

E-Tidings Newsletter

SCASA Events and News



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PAGE 2

♦ **SCASA Kick-off Meeting: 100 Years Strong**

PAGE 3

♦ **LACC Datathon**

PAGE 4

♦ **2026 Biostatistics Symposium of SoCal**

PAGE 5

♦ **Recap of 2025 ASA Traveling Course**

PAGES 6-7

♦ **SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner**

PAGE 8

♦ **Our Article in AMSTAT NEWS**

PAGE 9

♦ **Advice for Data Scientists/Statisticians interested in working at Instacart**

PAGE 10

♦ **Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D. Presents**



SCASA KICK-OFF MEETING

100 Years Strong

Celebrating SCASA's Legacy and Future

By the SCASA Officer Board



SCASA is excited to announce that its **Kick-off meeting** will take place on **Saturday, December 6, 10 AM - 2 PM**, on Zoom, at this link:

<https://csulb.zoom.us/j/89179580541>

We are planning a **celebration** of SCASA's past, present, and future, with speakers representing different intervals on our timeline. The agenda is not yet finalized, and **we welcome all suggestions and contributions.**

The final agenda will be shared soon. We look forward to an engaging and meaningful event for all members.

We personally and warmly invite you to join us.





Come for fun, challenges and valuable networking!
Registration is required. Food and freebies available for participants.

Saturday
November 15th 2025
9:15am - 4:00pm

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE
LACC
The City's College.

To register:



For more information please contact:
Christine Fineberg - finebecl@laccd.edu
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026 Biostatistics Symposium of Southern California

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://biostatssymposium.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://biostatssymposium.org/>



Recap of the 2025 ASA Traveling Course on Statistics & AI in Mental Health and the SCASA 100-Year Celebration

By, Anna Yu Lee, Course Instructor

Dear Traveling Workshop Attendees & Participants,

Thank you to all who attended our recent ASA workshop on the use of Statistics & AI in Mental Health, and for making the time so engaging! I am grateful for spending your valuable time, the opportunity for collaborative discussion, and for a chance to celebrate the SoCal chapter's 100th birthday!



Again, it was a pleasure to meet so many of you virtually and in-person. I look forward to staying in touch and collaboratively exploring: (1) How Statistics and AI are being used to improve mental health on a population and individual level, and (2) Limitations and risks of these technologies, and how to pre-empt and respond to them.

Sincerely,
Anna

P.S. A special thank you for sponsorships from STATA, SoCal Infusions, LaLim Health, CCRPS Clinical Research Training & Certification, and a few individuals (including some of our wonderful workshop attendees ☐ who made possible our first televised Game Show on the practical use of Statistics in Mental Health Consulting (a subject covered in this workshop). Please stay tuned for the release of that episode, on which you may see yourselves!

Anna Yu Lee, PhD, MPH, MA
Research & Consulting, www.ConciergeMentalHealth.org
Immediate Past Pres., SoCal Chapter of the Am. Statistical Assn.
Adjunct Professor, Claremont Graduate University
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SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:
1990-1991 Kenneth Resser, Amgen

I obtained a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and an M.S. degree in Biostatistics, both from UCLA. My main research interests were in the design and analysis of clinical trials and critical evaluation of the medical literature. In my career as a biostatistician, I worked at UCSF Medical Center primarily in cancer research and clinical trials from the mid-70s to the early 80s, then at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in the mid-80s consulting in cardiology and nuclear medicine, and finally at Amgen, where I was the Director of Biostatistics until 2005. While at Amgen, I gave seminars on drug development at various colleges, including UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, USC, Cal State Northridge, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the University of Washington. In 1997, I was featured in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health newsletter in an article focusing on three UCLA biostatistics grads and their careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Following retirement, I participated in the UCLA FSPH Biostatistics Mentorship Program for three years.

