E-Tidings Newsletter

SCASA Events and News

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IN THIS ISSUE

Submitted by Rebecca Le, SCASA immediate past-president

ASA 2023 Data Visualization Poster and Statistics Project Competition Winners have been announced and we are happy to learn that the first-place winner in our SCASA regional competition received the second place at the national level. Here is the list of winners for Grades 10-12:

FIRST PLACE Baxter Hovis, Jonah Sagers, Sam Bowen, and Gavin Paulus, Title: "How to Win te ASA Poster Contest", Mastery School of Hawken, Cleveland, Ohio

SECOND PLACE Raymond Levine, Title: "Covid on the Border" Westview High School, San Diego, California

Third Place Yifan Li, Title: "Putting Sustainability Under the Spotlight: An Analysis of ESG Disclosing Trends in SEC Filings", Poolesville High School, Rockville, Maryland

Honorable Mention Alexander Choi, Title: "How Has Climate Change Impacted Fish Growth", Reno High School, Reno, Nevada

More info about the competition and a complete list of winners can be viewed here:

https://docs.google.com/document/ d/1OuHdM7OKCA3EuFO8ZCToiyfez3ILgf54/edit

Note that this information hasn't been published yet by the ASA. Winning posters will appear on the event website in due time.

JEDI CORNER

Fund Set Up to Kick-Start Community for Underrepresented People in Statistics

The Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Outreach Group Corner is a regular component of Amstat News *in which statisticians write and educate our community about JEDI-related matters. If you have an idea or article for the column, email the JEDI Corner manager at* jedicorner@datascijedi.org.

Michael Tsiang is a continuing lecturer in the department of statistics and data science at the University of California, Los Angeles. He serves as secretary for the Southern California Chapter of the ASA and is a member of the ASA LGBTQ+ Advocacy Committee.

MORE ONLINE
To share thoughts or lend support, contact Tsiang at *michael. tsiang@stat.ucla.edu.*

I am lucky to have my dream job working in the department of statistics at the University of California, Los Angeles. My mom worked at UCLA as a librarian for 40 years; I grew up on this campus, and it has always felt like home. I love what I do, and I have a department of faculty, staff, alumni, and students who make me feel like I belong every single day.

However, there's a phrase that has come back to me many times over the last few years: "This moment is not about me." I know not everyone feels the same sense of belonging I do in STEM, especially students and faculty from minoritized backgrounds. Though I feel safe in my current position, I have been in other STEM environments in which I did not feel welcome for reasons completely unrelated to my intelligence or competence in the field. I felt invisible and marginalized—a second-class citizen.

I never want my statistics department to make others feel like they do not have a place in it. Though the topic of equity and inclusion has been of particular and personal interest to me for years, it is more important than ever to lean into this movement in today's social climate. To that end, in October 2020, I created the Michael Tsiang Fund for Belonging in Statistics, an initiative to create a safe and supportive community around the many groups that have been historically underrepresented in statistics—women, people of color, the LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, and first-generation students—to address any and all invisible ways people can be marginalized and underrepresented.

The Michael Tsiang Fund for Belonging in Statistics does the following:

- Works within the UCLA Department of Statistics to create a space for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and allies to work and learn together

- Funds community inclusivity initiatives and student awards within the statistics department

- Helps cover the costs of lectures, panel discussions, workshops, screenings, research, community outreach, and other activities that empower and educate our community

- Ensures these efforts remain at the forefront of the statistics department's priorities year after year

- Helps kick-start an intentional community for underrepresented people in statistics

Creating a safe and supportive community for all requires consistent effort. I wanted to ensure there would always be funds available to support any initiatives helping further the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, which led me to consider a permanent endowment.

In the fall of 2020, the dean of physical sciences issued a challenge to match 100 percent of any endowments, pledges, or donations totaling $100,000 or more made by June 30, 2021, so the timing was opportune. I knew I would not be able to donate such an amount on my own, but I hoped the goal would be achievable through crowdfunding.

