ASA Biometrics Section

Biometrics by the Numbers:

1800+	Current Section Members
2	JSM 2025 Short Courses
4	Early Career Paper Recipients
4	Strategic Initiative Grants

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year, and welcome to the first Biometrics Section newsletter of 2026! I hope the year is off to a strong and energizing start for you, both professionally and personally. I'm honored to begin my term as Chair and excited for what we have ahead as a section.

This issue highlights the strength, creativity, and engagement of our community. You'll find an introduction to our **2026 section officers**, who bring a wide range of expertise and perspectives and are deeply committed to serving our members. I'm grateful for their willingness to step into these roles and for the continuity they provide as we move forward.

We are excited to recognize this year's recipients of the **Strategic Initiatives Grant**. These initiatives reflect thoughtful, member-driven ideas for innovative outreach projects aimed at increasing awareness of biostatistics among U.S. students. I encourage you to take a moment to learn more about these efforts and the teams behind them. This program is made possible through a collaboration between the **ASA Biometrics** and **Biopharmaceutical Sections**, and we extend our sincere thanks to our co-sponsor, the **ASA Biopharmaceutical Section,** for their partnership and commitment to fostering the next generation of statisticians and biostatisticians.

Finally, we open the call for nominations for the **Annie T. Randall Innovator Award**. This award celebrates impactful and innovative contributions to the field, and I hope you will consider nominating a colleague whose work deserves recognition. Our community thrives when we take the time to celebrate one another.

As always, the Biometrics Section depends on the energy and involvement of its members. Whether through volunteering, nominating colleagues, proposing new ideas, or simply staying engaged, your participation makes a real difference. I look forward to working together this year and to connecting with many of you at upcoming meetings and events.

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.

Thank you for being part of the Biometrics Section, and I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

All the best,

Ana Ortega-Villa, PhD
Chair, ASA Biometrics Section

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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).

2026 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.
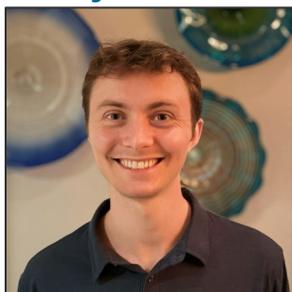
David P. Byar Early Career Award

Rakheon Kim, Assistant Professor, Baylor University
Title: A Covariate-Dependent Cholesky Decomposition for High-Dimensional Covariance Regression with Application to Co-Expression
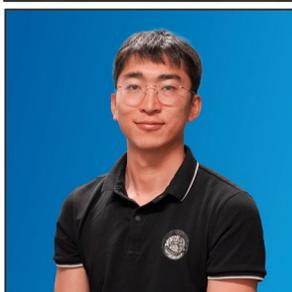
Early Career Paper Awards

Ethan Ashby, Doctoral Student, University of Washington
Title: Debiasing Hazard-Based, Time-Varying Vaccine Effects Using Vaccine-Irrelevant Infections: An Observational Extension of a Phase 3 COVID-19 Vaccine Efficacy Trial

Rebecca Deek, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh
Title: Distance-Based Mutual Information Test of Multivariate Microbiome Multiomics Studies

Qi Xu, Postdoctoral Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University
Title: Blockwise Missingness Meets AI: A Tractable Solution for Semiparametric Inference

CONGRATULATIONS!!

See our Biometric Section's website for previous winners and 2027 applications to open this fall due November 15, 2026

https://community.amstat.org/biometricsbiom/award/byaraward

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2025 Strategic Initiative Grant Recipients

The ASA Biometrics Section, in collaboration with the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section, provides funding to support innovative outreach projects focused on enhancing awareness of biostatistics for US students. We particularly are interested in projects that will encourage students to pursue advanced training in biostatistics and statistics. This could be a student event, student experience, or other projects designed to help students gain awareness of biostatistics and how they might use it in their future careers. Award recipients must be an ASA member and we strongly encourage joining the Biometrics Section before initiation of the project.

Miguel Antonio Fudolig
University of Nevada, School of Public Health, Las Vegas, NV
"Statistics Awareness Game Day"

Jingwei Wu
Temple University, College of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA
"Discover Your Future in Biostatistics Day"

Peng Yang
Clindata Insight Inc, Moraga, CA
"Data Detectives Competition: Exploring the Role of Statistics in Health Science"

Seonja Kim
Middlesex College, Edison NJ
"Workshop highlighting the fun and impact of Biostatistics"

CONGRATULATIONS!!

