Caucus of Academic Reps (CAR) Weekly Digest  
September 29, 2017

Table of Contents

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

(1) Duke University, Departments of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering: tenure-track faculty positions in computing  
(2) University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry: assistant/associate professor - innovative clinical trials  
(3) Drexel University, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics: assistant professor of biostatistics position  
(4) Tulane University, Department of Mathematics: tenure-track or tenured position in mathematical statistics  
(5) Villanova University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics: assistant professor  
(6) University of Manitoba, Department of Statistics: research associate – statistical consultant  
(7) University of Manitoba, Department of Statistics: assistant professor in statistics  
(8) University of Florida, Department of Statistics: three assistant professor positions  
(9) University of Florida, Department of Statistics: lecturer  
(10) University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Division of Biostatistics: two post-doctoral fellows  
(11) NYU School of Medicine, Division of Biostatistics, Department of Population Health: assistant professor position  
(12) RAND Corporation: Ph.D. Statistician openings

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

(1) NSF: Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)  
(2) Information about Graduate Student Fellowships  
(3) Information about Postdoc Fellowships  
(4) NIH Announces New Review Criteria for Research Project Applications Involving Clinical Trials

Workshops and Conferences

(1) Quantitative Analysis of Higher Order Chromatin Interactions
Duke University invites applications and nominations for five tenure-track or tenured faculty positions in computing, at all ranks, to begin July 2018. This search is a joint initiative between the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to rapidly expand the university's existing strengths and to support exciting new initiatives in computing. We encourage applications in all areas of computer science and engineering, with special interest in the following themes:

- Two positions in all disciplinary areas of computer science, including but not limited to security and privacy, distributed systems and networking, mobile and embedded systems, machine learning, algorithms, as well as interdisciplinary work that relates to social sciences or biological sciences.
- Two joint positions between computer science and electrical and computer engineering in the area of machine learning (with an applied and methodological focus).
- One position in all disciplinary areas of computer engineering, including but not limited to security and privacy, distributed systems and networking, as well as mobile and embedded systems.

Candidates are expected to have a doctoral degree in computer science, computer engineering, or a related discipline. A successful candidate must have a solid disciplinary foundation and demonstrate promise of outstanding scholarship in every regard, including research and teaching.
Applicants should submit their materials (cover letter, research statement, teaching statement, contacts for at least three references) electronically through Academic Jobs Online academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/9908

For full consideration, applications and references should be received by December 15, 2017.

(2) **University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry: assistant/associate professor - innovative clinical trials**

The University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Pediatrics and Women and Children’s Health Research Institute (WCHRI) invites applications for a full time tenure-track Assistant/Associate Professor position with a focus on innovative clinical trial design. See details at http://careers.ualberta.ca/...

(3) **Drexel University, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics: assistant professor of biostatistics position**

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University invites Assistant Professor applicants for a tenure-track position in Biostatistics. The successful applicant will have a doctoral degree in biostatistics, statistics, or a related field, an interest in both collaborative and methodological research, and must demonstrate a strong potential for securing external funding. Responsibilities associated with this position include methodological and collaborative research, teaching, and the supervision of graduate students.

The confidential application process requires a cover letter describing relevant experience and goals and curriculum vitae, which should be submitted to Drexel Jobs (www.drexeljobs.com). Please search by Department 6906, requisition # 8503. Interested candidates may direct any questions to the search committee co-chairs, Dr. Scarlett Bellamy (bellamys@drexel.edu) or Dr. Loni Philip Tabb (lpp22@drexel.edu). Three letters of reference will ultimately be required for finalist candidates. Applications will be accepted until a successful candidate has been identified; however, we will begin reviewing submissions December 1, 2017. The successful candidate would ideally have an early September 2018 start date, but the timing is negotiable.

(4) **Tulane University, Department of Mathematics: tenure-track or tenured position in mathematical statistics**

The Department of Mathematics at Tulane University invites applications for a tenure-track or tenured position in Mathematical Statistics, to begin in the Fall 2018 semester. We seek candidates who have established a strong record of independent research, and have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching. Candidates with a Ph.D. in Statistics, Mathematics, or Applied Mathematics are welcome to apply. While all applicants with appropriate credentials will be considered, preference will be shown to those with a strong methodological component to their research and to those who complement the strengths of existing groups at Tulane.

