

## HIGHLIGHTS

With the Harbor in sight and the smell of crabs in the air, it must be almost time to dock in Baltimore for the Joint Statistical Meetings!!! If you haven't already done so, plan on joining us at the convention center near Baltimore's beautiful inner Harbor, August 8 - 12, 1999. The theme for this year's program is "Statistical Science at the Interface."

On-line registration is now, or soon to be, available at the ASA Web site:

*<http://www.amstat.org.meetings/jsm/1999/>.*

For a summary of SRMS' exciting sessions for the August meeting, see pages 2 through 5. The complete JSM program and abstracts are also available on-line at

*<http://www.amstat.org.meetings/jsm/1999/program/>.*

## Message from the Program Chair....

In the 1999 Joint Statistical Meetings, the Survey Research Methods Section is sponsoring six invited paper sessions (including two of the ten sessions whose slots were won in a competition), thirteen topic (special) contributed paper sessions, and seventeen regular contributed paper sessions. The session titles and times are listed below. SRMS is also co-sponsoring a number of sessions that should be of interest to our members; see the JSM program for details.

This year, contributed posters at the JSM are being organized by topic rather than by section. Among the many posters that might interest our members, I'd like to highlight Session 266 (Wednesday, August 11, 1999, 12 noon to 2 p.m.), which contains the contributed posters for the topic grouping entitled "Sampling, Surveys."

Finally, note that John Eltinge (SRMS Program Chair-Elect) has put together an excellent line-up of roundtable luncheons. See page 5 for descriptions.

I'd like to thank our members for their enthusiastic participation, which is ensuring that SRMS will have a very strong presence at the JSM.

*Nathaniel Schenker*  
1999 SRMS Program Chair



**Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights**  
**Sessions Sponsored by the Survey Research Methods Section**

**Sunday, August 8, 1999**

Session	Title	Time
8	Blending Statistics and Economics to Estimate Marginal Cost in a Large Multi-product Firm – A Case Study from the U.S. Postal Service Invited Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
16	Redefining Cognitive Research for Establishment Surveys Special Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
25	Survey Design and Redesign Regular Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
33	Census Design: Reports of Two Panels of the Committee on National Statistics Invited Session	4:00 PM - 5:50 PM
41	Survey Research at the Intersection of Statistics and Cognitive Psychology Special Contributed Session	4:00 PM - 5:50 PM
51	Topics in Sample Design I Regular Contributed Session	4:00 PM - 5:50 PM

**Monday, August 9, 1999**

59	The Changing Face of CASM Research in the Coming Decade: Strengthening the Capabilities of Cognitive Research Methods in Questionnaire Design Research Invited Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
69	Multilevel Models Applied to Survey Data Special Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
79	Estimation and Weighting in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
92	Microdata Modification for Disclosure Control: Theory and Applications Special Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
103	Sampling Frames and Coverage Regular Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
104	Data Quality in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
123	Improving Data Quality: New Methodologies for the Consumer Expenditure Survey Special Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
131	Topics in Sample Design II Regular Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM



# **Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights** **Sessions Sponsored by the Survey Research Methods Section**

## **Tuesday, August 10, 1999**

Session	Title	Time
139	Outliers in Sample Surveys Invited Session	8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
150	Analysis of Data from Complex Sample Surveys Special Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
156	Topics in Conducting Telephone Surveys Regular Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
157	Public-Use Data, Confidentiality, and Technology in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
165	The Role of Statistics in Understanding Price Indices Invited Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
176	Methods and Results for the 1998 Census Dress Rehearsal Special Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
182	Inference and Modeling Variances in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
205	Methodology for the 2000 Census Special Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
210	Nonresponse in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
211	Outliers and Edit/Imputation in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

## **Wednesday, August 11, 1999**

229 230	Coverage in Screening Surveys Special Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
237 238	Latent-Class and Other Models in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	8:30 AM - 10:20 AM
254	Evaluation of Dress Rehearsal and Census 2000 Coverage Special Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
265	Small Area Estimation Regular Contributed Session	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
284	New Directions in Education Surveys Special Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
292	Record Linkage and Combining Survey Data Regular Contributed Session	2:00 PM - 3:50 PM



**Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights**  
**Sessions Sponsored by the Survey Research Methods Section**

*Thursday, August 12, 1999*

Session	Title	Time
302	Sampling in Developing Countries Invited Session	8:30 AM -10:20 AM
307	Coverage Measurement in the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal Special Contributed Session	8:30 AM -10:20 AM
319	Pretesting and Questionnaire Design Regular Contributed Session	8:30 AM -10:20 AM
332	Evaluations of the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal Special Contributed Session	10:30 AM -12:20 PM
343	Variance Estimation in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 AM -12:20 PM
344	Handling Missing Data in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 AM-12:20 PM

**And the Winner Is ...!!!**

Congratulations and best wishes to the following newly-elected officers of the Section:

**Section Chair (in 2001)**

Daniel Kasprzyk  
National Center for Education Statistics

**Program Chair (in 2001)**

James M. Lepkowski  
University of Michigan

**Representative to the Council of Sections (2000-2002)**

William Kalsbeek  
University of North Carolina



**Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights**  
**Roundtable Luncheons (Fee Event) Sponsored by the Survey Research Methods Section**  
 Monday, August 9, 1999  
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

The following is a list of the SRMS roundtable discussion leaders and topics. We have an excellent set of leaders and topics this year, and we can look forward to stimulating discussions at each roundtable.

You can sign up for a luncheon as part of your pre-registration paperwork for the 1999 JSM. Details can be found on the JSM website.

**(M-16): Effectiveness of Monetary Incentives and Lottery-Type Incentives in Mail Surveys.** The discussion will cover response rate findings from a recent survey of 6,000 individuals who sought help through the Washington State Employment Service, with different incentives offered in two mailings: the first mailing included \$1 or \$5; and the second mailing included a chance to win a \$100 Wal-Mart gift certificate, with one certificate for every hundredth return. Discussion leader: Victoria Albright, Westat Senior Study Director, 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone: (301) 294 2806, Fax: (301) 294-2829, e-mail: [ALBRIGVI@WESTAT.COM](mailto:ALBRIGVI@WESTAT.COM)

**(M-17): Inference with Multiply Imputed Data.** The discussion will examine alternatives (GEE and bootstrap-based methods), modifications (for small datasets) and criticisms (uncongeniality and properness for survey data) of the procedures for obtaining frequentist inferences from multiply imputed data, with emphasis on how they might affect the current practice, particularly for analysis of multiply imputed survey data. Discussion leader: John Barnard, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Harvard University, 1 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, Phone: (617) 495-1603, Fax: (617) 496-8057, e-mail: [barnard@stat.harvard.edu](mailto:barnard@stat.harvard.edu).

**(M-18): Surveys of Consumer Satisfaction with Health Plans.** The discussion will consider practical issues that arise in conducting a survey of members of a health plan, including: (1) choice of sampling unit (e.g. employee or member), (2) possible oversampling of more frequent users of medical care, (3) use of proxy respondents, (4) methods to contact sampled persons, (5) data collection methods, (6) methods for response rate calculation, (7) weighting the responses, (8) nonresponse adjustments, and (9) data analytic strategy. Discussion leader: Donna Brogan, 1518 Clifton Road N.E., 3rd floor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322, Phone: (404) 727-7701, Fax: (404) 727-1370, e-mail: [dbrogan@sph.emory.edu](mailto:dbrogan@sph.emory.edu).

**(M-19): Disability Surveys: Measuring Disability and Accommodating Disabled Respondents.** The discussion will explore two difficult problems that arise in disability surveys: (1) disability is a complex and fluid concept, making it difficult to frame survey questions that measure it accurately; and (2) survey respondents with severe disabilities, about whom information is most needed, are often difficult to interview using standard interview procedures. Discussion leader: Gerry E. Hendershot, National Center for Health Statistics, Room 850, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville MD 20782, Phone: (301) 436-7085 ext. 123, Fax: (301) 436-3484, e-mail: [geh2@cdc.gov](mailto:geh2@cdc.gov).

