E-Tidings Newsletter
SCASA Events and News

Volume 13, Issue 12   **December 2025**

IN THIS ISSUE

SCASA Kick-off Event
SUMMARY

The SCASA Centennial Kick-off event brought together past, present, and future leaders of the statistical community for a rich and inspiring program celebrating SCASA's legacy and looking ahead to its nearest future. The morning session opened with welcoming remarks by SCASA President Chong Ho Alex Yu (Hawai'i Pacific University). A featured panel of distinguished ASA past presidents, Madhumita "Bonnie" Ghosh Dastidar, Jessica Utts, Robert Rodriguez, and Sastry Pantula, shared national perspectives on building community and advancing the statistical profession.The program also included a special video address from Ronald Wasserstein, Executive Director of the American Statistical Association, underscoring the strong connection between SCASA and the broader ASA community.

Honoring SCASA's roots, former SCASA presidents Ernest Scheuer, Subir Ghosh, and Joyce Niland offered wisdom from the chapter's early era, sharing personal recollections and lessons learned over decades of service. This historical reflection was complemented by presentations highlighting key SCASA initiatives, including the founding and 15-year success of DataFest (Robert Gould), the long-running Applied Statistics Workshop (Harold Dyck), and the evolution of the SCASA Newsletter (Olga Korosteleva and Rodney Jee).

The late morning sessions celebrated more recent innovations and outreach efforts, including the Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition (Rebecca Le) and the creative and engaging Statistical Therapy TV Game Show (Anna Yu Lee). President Yu also spoke on bridging traditional statistics with data science and AI, followed by a discussion on collaboration with neighboring chapters through ASA Traveling Courses and the Biostatistics Symposium of Southern California.

After the formal program wrapped up, participants reconvened for a business meeting featuring the SCASA 2025 report, the treasurer's report, updates on UCLA's ASA DataFest, plans for upcoming SCASA events, and remarks from the Vice Chair-Elect of ASA District 6.

Recordings of the Kick-off presentations and special addresses are available on the
SCASA YouTube Channel **https://www.youtube.com/@SCASA-y3n**

ASA Traveling Courses Rank Your Choices

Dear SCASA Community, please go **here** to rank your choices for the 2026 ASA Traveling courses. Rank your choices: #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The **deadline for ranking in January 10, 2026.**

Tree-Based Machine Learning Methods for Prediction and Variable Selection **Instructors:** Hemant Ishwaran and Min Lu, University of Miami **Course Length:** Half day and Virtual Only

Improving Power and Precision in Randomized Trials Using Covariate Adjustment **Instructors:** Michael Rosenblum and Josh Betz, Johns Hopkins; Kelly Van Lancker, University of Gent; **Course Length:** Half day and Virtual

Survival Analysis Methods Correcting for Treatment Switching Effects in RCTs: Theory and SAS/R Code **Instructors:** Dr. Jing Xu, Senior Director, Takeda; Dr. Bingxia Wang, Senior Director, Takeda; Dr. Qingxia (Cindy) Chen, Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Vanderbilt University; **Course Length:** Full day and open to both in-person and virtual

Quick-thinking, Confident, Communicative, and Collaborative: Fundamentals of Applied Improvisation for (Bio)statisticians and Data Scientists **Instructors:** Richard C. Zink, PhD, Principal Statistical Fellow, JMP Statistical Discovery LLC; **Course Length:** Full day or half day, in-person

Random Effects and Recurrent Events in Survival Analysis **Instructors:** Milind Phadnis, University of Kansas Medical Center; **Course Length:** Half day or full day. Virtual or in-person with a strong preference for in-person

https://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/travelingcourse

Introducing the New SCASA YouTube Channel!

We're excited to announce the launch of the **official SCASA YouTube Channel**, a new digital space dedicated to sharing knowledge, celebrating achievements, and connecting our community like never before.

The channel will feature a wide range of content, including:

🔶 **Educational videos** that highlight best practices, insights, and innovations across our field,

🔷 **Interviews and guest talks** with experts, leaders, and inspiring voices,

🔶 **Tutorials and how-tos** designed to support professional growth and practical learning,

🔷 **Event coverage, highlights, and announcements** to keep you up to date with everything happening at SCASA.

Our goal is to create a platform that informs, inspires, and strengthens our community—all in an accessible and engaging format.

Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, discover new ideas, or stay connected with SCASA initiatives, the YouTube channel will be your go-to destination. Check it out today at

https://www.youtube.com/@SCASA-y3n

and be part of the journey as we continue to grow, learn, and innovate together!

2026 Biostatistics Symposium of Southern California

January 22-23, 2026

The Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA) is excited to announce the 2026 Biostatistics Symposium of Southern California (BSSC), returning for its second year as a dynamic forum for bringing together researchers and professionals from both academia and industry. This event is collaboratively organized by the three local ASA chapters—Orange County/Long Beach, San Diego, and Southern California. The Symposium offers a great opportunity to socialize with fellow biostatisticians and 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.

Theme: Navigating New Frontiers: Biostatistics, AI, and Regulatory Evolution in Biomedical Research

Dates: Thursday and Friday, January 22nd & 23rd, 2026

Venue: Renaissance Newport Beach Hotel, 4500 MacArthur Boulevard, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Registration: now open **at https://biostatsymposium.org/**

Cost: Until 12/24 - $380 general/$80 student

Please consider joining the organizing committee next year. We'd love to have stronger representation from SCASA to make the event even more impactful.

For more information, please refer to the event website: http://biostatsymposium.org/

2026 Lange Symposium on Computational Statistics & Biomedical Data Science

Monday, January 26, 9:00am - 4:00pm, at UCLA

We are pleased to announce the **Sixth Annual Lange Symposium**. This event is hosted by the UCLA Departments of Computational Medicine and Human Genetics and supported in part by a grant from the NHGRI. The Annual Lange Symposium was launched in 2020 to honor UCLA Professor and National Academy of Sciences Fellow Kenneth Lange. The event celebrates the impact of Dr. Lange's research, mentorship, and teaching over the course of an illustrious career spanning more than four decades.

The January 26 Lange Symposium will be held at the **UCLA Luskin Conference Center**.

The 2026 Lange Symposium speakers will be:

Emily Fox, Stanford University • **Trevor Hastie**, Stanford University • **Kenneth Lange**, UCLA • **Runze Li**, Penn State University • **John Novembre**, University of Chicago • **Lieven Vandenberghe**, UCLA

For more information visit the Lange Symposium website:

https://langesymposium.github.io/Lange-Symposium/

Registration Rates: • $28 - Student • $50 - Postdoc, Faculty, Professional
Click here to register for the January 26, 2026 Lange Symposium. The registration deadline is January 16, 2026.

UC LOVE DATA WEEK

February 9-13, 2026

HOW DO YOU 💗 YOUR DATA?

February 9 - 13, 2026

UC Love Data Week is a week-long offering of presentations and workshops focused on data access, management, security, sharing, and preservation. Whether you're working on qualitative or quantitative data, we've got events for you! All members of the University of California community are welcome to attend.

We are dedicated to providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all people, regardless of background or identity. By participating in this community, participants accept to abide by the UC Love Data Week Code of Conduct and accept the procedures by which any Code of Conduct incidents are resolved.

https://uc-love-data-week.github.io/

2026 SCASA REGIONAL DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER COMPETITION FOR GRADES 10-12

SCASA is pleased to announce the 6th **Annual Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition** for High School Students in Grades 10–12.

Student will submit a photo or image of their physical poster, or a PDF file of a single-slide digital poster, by **Friday, March 20, 2026**.

For full competition details, visit

https://community.amstat.org/scasa/postercomp

Everyone will receive a certificate of participation. Winners will be notified via email by **Monday, April 6, 2026**. The top five winning teams will receive cash prizes and their posters will be submitted to the national level of the competition. As it is our tradition, the first-place winning team will be invited to present during lunch at the Applied Statistics Workshop in April 2026.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

The winners will be selected by **a panel of judges**. If you would like to serve as a judge or have any questions, please contact Rebecca Le at **becky_le@yahoo.com**.

CALL FOR SPONSORS AND MENTORS

May 1-3, 2026, at UCLA

ASA DataFest at UCLA 2026 will take place **May 1–3, 2026** in the **UCLA Ackerman Grand Ballroom,** which has hosted the event for the past four years.

DataFest is an exciting, fast-paced 48-hour data wrangling competition where undergraduate teams dive into a rich, real-world dataset and work collaboratively to uncover insights. The event is held at numerous sites across several countries, but it all began at UCLA thanks to the leadership and vision of **Dr. Robert (Rob) Gould**.