Applications should be submitted electronically at http://www.mathjobs.org and must include a standard AMS cover sheet, curriculum vita, four or more letters of reference (at least one of which directly addresses teaching), and separate statements on teaching philosophy and research program.

Applications received by December 1, 2017, will receive full consideration.
(5) Villanova University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics: assistant professor

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Villanova University invites applications for a tenure track position in Statistics with the rank of Assistant Professor. The position begins in the Fall of 2018, and the teaching load is 15 credits per year for at least the years leading to the tenure decision. Candidates from all areas of Statistics are invited to apply.

Information about the department can be found at www.villanova.edu/artsci/mathematics.

Duties and responsibilities include teaching courses in statistics at the introductory, upper division, and graduate levels, establish and maintain a research program in your area of expertise, and be an active member of the department, the Villanova community, and the profession.

Applicants must apply online at https://jobs.villanova.edu/.

(6) University of Manitoba, Department of Statistics: research associate – statistical consultant

The Department of Statistics at the University of Manitoba invites applications for one fulltime statistical consultant position at the rank of research associate, commencing January 1, 2018, or on a date mutually agreed upon. This position provides a range of services to students, faculty and clients from industry including statistical advice, analysis and training. Clients can come from a wide variety of areas including medicine, environment, business and government. The initial position is a two year term, and will be continued subject to the successful completion of the term and availability of funding.

Qualifications

- A minimum of an M.Sc. in Statistics or related field and 3 years of statistical consulting or data analysis experience;
- Excellent oral and written communication and project management skills;
- Expertise in statistical computing with SAS, R and SPSS;
- Teaching experience in statistical consulting would be an asset;
- Experience in modern statistical methods and quality control would be an asset.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide statistical consulting services to internal and external clients;
- Collaborate with other units on data driven projects;
- Train and mentor undergraduate and graduate students in statistical consulting;
- Conduct statistical data analysis workshops and training sessions to various internal and external groups;
- Participate in teaching statistical consulting courses;
- Develop and maintain new contacts with external clients including academic, industry and government.

Please send applications (by e-mail or hard copy) to:

Department of Statistics
The University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Please include: a) a cover letter, b) a curriculum vitae, c) a statement of statistical consulting philosophy and d) evidence of statistical consulting and data analyses (if available). Also arrange to have two letters of reference sent directly to the above address. Applications are due on or before October 15, 2017. Application materials, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the protection and privacy provisions of "The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba)". Please note that curricula vitae may be provided to participating members of the search process.

(7) University of Manitoba, Department of Statistics: assistant professor in statistics

Position # 24530

The Department of Statistics invites applications for a full-time tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level, commencing July 1, 2018, or on a date mutually agreed upon. The Department seeks an emerging scholar with a commitment to excellence in teaching and research. Outstanding candidates in any area of Statistics will be considered, with particular emphasis on candidates who will complement or extend the department's strengths in actuarial science, quantitative risk management, time series and stochastic calculus. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. and preferably post-doctoral experience or other distinguishing attributes in statistics, actuarial science or a related field. Duties will include undergraduate teaching, graduate teaching and supervision, research, including the establishment of an externally funded research program, and service-related activities. The successful candidate will have a track record of high quality scholarly research leading to peer assessed publications; will either have, or demonstrate the potential to establish, an independent, innovative, scholarly, externally fundable research program; will have demonstrated strength in or strong potential for outstanding teaching contributions; and will exhibit evidence of the ability to work in a collaborative environment. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Information about the Department can be obtained from <umanitoba.ca/faculties/science/departments/statistics>.

Applications including a curriculum vitae, a description of teaching philosophy (and evidence of high quality teaching if available), a summary of research interests and a three-page research plan should be sent to <stats_dept@umanitoba.ca> (PDF files preferred). Please ensure to specify position number 24530 in the application. The applicant should also arrange to have three reference letters be sent directly to the above email address. For further information contact the Search Committee Chair at <Liqun.Wang@umanitoba.ca>. The closing date for receipt of applications is November 20, 2017. Application materials, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please note that curricula vitae may be provided to participating members of the search process.