**(M-20): Use of Survey Data in Advertising Health Products.** Advertisers for nonprescription drugs and other health-related products often cite the recommendations of doctors to persuade you that their products should be preferred over all others; what is the statistical basis for such claims and how reliable are they? Discussion leader: Thomas B. Jabine, 3231 Worthington

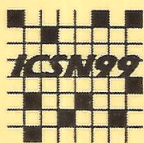
Street NW, Washington DC 20015, Phone: (202) 244-4179, e-mail: [tjabine@nas.edu](mailto:tjabine@nas.edu).

**(M-21): Sample Survey Methods 101-What Should be Included?** Introductory courses in sample survey methods are taught in a wide variety of departments such as statistics, sociology, economics, etc., and there is considerable variation with respect to the material covered; this luncheon will discuss whether there is a "core" of material that should be covered in such a course, no matter what the discipline. Discussion leader: Paul S. Levy, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2121 W. Taylor Street, Rm. 559, Chicago, Illinois 60612, Phone: (312) 996-4731, Fax: (312) 996-0064, e-mail: [drepibio@uic.edu](mailto:drepibio@uic.edu).

**(M-22): The Role of Bayes in Survey Sampling.** Bayesian methods have become increasingly popular in many areas of statistics, but not survey sampling; this discussion will debate myths, benefits and drawbacks of the Bayesian approach to finite population surveys. Discussion leader: Roderick J.A. Little, Department of Biostatistics, University of Michigan, M4208 SPH II, 1420 Washington Heights, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, Phone: (734) 936-1003, Fax: (734) 763-2215, e-mail: [rlittle@umich.edu](mailto:rlittle@umich.edu).

**(M-23): Staff Roles in CASIC Organizations.** How has the emergence of CASIC technologies blurred the traditional distinctions between departments in data collection operations, and how have we responded to this change? Discussion leader: Karl R. Landis, Research Triangle Institute, 3040 Cornwallis Road, P.O. Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, Phone: (919) 541-7002, Fax: (919) 541-1261, e-mail: [klandis@rti.org](mailto:klandis@rti.org).





## International Conference on Survey Nonresponse

One of the greatest concerns facing survey research is the increasing difficulty of maintaining high response rates. Survey statisticians and methodologists are devoting great attention to this issue, both constructing and evaluating procedures to improve response rates and techniques used in postsurvey adjustment of survey estimators. The field is an active one, deserving of a focused research interchange. The International Conference on Survey Nonresponse will be held on October 28-31, 1999, at the Portland Hilton, Portland, Oregon, USA. The conference currently has as cosponsoring organizations, the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the Council of American Survey Research Organizations, the Council for Marketing and Opinion Research, and the International Association of Survey Statisticians.

About 200 different research papers from scientists throughout the world will be presented at the conference. This is likely to be the largest scientific meeting on survey nonresponse in history.

### Rationale for the Conference

The last major overview of the field of nonresponse in surveys was the National Research Council's Panel on Incomplete and Missing Data, which yielded the three volume National Research Council panel report, *Incomplete and Missing Data in Surveys*, (Madow, Nisselson, Olkin, Rubin, 1983). Over 15 years have passed since that activity. The field has changed in important ways since that time:

- the techniques and properties of multiple imputation were discovered and use of the method has become more common;
- theories of survey participation have been forwarded, identifying principles underlying nonresponse;
- the experimental literature examining the role of interviewers, mode of data collection, and survey task burden on cooperation has expanded;
- the practices of the field with regard to the use of incentives, refusal conversion, mixed mode designs, and other mechanisms to reduce nonresponse have changed;
- more sophisticated adjustment procedures for ignorable nonresponse mechanisms have been explored;
- advances in the specification of adjustment and estimation procedures in the presence of nonignorable nonresponse have been made; and
- there are new modes of data collection that pose new problems in item missing data (e.g., touch tone data entry, web-based surveys).

