



JSM 2021 Diversity Mentoring Program
*Developing Leaders, Growing Community, and
Ensuring a Diverse Profession*

August 8 – 11, 2021
Virtual Program

Dear Colleagues

It is such an honor to spend part of the 2021 Virtual Joint Statistical Meeting with you after such a challenging year. Like many of you, this year was a rollercoaster ride both professionally and personally. So much has been asked of all of us and, oftentimes, it feels like we have so little left to give. In the midst of one of the most isolating years we've ever experienced, I ask myself how I got through it. The simple answer is: community.

I got involved in the Committee of Minorities in Statistics 4 years ago in 2017 as a mentee in the Diversity Mentoring Program. The content was riveting, the people I met with awe inspiring, but admittedly, it was overwhelming. I heard a lot of talk about lifting each other up, support in times of internal crisis and unique perspectives when finding yourself at a crossroads. I did not know anyone at DMP that year and I was unconvinced I would develop such strong connections after those 4 days. I didn't understand then that this program was a turning point in my career (and in my life) where I would build friendships and mentors that I could call to celebrate when I was at the top of the world and who would piece me back together when I'm falling apart. That is the power of community. That is the opportunity you have in front of you this week.

This year's program is challenging as we do not have the ability to meet face to face, I will be the first to admit that! Yet, the last 18 months have shown us that we can be resilient in a virtual world. We can be creative with how we communicate. We can use the resources afforded to us to connect with people in different coasts and time zones more than ever before. I challenge you to rethink how you attend a conference. I challenge you to rethink how you engage with a panel discussion or round table. I challenge you to create new networking opportunities. I challenge you to embrace the opportunity to connect with this community, learn from its members and change your trajectory. Speaking from experience, you have no idea what the future holds.

Thank you for attending our program this year. We are so honored to have you!

**Best,
Emily Butler
Chair, Diversity Mentoring Program**

JSM 2021 Diversity Mentoring Program Agenda

All sessions will be held via Gather: <https://gather.town/app/qGhLoNAqALZDsEaZ/Statfest>

All times are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Sunday August 8, 2021

4:00 PM **GatherTown Introduction** (Big Auditorium)

4:15 PM **Scavenger Hunt!** (Entire town)

Monday August 9, 2021

8:00 AM **Opening Remarks and Welcome!** (Big Auditorium)

8:10 AM– 9:15 AM **Excellence in Mentoring: Panel Discussion** (Big Auditorium)
Panel: Montserrat Fuentes, Jami Mulgrave, Kiros Berhane, Wendy Martinez
Moderator: Price Allotey

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM **Round Table Discussions**
Mentor Discussion of Best Practices (Small Auditorium)
Moderators: David Morganstein & Sastry Pantula

Defining Goals as a Mentee (Big Auditorium)
Moderators: Christina Nurse & Jasmine Lusane

10:00 AM **Open Networking** (Entire town)

Tuesday August 10, 2021

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM **Introduction to 4 Statistical Career Paths: Panel Discussion** (Big Auditorium)
Panel: Melissa Pugh Williamson, Lorin Crawford, Alison Tuiyott, Mario Marazzi
Moderator: Felicia Griffin

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM **Round Table Discussions**
Tips and Tricks: Preparing for a Job in Pharma or non-Pharma Industry (Breakout Room 1)
Moderators: Dionne Swift & Rebecca Wilson

Tips and Tricks: Preparing for a Job in Academia (Breakout Room 2)
Moderators: Miguel Marino & Melody Goodman

Tips and Tricks: Preparing for a Job in Tech and Finance (Breakout Room 3)
Moderators: Jenny Yang & Mohammad Jahangoshahi

Tips and Tricks: Preparing for a Job in Government & Non-Profit (Breakout Room 4)
Moderators: Susan Shortreed & Simone Gray

Making impact in a post graduate collaborative work environment (Breakout Room 5)
Moderators: Adeniyi Adewale & Jesse Chittams

10:00 AM **Open Networking** (Entire town)

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM **The Committee on Minorities in Statistics Open Business Meeting**

Wednesday August 11, 2021

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM **Round Table Discussions**
How to make a Professional Impact in a Virtual Environment (Small Auditorium)
Moderator: Janelle Charles

How to Navigate a Hybrid (Virtual and In-Person) Graduate School Experience
(Big Auditorium)
Moderator: Cody Chiuzan

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM **Open Discussion & Closing Remarks** (Big Auditorium)
Moderator: Adrian Coles

10:00 AM **Open Networking** (Entire town)

Program Participants

Damola Akinlana	Adia Loudon
Prince Allotey	Yifan Lu
Danielle Bailey	Xingli Ma
Danielle Bynoe	Daniel Milstein
Rohan Crawley	Melyssa Minto
Irina Cristali	Victoria Moreno
Dontray Crump	Jane Mwangi
George Diaz	Ann Nyaboe
Christian Dimandja	Wiuraola Olawole
Ugochinyere Ejiogu	Cristian Oliva Aviles
Adeyemi Fagbade	Anushka Palipana
Christina Fennell	Chathurangi Pathiravasan
Evelyn Fokuoh	Desiree Picazo
Natalie Gasca	Mandela Quashie
Boyi Guo	Allison Randy-Cofie
Alberto Guzman-Alvarez	Naomi Rankin
Emil Hafeez	Kyle Roberts
Marcia Hawkins-Day	Tony Roberts
Rakinya Hinson	Fatoumata Sanogo
Danetta Hooks	Elizabeth Seymour
Aaron Hudson	Kinnary Shah
Buu Huynh	Tierra Smtih
Blessing Ibe	Marieke Sorge
Colin Jackson	Kayla Stephens
Innocent Kamali	Benjamin Stockton
Daniel Kpormegbey	Stefanee Tillman
Victor Eduardo Lachos Olivares	Justin Vargas
Chelsea Lancaster	Zhe Wang
Immaculate Langat	Yangxinyu Xie
Jeffrey Lavenberg	Bo Ye
Vienna Liu	

Suggested Activities for Mentors and Mentees during JSM

Mentors and mentees should meet at least once, virtually and one-to-one, during JSM. Following is a list of suggested activities for the one-to-one and beyond.

1. **Mentors:** Attend the Mentoring Breakout Session on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 9:15 AM EDT.
2. Discuss what the mentee wants to get from the relationship (e.g., career advice, help weighing options for the future, advice on choosing a graduate program, etc.). Review the mentee's CV together and discuss preparing for various types of careers.
3. Virtually attend section networking events and business meetings together – e.g., Section on Statistics and the Environment, Section for Statistical Programmers and Analysts mixer.
4. Attend a talk given by JSM DMP participants. Program participants are well represented at JSM. On the next page, you will find a list of presentations and posters being given by DMP participants.
5. Other mixers and events:
 - a. JSM 2021 Virtual Wellness Challenge
 - b. JSM Opening Mixer
 - c. JSM Student Mixer
 - d. JSM Virtual Talent Show

Presentations and Posters by DMP Participants

See the [JSM 2021 Online Program](#) for virtual meeting links.

