

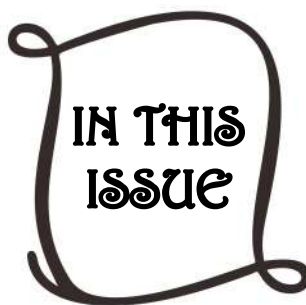
E-Tidings Newsletter



SCASA Events and News

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JOINT STATISTICAL MEETINGS 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



By Chong Ho (Alex) Yu, SCASA president

I returned from the 2025 Joint Statistical Meeting with great joy and excitement. One of the highlights was attending the American Statistical Association's ceremony celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Southern California chapter, where I had the honor of receiving a commemorative medal on behalf of our chapter.

During the meeting, I also participated in several sessions hosted by ASA. At the "Council of Chapters" meeting, participants shared strategies for building healthy chapters. One key recommendation was that the Treasurer should ideally serve a three-year term, while other officers, including the President, could serve shorter terms, such as one year. The reason is simple: financial continuity and planning are essential for chapter stability. Chapters should also notify ASA whenever there are officer transitions, maintain regular events such as traveling courses, and actively support early-career statisticians by pairing mentors with mentees and involving them in chapter activities. Equally important is consistently reminding members—and potential members—about the benefits of belonging to ASA, including professional community, continuing education, networking, and job opportunities.

In another session, "Building Strong ASA Student Chapters: Strategies for Growth, Inclusivity, and Maximizing Value," I gained further insights. Unlike local chapters, student chapters are tied to a single university, and while ASA has 189 student chapters, only about 100 are currently active. Experience shows that the simplest and most effective way to boost engagement is food. Since ASA sponsors each student chapter with \$100 per semester, many chapters use this to provide meals for events. Other best practices include offering free tutoring or services like dissertation defense rehearsals, encouraging students to hold officer positions, and creating an inclusive environment where small gestures—such as ordering gluten-free pizza for a single student—make a big difference. Advertising events broadly, such as hosting the virtual science fair for high school students, was also emphasized as a way to increase participation.

Finally, I learned that student and local chapters can complement each other. Members can hold dual memberships, and events can be co-hosted to strengthen community ties. Starting a student chapter requires only a simple form and a faculty sponsor, making it a relatively easy pathway to expand membership and foster engagement. Given these ideas, it may be worth exploring the possibility of establishing a student chapter in our area as a way to connect with more members. I look forward to further discussions on how we can adopt and implement these excellent practices.





ASA TRAVELING COURSE

STATISTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH: EXPLORING APPLICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS/RISKS

September 19-20, 2025



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**, in the FoundrSpace Building at **87 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103**. Parking is available in a nearby garage at an hourly rate.

Cost: \$25 Students/Retirees, \$50 general (either one or two days). We owe ASA \$25 per person regardless.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1486401951249?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Title: **Statistics and Artificial Intelligence in Mental Health: Exploring Applications and Limitations/Risks**

Abstract: This seminar introduces the use of statistics and AI to support and complement evidence-informed mental health approaches. Rooted in both statistical reasoning and psychological insight, this course examines the therapeutic potential of tools such as probabilistic thinking, Algorithmic Decision-Tracking, and even generative uses of AI for emotional expression. The session highlights how both statistics and AI can address widespread issues like stress, cognitive distortions, anxiety, depression, fear, and burn-out. It includes exploratory and controversial techniques, critically focusing on ethics, transparency, and cultural respect. In tracing the intersections between statistics, AI, and psychology, the seminar poses a central question: how can statistical logic and AI methodologies help us transcend human limitations rooted in ignorance, emotional reactivity, and ego? This session invites participants to envision a future where data-informed care becomes not only more effective but also more compassionate and equitable.

Continues on the next page.

ASA TRAVELING COURSE

STATISTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH: EXPLORING APPLICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS/RISKS

Continued from the previous page.

Course Schedule & Location

Friday, September 19th, 2025 (Virtual Only)

10:00am-2:00pm

Group Introductions

Ice-Breaker: Pre-course emotional assessment (optional) & discussion

'Post-Conventional Psychology' Overview

Talk Therapy Appropriateness Discussion

Statistics & AI in Mental Health: An Overview

How can statistical logic and AI help transcend human limitations rooted in ignorance, emotionality, and ego?