Much has changed. The literature describing these developments is spread over many different journals in several different disciplines. By attending the conference you can learn of these developments and current work not yet in the literature.

The conference planning suggests that it will be an exciting gathering of latest results in statistical and methodological research on survey nonresponse. Both statistical and nonstatistical approaches to the problem will be reviewed. The conference will last three and one half days with invited and contributed paper sessions from participants throughout the world. The conference will gather together large numbers of active researchers in survey nonresponse and missing data issues. In addition, there will be opportunities for interchange of ideas and approaches. Presenters and participants are expected to come from many countries, from academic, government, and commercial settings. The conference will stimulate the assembly of documentation of state of the art practice; these will be collected into an integrated monograph, to be given to each participant upon its publication (expected late 2000). The edited volume will be designed to be a description of the state of the art in social science and statistical theory and practice in nonresponse rate reduction, nonresponse error measurement, and postsurvey compensation for nonresponse.

The Survey Research Methods Section encourages all those interested in survey statistics to attend the conference.

### For Further Information

The conference has established a web page on the home page of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, [www.jpsm.umd.edu/](http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/). Registration forms and hotel information are also available at that website. Specific questions can be posed to [ICSN@SURVEY.UMD.EDU](mailto:ICSN@SURVEY.UMD.EDU). Alternatively, send a fax to 301-314-7912 or write ICSN, c/o Joint Program in Survey Methodology, 1218 Lefrak Hall, College Park, MD 20742 USA.

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Registration Form (page 1 of 2)

**International Conference on Survey Nonresponse**  
**October 28-31 1999 ■ Portland Hilton ■ Portland, Oregon**

*American Association of Public Opinion Research*  
*Survey Research Methods Section*  
*American Statistical Association*  
*Council of American Survey Research Organizations*  
*Council for Marketing and Opinion Research*  
*International Association of Survey Statisticians*

Must be Received by October 1, 1999

Forms Received Without Payment Will Be Returned

**Mail:**  
Check or Credit Card  
to: ASA Mtg Dept,  
1429 Duke St.,  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3415

**Fax:**  
Credit Card only to:  
(703) 684-8069

### Instructions:

1. Use BOTH pages of this form.
2. Print or type all information and retain a copy for your records.
3. Use a separate form for each registrant.
4. Mail both pages with payment to: ASA Meetings Dept., 1429 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3415.  
Fax registration form with credit card information to (703) 684-8069.

Registration forms received by October 1 will be processed at advance rate. Forms received after October 1 will be charged an additional \$50 late fee.

Questions? Contact ASA Meetings Department, (703) 684-1221 or [meetings@amstat.org](mailto:meetings@amstat.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

ASA Member No.(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Information		
affiliation	city	state/country

Preferred Name for Badge

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_


city	state/province	zip/mail code	country
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Daytime Phone( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax:( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

CANCELLATIONS received by October 1 will be refunded less \$50. October 1-25 will be refunded less \$100. REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS RECEIVED AFTER OCTOBER 25 WILL NOT BE HONORED.