All times are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Sunday August 8, 2021

Damola Akinlana	Multiple Objective-Latin Hypecube Designs for Computer Experiments	Speed	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM
Chathurangi Pathiravasan	One-Year Watch Patterns in the Electronic Framingham Heart Study	Paper	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM
Susan Shortreed	Emerging Statistical Challenges and Opportunities in Mental Health Research	Panel	Panelist	1:30PM-3:20PM
Boyi Guo	Spike-and-Slab Generalized Additive Models and Fast Algorithms for High-Dimensional Data	Speed	Presenter	3:30PM-5:20PM
Aaron Hudson	New Developments in Survival Analysis	Speed	Chair	3:30PM-5:20PM
Samuel Echevaria-Cruz	Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in Statistics and Data Science	Panel	Panelist	3:30PM-5:20PM
Kimberly Sellers	Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in Statistics and Data Science	Panel	Panelist	3:30PM-5:20PM
Eric Laber	Non-Dominated Experimental Adaptive Designs	Speed	Presenter	5:45PM-6:30PM

Monday August 9, 2021

Yifan Lu	Prediction of Anxiety Due to COVID-19 Across States from 2020 to 2021	Speed	Presenter	10:00AM-11:50AM
Wendy Martinez	Data Challenge and SPAAS	Paper	Chair	10:00AM-11:50AM
Montserrat Fuentes	Elevating Applied Statistics in Academic Departments	Panel	Panelist	1:30PM-3:20PM
Madhu Mazumdar	Engaging Minority and Underserved Populations in Health Science: Education and Training for Careers in Statistics and Data Science	Panel	Chair Organizer	1:30PM-3:20PM
Po-Ling Loh	Inference for Network and Graph-Structured Data	Paper	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM

Tuesday August 10, 2021

Leslie McClure	The Stories of Effective Statistical Partnerships: An In-Depth Look at Educational Outreach, Knowledge and Data Sharing	Panel	Panelist	10:00AM-11:50AM
Sherri Rose	Introductory Overview Lecture: Fairness in Machine Learning: Algorithmic Fairness	Lecture	Presenter	10:00AM-11:50AM
Adrian Coles	ASA's Anti-Racism Task Force Other Committee Business		Organizer	12:00PM-1:20PM
Eric Lader	Multi-Resolution Treatment Strategies for Mental Illness	Round table	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM
Eric Daza	MoTR and PSTn: Building a Casual Engine for Estimating the Within-Individual Average Treatment Effect Using Wearable Sensors	Paper	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM
Jihui Lee	Digital Phenotyping	Paper	Chair	1:30PM-3:20PM

Wednesday August 11, 2021

Kimberly Sellers	A Flexible Univariate Moving Average Time-Series Model for Dispersed Count Data	Speed	Presenter	10:00AM-11:50AM
Knashawn Morales	Addressing a Validity Crisis in Behavioral Research: Novel Approaches to Machine Learning and Clinical Data Analysis		Discussant	1:30PM-3:20PM
Sherri Rose	Validity and Fairness in Mental Health Services	Paper	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM
Bo Ye	Impact of Inconsistent Imputation Models in Mediation Analysis with Clustered Data	Speed	Presenter	1:30PM-3:20PM
Aaron Hudson	Inference on Function-Valued Parameters Using a Restricted Score Test	Paper	Presenter	3:30PM-5:20PM
Jihui Lee	PCAN: Principal Component Analysis for Networks	Speed	Presenter	3:30PM-5:20PM
Eric Lader	Safe Learning Methods for Mental Health	Paper	Presenter	3:30PM-5:20PM

Arielle Marks-Anglin	Surrogate-Assisted Sampling for Cost-Effective Validation of Electronic Health Record Outcomes	Paper	Presenter	3:30PM-5:20PM
Leslie McClure	Data Coordinating Centers: Telling the Story of Research	Panel	Chair Organizer	3:30PM-5:20PM

Thursday August 12, 2021

Adrian Coles	Delivery on Our Stated Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Goals	Paper	Presenter	10:00AM-11:50AM
Irina Cristali	Using Embedding for Estimating Casual Effects Over Social Networking	Speed	Presenter	12:00PM-1:50PM
Arielle Marks-Anglin	Next- Generation Sequencing and High-Dimensional Data	Speed	Chair	12:00PM-1:20AM
Adrian Coles	Making Our Discipline More Diverse and Inclusive: A Fresh Look at ASA's Efforts to be More Diverse and Inclusive	Panel	Organizer	12:00PM-1:20PM
Cody Chiuzan	Leveraging Real-World Evidence to Increase Diversity in Populations in Clinical Trials	Paper	Presenter	2:00PM-3:50PM

2021 DMP Committee Member, Mentor, and Speaker Bios

Adeniyi Adewale (he/his)

Committee Member, Mentor, Speaker



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My country of origin is Nigeria. I obtained bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Nigeria and obtained graduate degrees in Statistics from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. I have worked in clinical drug development for over 14 years. Prior to my current role at Novartis, I worked with Merck and Alcon.

Price Allotey

Speaker



Prince Allotey is a Ph.D. Candidate in The Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut and currently working under the supervision of Dr. Ofer Harel. Prince has an M.Sc. in Applied Statistics from Western Michigan University and a B.Sc. in Computer Science and Statistics from University of Ghana. His research focuses on Incomplete Data, and Bayesian Inference for Spatially Correlated Data. During his leisure time, he enjoys playing or watching soccer.

Kiros Berhane

Speaker



Dr. Berhane is the Cynthia and Robert Citron-Roslyn and Leslie Goldstein Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. He received his BSc in Statistics from Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), MS in Statistics from University of Guelph (Canada), PhD in Biostatistics from University of Toronto (Canada), and completed postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University (USA). He is a widely published expert on development of statistical methods for complex and correlated data structures, and their application into a wide range of public health topics with focus on environmental health. Prior to joining Columbia in January 2020, he was Professor and Director of Graduate Programs in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Southern California. He served on several national and international advisory and review panels, including Committee to Review Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of exposure to herbicides (fourth and fifth biennial updates) of the Institute of Medicine (US National Academies), the US-EPA Science Advisory Board, as well as Review Committee and Global Health Oversight Committee for the Health Effects Institute (HEI). He is a member of the Committee on Assessing causality from a multidisciplinary evidence base for National Ambient Air Quality Standards, The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). He has extensive mentoring experience at undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral levels both locally and globally with particular focus on enhancing diversity. He was a Fulbright Scholar in 2016-2017. He is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Rebecca Betensky (she/her)

Mentor



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Rebecca Betensky is Professor and Chair of Biostatistics at New York University School of Global Public Health. Her research focuses on censored and truncated data and many of her collaborations are in Alzheimer's disease. She has directed pipeline programs to increase the diversity in Biostatistics. She is very gratified that former students are now colleagues and leaders in Biostatistics.

Emily Butler

CoMiS Vice-Chair, Committee Chair



Emily Butler is the Director of Biostatistics at ProKidney, a cell therapy start up. She is responsible for all analytical projects across the company, including 5 clinical trials and investor relations. While she now works in nephrology, she previously supported early oncology cell therapy at a large pharmaceutical company. As a statistician, her true passion is around engaging with her clinical colleagues to ensure the statistical validity of all trial designs, interpretations and publications. Emily graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2016 with a PhD in biostatistics and Carnegie Mellon University in 2011 with a bachelors in statistics.

Sharon Caslin
Committee Member



Sharon S. Caslin is a Statistical Analysis Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is wrapping up work on the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) as well as the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-All Injury Program (NEISS-AIP). Sharon received her BA in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies from Emory University and her MPH in Biostatistics from Georgia State University. She will be matriculating to Harvard University this Fall to acquire a PhD in Biostatistics.

Paulette Ceesay (she/her)
Committee Member, Mentor



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Paulette Ceesay is a statistician in the neuroscience therapeutic area at Merck. She has also worked in the diabetes, cardiovascular, ophthalmology, and anti-infective areas. Paulette co-leads the Biostatistics and Research Decision Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. The goal of the Task Force is to attract more diverse candidates, as well as continue to develop and inspire current employees as part of Merck's diverse and inclusive work force. She also was an adjunct professor in the statistics department at Temple University. Prior to joining Merck, she was a pension and group health actuary. Her research interests are health policy and comparative benefit risk assessment.

