

BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Proudly serving

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

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Homepage: <http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/home>

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SCHEDULED EVENTS & MEETINGS

January 19, 2019	Annual Potluck Dinner and Party	Boston, MA
March 7, 2019	Mosteller Statistician of the Year Awards Dinner	Boston, MA
March 4, 2019	Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference	Cambridge, MA
April 29– May 10, 2019	May Institute at Northeastern University	Boston, MA
May 3, 2019	3rd Annual Boston Pharmaceutical Symposium	Cambridge, MA
May 16-18, 2019	New England Statistics Symposium (NESS)	Hartford, CT
September 28, 2019	New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports (NESSIS)	Cambridge, MA

Event schedule at the chapter website: <http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/home>

Detailed announcements appear later in this newsletter. All events are announced in advance on our website and through emails to our members. We are currently planning events for the coming year. If you have suggestions please contact Program Chair Olga Vitek at o.vitek@northeastern.edu.

JANUARY 2019 PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

From Greta Ljung, Outgoing President:

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019!

It has been a pleasure to serve as BCASA president for the last two years. This has been a very active period for the chapter. Our membership has increased and we have continued to offer our members a series of diverse programs. In addition to evening lectures, awards dinners, and social events, we have held short courses on the analysis of spatio-temporal data, on longitudinal data analysis, on the analysis of incomplete data, and on teaching statistics with R and RStudio. Another very special event in 2018 was a symposium celebrating the 95th birthday of Herman Chernoff, who remains an active member of our chapter.

Some of our recent events have been co-sponsored by the Boston University Student Chapter of the ASA (BUSCASA) and the Student Chapter of the ASA at Tufts (ASAT). During the past two years, we have also developed collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry in our area. In May 2017, we organized a one-day workshop on the “Design and Monitoring of Adaptive Clinical Trials” co-sponsored by Cytel, Inc, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and Pfizer. This was followed by a one-day pharma symposium with the same co-sponsors held in Cambridge on May 4, 2018. We value the collaboration and look forward to working with them again in 2019.

I would like to thank the host institutions and the many dedicated volunteers who make our programs possible. Your contributions truly matter. And as our field continues to evolve, new volunteers are always welcome and much needed. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you have suggestions for future programs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, I would like to welcome Joe Blitzstein from the Statistics Department at Harvard as our new president. Since joining the department in 2006, Joe has made outstanding contributions to the statistics and data science programs at Harvard. The chapter will be in good hands with Joe and we are delighted to have him onboard.

With thanks and best wishes to all,

--Greta Ljung

From Joe Blitzstein, Incoming President:

Happy New Year to all our past, present, and future members of the chapter, and your families!

Thank you so much to Greta for her wonderful work as president for the last two years, and to all the chapter officers, whose efforts have resulted in and supported so many fantastic lectures, short courses, and social events, while also further strengthening the chapter's finances and membership.

I look forward to serving as president of this amazing chapter, and welcome your suggestions for the chapter (via email at blitz@fas.harvard.edu or in person at one of our upcoming events). In particular, I am eager to find ways to increase our membership further and increase the number and diversity of attendees at events. We can continue to nurture our traditional strengths as statisticians (e.g., quantifying uncertainty, and building and evaluating models that shed light on a myriad of kinds of data), while also finding ways to support our members learning about and becoming leaders in the emerging field of data science, rather than leaving that for the computer scientists. I hope to see you at many of our upcoming events, starting with our annual potluck and dinner on January 19, and continuing throughout the year with various symposia, lectures, and special events that are mentioned in this newsletter or will be announced soon through our website and email list.

Best wishes for a successful 2019,

--Joe Blitzstein

New Boston Chapter Officers

At a May 16 Chapter meeting held at Tufts University, five new BCASA officers were elected for two- or three-year terms starting on January 1, 2019. The new officers are:

- **President:** Dr. Joseph Blitzstein, Professor of the Practice in Statistics and Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Statistics at Harvard University
- **Program Chair:** Dr. Olga Vitek, Associate Professor, Director - MS in Data Science Program, Khoury College of Computer and Information Sciences at Northeastern University
- **Newsletter Editor:** Dr. Elizabeth Kane, Manager, Biostatistics at Boston Biomedical Associates (BBA) in Marlborough, MA
- **Webmaster:** Dr. Jeremiah Perez, Senior Biostatistician at Boston Biomedical Associates (BBA)
- **Council of Chapters Representative:** Dr. Mingfei Li, Associate Professor and Program Director of MS Business Analytics at Bentley University

We thank them for their service and look forward to working with them. The next Chapter election will take place in the spring of 2019 when three new officers will be elected: Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please contact Past-President Greta Ljung (greta.ljung@verizon.net) if you are interested in one of these positions or if you wish to nominate someone else.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCASA Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party on January 19



You are all invited to attend our 2019 Winter Pot-luck Dinner and Party to be held on Saturday, January 19, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The event will be hosted by Herman and Judy Chernoff, along with their daughter Miriam and her husband Stan. The event will be held at Springhouse in Boston, the current home of Herman and Judy Chernoff.

