

E-Tidings Newsletter

SCASA Events and News



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DATAFEST 2026 AT UCLA: Highlights from Another Successful Year

As anyone who has ever visited a doctor knows, healthcare revolves around copious amounts of data. Often, these data are used locally, for interactions between the patient and healthcare provider. But these data can also reveal strengths and weaknesses of the entire healthcare group, and so Stormont Vail Health (SVH), a nonprofit integrated health system serving Kansas for more than 130 years, generously shared its data with ASA DataFest so that they could gain some large-scale perspectives from the thousands of students participating around the world.

The UCLA Department of Statistics and Data Science hosted almost 400 students on May 1-3 to tackle SVH's challenge: can they describe patients' journeys through the system so that SVH can better understand how to best serve their population? While most students were from UCLA, teams also came from Cal State Fullerton, UC Riverside, Pomona College and, for the first time, Claremont McKenna College. The students were assisted by over one hundred volunteer "mentors", data professionals and academics who gave advice, exchanged tips, and served as sympathetic sounding boards for teams not sure about next steps.

Each team was allowed just two slides and five minutes to present their findings to our panels of judges. We are grateful for the time and attention that our 21 volunteer judges provided in carefully evaluating these presentations under very tight time constraints. The judges chose 15 finalists, and from these selected the winners below.

ASA DataFest @ UCLA is very grateful to its sponsors. This event costs us roughly \$50,000, and SCASA's long tradition of support is greatly valued. Other important supporters that we'd like to thank, besides the Department of Statistics and Data Science and the other participating institutions, were Ankura, Analysis Group, Resolution Economics, UCLA DataX, Benjamin Shea, Heather Turner, Michael Tsiang, Scott Schumacher, Patrick Crutcher, and several anonymous donors.

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Winners for 2026 ASA DataFest at UCLA

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

THE DON YLVISAKER BEST INSIGHT Winner: Team NSDC (Mehek Bajaj, Madeleine Curran, Nina Huang, Anika Lala, Michelle Yoon) for use of models to highlight important factors, a very clear research question and well-articulated methodology, strong use of prediction with good justification, and results that were actionable.

HONORABLE MENTION "Team KuntinUE" (Zhiqing(Ellie) Bian, Meihui(Amelia) Guo, Yi Liu, Jing Wang, Jerry Yin) for their ability to connect the dots, for good statistical modeling, for use of dose-response curves to authenticate results, and for strong explanation of results.

BEST VISUALIZATION "Team Data Dawgs" (Jaden Chou, Serene Kang, Jonathan Pak, Angeleena Poothavelil, Sadie Scott) for well-put-together designs, good visualizations throughout – simple but effective – and great use of color coding.

HONORABLE MENTION "Team Data Daily" (Chloe Chen, Sarah Dias, Amaan Jethani, Mehal Mittal, Rhea Parameswaran) for a visual that matched their theme and supported their story as well as good explanations of their Sankey plot.

BEST USE OF EXTERNAL DATA "Team Mean Girls" (Lucas Cheung, Michael Jung, Bethany Kim, Simon Lee, Charissa Mak) for their use of external data to drive the story, with a clear technical presentation.

HONORABLE MENTION "Y-star" (Mariana Castellanos, Mikey Chen, Siddharth Chittapuram, Connor Davidson, Dan Le) for digging deep into the social vulnerability index with a strong accompanying visual.

JUDGES CHOICES

- "Team Club Sports Coders" (Grant Boydell, Lucas Pichardo, Alexander Rike, Brady Schenck, Djovan Velasco) for connecting visuals to deep understanding of data and
- "Team Big Bright Lights" (Niranjan Bhagwatm Moulik Chatterjeem Harsh Govindjim, Siddharth Singh) for the best story, with a clear explanation of data, analysis of data, and moving from interpretations to solutions.

Post-Event Report: 45th Anniversary of the Applied Statistics Workshop

On Friday, May 8, 2026, approximately 20 participants attended the online workshop *Understanding Collider Bias in Biostatistical Analysis*, held via Zoom from 9:00 AM to 2:15 PM (PST).

The workshop was instructed by Dr. Enju Liu, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Associate Director for the Harvard Catalyst Biostatistics Program.



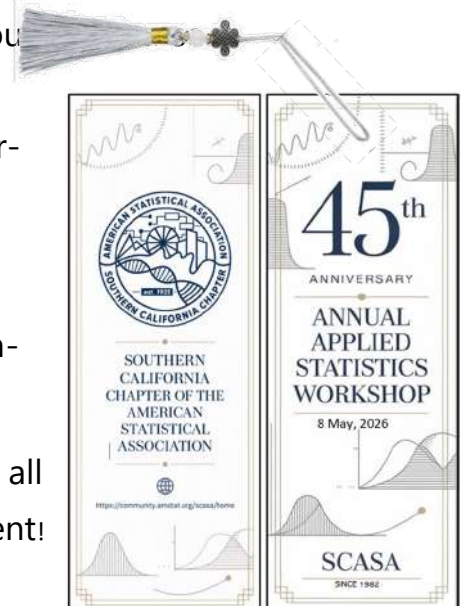
The workshop provided participants with valuable insights into collider bias, an often-overlooked source of bias in biostatistical and epidemiological analyses. Dr. Liu explained how common methods used to control confounding, such as restriction, stratification, and regression adjustment, may inadvertently introduce collider bias and lead to misleading conclusions. Through clear explanations, causal diagrams, directed acyclic graphs (DAGs), and real-world case studies, participants learned practical strategies for identifying and interpreting collider bias in public health and clinical research settings.

Attendees appreciated the engaging presentation style, abundance of thought-provocative practical examples, and interactive discussions throughout.

Overall, the workshop was highly successful and provided a meaningful professional development opportunity for all participants.

The workshop concluded with our traditional raffle. Each participant received a book and a handmade bookmark commemorating the workshop's 45th anniversary.

We sincerely thank Dr. Enju Liu for sharing her expertise and all attendees for contributing to a productive and enriching event!



ASA District 6 Website Launch



ASA District 6

American Statistical Association

~ Fifteen chapters across eleven states.

We practice Statistics. It captivates. ~



[Visit ASA District 6 Website](#)

WELCOME

A community of statisticians, working across the American West.

District 6 brings together fifteen ASA chapters across eleven states — from the snow-covered peaks of Alaska to the deserts of Arizona, from the Pacific shores of Hawaii to the red rock canyons of Utah. Whether you're a longtime member or just discovering us, you've found the front door.

ASA DISTRICT 6

Leadership

VICE CHAIR

Dr. Olga Korosteleva

Olga.Korosteleva@csulb.edu

ASA DISTRICT 6

Upcoming Events

JUNE 15-18, 2026

Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS 2026)

Organized by the Oregon Chapter

The 2026 Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics will be held online with the theme "Sparkling Joy and Discovery in a World of AI."

Location	Online
Cost	\$25
Registration	Register Here

JUNE 16-17, 2026

ASA Alaska Chapter Annual Workshop and Meeting

Organized by the Alaska Chapter

Hosted by the ASA Alaska Chapter at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Sessions run from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily.

Location	Akasofu Building, Room 401, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska
Cost	\$150 – \$450
Registration	Register Here

DR. NORMALCURVESAURUS, PH.D., PRESENTS