Richard Chappell (he/his)
Mentor



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Professor of Statistics in the College and of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics in the School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin (31-years). Long-time interest in nearly all branches of science, including paleontology, geology, astronomy, chemistry, biology, pharmacology, sociology, and medicine. Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Society for Clinical Trials, past president of the latter. Member of various FDA and other advisory boards, reviewer for the NIH and VA, and so forth. My current work focuses on randomized clinical trials but I'm happy to branch out. Father of three.

Janelle K. Charles (she/her)
Mentor, Speaker



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Janelle K. Charles, PhD., is a Principal Biostatistician at ICON (PRA Health Sciences). Dr. Charles received her PhD in Mathematics with a Statistics Concentration and Masters in Statistics from Texas Tech University. Prior to joining ICON, she has over 10 years cumulative experience as a Senior Biostatistician II at PPD and as a Mathematical Statistician at the Office of Biostatistics/Center of Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA. Her statistical contributions and project leadership spans multiple therapeutic areas and phases of clinical development. She is an active member of ASA and has served as Secretary of the Biopharmaceutical Section of the ASA and Member of the ASA Committee on Minorities in Statistics.

Jesse Chittams (he/his)
Speaker



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Jesse Chittams joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1994 after graduating with a degree in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Maryland. With over 25 years of experience, Mr. Chittams has acquired considerable expertise in data management and statistical analysis through his managerial roles at several data coordinating centers. Currently, Mr. Chittams is the Managing Director of the Biostatistics Consulting Unit (BECCA Lab) within the University of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, Mr. Chittams also has significant experience in mentoring high school students, undergraduate, and graduate students one-on-one through the Diversity Initiative in Research for Underrepresented Minorities (DRUM) program that he initiated in 2001. Throughout his career, he has helped to train over 100 interns in statistics. The interns are recruited from universities through the Philadelphia area and beyond. His profession is statistics, but his heart is mentoring/teaching young people and helping them develop professionally.

Cody Chiuзан (she/her)
Committee Member, Mentor, Speaker



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Cody Chiuзан, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. She is also affiliated with the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center where she serves as the principal statistician on several oncology trials. Her research area focuses on development of early phase clinical trial designs (mainly immunotherapies) and leveraging real-world evidence to improve trial outcomes. For the last two years, Cody has served as the Chair of the Diversity Committee (Department of Biostatistics) and as President of the ASA NYC Chapter.

Adrian Coles
CoMiS Chair, Speaker



Dr. Adrian Coles is currently a Senior Research Scientist at Eli Lilly and Company. In this role, Dr. Coles designs, implements and interprets data from clinical trials to help bring new pharmaceutical innovations to patients in need. To this point in his clinical research career, he has co-authored nearly 50 peer-reviewed journal articles that focus on various facets of cardiovascular diseases such as coronary artery disease and heart failure, has authored a book chapter on diversity and inclusion in talent acquisition, and has received multiple awards for his contributions as a statistician at Duke Clinical Research Institute and Lilly. He also serves as the Chair of the American Statistical Association's Committee on Minorities in Statistics and as the Math Alliance Associate Director for Industrial Relations. In these roles, Dr. Coles, broadly, helps to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the mathematical sciences as well as provide support and mentorship to several younger professionals in the field. Dr. Coles holds a BA in Math from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a PhD in Statistics from NC State University, where he was the first African American male to earn a PhD in Statistics from the time-honored department. Prior to attending graduate school, Dr. Coles served nearly nine years in the United States Marine Corps, where he received multiple awards for leadership and honorable service.

Lorin Crawford
Speaker



Lorin Crawford is a Senior Researcher at Microsoft Research New England. He also holds a faculty position as the RGSS Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Brown University. His scientific research interests involve the development of novel and efficient computational methodologies to address complex problems in statistical genetics, cancer pharmacology, and radiomics (e.g., cancer imaging). Dr. Crawford has an extensive background in modeling massive data sets of high-throughput molecular information as it pertains to functional genomics and cellular-based biological processes. His most recent work has earned him a place on Forbes 30 Under 30 list, The Root 100 Most Influential African Americans list, and recognition as an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow and a David & Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowship for Science and Engineering. Before joining Brown, Dr. Crawford received his PhD from the Department of Statistical Science at Duke University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Clark Atlanta University.

Eric J. Daza (he/his)

Mentor



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Dr. Eric J. Daza is a data science statistician at Evidation Health, a digital health company. He has worked for 18+ years in both industry and academia, in pharma clinical trials, survey sampling, nutrition, maternal/child health, global/international health, health promotion & disease prevention, healthtech, digital health, and behavioral medicine.

Dr. Daza also created and edits Stats-of-1, a health statistics blog focused on digital within-individual statistical designs or methods (WISDOM). He investigates how to discover causal relationships from an individual's own wearable device, sensor, and app data. He is also a member of the International Collaborative Network for N-of-1 Clinical Trials and Single-Case Experimental Designs.

As a privileged middle-class Brown Asian immigrant, Eric Jay earned both his BA in Neurobiology / Cognitive Studies and MPS in Applied Statistics at Cornell University, followed by his DrPH in Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He then trained as a postdoc at the Stanford Prevention Research Center. He is also Jesuit-trained. www.ericdaza.com

Biai Dominique Digbeu (she/her)

Committee Member



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Biai Digbeu is from Cote d'Ivoire, Western Africa. She obtained a BS in Mathematics-Statistics from the University of Central Oklahoma, and a MPH in Biostatistics from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She has experience working as a data analyst and programmer in various hospitals located in the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world. Her research focus on preventive medicine, geriatrics and population health. She currently works as a Biostatistician I at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Gavelston.

Samuel Echevarria-Cruz (he/his)

Mentor



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I am currently a professor of Sociology at Austin Community College. I have spent years teaching at both 2-year, 4-year and graduate programs, teaching statistics at all levels. I have also had the opportunity to work in the public and private sectors as a statistician. I am passionate about equity work in statistics to reverse centuries of racism and other discriminatory narratives that have used statistics to encourage systemic inequalities across a wide array of societal dimensions.

Abie Ekangaki (he/his)

Mentor

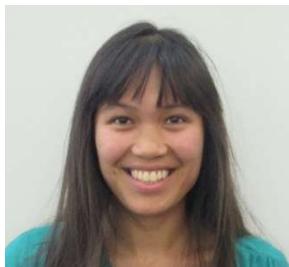


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Dr. Abie Ekangaki is currently Vice President, Statistical Consulting at Premier Research. With over 26 years of experience as a biostatistician, Abie has worked in different capacities around the globe, including the past 20 years in several technical and senior leadership positions in both large pharma and CROs. Before that he was Lecturer in Statistics at Macquarie University, Australia and previously worked as a research scientist with the World Health Organization in Switzerland. He is experienced at applying and advising on advanced statistical designs and analysis approaches in clinical trials across various therapeutic areas, from proof-of-concept through submission and post-marketing trials. He has served as DMC statistician in areas including cardiovascular diseases and other immunological indications. Abie has led, overseen and consulted on the implementation of advanced statistical approaches in trial design and execution, such as advising on complex multiplicity issues in multi-center mega-trials and with seamless phase 2/3 adaptive trials. He has also represented multiple sponsors at key FDA advisory meetings as statistician expert on their trial protocols. Abie has over 10 years of experience mentoring a broad range of diverse individuals. He is passionate about helping his mentees strive towards their potential.

Angelica Estrada

Committee Member



Angelica Estrada graduated from UC San Diego with a degree in Biophysics and worked in mental health research and education. Working in these fields sparked her desire to learn more statistics and transition into a career where she can use statistics in education or mental health research. Realizing her limited math background and needing to improve her low undergraduate GPA, she returned to UCSD to take upper division math courses, and then earned her Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Math & Statistics at Smith College. This fall she looks forward to starting the Statistics PhD program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In her free time she enjoys indoor rock climbing, Polynesian dancing, and bookkeeping for her friend's air plant decor business, Mist & Sea.

