

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:
1990-1991 Kenneth Resser, Amgen

I obtained a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and an M.S. degree in Biostatistics, both from UCLA. My main research interests were in the design and analysis of clinical trials and critical evaluation of the medical literature. In my career as a biostatistician, I worked at UCSF Medical Center primarily in cancer research and clinical trials from the mid-70s to the early 80s, then at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in the mid-80s consulting in cardiology and nuclear medicine, and finally at Amgen, where I was the Director of Biostatistics until 2005. While at Amgen, I gave seminars on drug development at various colleges, including UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, USC, Cal State Northridge, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the University of Washington. In 1997, I was featured in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health newsletter in an article focusing on three UCLA biostatistics grads and their careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Following retirement, I participated in the UCLA FSPH Biostatistics Mentorship Program for three years.

My involvement and experience with SCASA began around 1984–85. I was attending a SCASA event, having just moved back to L.A. from San Francisco, and met Bob Newcomb. He was very engaging and I mentioned to him that I thought the Chapter was kind of insular. Bob could be very persuasive and he asked me to get involved. I did. During my active involvement with SCASA, I attended numerous Fall Kick-Off meetings at Pomona College, served on the Applied Statistics Workshop Organizing Committee for > 10 years and was moderator several times, participated in the planning of Careers Day for > 10 years and represented Amgen at this event, was the SCASA representative to the ASA Council of Chapters for five years, was on the JSM local organizing committee when the 1990 JSM was held in Anaheim, was a panel member on SCASA-organized meetings on careers in Statistics and served as President of the Chapter in 1990-1991. (Most chapter

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presidents were from an academic institution at the time). I was honored to receive the second Outstanding Chapter Service Award in 1996. Dan Martinez was the first.

In the mid-90s, Arnie Goodman and Janet Myhre organized a local Southern California one-day meeting on Consulting and Collaboration at Claremont-McKenna College. I helped with program and gave one of the presentations.

Over the many years of my participation in SCASA activities, I worked closely with dedicated members including Bob Newcomb, Arnie Goodman, Don Bentley, Dan Martinez, Nancy Berman, Harold Dyck, Roxy Peck, Jay Devore, Srinivas Jammalamadaka, Anita Iannucci, Joyce Niland, Stan Azen, Rob Gould, Andy Dagis, Michael Chernenick, and many others.



I had involvement in ASA proper and I have been a many decade-long member. *[Editor's note: 50+ years, in fact]*. I was on the Committee for Career Development for a few years and on the Evaluation Subcommittee of the Continuing Education Committee for Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). I also chaired sessions at JSM.

During the time of my active participation in SCASA, the chapter spanned the region from San Luis Obispo to San Diego and from the coast to San Bernadino. Given this very large, unwieldy area, it was often difficult to serve the community efficiently and garner broad membership participation. The creation of the San Diego chapter and then the OC/LB chapter was wise and allowed greater engagement and more "local" activity planning and execution. I am impressed by the ongoing meetings, projects and services of the "Southern California" chapters and the many in the community who currently drive the continuing success of the chapters.