THANK YOU Milan Bimali and Nicole Dalzell for co-chairing the
Strategic Initiative Grant Committee

See our Biometric Section's website for previous winners and applications to open this summer due September 1, 2026

https://community.amstat.org/biometricsbiom/award/sig

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CURRENT OPEN OPPORTUNITIES:

2026 ANNIE T. RANDALL INNOVATOR AWARD
Due March 15, 2026

The Annie T. Randall Innovator Award was established to recognize early-career statistical innovators across all job sectors and with any level of educational attainment. The award was named in honor of pathbreaking Annie T. Randall for her trailblazing career in government amid pervasive racial discrimination. Randall, a black woman, has a powerful story and legacy in statistics that are an inspiration to future generations of trailblazers. Established in 2020 by the Biometrics Section, the award provides a $2,000 prize each year.

Selection Criteria

Winners are selected by the Annie T. Randall Innovator Award Committee. To be eligible for the award, candidates should be in the early phase of their professional statistical careers. While no more than 10 years into their career is a guideline, career interruptions and transitions would not be included in this count. The committee appreciates that nontraditional paths are common for trailblazers, and thus there is no firm cutoff for the definition of early phase. There are also no degree requirements for this award. Candidates must also be members of the Biometrics Section to be considered for the award.

A personal statement or nomination letter should discuss how the candidate has pushed boundaries in statistics toward the betterment of the field and society, as well as how they embody Annie T. Randall's tenacious and resolute commitment to excellence. How the candidate meets the broad definition of early career described above should also be addressed in the personal statement or nomination letter.

Nominations

Self-nomination or nomination by someone other than the candidate is welcome. Individuals from underrepresented and historically excluded groups in statistics are encouraged to apply.

Submissions should include:
- Candidate résumé or CV
- Candidate personal statement **or** nomination letter (1–2 pages)
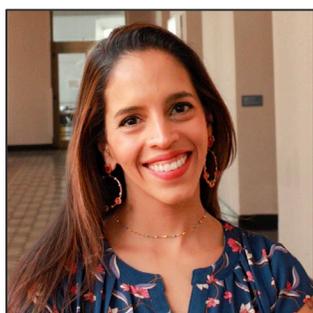
Materials should be emailed to award committee chair, Sherri Rose, sherrirose@standford.edu. https://www.amstat.org/your-career/awards/annie-t-randall-innovator-award

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Have something you want us to post??
Fill in this form **Social Media Post Request** or contact Sarah Lotspeich (**lotspes@wfu.edu**)

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2026 BIOMETRICS OFFICERS

Ana Ortega-Villa
Biogen
Chair

Alexia Lasonos
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
Chair-Elect

Tanya P. Garcia
UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School
of Public Health
Past-Chair

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay
Virginia Commonwealth
University
Secretary/Treasurer

Andrea Cook
Kaiser Permanente Washington
Health Research Institute
**Publications and Social
Media, Co-Chair**

Sarah Lotspeich
Wake Forest University
**Publications and Social
Media, Co-Chair and
Council of Section
Representative**

Carmen Tekwe
Indiana University
**Council of Sections
Representative**

Maryclare Griffin
University of Massachusetts
Amherst
Continuing Education Chair

Adriy Derkach
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
JSM Program Chair

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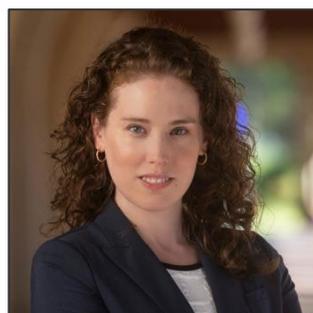
2026 BIOMETRICS OFFICERS

Milan Bimali
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Strategic Initiatives Grant, Co-Chair

Nicole Dalzell
Wake Forest University
Strategic Initiatives Grant, Co-Chair

Lucy D'Agostino McGowan
Wake Forest University
BYAR Award Committee, Co-Chair

Sherri Rose
Standford University School of Medicine
Annie T. Randall Award Chair

Usha Govindarajula
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Sponsorship Chair

Christopher Franck
Virginia Tech
ENAR Program Chair

THANK YOU for your valuable service!

We want to also recognize 2025 Biometrics Officers that completed their service!

Tanya P. Garcia, 2025 Chair
Jennifer Bobb, 2025 Past-Chair
Usha Govindarajula, 2025 JSM Program Chair
Ming Wang, 2025 BYAR Award Committee, Co-Chair
Ben Saville, 2026 ENAR Program Chair (Term ended 2025)

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