Montserrat Fuentes (she/her)

Speaker



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Montserrat (Montse) Fuentes is the president of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Prior to this appointment, she joined the University of Iowa (UI) as executive vice president and provost in June 2019 and professor of Statistics and Actuarial Science in the College of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of Biostatistics in the College of Public Health. She came to the UI from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she served as dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, as well as professor of Statistics, and professor of Biostatistics in the School of Medicine. Before joining Virginia Commonwealth University in 2016, Fuentes was head of the Department of Statistics and James M. Goodnight Distinguished Professor of Statistics at North Carolina State University (NC State). Prior to that, she served as director of the Network on Statistical Methods in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. A National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded center to promote multi-institutional and interdisciplinary research training at the interface of statistics and atmospheric and oceanic sciences, with 200 members and 21 affiliated institutions. In her leadership roles she has promoted a transformative educational experience, focusing on enhancing student success and promoting experiential learning with an unwavering commitment to inclusive excellence, establishing innovative programs and partnerships while seeking fiscal sustainability and building a culture of success.

Fuentes has authored more than 100 scientific publications and served as principal or co-principal investigator on more than 20 research grants, with total funding of more than \$28 million. Since 2019, she has been a principal investigator of an NSF ADVANCE award of \$3M to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

In 2008, Fuentes was named an American Statistical Association Fellow for outstanding contributions to mentoring and advancement of statistical methods. In 2012, she received the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Scientific and Technological Achievement Award for the development of an air quality model evaluation framework that fosters scientific credibility for model applications. In 2013, she received the NC State Equity of Women award, and was also awarded the NC State D.D. Mason Award in recognition of Fuentes's outstanding leadership in 2016. In 2017, she was awarded the Medal of Distinguished Achievement from the American Statistical Association, Environmental Statistics Section, for major statistical methodology contributions, leadership, and mentoring roles.

She is a first generation college student and she received a dual bachelor's degree in mathematics and music (piano performance) from the University of Valladolid in Spain and a Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Chicago.

Melody Goodman (she/her)

Mentor, Speaker



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Melody received her B.S. summa cum laude in applied mathematics-statistics and economics (double major) from Stony Brook University. She received her M.S. in biostatistics from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and her Ph.D. from the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard University with minors in theoretical statistics and the social determinants of health disparities.

Dr. Melody Goodman is the Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor of Biostatistics, in the School of Global Public Health at New York University. She is the Director of the Center for Anti-racism, Social Justice, & Public Health. Dr. Goodman is a biostatistician and research methodologist with a large statistical toolbox. Her research interest is on identifying the origins of health disparities and developing, as necessary, evidence-based primary prevention strategies to reduce these health disparities. Dr. Goodman conducts applied biostatistical and survey research for community-based interventions and health disparities research with a strong focus on measurement. Additionally, through academic-community collaborations, she implements, evaluates, and enhances the infrastructure for community-engaged research, in order to mitigate health disparities. Dr. Goodman has expertise in partnership evaluation and training for community partners. She developed and directed the community alliance for research empowering social change, the community research fellows training, the youth research fellows training, and the quantitative public health data literacy training. In addition, she developed and validated the research engagement survey tool (REST); a survey instrument designed to assess the level of non-academic partner engagement in research.

She has over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and two books (2018 Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group); 1) Public Health Research Methods for Partnerships and Practice and 2) Biostatistics for Clinical and Public Health Research. The National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Verizon Foundation, Long Island Community Foundation, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure have funded her work.

Simone Gray
Speaker



Simone Gray, PhD, is a senior statistician in the Epidemiology and Applied Research Branch of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC). Dr. Gray joined DCPC in 2017 and previously worked as a statistician in CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. Her work is focused on a variety of projects related to surveillance, recurrence, and cancer survivorship. She works with epidemiologists, medical professionals, and other public health professionals to conduct research across the cancer spectrum from prevention to survivorship.

Dr. Gray completed her undergraduate education at Palm Beach Atlantic University and earned her Master of Science degree from University of Miami. She also completed a PhD in Statistics at Duke University, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ofer Harel (he/his)
Mentor



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Ofer Harel is a professor of Statistics and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Connecticut. Dr. Harel received his doctorate in statistics from the Pennsylvania State University and his post-doctoral training at the University of Washington, Department of Biostatistics, where he worked for the Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) Center of Excellence, VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, and the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC).

Courtney Henry (she/her)
Mentor



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Dr. Courtney Henry joined GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 2018 as a Principal Statistician in Oncology Pharma R&D. In her role, she is primarily focused on statistical design, methodology, and analysis of clinical trial data in oncology. Currently, she is the lead statistician for an expansive Phase I FTiH study of patients with selected advanced solid tumors. Previous to joining the company, Dr. Henry earned her PhD in Statistics from Purdue University. She also holds a MS in Mathematical Statistics and Applied Mathematics and a B.S in Mathematics from Purdue University, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and Hampton University, respectively. In her personal time she enjoys physical fitness activities and interior decorating.

Justine Herrera
Committee Member



Justine Herrera, MA is the Director of Academic Programs for the Biostatistics Department at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She has over 16 years of experience in higher education. In her current role, she oversees the academic progress of current Master's and doctoral students and employs strategies regarding academic issues. Justine also has experience and a passion for increasing diversity in the STEM field. She is the Administrative Director of the Biostatistics Epidemiology Summer Training (BEST) Diversity Program. The BEST Diversity Program, founded in 2008, provides research opportunities in biostatistics and epidemiology, as applied to heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) research. The program targets undergraduates who are under-represented in biomedical research and who will contribute to a more diverse research workforce in the future.

Ixavier Higgins
Committee Member



Dr. Ixavier Higgins is a Research Scientist at Eli Lilly & Company. He works in Neuroscience discovery/development, where he leverages imaging and genetics data to gain insights on neurodegenerative diseases. Before joining Eli Lilly, Zae was a doctoral student in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Emory University. His work focused on network methods for brain imaging data. He also holds a B.S. in Mathematical Economics and an M.A. in Mathematics from Wake Forest University. Zae is passionate about exposing underrepresented groups to STEM disciplines early in their academic careers.

Rebecca Hubbard (she/her)
Mentor



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Rebecca Hubbard is a Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania in 2014, she received her PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Washington and was an investigator at the Group Health Research Institute (subsequently renamed Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute). Her research focuses on the development and application of methods to improve analyses using real world data sources including electronic health records and medical claims data, and she frequently teaches short courses on study design and analytic approaches for research relying on these data sources. Her methods have been applied across a broad range of research areas including health services research, cancer epidemiology, aging and dementia, and pharmacoepidemiology.

Mohammad Jahangoshahi

Speaker



I am a Quantitative Researcher at Susquehanna International Group (SIG), working on Index Options. My work is focused on designing statistical models to describe various behaviors of the financial market.

Before joining SIG, from 2013-2018, I was a Ph.D. student at the department of Statistics at the University of Chicago. My research was in Probability Theory and stochastic models that arise in Statistical Mechanics. Previously, I was an undergraduate student at Sharif University of Technology.

Eric Laber (they/their)

Mentor



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Eric Laber is Professor of Statistical Sciences and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Duke University. Before joining Duke, he spent ten years in the Department of Statistics at NC State University. His research focuses on data-driven decision making, causal inference, and non-regular asymptotics.

