influenced many faculty, students, and collaborators. His work connected statistics with computer science, machine learning, visual perception, environmental science, and other domains, reflecting his conviction that the most important statistical ideas emerge through engagement with real scientific problems.

Bill received many honors in recognition of his profound impact on the discipline, including election as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the ASA Lifetime Achievement Award in Graphics and Computing, the Parzen Prize for Statistical Innovation, and an honorary doctorate from Hasselt University. Yet those who knew him will remember not only the brilliance of his accomplishments, but also his clarity of thought, generosity, vision, and humanity. Purdue's Department of Statistics has lost an extraordinary colleague, and the statistical sciences have lost one of their great modern architects. His legacy will endure in the methods he created, the field he helped define, and the many people whose thinking he changed for the better.

Have News to Share?

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

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

Detroit, Ann Arbor Chapter Members Give Awards at Science and Engineering Fair

Karry Roberts, ASA Detroit Chapter

The Detroit and Ann Arbor Chapters joined together in their annual tradition to be ASA professional awards judges at the Michigan Science and Engineering Fair. It was their 10th year at the state level of the fair, following many years of regional fair events.

This year's fair was held at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan, on April 11, with 55 student projects from across the state. The chapter members recognized 10 projects with their awards of merit and $50 gift cards, plus they gave 20 certificates of recognition. The students, projects, teachers, and schools are listed in the table below.

This year's judging team included Karry Roberts, Robert Bondar, Wei Chen, David Corliss, Ebo Essilfie-Amoah, Hon Yiu (Henry) So, and Zeynep (Tuba) Suzer-Gurtekin.

Projects Receiving Awards of Merit (Certificate and Gift Card)			
Student(s)	**Project Title**	**School, City**	**Teacher**
Ali Alnaib	Structural Optimization of Wireless Power Transfer Using 3D-Printed Metamaterials	Salem High School, Canton Township	Kevin Kollar
Seneli Amaratunga with Dharshna Chandra Mouleeswaran	Development of Plant Based Antibacterial Eutechtogels	Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center, Kalamazoo	Rebecca Joyce
Aarush Arun	Qualifying the ESG Premium: Predictive Modeling of Financial Outcomes Using Support Vector Machines and Regression Analysis	Novi Senior High School, Novi	Kristin Franchi
Daniel Cao	Bridging the Nighttime Protection Gap: Sustained Enamel Protection via Surface-Retained Alginate Hydrogel Coatings	Troy High School, Troy	Rebecca Brewer
Kaiqi Huang	Intelligent Training System for Strabismus Rehabilitation Based on Eye Tracking and AR Technology	Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills	Stephanie Kokoszka
Rohan Khetan	Identifying Structural Bias in CMIP6 Sea Surface Temperature Simulations Using Reanalysis Data	Northville High School, Northville	Gabriel Pak
Divya Nema	Satellite Embeddings for Urban Land Cover Subtype Classification: A Nationwide Parking Lot Case Study and Framework	Novi Senior High School, Novi	James DiDio
Maraki Temesgem	AURA – Reducing Algorithmic Suppression Systems in Recommendation While Preserving Utility	Dearborn Center for Math, Science & Technology, Dearborn Heights	Jennifer Gorsline
Rushil Yeole	Sensitivity Analysis of Magnetic Particle Spectrometer for Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles	Novi Senior High School, Novi	James DiDio
William Zhang with Owen Osterbur	The Effect of Ionizing Solar Radiation on the Hydrophobic Properties of Wax-Based Superhydrophobic Surfaces	International Academy, Bloomfield Hills	Matthew Ferrari