Closely collaborating with the physical sciences development office, I leveraged my personal and professional network of friends, family, former students, and alumni through emails, social media posts, and personal solicitation. Attaching my name to the fund was not only a way to express my direct involvement and firm belief in its cause but also a way to add a connection for members in my personal community to donate toward, even if they are not directly associated with the statistics community.

Through an initial personal contribution and significant fundraising efforts, I was able to raise more than $100,000 by June 30, 2021, establishing the fund as a permanent endowment less than nine months after its creation and ensuring that addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are a priority for the department in perpetuity. In addition, the dean of physical sciences is matching 100 percent of the inaugural donations, immediately doubling the support for our mission to more than $200,000.

I plan to establish a fund committee in the coming academic year to discuss ways to address the issues in our community and make sure funds are used in appropriate and impactful ways that are consistent with the mission to create a greater sense of belonging for everyone. With the support of the department leadership and the fund, I am excited and hopeful the department will be at the forefront of building a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive community in statistics within UCLA and around the world.

If you are interested in pledging your support and giving a gift to this fund, you can do so at *bit.ly/3WWyaqC.* ∎

Submitted by Alex (Chong Ho) Yu, President-elect of SCASA

JSM 2023 Birds of a Feather Discussions

There will be an exciting slate of Birds of a Feather discussions taking place in Toronto, ON, during JSM 2023 and online the week after the conference. Full session descriptions are at this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1trI7PGcJuc9qhEdX7Dx27rsdptDhfW6RfCD1GnjVTus/edit

If you're interested in attending any of the in person or virtual discussions, please register at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPEtFEk9aWMvm7Cvyj2lRlITBtxd-6zUc05xVsGYUxHlQoDw/viewform

Use this form to sign up for JSM 2023 Birds of a Feather sessions! Some sessions will be offered in person at JSM in Toronto, ON (Aug. 7-9), and some will be offered virtually the week after JSM (Aug. 14-19). Birds of a Feather sessions are open to all, and, for the virtual sessions, JSM registration is not necessary. Sign up for as many sessions as you like - there are no session fees to participate! Registrants will receive an email reminder 1-2 days before their session.
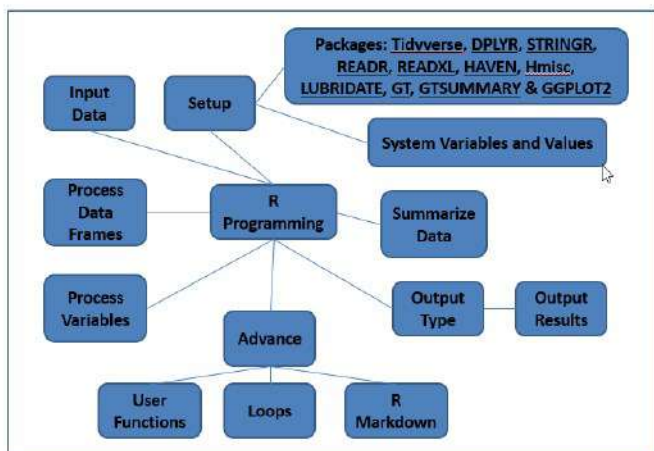
R_Guru <- R(*for SAS Programmers*)

Click: Site-Map, How-To, Tasks I, Tasks II, Functions, Book, Tidyverse, Debug, Test, Exercises, Data, Pharma, Shiny, Cheat Sheets, Best Practices, Videos, FAQs

Submitted by Sunil Gupta, sassavvy.com and r-guru.com

| Professional R Online Learning | R Best Practices & Mentoring | Master R Hands-On Exercises | Be an R Programmer |

R-Guru Best Practices Mind Map

Packages: Tidyverse, DPLYR, STRINGR, READR, READXL, HAVEN, Hmisc, LUBRIDATE, GT, GTSUMMARY & GGPLOT2

Input Data — Setup — System Variables and Values — Process Data Frames — R Programming — Summarize Data — Process Variables — Advance — Output Type — Output Results — User Functions — Loops — R Markdown

R-Guru.com *Cheat Sheet for Statistical Programmers*

This guide contains best practice examples for creating and updating tibbles in the pharma industry. Examples show common R tasks for importing data, creating data frames, direct variable referencing, piping, conditional and group processing, sql components, character and date operations, variable type conversions, transposing data frames, joining data frames, appending data frames, deriving summary variables, and creating graphs and output files. When possible, base R sample data frames are used in examples.