Donna LaLonde

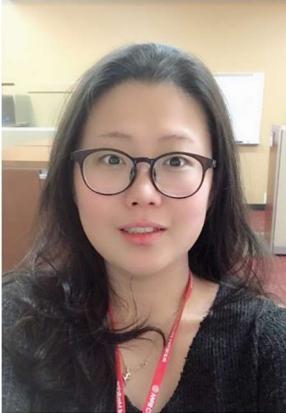
Committee Member



Donna LaLonde is the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach at the American Statistical Association (ASA) where she works with talented colleagues to advance the vision and mission of the ASA. Prior to joining the ASA in 2015, she was a faculty member at Washburn University where she enjoyed teaching and learning with colleagues and students; she also served in various administrative positions including interim chair of the Education Department and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. At the ASA, she supports activities associated with presidential initiatives, accreditation, education, and professional development.

Jihui Lee (she/her)

Mentor

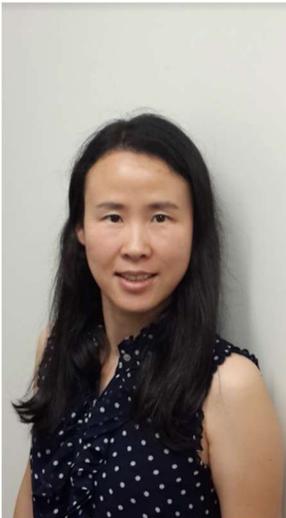


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Dr. Jihui Lee is an Instructor of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medicine. She received her PhD in Biostatistics from Columbia University and joined the Department of Population Health Sciences in 2018 for her postdoctoral training. Dr. Lee is interested in developing statistical methods for spatiotemporal data and analyzing mobile health data from smartphones and wearables. She also works with a wide range of collaborators on interdisciplinary research projects in medicine.

Lihua Li (she/her)

Mentor



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I am an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the department of population health science and policy at Mount Sinai, and my research is focused on developing and applying innovative statistical methods to aging related diseases such as cancer and dementia. The methods include propensity score weighting methods with survey weighted data when the outcomes are binary, quantile regression forest analysis of end-of-life healthcare costs, and latent multiple trajectory analysis of paid care and family care time. I have extensive experience in designing clinical trials, developing the trial protocols, assessing the feasibility, and the pattern of their healthcare utilization and cost.

Po-Ling Loh (she/her)

Mentor



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Po-Ling Loh received her PhD in Statistics from UC Berkeley in 2014. From 2014-2016, she was an Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of Pennsylvania. From 2016-2018, she was an Assistant Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at UW-Madison, and from 2019-2020, she was an Associate Professor of Statistics at UW-Madison and a Visiting Associate Professor of Statistics at Columbia University. She began a position as a Lecturer in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics at the University of Cambridge in January 2021. Po-Ling's current research interests include high-dimensional statistics, robustness, and differential privacy. She is a recipient of an NSF CAREER Award, an ARO Young Investigator Award, the IMS Tweedie and Bernoulli Society New Researcher Awards, and a Hertz Fellowship.

Jasmine Lusane
Committee Member, Speaker



Jasmine Lusane is a Public Health Analyst focusing on minority health. She has also worked in reproductive and sexual health justice, maternal and perinatal health, and child health areas. She is an inaugural Data Science Fellow graduate at Correlation One Data Science for All. Prior to her role as an analyst, Jasmine has served as Project Manager in the non-profit sector and a Research Assistant at Johns Hopkins University in neuroscience. She is a graduate of Florida A&M University where she received her MPH in Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

Jasmine Mack
Committee Member



Jasmine is currently an NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholar, training between the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the University of Cambridge. Her research concerns methods development in statistical genetics and genetic/environmental epidemiology with application in maternal and child health research. Previously, Jasmine provided statistical support and data management supervision for the University of Florida's Department of Epidemiology and the Center for Arts in Medicine. She also served as a biostatistician for the University of Florida's Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics. Jasmine earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Psychology/Linguistics from Emory University, a Master of Public Health from Boston University, and a Master of Science in Biostatistics from the University of Michigan.

Daniel Malinsky (he/his)
Mentor



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I'm an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. My research focuses mostly on causal inference: developing statistical methods and machine learning tools to support inference about treatment effects, interventions, and policies. Current research topics include structure learning (a.k.a. causal discovery or causal model selection), semiparametric inference, time series analysis, and missing data. I also work on algorithmic fairness: understanding and counteracting the biases introduced by data science tools deployed in socially-impactful settings. Finally, I have interests in the philosophy of science and the foundations of statistics. Previously, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Johns Hopkins University. I completed my PhD at Carnegie Mellon University in 2017 and earned my BA from Columbia University in 2011.

Mario Marazzi

Speaker



He was born in Puerto Rico, and in his early years he lived in Washington and Boston. His father, an Argentinian engineer, his mother, a Puerto Rican political scientist, early on, he was drawn to mathematics and the social sciences.

Back in Puerto Rico during his high school years, he became interested in the use of data to measure all aspects of the human experience. At the time, the Government of Puerto Rico began to face questions about the methodologies of its official statistics. One day, gathered around the dining table, his father said: “what Puerto Rico needs is an independent Institute of Statistics”. He never thought that 20 years later that is exactly what Mario would lead. After finishing his university education with a doctorate from Cornell University, he served as Research Economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, DC, where he was able to work on the macroeconomic forecast models of the U.S. economy, used by the Federal Reserve to set interest rates. His research led to changes in the way the Board forecasts U.S. import prices, and challenged prevailing traditional views on the extent of monetary policy tightening necessary to offset the potential inflationary effects of a significant and sustained dollar depreciation.

In 2007, he was appointed by a Board of Directors, composed largely of university professors, as the first Executive Director of the new Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics (PRIS), which had been established by the Government of Puerto Rico in a bid to improve the quality of the official statistics of Puerto Rico. He built PRIS from the ground up, and participated directly in some of the most important technical initiatives of PRIS, including the re-estimation of Puerto Rico’s Consumer Price Index, the identification of thousands of deaths that had previously not been included in Puerto Rico’s official mortality statistics, as well as the development of several web-based platforms for the exchange of open data.

In 2016, a bipartisan Congressional Task Force on the economic growth of Puerto Rico stated that PRIS “had emerged as a highly professional, autonomous, and apolitical organization that is bringing greater transparency to economic, financial, and fiscal conditions on the island”, and recommended that PRIS “continue to protect its independence” from the government of Puerto Rico.

In 2018, Mario led a global effort to protect the independence of PRIS from a proposed reorganization that would have eliminated the organization’s ability to work free from political influence. At the time, Puerto Rico was recovering from the effects of Hurricane Maria, and trying to grapple with the undercount in the official death toll. The American Statistical Association was joined by a plethora of organizations from around the world in making sure the proposed reorganization did not take place.

Mario Marazzi is the first Puerto Rican to be elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute, and has served on the Bureau of Labor Statistics's Data Users Advisory Committee, and is a current member of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee. Mario is the proud father of 3-year old Marco, who has already begun to show an interest for math.

Miguel Marino (he/his)
Mentor, Speaker



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Miguel Marino, PhD is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Family Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, and with the Biostatistics group in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. He received his B.S. in Mathematics from UCLA and his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Harvard University. Dr. Marino maintains a broad statistical research program that focuses on the intersection of primary care and public health studies including utilizing novel statistical methodology to answer critical community and primary care research questions in health policy, health disparities and vulnerable populations, social determinants of health, health insurance monitoring, among others. Since 2013, Dr. Marino has been the Statistical Editor for the Annals of Family Medicine and he currently serves as the Publications Officer for the Health Policy Statistics section of the American Statistical Association. His body of research earned recognition in 2020 when he was selected by the National Academy of Medicine as an Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine Scholar.