Projects Receiving Certificates of Recognition		
Student(s)	**School, City**	**Teacher(s)**
Michael Hua Amruth Prasad	Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills	Stephanie Kokoszka
Alex Charvat with Preston Blum Tejas Khare Rishi Varre Hiba Zyna	Detroit Country Day Upper School, Beverly Hills	Chandler Tawney Patricia Hanlan Karen Lamb
James Francart	Grand Blanc High School, Grand Blanc	Joshua Wallberg
Judy Bai	Greenhills School, Ann Arbor	Cathy Renaud
Vedaang Daga	Hubert Henry Dow High School, Midland	Christine Brillhart
Aarav Jain Anthony Zhang with Pradyun Kalagara	International Academy, Bloomfield Hills	Matthew Ferrari
Lakshya Matele Ahyoung Song with Arnav Sharma	International Academy – East Campus, Troy	David Lyons
Ava Balint Austin Hale with Akshay Verma and Justin Zhou	Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center, Kalamazoo	Rebecca Joyce
Aneko Nichol with Amelia Cox	Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center, Warren	Jamie Hilliard
Aichatou Salifou Nina Shaye	Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center, Kalamazoo	Rebecca Joyce
Neel Yost with Kush Kolhe and Henrick Allman	Portage Northern High School, Portage	Rebecca Joyce
Ana Skendo	Troy High School, Troy	Rebecca Brewer

Alabama-Mississippi Chapter Conference Highlights Collaboration, Student Achievement

David Banks gives the keynote address about the future of statistics.

The University of Mississippi Department of Mathematics hosted the 2026 Annual Conference and Business Meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Chapter March 2, bringing together faculty, students, and professionals from across Alabama and Mississippi for a day of research exchange, professional networking, and statistical collaboration.

Presiding over the meeting was Elvan Ceyhan, professor at Auburn University, whose leadership emphasized the chapter's commitment to strengthening connections across institutions and supporting the next generation of statisticians. A talk was also given by Talmage Reid, chair of the department of mathematics about the history of the school.

The conference featured a keynote address by David Banks, professor at Duke University. His speech, titled "The Future of Statistics," was insightful and engaging. Reflecting on his experience, Banks said, "I am about to retire, but listening to the amazing presentations by the graduate students and junior faculty at the 2026 ASA AL-Mississippi Chapter Conference made me confident in the future of our profession."

Student engagement remained a central focus of the event, with research presentations spanning a wide range of statistical applications. Mithun Acharjee, awarded first in the student oral presentation from University of Alabama at Birmingham, said, "The scientific program at the 2026 ASA AL-MS Chapter Conference was very well organized and easy to follow, with a great mix of interesting and high-quality research. The keynote talk was insightful, and the student presentations were engaging and clearly presented. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and meaningful experience."

Faculty attendees also emphasized the value of the conference for fostering collaboration and professional growth. Mathias Muia, who presented in the new faculty spotlight session, reflected on the day: "I really enjoyed attending the 2026 Alabama-Mississippi Chapter Conference at the University of Mississippi. It was great reconnecting with former graduate school colleagues and professors, and I appreciated the chance to present in the new faculty spotlight session. I also enjoyed the student presentations and the keynote, and the conference was very well organized with strong support from the Ole Miss Mathematics Department students and faculty."

Nozara Sundus, a graduate teaching assistant from the department of mathematics and statistics at Auburn University added, "The conference fostered a collaborative and inspiring environment, bringing together high-quality research and enthusiastic student contributions. It was a rewarding experience both academically and professionally."

The conference was made possible through the efforts of the organizing committee, including Martial Longla, Xin Dang, and Hailin Sang, whose work ensured a smooth and welcoming experience for all participants. Student volunteers from the University of Mississippi also played a key role in supporting logistics and hospitality throughout the day.

The event concluded with a student awards ceremony recognizing outstanding poster and oral presentations. The chapter celebrated the achievements of emerging statisticians and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the next generation of researchers.

Learn more about the Alabama-Mississippi Chapter and upcoming events at *https://community.amstat.org/alabamachapter/main.* ■

Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science to Hold Conference in New York

The ASA Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science will hold the 2026 SLDS Conference November 1–3 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. Centered on the theme "Inference and Intelligence," the conference will bring together researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to exchange ideas at the forefront of statistical learning, data science, and artificial intelligence. The keynote program includes the following speakers:

- David Banks, Duke University, "The Future of Statistics"
- Dean Foster, Amazon, "Statistics and LLMs"
- David Rosenberg, Bloomberg, "Bond Price Nowcasting: Some Assembly Required"
- Bin Yu, University of California at Berkeley, "Veridical Deep Learning: Evaluation and Compositionality"
- Tian Zheng, Columbia University, "Statisticians in AI Education"

A total of 107 invited sessions over three days will cover a wide range of topics across statistical learning and data science. These sessions will reflect strong community engagement and the breadth of current work connecting statistical methodology, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data-driven applications.