Mutate() has five features: case_when(), simple expression, summary functions, rowwise(), and group_by()/ungroup() with summary functions. Data utility functions describe and view data frames: View(df), str(df), summary(df), table(vr), print(df, n=), head(df), tail(df), row_number(), nrow(), ncol() and ls(). Tidyverse, DPLYR, STRINGR, READR, READXL, HAVEN, Hmisc, LUBRIDATE, GT, GTSUMMARY & GGPLOT2 packages are required. df# are data frame names & vr# are variable names. Character or numeric variables depend on the function and values. Missing and non-missing conditions: == '', == '.', !='', !='.', na.rm=TRUE .

| 1-on-1 Mentoring | Student Journal | Weekly Videos | Hands-on Exercises |

Pre-Assignments	View Videos, Lesson's Outline in R-Guru.com
Lectures	Recorded Live weekly lectures, Questions and Answers
Assignments	Hands-On R Exercises, Copy/Paste/Update/Run, Papers
Discussions, Questions & Answers	Journal – Progress, Key Concepts, Fill-in, Questions
Student Presentations	5 – 8 minutes presentation or demo on one R topic

Week 1. What is R, Getting Data into R	**Week 5.** DPLYR for SQL and %>% Piping
Week 2. Create and Manage Data Frames	**Week 6.** Create SDTMs
Week 3. Join, Summarize and Format Data Frames	**Week 7.** Create AdaMs
Week 4. Tidyverse Data Management Operations	**Week 8.** Tables, Graphs

2023 Orange County Biostatistics Symposium

DATE: Friday and Saturday, **September 29-30, 2023**

TOPIC: Innovative Designs in Expediting Drug and Device Development

LOCATION: In person at **Edwards Lifesciences** Conference Center, 1 Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92612. An online option will be also available.

EVENT WEBSITE: www.oclbasa.org

REGISTRATION: is open at **https://2023ocbiostatistics.eventbee.com**. Early bird registration ends on **August 15, 2023**.

The Symposium offers a great opportunity to hear from leading statistical and pharmaceutical/medical device experts from industry, academics, and regulatory agencies on their experience and practice of bringing innovation to the development of drugs and devices. The symposium focuses on topics related to recent advances in methodology and applications related to complex innovation trial design, master protocols, gene and cell therapy, and real-world evidence-based research. The Symposium also focuses on recent advances in the application of AI/ML methodologies in drug development. In addition, academic researchers and students will present their research on the above topics.

 Please consider inviting your interested students and possibly paying their registration fees. The students will enjoy the Industry Exposure Career Panel designed just for them (see Pages 7-8 for more info), and please motivate your students to participate in the Biostat Poster Competition (see Page 9 for details).

INDUSTRY EXPOSURE CAREER PANEL FOR STUDENTS

One of the break-out sessions on the second day of the symposium will be devoted to a **Q&A-style panel discussion about careers in the industry**. This session is designed primarily for students but everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will consist of five experts introduced below. Please invite your students to attend the symposium and in particular, this session. And please consider sponsoring your students. The student fee is $20 until August 15 and goes up to $45 after that date. Below are the bios of the panelists.

Gajanan Bhat *Senior Vice President, Clinical and Data Science at Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Irvine*

A clinical research and development executive with over 20 years of experience in drug, device, and imaging diagnostic agent development and a proven track record of successful execution of clinical development and post-marketing activities in early-stage and pivotal clinical trials leading to NDA submissions, approvals, and market launch. A result-oriented team leader who provides directions to the team and strategy for the clinical development plan and execution to meet corporate objectives.