Lunch (12:00 – 1pm)

'Statistics Therapeutics'

Approaches & Applications

Review of Quantitative & Qualitative Data

Group Discussion

Saturday, September 20th, 2025 (In-Person, 87 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, 91103; \$1/hourly parking structure located at 171 N. Raymond Ave. 91103).

10:00am-2:00pm

How statistics and AI can help make humans (1) Smarter (2) Less emotional (3) Kinder

Lunch & Centennial Celebration (12:00 – 1pm)

Limitations & Risks, both to consumers as well as providers of Post-Conventional Psychology, Statistics Therapeutics, and AI in mental health spaces

Invitation to complete post-talk emotional assessment

Group Discussion & Gifts and Raffle





2025 OCLBASA CAREERS DAY

October 18th, 2025, 9 AM to 1 PM
Chapman University, Orange, CA
Request for exhibitors & mock interviewers

By Xingyu Gao, Vice President of Professional Affairs - OCLBASA

OCLBASA will be hosting their next Careers Day on Saturday, October 18th, at Chapman University. Careers Day is an excellent opportunity for southern California professionals to volunteer just a few hours to help 150+ students and professionals-in-transition explore and advance their careers in the use of statistics. Bring your students and/or come for the opportunity to network with your Southern California colleagues!

9 AM - 12 PM Exhibitors and Mock Interviews (Concurrent)
12 PM - 1 PM Chapter Announcements and Keynote Speaker

Exhibitors: Exhibitors representing their employers, or their academic departments staff a table for 3 hours between 9:00 and noon. Exhibitors are provided tables and chairs. We will make you a sign if you don't have your own. Some exhibitors bring tablecloths, stand-up displays, brochures, tchotchkes, etc. while others just bring themselves. Exhibitors provide help/information to students and professionals in transition. They typically chat with 50-75 students one-on-one and in small groups at their exhibitor table to critique resumes, provide industry background and answer questions. Exhibitors with job openings are welcome to collect resumes. Professional recruiters are welcome but the fee for participation is \$250. No fee is required for other exhibitors.

Mock Interviewers: Individuals from pharma/healthcare, database management, modeling, business analytics, and data science each conduct up to six, 30-minute-long mock applicant interviews. These individuals should be experienced in the evaluations of applicants.

Students/Applicants will be asked to pick a specific, entry-level position (in business analytics, pharma/healthcare, or data scientist). Interview content is up to the interviewer but may include: Student skills, strengths & weaknesses, and career/academic objectives.

Please volunteer by contacting Xingyu Gao at xingyu_gao@edwards.com or 408-656-2419, and/or Lindsay Younis at lindsayb6204@gmail.com. Please provide your contact information, a sentence or two on the type of work you do and your company, and indicate if you'd like to be an exhibitor, mock interviewer, or both. Please send the name and contact information for those who will attend on behalf of your enterprise or academic department. We thank you in advance for your consideration! Your participation in this event will have a direct impact on the attendees as they take their first steps out of academia and into their statistical careers.



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.

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

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

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

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. The theme of the 2026 BSSC is Navigating New Frontiers: Biostatistics, AI and Regulatory Evolution in Biomedical Research. The symposium will cover topics related to the latest landscape of drug/device development advances in methodology and applications of recent advances in the application of AI/ML methodologies in drug development.

For more information, please visit <https://biostatsymposium.org>.



Photos taken during BSSC 2025

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

2001-2002 Harold Dyck, California State University, San Bernardino

Harold joined the American Statistical Association (ASA) in 1978, encouraged by his Purdue dissertation advisor. He became a SCASA member shortly before moving to California in 1979. Early involvement in local chapter events—particularly the Fall Kickoff hosted at

Pomona College—played a key role in drawing Harold to Claremont, where he has now lived for over 30 years.

One of Harold's earliest SCASA projects was helping organize the local arrangements for the 1990 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Anaheim. Working with Bob Newcomb, Harold collaborated with Esri in Redlands to design an innovative system to help attendees locate restaurants. This experience led to further collaborations with Esri, including inviting Esri president Jack Dangermond to speak at a CSUSB-hosted conference.

Over the years, Harold has remained deeply involved in SCASA's events:

- Careers Day – A favorite of Harold's for its student engagement.
- Fall Kickoff and Applied Statistics Workshop – Long-standing traditions connecting members across Southern California.
- Consulting Workshop – Co-organized with Janet Myhre and Arnie Goodman, and once featured Peter Drucker as the keynote speaker.