SLDS 2026 will also offer six half-day short courses designed to provide practical training on emerging tools and methodologies shaping the field, including the following:

- Statistical and Algorithmic Foundations of Diffusion Models, led by Yuxin Chen and Yuting Wei
- Beyond the ATE, led by Ivan Diaz, Kara Rudolf, and Nick Williams
- Statistical Foundations of Transfer Learning, led by Yang Feng
- Optimization for Statistics, led by George Michailidis
- Veridical Data Science in the Age of AI, led by Bin Yu, Tiffany Tang, and Chandan Singh
- Deep Learning Methods in Advanced Statistical Problems, led by Hongtu Zhu, Xiao Wang, and Runpeng Dai

SLDS welcomes continued engagement from the broader statistical learning and data science community. Organizations interested in supporting the conference through sponsorship are encouraged to contact Jaime Speiser at *Jaime.Speiser@wfusm.edu* for information about partnership opportunities.

Submissions to the Early Career Researcher Paper Award competition closed in May. Six winners will be selected, including at least three graduate students, based on peer review evaluating novelty, clarity, and rigor. Award winners will receive travel support and present in a dedicated session; other submissions will be merged into a poster session, with opportunities for poster awards. Questions about the competition may be directed to Nathaniel Sean O'Connell at *Nathaniel.Oconnell@wfusm.edu*.

Support from the National Science Foundation will help facilitate participation by students and junior researchers. Additionally, a special issue in the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* will be organized in connection with the conference. The issue will be guest-edited by Joshua Cape, Lucas Mentch, Yang Ning, and Boxiang Wang. Conference participants are invited to submit full papers for consideration, with submissions undergoing the journal's standard peer-review process.

Registration for SLDS 2026 is open. Additional information about registration, the program, the keynotes, short courses, and conference logistics is available at *https://asa-slds.github.io/slds2026*. ■

Top Ten Classic Novels—Statistician's Versions

Ron Wasserstein

Amstat News continues its lighthearted series from ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein with his traditional "Top 10" list, first shared on the *Practical Significance* podcast. As Ron likes to say, "The *Practical Significance* podcast strives to improve our listener's lives." He's been reading quite a bit lately, which led him to wonder what classic works of fiction might have been if they'd been written with statisticians in mind.

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

10
Great Expectations and Variances
Young Pip learns the hard way that knowing the expected value of your inheritance tells you very little without also knowing the variance.

09
The Scarlet P-Value
Hester is condemned to wear a $p > 0.05$ sign for the rest of her life and is forever excluded from the published literature.

08
Brave New Distribution
In this dystopian world, all citizens are assumed to be drawn from the same population. Outliers are not tolerated.

07 *Pride and Confidence Intervals*
Elizabeth Bennet refuses to accept any suitor whose results she cannot replicate. Mr. Darcy eventually provides adequate documentation of his methods.

06 *To Kill a Confounding Variable*
Atticus Finch argues passionately that correlation is not causation, but the enumerated jury has already made up its mind.

05 *Catch-22 Degrees of Freedom*
Yossarian is frustrated because Major Major's model overfits the data and explains absolutely nothing.

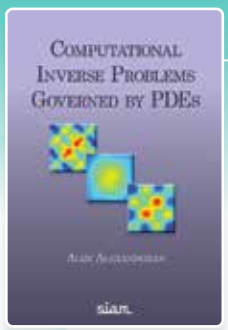
04
The Count of Monte Carlo
You knew this would be on the list. By running simulations, Edmond Dantès discovers that revenge is not ultimately satisfying.

03
Frankenstein's Prior
A statistician assembles a model from parts of other models but, horrified by what it predicts, abandons it.

02 *The Brothers Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test*
Three brothers from different, but related, distributions and a burning question—is Fyodor's servant from the same distribution?

#01
The Great Galsby
Gatsby learns that lavish parties cannot make his data follow a normal distribution, as he is sure they once did.

