Positions: (see all the latest jobs on the ASA Job Web)

(1) Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: tenure track position
(2) University of South Florida, Health Informatics Institute: Associate/Full Professor in Biostatistics

Funding: Visit the ASA’s Funding Opportunities Community for recent past information. (You’ll need to log in to ASA Members Only.)

(1) AHRQ Announces Interest in Innovative Methods Research to Increase the Utility of Systematic Reviews
(2) Short Courses in Computational Neuroscience (R25)

Other opportunities or information:

(1) Call for Papers for the NIPS 2015 Workshop: Bayesian Nonparametrics: The Next Generation, December 12th, 2015, Montreal, Canada
(2) Registration Open Now! Methods for Multiple Treatment Comparisons – September 30th Methods Short Course
(3) Articles of interest

Positions

(1) Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: tenure track position

The Department of Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is seeking an outstanding applicant to join our tenure track faculty. Rank of appointment will be commensurate with experience. New PhDs and recent postdoctoral fellows are encouraged to apply. Candidates should have a PhD or equivalent in statistics, biostatistics, or a comparable field. Women and under-represented minority candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

The Hopkins Department of Biostatistics, founded in 1918, was the first degree-granting department of statistical science in the US and has ranked among the best throughout its history. The Johns Hopkins Health Institutions (Schools of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital) are among the top worldwide and provide a research environment in which energetic faculty can achieve scientific excellence. Today, the Department comprises 21 tenure track faculty members, 17 research track
faculty members, 13 postdoctoral fellows, 50 PhD students, 14 full-time master degree students, and 12 students pursuing joint master degrees together with doctorates in other departments. Emphases of the department address a diverse variety of public health and medical specialty areas and stages of the lifespan: they include statistical inference and methods, massive and real-time measurement, data science, educational innovation, and subject-area content for genomics, population health, environmental health, and behavioral health. For detailed information, please visit www.biostat.jhsph.edu.

TO APPLY

Email cover letter, CV, letters from three references, a statement of research interests and goals, a teaching statement, and two manuscripts or articles representing your most important work to: Faculty Search Committee at margo@jhu.edu. Interviews commence in mid-December and continue into early winter.

The Johns Hopkins University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

(2) University of South Florida, Health Informatics Institute: Associate/Full Professor in Biostatistics

The Health Informatics Institute (HII) at the University of South Florida is seeking an Associate/Full Professor in Biostatistics to fill a non-tenure earning position as a Senior Biostatistician. The Institute is NIH funded as a data coordinating center for several large clinical networks and actively participates in the design and conduct of epidemiological studies and clinical trials.

This position will conduct collaborative research and provide active support for ongoing Institute activities, especially the TEDDY type 1 diabetes study. Opportunities exist for collaborations in other NIH funded and privately funded type 1 diabetes research and disease prevention projects. The Institute is seeking candidates with expertise in clinical trials; however other areas of statistical application are sought after as well. Opportunities exist for teaching and graduate student mentoring, if desired.

Qualifications: All candidates must have earned a Ph.D. degree in Biostatistics, Computer Science, Physics, Math, Biology, or a related discipline, and have demonstrated productivity and leadership in their chosen field, and should complement existing strengths in the Institute, which include epidemiology, biostatistics, clinical genetics, statistical genetics and bioinformatics. The successful candidate will have also demonstrated excellence and creativity in research. The level of appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and salary will be based upon the University of South Florida pay scale. The incumbent must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

How to Apply: Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and a statement of interest as pdf files to Kelly.Sadler@epi.usf.edu. Candidates should also
arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent directly to the above email address. Applicants are encouraged to submit materials as soon as possible.

About the Health Informatics Institute

The HII is comprised of a diverse team of 25 faculty and more than 100 staff with expertise in biostatistics, epidemiology, health informatics, computer science, genetics, nutrition, psychology, pediatrics, public health, clinical trials, and health services research. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and other sources, the Institute has an annual budget exceeding $50 million and provides the technical means to facilitate interaction and contributions in knowledge among physicians and patients throughout the U.S. and international communities. By strengthening this vital network, the Institute aims to improve research on many different types of diseases. For more information about the HII, please visit http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/epidemiology/index.htm. For more information about the TEDDY study, please visit https://teddy.epi.usf.edu/.

