Caucus of Academic Reps (CAR) Weekly Digest
January 27, 2017

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(1) University at Buffalo, School of Public Health and Health Professions, Department of Biostatistics: Chair of Biostatistics

The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) at the University at Buffalo (UB), State University of New York (SUNY), seeks a Chair of Biostatistics. We seek candidates with a strong record of excellence in academic leadership and statistical research.

The Department of Biostatistics has a reputation for excellence in methodologic and collaborative research and education. The department offers PhD, MA, and MPH degrees, and an MS in bioinformatics and biostatistics. A proposal for an undergraduate degree is in the final stage of review.

Department faculty are engaged in a range of methodologic and transdisciplinary research. Collaborative research within and outside the university is integrated with the department’s academic and research missions.

UB and Buffalo provide a rich environment for advancement of the department’s faculty. In addition to the SPHHP, the department has relationships with the UB Clinical and Translational Research Center (recently awarded an NIH CTSA), other UB schools, and numerous regional institutions. UB is a member of the Association of American Universities, and the SPHHP is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Buffalo has been named as one of the best cities in the US in which to live (www.buffalo.edu/about_ub/the-buffalo-niagara-region.html).

Complete information is at jobs.amstat.org/jobs/8639657/chair-of-biostatistics. Address questions to the search committee chair, Dr. Jo Freudenheim (jfreuden@buffalo.edu). This is a 12-month, state supported position. UB is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer/Recruiter. We welcome and foster diversity among applicants, faculty, staff, and students and encourage applications from members of groups underrepresented in biostatistics.

(2) University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine: Director of Biostatistics, Full Professor, Tenure Track or CE-Track

The Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania seeks candidates for a Full Professor position in either the non-tenure clinician-educator track or the tenure track. Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree.

The department seeks a distinguished senior faculty scientist for an open position as Director of the Division of Biostatistics. Candidates must have an internationally recognized record of scholarship, and have demonstrated successful academic research leadership experience. The Division of Biostatistics is the academic home for 35 primary faculty, within a vibrant multidisciplinary academic department comprised of three divisions – Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics with a total of 94 primary faculty.

The successful candidate will be a visionary leader, dedicated to faculty career development, and strong
advocacy for methodological, collaborative and team-oriented research, as well as training the next generations of biostatistics scientists. A demonstrated track record as the principal investigator of methodological programs supported by extramural grant funding is required. Penn offers a rich mix of ongoing population health sciences research opportunities, within a thriving biomedical, translational and clinical research environment.

Candidates are expected to have a strong commitment to teaching. The Graduate Group in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (GGEB) offers degree programs leading to both the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Science (MS) in Biostatistics. Since admitting its first cohort of biostatistics students in 2000, 62 PhD and 28 MS students have successfully graduated and assumed highly competitive positions in academics, industry and governmental agencies. The graduate program in biostatistics is expanding, with current enrollment of 31 PhD and 6 MS students. Teaching responsibilities also include participation in Penn's Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB) academic programs and other medical school educational programs.

Review of applications will begin immediately, and will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. The expected start date is July 2017 or later.

Apply for this position online at: www.med.upenn.edu/apps/faculty_ad/index.php/g/d4568

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**Funding opportunities and information**

1. **NSF CAREER Program**

The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research. NSF encourages submission of CAREER proposals from early-career faculty at all CAREER-eligible organizations and especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities to apply.


2. **NSF Public Participation in STEM Research (PPSR)**

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorates for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), Education and Human Resources (EHR), Geosciences (GEO), Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE), Engineering (ENG), Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MPS) (Divisions of Physics and Materials Research, only) and the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) announce their intention to support proposals aimed at capacity-building, community-building, and direction-setting for Public Participation in STEM Research (PPSR), in alignment with the Foundation's
PPSR Agency Priority Goal for fiscal years (FY) 2016-2017. See www.performance.gov/content/... for more information about this goal.

In PPSR, members of the public partner with scientists and engineers to solve complex problems through participating in some or all of the formulation of questions and experiments; collection and analysis of data; and interpretation, use, and publication of results. Encompassing citizen science, citizen sensing, crowdsourcing, community science, and related approaches, PPSR also benefits public participants by providing opportunities to learn, addressing questions of concern to the participants and their communities, and contributing to science and engineering.

