



E-Tidings Newsletter

SCASA Events and News

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Results of SCASA Elections:

VP for Professional Affairs



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Arnab Chowdhury, a researcher at City of Hope, has been elected Vice President for Professional Affairs for a two-year term. Thank you everyone who voted and congratulations, Arnab!

About the Elected Officer

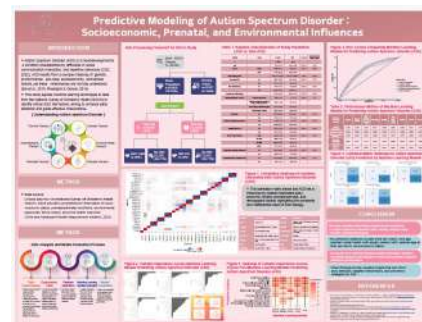
Dr. Chowdhury earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from UC Riverside in 2018 and has since worked as a Statistician at the Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope. His expertise includes designing, monitoring, analyzing, and reporting pre-clinical and clinical studies using reproducible research principles, developing novel statistical methodologies, and staying at the forefront of advancements in the field through professional workshops, conferences, and manuscript reviews.

With a strong background in theoretical and applied statistics, particularly in Biostatistics and statistical computing, Dr. Chowdhury has hands-on experience in study design, statistical analysis planning, data interpretation, protocol review, and report writing. He is adept at critical thinking, effective communication, and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

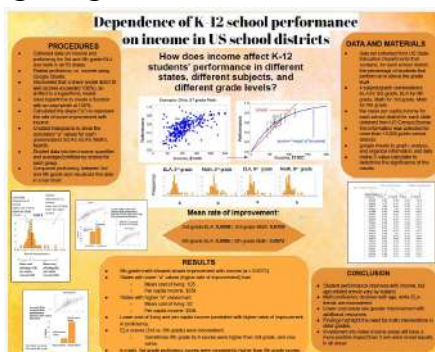
Dr. Chowdhury has been an active member of ASA since 2018 and SCASA since 2019, regularly attending our events. He is also a member of the ASA Orange County/Long Beach Chapter (since 2019), ASA's Biopharmaceutical Section (since 2019), and the Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science (since 2022).

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2025 SCASA REGIONAL DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER COMPETITION !!!

1st Place: Seyoung (Anna) Park, The Webb Schools, "Predictive Modeling of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Socioeconomic, Prenatal, and Environmental Influences"

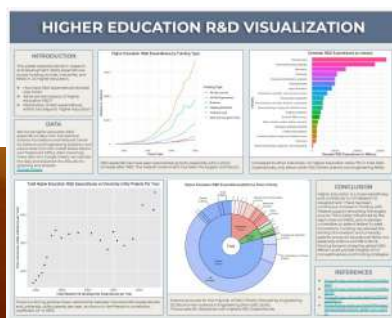
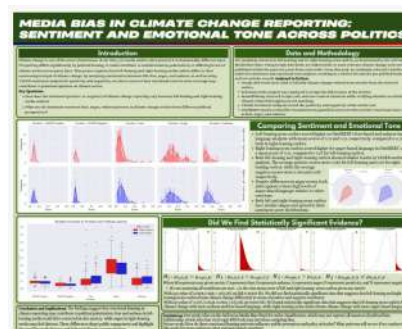


2nd Place: Taylor Cho, Los Osos High School and Lynn Kim, Rancho Cucamonga High School, "The Home Advantage Myth; Major League Sports"



3rd Place: Maria Wodarz, University High School, "Dependence of K-12 School Performance on Income in US School Districts"

4th Place: Evan Hou, James Vista, and Robert Erikson, Rancho Cucamonga High School, "Media Bias in Climate Change Reporting: Sentiment and Emotional Tone Across Politics"



5th Place: Lorry Nam and Alyssa Wang, Diamond Bar High School, "Higher Education R&D Visualization"

Post-event Report: SCASA's 44th Annual Applied Statistics Workshop | April 25, 2025 | City of Hope