Arielle Marks-Anglin (she/her)
Mentor



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Arielle Marks-Anglin is a doctoral candidate in Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include statistical methods for meta-analysis and the design and analysis of studies using electronic health record data. Specifically, she develops methods that promote reproducibility, optimality and fairness in medical research.

Wendy Martinez (she/her)

Mentor, Speaker



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Wendy Martinez has been serving as the Director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center at the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for eight years. Prior to this, she served in several research positions throughout the US Department of Defense. She held the position of Science and Technology Program Officer at the US Office of Naval Research, where she established a research portfolio comprised of academia and industry performers developing data science products for the future Navy and Marine Corps. Her areas of interest include computational statistics, exploratory data analysis, and text data mining. She is the lead author of three books on MATLAB and statistics. Dr. Martinez was elected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) in 2006 and is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. She also had the honor of serving as the President of the American Statistical Association in 2020.

Madhu Mazumdar (she/her)

Mentor



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Madhu directs the Institute of Healthcare Delivery Science (I-HDS) at Mount Sinai Health System (MSHS) with a core team of ~20 quantitative, qualitative, and informatics researchers who work with front-line providers to analyze data from the MSHS electronic medical record (EMR) and national databases for improvements in the quality, safety, outcomes, and efficiency of care and disseminate these evidences through highly cited publications. Individualized mentoring is one of Madhu's personal and institutional passions. She has personally mentored ~110 professionals and guided them on research, career, and life-work balance. She was awarded a Fellow of American Statistical Association for achieving excellence in leading biostatistical collaborative efforts with major impacts on treatments in oncology and orthopedic surgery; for efficiency in developing and reforming multiple biostatistics units; for outstanding mentoring of biostatisticians, clinical faculties, and research fellows; and for substantial editorial review work ensuring quality reporting of statistical results in clinical journals.

Leslie McClure (she/her)

Mentor



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Leslie McClure is Professor & Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. She has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Kansas; an MS in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health from the University of Iowa, and her PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Michigan. Dr. McClure does work to try to understand disparities in health, particularly racial and geographic disparities, and the role that the environment plays in them. Her methodological expertise is in the design and analysis of multicenter trials, as well as issues of multiplicity in clinical trials. Dr. McClure is passionate about increasing diversity in the math sciences and devotes considerable time to mentoring younger scientists. Dr. McClure enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and dog, and completed her first triathlon prior to the pandemic.

Knashawn Morales (she/her)

Committee Member, Mentor



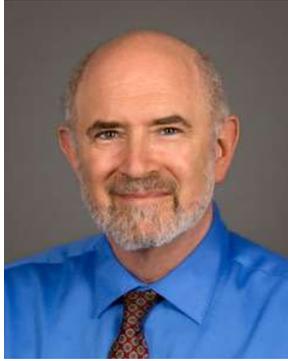
knashawn@upenn.edu

Knashawn H. Morales received her Bachelor's in Mathematics in 1995 from Hampton University and earned a doctorate in Biostatistics in 2001 from Harvard School of Public Health. After two years as a Research Scientist at the New England Research Institutes, Dr. Morales joined the University of Pennsylvania in 2003 where she is currently Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics at the Perelman School of Medicine. She collaborates with investigators on research with a primary focus in mental health and behavioral modification interventions for asthma, insomnia, weight management, and HIV/STD risk reduction. Her methodological experience includes longitudinal data analysis, latent variable modeling, and categorical data analysis.

Knashawn is committed to increasing the pipeline of biostatisticians and has actively participated in outreach and diversity initiatives. She enjoys formal and informal mentoring of both students and junior investigators. Knashawn has been fortunate to have instrumental mentors and she aspires to be a positive influence for others.

David Morganstein

Speaker



David Morganstein, now retired, was a Vice President at Westat, Inc. having started there in 1976. For 35 years, he served as the Director of Westat's Statistical Staff of 70 M.S. and Ph.D. statisticians and survey methodologists. A senior statistician with more than 45 years of experience, his areas of expertise include the design and application of sample surveys and systems of evaluation, quality control, statistical analysis, and estimation and quantification. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and was ASA President in 2015. Previously he served on ASA's Board of Directors as ASA Treasurer, and as Vice President. He is a recipient of the ASA's Founders Award. He is an elected member of the International Statistics Institute and previously chaired its Ethics Committee when it revised the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics. He has instructed in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, sponsored by the University of Maryland. He has made numerous presentations on statistical issues and published papers in various journals including: Statistics and Public Policy, Journal of Official Statistics, Statistical Journal of the IAOS, Statistics in Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and the Proceedings of the Joint Statistical Meetings. Mr. Morganstein obtained a B.S.E.E. degree in Electrical Engineering at Purdue University and an M.A. in Statistics from the University of Michigan.

Jami Mulgrave (she/her)

Mentor, Speaker



ijn2102@gmail.com

Jami Mulgrave earned a PhD in Statistics from North Carolina State University and was a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. She is currently a People Research Scientist at Facebook.

Isaac Nuamah (he/his)

Mentor



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I am the Global Head of Medical Affairs and Established Products Statistics at Janssen R&D (of Johnson & Johnson). Prior to my current role, I was the Functional Manager of Medical Affairs in charge of Neuroscience and Immunology compounds. I have also worked as the Statistical Leader for late development Neuroscience compounds including Schizophrenia, Alzheimer's Disease, and Bipolar Disorder. This has allowed me to delve into a wide range of statistical topics such as missing data, longitudinal methods, generalized mixed models, network meta-analysis, adaptive designs, Bayesian inference, and recently causal inference.

I have more than 20 years experience in the Pharmaceutical Industry and has worked both in late development clinical trials and currently in Medical Affairs & Established Products. I have a Bachelor's degree from the University of Ghana, a Masters in Statistics from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and a PhD in Biostatistics from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I recently joined a group within our Quantitative Sciences Department that seeks to promote Diversity and Inclusion (especially people of color). I have been an active member of the ASA at the local level (Princeton-Trenton Chapter) and national level (Council of Chapters, of which I am a Past-Chair). I have a long-standing interest in Mentorship and as Chair-elect of the ASA Council of Chapters (2018), I organized a Mentoring workshop for the Chapter Representatives, with the aim to promote mentoring at different ASA Local Chapters.

Christina Nurse

Committee Member, Speaker



Dr. Christina Nurse is a native of Atlanta, Georgia where she graduated summa cum laude as a mathematics major from Spelman College, was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, and was the Most Valuable Player of the conference after helping her team win the tennis championship. While at Spelman, she also had the honor of studying mathematics abroad in London at the University College London. As Dr. Nurse graduated from Spelman, she received the Ford and the GEM Fellowships to support her matriculation at Harvard University for her Master's degree and Ph.D. in biostatistics and moved to Boston where she completed her doctoral degree in 2017.

Dr. Nurse has a deep passion for tutoring mathematics and has tutored mathematics in high school, college, graduate school, and continues to tutor math today in-person and via the internet. After matriculating through her doctoral program, Dr. Nurse accepted a position as a biostatistician at Shire Pharmaceuticals and is now a senior biostatistician manager at Takeda Pharmaceuticals where she helps to design and analyze data from clinical trials to ensure the safety and efficacy of the medicines they develop which are used to treat rare diseases. She is currently the global statistics lead for lanadelumab, a medicine used to treat and prevent hereditary angioedema.

Dr. Christina Nurse is a firm believer of to whom much is given much is required. Consequently, she loves to mentor underrepresented women and men with career aspirations in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In her free time, she loves to spend time with her husband, Khaden and 16-month old son, Khaden Jr.

