ASA Biometrics Section

Message from the Chair

Exciting News from the Biometrics Section!

2025 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Nashville: As we look ahead, we are gearing up for the 2025 Joint Statistical Meetings in Nashville, Tennessee (August 2–7). We've organized an exciting lineup of short courses that you won't want to miss. This year, we'll also partner with Statistics in Epidemiology to host a joint mixer. This mixer will celebrate all our achievements, including honoring our paper award recipients and the soon-to-be-announced Annie T. Randall Award winner. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues, share ideas, and celebrate the accomplishments of our community. A big thank you to Stata for their generous support in sponsoring this mixer!

Congratulations to Newly Elected ASA Fellows & Executive Committee Members: We'd like to take a moment to celebrate our **newly elected ASA Fellows** and **new members** of our executive committee. We also extend our appreciation to everyone who ran for elected positions. Your involvement is what strengthens our community and helps us continue to grow together!

Exclusive Coaching Opportunity for Biometric Section Members: In light of the challenges many of us are facing, we are excited to offer an exclusive coaching opportunity for Biometric Section Members. Thanks to the Wayfinder Life Coach Training Program, we are offering free, one-on-one coaching sessions with coaches who are nearing certification. These coaches are trained in evidence-based practices and provide support in areas such as career growth, leadership, time management, work-life balance, and overall well-being. This is a win-win: you receive top-tier coaching at no cost, while coaches continue refining their skills. Coaching spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to secure your spot by clicking this **link** or scanning the QR below to book a discovery call.

The **Biometrics Section** is for ASA members with special interests in the development and application of biostatistical and biomathematical methods and the interpretation of quantitative data in the biological sciences, including agriculture, biology, health, medicine, and related fields. The Biometrics Section will represent these interests within the ASA and cooperate with outside groups, most notably the North American region of the International Biometric Society, the Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association, Society for Clinical Trials, and Section U of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in effectively furthering common purposes.

Warm regards,

Tanya P. Garcia

Tanya Garcia,
2025 Chair
Biometrics Section

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2025 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETING
BIOMETRICS SHORT COURSES

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1

Bayesian Transmission Process Modeling: Epidemics, Invasive Species and Beyond

Instructors: Rob Deardon Ph.D. and Caitlin Ward Ph.D.
Date and Time: Sunday August 3 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: CC-109, Music City Center

Description: Epidemic and transmission models gained attention following the COVID-19 pandemic. Inference for such models are complicated by latent variables (infection times) and complex heterogeneities (populations do mix homogeneously) yielding the need for spatial and/or network-based models often implemented using Bayesian Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) framework. Classic SIR population-level model and more complex individual-level models will be investigated using real epidemic data on Ebola and COVID-19, and via simulation. R packages deSolve, Nimble and Epi-ILM.

Skills for Statistical Writing: Tips and Tricks for Improving Written Communication

Instructors: Emily Griffith Ph.D. and Julia Sharp, Ph.D.
Dates and Times: Part 1: Sunday August 3 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
                     Part 2: Monday August 4 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: CC-105A, Music City Center

Description: Conveying statistical information through written communication is a critical skill for statisticians, but one that is not necessarily taught formally in our curricula. In this course, we'll focus on principles and best practices for statistical writing. It will have hands-on and interactive writing exercises to improve skills and confidence in written statistical communication. The instructors will provide tips, tricks, and resources. The course will also cover organization, editing and reviewing, and considerations for scopes of work and statistical analysis plans.

Disentangle the Semiparametric Structure in Statistical Models, with Applications in Causal Inference and Model Transportability

Instructor: Jiwei Zhao Ph.D.
Date and Time: Monday August 4 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: CC-110A, Music City Center

Description: Offers statisticians and data scientists a comprehensive overview of disentangling semiparametric structures in statistical models—an approach that has become central to model-agnostic frameworks driving advances in causal inference, precision medicine, domain adaptation, and model generalization. Explore both classical and state-of-the-art semiparametric techniques, with a focus on their roles in balancing efficiency and robustness. The course will provide practical tools, including efficient influence functions and double/debiased machine learning methods, along with hands-on experience using R and Python. Two real-world case studies on estimating treatment effects in causal inference and evaluating model transportability from RCTs to target populations.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Joint Biometrics and Epidemiology Sections Mixer sponsored by Stata. Details of time and place to be announced in June.
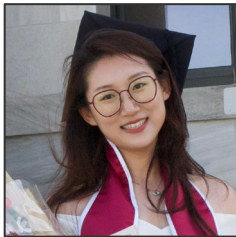
REMINDER: Sign up for the Biometrics Section when renewing ASA memberships. Dues support all our awards for junior statisticians and sponsored JSM and other conference activities.

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Contributions to the newsletter are welcome from all Biometrics Section members. Please send submissions to Andrea Cook (andrea.j.cook@kp.org).

2025 David P Byar Early Career Award Recipients

The David P Byar Early Career Award is given annually to a new researcher in the Biometrics Section who presents an original manuscript at the Joint Statistical Meetings. The award commemorates David Byar, a renowned biostatistician who made significant contributions to the development and application of statistical methods during his career at the National Cancer Institute. In addition, we give out paper awards to deserving recipients.

JSM Biometrics Section Early Career Award Session: Tuesday August 5 10:30AM-12:20PM

David P. Byar Early Career Award

Yu Lu, Doctoral Student in the Department of Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins University
Title: Generalized Conditional Functional Principal Component Analysis
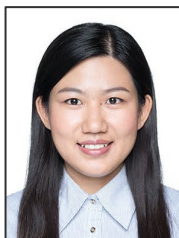
Early Career Paper Awards

Ajmery Jaman, Doctoral Student in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health at McGill University
Title: Penalized G-Estimation for Effect Modifier Selection in a Structural Nested Mean Model for Repeated Outcomes"

Leif Verace, Doctoral Student in the Division of Biostatistics and Health Data Science at the University of Minnesota
Title: Marginal Longitudinal Function-on-Function Regression

Qiao Wang, Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Duke University
Title: Bayesian Hierarchical Models with Calibrated Mixtures of G-Priors for Assessing Treatment Effect Moderation in Meta-Analysis

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Fill in this form **Social Media Post Request** or contact Sarah Lotspeich (**lotspes@wfu.edu**)

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