UCLA is actively **seeking sponsors**, and if you know an organization that may be interested in supporting this educational and community-centered event, please share the sponsorship page:

http://datafest.stat.ucla.edu/support-datafest/giving.

UCLA is also actively **looking for mentors** to assist student teams, and you can sign up for time slots at **https://tinyurl.com/datafest-mentor-25-26**.

If you'd like to **serve as a judge** or have any questions about the event, please contact **Dr. Linda Zanontian** at **linda@stat.ucla.edu**.

Keck School of Medicine of USC
Department of Population and Public Health Sciences

NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

LA's BeST @USC

LA's **B**iostatistics & Data Scienc**e** **S**ummer **T**raining Program at the University of Southern California
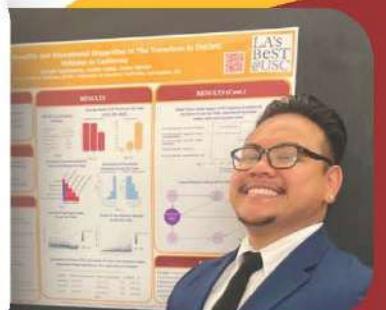
Attention all mathematics, statistics, and science students seeking a summer opportunity!

What is LA's BeST @USC?

A six-week experience for math and science students to conduct research, meet public health professionals, and grow their presentation and career skills.

Tentative dates: JUNE 15 - JULY 24, 2026
APPLICATION PERIOD:
Dec. 1, 2025 - Mar 13, 2026
Offers will be made on a rolling basis.

Eligibility:
U.S. citizen or permanent resident
Completed at least 2 years of undergraduate study

What sets us apart:

- Earn College Credits
- No tuition or fees, $2.5K Stipend
- Housing & Transportation covered
- Networking & Mentorship Opportunities
- Summer in Los Angeles!

Learn health data analysis, epidemiology, clinical trials, statistical genetics and spatial statistics for geographical modeling
Train using R, a widely used software in research
Immerse in data from groundbreaking public health research studies such as the Southern California Children's Health Study

We seek students interested in applying biostatistics & data science to tackle complex health challenges encountered in different communities

*For more information and to apply, visit:
LASBEST.USC.EDU

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

1993-1994 Subir Ghosh, UC, Riverside

Subir Ghosh (SG) served as President of the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA) during 1993–1994. A longtime faculty member at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), which he joined in 1980, SG played a central role in strengthening SCASA's presence and activities in Southern California over several decades.

During the 1980s, SG organized a series of SCASA-sponsored lectures at UCR focused on industrial quality improvement. These events featured distinguished speakers such as Anne C. Shoemaker (AT&T Bell Laboratories, Holmdel, NJ), Douglas C. Montgomery (Arizona State University), and other leaders in the field. In the 1990s, he continued this tradition by organizing numerous SCASA-sponsored lectures in statistics at UCR, welcoming internationally renowned scholars including Professor C. R. Rao, Professor Herman Chernoff, and other prominent researchers.

While serving as SCASA President, SG helped host several chapter meetings and events at UCR. These activities benefited greatly from the dedication of SCASA members, whose collective efforts ensured strong participation and successful programming. In addition to events at UCR, SCASA meetings and conferences were held at various locations throughout Southern California. SG was also fortunate to collaborate with distinguished SCASA organizers on the Bob Newcomb Memorial Conference at the City of Hope. Bob Newcomb was a devoted mentor to many UC Irvine undergraduates who generously contributed their time and energy to SCASA.

Dr. Subir Ghosh in 1988

SCASA *Leadership Legacy Corner*

Continued from the previous page.

After 45 years of service, SG retired from UCR on July 1, 2025, and was appointed Professor Emeritus. His many honors include the UCR Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award (1993), the International Indian Statistical Association Service Award (2002), and the UCR Graduate Council Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award (2003). He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Statistical Association (ASA), the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), and the International Statistical Institute (ISI). SG also served as Executive Editor of the Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference from January 2001 to December 2003.

Over the course of his career, SG guided 36 Ph.D. dissertations in statistics between 1980 and 2025 and authored more than 140 research publications. Additional details about his career and contributions can be found at:

**https://profiles.ucr.edu/app/home/profile/ghosh**

Additional Information: Dr. Ghosh has recently published a book. Aimed at practitioners and researchers in the field of statistics, this book is also a must-read resource for graduate students, professors, and researchers in the life sciences, agriculture, psychology, education and measurement, sociology, computer and engineering sciences, and all other fields that rely on statistical concepts.