(8) University of Florida, Department of Statistics: three assistant professor positions

The Department of Statistics at the University of Florida invites applications for three full-time, nine-month, tenure-track Assistant Professors to begin in August 2018. There will be one position in each of the following three areas: 1) analysis of spatio-temporal data; 2) statistical/machine learning, and 3)
computational statistics. Duties for each position include teaching, research, and service. A PhD in
statistics or a closely related field is required.

For full consideration, applications must be submitted online at http://jobs.ufl.edu/ job numbers
504714, 504708, and 504709, respectively for the three positions, and must include: (1) a letter
summarizing the applicant's qualifications, ongoing research directions, and interests in the
Department, (2) a complete curriculum vitae, and (3) teaching/research statement. In addition, names
and email address for three references must be provided on the application. An email will be sent
automatically to your references, requesting them to upload their letter. Review of applications will
begin on November 1, 2017 and will continue until the positions are filled.

(9) University of Florida, Department of Statistics: lecturer

The Department of Statistics at the University of Florida invites applications for a 9-month academic
year lecturer position to begin in Spring or Fall 2018. Primary duties include the teaching of
undergraduate statistics courses. Applicants with a PhD will also be expected to teach graduate level
service courses.

The role of lecturers is highly valued by the department and the university. To encourage and facilitate
their professional development, lecturers at the University of Florida are eligible for promotion through
the ranks of Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Master Lecturer.

For full consideration, applications must be submitted online at http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-
us/listing/, job number 504716 and must include: (1) a letter summarizing the applicant's qualifications
and interests in the Department, (2) a complete curriculum vitae, and (3) teaching statement. In
addition, names and email address for three references must be provided on the application. An email
will be sent automatically to your references, requesting them to upload their letters. Review of
applications will begin on November 1, 2017 and will continue until the positions are filled. Send email
inquiries to lecturersearch@stat.ufl.edu.

(10) University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Division of Biostatistics: two post-
doctoral fellows

The Division of Biostatistics at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania invites
applications for up to 2 post-doctoral fellow positions under the supervision of Dr. Qi Long. The
position(s) are open until filled and the appointment is for two years, with a possible extension for a
third year. The successful candidate will have opportunities to develop methods and algorithms for
analysis of big biomedical data, with applications to electronic health records (EHRs) data, omics data
(including gene expression data, SNP data, and metabolomics data etc.), and mobile health data. We are
particularly interested in applicants with expertise in a) deep learning methods particularly for analysis
of EHRs data for deep phenotyping, prediction of disease risk, prognosis and progression, and
identification of disease subtypes etc.; b) distributed learning and optimization for data analysis in
distributed health data networks. The successful candidate will develop independence in research
through given presentations and writing peer-reviewed publications for research conferences and
journals, and develop grant applications. Extensive interactions with graduate students and other
postdocs are expected. In addition, the successful candidate will also have opportunities to conduct
collaborative research in areas such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases.
The successful candidate can start immediately and the starting date is negotiable.

More information about our ongoing research can be found on Long Research Group's website, http://group-qilong.rhcloud.com/.

Position Qualifications: Ph.D. degree in biostatistics, statistics, computer science, or related quantitative fields. Excellent programming skills in R/Matlab/Python and possibly one lower level computer language such as C/C++, and excellent written and oral communication skills are desirable. Expertise and experience in the following areas are preferred: deep learning; distributed learning and optimization. Strong methodological training in statistics is considered a plus.

Benefits: www.med.upenn.edu/postdoc

Application Instructions: Applicants should email a cover letter, research statement, CV, and contact information (email and phone) for three references to Dr. Qi Long, qlong@pennmedicine.upenn.edu (Subject line: Long postdoc, 2017).

