

CHAPTER CHATTER

Summer 2014, Volume 4, Number 2

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A publication of the American Statistical Association

Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB)

<http://www.amstat.org/chapters/coc.cfm>



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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the summer 2014 issue of ***Chapter Chatter***, the newsletter for and about ASA chapters. The COCGB established this publication to foster improved communications i) between the COCGB and chapters, and ii) among chapters by providing a forum for spreading news throughout the statistics community about ASA chapter initiatives and activities.

Board Members, Chapter Officers, and Chapter Reps are encouraged to attend invited sessions, business meeting and workshops.

A fall issue of Chapter Chatter is planned to be sent before Thanksgiving 2014. Send articles and share your plans for the fall and winter, as well as any other item

that should be disseminated in the greater ASA chapter community.

Let me know if you have any suggestions about this newsletter (its content, format, distribution, etc.). I am interested in suggestions on how to facilitate more effective communication between chapters and enable you to use the COCGB as a resource.

Finally, please send me information about guest speakers, short courses and seminars, symposia, and other exciting events that are planned for by your chapter so that I can inform other chapters about your activities through this newsletter.

Enjoy this issue of ***Chapter Chatter***.

Anamaria Kazanis
Editor

ASA PRESIDENT NATANIEL SCHENKER TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

I'm honored to be your president, especially during the [ASA's 175th anniversary](#) year! We have several celebratory activities planned for [JSM 2014](#), and I hope to see you there. Also, please [let the ASA know](#) of chapter events associated with the anniversary.

As I'll mention in my [ASA President's Address](#) at the JSM, chapters have played a special role in my career. In particular, when I moved twice during my first three years after grad school, the chapters in my new locations provided welcoming communities and great sources of visibility, colleagues, and friends. Such functions, along with activities in education, service, promoting statistical science, and helping the ASA to be [The Big Tent for Statistics](#), are critical roles for chapters.

One of my favorite activities as president has been [visiting chapters](#) and speaking at your meetings. I've visited three chapters so far, will visit another this summer, and look forward to future visits. Several other visits have been or will be made by the ASA executive director, ASA board members, and members of the Council of Chapters Governing Board. For

more discussion of my visits, what I learned, and some words of advice from me to chapters, see my upcoming (August) [President's Corner](#).

Let me now report briefly on the progress of my 3.333... presidential initiatives. We're [updating the ASA's curriculum guidelines for undergraduate programs in statistical science](#).



The initiative workgroup has drafted new guidelines along with several papers on specific aspects of undergraduate statistical education. In addition, *The American Statistician* is planning a [special issue](#) on the topic.

We're building a prototype web portal, a "[Statistical Commons](#)," which we'd like to become a one-stop source of statistical material that does not appear in journals, such as government reports, teaching materials, software, and books. The workgroup has produced a "draft prototype." After it is refined and tested, the ASA board will decide on future steps.

We're [developing training in leadership for statisticians](#). The workgroup has developed a course for the upcoming JSM that is already sold out! Further training will be developed in the future.

My final initiative, joint with past presidents Marie Davidian and Bob Rodriguez (hence the 0.333...), focuses on aspects of [the role of our profession in big data and data science](#). Short courses on text analytics have been/will be included at this year's Conference on Statistical Practice and JSM; we're developing guidelines for training graduate students to contribute to big data and data science; and we're

conducting meetings around the country with leaders in data science, to make new contacts, broaden our thinking, and promote the role of our profession.

Although it's not one of my presidential initiatives per se, I should mention that in August, the ASA will launch a [national campaign for statistics](#), which will focus on benefits of studying statistics in college, rewards of careers in statistics, and important contributions of our profession to society.

Happy anniversary, and many thanks to Anamaria Kazanis for inviting me to write an article in *Chapter Chatter*.

**BREAKING NEWS: PUERTO RICO CHAPTER
COC MEETINGS AT JSM2014
John Stevens, COCGB Chair**

I am excited to announce that as of July 3rd, 2014, the Council of Chapters Governing Board has approved the petition to create a new chapter of the ASA in Puerto Rico. This is an exciting development for ASA members there, and we look forward to helping this chapter thrive. Special thanks to the inaugural President of this chapter,

Roberto Rivera, who worked to make this happen, and welcome to the Puerto Rico chapter members and officers!

The 2014 JSM in Boston will be full of great talks and activities, and I hope our chapter members are also looking forward to benefitting from the meetings sponsored by the Council of Chapters.

Business Meetings: Each chapter should arrange to have one member (probably the Chapter Representative or other officer, but even a non-officer would be welcome) to the following two meetings (food is served at both):

- *Tuesday 7:00-10:00*
Council of Chapters Breakfast / Business Meeting, (Westin Grand Ballroom C; this meeting includes a chance to review recent chapter activities, talk with ASA leaders about how chapters fit in with their initiatives, and vote on Council of Chapters-related business items.)
- *Tuesday 4:00-6:00*
Council of Chapters Workshop / Officer Appreciation Reception. (Westin Grand Ballroom C; this is a less formal meeting where ideas are shared for strengthening chapters, chapter successes are highlighted, and discussions are held regarding how to use the chapter structure to strengthen the profession.)