To help researchers, practitioners, and participants in PPSR learn from each other's experiences, collaboratively pursue PPSR challenges, and plan future PPSR efforts, NSF encourages through this DCL proposals to coordinate PPSR efforts at large, medium, and small scale. Specifically, NSF encourages proposals for (a) Research Coordination Networks (RCN) to build PPSR capacity and community; (b) conference proposals to bring together specific communities and to envision future directions for PPSR activities; and (c) PPSR-focused supplements to existing NSF-funded awards that enhance existing research activities through the introduction of PPSR components.

Read the Dear Colleague Letter

Workshops and Conferences

(1) **2018 International Conference on Health Policy Statistics**

Abstract submission for the 2018 International Conference on Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS) is now open! Join us in Charleston, SC January 10-12, 2018 for discussions of the role of statistics in health policy and health services research. Submission of workshops and invited session proposals is now open, through March 6.

http://www2.amstat.org/meetings/ichps/2018/

Brainstorm with colleagues and consider submitting something for what is always a stimulating, interdisciplinary, and relevant conference that helps to exchange and build upon ideas that disseminate to the broader health policy community.

(2) **Summer school on advanced Bayesian methods**

11-15 September 2017

The Interuniversity Institute for Biostatistics and statistical Bioinformatics organizes for the first time a summer school on advanced Bayesian methods. During one week, two courses will be taught on specific topics in Bayesian methodology. The focus will be on Bayesian methods that are relevant for the applied statistician. Special attention will be devoted to novel statistical methodology.

In the first edition of the summer school the following two courses will be organized at KU Leuven (Belgium) from 11 to 15 September 2017:
• Three-day course (11-13 September) on nonparametric Bayesian methods by Dr. Alejandro Jara (Pontificia Universidad Católica, Chile)
• Two-day course (14-15 September) on Bayesian clinical trials by Dr. Gary Rosner (Johns Hopkins University, US)

The target audience consists of statisticians and/or epidemiologists with a sound background in statistics, but also with background in Bayesian methodology.

In the three-day course on nonparametric Bayesian methods, practical sessions will be organized, so participants are asked to bring along their laptop with the appropriate software (to be announced) pre-installed.

For more information about the courses (course instructors and course contents) and practicalities (registration, location, transportation, etc.), see


(3) 2017 Modern Modelling Methods Conference – proposals due soon

The Modern Modeling Methods (M³) conference (www.modeling.uconn.edu) is an interdisciplinary conference designed to showcase the latest statistical modeling methods and to present research related to these methodologies. The seventh annual M³ conference will be held at the University of Connecticut, May 22nd to 25th, 2017. Confirmed keynote speakers for 2017 include Dr. Steven Boker (UVA) and Dr. Kenneth A. Bollen (UNC). Steven Boker will be offering a full day Pre-Conference workshop on Dynamic SEM on May 22nd; Ken Bollen will be offering a half day Post-Conference workshop with Zack Fischer on Model implied instrumental variables using MIIVsem on May 25th from 8:00AM to 12:00PM. In addition, on Wednesday afternoon (May 24th), Craig Enders will be offering a featured double session on Multiple Imputation for Multilevel data.

We are soliciting both methodological research papers and papers that illustrate methodological techniques in the area of modeling, broadly defined. Papers related to multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, mixture modeling, longitudinal modeling, and item response theory are especially encouraged. Given the interdisciplinary focus of the conference, it is completely acceptable to present papers that have been published or presented elsewhere. Presenters may select the length of the session that they prefer: 30 minutes, 60 minutes, or 90 minutes. We also welcome proposals for multi-paper symposia on thematically grouped topics. Generally, symposia sessions will be 90 minutes in length. Finally, there is a poster session and reception at the end of the first day of the conference, and we are seeking submissions for the poster session. Graduate students are also encouraged to submit proposals, especially for the poster session.

Conference proposals for the Modern Modeling Methods conference may fall into one (or more) of four categories: Methodological Innovation, Methodological Application, Methodological Illustration, or Methodological Evaluation. Methodological Innovation proposals introduce a new technique. Methodological Evaluation proposals present the results of empirical research evaluating a methodology. Most often, these will involve simulation studies. Methodological Application proposals present the methods and results of a real research study in which the technique was used. Methodological Illustration proposals provide a pedagogical illustration of when and how to use the
technique; these papers are designed to help the audience be able to implement the technique themselves.