(11) NYU School of Medicine, Division of Biostatistics, Department of Population Health: assistant professor position

NYU Langone Health is one of the nation's premier academic medical centers. Our trifold mission to serve, teach, and discover is achieved daily through an integrated academic culture devoted to excellence in patient care, education, and research. The Department of Population Health (pophealth.med.nyu.edu/), founded in 2012, is a leader in the discovery and translation of new knowledge into policy and practice. Through its research, education and service, the Department seeks to advance population health and health equity. Core areas of Department strength include healthful behavior change, early childhood health and development, comparative effectiveness and decision science, behavioral economics and health policy, community health improvement, healthcare delivery science, epidemiology, biostatistics and medical ethics.

The Division of Biostatistics advances scientific knowledge to benefit individual and population health by creating, disseminating, and implementing rigorous, innovative statistical methodologies across the entire spectrum of biomedical research. We seek candidates for one or more junior faculty positions, with interest in various areas of biostatistics, including but not limited to innovative clinical trial design, causal inference, statistical genomics/proteomics, and methods for big data.

Position qualifications: Candidates must possess or soon expect an earned doctorate in biostatistics, statistics, or a related quantitative field. They should be emerging scholars with evidence of a growing body of outstanding scholarship and a strong commitment to teaching. Successful candidates will engage in both methodological and collaborative research with existing faculty at NYU School of Medicine and other Schools and Centers within NYU, have a commitment to team science, and possess effective oral and written communication skills. Candidates are also expected to have or develop an externally funded, independent research program.

To apply: Please submit the following (addressed to Dr. Andrea Troxel, Director of Biostatistics) to apply.interfolio.com/44244.

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
• Statement of current and future research agenda
• Three letters of reference

Application deadline: Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

(12) RAND Corporation: Ph.D. Statistician openings

Location options include Santa Monica, CA, Washington, DC, Pittsburgh, PA, and Boston, MA.

At RAND, a leading public policy research organization, statisticians have exciting opportunities to contribute to policy research by collaborating on multidisciplinary teams; developing statistical methods that advance policy research; and leading research projects. There are also opportunities to teach in the Pardee RAND Graduate School. RAND projects typically pose novel statistical challenges in design, sampling, measurement, modeling, analysis, and computing. Recent examples of RAND statisticians' contributions to policy analysis include developing new methods to evaluate pay-for-performance programs in education and healthcare, developing novel nonresponse weighting methods to reduce bias in prevalence estimates of sexual assault and harassment, and developing new analytic approaches to cyber security. Our group of 15 Ph.D. statisticians and 12 master's-level statisticians offers a collegial and stimulating environment. The RAND Statistics Group website, www.rand.org/statistics, provides more information about the group and its members.

We welcome recent graduates as well as mid-level and senior candidates to apply. Applicants should apply online at www.rand.org/jobs (click on "Find a Job" and search for the "Statistician" position). Please submit a cover letter, CV, statement of research interests and consulting experience, and writing sample as pdf documents. Graduate transcripts (if degree received after 2014) and three letters of recommendation should be sent to statrecruiting@rand.org. Strong communication skills are essential. Review of applications will begin in mid-October; complete applications received by December 15, 2017, will receive priority consideration.

Funding opportunities and information

(1) NSF: Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)

Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)

Full Proposal Deadline Date: October 18, 2017

Program Guidelines: NSF 16-558

The purpose of the Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF) is to support future leaders in mathematics and statistics by facilitating their participation in postdoctoral research environments that will have maximal impact on their future scientific development. There are two options for awardees: Research Fellowship and Research Instructorship. Awards will support research in areas of mathematics and statistics, including applications to other disciplines. More at
(2) Information about Graduate Student Fellowships

- NIH Predoctoral Fellowship
- NIH F31 Diversity Fellowship
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (CSGF) (DOE)
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (DOD)
- Office of Science Graduate Fellowship Program (DOE)
- Amstat News/STAT@k/ASA articles: Fellowships for Graduate Study, Graduate Fellows Discuss Fellowship Experiences, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, NSF and NIH Graduate Research Fellows Offer Advice for Applying to Program
- National Academy of Education Dissertation Fellowship Program
- Google PhD Fellowship Program
- Microsoft PhD Fellowship Program

(3) Information about Postdoc Fellowships

- NSF Mathematical Science Postdoctoral Research Program (MSPRF)
- NIH Kirchstein Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (F32)
- Intelligence community
- See also Department of Defense, and Department of Energy and the Opportunities in Science at Science.gov.
- The following organizations are among the private entities that provide post-doctoral fellowship opportunities: American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, and Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research.
- Amstat News/STAT@k/ASA articles: Post-doc Fellowships, Programs, and Opportunities; Postdocs in Statistics: A Growing Trend; Attitudes About Postdoctoral Training for Statisticians Evolve; Postdoc Numbers Small but on the Rise for Statistics
- National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

(4) NIH Announces New Review Criteria for Research Project Applications Involving Clinical Trials

gnats.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/...