Location: Springhouse is a senior living community near Faulkner Hospital in Jamaica Plain. It is located at 44 Allandale Street, Boston, MA 02130. The event will be held in the Main Street function room on the ground floor by the main entrance to the building. You will need to sign in at the entry desk as you enter the building.

Public Transportation: MBTA Orange Line to Forest Hills, MBTA Bus # 38 to Faulkner Hospital. For other options see the MBTA Trip Planner (<https://www.mbta.com/trip-planner>).

Parking Information: Parking is available at Springhouse in spaces marked “Visitor” or “Staff”. If these are full, it’s okay to park along the circular road.

Sign-up: A sign-up sheet for this event is available at <http://www.luckypotluck.com/cgi-bin/display/potluckpl?id=154369770913164504222&ref=1>. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We will supply drinks (beer, wine, juice, soft drinks, etc.), plates, cutlery and cups. We look forward to seeing all of you at this event!

Mosteller Statistician of the Year Awards Dinner on March 7

Honoree and Speaker: Professor Constantine Gatsonis,
Department of Biostatistics and Center for Statistical Sciences,
Brown University



Presentation Title: “Radiomic Markers for Diagnosis and Prediction: Promise and Hype”

Date and Time: Thursday, March 7, 2019; Social and Dinner 6:15 pm, Presentation 7:00 pm

Location: Kotzen Room, Beatley Library and Lefavour Hall, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA

Directions and Map: <http://www.simmons.edu/about-simmons/directions-parking>

Parking and Public Transportation: A ticket provided at the event will allow you to park for free at Simmons. Please hold on to the ticket that you take when you enter the parking lot. The Longwood and the MFA T-stops on the Green E line are about a 10-minute walk from the destination.

Registration: <http://bcasa2019march.eventbrite.com> by March 2

Cost: Dinner: \$30 for chapter members; \$40 for non-members; students \$12. Presentation: free.

Abstract:

The quantitative analysis of imaging via machine learning methods for high dimensional data (“radiomics”) is defining the new frontier for diagnostic imaging research. Radiomic analyses are generating a vast array of imaging-based markers for diagnosis and prediction. Each marker carries claims of potential utility in clinical care and is presented as a potential candidate for inclusion in clinical trials. The volume of the new radiomics-based markers and their rapid evolution, even without formal learning, pose novel challenges for researchers and regulators. In this presentation we will survey statistical machine learning methods used in the development of radiomic markers and will discuss the statistical and regulatory challenges they create. We will draw examples from published and ongoing research, with emphasis on the statistical aspects of deep learning modalities for detection of disease and prediction of response to therapy.

Speaker Biography:

Dr. Constantine Gatsonis, *Henry Ledyard Goddard University Professor at Brown University*, was educated at Princeton and Cornell and joined the Brown faculty in 1995. He is the founding Director of the Center for Statistical Sciences and the founding Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at Brown. Dr. Gatsonis is a leading authority on the evaluation of diagnostic and screening tests and image markers, and has made major contributions to the development of methods for medical technology assessment and health services and outcomes research. He was the founding Network Statistician of the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) since its formation in 1999 and is now

Group Statistician for ECOG-ACRIN, with responsibility for studies of imaging. He has published on methodology for ROC analysis for detection and prediction and on broader issues of study design in diagnostic test and imaging biomarker evaluation and validation. He has long-term involvement in the development of Bayesian statistical methods for problems in biomedical research. He developed and applied hierarchical regression models to the analysis variations in utilization, outcomes, and quality of health care, meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy studies, and the variability in diagnostic performance among radiologists and institutions. Dr Gatsonis chaired the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics of the National Academies and was a member of the Committee on National Statistics and the Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science. Since 2016 he is a statistical consultant for the New England Journal of Medicine. He was the Founding Editor-in-Chief of Health Services and Outcomes Research Methods, and currently serves as Associate Editor of the Annals of Applied Statistics.

Awards History:

Every year the Boston Chapter presents the Statistician of the Year award to a distinguished statistician who has made exceptional contributions to the field of statistics and has shown outstanding service to the statistical community, including the Boston Chapter of the ASA. In 1997, this award was renamed the Mosteller Statistician of the Year award in honor of the 80th birthday of its first recipient, Fred Mosteller. Individuals from academia, industry, and government are considered for this award. For a list of past award winners, see

<https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/awards/mostellerstatistician>.

Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference on March 4

Date and Time: March 4, 2019, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: Microsoft New England, One Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA

For the third year, Harvard, MIT, and Microsoft Research New England will partner with Stanford University to bring the Women in Data Science (WiDS) conference to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This one-day technical conference will bring together local academic leaders, industrial professionals and students to hear about the latest data science-related research in a number of domains, to learn how leading-edge companies are leveraging data science for success, and to connect with potential mentors, collaborators, and others in the field. The program will include technical talks, a student poster session, recruiting opportunities for attendees interested in data science job opportunities, and several networking breaks throughout the day.

All genders are invited to attend the conference, which will feature exclusively female speakers. For registration information and other updates please see <https://www.widscambridge.org/>.

Note: The conference will be preceded by a data science competition, open during the month of February. Top scoring Massachusetts based teams will be spotlighted at the conference.

Third Annual Boston Pharmaceutical Symposium on May 3

The Boston Chapter will hold its Third Annual Pharmaceutical Symposium in Cambridge on Friday, May 3, 2019. This symposium is organized by the Boston Chapter in collaboration with researchers from Pfizer Inc, Biogen, Novartis, Alnylam, and Cytel Inc. This will be a full-day event hosted by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge. The program will feature invited presentations by well-known biostatisticians, focusing on statistical issues and challenges that arise in the Pharma area. In addition to scheduled presentations, there will be plenty of time for discussion and networking throughout the day. Further details about the program along with registration information will appear in our March newsletter and on our website <https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/upcoming-events>.

2019 New England Statistics Symposium (NESS)

Location: Hilton Hartford, Connecticut

Date: May 16-18, 2019

The Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut (UConn) will host the 33rd New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) on May 16–18, 2019. As an annual event, NESS has been bringing together statisticians from all over New England to a central location to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field, and network with colleagues since it was first started at UConn in 1987. This year's symposium will be held at Hilton Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut.

The symposium will be a 3-day event, featuring short-courses, plenary talks, invited sessions, career development panel discussion, student paper competition, student poster competition, statathon, and Chernoff Lecture. In addition to being a larger scale event, two new features are the statathon and the Chernoff Lecture. Proposals are currently being sought for different parts of the program.

Some important dates are:

- Monday, January 21, 2019: short course proposal closes
- Monday, March 18, 2019: invited session proposal closes
- Monday, April 1, 2019: student paper submission closes
- Monday, April 22, 2019: abstract submission closes; Statathon team registration closes
- Monday, May 6, 2019: online registration closes

Website and Local Organizers:

Further information and updates about the program as they become available can be found at the conference website <https://symposium.nestat.org>. The Symposium local hosts and organizers from the University of Connecticut are Haim Bar, Jun Yan (chair), and HaiYing Wang. Questions should be addressed to Jun Yan at jun.yan@uconn.edu.

May Institute on Computation and Statistics for Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics at Northeastern University

Dates: April 29–May 10, 2019

Location: Northeastern University, Boston MA

Organizers: Meena Choi, Brendan MacLean, and Olga Vitek

The May Institute on computation and statistics for mass spectrometry and proteomics, taking place April 29 – May 10, 2019 at Northeastern University in Boston, is now accepting applications. The application deadline is January 31, 2019. The May Institute focuses on computational and statistical aspects of quantitative mass spectrometry-based proteomics. The course combines keynote presentations, introductory lectures, practical training, and informal personal discussions.

Instructors are leading experts, who contributed numerous experimental and computational methods and software. The target audience are both beginners and experienced scientists, who would like to strengthen their computational and statistical expertise. We also welcome computer scientists, bioinformaticians, data scientists, statisticians and engineers interested in learning about working with data from modern biotechnologies. The participants will have many opportunities to ask questions, and will be able to present their research.

Program Overview:

April 29 – May 1, 2019: Targeted proteomics with Skyline

April 29 – May 1, 2019: Proteomics and metabolomics with OpenMS

May 1: Imaging mass spectrometry with Cardinal; ½ day workshop

May 1-3, 2019: Beginner's statistics in R

May 1-3, 2019: Advanced R

May 6-8, 2019: Statistics for quantitative mass spectrometry

May 6-8, 2019: Visualization of biomolecular data

May 8: Scientific writing; ½ day workshop

May 8-10, 2019: Capstone – case studies in data-independent acquisition (DIA)

Website:

For more information about the program please see <https://computationalproteomics.ccis.northeastern.edu/>

2019 Joint Statistical Meetings to be Held in Denver, Colorado, July 27 – August 1

It is now time to start preparing for JSM 2019. This year's meetings will be held in Denver, Colorado, from July 27 – August 1, 2019 with the technical sessions starting Sunday afternoon. The theme for this year is *Statistics: Making an Impact*.