There are three different types of presentations: Paper sessions (in which authors submit a paper), Symposia (in which a group of authors submit a set of related talks/papers), and posters. Methodological Research paper proposals should be no longer than 1000 words and should include purpose, background, methods, results, discussion, and significance. Methodological Illustration paper proposals should be no longer than 1,000 words and should include a description of the methodology to be illustrated as well as an outline of the paper/talk. Proposals for symposia should include titles, authors, and brief descriptions/abstracts for all of the paper presentations within the symposium. Symposium proposals may be longer than 1000 words if needed, but they should be less than 2000 words. Proposals for the poster session need only submit an abstract: the 1000 word proposal is not required for poster session proposals.

Proposals for the 2017 conference are due February 1st, 2017. Notifications of presentation status will be emailed by February 18th, 2017. All proposals should be submitted electronically at the MMM website--- www.modeling.uconn.edu . If you have any questions about the conference, please email D. Betsy McCoach at betsy.mccoach@uconn.edu.

Awards

(1) Mortimer Spiegelman Award

The Applied Public Health Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) invites nominations for the 2017 Mortimer Spiegelman Award, which honors a statistician below the age of 40 in the calendar year of the award who has made outstanding contributions to health statistics, especially public health statistics. The award was established in 1970 and is presented annually at the APHA meeting. The award serves the following three purposes:

• To honor the outstanding achievements of both the recipient and Spiegelman
• To encourage further involvement in public health by the finest young statisticians
• To increase awareness of APHA and the Applied Public Health Statistics Section in the academic statistical community

The Spiegelman Award recipient must be a health statistician who has made outstanding contributions to statistical methodology and its applications in public health (broadly defined).

The award is open to early career investigators regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or citizenship. Specifically, candidates must meet at least one of the following criteria:

• Candidate must be under age 40 throughout the award calendar year; or
• Candidate must have obtained a terminal degree in statistics or a statistics-related field in the last 10 years.

For those receiving a terminal degree after considerable professional experience, contributions during and subsequent to the degree will be considered by the committee, and nominators are strongly
encouraged to contact the Committee Chair with any questions about whether the nominee qualifies as an early career investigator.

Please email a nominating letter that states the candidate's date of birth and how their contributions relate to public health concerns, up to three letters of support, and the candidate's CV to the award committee chair, Tyler VanderWeele, at tvanderw@hsph.harvard.edu. Nominations are due by April 1, 2017.

(2) **Nathan Mantel Award**

The Section on Statistics in Epidemiology (SIE) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) invites nominations for the Nathan Mantel Award for lifetime contributions to the development and application of statistical science to problems and issues in epidemiology. The award is in honor of Nathan Mantel (1919-2002), in recognition of his seminal and pivotal contributions to statistics in epidemiology. The award consists of $1000 and a plaque and will be presented by the SIE Section at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Baltimore, Maryland in August 2017.

The nominee should be a person widely known to have a strong established record in developing statistical methods for epidemiology. The nominee should be a member of the ASA, but consideration is not limited to candidates who are members of the SIE Section.

To submit a nomination, please submit a CV and cover letter to Yueh-Yun Chi (yychi@ufl.edu), the Section Secretary/Treasurer, by February 1, 2017. Questions about the award can also be addressed to Susan Shortreed, the Section Chair at shortreed.s@ghc.org.

Other opportunities or information

(1) **Webinar: Differential Privacy: Protecting Individuals from Re-Identification**

February 10, 2017. See [Differential Privacy: Protecting Individuals from Re-Identification](#) for details.

(2) **Webinar: UC Berkeley's Data Science Course for Undergraduates: Computational and Inferential Thinking for the 21st Century**

February 16, 2017. See [UC Berkeley's Data Science Course for Undergraduates: Computational and Inferential Thinking for the 21st Century](#) for details.

(3) **Jefferson Biostatistics Summer Institute**

The Division of Biostatistics of Thomas Jefferson University, in Philadelphia, PA, is offering a summer internship for up to 3 undergraduate and graduate students. The internship will last 8-10 weeks in June through August 2017, and will pay a modest stipend. The deadline for applications is February 15.

Details at [www.jefferson.edu/university/jmc/departments/...](#)