Purpose

This notice informs the community of additional review criteria that NIH will apply to clinical trial applications for research projects submitted to due dates on or after January 25, 2018.

Background
NIH is utilizing a multi-faceted approach to strengthen policies across the life cycle of a clinical trial, from development of the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), to the information collected in a grant application or contract proposal, to peer review of the application/proposal, and through to monitoring of the award. These actions include the implementation of new and more rigorous review criteria for evaluating clinical trial applications. Addressing these challenges will ensure the highest likelihood of translating research results into knowledge that will improve human health.

Implementation

The review questions below will be effective for all clinical trial applications for research project grants and cooperative agreements that are submitted for funding consideration for due dates on or after January 25, 2018. For the evaluation of those applications, the questions below will be added to the existing review questions (see: grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm), which will not change for research project applications that do not involve clinical trials. Some Program Announcements and Requests for Applications may include FOA-specific questions in addition to those below.

Criteria

In addition, for applications involving clinical trials:

A proposed Clinical Trial application may include study design, methods, and intervention that are not by themselves innovative but address important questions or unmet needs. Additionally, the results of the clinical trial may indicate that further clinical development of the intervention is unwarranted or lead to new avenues of scientific investigation.

Scored Review Criteria

The following questions are in addition to the existing research review questions:

Significance

Are the scientific rationale and need for a clinical trial to test the proposed hypothesis or intervention well supported by preliminary data, clinical and/or preclinical studies, or information in the literature or knowledge of biological mechanisms? For trials focusing on clinical or public health endpoints, is this clinical trial necessary for testing the safety, efficacy or effectiveness of an intervention that could lead to a change in clinical practice, community behaviors or health care policy? For trials focusing on mechanistic, behavioral, physiological, biochemical, or other biomedical endpoints, is this trial needed to advance scientific understanding?

Investigator(s)

With regard to the proposed leadership for the project, do the PD/PI(s) and key personnel have the expertise, experience, and ability to organize, manage and implement the proposed clinical trial and meet milestones and timelines? Do they have appropriate expertise in study coordination, data management and statistics? For a multicenter trial, is the organizational structure appropriate and does the application identify a core of potential center investigators and staffing for a coordinating center?

Innovation

Does the design/research plan include innovative elements, as appropriate, that enhance its sensitivity, potential for information or potential to advance scientific knowledge or clinical practice?
Approach
Does the application adequately address the following, if applicable?

Study Design
Is the study design justified and appropriate to address primary and secondary outcome variable(s)/endpoints that will be clear, informative and relevant to the hypothesis being tested? Is the scientific rationale/premise of the study based on previously well-designed preclinical and/or clinical research? Given the methods used to assign participants and deliver interventions, is the study design adequately powered to answer the research question(s), test the proposed hypothesis/hypotheses, and provide interpretable results? Is the trial appropriately designed to conduct the research efficiently? Are the study populations (size, gender, age, demographic group), proposed intervention arms/dose, and duration of the trial, appropriate and well justified?

Are potential ethical issues adequately addressed? Is the process for obtaining informed consent or assent appropriate? Is the eligible population available? Are the plans for recruitment outreach, enrollment, retention, handling dropouts, missed visits, and losses to follow-up appropriate to ensure robust data collection? Are the planned recruitment timelines feasible and is the plan to monitor accrual adequate? Has the need for randomization (or not), masking (if appropriate), controls, and inclusion/exclusion criteria been addressed? Are differences addressed, if applicable, in the intervention effect due to sex/gender and race/ethnicity?

