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## Message from the Out-going Section Chair

Stephen Cohen



As you read this message in the New Year, the leadership of the section will have smoothly transitioned to a slightly changed Executive Board as people rotate on and off much like happens after any election in the United States. It is hard to believe that my year as your Section Chair has passed so quickly. With the dedicated Executive Board, leading the section has been real easy. Everybody on the board steps up to make our section function smoothly. The Program Chair (with help from the Program Chair Elect for roundtables) set up a wonderful program for Miami. If you could not attend this year, consider attending JSM in San Diego. The Publication Officer and newsletter editors keep the information flowing. The web master keeps the website up to date. The Treasurer keeps funds flowing smoothly for the events we support. The Education Officer recommends continuing education courses of interest for our section members to the JSM education committee and is instrumental in making the SRMS webinars happen. The Council of Sections officers maintain our link to the whole association. The Secretary keeps the official record and makes sure the action items from our monthly executive board conference calls get done. The past Chair helped guide me through my initial months as Chair. I will not go on and on. Read my December AMSTAT news article at <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2011/12/01/srmsdec11> to see all that we accomplished this year. I do not want to repeat that here.

As I did in July, I want to focus on volunteering for the section and ASA in general. It is a very rewarding experience. You get to meet and work with people dedicated to improve statistics. That is true for both elective and appointed committees along with ad hoc groups. It gives you the opportunity to move beyond your organization or specific discipline. I think the experience can best be summed up by comments I got from the JSM Program Chair:

Serving as program chair was actually a lot of fun, and quite rewarding. I enjoyed seeing the inner workings of JSM, and developing a new appreciation of all the talent that comes together to make it happen.....The time commitment was pretty manageable on the whole, and I felt very supported throughout by staff and Section leadership, not to mention the membership at large. It was really collaborative, and I definitely recommend it!

A number of Section members have already volunteered. For a few, I hope I found a rewarding experience. For those members who I have not yet found a suitable assignment, I will pass your name onto the section chair, John Czajka, for his consideration as things come up.

Finally I would like to thank the four Executive Board members who have rotated off for their service to the Section: Paul Beatty, Rachel Harter, Howard Hogan and Emily McFarlane. The great Board you have elected and the membership itself makes the job of Section Chair easy!

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## Message from the Incoming Section Chair

John L. Czajka



First, I want to extend to all of the members of the Survey Research Methods Section my best wishes for the year that has just begun. I would also like to remind you that there is still plenty of time to submit an abstract for the Joint Statistical Meetings. It's a leap year, too, so you'll have an extra day to write your paper. The meetings this year are in San Diego, which is one of the most appealing venues that ASA has visited in recent years. The Association has not been to San Diego since the winter meetings in January 1989. With a strong turnout, maybe we won't have to wait another 23 years to get back there.

My immediate predecessors have stressed the importance of getting our younger members more involved in the section, and I agree with that focus. If I remember the statistics correctly, students make up about a quarter of the overall ASA membership, but most students drop their membership as they move into employment. Young statisticians in business, academia, and government are not nearly as prominent among ASA members as students. I suspect that our section's experience is similar. The student travel awards that we co-sponsor with the Government and Social Statistics sections help to maintain interest among students, but there is

no counterpart for those who have finished their schooling. Recognizing the need to do something more, the section initiated a mentoring program this past year. As we learn from our early experiences with the program, we hope to expand its reach. You can read more about the mentoring program in this newsletter and on our website. I hope you will consider getting involved with this new effort, either as a mentor or a protégé. We have also made a more conscious effort in recent years to recruit younger members into positions of leadership within the section. Those opportunities are limited, however. We will continue to explore additional ways to persuade young statisticians with an interest in survey research to become more involved in the activities of the section.