For more details, please click the link below:

https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Statistical+Planning+and+Inference%3A+Concepts+and+Applications-p-9781118958919#description-section

Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics

Statistical Planning and Inference

Concepts and Applications

Subir Ghosh

WILEY
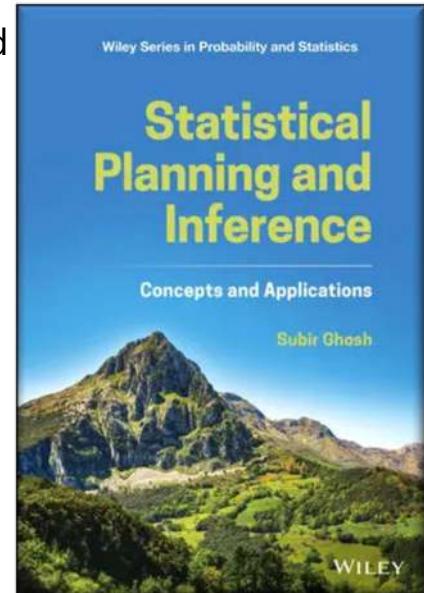
Leadership Hub in the Statistical Profession

By Subir Ghosh, Professor Emeritus, UCR

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of SCASA, we recognize and honor the contributions of all the leaders, workers, supporters, and participants who have shaped the organization over the past century. Their dedication has built a strong foundation on which SCASA continues to grow.

Looking ahead, the next generation of statisticians will play a central role in leading SCASA into the future. At the national level, there is tremendous excitement and engagement among early-career statisticians, as reflected in initiatives of the American Statistical Association (ASA), including the ASA Leadership HUB and related leadership and career development programs:

https://community.amstat.org/asaleaderhub/home

https://community.amstat.org/copss/awards/leadership-academy

https://www.amstat.org/your-career/career-planning-and-leadership-videos

In this spirit, the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) Emerging Leader Award, established in 2020, recognizes early-career statistical scientists who demonstrate leadership potential and contribute to shaping and strengthening the field. The award not only highlights the achievements of these individuals but also provides a platform for them to share their vision with one another and with the broader statistical community.

Stepping into the Role of Vice Chair, ASA Council of Chapters Governing Board District 6, 2026-2028 term

By Olga Korosteleva, CSULB

I'm excited to share that on January 1, 2026, I will step into the role of Vice Chair of ASA District 6. It's an honor to serve our district and to work alongside the many dedicated statistics professionals, researchers, students, and enthusiasts who make up our ASA community.

ASA District 6 encompasses 15 chapters (and 9 student chapters) across the western region of the United States, bringing together a diverse and active group of members from academia, industry, consulting, government, and beyond. One of the great strengths of District 6 is this diversity—of geography, expertise, and perspective. As Vice Chair, my goal is to help foster stronger connections across chapters and create more opportunities for engagement, visibility, and collaboration.

CALL FOR IDEAS, VOICES, AND PARTICIPATION

As we look ahead, I'd love to open the door wider for member involvement across District 6. There are several ways to get involved, whether you're interested in an ongoing role or a one-time contribution:

Regular columnists for the quarterly newsletter or one-time articles

If you enjoy writing and sharing ideas, this is a great way to help shape the district's voice and highlight activities, perspectives, and achievements across our chapters.

Join the District 6 leadership team

If you're interested in becoming part of the District 6 Executive Committee or Advisory Council, the leadership group made up of engaged members from chapters across District 6, this is a meaningful way to help shape the district's future. Responsibilities may include coordinating activities across chapters, supporting students and early-career members, shaping district-level initiatives, and strengthening connections within ASA.

If any of these opportunities spark your interest, I'd love to hear from you. District 6 is strongest when it reflects the energy and creativity of its members, and I'm looking forward to what we can build together. Please don't hesitate to contact me via email at **Olga.Korosteleva@csulb.edu**.

DR. NORMALCURVESAURUS, PH.D., PRESENTS

"...then, once you've written your prompt, just press enter"

"That's the weird kid I was telling you about"

ALL THIS WIRELESS TALK MAKES ME NERVOUS