New books from SIAM



Computational Inverse Problems Governed by PDEs • Alen Alexanderian

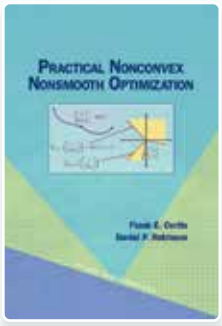
This textbook focuses on computational methods for inverse problems that are governed by partial differential equations (PDEs). The author considers deterministic and Bayesian formulations and highlights how traditional tools from deterministic inversion can be integrated into solution methods for Bayesian inverse problems. Advanced topics such as post-optimality sensitivity analysis, optimal design of experiments, and Bayesian inversion under model uncertainty are also included.

2026 • xvi + 320 pages • Softcover • 9781611978810 • List $89.00 • SIAM Member $62.30 • OT211

Scientific Computing in Modern C++ • Victor Eijkhout

This book is for aspiring computer programmers with a basic knowledge of C++ who want to deepen their understanding of the language, specifically for use in scientific computing. It discusses scientific computing from a software perspective, covering a wide range of topics¬¬, including the finer points of C++, specific idioms of C++ in scientific computing, parallelism, considerations of hardware and performance, and "carpentry" topics, such as CMake, that extend beyond basic programming to make you a more productive programmer. The book focuses on computing "idioms" and applications—rather than a complete treatment of the C++ language—as well as peripheral "carpentry" topics. The C++ topics discussed are chosen for their relevance to computing, and other topics are purposely excluded. Additionally, several topics relevant to scientific computing are included that are not intimately tied to C++ as a language.

2026 • xii + 466 pages • Softcover • 97816119786056 • List $89.00 • SIAM Member $62.30 • SE33



Practical Nonconvex Nonsmooth Optimization • Frank E. Curtis and Daniel P. Robinson

This book provides a clear and accessible introduction to an important class of problems in mathematical optimization: those involving continuous functions that may be nonconvex, nonsmooth, or both. The authors begin with an intuitive treatment of theoretical foundations, including properties of nonconvex and nonsmooth functions and conditions for optimality. They then offer a broad overview of the most effective and efficient algorithms for solving such problems, with a focus on practical applications in areas such as control systems, signal processing, and data science. This book focuses on problems in finite-dimensional real-vector spaces and introduces concepts through nonconvex smooth optimization, making the material more accessible.

2025 • xxvi + 483 pages • Hardcover • 9781611978582 • List $92.00 • SIAM Member $64.40 • MO36

Algorithms from THE BOOK
Second Edition • Kenneth Lange

Most books on algorithms are narrowly focused on a single field of application. This unique book cuts across discipline boundaries, exposing readers to the most successful algorithms from a variety of fields. Since publication of the first edition of *Algorithms from THE BOOK*, the number of new algorithms has swelled exponentially, with the fields of neural net modeling and natural language processing leading the way. These developments warranted the addition of a new chapter on automatic differentiation and its applications to neural net modeling. The second edition also adds worked exercises and introduces new algorithms in existing chapters. In *Algorithms from THE BOOK, Second Edition*, the majority of algorithms are accompanied by Julia code for experimentation, the many classroom-tested exercises at the end of each chapter make the material suitable for use as a textbook, and appendices contain not only background material often missing in undergraduate education but also solutions to selected problems.

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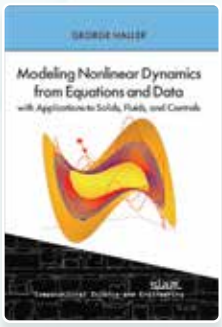

Modeling Nonlinear Dynamics from Equations and Data
with Applications to Solids, Fluids, and Controls • George Haller

This concise text presents an introduction to the emerging area of reducing complex nonlinear differential equations or time-resolved data sets to spectral submanifolds (SSMs). SSMs are ubiquitous low-dimensional attracting invariant manifolds that can be constructed systematically, building on the spectral properties of the linear part of a nonlinear system. SSM-based model reduction has a solid mathematical foundation and hence is guaranteed to deliver accurate and predictive reduced-order models under a precise set of assumptions. This book introduces the foundations of SSM theory to the novice reader; reviews recent extensions of classic SSM results for the advanced reader; and illustrates the power of SSM reduction on a large collection of equation- and data-driven applications in fluid mechanics, solid mechanics, and control.