Funding

(1) AHRQ Announces Interest in Innovative Methods Research to Increase the Utility of Systematic Reviews


Due dates on October 16, 2015 and February 16, 2016.

Purpose

The mission of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used. AHRQ achieves this mission by supporting evidence synthesis, translation, and implementation of evidence into practice.

This Special Emphasis Notice (SEN) informs the research community that AHRQ intends to support research designed to develop innovative systematic review methods that address the opportunities and challenges of the current era of data abundance, and make systematic reviews both more efficient and salient. Systematic reviews transform
individual studies into a form of evidence that can be used to underpin guidelines, quality indicators, patient decision aids, and other products that shape patient care. Innovative systematic review methods may increase the speed and power of systematic reviews, increasing their value to the health care system and the patients it serves.

Areas of Interest

This SEN is intended to generate new methods for systematic review that address the opportunities and challenges of the current era of data abundance and that facilitate the integration of systematic reviews into healthcare decisions. In the past, much of the work in systematic review methodology focused on developing the basic tools of systematic review, especially reliable and standardized approaches to scoping, searching, assessing, synthesizing, and grading the evidence. There are now widely shared standards for how to conduct a high quality systematic review. The next challenge is developing novel or improved methods that optimize the efficiency, comprehensiveness, and predictive value of systematic reviews. Some potential areas of interest are described below:

Efficiency. Traditional systematic review approaches may not be sustainable given the ever increasing volume of studies and increasing demand for timely synthesized evidence. Faster techniques, without sacrificing validity and reliability, are increasingly valuable. Possible approaches include automation, incorporation of existing systematic reviews, predictors of marginal return, continuous updates and data reduction techniques.

New forms of data. We are on the verge of having access to large data sets – both observational data and individual patient data from randomized controlled trials and patient registries. Tapping directly into this data could greatly enhance the power of systematic reviews and reduce the lag between knowledge generation and implementation. Possible approaches might include Bayesian stepwise analysis, informative priors, data linkage, subgroup analysis, etc.

Predictive value. Systematic review methodology is highly detailed for processes, but much less developed regarding outcomes. Now that a substantial number of systematic reviews have been completed and indexed, it may be possible to empirically examine how accurately different reviews predict future research findings and to use this information to develop more robust methods. Managing the tradeoff between Type I and Type II error is of particular concern.

These are just a few areas of methodological innovation of interest to AHRQ. Innovative applications addressing systematic review methods and issues not mentioned above are also welcomed. Applicants should describe the significance of their proposed research to enhancing the speed, power, predictive value, or otherwise advancing the utility of systematic reviews.

(2) Short Courses in Computational Neuroscience (R25)


Funding Opportunity Purpose

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The over-arching goal of this Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation’s biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs.

To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on Courses for Skills Development. This FOA will support short courses to facilitate the development of a sophisticated cadre of investigators with the requisite knowledge and skills in computational neuroscience perspectives and techniques for analyzing and interpreting complex, high-dimensional neuroscience data to advance the BRAIN Initiative. For the purposes of this FOA, computational neuroscience encompasses theoretical neuroscience, computational and mathematical modeling of neural systems, and/or statistical perspectives and techniques. Each short course is expected to include both didactics and in-person/hands-on experiences. This FOA is intended for participants who are graduate students, medical students, postdoctoral scholars, medical residents, and/or early-career faculty.

Key Dates

- Posted Date August 28, 2015
- Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) October 6, 2015
- Letter of Intent Due Date(s) October 6, 2015
- Application Due Date(s) November 6, 2015, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Other opportunities or information

(1) Call for Papers for the NIPS 2015 Workshop: Bayesian Nonparametrics: The Next Generation, December 12th, 2015, Montreal, Canada

https://sites.google.com/site/nipsbnp2015/

Important Dates:
Submission Deadline: October 2, 2015
Acceptance Notification: October 30, 2015
Type of Presentation Notification: November 5, 2015
In theory, Bayesian nonparametric (BNP) methods are perfectly suited to the modern-day, large data sets that arise in the physical, natural, and social sciences, as well as in technology and the humanities. By making use of infinite-dimensional mathematical structures, Bayesian nonparametric statistics allows the complexity of a learned model to grow as the size of a data set grows---exhibiting desirable Bayesian regularization properties for small data sets and allowing the practitioner to continue learning as their data set grows in size.