Get Your Ribbon: Chapter Representatives (or whichever chapter member is filling that role at JSM) can pick up a ribbon for their

name badge when they check in at the registration area of JSM. After picking up your materials, just check at the JSM registration help desk. If you forget, we should have ribbons available at the Tuesday morning business meeting.

Sponsored Sessions: The Council of Chapters is sponsoring (or co-sponsoring) the following two sessions, and we encourage chapter members to make an effort to attend:

- *Sunday 2:00-3:50* - “Technology’s Impact on Statistics Education: Past, Present, and Future” (Convention Center 104B; this session is organized by the local chapter [Boston])
- *Tuesday 10:30-12:20* - “Challenges and Opportunities for Statistics in the Next 25 Years” (Convention Center 102A; this session is organized by members selected by the Council of Chapters Governing Board)

Thanks again to all of our great chapter officers, and safe travels to Boston!

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: STATISTICS IN EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
PERSONALIZED MEDICINE AND COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH

Carrie Li

The 12th annual Connecticut Chapter Mini-Conference: Statistics in Evidence Synthesis—Personalized Medicine and Comparative Effectiveness Research was held on March 26, 2014 on the Boehringer-Ingelheim campus in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Over 70 participants attended this one-day event.



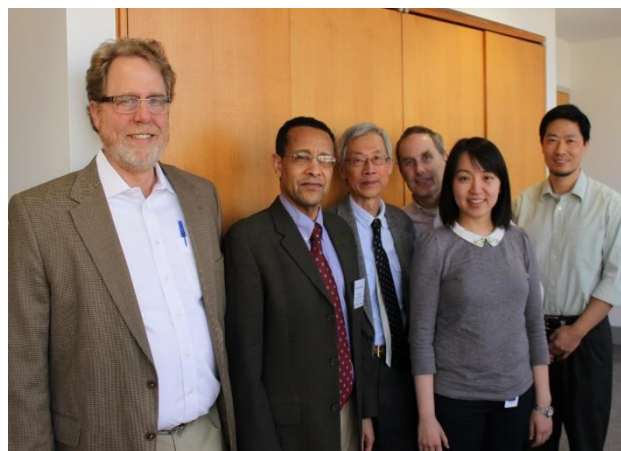
Conference chair Carrie Li presides over the panel discussion. Invited speakers (left to right: Lei Shen, Jason Hsu, Christopher Schmid and Demissie Alemayehu)

Invited speakers included Lei Shen, Eli Lilly & Company; Jason Hsu, Eli Lilly &

Company and the Ohio State University; Eric Laber, North Carolina State University; Demissie Alemayehu, Pfizer Inc.; and Christopher Schmid, Brown University.

A contributed poster session was held as part of the conference. The panel discussion was held with all invited speakers. Speakers' slides are available at:

http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/MiniConference/2014_miniconf_index.htm



Left to right: Chapter President Dan Meyer, Demissie Alemayehu, Jason Hsu, Christopher Schmid, Conference chair Carrie Li, Lei Shen.

NEVADA CHAPTER: ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

The chapter will be holding its annual meeting and symposium this year at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on

October 18. We are pleased to have Dr. Javier Rojo as the keynote speaker for the event. Dr. Rojo is the new Chair of the

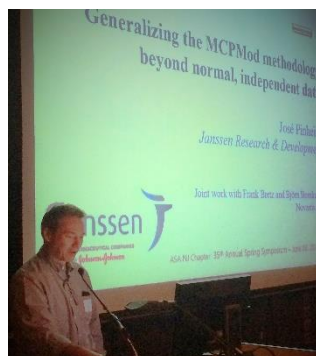
Math Department at the University of Nevada, Reno and is also the Seneca C. and Mary B. Weeks Endowed Chair. He has received many awards and recognitions including being elected a fellow of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Royal Statistical Society, the International Statistical Institute and the National System of Researchers. The annual event will also include interesting presentations and discussions on selected statistical topics for the morning and afternoon symposium as well as fellowship and food!

Several members of the Nevada chapter will be attending JSM in Boston and we are hoping to stage a mini-reunion dinner or lunch during the festivities. Setting up a mini-reunion at JSM is a challenge given the wide variety of meetings, presentations and other festivities attended by chapter members, but the chapter always tries to get together during the JSM conferences. If you are or have been affiliated with the Nevada chapter and want to join us, please contact Deb Stiver, NV-ASA President, at stiver@unr.edu. The invitation is extended to anyone interested in the Nevada Chapter.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

35th ANNUAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM MODEL BASED DRUG DEVELOPMENT

The New Jersey Chapter held its 35th Annual Spring symposium at UMDNJ/Rutgers on June 6th 2014. This year's theme was Model Based Drug Development. Approximately 70 people heard excellent talks by experts in the field including: Jose Pinheiro (Johnson & Johnson, "Generalizing the MCPMod Dose Finding