The JSM program consists of invited, topic-contributed, and contributed sessions; introductory overview lectures; late-breaking sessions; poster presentations; roundtable discussions; and professional development courses and workshops.

Invited session and professional development course and workshop proposals for 2019 are being accepted now. Refer to the [2019 proposal instructions](#) to guide you. Abstract for the following presentation types are also being accepted:

- Contributed and topic-contributed papers
- Contributed and topic-contributed posters
- Topic-contributed panel sessions
- Speed presentations

The submission deadline for these is February 1, 2019. Not sure where you'll fit? More information about the different presentation types can be found on the JSM 2019 website at <http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2019/beontheprogram.cfm>

Registration for program participants will be open until February 4, 2019. General registration for conference attendees and add-on (roundtable discussions, speaker luncheons, professional development offerings, or the Career Service) registration will open May 1, 2019.

To provide the best program possible, speakers must register for JSM prior to submitting their abstract. The registration fee is nonrefundable, though substitutions may be made at no penalty.

New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports (NESSIS) on September 28, 2019.

Date: Saturday, September 28, 2019; Please save the date!

Location: Harvard University Science Center, 1 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Conference co-chairs: [Mark Glickman](#) and [Scott Evans](#).

The 2019 New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports is a meeting of statisticians and quantitative analysts connected with sports teams, sports media, and universities to discuss common problems of interest in statistical modeling and analysis of sports data. The symposium format is a mixture of invited talks, a poster session, and a panel discussion.

Abstract submission and conference registration will open early 2019. A link to sign up for the NESSIS mailing list is available at <http://www.nessis.org/>.

Selected presentations from the 2017 NESSIS can be found at <http://www.nessis.org/nessis17.html>.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New AAAS Fellows Include Three Local Statisticians

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) honors accomplished scientists as Fellows. This year's Fellows, who represent a broad swath of scientific disciplines, were selected for diverse accomplishments that include pioneering research, leadership within their field, teaching and mentoring, fostering collaborations and advancing public understanding of science. Among the seven statisticians honored this year, three have Boston affiliations. They are:

Dianne M. Finkelstein, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Sharon-Lise Teresa Normand, Harvard Medical School
Giovanni Parmigiani, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Congratulations to all!

Emery Brown Awarded the 2018 Dickson Prize in Science

Emery N. Brown is the 2018 recipient of Carnegie Mellon University's Dickson Prize in Science. Awarded annually since 1970, the Dickson Prize recognizes substantial achievements or sustained progress in the fields of natural sciences, engineering computer science or mathematics. Brown is one of the "world's experts on statistical analysis of neuronal data," writes Carnegie Mellon faculty member, Robert Kass. His research has also helped decipher how anesthetic drugs create the state of general anesthesia.

Brown received his Ph.D. in statistics from Harvard University under the supervision of Peter Huber and Victor Solo in 1988. He currently holds appointments at MIT, at the Harvard Medical School, and at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the American Institute of Medical and Biomedical Engineering, the IEEE, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Inventors. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, and the National Academy of Engineering.

Brown served on President Obama's NIH Brain Initiative Working Group. He is the recipient of an NIH Director's Pioneer Award, the National Institute of Statistical Sciences Jerome Sacks Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship in Applied Mathematics, and the American Society of Anesthesiologists Excellence in Research Award.

Brad Efron Awarded the International Prize in Statistics for the Bootstrap

The International Prize in Statistics recognizes a major achievement in the field of statistics, and this year's prize was awarded to Bradley Efron of Stanford in recognition of the "bootstrap." This novel method for assessing the uncertainty of scientific results has transformed our ability to use and understand data and had a major impact on science. Please join us in congratulating Professor Efron on receiving this prestigious award!

Education Journal Adds Section on “Teaching Data Science”

The Journal of Statistics Education (JSE) disseminates knowledge for the improvement of statistics education at all levels, including elementary, secondary, post-secondary, post-graduate, continuing, and workplace education. It is distributed electronically and, in accord with its broad focus, publishes articles that enhance the exchange of a diversity of interesting and useful information among educators, practitioners, and researchers around the world. The intended audience includes anyone who teaches statistics, as well as those interested in research on statistical and probabilistic reasoning. All submissions are rigorously refereed using a double-blind peer review process.