My involvement and experience with SCASA began around 1984–85. I was attending a SCASA event, having just moved back to L.A. from San Francisco, and met Bob Newcomb. He was very engaging and I mentioned to him that I thought the Chapter was kind of insular. Bob could be very persuasive and he asked me to get involved. I did. During my active involvement with SCASA, I attended numerous Fall Kick-Off meetings at Pomona College, served on the Applied Statistics Workshop Organizing Committee for > 10 years and was moderator several times, participated in the planning of Careers Day for > 10 years and represented Amgen at this event, was the SCASA representative to the ASA Council of Chapters for five years, was on the JSM local organizing committee when the 1990 JSM was held in Anaheim, was a panel member on SCASA-organized meetings on careers in Statistics and served as President of the Chapter in 1990-1991. (Most chapter

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SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

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presidents were from an academic institution at the time). I was honored to receive the second Outstanding Chapter Service Award in 1996. Dan Martinez was the first.

In the mid-90s, Arnie Goodman and Janet Myhre organized a local Southern California one-day meeting on Consulting and Collaboration at Claremont-McKenna College. I helped with program and gave one of the presentations.

Over the many years of my participation in SCASA activities, I worked closely with dedicated members including Bob Newcomb, Arnie Goodman, Don Bentley, Dan Martinez, Nancy Berman, Harold Dyck, Roxy Peck, Jay Devore, Srinivas Jammalamadaka, Anita Iannucci, Joyce Niland, Stan Azen, Rob Gould, Andy Dagis, Michael Chernenick, and many others.



I had involvement in ASA proper and I have been a many decade-long member. *[Editor's note: 50+ years, in fact]*. I was on the Committee for Career Development for a few years and on the Evaluation Subcommittee of the Continuing Education Committee for Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). I also chaired sessions at JSM.

During the time of my active participation in SCASA, the chapter spanned the region from San Luis Obispo to San Diego and from the coast to San Bernadino. Given this very large, unwieldy area, it was often difficult to serve the community efficiently and garner broad membership participation. The creation of the San Diego chapter and then the OC/LB chapter was wise and allowed greater engagement and more "local" activity planning and execution. I am impressed by the ongoing meetings, projects and services of the "Southern California" chapters and the many in the community who currently drive the continuing success of the chapters.

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[COLUMNS](#)
[MEMBER NEWS](#)
[DEPARTMENTS](#)

You are here: [Home](#) / [Featured Stories](#) / A Century of Leadership: Celebrating the Southern California Chapter

A Century of Leadership: Celebrating the Southern California Chapter



Olga Korosteleva, 2017–2018 Chapter President

This year, the Southern California Chapter marks its 100th anniversary, a milestone for a community that has long promoted the advancement and practical application of statistical thinking in Southern California and beyond.

Our article on SCASA's Century of Leadership was published in the September issue of Amstat News. You can read it online at <https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2025/10/01/celebrating-the-southern-california-chapter/>.



Advice for Data Scientists/Statisticians interested in working at Instacart

Author: Tim Hesterberg



Short link: <https://bit.ly/3Kp3VBT>. Much of this is relevant to other positions, like ML, SWE, or Economist.

Current info

Current openings: https://instacart.careers/current-openings/?gh_src=cdf2ab6d1us
Further down the page is a "Data Science & Business Operations" section (unless there are no current openings) that you can expand for current listings.

Why Instacart?

- Impact: Instacart is at the perfect scale for high-leverage work that matters
- Freedom and learning rate: We have leeway to experiment in nearly everything we do
- Breadth of potential: We have multi-faceted data and wide scope of leverage from using data

Interviewing tips

- Learn about Instacart! The more you know about how different parts of our business work and fit together, the better you'll be able to answer some questions.
- A lot of the work of Data Scientists here involves experimentation. A good reference is [*Trustworthy Online Controlled Experiments: A Practical Guide to A/B Testing* Ron Kohavi, Diane Tang, Ya Xu](#)

Why should I hire you? What do you bring to the company?

Good luck!

Tim Hesterberg
<http://www.timhesterberg.net>

DR. NORMALCURVESAURUS, PH.D. PRESENTS