This flexibility, however, presents both computational and modeling challenges. While there have been recent developments in accelerated inference for Bayesian nonparametric models, many of these approaches are not appropriate for large datasets. Furthermore, while we have seen an increase in new models for applied problems that move beyond the foundational Dirichlet and Gaussian processes, the widespread adoption of BNP methods has been limited in applied fields. In this workshop, we will address the modeling, theoretical, and computational challenges that limit adoption of Bayesian nonparametrics and discuss how they can be circumvented.

This workshop invites paper submissions that will be presented in either oral or poster form. We welcome submissions from the following (non-exhaustive) list of areas:

- New Bayesian nonparametric models, including new theoretical developments.
- Computational inference algorithms applicable to new or existing Bayesian nonparametric models including MCMC, SMC, variational methods, and others.
- Software packages that allow the widespread use of BNP methods, including probabilistic programming languages and implementations of general-purpose inference algorithms.
- The application of Bayesian nonparametric methods to new application domains.

This workshop will bring together core researchers in Bayesian nonparametrics from a number of fields (machine learning, statistics, engineering, applied mathematics, etc.) with researchers working in a variety of application domains. We will focus on the next generation of BNP research by highlighting the contributions of younger researchers in the BNP community. We anticipate that participants will leave the workshop with (i) a foundation for understanding BNP methods, (ii) a perspective on recent advances in the field via a number of invited and contributed talks and poster presentations, and (iii) an idea of the challenges facing the field and future opportunities via talks and a panel discussion featuring experts both within and outside the BNP community.
Invited Speakers: Amr Ahmed (Google), Michael Hughes (Brown), Jeff Miller (Duke), Scott Moser (UT Austin), Peter Orbanz (Columbia), Isabel Valera (Max Planck Institute), Sara Wade (Warwick)

Invited Panelists: David Dunson (Duke), Emily Fox (University of Washington), Lauren Hannah (Columbia), Erik Sudderth (Brown), Yee Whye Teh (Oxford)

Submissions are solicited in the form of an extended abstract of 2–4 pages in PDF format using the NIPS style available here (author names do not need to be anonymized and references may extend as far as needed beyond the 4 page upper limit). If authors' research has previously appeared in a journal, workshop, or conference (including the NIPS 2014 conference), their workshop submission should extend that previous work. Submissions may include a supplement/appendix, but reviewers are not responsible for reading any supplementary material.

Submissions will be accepted either as contributed talks or poster presentations. There will be no published proceedings for this workshop; we hope that authors will find discussion and feedback at the workshop beneficial for developing the research they present, and we encourage authors to submit their resulting work for publication in other venues after the workshop.

Extended abstracts should be submitted by October 2nd (see the workshop website https://sites.google.com/site/nipsbnp2015/ for submission details) and decisions will be communicated to authors by October 30th.

"Bayesian Nonparametrics: The Next Generation" is supported by the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA).

(2) Registration Open Now! Methods for Multiple Treatment Comparisons – September 30th Methods Short Course

MDEpiNet Annual Meeting – Short Course Methods for Multiple Treatment Comparisons, Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 12:00 - 4:00 pm

FDA White Oak Campus, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

Clinical Examples | Essential Methods Elements of Clinical Decision Problems | Inferential Targets | Causal and Statistical Assumption | Estimation Methods

Instructors

Laura Hatfield, PhD – Harvard Medical School, Department of Health Care Policy
Sherri Rose, PhD – Harvard Medical School, Department of Health Care Policy

REGISTER TODAY (Click Here)

Please note there is no cost to attend this course. For more information, please contact the MDEpiNet team for logistical details and Laura Hatfield for meeting content questions.

(3) Articles of interest

From time to time we run across articles that might be useful to Caucus of Academic Reps members. Here are two such articles, linked to through the ASA’s “This is Statistics” site, and a third, from the Royal Statistical Society’s “StatsLife” page:

http://thisisstatistics.org/i-wish-i-had-taken-a-class-in-statistics-writes-journalist/

http://thisisstatistics.org/statistician-among-top-three-jobs-for-millennials/

http://www.statslife.org.uk/opinion/2405-we-need-to-rethink-how-we-teach-statistics-from-the-ground-up