Beginning in 2019, the journal will be adding a section on "Teaching Data Science" that will be headed by Nicholas Horton of Amherst College. The 2018 National Academies Report "Data Science for Undergraduates: Opportunities and Options" (<http://nas.edu/envisioningds>) noted that a critical task in the education of future data scientists and statisticians is to instill data acumen, which was defined in terms of the following areas:

- Mathematical foundations for data science,
- Computational foundations for data science,
- Statistical foundations,
- Data management and curation,
- Data description and visualization,
- Data modeling and assessment,
- Workflow and reproducibility,
- Communication and teamwork,
- Domain-specific considerations, and
- Ethical problem solving.

To make sense of the data that surrounds them, students require exposure to key concepts in data science, a foundation in data technologies, opportunities to undertake the complete data analysis cycle, and an understanding of ethical considerations. While these have always been part of the mission of JSE, these learning outcomes, while part of a traditional statistics curriculum, now are receiving considerably more emphasis.

For this new section we envision a mixture of "what" and "how" articles related to data science and data acumen. What should students learn about computation and data technologies? How should analytic tools and workflows be taught?

We see this new section as a way to (a) help statisticians be aware of what is happening at the intersection of statistics, computer science, and domain application areas and (b) help the community develop greater facility with more sophisticated algorithmic foundations, data technologies, and novel statistical methods. We hope that a regular series of papers in JSE will benefit readers who want to explore how to teach these new learning outcomes now prominently appearing in statistics and data science courses and programs. Other papers in this section might explore new technologies, approaches, techniques, activities, courses, or new units added to existing courses.

More information about the journal can be found at <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ujse20/current>. Prospective authors are encouraged to contact Nicholas Horton (editor of the "Teaching Data Science" section, nhorton@amherst.edu) or Jeffrey Witmer (JSE editor, jeff.witmer@oberlin.edu).

Gender Diversity in the Harvard Statistics Department Featured in the Harvard Crimson

For 58 years after its establishment, Harvard's Statistics Department did not have a single female tenured faculty member. However, collaboration between Statistics faculty and senior Faculty of Arts and Sciences administrators, including former FAS Dean Michael D. Smith, has helped to reduce the department's gender imbalance. The work of former Statistics Department Chair Neil Shephard has also promoted diversity within the faculty population of the department. A discussion of these developments can be found in the November 6, 2018 issue of the Harvard Crimson: <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2018/11/6/statistics-department-sees-increase-women/>.

Harvard's Stat 110: "Introduction to Probability" Has Gone Digital

Stat 110 (Introduction to Probability), the 3rd largest undergraduate course at Harvard, has gone digital. After years of hard work by Professor Joseph Blitzstein, people the world over can take the course with an optional certificate at EdX. Less than two weeks after the course was launched in July 2018, the enrollment had already reached 9,000.

From the course description, "Probability and statistics help to bring logic to a world replete with randomness and uncertainty. This course will give the attendees tools needed to understand data, science, philosophy, engineering, economics, and finance. They will learn not only how to solve challenging technical problems, but also how they can apply those solutions in everyday life." For further information, please see <https://statistics.fas.harvard.edu/news/stat-110x-goes-live>.

NEISM23 Held on October 27 at Wellesley College

For the 23rd consecutive year, statistics educators came together for the annual New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting (NEISM23), which was held at the College Club on the campus of Wellesley College on October 27, 2018. In all, 41 statisticians and adjunct faculty from 2- and 4-year colleges and institutions across New England participated. This year's meeting was joined by Sharon Hessney of the New York Times and ASA. Sharon was the developer of the online column, *What's Going on in This Graph*, which features graphs, maps, and charts from the New York Times, and invites students to discuss them live.

Sharon led an interactive morning session on *What's Going on in This Graph*, using a few graphs released by her column in the past. She offered provoking insights on graphical illustrations of data, and how they can be used to involve students' participation and applied to classroom teaching.

A second morning session was a panel discussion, led by Bob Goldman of Simmons College, about the use of statistical software packages to teach statistics (R, SPSS, JMP, SAS, Excel, etc.) and the pros and cons of integrating them into the curriculum. Four panelists, Allen Downey of Olin College, Alicia Lamere of Bryant University, George Recck of Babson College, and Wendy Wang of Wellesley College, shared their perspectives in choosing software for different courses and interacted with the audience via Q&A.

After a lunch break filled with productive conversations among the attendees, the afternoon started with a session on managing changes, led by Mike Salé of Stonehill College. The group brainstormed how to handle the ever-changing needs of statistics education at our institutions, including topics on course coverage, skillsets, pedagogy, instructors, keeping curriculum consistent, and more.

In the end, Casey Pattanayak of Wellesley College led a thought-provoking discussion on utilizing online resources, discussing innovative ways instructors are using online resources such as Coursera, Data Camp, Khan, TED, Isolated Statisticians and CAUSE communities, and other electronic resources in their courses.