"I thought the speaker was excellent: clear, enough detail to satisfy the clinical trial nerds and enough explanation to give people like me the gist of the ideas. And, he was right on schedule. What's not to like. Looking forward to next year!" -- Lionel Galway, SCASA member

We are pleased to report the successful completion of the 44th Annual Applied Statistics Workshop, hosted by the Southern California Chapter of the ASA. This year's workshop, titled "The Statistical Analysis of Composite Time-to-Event Outcomes: Win Ratio and Beyond," was taught by Dr. Lu Mao, associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Our first in-person ASW since 2019, the event was graciously hosted at the City of Hope's Platt Conference Center in Duarte and drew 32 attendees from across Southern California's academic, clinical, and statistical communities.

Dr. Mao provided an in-depth exploration of modern methods for analyzing composite time-to-event outcomes, covering key topics such as hypothesis testing, nonparametric estimation, and semiparametric proportional regression models. The day's schedule featured engaging lectures, two networking breaks, and a lunch break. A highlight of the workshop was the lunchtime presentation by the first-place winner of our Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition, which showcased innovative student research in data science and biostatistics. As is tradition, the event concluded with our popular book raffle, sending 14 lucky attendees home with books worth reading. Those less fortunate went home with some very cool buttons as consolation prizes.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to City of Hope for generously hosting the event and providing a welcoming venue, as well as to all the participants who made the workshop a success. We also gratefully acknowledge our long-time sponsor, Amgen, and the ASA for supporting the raffle books through the stimulus fund. We look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's workshop!

Mark Your Calendars! ASA Traveling Course!

Two half-days: Friday, September 19, online & Saturday, September 20, in person

SCASA is super thrilled to announce that this year we have been awarded an ASA traveling course instructed by no one else but our own immediate past president Dr. Anna Yu Lee, a founder and owner of Concierge Mental Health & Associates.

DATES: Friday, 9/19/2025, online & Saturday, 9/20, 2025, in person

TITLE: Statistical Therapy & Consulting: Combining Traditional and Quantitative Approaches to Provide Emotional Support in Educational & Mental Health Settings

ABSTRACT: This seminar explores Statistical Therapy Consulting (STC), and Statistical Therapy (ST) as novel approaches to supporting existent forms of evidence-informed mental health care. The workshop begins with an overview of distinctions and similarities between psychotherapy, ST, and STC. Included is research that underscores the development of ST and STC, interactive exercises, and opportunities for group discussion. Highlighted are various applications of STC for the treatment and prevention of common mental, emotional, and relational concerns including stress, cognitive distortion, anxiety, depression, fear, and burnout. Some of the statistical tools applications include probabilistic thinking, distribution analysis, bayesian inference, algorithmic decision-making, and data categorization analysis. Controversial and exploratory techniques such as, 'Statistics Masochistics,' are also discussed, with the focus being on integrity, transparency, ethics, and cultural diversity/respect as fundamental and integral within the delivery of all mental health services.

Bio: Dr. Anna Yu Lee holds multiple roles as Immediate Past President of the SoCal Ch. of the American Statistical Association, Adj. Professor in the School of Community & Global Health at Claremont Graduate University, and founder and senior consultant at Concierge Mental Health & Associates (CMHA). Her education and clinical training spans the fields of multicultural psychology, public health, and biostatistics, and her professional backgrounds are in counseling, residential care management, health promotion science, journalism, undergraduate/graduate instruction, and marketing. In her private practice, Dr. Yu Lee operates as a consultant, not a psychotherapist. Dr. Yu Lee's publications have appeared in journals of public health, social and behavioral health, and statistical education. She has presented to academic, clinical, and industry audiences in multiple countries in North America, Western Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East, and has taught in the Marriage & Family Therapy program in the USC Rossier School of Education, in Azusa Pacific University's MS in Biostatistics program, and UG Dept. of Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics, UG Dept. of Psychology, in addition to the UG Dept. of Psychology at Cal Poly Pomona.



