JULY 2026

ASA Biometrics Section

Biometrics by the Numbers:

1800+	Current Section Members
3	JSM 2026 Short Courses
4	Early Career Paper Recipients
34	Sessions hosted at JSM

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

As summer is in full swing, I hope many of you are looking forward to the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), which will take place in **Boston, Massachusetts, August 1–6**. JSM is one of the highlights of the year for our profession, bringing together statisticians from across academia, industry, and government to share new ideas, learn from one another, and strengthen our community. I am especially excited to welcome many of you to Boston and to all that the ASA Biometrics Section has planned.

Our Section has put together an outstanding scientific program featuring **4 invited sessions, 12 topic-contributed sessions, and 18 contributed sessions**, showcasing the breadth and impact of biometrics research across a wide range of applications. We are also offering **three short courses**, providing excellent opportunities to develop new skills and engage with experts in our field. I encourage you to explore the program highlights and take advantage of these exciting learning opportunities!

One event you won't want to miss is the **ASA Biometrics Section Mixer**, which will be held jointly with the **Section on Statistics in Epidemiology** on **Monday, August 3, from 5:30–7:30 p.m.** The mixer is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet new members of our community, and celebrate this year's section award recipients. I hope you will join us for an evening of community building and celebration.

None of these activities would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. On behalf of the Biometrics Section, I extend my sincere gratitude to **Ersen Aserven** (Platinum Sponsor), **Stata** (Gold Sponsor), and **SAS** (Silver Sponsor) for their partnership and commitment to supporting our community.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Boston. Safe travels, enjoy the meeting, and thank you for being part of the ASA Biometrics Section!

All the best,

Ana Ortega-Villa, PhD
Chair, ASA Biometrics Section

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.

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

2026 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETING

BIOMETRICS SHORT COURSES

Registration Still Open

Causal Inference in Randomized Controlled Trials (CE 05)

Instructors: Robin Dunn, Tianmeng Lyu, Alex Ocampo and Dong Xi
Date and Time: Sunday August 2 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Location: CC-153B Convention & Exhibition Center
Description: One key goal of drug development is to assess causal effects of investigational treatments versus control treatments. Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have traditionally served as the basis for establishing these causal effects. While the ICH E9(R1) pharmaceutical guideline does not use the word 'causal', its ideas around precisely defining treatment effects (via estimands) are closely related to defining causal effects (via potential outcomes). Specific topics include estimation of causal effects, mediation analysis, principal stratum estimands, and conditional and marginal treatment effects.

Understanding and Tackling Measurement Error: A Review of Modern Practical Methods (CE 02)

Instructors: Pamela Shaw and Paul Gustafson
Dates and Times: Sunday August 2 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Location: CC-150 Convention & Exhibition Center
Description: Measurement error and misclassification of variables are frequently encountered in epidemiological and clinical research and involve variables of considerable importance such as dietary intakes, physical activity, smoking, and environmental pollutants. The rising interest in research with electronic health records has brought new challenges and renewed interest in robust and practical methods to address error prone exposures and outcomes. The overall objective of this course is to introduce the issues raised by measurement error and the implementation of practical analysis approaches to mitigate its effects. We will begin with a discussion of the effects of measurement error in regression analyses, then move to techniques for mitigating those effects via statistical analysis and study design. Analytical methods include regression calibration, simulation extrapolation(SIMEX), likelihood-based, and Bayesian methods.

Power Struggles: Winning with Simulation-Based Sample Size Determination for Biomedical Research and Beyond (CE 24)

Instructor: Byran Smucker
Date and Time: Tuesday August 4 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Location: CC-154 Convention & Exhibition Center
Description: This course shows how to perform simulation-based power analysis and sample size calculation. It is intended for statisticians, data scientists, and other data and data-savvy professionals involved in biomedical research. The course includes classical sample size approaches along with simulation as an attractive alternative which can be used for both simple and complex studies, in a way that precisely reflects the statistical analysis that will be done. We will focus on relatively standard models (ANOVA, logistic regression, and mixed models), but with an emphasis on the complexities of real-world statistical analysis and the flexibility of simulation-based power analysis to accommodate these complexities.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Joint Biometrics and Epidemiology Sections Mixer
Location: Westin Boston Seaport District W-Faneuil
Date and Time: Monday August 3 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

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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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.

Biometrics Section Early Career Award Session at JSM
Tuesday August 4 10:30AM-12:20PM CC-257B

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 Detection

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 Association in Microbiome Multiomics Studies

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

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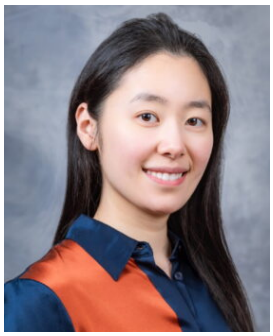
Annie T. Randall Innovator Award

The Annie T. Randall Innovator Award was established in 2020 by the ASA Biometrics Section 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. Not only was Randall a woman in the workforce during the 1940s and 50s, but she was also the first professional African-American in several government agencies in which she worked. Randall was a mathematical statistician at the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) in the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics branch. She was responsible for the calculations behind the book *Human Aging,* published in the late 1960s and still used today for behavioral and biological studies. At NIMH, she used one of the first mainframe computers and the Friden Calculator (featured in "Hidden Figures"). Randall received numerous letters of commendation from multiple sources, including the University of Pennsylvania and National Academy of Sciences. Randall has a powerful story and legacy in statistics that are an inspiration to future generations of trailblazers.

2026 Annie T. Randall Innovator Recipient



Dr. Shu (Joy) Jiang, PhD
Associate Professor of Public Health
Division of Public Health Sciences
Washington University of Medicine

Dr. Jiang is a biostatistician who is the co-developer of technology that harnesses artificial intelligence (AI) to analyze mammograms and improve the accuracy of predicting a woman's personalized five-year risk of developing breast cancer. Last year, the software received Breakthrough Device designation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and was acquired by Lunit, a leading company in developing AI-based technologies for cancer prevention and early detection.

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