

E-Tidings Newsletter

SCASA Events and News



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Happy Valentine's Day

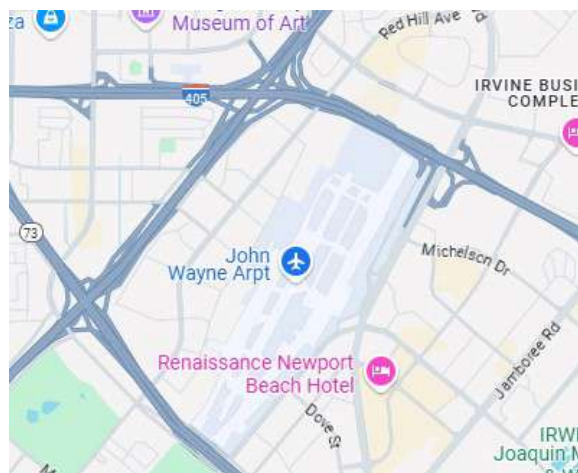




Biostatistics Symposium of Southern California February 21 & 22, 2025

The three Southern California chapters of ASA (SCASA, SDASA, and OCLBASA) are thrilled to host the inaugural 2025 Biostatistics Symposium of Southern California (BSSC). This event will be held on **Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22, 2025**, at the **Renaissance Newport Beach Hotel** at 4500 Macarthur Blvd, Newport Beach.

The symposium theme, "Transforming Life Sciences through Data Analytics, Innovation, and Collaboration," will spotlight clinical, statistical, and data science dimensions of drug and device development. The program features two keynote sessions (on Days 1 and 2), a panel discussion on Day 2, and multiple parallel tracks with invited sessions on clinical/statistics, data science, and academic research. Additionally, a poster competition for students and postdocs will be held on Day 2, providing emerging biostatisticians a platform to present their research and gain valuable feedback from experienced professionals.



This symposium will foster numerous networking opportunities, allowing attendees to engage in meaningful discussions, share insights, and explore potential collaborations with fellow biostatisticians across various industries, academia, and government sectors. This event is an ideal setting to expand your professional network, discuss recent developments in the field, and gain guidance on career growth and research opportunities in biostatistics and data science. We encourage you to join us for this event!

[BIOSTATSYMPOSIUM.ORG](https://community.amstat.org/scasa/newsletters)



2025 SCASA REGIONAL DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER COMPETITION FOR GRADES 10-12

**PHOTO/IMAGE OF PHYSICAL POSTER OR PDF
FILE WITH A SINGLE-SLIDE DIGITAL POSTER
IS DUE BY **FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025****

For more information on the competition rules, go to
<https://community.amstat.org/scasa/postercomp>

Everyone will receive a certificate of participation.

Winners will be notified by April 1, 2025.

The top five winning teams will receive cash prizes,
and the judges will submit the winning posters to
the national level of the competition.

Cash Prizes:

First Place:	\$200
Second Place:	\$150
Third Place:	\$100
Fourth Place:	\$50
Fifth Place:	\$50

The first-place winning team will be invited to present during
lunch at the virtual Applied Statistics Workshop in April 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Le at
becky_le@yahoo.com

Mark Your Calendars! Friday, April 18, 9am-4pm, @ City of Hope

SCASA's 44th Annual Applied Statistics Workshop

Join us for our 44th annual Applied Statistics Workshop hosted by the Southern California Chapter of the ASA! This year's topic is on "The Statistical Analysis of Composite Time-to-Event Outcomes: Win Ratio and Beyond" taught by Dr. Lu Mao, an associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics at UW Madison. This will be our first in-person ASW since 2019 and are thankful to the City of Hope for generously hosting this event.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, April 25 · 9am - 4pm PDT

LOCATION: Platt Conference Center, Cooper Auditorium, at City of Hope, 1500 East Duarte Road Duarte, CA 91010

REGISTRATION FEE: (Early bird until April 18 / General) ♦ Student (Undergraduate, Graduate, Post-doc): \$25/\$30 ♦ SCASA Member (SCASA/OCLEB/SDASA): \$50/\$60 ♦ Non-SCASA Member: \$60/70 ♦ Light breakfast and lunch to be provided for those who register by April 21st

EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION LINK: click [here](#) or scan the QR code

LUNCH PREFERENCES: can be specified during registration

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: 9:00-9:30am - Registration

9:30am-10:30am – Introduction

10:30am - 10:45am - Break

10:45am-11:45am – Hypothesis testing

11:45am-1:00pm – Lunch + a 15-minute presentation by the first place winner in our Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition

1:00pm – 2:00pm – Nonparametric Estimation

2:00pm - 2:15pm - Break

2:15pm – 3:15pm – Semiparametric Proportional Regression & Miscellaneous Topics

3:15pm-3:45pm – Q & A + our traditional book raffle



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lu Mao is an associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics at University of Wisconsin (UW) - Madison. He joined the department as an assistant professor after obtaining his doctoral degree in Biostatistics from UNC Chapel Hill in 2016 under Dr. Danyu Lin. His research interests include survival analysis (particularly composite outcomes), causal inference, semiparametric theory, and clinical trials. He is currently the PI of an NIH R01 grant on statistical methodology for composite time-to-event outcomes in cardiovascular trials and an NSF grant on causal inference in randomized trials with noncompliance. Besides methodological studies, he also collaborates with medical researchers in cardiology, radiology, cancer, and health behavioral interventions, where time-to-event and longitudinal data are routinely collected and analyzed. He has taught several short courses on statistical methods for composite outcomes to general audiences, including a recent one at the 2024 Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) in Portland, OR.