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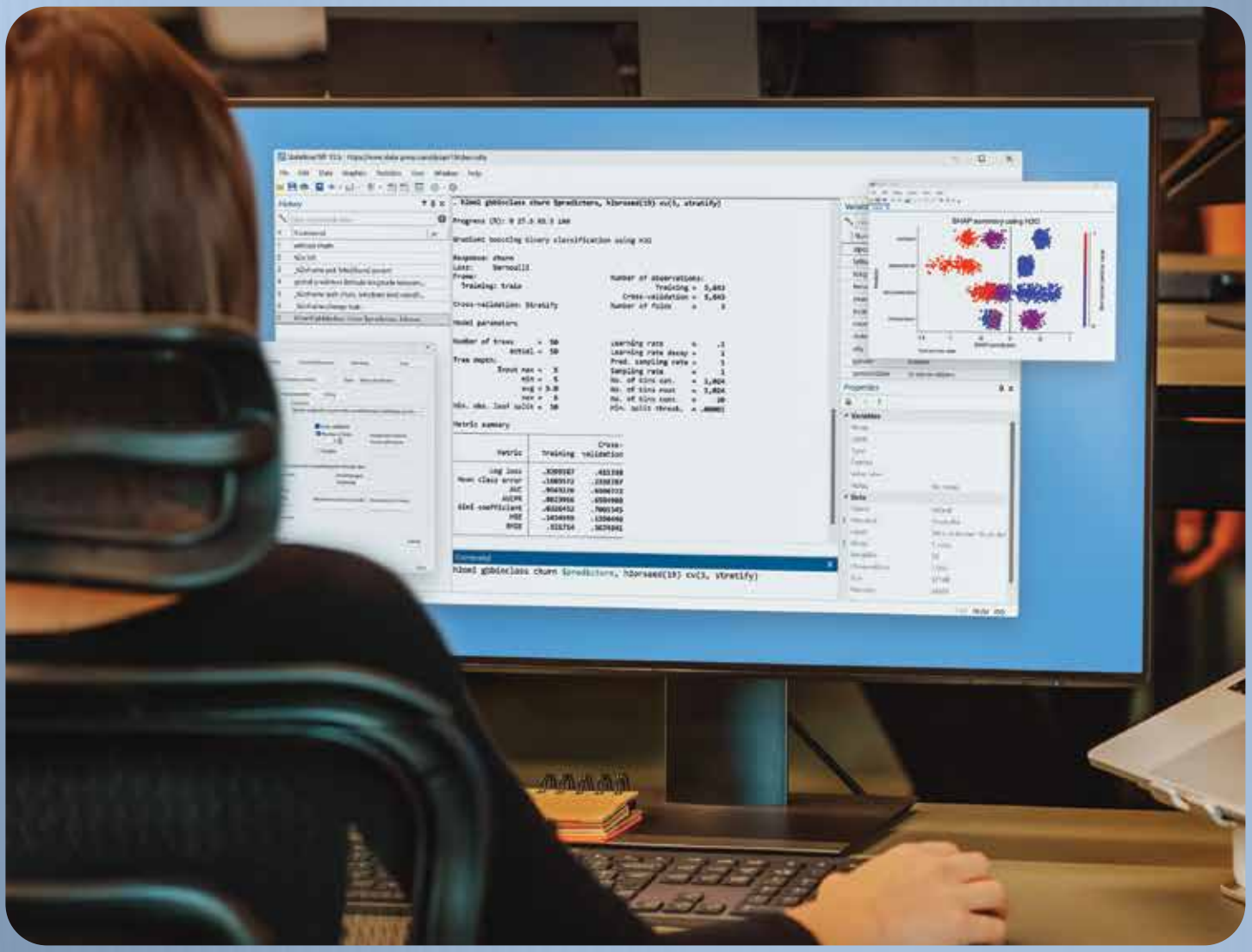

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