	Registration Form (page 2 of 2) <b>International Conference on Survey Nonresponse</b> <b>October 28-31 1999 ■ Portland Hilton ■ Portland, Oregon</b> <i>American Association of Public Opinion Research</i> <i>Survey Research Methods Section</i> <i>American Statistical Association</i> <i>Council of American Survey Research Organizations</i> <i>Council for Marketing and Opinion Research</i> <i>International Association of Survey Statisticians</i> Must be Received by October 1, 1999 Forms Received Without Payment Will Be Returned	<b>Mail:</b> Check or Credit Card to: ASA Mtg Dept, 1429 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3415 <b>Fax:</b> Credit Card only to: (703) 684-8069
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> This meeting is ADA accessible. Please check here if you need special services and attach a statement regarding your disability needs.		
<b>Membership Type(s)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> P AAPOR <input type="checkbox"/> A ASA <input type="checkbox"/> R CASRO <input type="checkbox"/> M CMOR <input type="checkbox"/> N NONE	<b>Employment Affiliation(s)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1. University or College (not student) <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Business Industry <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Government (Federal, state, local) <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Student <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Non-Profit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Other	<b>Registration</b> (Includes conference materials, conference monograph, Thursday reception, Thursday-Sunday continental breakfast, lunch, and breaks) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Before Oct 1 (Advance)</b> \$475 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>After Oct 1 (Late)</b> \$525 <b>Amount Enclosed</b> \$ _____ (Complete payment section below)

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b> Date Processed _____ Processed by _____ Batch Date _____ Batch No. _____	<u>PAYMENT</u> ASA Federal ID# 53-0204661 <input type="checkbox"/> Check made payable to American Statistical Association (in U.S. \$) <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order (in U.S. \$) <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Diners Club <input type="checkbox"/> American Express (no other cards accepted)
	card number _____ expiration date _____ name as it appears on card _____ cardholder's signature _____



## Looking Forward to Indianapolis: August, 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings

The August, 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis are a short fourteen months away, and the SRMS is planning a full schedule of sessions, posters and roundtables for the first meeting of the next century. Some special features and deadlines are as follows:

### Invited Sessions:

Proposals Due July 1, 1999. As usual at the Joint Statistical Meetings, the SRMS will sponsor several invited sessions. If you would like to propose an invited session, please send your proposal by July 1 to:

John L. Eltinge  
SRMS Program Chair-Elect  
Office of Survey Methods Research  
Bureau of Labor Statistics, PSB 4915  
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20212  
Fax: (202) 606-7426  
e-mail: [Eltinge\\_J@bls.gov](mailto:Eltinge_J@bls.gov)  
Phone: (202) 606-7377

Each proposal should include the following:

Session title and abstract.

1. Type of session (e.g., presented papers or panel discussion)
2. Tentative titles and authors of each paper to be presented in the session.
3. Names of discussants, if any.
4. Contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address and fax number) for:
  - a. The session organizer
  - b. The contact author for each paper
  - c. Each discussant, if any.

### Invited Poster Sessions:

As part of a continuing effort to encourage more poster presentations, there will be a special invited category of posters at the 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis. Invited posters may be an especially attractive format if you would like to demonstrate recently developed survey-related software or other innovative work that may fit better with a poster format instead of a standard talk.

Invited posters will be proposed and evaluated individually, rather than as a combined invited-poster session. To propose an invited poster, please send your proposal (title, abstract and author list, as well as contact author affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address and fax number) by October 1, 1999 to the 2000 JSM General Program Chair:

David Williamson  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Epidemiology Program Office, MS D01  
1600 Clifton Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
Phone: 404-639-4455  
Fax: 404-639-4463  
e-mail: [dxw2@cdc.gov](mailto:dxw2@cdc.gov)

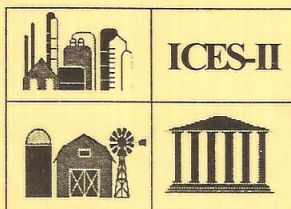
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### And More!

The 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings will also have the usual full schedule of Survey Research Methods Section-sponsored activities, including roundtable luncheons, continuing education, special (topic) contributed paper sessions and regular contributed paper sessions. Stay tuned for more details in the Winter Issue of the SRMS Newsletter and through e-mail on SRMSNET.