While we consider ways to make our section stronger, we can take heart in the fact that SRMS continues to be one of the Association's most vibrant sections. Our membership grew by 200 between 2001 and 2008 and has remained fairly stable since then while section membership across ASA has declined. We are also fortunate in having a very healthy balance in our treasury. If there's a project that stands to offer significant benefits to our members, but has a non-trivial up-front cost, we have the resources to go forward. One of our best investments as a section was converting the old paper Proceedings volumes to an electronic format and making them available to anyone who visits our website. We have also been able to co-sponsor a number of conferences over the years. The next one is coming up in June, the Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-IV).

We welcome your thoughts on how we can use our resources—both human and financial—to further serve our members. If you have ideas about activities for the section to consider or just want to offer your comments, you can send them to the entire executive committee at [asa.srms@gmail.com](mailto:asa.srms@gmail.com) or to me personally at [jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com).

I look forward to serving as your section chair over the next 12 months. I hope to see many of you at section activities.

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## Report from the Publications Officer

John Finamore

As the SRMS Publication Officer, I am responsible for ensuring that the SRMS members (as well as those considering SRMS membership) are aware of the ongoing SRMS activities and the work we are accomplishing. In an effort to meet this responsibility, I have been working with the SRMS board members over the past few months to develop an Amstat News article publication schedule for SRMS.

In every issue of Amstat News, there is a "Section News" portion that provides ASA members with updates on the ASA sections. Each ASA section has the ability to submit articles for Amstat News every month. Since space is limited in the printed edition of Amstat News, the

Amstat News editors include shortened versions of the articles into the printed edition. In addition to these article “blurbs,” the printed edition provides links to the full articles on the Amstat News website. If you’re interested, the entire history of SRMS articles published in Amstat News can be found at:

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/category/membernews/amstatsections/survey-research-methods>.

In developing the Amstat News article publication schedule for SRMS, the board members and I went through the SRMS calendar year and identified activities for each month that we felt should be highlighted to SRMS members. As a result, at the beginning of the year, you will see articles in Amstat News that provide an overview of the SRMS agenda for the upcoming year and the planned topics for the SRMS-sponsored webinar series. As we move into the middle of the year, you will see articles focused on the SRMS-sponsored activities at the Joint Statistical Meetings. When we near the end of the year, you’ll see an article that provides a call for Student Travel Award applicants (since applications are due in December). Finally, to bring the year to a close, we will have an article from our outgoing section chair that will provide the SRMS year in review.

While we have developed an Amstat News article publication schedule for SRMS, we are always looking for new article ideas. So, I encourage you to send me ideas you have for future Amstat News articles. In addition, if you have any ideas or suggestions for improving our publication activities, please let me know. I can be reached by email at [jfinamor@nsf.gov](mailto:jfinamor@nsf.gov).

Enjoy the winter!

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## Report from the Council of Sections Representatives

Rachel Harter and Tony An



A new section called “**Section on Statistics in Imaging**” has been approved by the Council of Sections based on the votes from section representatives. We would like to thank everyone who expressed their opinions regarding the formation of this new section before we cast our votes, especially Michael Cohen who provided an informative investigation.

SRMS members expressed concern about the potential negative impact on invited session allocation at JSM for other sections. Also, it seemed that there were some misunderstandings about the need for this section. The proposal was revised to clarify the emphasis on medical imaging, differentiating it from other sections, and to address other perceived shortcomings. ASA had confirmed that the proposed section met all requirements. Michael Cohen looked into

the JSM 2011 program and found that there were 25 presentations on medical imaging that were sponsored by a variety of sections and societies. His finding illustrated the rationale behind the new section proposal.

Although this new section might not have a direct impact on SRMS, it will benefit ASA. We voted to support the new section.

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## Many Ways to Participate in the 2012 JSM: Report from the Program Chair

Mike Larsen



Preparations are already well underway for JSM 2012 to be held in San Diego, California. We have already completed arrangements for four invited sessions on the program, which will bring together speakers reporting up-to-date research on poverty mapping, address based sampling and dual frame surveys, nonresponse bias adjustment, and international census coverage. But this is only the beginning of the process of putting together rich content for our 2012 program.