For additional information about this meeting or plans for next year, please contact any of this year's organizers:

Wendy Wang – qwang@wellesley.edu

Cassandra Pattanayak - cpattanayak@wellesley.edu

Robert Carver – rcarver@stonehill.edu

Bob Goldman – goldman@simmons.edu

John McKenzie – mckenzie@babson.edu

Michael Salé – msale@stonehill.edu

BCASA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations for Chapter Officers for Terms Starting January 1, 2020

This coming spring, three BCASA officers are up for election for two-year terms starting on January 1, 2020. These officers are Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. A write-up of their responsibilities can be found on our website at <https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/aboutus/officers>. We typically hold elections at the final event of the academic year. If you are interested in nominating yourself or anyone else for these positions, please contact current President Joe Blitzstein (blitz@fas.harvard.edu) or Past President Greta Ljung (greta.ljung@verizon.net). New volunteers are always welcome and much needed. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

Mu Sigma Rho Membership Nominations Sought

Mu Sigma Rho is the national honorary society for statistics. Its purpose is to promote and encourage scholarly activity in statistics and the recognition of outstanding achievement among the students in eligible academic institutions.

Both undergraduate and graduate students can be nominated. Information about BCASA's chapter of Mu Sigma Rho is available at <http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/awards/musigmarho>. Instructions on how to nominate students can be found at <http://www.colby.edu/musigmarho/> or by contacting Liam O'Brien at lobrien@colby.edu.

Completed nomination forms are due to Mu Sigma Rho subcommittee by March 21st.

Please Join the BCASA Planning Committee

Chapter activities are planned and organized by a core group known as the Planning Committee. Please consider joining us. The committee is open to all interested chapter members, regardless of whether they are current members of the ASA. In addition to communicating by email, we meet approximately every two months to plan upcoming activities for the chapter. These meetings are held in the evening and dinner is provided. For more information contact Chapter Vice-President Miriam Chernoff (mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu).

Benefits of BCASA Membership

We appreciate your membership in the Boston Chapter and believe that membership in the chapter has many benefits, including the following:

- Receive notification of our quarterly newsletter and upcoming chapter events
- Meet new colleagues and network with others in the field
- Participate in chapter sponsored events at discounted member rates
- Continue your statistical education and advance your career
- Support and enrich the local statistics community
- Support ASA's grassroots efforts and help develop the next generation of statisticians

Unless already a member, please consider joining now. You can join the Boston Chapter when you join the American Statistical Association (ASA) or renew your ASA membership. ASA members who wish to join the Boston Chapter at other times should complete the printed application form available at <http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/joinbcasa> and send it directly to the ASA.

You can also be a member of the Boston Chapter without being an ASA member. To join the Boston Chapter without joining the ASA, write a check for \$10 (\$4 for students) made payable to BCASA, and send it directly to our Treasurer at:

Boston Chapter of ASA
c/o Lisa Mukherjee
PO BOX 200766
Boston, MA 02120

Provide your name, address, and email address. Members receive an electronic subscription to the chapter newsletter and an opportunity to join our e-mail list for other announcements. A membership application form is available at <http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/joinbcasa>.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Note: Job opportunities sent to Elizabeth Kane, BCASA Newsletter Editor at kane1215@bu.edu will be included in a future BCASA newsletter

Director of the Biostatistics Center, Division of Clinical Research of the MGH Research Institute

The Division of Clinical Research of the Mass General Hospital (MGH) Research Institute seeks to fill a position of Director of the Biostatistics Center with a national and international leader in the application of statistics in medical research. The MGH Biostatistics Center hedwig.mgh.harvard.edu/biostatistics is dedicated to serving the MGH, as well as selected NIH-funded coordinating center projects providing state-of-the-art biostatistics and data management expertise. MGH has a very active research portfolio in cancer, cardiology, pediatrics, neurology, infectious disease, psychiatry among other major areas of clinical care. The Center has 30 full-time and 3 part-time faculty/staff, including an administrator and computer systems administrator. The Center provides biostatistical support to investigators throughout the MGH research community; the Director oversees all statistical support within the MGH Research Institute. Massachusetts General Hospital is home to the largest hospital-based research enterprise in the U.S., with an annual budget of over \$912 million in 2017.

Appointment at the rank of professor will be commensurate with experience, training, and achievements. This position may also include a secondary appointment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. This individual will have responsibility for directing statistical cores in large programs at the MGH and applying for and directing NIH-supported coordinating centers. Applicants should have a doctoral degree in a statistical science and should demonstrate leadership as well as an independent research program and mentorship of faculty.

Interested applicants should send a curriculum vitae and statement of career interests to Maurizio Fava, MD, Director of the Division of Clinical Research MGH Research Institute, mfava@mgh.harvard.edu.