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## *International Conference on Establishment Surveys - II*

Survey Methods for  
Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

June 17 - 21, 2000 ■ The Adam's Mark Hotel ■ Buffalo, New York

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### **Call for Abstracts for Contributed Papers**

Deadline for Abstracts: December 1, 1999

**The Conference:** A second *International Conference on Establishment Surveys* (ICES-II) will be held June 17 - 21, 2000 in Buffalo, New York at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Since the first ICES was held in 1993, many new techniques have been implemented by practitioners around the globe. With the new millennium upon us, it is time for a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions. ICES-II will contain invited and contributed paper sessions, short courses, and software demonstrations. The preliminary program can now be seen on our website. A hardcover, unedited volume of the invited papers--as well as CD-ROMs of the invited and contributed papers--will be produced after the conference.

**Contributed Paper Sessions:** At this time, we are soliciting abstracts for contributed papers. The focus of all papers must be on surveys of businesses, farms, or institutions--or issues related to their products. Special contributed paper sessions are also encouraged. These sessions are arranged in advance by an organizer, and include four speakers and a discussant. Potential topics include (among others) the following:

*Registers and frames* --- classification, issues with multiple frames, updating for births and deaths

*Survey Design, Sampling, or Estimation* --- survey coordination, small-area methods, outliers, pps sampling

*Data Collection or Processing* --- electronic reporting, use of administrative records, respondent burden

*Dissemination* --- web publishing, metadata, disclosure avoidance, public-use files, data warehousing

*Analysis of Economic Data* --- effects of survey errors on indicators, seasonal adjustment, benchmarking

*Specific Sectors or Industries* --- surveys of retail businesses, schools, farms, plants, hospitals, and jails

*Cross-Cutting Issues* --- meta analysis, international comparisons, measurement errors and evaluation

**How to Submit Abstracts and Register:** An abstract of 200 words should be submitted by December 1, 1999, accompanied by a completed registration form and registration fee of \$350 U.S. Registration forms and more detailed information can be obtained on our website at [www.eia.doe.gov/ices2/index.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/ices2/index.html). There you can also find the call for software demonstrations. General questions about the conference can be addressed to John G. Kovar at [kovar@statcan.ca](mailto:kovar@statcan.ca), or by calling (613) 951-8615. Questions about the contributed paper sessions should be addressed to Pat Cantwell at [patrick.j.cantwell@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:patrick.j.cantwell@ccmail.census.gov) or by calling (301) 457-8105.

**Visit our webpage at [www.eia.doe.gov/ices2/index.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/ices2/index.html)**

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## Journal Options

Newer members of SRMS may wonder how to get our journal. Quite some time ago, the Section decided that, instead of asking ASA for a journal on Survey Research Methods, SRMS would encourage its members to support two journals that covered a lot of the same topics that would have been covered by a Section-oriented ASA journal. As a result, arrangements were made with *Survey Methodology* and *Journal of Official Statistics* to permit ASA members to order subscriptions at a discount when paying their ASA membership dues.

In case you are unfamiliar with these two journals, the following information may be of interest:

- ⇒ *Survey Methodology* publishes, in English and French, articles dealing with various aspects of statistical development relevant to a statistical agency, such as design issues in the context of practical constraints, use of different data sources and collection techniques, total survey error, survey evaluation, research in survey methodology, time series analysis, seasonal adjustment, demographic studies, data integration, estimation and data analysis methods, and general survey systems development. The emphasis is placed on the development and evaluation of specific methodologies as applied to data collection or the data themselves. All papers are refereed. However, the authors retain full responsibility for the contents of their papers and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Board or of Statistics Canada.
- ⇒ The *Journal of Official Statistics* publishes articles on methodologies and policies for the collection, processing, analysis, presentation, and distribution of statistical data. Examples of such topics are: sampling design; estimation; analytical uses of data; questionnaire design; quality control; data base management; confidentiality; ethics; dissemination; presentation of quality; training of statisticians; the role of statistics in today's society; the relations between producers, users, and respondents; intraorganization collaboration; international statistical cooperation; and evaluation and identification of statistical needs. Articles may present theoretical contributions, interesting applications of existing methods, comparisons of different methods, or authoritative reviews.