Book (rather Chapter) Review: Chapter 25 Ordinal Semiparametric Regression for Survival Analysis

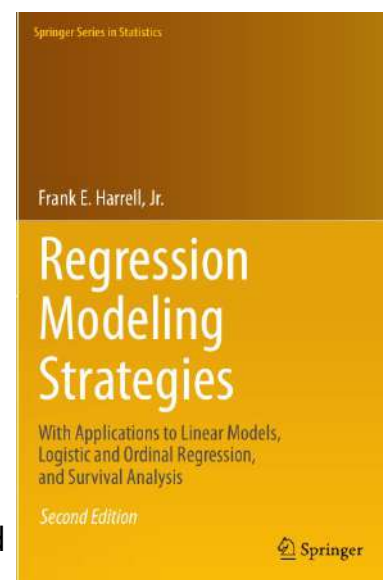
By Madeline Bauer, USC retired

This **chapter** has recently been added to the online book: **Regression Modeling Strategies** by Frank E Harrell Jr. That book (aka "course notes") was reviewed in the **June 2024 issue of our Enewsletter** (see pages 8-9). You can see a log of changes and additions at "Update History" at the end of the Preface.

The Ordinal Semiparametric Regression methods presented in this new chapter includes the commonly used Kaplan-Meier and the Cox proportional hazards (PH) model for modeling covariates. The full semiparametric likelihoods used in this new chapter allows extension of the Cox model semiparametric theme to any distribution, handles left- and interval-censoring, and extends to proportional hazards and accelerated failure time (AFT) models.

Like the first 24 chapters in **Regression Modeling Strategies**, this new chapter includes extensive examples with code, based on many new functions in recently updated R package **rms version 8.0**. There is also a very helpful section on strategies for assessing goodness of fit with suggested steps and examples illustrating new functions in **rms 8.0** that make it easy to do these steps.

In summary, IMHO, as recommended in the June 2024 **review** of the online "course notes," this new chapter is also "... worth every penny and well-worth your attention and sharing with your colleagues and students!"



Continues on the next page.

A 4-Day Virtual Workshop with Frank E. Harrell, Jr., Ph.D.

Regression Modeling Strategies

Continued from the previous page.

Many Southern California statisticians will remember that Frank Harrell gave a well-received one-day short course based on the 2nd edition for the 2019 SCASA Applied Statistics Workshop. For those of you who are looking for the next short course based on these course notes including this new chapter, a **four-day virtual course** is being offered on **Thursday-Friday, May 15-16, and Monday-Tuesday, May 19-20, 2025**. The Registration Deadline is **May 10!**

ABOUT THE COURSE

Join internationally renowned statistician **Frank E. Harrell, Jr., Ph.D.** (Professor of Biostatistics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine) and **Drew G. Levy, Ph.D.** (Moderator and Instructor) for an in-depth, practical short course on modern regression modeling strategies.

Details and Registration: <https://hbiostat.org/doc/rms/4day.html>

This comprehensive 4-day course blends statistical methodology, real-world case studies, and hands-on experience using the powerful **R rms package**. Topics are designed for researchers, data scientists, biostatisticians, and analysts seeking to deepen their expertise in predictive modeling and model validation. **Key Topics Include:**

◆ Developing **predictive models** for continuous, binary, ordinal, and time-to-event outcomes ◆ **Ordinal semiparametric models** and their applications ◆ **Model validation:** calibration, overfitting, and internal validation techniques ◆ Quantifying **predictive accuracy** with performance metrics ◆ **Comparing statistical models and machine learning** methods ◆ **Introduction to Bayesian modeling** using flexible priors and posterior inference

WHY ATTEND?

Gain rigorous training from one of the foremost experts in regression modeling. This workshop emphasizes principled approaches to statistical modeling that balance flexibility with interpretability, all while drawing on decades of applied experience.



Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D. presents



"Please hold while we bring you the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach."



Think twice...