We are now accepting proposals for topic contributed sessions, including paper, panel, and poster sessions. Topic contributed paper sessions bring together five presentations on a common theme, and allow presenters 20 minutes as opposed to the typical 15 minutes. Topic contributed panels bring three to five presenters for a 110 minute discussion on a particular topic. Similarly, topic contributed posters can bring together a cluster of posters organized around a common theme. If interested, please send me an email ([mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu](mailto:mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu)) as soon as possible to discuss potential topics and proposed speakers. All abstracts for topic contributed must be entered by February 1, 2012, and the sessions must be approved prior to that date.

Proposals for individual contributed papers and posters are also being accepted at this time. The deadline for submission is February 1 for these contributions as well. One advantage of poster submissions is that presenters will be entered into the Section's Poster Competition, now entering its fifth year, with cash prizes for the best entries.

Roundtable discussions are another way to be involved and to generate discussions with attendees who share similar interests. The responsibilities of roundtable leaders are fairly moderate: you should be willing to provide some background on the topic, bring a few key discussion points, and lightly moderate the ensuing discussion. Leading a roundtable does not preclude additional involvement in the conference. Proposals for roundtables should be submitted to Frauke Kreuter ([Frauke.Kreuter@iab.de](mailto:Frauke.Kreuter@iab.de)) by January 15, 2012.

Also, we are always in need of volunteers to chair contributed sessions. The responsibilities are modest, but it is a needed service and a nice way to be a part of the program. If you are planning to attend and would be willing to serve, please send me an email.

In short, there are many ways to contribute to the content of the 2012 JSM.

We hope to hear from many of you, and to see you in San Diego!

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## SRMS Section News

### New SRMS Webmaster



We welcome Pushpal Mukhopadhyay as the new Webmaster for the SRMS section. Pushpal is a Research Statistician in Linear Models R&D at SAS® Institute Inc. He received his PhD in Statistics from Iowa State University in 2006, and was one of the winners of the 2006 SRMS student paper competition. His primary statistical work involves developing SAS procedures for complex surveys and small area estimation, and his current research interest is in survival analysis for survey data. Please contact

Pushpal ([pushpal.mukhopadhyay@sas.com](mailto:pushpal.mukhopadhyay@sas.com)) with questions or suggestions for the section's website.

Tony An, who is currently one of the two SRMS Council of Sections Representatives, served as SRMS webmaster for ten years, and the Section is very grateful to him for all his efforts in keeping our pages so useful over that time. Thanks, Tony!

### Did you know?

- Founded in 1839, The ASA is the second oldest continuously operating professional association in the United States.
- Florence Nightingale, Alexander Graham Bell, Herman Hollerith, Andrew Carnegie, and a U.S. President have all been members of the ASA.

Find out more on the ASA website: <http://www.amstat.org/about/history.cfm>

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## Announcements

### 2011 JSM Poster Awards Winners

The quality was so high among these three posters that all three were awarded first place:

- **Rebecca Andridge** (The Ohio State University ) "*Decomposing the Fraction of Missing Information Into Auxiliary Variable Contributions for Monitoring Survey Data*"
- **David P. Lindstrom** and **Megan Klein Hattori** (Brown University) "*The Nonverbal Response Card Method for Soliciting Responses to Sensitive Questions*"
- **Burton Levine, Christine Davies** and **Bonnie Shook-Sa** (RTI International) "*Estimating the Bias Resulting from the Exclusion of Cell Phone-Only Respondents*"

### Nominations Sought for the 2013 Waksberg Award

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joe Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joe Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2013 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium to be held in the autumn of 2013. The paper will be published in a future issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2013 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. **Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent before February 28, 2012 to the chair of the committee, Mary Thompson ([methomps@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:methomps@uwaterloo.ca)).**

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

**2001** Gad Nathan, "Telesurvey Methodologies for Household Surveys-A Review and Some Thoughts for the Future." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp.7-31.

**2002** Wayne Fuller, "Regression Estimation for Survey Samples." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 5-23.