Journal Options has been updated from SRMS Newsletter 7, February 1997. Additional information can be obtained from the SRMS website at [www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/srms](http://www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/srms) or through the ASA web site at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org)



## Upcoming Conferences...

### October 1999

**28-31 - International Conference on Survey Nonresponse** -Portland, OR -- The first international gathering totally devoted to nonresponse phenomena in sample surveys since the meetings of the National Academy of Sciences panel in 1983. Since that time there have been important new developments both in statistical estimation in the presence of missing data and data collection procedures to reduce nonresponse. Co-sponsors are the Survey Research Methods Section of the ASA, American Association for Public Opinion Research, and the International Association of Survey Statisticians. The Chair is Robert M. Groves, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, a consortium of the University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, and Westat, Inc. Information requests should be sent by e-mail to [icsn@survey.umd.edu](mailto:icsn@survey.umd.edu). Information can also be found at [www.jpsm.umd.edu/icsn99/](http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/icsn99/). For more information and registration forms, see pages 6-8.

### November 1999

**15-17 - 1999 FCSM Research Conference** - Arlington, VA -- The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology will hold a research conference on November 15-17 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. It is hosted by the Council of Professional

Associations on Federal Statistics and will feature papers and demonstrations on topics related to a broad range of government statistical research interests. Registration and other information may be obtained from: Ruth Detlefsen, Bureau of the Census, Room 2641-3, Washington, DC 20233; Telephone: (301) 457-2665, Fax: (301) 457-1343, e-mail: [fcsm@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:fcsm@ccmail.census.gov). Additional information and periodic updates concerning the conference may be found on web site [www.bts.gov/fcsm/](http://www.bts.gov/fcsm/).

### June 2000

**17-21 - International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-II)** - Buffalo NY - - ICES-II will take a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions. Both invited as well as contributed sessions are planned, in addition to workshops and software demonstrations. A hardcover, unedited, proceedings volume of the invited papers will be produced after the conference. For more information, contact John G. Kovar, Organizing Committee Chair, Statistics Canada, 3-A, R.H. Coats Building, 120 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1A 0T6, CANADA; e-mail: [kovar@statcan.ca](mailto:kovar@statcan.ca); Telephone: (613) 951-8615; Fax: (613) 951-5711. For more information, see page 10.

### August 2000

**13-17 - 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings** - Indianapolis, Indiana -- To be held at Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome. For more information see page 9.

## FIVE New Fellows!

Five members of the Survey Research Methods Section were elected Fellows of the American Statistical Association and will be inducted at the 1999 Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore. Hearty congratulations go out to:

Charles H. Alexander  
Alicia L. Carriquiry  
William L. Nicholls II  
Roger E. Tourangeau  
Daniel H. Weinberg

Many thanks to Barbara Bailar (Chair) and the SRMS Committee on ASA Fellows for their efforts on behalf of our outstanding members.

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## SRMSNET

Our section supported list server continues...

If you do not already subscribe and wish to do so, send a message to [listserv@umdd.umd.edu](mailto:listserv@umdd.umd.edu) and, in the body of the message, type **subscribe SRMS your name**.



## **Treasurer's Report**

### **by Keith Rust**

I am happy to report that the Section finances are in great shape. As of March 31, 1999 we had cash on hand of \$64,076.90, which might well be a record. While I would like to take credit for this, in fact the section owes a very big "thank you" to the members who organized the very successful conferences that the Section has sponsored over the past couple of years - the International Conference on Establishment Surveys, the International Conference on Computer-Assisted Data Collection (InterCASIC), and the International Conference on Survey Measurement and Process Quality (SMPQ). Not only were these conferences and their associated monographs a big success intellectually and professionally, but they also proved to be very sound investments for the section.

Another important source of income for the section are the page charges that we ask contributors to the annual proceedings to donate. All members owe many thanks to those individuals and their employers who conscientiously pay these charges.

The 1999 budget does not project a significant deficit, so the balance picture looks rosy for the foreseeable future. So if you have an idea for a project that the section should consider investing in, I'll don't believe that you'll ever find a better time to come forward with it. Your section officers are listed in this newsletter, so drop them a proposal soon!