Sastry Pantula

Speaker



Sastry G. Pantula, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at California State University- San Bernardino (CSUSB), is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in statistical sciences. Most recently, he has served as the Director of Data Analytics programs at Oregon State University and a Professor of Statistics. He has served as the dean of the College of Science for four years at Oregon State University from August 2013 to August 2017, after serving a three-year term as Director for the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the National Science Foundation. Pantula spent more than 30 years as a statistics professor at North Carolina State University (NCSU), where he began his academic career in 1982. At NCSU, he also served as the Director of Graduate Programs (1994-2002) and the Head of the Department of Statistics (2002-2010). He has been a leader in graduate education, developing partnerships with industry, including GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, Merck and SAS to develop to increase graduate traineeships and fellowships. In all of his administrative roles, he has focused on enhancing the quality, quantity and diversity within the department, the division and the college. His core values are excellence, diversity and harmony: strive for excellence, enhance diversity and foster harmony.

As the dean of science at Oregon State University, Pantula has worked with an excellent diverse leadership team that was successful in recruiting outstanding faculty and students from diverse backgrounds, focused on student and faculty success, developed and implemented a strategic plan, increased grant funding, and raised a record amount of funds for scholarships and endowed professorships, among others. He is continuing on a similar set of goals to enhance student success and decrease achievement gaps among various student groups at CSUSB. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Statistical Association (ASA). He served as ASA president in 2010 and received the ASA Founders Award in 2014. Pantula is a member of the honor societies Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Mu Sigma Rho. He is also a member of the NCSU Academy of Outstanding Teachers. Pantula received bachelor's and master's degrees in statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, India, and a Ph.D. in statistics from Iowa State University.

Vivak Patel (he/his)
Committee Member, Mentor



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Vivak Patel is an assistant professor of statistics at the University of Wisconsin -- Madison. He earned his PhD in statistics at the University of Chicago under the supervision of Mihai Anitescu, and earned his MAST in mathematics at the University of Cambridge. His work is at the intersection of statistics and mathematical computation with a focus on developing rigorous, practical randomized algorithms for modern data problems.

Melissa Pugh Williamson
Speaker



Melissa Williamson is a Senior Research Scientist at Eli Lilly and Company. Her main areas of interest are in neurodegeneration, digital biomarkers, and decentralized clinical trials. She is a member of the DEI core committee for the statistics and data organization at Lilly. Melissa earned her PhD in Biostatistics at the University of Iowa in 2016.

Viswanathan Ramakrishnan (he/his)
Mentor



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Completed PhD in Statistics from Florida State university, worked at UIC School of Public health for 11 years, then at VCU dept. of biostats for 11 years and now working at MUSC Department of Public Health Sciences as a professor. I migrated to the US as a student in the 80s from Chennai, India.

Sherri Rose (she/he)
Mentor



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Sherri Rose, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at Stanford University in the Center for Health Policy and Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research. She is also Co-Director of the Health Policy Data Science Lab. Her methodological research focuses on machine learning for prediction and causal inference. Within health policy, Dr. Rose works on risk adjustment, algorithmic fairness, comparative effectiveness, and health program evaluation. She was recently named a fellow of the American Statistical Association and her other honors include the ISPOR Bernie J. O. Brien New Investigator Award, an NIH Director's New Innovator Award, and Mid-Career Awards from the American Statistical Association and Penn-Rutgers Center for Causal Inference.

Kimberly Sellers (she/her)

Mentor



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Kimberly Sellers, Ph.D. is a Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, specializing in Statistics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and a Principal Researcher with the Center for Statistical Research and Methodology Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. A DC-area native, she completed her BS and MA degrees in Mathematics at the University of Maryland College Park and obtained her PhD in Mathematical Statistics at The George Washington University. Prof. Sellers held previous faculty positions at Carnegie Mellon University as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Statistics, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Senior Scholar at the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics before her return to the DC area. Her primary research interests and expertise center on statistical methods for count data that contain data dispersion with methodological interests in distribution theory, regression analysis, multivariate analysis, stochastic processes, and time series analysis. Sellers became an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute in March 2018 and is among this year's cohort of American Statistical Association (ASA) Fellows in recognition of her research, as well as her active contributions to diversifying the fields of mathematical and statistical sciences with respect to gender and race/ethnicity. She was the 2017-2018 Chairperson for the ASA's Committee on Women in Statistics, and currently serves as the inaugural chairperson of the ASA's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Outreach Group, as well as an Advisory Board member for the Black Doctoral Network.

Susan Shortreed (she/her)

Mentor, Speaker



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Susan Shortreed is a Senior Investigator in the Biostatistics Unit at Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle, Washington and an Affiliate Professor in the Biostatistics Department at the University of Washington. Dr. Shortreed's methods work is focused on developing and applying machine learning methods to address health science problems and improving the design and analysis of studies that use data gathered from electronic health records. She leads the Analytic Methods core of the Mental Health Research Network and has provided statistical leadership to projects across a broad range of scientific topics including addressing chronic pain, maternal and fetal health, and suicide prevention.

Felicia Simpson
Committee Member, Speaker



Felicia R. Simpson, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Winston-Salem State University. Dr. Simpson received her BA in Mathematics from Albany State University and her Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Florida State University. Prior to joining Winston-Salem State University, Dr. Simpson worked as a Mathematical Statistician at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at FDA, Division of Biometrics IV. Her research interests include design and analysis of clinical trials, and metrics of aging. Dr. Simpson's current research focuses on measurement and statistical modeling to characterize latent processes that underlie and conjoin different metrics for aging.

Dr. Simpson is an active member of the ASA and International Biometric Society. She is passionate about increasing the exposure of statistics and biostatistics among students in underrepresented populations. Dr. Simpson a member of the committee on minorities in statistics from the American Statistical Association and served as co-chair for the ENAR Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop.

Brian Smith (he/his)
Mentor



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I received my Ph.D. in statistics from University of Kentucky in 1994. From 1994-1996, I worked as a statistician for the University of Louisville Kidney Disease Program. From 1996-2005 I worked as a statistician and later statistician/manager at Eli Lilly. From 2005-2014 I worked as a statistician/manager at Amgen. Since 2014 I have been a manager of statistics at Novartis. My career has focused on early development (Phase 1 and clinical pharmacology) throughout. Although I have worked on or managed others that worked on projects pre-clinically and through the end of Phase 2. I have been very active with the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and was an associate editor for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics from 2007-2019, since then I have been this journals Chief Statistical Advisor. I am also active with ASA and currently serve as an associate editor for Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research. In addition, I am a member of the International Society of Pharmacometrics. Lastly, since about 2008 I have served as a faculty member for the American Course of Drug and Regulatory Science where I teach on Phase 2 dose response trials.

Briana Stephenson (she/her)

Mentor



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Briana Stephenson is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She received her B.S. in Mathematics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While working as a statistician for the U. S. Food and Drug Administration and Department of Defense, she earned a MPH in biostatistics at George Washington University. She went on to continue her education at UNC Chapel Hill, where she earned a PhD in biostatistics from the Gillings School of Public Health and her postdoctoral training at the UNC Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center. Her work has focused on Bayesian nonparametric and model-based clustering with applications in nutrition epidemiology, cardiovascular health, and health disparities.

Dionne Swift (she/her)

Committee Member, Mentor, Speaker



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Dionne Swift is a Principal Statistician in the Data and Modeling Sciences Organization. She joined Procter and Gamble shortly after receiving her PhD in Mathematical Statistics from the Ohio State University. Dionne has partnered closely with engineers and scientists in numerous business and corporate groups, integrating learning throughout project planning, development of test/experimental designs and statistical modeling. For various brands such as Tide, Gain, Olay, her technical and collaboration skills have enabled new product claims, development of new business concepts and identification of lead technologies to drive concepts to success. Currently, she collaborates with scientists in the R&D Bioscience & Life Sciences to leverage existing/new life sciences capabilities for product innovation and discovery. Her current research interests include high-dimensional data analysis, multi-omics integrative analyses, and Bayesian analysis with application in genomics, proteomics and microbiome research.

