

## ASA Activities and Initiatives - Summary for JSM 2021

- This is nowhere near a comprehensive list of all of activities, but it reflects some of our work we thought would be of general interest.
- ASA leadership operates in accordance with the [ASA strategic plan](#). Presidents base their initiatives on the strategic plan, and on previous initiatives. The ASA is in the process of reviewing and updating the strategic plan.
- ASA President Rob Santos has focused on Building Community:
  - The Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment (CMRR) is leading this effort with the help of the other committees making up the membership council. To gain insights on what members of the ASA value most about their ASA membership, and to gain further insights about why individuals join and leave the ASA, the CMRR is conducting focus groups. A pilot effort has been completed so the facilitation guide has been tested and revised. The focus groups will be conducted throughout the fall and a report with recommendations will be presented to the ASA Board at its November meeting.
  - Cultivating the next generation of leaders is essential for building community. This effort supports the ongoing work to make our association and profession more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive. A cohort will participate in the leadership training course - **Preparing Statisticians and Data Scientists for Leadership: Influencing People and Projects**. The course helps attendees develop the skills necessary to succeed in a variety of leadership roles and to have greater influence with decision-makers, cross functional colleagues and team members. The course meets virtually for 4 sessions. The idea is that convening a specially selected, diverse group of early career statisticians for this course will demonstrate in a real setting (i.e., the training itself) the value of diverse perspectives in developing insights, learning and building leadership knowledge. We seek to leverage the synergy of different perspectives in this special training class that would naturally result from participant representation across demographic (e.g., sex, gender, race-ethnicity) group, specialty area (e.g., theoretical, data science, biostatistics, pharma, policy/social stats, etc.), and sector (e.g., government, academic, commercial, nonprofit).
  - *Building Community through external outreach*: This branch of the initiative utilizes existing relationships to enhance the visibility and impact of our profession. *This is Statistics* is focusing on engaging the journalists and stakeholders in the education community and *Count on Stats* focuses on engagement around the federal statistical agencies. Through these initiatives and collaborations with external organizations, e.g., SciLine we are building community that recognizes the need for sound statistical practice.
- Santos is President Biden's nominee for director of the Census Bureau. His nomination has cleared the committee and awaits Senate confirmation. If confirmed, Santos will resign as ASA President and Kathy Ensor, ASA President-Elect, will fill out the remainder of his term.
- Speaking of Kathy Ensor: Kathy is motivated by the ASA vision statement that imagines "a world that relies on data and statistical thinking to drive discovery and inform decisions." To meet this vision, her initiative will focus on cultivating relationships with academic, business, industry, and government leaders. If statistical thinking is to drive discovery and inform decisions, then the decision makers need to be engaged and aware. The overarching goal of this initiative will be to develop a substantial partnerships with university presidents and provosts, industry chief executives, and state and local leaders to ensure our impact on the future.

- Dionne Price will be taking office in 2022 as ASA President-elect, the first African-American to hold this office. An individual will be appointed to replace her final year as VP. Nick Horton will take office as Vice President. See the full election results [here](#). President-elect candidates for the Spring 2022 election (to take office in 2023) are Amarjot Kaur (Merck) and Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar (RAND). VP candidates will be Katherine (Jenny) Thompson (Census Bureau) and Lilly Yue (FDA).
- Nan Laird was the recipient of the third [International Prize in Statistics](#). Nominations for the next round will open early next year.
- ASA's advocacy efforts remain active. We've released three board statements in the past year:
  - Endorsement of seventh edition of [Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency](#), 4/16/21.
  - Released [2020 Census Quality Indicators](#) and endorsed its recommendations, [10/13/20](#).
  - Statement on Creation and Appointment of US Census Bureau Deputy Director of Data, [9/1/20](#).
- Here are some of the other matters on which we have been advocating or monitoring:
  - Developed priorities documents for federal statistical agencies to provide to the Biden transition team and next Congress; see <https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2021/03/01/fed-stat-agencies/>
  - NCES staff and budget issues
  - Developed two policy-related technical papers: [Does voting by mail increase fraud? Estimating the change in reported voter fraud when states switch to elections by mail](#) and [What would happen if the deadline for the 2020 Census data collection operation changed?](#)
  - Revised and formalized a [process to guide ASA's determination of whether to make a public statement on a policy-related issue](#).
  - Continued advocacy for Andreas Georgiou: [ASA, International Community Continue to Decry Georgiou Persecution](#) and [Greek Statistician Found Liable for Slander, Continues to Face Persecution](#)
  - Submitted [amicus brief in Supreme Court case, Wolf v. Innovation Law Lab](#); and [amicus brief in Supreme Court case, FCC v. Prometheus Radio Project](#)
- The ASA's [Anti-racism Task Force](#) is progressing on schedule. An [open session](#) on Tuesday at JSM will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about and comment on some preliminary findings of the task force.
- Developed a statistical impact webinar series, which has had two episodes so far (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48EvJMTsO54&t=3s>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDHhdVSmg-0&t=3s>)
- Under the leadership of Past-President Wendy Martinez, reviewed and updated the ASA's [Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#)
- New in the education arena is working with instructional leaders at the state level in Tennessee and Oregon to improve statistics education in public schools
- Staff member Regina Nuzzo served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director's [Working Group on Enhancing Rigor, Transparency, and Translatability in Animal Research](#). The group's [report](#) strongly supports statistics and the work of statisticians in this research.
- We conducted a full year's worth of virtual meetings, requiring retooling of many systems. (Great job by the ASA meetings staff!)
- Worked with chapters and sections to launch a variety of new webinars
- Created the [Practical Significance](#) podcast and supported other podcasts, including the [Biopharm](#) podcast, [Data and Science](#), and [Stats + Stories](#)