Virginia Chapter
By Priyam Das and Dipankar Bandyopadhyay

The Virginia Chapter hosted its annual chapter meeting at the academic health campus of Virginia Commonwealth University on October 27, 2023. Although most participants were from VCU, a significant number of registrants came from the University of Virginia and Old Dominion University.

The meeting began with an inaugural speech by Roy Sabo, an associate professor in the VCU Department of Biostatistics and interim associate dean for faculty affairs in the newly formed VCU School of Population Health. Sarah Ratcliffe, director of the division of biostatistics in the department of public health sciences at UVA, gave the keynote, titled “Improving Outcomes Through Modeling of Maternal and Infant Health Data.”

Sarah Ratcliffe from the University of Virginia gives the keynote during the 2023 annual meeting of the ASA Virginia Chapter.

The chapter welcomed a variety of speakers who presented on topics such as spatial statistics, Bayesian methods, methodological advances in electronic health records, and sequence data.
During the poster presentation session, graduate students discussed their research on a variety of topics. Mahshid Ahmadian (VCU-first place), Md Iqbal Hossain (ODU-second place), and Jonathan Jacobs (VCU-third place) won certificates and cash prizes for their presentations.

Finally, the Dayanand Naik Award, which is the chapter’s most prestigious award, was presented to Jyotishka Datta from the Virginia Tech Department of Statistics for his outstanding contribution to the statistics and related fields.

Jyotishka Datta receives the Dayanand Naik Award at the Virginia Chapter’s 2023 annual meeting. Also seen are Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, chapter representative, and Rao Chaganty, chapter president.

Rao Chaganty, chapter president, discussed strategic initiatives for increasing chapter membership (i.e., graduate students), topics for ASA traveling courses, and ways to enhance chapter visibility during the business meeting. Timing of the next election for selecting a new president, treasurer, and chapter representative was also discussed, and Chaganty thanked the ASA for cosponsoring the meeting with funding of $1,000.

The meeting concluded with faculty representatives from various Virginia universities expressing their interest in hosting the 2024 annual meeting.