

Minutes for the NPS Section meeting at JSM 2014, Boston

1. Professor David Ruppert (NPS section chair) gave introductory remarks.

2. Professor Steve MacEachern presented the *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* best student paper awards for 2012 and 2013. The names of the winning students and winning papers are:

2012: Paola Gloria Ferrario, supervised by Harro Walk

Nonparametric partitioning estimation of residual and local variance based on first and second nearest neighbours

2013: Huan Wang, supervised by Mary C. Meyer and Jean D. Opsomer with:

Constrained spline regression in the presence of AR(p) errors

Other 2013 finalists were:

- Houssein Assaad, supervised by Pankaj Chouddhary
- Demetris Athienitis, supervised by Ronald Randles
- Francisco Cuevas, supervised by Ronny Vallejos
- Shuping Jiang, supervised by Lan Xue

3. Professor John Staudenmayer discussed the situation with the best student paper awards of the ASA Nonparametric Statistics section at the JSM 2014. Since some of the presentations occurred after the Business Meeting, the awards were decided only on the final day of JSM. The winner was

- Molly Davies, An new approach to variance estimation for time-ordered dependent data, University of California, Berkeley

The other finalists were

- Erin Austin, A New Semiparametric Approach to Finite Mixture of Regressions using Penalized Regression via Fusion, University of Minnesota
- Prabhani Kuruppumullage, Model-based block clustering with EM algorithm, Pennsylvania State University
- Lu Mao, Maximum Likelihood Estimation in Semiparametric Transformation Models for the Cumulative Incidence of Competing Risks, University of North Carolina
- Rajarshi Mukherje, HYPOTHESIS TESTING FOR SPARSE BINARY REGRESSION, Harvard University

- Simeng Qu, Likelihood Ratio Tests for Functional Linear Regression Models, Purdue University

4. Professor David Dunson (NPS section representative) presented the main issues discussed at the Council of Sections meeting, held on August 7 2014. Here is a brief summary.

i. The section is encouraged to upload the photos of the officers (and to obtain and upload photos of previous officers). The photos need to have captions so that the people can be identified in the distant future.

ii. Sections have had varying experiences with mentoring programs. Some appear to have worked well, some have not had a clear focus and have had varying results. Eric Vance of the ASA will have materials that sections can get hold of if they wish to pursue a program. For mentoring awards, pass the names along to Eric. At some point, announcements of awards for mentoring are likely to appear in the "awards" book that all receive as part of their registration packet. (It's unclear who approves changes to what gets listed in the book).

iii. For the proposed new section (Genetics and Genomics or some such), opinion was mixed. Opinions ranged from those of the nonparametric section (great topic, much interest in it, many folks working on it, make it a section) to the diametrically opposed view (great topic, much interest, many sessions sponsored by various sections, no need for a new section). Along with discussion on the section, commentary/complaints on the number of invited sessions, content of invited sessions, who is chosen to speak in the invited sessions, interest groups, potential for subsections, etc. Overall, there seemed to be solid support for creating a new section with the view that the rules for creating new sections (and for dissolving sections) and assigning invited talks to them should be revisited.

iv. Student paper competition. Last year ASA changed the requirement for student awards for sections for JSM so that a given student could only submit to two different sections for awards and win a single award. There was still concern of some cases of a student winning two awards & then having to turn down one, which created headaches for the award committees. There is a proposal to change the policy so a given student could submit only to one section for award consideration (for a given piece of work in a given year). A variety of views with discussion. Eventually a loose "vote" between "only 1 submission per student" and "2 submissions per student".

At the Council of Section meeting on Thursday, vote was roughly 18 for 2 submissions and 5 for 1 submission, so the policy will remain at 2 submissions. The ASA folks will try to coordinate submissions. Previous experience with the ASA and its attempts to

modify web-based activities and to track data bases, are that any new system may be a year off. It would also need to be okayed by someone other than the council of sections.