Ha Dang *Lead biostatistician at Johnson & Johnson Medical devices companies, Monrovia.* My experience and accomplishments highlight my expertise in biostatistics, particularly in the design and analysis of clinical trials, my leadership abilities, and my commitment to advancing medical research. I currently serve as a lead biostatistician at Johnson & Johnson MedTech Cardiovascular & Specialty Solutions (CSS) group, where I play a crucial role in providing statistical support for the design and execution of clinical trials within both Mentor and Coherex franchises. In my position, I not only offer statistical guidance to junior statisticians but also spearheaded the development of the first summer internship program for CSS. Additionally, I have successfully enhanced the processes for study routine reports and SOPs, ensuring greater efficiency and accuracy. Moreover, I have been a key statistician for a PMA submission of the Mentor team, contributing to the successful completion of an important regulatory milestone. Prior to joining JnJ, I dedicated five years to working as a statistician at COG, specializing in pediatric oncology clinical trial designs. During this time, I gained expertise in various areas such as sample size calculation and conditional power analysis through simulation. Furthermore, I simultaneously handled statistical analyses and prepared publications for five projects that were part of the Malignant Germ Cell Tumors International Collaborative Consortium. Before transitioning to industry, I had a rewarding six-year tenure as a faculty member in the Biostatistics Department within the Keck School of Medicine at USC. During this time, my primary research focus was on phase 3 pediatric oncology RCTs with COG. In this role, I collaborated closely with esteemed research clinicians to independently design 13 superiority and non-inferiority group sequential design trials. Additionally, I successfully managed a team of three statisticians, mentored seven MS students, and taught statistics to MD students, imparting my knowledge and expertise to the next generation of researchers. My contributions to the field of biostatistics are reflected in my extensive publication record, which includes over 27 collaborative papers.

Lindsay Fitzgerald-DeHoog *Data Analytics Lead at Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach.* I am a hybrid between an Environmental Scientist and a Biostatistician. I received my Master's in Biology from California State University Long Beach in 2012 with an emphasis in Marine Ecology. Though I love Marine Science I have developed an interest in Biostatistics along the way and subsequently completed a Master's in Applied Statistics. I currently work for Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian as a Data Scientist/Statistician in the Strategic Analytics Department, supporting our partners hospital-wide with their data analytics needs.

Kim Phan *Senior Analyst, Statistical Programmer at Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine.*

I have been working here for about 2 years and it has been a great learning experience. My educational background stems from UC Riverside receiving both BS and MS degrees in Statistics. I grew up in San Diego, went to college in Riverside, and currently work in Irvine, CA. Along with my aspiration to be competent as a Statistical Programmer, I also strive to be impactful beyond my role at work. Aside from jogging, you can find me enjoying a cup of coffee or milk tea in my spare time.

Larry Z. Shen *Senior Statistical Advisor, Vice President, and Head of Biometrics Services Pharmapace, Inc, a WuXi AppTec company, San Diego.* Dr. Shen is a senior statistical advisor to numerous biopharmaceutical companies to support their drug development programs. He is Vice President and head of Biometrics Services at WuXi Clinical.

Dr. Shen is a fellow of the American Statistical Association. He has authored many articles on statistical methodology and their applications to drug development.

Dr. Shen was Vice President at Amylin Pharmaceuticals leading their entire clinical development organization in the development and approval of several first-in-class medicines. Following the acquisition of Amylin by Bristol Myers Squibb in 2013, he co-founded Pharmapace, Inc., a biometrics consulting and CRO company serving the biopharma industry, and served as its President and CEO. Pharmapace was later acquired by WuXi AppTec in 2019.

Dr. Shen obtained his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of California at Berkeley and both BS and MS degrees in mathematics/probability theory from Beijing University in China.

PLEASE CONTACT OLGA.KOROSTELEVA@CSULB.EDU IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

CALL FOR STUDENT POSTERS

HTTPS://WWW.OCLBASA.ORG/POSTER-SUBMISSIONS

For the poster session, we invite undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral trainees to submit a poster abstract for this meeting. The poster session at the symposium provides an excellent opportunity to promote the exchange of ideas and information and facilitate networking opportunities within the statistics community. In addition, presenting a poster provides the students with an opportunity to showcase their work to industry as well as academic professionals. Students can access more information on the poster session at the conference website under the tab "Poster Submissions" and submit their abstracts.