Biostatistics Position at Dana-Farber Institute

The Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology (BCB) at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute seeks an experienced and highly motivated PhD biostatistician to engage collaboratively with investigators on basic science, animal model, and human research activities in multiple areas of adult oncology and HIV disease. PhD and at least 2 years of collaborative experience are required. Prior experience in oncology and/or HIV is a plus. www.Click2apply.net/pwmzbcyv4r96j4hy. EOE.

Amherst College, Lecturer in Statistics

Amherst College invites applications for a lecturer in statistics with the appointment to begin on July 1, 2019. This is a full-time appointment with an initial three-year term and the possibility of renewal for an additional three-year term as a lecturer, which may be followed by five-year renewable

appointments as a senior lecturer. Reappointment and promotion are contingent upon positive reviews of teaching and the other responsibilities of the lecturer, as outlined below. The college provides an annual allocation to support conference travel and/or research. Responsibilities include teaching five courses per year, carrying out departmental duties, and engaging with the growing statistics program at the college. The successful candidate will be expected to make significant contributions to teaching introductory statistics and potentially other courses in the program, including curriculum enhancements. Applicants must hold at least a master's degree in statistics or biostatistics (or a related field). A Ph.D. is preferred. In addition, applicants must have broad intellectual interests in statistics and data science education, along with demonstrated excellence in teaching. Submit cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching statement, and at least three letters of recommendation that specifically address teaching, to [MathJobs.Org](https://www.mathjobs.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but all applications received by December 17, 2018, will be guaranteed consideration. More information on this position is available at <https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/mathematics-statistics/jobs>.

Amherst College, Visiting Assistant Professor

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics invites applications for a full-time visiting assistant professor in statistics with a three-year appointment to begin on July 1, 2019. We seek candidates who are passionate about teaching statistics and data science to undergraduates. Today, nearly one-quarter of Amherst's students are Pell Grant recipients; 45 percent of our students identify as domestic students of color. Our expectation is that the successful candidate will excel at teaching and mentoring students who are broadly diverse with regard to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, and religion.

Responsibilities include teaching a range of undergraduate statistics courses (two per semester) and helping with the comprehensive evaluation of senior majors in statistics. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in statistics or a closely related field and have broad intellectual interests and a strong commitment to excellence in research and in undergraduate teaching in statistics. Submit cover letter, curriculum vitae, list of publications, research statement, teaching statement, and at least three letters of recommendation, including at least one specifically addressing teaching, to [MathJobs.Org](https://www.mathjobs.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but all applications received by February 22, 2019, will be guaranteed consideration. See https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/dean_faculty/faculty_hiring/employment for details of the position, and <https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/mathematics-statistics> for details about the department. Questions can be addressed to mathstats@amherst.edu.

Williams College, Tenure-track position in Statistics

The Williams College Department of Mathematics and Statistics invites applications for a new tenure-track position in Statistics, beginning fall 2019, at the rank of assistant professor. A more senior appointment is also possible for a qualified candidate at a later stage in their career. The candidate should have a Ph.D. in Statistics or a closely related field by the time of appointment. We are seeking candidates who show evidence and/or promise of excellence in teaching and a strong research program that can engage undergraduate students. The candidate will become the seventh tenure-track statistician in the department, joining a vibrant and innovative group of statisticians

with an established statistics major. Candidates may apply via <https://apply.interfolio.com/50978> by uploading a cover letter addressed to Professor Richard De Veaux, a curriculum vitae, a teaching statement, a description of research plans, and three letters of recommendation on teaching and research. The Department is committed to building a diverse and inclusive community. In your application materials, we also ask you to address how your teaching, scholarship, mentorship and/or community service might support Williams's commitment to diversity and inclusion. For more information on the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, visit <http://math.williams.edu/>.

Tufts Medical Center, Special & Scientific Staff CTSI

Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies (ICRHPS) at Tufts Medical Center seek a full-time faculty Biostatistician to provide methodological leadership for innovative and collaborative clinical research and teaching. **Responsibilities:** Provides methodological leadership to multidisciplinary teams engaged in research in the biomedical and clinical sciences, behavioral and social sciences, community-engaged research, public health studies, and health policy research. Teaches biostatistics classes within Tufts CTSI's Clinical and Translational Science Graduate Program at the Tufts University's Sackler School of Biomedical Sciences. Mentors and assists fellows and junior faculty with their research projects, from design to analysis. Devotes effort to specific research grants as a collaborating statistician-investigator and supervises master's level statisticians who work on those projects. Initiates and carries out independent research on methodological issues. Responsible for seeking independent funding by writing grant applications. Assists investigators throughout the Tufts community with study design, statistical analyses, and methodological questions related to their research projects, pre- and post-award.

