

# SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

**From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:**

**1989-1990 Sreenivasa Rao Jammalamadaka, University of California, Santa Barbara**



Professor Sreenivasa Rao Jammalamadaka, known to many as J.S. Rao, is among the leading researchers in statistical science during the last five decades. His research and scholarship has had a great influence in theory and applications in several areas such as goodness of fit testing and directional statistics. Professor Jammalamadaka earned his B.Stat, M.Stat and the Ph.D. degrees from the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, India. He started his academic career at Indiana University, before joining the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1976 where he is now a Distinguished Professor. He also holds Adjunct Professor appointments at the Curtin University in Australia and at the Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science in India.

Professor Jammalamadaka is the author of three books and over 250 research publications. He has produced more than 48 Ph.D.'s so far, who are now working as academicians and as statistical practitioners in various organizations all over the world. For this, he was awarded the University of California Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award in 2017. He achieved an international reputation for pioneering work in developing new tools to analyze nonlinear phenomena like directions and circularity. He has held visiting positions at various universities all over the world including University of Wisconsin, University of Leeds, Uppsala University, Chalmers Institute of Technology, Göteborg University, University of Malaya, and Australian National University. He is the Founder of the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability at the University of California, Santa Barbara and chaired that department from 1989-1993.

For his pioneering contribution to statistical theory and applications, Professor Jammalamadaka received various awards and honors. He has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications, the C. Y. O'Connor Fellow of the Curtin University of Technology, and an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute. He has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in 2012, and received Honorary Fellowship of the Indian Society for Probability and Statistics (ISPS) in 2014. He received the CR Rao Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 from the ISPS. He has been an Invited Speaker at more than 300 national and international statistical conferences and served as a member of the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of American Statistical Association*, *Statistics and Probability Letters*, *Stochastic Modeling and Applications*, and the *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics*, to name some.

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**Q: How long have you been involved with SCASA, and in what capacity (besides the presidency)?**

After obtaining a Ph.D. in Statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute under the guidance of Professor C R Rao, and after brief stints at the Indiana University at Bloomington, and the Univ of Wisconsin at Madison, I joined the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1976. At that time, the SCASA's activities were somewhat localized to the LA area. Then I helped start what we called the "Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo Area Section of the SCASA", and I served as its Chair during 1984-1990, holding many regular events here in Santa Barbara. Then I was elected Vice-President (1987-88), President-Elect (1988-89), and served as the President (1989-90) of SCASA. I have been actively involved in various activities of SCASA for almost another 25-30 years, until I started to build a "Statistical Consulting Lab" and even a new "Department of Statistics and Applied Probability" here at the UCSB, which took higher priorities and of my time.

**Q: Were there any particularly memorable events you helped organize or participated in during your time with SCASA?**

There were far too many events to try to recall at this time, but bringing in active participation from private companies like the Amgen where I was an occasional Consultant, and participation from other UC campuses like the UCI and UCR as well as from CSULB -- which I am very happy to note, is still flourishing, are some of the milestones.



SCASA is proud to introduce the "SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner" as part of our celebration of the 100th anniversary of our chapter. This special feature highlights the incredible contributions of our past presidents and active members, honoring their dedication and leadership that have shaped SCASA's rich history.

Each issue will spotlight additional past SCASA leader, providing insights into their achievements and the lasting impact they have had on our organization and the broader statistical community. We invite you to join us on this journey through SCASA's legacy.

A complete list of SCASA's past presidents is available for viewing here:

<https://community.amstat.org/scasa/about-us/new-item>

Stay tuned for more updates and features in upcoming issues!