Are the plans to standardize, assure quality of, and monitor adherence to, the trial protocol and data collection or distribution guidelines appropriate? Is there a plan to obtain required study agent(s)? Does the application propose to use existing available resources, as applicable?

Data Management and Statistical Analysis
Are planned analyses and statistical approach appropriate for the proposed study design and methods used to assign participants and deliver interventions? Are the procedures for data management and quality control of data adequate at clinical site(s) or at center laboratories, as applicable? Have the methods for standardization of procedures for data management to assess the effect of the intervention and quality control been addressed? Is there a plan to complete data analysis within the proposed period of the award?

Environment
If proposed, are the administrative, data coordinating, enrollment and laboratory/testing centers, appropriate for the trial proposed?

Does the application adequately address the capability and ability to conduct the trial at the proposed site(s) or centers? Are the plans to add or drop enrollment centers, as needed, appropriate?

If international site(s) is/are proposed, does the application adequately address the complexity of executing the clinical trial?

If multi-sites/centers, is there evidence of the ability of the individual site or center to: (1) enroll the proposed numbers; (2) adhere to the protocol; (3) collect and transmit data in an accurate and timely fashion; and, (4) operate within the proposed organizational structure?

Additional Review Criteria
Study Timeline

Is the study timeline described in detail, taking into account start-up activities, the anticipated rate of enrollment, and planned follow-up assessment? Is the projected timeline feasible and well justified? Does the project incorporate efficiencies and utilize existing resources (e.g., CTSAs, practice-based research networks, electronic medical records, administrative database, or patient registries) to increase the efficiency of participant enrollment and data collection, as appropriate? Are potential challenges and corresponding solutions discussed (e.g., strategies that can be implemented in the event of enrollment shortfalls)?

Inquiries

Please direct all inquiries to:

Sally Amero, Ph.D.
Review Policy Officer
ameros@od.nih.gov

Workshops and Conferences

(1) Quantitative Analysis of Higher Order Chromatin Interactions

November 2-3, 2017
Harvard Medical School Conference Center | Boston, MA
#HarvardPQG17

The impetus for this year’s theme comes from the increasing amount of data that provides information on the nuclear organization of the human genome and its applications. A series of "chromatin confirmation capture" techniques have been developed in the past decade for identifying a three-dimensional interaction, which is critical for a full understanding of gene regulation. Until recently, we did not have data with sufficient resolution to infer such interactions accurately. However, with more refined technology and decreasing sequencing cost, it is now possible to generate high-resolution datasets, and the scientific community is on the verge of generating an immense amount of Hi-C and related types of data. Over the course of the conference, we will deal with the key aspects of analyzing and interpreting these large and complex datasets.

The conference will be centered on the following 3 topics:

SESSION 1: Emerging Technologies
SESSION 2: Applications to Basic Biology and Disease Mechanisms
SESSION 3: Computational Challenges

Keynote Speakers:
Wouter de Laat  Hubrecht Institute  
William Greenleaf  Stanford University  
Leonid Mirny  Massachusetts Institute of Technology  

Details at  https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/2017-pqg-conference/  

(2)  73rd Deming Conference on Applied Statistics  

The 73rd Deming Conference on Applied Statistics will take place at Tropicana Casino and Resort, Havana Tower, Atlantic City, NJ on December 4-8, 2017. Three (3) keynote talks from regulatory agency staff, Twelve (12) three-hour tutorial sessions as well as a poster session will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Two 2-day short courses will follow on Thursday and Friday. Books used in the tutorial sessions or the short courses will be sold at around 40% discount rate for attendees.  

For registration and online abstract submission or more information, please visit  www.demingconference.com  

(3)  Institute for Research in Statistics and its Applications – Short course on mixed-effects models  

IRSA is hosting a daylong short course on mixed-effects models, and related topics of multi-level models, hierarchical models, longitudinal and panel model, and latent-factor models. This short-course is a great opportunity for graduate students and researchers who have an intermediate knowledge of Statistics and use, or plan to use, statistical models with different levels of dependence and complexity. This short course will include introduction to the principles and fundamentals of multi-level models, generalized estimating equations and related methods, Bayesian approaches, and implementation of the methodology for these models in different software platforms.  