ELIGIBILITY: Undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral trainees are all eligible, including students graduating during Summer 2023.

TOPICS: In the posters, the data applications should be from medical studies, including research in other fields such as environment and public policy with public health/medical components.

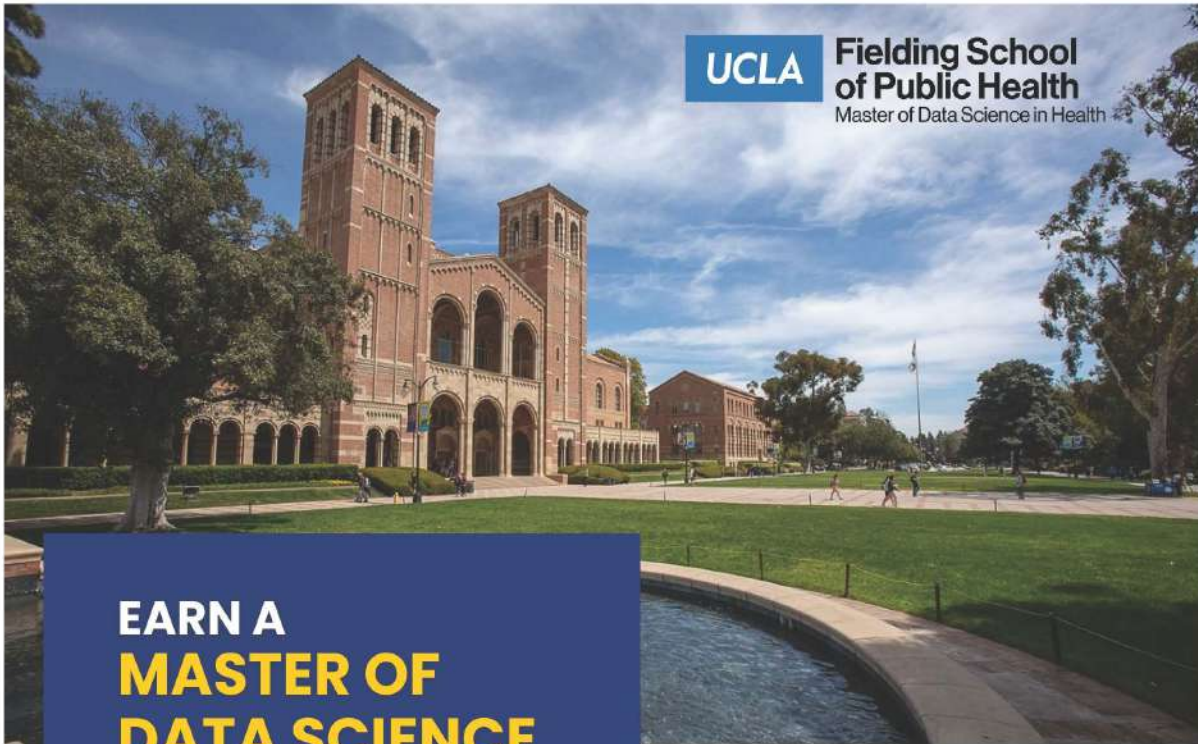**DATE:** Posters can be presented during Day 1 or Day 2 of the conference.

TIMELINE:
· Deadline for abstract submission: August 11.
· Notification on poster presentation acceptance: August 25.
· Deadline to share poster electronically for award consideration: September 15.

REGISTRATION: All poster presenters will be required to register for the conference; registration fees for 2023 Orange County Biostatistics Symposium will be waived for undergraduate and graduate students.

AWARDS: All posters will be evaluated by the Poster Committee for awards in three categories – the best visualization, the best statistical analysis, and the best insight.

CONTACT: Please contact **Esra Kurum** at **esra.kurum@ucr.edu** if you have any questions. Poster specifications and other details can be found at **https://www.oclbasa.org/poster-submissions.** Please forward this information to your colleagues and students, and we hope that you will encourage your students to submit a poster abstract.

Dr. Normalcurvesaurus,

Ph.D. presents