Even in retirement, Harold continues to serve the statistics community. He's actively involved in judging for the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), working with SCASA, the Orange County/Long Beach chapter, and the San Diego chapter to select special awards in Statistics. He also mentored students through DataFest, underscoring his lifelong dedication to education and mentorship.

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

2011-2012 Andrew C. Dagis, City of Hope
National Medical Center

During my 32 years at City of Hope, one of the most rewarding aspects of my career was my deep involvement in the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA). I co-planned and operated numerous Career Days at City of Hope's Platt

Conference Center, and proudly represented City of Hope at events across the region—from San Diego State University and UC Santa Barbara to pharmaceutical companies in La Jolla and workshops at Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University, and beyond. I helped organize City of Hope as a venue for several Applied Statistics Workshops, participated in meetings at UCLA organized by Robert Gould, and attended Olga Korosteleva's R courses in Irvine.

Serving as SCASA Secretary under Arnie Goodman, I ensured our chapter was highlighted in every issue of *Amstat News*. Later, as President, I experienced the organization at its most challenging and most resilient—navigating the turbulent period when the Orange County–Long Beach Chapter was founded. Despite the split, the loss of prominent members to retirement or relocation, and the concern that our chapter might lose momentum, we pressed forward. We held our first Poster Competition at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following Rodney Jee's long and dedicated leadership, and continued Career Days and the Annual Workshop with the support of outstanding members like Robert Gould, Olga Korosteleva, Rebecca Le, Dan Jeske, and Harold Dyck.

SCASA was also a place for unexpected inspiration—like when Judea Pearl used our chapter as a general audience for his video course on *Causality*, or when Google in Silicon Beach shared their fascinating approaches to managing vast volumes of data. After my presidency, I stepped back to focus on learning the R language and eventually transitioned from City of Hope to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

I learned a great deal from leading the chapter, but ironically, my greatest satisfaction came from the collaborative, behind-the-scenes roles I held before and after my term. SCASA has been a source of professional growth, intellectual stimulation, and community.

Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D. presents

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"Class, I've got a lot of material to cover, so to save time I won't be using vowels today. Nw lts bgn, pls trn t pg 122."



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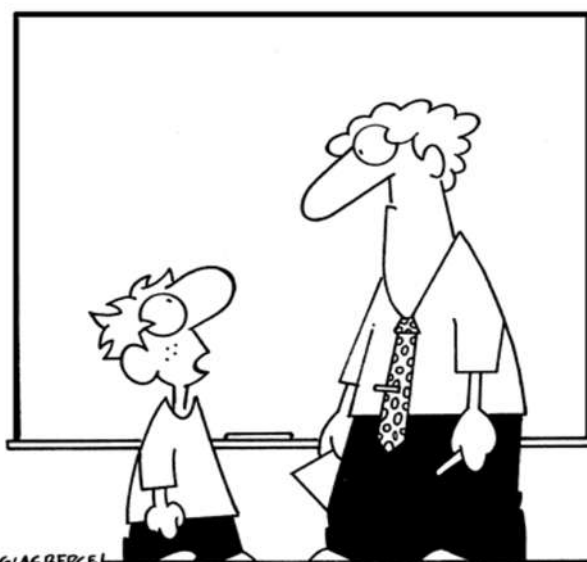


"I probably remember 20% of the stuff I learned in school and forgot the other 90%."



WE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS HOW THE TEACHER SHORTAGE MIGHT BE AFFECTING OUR KIDS...

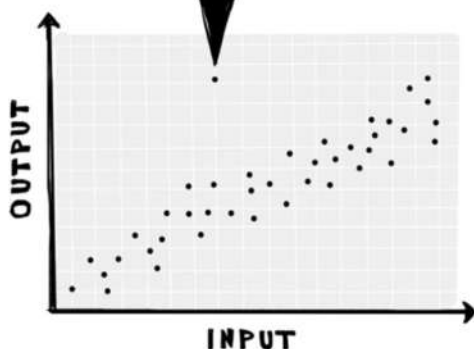
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"If my mind wanders during class, think of me as part of a distance learning program."

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed by this data point do not necessarily reflect those of the overall figure.



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