For questions email the event organizer Eric Kawaguchi at [ekawaguc\[at\]usc.edu](mailto:ekawaguc[at]usc.edu).



ASA DataFest at UCLA 2025

ASA DataFest at UCLA 2025 is set to take place on **April 25–27, 2025**, at the Ackerman Grand Ballroom! This exciting 48-hour data competition for undergraduate students brings together the Southern California statistics and data science community, offering a unique opportunity to analyze a large, complex dataset. Each year, the event attracts hundreds of participants, mentors, and judges, fostering collaboration and innovation.

We are actively seeking **mentors**, **sponsors**, and **judges** to support this year's event. Mentors can join either in person or virtually—sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/C5dBJ2cqJju3HGN9>

Sponsors can contribute financially or donate items like pens, USB drives, notepads, or water bottles to enhance the event. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, visit

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

If you're interested in judging or have any questions, contact **Dr. Linda Zanontian** at linda@stat.ucla.edu. Let's make this year's DataFest the best one yet!

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, with Concierge Mental Health & Associates and Claremont Graduate University.

DATES: Friday, 9/19/2025, online & Saturday, 9/20/2025, in person (10am - 2pm PST, both days)

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



OPTIONAL PRE-COURSE SURVEY: <https://forms.gle/eM3qW1HV7ZE6yEC8> (Your answers help Dr. Yu Lee customize the course to meet the needs of the audience.)

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.

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

1971-1972 Ernest M. Scheuer, San Fernando Valley State College

Q: Would you be willing to provide a brief bio and a photo of yourself from the time you were actively involved in SCASA?

My professional career was half in the Southern California aerospace/defense establishment (U.S. Navy Ordnance Test Station, Pasadena Annex; Space Technology Labs; RAND Corporation, JPL) beginning in 1951, and half in academia. I was professor of Management Science and professor of Mathematics at California State University, Northridge (formerly San Fernando Valley State College), serving there from 1970 to 1991. During that period, in the 1977-78 academic year, I was a visiting professor in the Mathematics Department at The City University in London. Also, I was a visiting professor in the UCLA Graduate School of Management (now the Anderson School) in the 1983-84 academic year. I was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1971. I was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute in 1982.



Here is a picture of me, circa 1967, from a *Southern California Statistician* newsletter.

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

From the engraving on a gavel given to me as a memento of my service, I see that I was Chapter president in 1971-72. As I recall, the usual progression was to serve as vice-president/president-elect the previous year. Doubtless I was a member for some years before. I was probably involved in seeking out people to give talks at the meetings.

Take Survey on Use of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

Dr. Chong Ho (Alex) Yu, SCASA's President, and Professor and Program Director of Data Science at Hawai'i Pacific University, and his colleagues are conducting a research study on perceptions of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education. This study aims to explore various views, experiences, and thoughts about AI technologies in academic settings.

The results will help revise existing programs to better align with the growing popularity and practical applications of AI and machine learning. Insights gathered will be aggregated and analyzed to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities in integrating AI into educational settings.

All findings will be used solely for educational and research purposes, specifically to enhance curriculum relevance and prepare students for AI-related advancements. The data will not be shared beyond the research team or used for any commercial purposes.

To ensure the rights and privacy of all participants, the survey adheres to standard ethical guidelines for research involving human subjects. No personal or identifiable information will be collected during the survey process. Responses will be anonymized, ensuring that individual identities remain confidential. Additionally, participation in the survey is entirely voluntary, and participants may withdraw at any time without penalty.

These two surveys are open to faculty and students in any university or major. You are cordially invited to participate in this brief survey. This study has been reviewed and approved by the Hawai'i Pacific University's Institutional Review Board.

Student survey: <https://forms.gle/QMGDkUNXhzcW6hvXA>

Faculty survey: <https://forms.gle/fNdr2FBYHKP6vCbz6>



TAKE SURVEY



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



LA's BeST @USC

LA's **Biostatistics & Data Science Summer Training**
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 program to give students in math and science the opportunity to:

- ✓ do quantitative research in population health and medicine
- ✓ learn about careers in public health from biostatisticians, epidemiologists, data scientists and other population health experts
- ✓ get professional development training in presentation skills, the graduate school application process, and more

Tentative dates: JUNE 16 - JULY 25, 2025*

APPLICATION PERIOD:

Dec. 2, 2024 - Mar 14, 2025
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, \$3K Stipend
- ✓ Housing & Transportation covered
- ✓ Networking & Mentorship Opportunities
- ✓ Extracurricular Activities

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 a diverse group of students interested in solving complex health issues



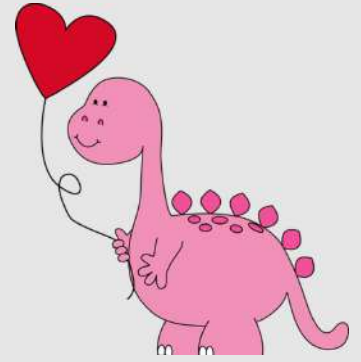
***For more information and to apply, visit:**

LASBEST.USC.EDU

or contact Nicole Avila, LA's BeST Coordinator at nreyes@usc.edu



Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D. presents



Remember, the other team is relying on Machine Learning insights from your past games. So, kick with your other foot!



Proof that a Mac can, in fact, support Windows.