**2003** David Holt, "Methodological Issues in the Development and Use of Statistical Indicators for International Comparisons." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 5-17.

- 2004** Norman Bradburn, "Understanding the Question-Answer Process." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 5-15.
- 2005** J.N.K Rao, "Interplay Between Sample Survey Theory and Practice: An Appraisal." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 117-138.
- 2006** Alastair Scott, "Population-Based Case Control Studies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 123-132.
- 2007** Carl-Erik Särndal, "The Calibration Approach in Survey Theory and Practice." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 99-119.
- 2008** Mary Thompson, "International surveys: Motives and Methodologies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 131-141.
- 2009** Graham Kalton, "Methods for Oversampling Rare Subpopulations in Social Surveys." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 35, no. 2, pp. 125-141.
- 2010** Ivan Fellegi, "The organisation of statistical methodology and methodological research in national statistical offices." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 36 no. 2., pp. 123-130.
- 2011** Danny Pfeffermann, "Modelling of complex survey data: Why is it a problem? How can we approach it?", *Survey Methodology*, vol. 37, no. 2.
- 2012** Lars Lyberg, Manuscript topic under consideration.

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## Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-IV)

The Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-IV) will be held in **Montréal, Québec, Canada, June 11-14, 2012**. ICES-IV will explore the current state of the art of establishment surveys. This will build on the cross-national interdisciplinary research cooperation on the unique features of establishment surveys started at ICES-I in Buffalo, NY in 1993, and continued at ICES-II in 2000(Buffalo) and ICES-III in 2007 (Montréal). The SRMS section is a supporter of this conference.

You can visit the conference website at:

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012/index.cfm?fuseaction=main>



# International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations

October 31–November 3, 2012

Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

## Calls for Submissions

February–March 2011:  
Invited Call for Submissions

April–May 2011:  
Contributed Call for  
Submissions

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations.

Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

### Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (HTR)

- Defining HTR populations
- Measuring undercounts for HTR groups
- Improving measurement with administrative records
- Sampling HTR populations

### Techniques and Methodologies

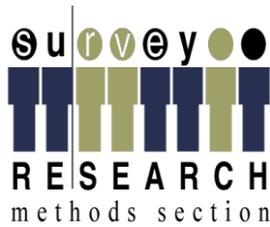
- Recruitment methods
- Targeting the HTR
- Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
- Overcoming language and literacy barriers
- Use of community-based organizations
- Dealing with complex living and housing situations
- Tracking and tracing HTR populations

### HTR Subpopulations

- Racial minorities
- Immigrant populations
- Indigenous populations
- Highly mobile and migrant populations
- Homeless and refugee populations
- Sexual minorities
- Populations affected by natural disasters
- Populations in zones of armed conflict
- Stigmatized populations
- Cross-cultural similarities and differences in HTR populations
- Linguistic and cultural minorities

For information, visit [www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012) or email [H2R2012@amstat.org](mailto:H2R2012@amstat.org).

**H2R|2012**  
Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations



## SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has 1500 members, of which over 100 are based outside of North America, and is one of the largest ASA Sections. The SRMS mission is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics, and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- ❖ Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- ❖ Sample design and estimation;
- ❖ Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- ❖ Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- ❖ Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- ❖ Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- ❖ Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

**Not a member yet?** Here is how you can join:

- If you are not an ASA member, go to the membership page of the ASA and fill the application at [www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember](http://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember). Then sign up for the SRMS section as part of your membership.
- If you are already an ASA member, just call customer service at 1-888-231-3473 to add SRMS membership.

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The SRMS has produced material and resources that are available on our website including:

- ❖ The “What is a Survey?” series for non-specialists, free of charge
- ❖ The SRMSNET Mailing List
- ❖ List of other related associations
- ❖ Survey Analysis Software (under *Links and Resources*)
- ❖ Universities and Laboratories
- ❖ ...and much more.

For more information, including links to specific officers, check out the SRMS website at: [www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html)

There is also a link from the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).