Required Qualifications: Applicants must hold a PhD in biostatistics with a strong record of collaboration with clinicians. A track record of academic productivity, funding, and innovation is expected. An understanding of the span of biostatistics and study design is required, as is an ability to recognize opportunities to use or develop novel methods. Classroom teaching experience is required. The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills in translating complex concepts to non-methodologically expert audiences.

To apply: Please submit your CV and cover letter through Tufts Medical Center's online system at: <https://jobs.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/jobs/job-detail.aspx?id=3642>

Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, Biostatistics Faculty Position

The Department of Population Medicine invites applications for a Biostatistics faculty position at the level of Assistant Professor. Area of particular interests are: Design and analysis of clinical trials and observational studies, and causal inference. The biostatistician will join the Biostatistics Center and will work with multidisciplinary teams of clinicians, epidemiologists, project managers, programmers and analysts. The primary responsibilities of the position include developing and maintaining an active, externally funded research program; collaborating with investigators in the Department with study design, statistical analyses, and methodological questions related to their research project, both pre- and

post-award; and participating in departmental and professional service. The successful candidate will also be expected to mentor and assist fellows and junior faculty with their research projects.

Jointly sponsored by a medical school and a non-profit health plan, Department of Population Medicine (www.populationmedicine.org) is uniquely positioned as a supportive and collaborative academic department. Its multi-disciplinary faculty include epidemiologists, health services researchers, data scientists, social scientists, internists, pediatricians, decision analysts, and biostatisticians. Faculty members conduct research in multiple areas including medical product safety surveillance, infectious disease epidemiology, aging, cancer control, maternal and child health, health care policy, and obesity prevention, and biostatistical methodology. We are dedicated to the goal of fostering a culturally diverse faculty committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ph.D in Biostatistics, Statistics, or a related field with strong quantitative research training
- Knowledge of study design, research methodology and statistical analysis
- Strong computational and programming skills
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Prior experience with large electronic healthcare databases and multi-center studies is preferred
- Ability to work independently; strong organization and problem-solving skills

Besides her/his principal research activities, the faculty member will also be expected to spend a portion of time participating in the broader missions of the department and medical school as follows:

- Teach and mentor medical students, residents, graduate students, and/or research fellows
- Establish and maintain collegial and productive contacts with other researchers and educators in the university and within existing research partnerships
- Contribute to departmental administration as a member of committees

The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute is committed to building and nurturing an inclusive professional community in which diversity is valued and every person feels they have a rightful place, are welcome and respected, and are supported in their endeavors. We welcome applications from members of underrepresented minority groups, people of all genders, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. To apply please send curriculum vitae, a 2-page research statement, and the names of three references to:

Rui Wang PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Population Medicine
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
c/o zachary_hastings@harvardpilgrim.org.

BCASA REGION STATISTICS SEMINARS

Below is a list of the regional statistics, biostatistics, and mathematics programs that often offer statistics seminars or other events of interest to our members. If your institution would like to appear on this list, please contact Liz Kane at kane1215@bu.edu.

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
<http://www.bu.edu/stat/>
<http://www.bu.edu/stat/seminar/>

Boston University School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
<https://sph.bu.edu/Biostatistics/department-of-biostatistics/menu-id-617603.html>
<https://sph.bu.edu/Biostatistics/seminars/menu-id-617654.html>

Brown University
Division of Applied Mathematics
<http://www.dam.brown.edu/>
http://www.dam.brown.edu/dam_seminars.shtml

Brown University School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
<http://www.stat.brown.edu/>

Dartmouth College
Department of Biomedical Data Science
<https://bmds.dartmouth.edu>

Harvard University
Department of Statistics
<http://statistics.fas.harvard.edu/>
<http://statistics.fas.harvard.edu/calendar>

Harvard University T. H. Chan School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostatistics/>
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostatistics/seminars-events/>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Institute of Data, Systems, and Science (IDSS)
<https://idss.mit.edu/>

University of Maine
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
<http://umaine.edu/mathematics/>
<http://umaine.edu/mathematics/colloquium-schedule/>

University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
<https://www.math.umass.edu/>
<https://www.math.umass.edu/seminars/statistics-and-probability-seminar>

University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Department of Biostatistics
<http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/biostatistics>

University of New Hampshire
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
<https://ceps.unh.edu/mathematics-statistics>

University of Rhode Island
Department of Computer Science and Statistics
<http://www.cs.uri.edu/>

University of Vermont College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
<http://www.uvm.edu/~cems/mathstat/>

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Department of Mathematical Sciences
<http://www.wpi.edu/academics/math/>

The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Send comments or suggestions to any of the individuals listed below.

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