Methodology Beyond Normal, Independent Data"), Neal Thomas (Pfizer, "Meta-analysis of Clinical Dose Response in a Large Drug Development Portfolio"), Yaning Wang (FDA, "Integration of Knowledge from Late Phase Trials to Support Regulatory Decisions"), Gary Rosner (Johns Hopkins, "Modeling and Simulation to Improve the Design of Clinical Trials") and David Ohlssen (Novartis, "Bayesian Evidence Synthesis in Drug Development and Comparative Effectiveness Research"). The



mostly statistical audience actively engaged with the speakers throughout the symposium and also participated in a panel discussion by the invited speakers at the end. Slides for the presentation are available at:

<http://www.amstat.org/chapters/newjersey>.

The New Jersey Chapter rolled out its 2014 Summer Virtual Internship program for New Jersey high school Statistics students. Students were invited to apply and select from a list of proposed research topics. Research and data analysis will be done by the students who will submit a



(Left to right) Steve Ascher (President, NJ Chapter) – J&J; Ratna Revankar – J&J; Jing Gong (Secretary, NJ Chapter) – Allergan; Dirk Moore – UMDNJ/Rutgers; Peng-Liang Zhao (Vice President, NJ Chapter) – Sanofi; CV Damaraju (Treasurer, NJ Chapter) – J&J

report to their assigned professional statistics mentor for review and comments. Last year was the inauguration of the program and the students who successfully completed the program received framed certificates.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER 44TH ANNUAL MEETING / SC-ASA PALMETTO SYMPOSIUM

Mulugeta Gebregziabher

Joint meeting with the USC Palmetto: Symposium, on March 28, 2014, in Columbia, SC. The keynote speaker of the event was Peter Mueller of the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Mathematics, with a talk titled "A

Bayesian Feature Allocation Model for Tumor Heterogeneity".

There were seven student presentations from junior and senior graduate student of South Carolina Universities with a competition to win a prize in a junior and senior category. The

winner from each category won a certificate and monetary prize of \$100. The winners were Jaime Speiser from the Medical University of South Carolina and Haiming Zhou from the University of South Carolina. The organizing committee consisted of Mulugeta Gebregziabher (chair), Christopher McMahan, Alexander McInain and Xiaoyan Lin. The next event is scheduled to take place in Clemson University in the fall of 2014.

Students' Presentations

Jamie Lynn Speiser 'Random Forest Procedure for Classification of Etiologies of Acute Liver Failure in Patients';

Haiming Zhou 'A Spatial Copula Approach to Fully Bayesian Nonparametric Survival Analysis';

Bin Yao 'Semiparametric regression analysis of panel count data using EM algorithm';

Jiera Zhou 'A Multiple Imputation Approach for Mixture Cure model with Interval Censoring'; Jean-Marie Hendrickson 'An Extension to the Gower (1971) Coefficient Shiyi Tu Bayesian analysis of two - piece location - scale model with partial information'; Dongmei Wang 'Analysis on U.S. Canine Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) Prevalence'.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

SECOND ANNUAL AP STATISTICS REVIEW SESSION

In late April 2014, two weeks before the 2014 Advanced Placement (AP) exam was given, the Cleveland Chapter held its second annual AP Statistics Review Session. The event was held at John Carroll University, and was attended by over 100 students, teachers, mentors, and parents.

Student participants were provided with advice and insights about performing well on the exam, delivered by presenters

with experience as readers and as leaders at the annual AP Statistics reading. Presenters included David Spohn from Hudson High School, Pam Garrett from Kenston High School, John Kern from Duquesne University, and Tom Short from John Carroll University.

The Cleveland Chapter hopes to continue to offer this annual event for as long as it is beneficial to students.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY (WSS)

Jerome P. Reiter, Gertrude M. Cox Award

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International are pleased to announce that Jerome ('Jerry') P. Reiter, Mrs. Alexander Hehmeyer Professor of Statistical Science at Duke University, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Gertrude M. Cox Award. Since earning his PhD from Harvard University in 1999, Reiter has made many noteworthy contributions to survey methodology—

specifically data confidentiality, Bayesian approaches, and multiple imputation—all contributing to new insights in the field.

Reiter gave a seminar on June 24 Titled 'Sharing Confidential Data in an Era with No Privacy' at the RTI International offices in Washington, DC, and was formally awarded at the WSS annual dinner held later the same day.

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Bob Starbuck and Bobby Gutierrez were the instructors of a presentation skills course held on May the 25th, in Cary, North Carolina. Attendees from various universities, industries, and the government

gave positive feedback about their experience. The Chapter is now considering holding the course in other locations throughout North Carolina.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The Chapter held its annual meeting in April at Oklahoma State University. Officers were elected and Dr. Tracy Morris, University of Central Oklahoma, gave a

presentation entitled "Using Sports as an Avenue for Student Research". Plans for the 2015 annual meeting are underway.

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