The section does have some discretionary expenditures in this year's budget. We are providing support for the ground work for the International Conference on Survey Nonresponse, to be held in Portland, Oregon, in November this year, and the Second International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES II), to be held in Buffalo, New York, in June, 2000. We are also providing funds for an Undergraduate Data Analysis Contest. And of course we will be producing another voluminous (and informative) proceedings volume this year.

### **Headed for Baltimore?**

- \* Look for SRMS members at Sunday evening's mixer!
- \* Come to the Section's Business Meeting and Mixer — Wednesday, August 11, 5:30 PM. Refreshments be served!
- \* Plan to join the SRMS Executive Committee for an informal social after the Business Meeting!



## Message from the Chair.....

Greetings to all SMRS'ers!

### Cudos to our colleagues

This issue of the SRMS newsletter is a wonderful opportunity to note special contributions to the section, some of them well recognized by public accolades, others less well known. I begin with the latter.

This is the last newsletter edited by Elizabeth Zell and Trena Ezzati-Rice, who have given us many issues chock full of news of interest to section members. This is one of the hardest jobs the sections has to perform, and they have done it with a level of professionalism and with their characteristic modesty that it is too easy to take for granted their service. On behalf of the entire section, I salute them. On behalf of Sharon Lohr, our publications chair I urge each of you to consider following in their footsteps. Sharon would be happy to talk with anyone interested in editing the newsletter in the future ([Sharon.Lohr@asu.edu](mailto:Sharon.Lohr@asu.edu)).

On the former types of contributions I salute on behalf of us all those who stood for election. We congratulate the winners (see page 4) and extend our hope that those not elected will continue their willingness to serve the section. Page 12 lists those to be honored with an ASA fellow designation; we congratulate them and join others in our appreciation to their contributions to the field. The issue shows evidence of the good work of Nat Schenker in constructing the SRMS program for the Baltimore meetings. He has served the section well and we look forward to enjoying the fruits of his good work. All the other section officers have been consistent in their devotion to the section. I thank them.

### Current Section Issues

The executive committee has overseen the several activities of this, the most active section in the ASA. We continue to be a strong group – witness the sponsoring of international scientific meetings such as the International Conference on Survey Nonresponse in 1999 and the International Conference on Establishment Surveys II in 2000. These are important tools to document the state of our field and to stimulate new research efforts. I urge you to attend these meetings and contribute to them with active participation.

Two other issues face the section:

*Awards for extraordinary excellence in survey research methods.* Under Don Rubin's leadership a committee was appointed to make recommendations to the executive committee for awards to recognize unusual contributions to the field. The rationale for the award would be to stimulate research and programmatic contributions for innovation in survey methods and to give survey statisticians and methodologists national recognition that would boost their stature within their own institution. The executive committee will discuss a set of options and vote on them at the August meetings. I'd welcome your input on this issue ([BGROVES@SURVEY.UMD.EDU](mailto:BGROVES@SURVEY.UMD.EDU)).

*Electronic versions of the SRMS proceedings.* Sharon Lohr has the job of investigating the costs and benefits of creating electronic versions of the SRMS proceedings. At this writing there is still some uncertainty about the cost implications to the section of keeping only paper copies, offering both paper and electronic versions, or offering only electronic versions. There appear also to be several options regarding the form of the electronic medium. The executive committee will review these options over the Summer, again aiming for a vote in August. Sharon will no doubt appreciate comments from those with strong feelings on this issue ([Sharon.Lohr@asu.edu](mailto:Sharon.Lohr@asu.edu)).

There are several other issues coming our way. Remember that the issues addressed by the section officers should be those of most importance to you. Please let me know if you want to forward ideas to the executive committee.

I look forward to seeing you all in Baltimore at the section meeting – good food and good company!



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## *Mission Statement*

The mission of the Section on Survey Research Methods 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
- Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice

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