Machell Town (she/her)
Committee Member, Mentor



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Dr. Machell Town is the Branch Chief for the Population Health Surveillance Branch in the Division of Population Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Machell joined CDC's Division of Adult and Community Health in November of 1999 as a mathematical statistician in the Behavioral Surveillance Branch. Machell provides expertise in sample designs and weighting for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). She is a leader in oversampling of special populations and local communities for RDD surveys. Machell has consulted on sample designs and weighting for special surveys in the US and globally. Machell received her Bachelors and Masters in Statistics from the University of Georgia and her PhD in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology from Walden University. Before coming to CDC, Machell was a mathematical statistician at the US Bureau of the Census for 9 ½ years where she specialized in sampling, data quality, questionnaire development, weighting, variance estimators, and small area estimation. She is a member of the American Statistical Association Committee on Minorities in Statistics. She has been appointed to the Statistics Advisory Committee of Preventing Chronic Disease Journal.

Alison Tuiyott
Speaker



Alison holds a Master of Science degree in Statistics from Miami University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics and Predictive Analytics from Miami University. Her interests include Data Analytics, Natural Language Processing, and Deep Learning. In the past, Alison has collaborated with two other universities on research funded by the National Science Foundation to explore factors that affect truck driver alertness. In her final year of graduate school, Alison received the Provost's Student Academic Achievement Award, the most prestigious award given to students at that level, for her hard work and studious efforts. In her current role, she provides expertise in modeling and other data science techniques in the finance industry. Her primary responsibilities encompass a wide variety of data science focused technology issues: data validation, modeling, and data analytics. Prior to her current role, Alison has interned with Eli Lilly & Company where she utilized deep learning methods for text mining to provide insights into protocols in clinical trials. Alison also interned at General Electric where she designed an agnostic method for user testing of tools utilized by engineering, manufacturing and supply chain. She explored initiatives to reduce losses in Supply Chain Quality that led to a development of a tool that identified top parts that were attributed to losses. Alison serves as a mentor for young girls entering the data science field.

Therri Usher
CoMiS Vice-Chair, Committee Member



Dr. Therri Usher is a Mathematical Statistician at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Usher provides statistical support to the regulation of drugs to treat rare diseases and the use of patient focused drug development. She is active in the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society and the American Statistical Association, serving as a Vice-Chair of its Committee on Minorities in Statistics and the Chair of StatFest 2020. Dr. Usher received her BS in Mathematical Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas and her PhD in Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University, where she conducted research in health disparities and aging.

Sydeaka Watson (she/her)
Mentor



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Dr. Sydeaka Watson is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and currently lives in Dallas, Texas. She is Founder and Owner of Korelasi Data Insights, LLC and Senior Data Scientist at Eli Lilly & Company. In these roles, Sydeaka uses predictive analytics and visual tools to draw insights from diverse datasets. Sydeaka earned a Ph.D. in Statistics from Baylor University and has several years of teaching experience. In her 5 years as Research Assistant Professor in The University of Chicago Biostatistics Laboratory, she consulted with over 110 biomedical research teams in The University of Chicago Medical Center, specializing in statistical analysis and experimental design for clinical research studies. Dr. Watson also worked as a data science consultant at Elicit Insights, supporting analytics initiatives at enterprise companies. Her current research interests include applications of (1) image recognition for computer vision, (2) data science for social justice, and (3) sports analytics. Sydeaka currently serves as Organizer of the R-Ladies Dallas Chapter and Co-Organizer of the Dallas Chapter of Blacks in Technology. She also volunteers in the Dallas chapters of Girls Who Code and Black Girls Code.

Sharifa Williams (she/her)

Mentor



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Dr. Williams is a research scientist and biostatistician at the Center for Research on Cultural and Structural Equity in Behavioral Health at Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research. Her research interests include biostatistical methods applied to quantifying trends in psychosocial exposures across the life-course and the cumulative impact on health outcomes in adulthood and midlife. She has also applied her training as a survey statistician to analyzing trends in substance use and suicide attempts in large statewide datasets. She also has an interest in public health education having taught several undergraduate and graduate level biostatistics, epidemiology, and research courses at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) and Columbia University (New York, NY). Dr. Williams received her Doctor of Public Health (Biostatistics), Master of Science (Biostatistics), and Master of Public Health (Health Policy & Management) from Columbia University, and her Bachelor of Arts (Economics) from Rutgers University.

Jeffrey Wilson (he/his)

Mentor



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Jeffrey Wilson is a Professor of Statistics and Biostatistics. He is the former Director of the School of Health Management and Policy and a former Chair of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Public Health. He is a former Director and co-Director of the Biostatistics Core in the NIH Center for Alzheimer at Arizona State University. He is a former chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board at Arizona State University, and served as the chair of the Gender, Diversity, and Student Well-being subcommittee for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). He is also the former President of the PAC-12 council and the present PAC-12 FAR representative to 1A FAR association. He is presently the Statistics Associate Editor for The Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology and the Faculty Athletics Representative for Arizona State University. Dr. Wilson's research experience includes grants as PI and co-PI from the NIH, NSF, USDA, Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Arizona Disease Research Commission. He has published more than 80 articles in leading journals such as Statistics in Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, Journal of Royal Statistics Series C, Management Science, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, Computational Statistics, and Australian Journal of Statistics, among others. He has consulted with pharmaceutical companies and hospitals while representing them before the FDA and other federal government healthcare agencies.

Rebecca Wilson

Committee Member, Mentor, Speaker



Dr. Rebecca Wilson is a Principal Statistician in Immunology currently working on late-phase ulcerative colitis clinical trials. She joined Janssen in February 2020. She previously worked as a Lead Data Scientist at Fifth Third Bank. Rebecca obtained her DrPH in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2018) and her A.B. in pre-medical studies and Spanish from Bowdoin College (2007). Prior to beginning her graduate studies, she completed a postbaccalaureate program in Mathematics and Statistics at Smith College. She also worked in Biostatistics at the Massachusetts General Hospital and taught English at a secondary school in Toledo, Spain. Rebecca’s research interests include Longitudinal, Categorical, and Missing Data Analysis. Her dissertation research focused on imputation and repeated measures analysis for accelerometer data. She enjoys staying active, reading, and fishing in her free time.

Jenny Yang

Speaker



Jenny Yang leads the clinical data science team at Clover Health. There, she looks to leverage technology to bring scalable experimentation and optimization to population health, bringing together her passion for causal inference in health together with Clover's cutting edge data infrastructure. She is a public health fanatic at heart, with a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and prior work in public health survey research, statistical epidemiology, and statistical genetics.

Reading Material

1. How to Get the Most Out of the Joint Statistical Meetings:
<http://stattrak.amstat.org/2013/05/01/jsm/>
2. Attending Your First JSM – Working Hard and Playing Even Harder.
<https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/05/01/first-jsm-tips>
3. JSM at a Glance. <https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2021/pdfs/JSM2021-ScheduleataGlance.pdf?v=2.0>
4. Staying Motivated and Achieving Success in Graduate School: A Few Common and New Suggestions: <http://stattrak.amstat.org/2012/04/01/staying-motivated/>
5. Advice for Statistics Folks who Recently Entered the Job World:
http://stattrak.amstat.org/2011/01/18/recently_entered_job/
6. [Science Careers](#) – Advice on cover letters, CVs, interview skills
7. [Science: How-To Series Collections](#) – practical advice on finding a job and building a career in the sciences
8. [Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship](#) Please see links for more details.
9. Stitch Fix Technology – <https://multithreaded.stitchfix.com/>

JSM 2021 Diversity Mentoring Program Committee

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