

# CHAPTER CHATTER

## Florida Chapter

By Xin Zhang

The 2023 ASA Florida Chapter meeting took place March 24–25 at the University of Florida. The first day started with a presentation by Michael Daniels, professor and chair of the UF department of statistics, titled “Bayesian Machine Learning for Causal Inference and Missing Data.” The afternoon featured 16 contributed talks and 10 poster presentations from students across the state who competed for the Florida Chapter presentation awards. An evening banquet included a presentation, titled “Cancer Research Through a Lens of a Data Scientist,” by Ann Chen, a senior member in the department of biostatistics and bioinformatics at Moffitt Cancer Center.

The presentation “Statistical Details for a Platform Trial Design for Preventive Vaccines Against Emerging Infectious Disease Threats” by Ira Longini, professor in the UF department of biostatistics, highlighted the second day.

The following students won the research presentation awards at the annual Florida Chapter meeting:

- Xiaoru Dong (UF), “Data-Driven Evaluation of Trajectories in Single-Cell RNA-Seq Data”
- Wei Zhang (UMiami), “Iterative Multivariate Random Forest for Feature Selection in Integrating Multi-Omics Data Sets “
- Yipeng Wang (UF), “A General Framework for Online Monitoring of Dynamic Networks”
- Zhuo Meng (FSU), “An Iterative Method for Detecting Outlying Studies in Meta-Analysis”
- Pengfei Lyu (FSU), “JUMP: Replicability Analysis of High-Throughput Experiments with Applications to Spatial Transcriptomic Studies”

More than 70 statisticians attended this first in-person chapter meeting since 2020. [View the conference details and program book.](#)

## New Officers

We elected new officers for 2023–2025. Muxuan Liang from the University of Florida is the representative to the Council of Chapters, while Rhonda Bacher, who was the secretary/treasurer, is our next chapter president. [View the full slate of officers.](#)

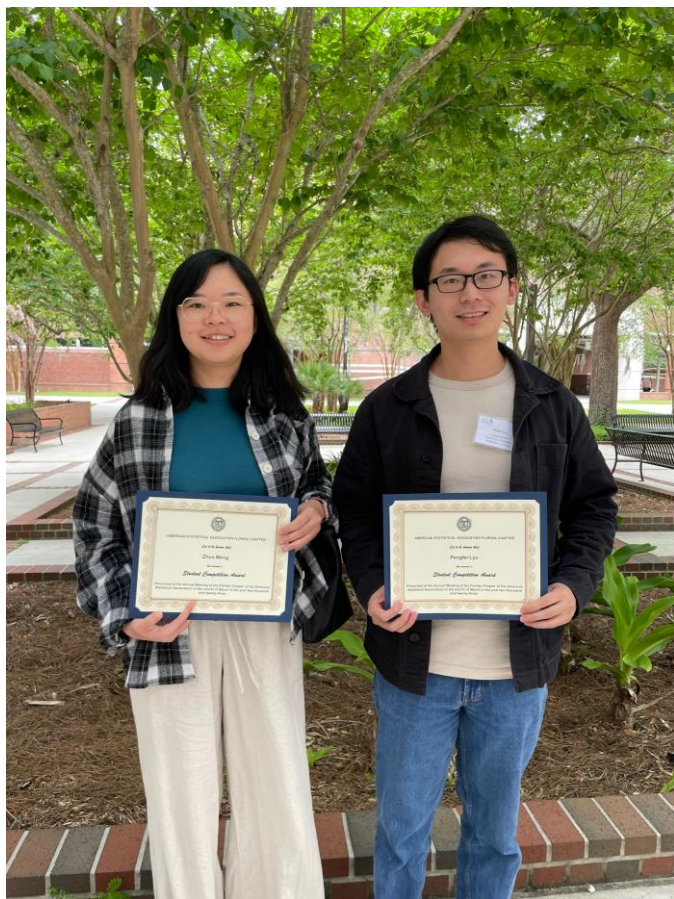
Outgoing president, Senthil “BeeJay” Girimurugan, will remain on the executive committee as the secretary/treasurer for 2023–2025. Outgoing vice president, Naomi Brownstein, is taking a new position out of state at the Medical University of South Carolina.

The next annual meeting will take place at Florida State University in the spring of 2024. [Visit the chapter's website for upcoming events.](#)

Photos:



Attendees of the Florida Chapter meeting gather Saturday morning for a group picture.



From left: Student award winners Zhuo Meng and Pengfei Lyu, both of Florida State University



From left: Student awards winners Xiaoru Dong of the University of Florida, Wei Zhang of the University of Miami, and Yipeng Wang of the University of Florida