For more information and to register, visit:  http://irsa.dl.umn.edu/  

(4)  BigSurv18: Big Data Meets Survey Science  

Join us to explore the intersection of Survey Science and Big Data  

25-27 October 2018  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology  
Barcelona  

Help solve the challenge of combining Big Data and Survey Science. Meet with experts and exchange ideas about promising technologies and methodologies for using massive datasets and state-of-the-art analytical techniques to improve, supplement, or replace data and estimates from complex surveys and censuses.  

We will soon be issuing a call for monograph and contributed papers. Learn more about the conference, see who’s on the Scientific Committee, and find out about sponsorship opportunities at  www.bigsurv18.org.  

(5)  Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Conference  

CMSAC features statisticians, medical researchers, and practitioners from both academia and the sports industry for an impressive lineup of talks and panels, including a keynote address from Brian Burke (ESPN).

There will also be several local experts speaking, including speakers from the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Pittsburgh Penguins, YinzCam, Disney Research, the University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon.

Registration is FREE for high school students, $10 for college students, and only $50 for non-students if you register before 10/15.

Poster submissions are now open for CMSAC's poster session (open to both students and non-students; deadline 10/8).

The conference is sponsored by the American Statistical Association and the ASA Section on Statistics in Sports, as well as YinzCam, Carnegie Mellon, the CMU Sports Analytics Club, and CMU's Department of Statistics & Data Science.

(6) CfP: NIPS Workshop on Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference

Friday, 8th December 2017, Long Beach, California

http://approximateinference.org

Submission deadline: Nov 01, 2017

Please direct questions to: aabiworkshop2017@gmail.com

### Call for Participation

We invite researchers to submit their recent work on the development, analysis, or application of approximate Bayesian inference.

A submission should take the form of an extended abstract of 2-4 pages in PDF format using the NIPS style. 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 NIPS 2017), their workshop submission should extend that previous work. Submissions may include a supplement/appendix, but reviewers are not responsible for reading any supplementary material.

The submission deadline is November 1st, 2017. Please submit via our easychair website: easychair.org/conferences/?conf=aabi2017

This year, the workshop offers multiple best paper awards. They are open to all researchers, and a few awards are restricted to junior researchers. Submitting by the deadline automatically entitles you for consideration for all of the following:

- Roughly $3000 in total, to be allocated across winners
- Four NIPS 2017 workshop registration fee waivers

### Abstract
Approximate inference is key to modern probabilistic modeling. Thanks to the availability of big data, significant computational power, and sophisticated models, machine learning has achieved many breakthroughs in multiple application domains. At the same time, approximate inference becomes critical since exact inference is intractable for most models of interest. Within the field of approximate Bayesian inference, variational and Monte Carlo methods are currently the mainstay techniques. For both methods, there has been considerable progress both on the efficiency and performance.

In this workshop, we encourage submissions advancing approximate inference methods. We are open to a broad scope of methods within the field of Bayesian inference. In addition, we also encourage applications of approximate inference in many domains, such as computational biology, recommender systems, differential privacy, and industry applications.

### Key Dates

Nov 01, 2017: Submission Deadline  
Nov 15, 2017: Notification of Acceptance  
Nov 24, 2017: Submission Reviews & Award Notifications

### Organizers

Francisco Ruiz, Stephan Mandt, Cheng Zhang, James McInerney, Dustin Tran

### Advisory Committee

Tamara Broderick, Michalis Titsias, David Blei, Max Welling

---

## Awards

No new listings this week

---

## Other opportunities or information

**1** Overview of Statistics as a Scientific Discipline and Practical Implications for the Evaluation of Faculty Excellence

A working group of university consulting centers, chaired by William C. Bridges of Clemson University, seeks your feedback on this important draft document:

http://ww2.amstat.org/misc/Statistics-as-a-Scientific-Discipline--Implications-for-Faculty-Excellence.pdf

Please send your comments as soon as possible to Dr. Bridges at wbrdgs@g.clemson.edu.

**2** Police Data Challenge

ASA’s public education campaign, This Is Statistics, in collaboration with the Police Data Initiative, has launched the Police Data Challenge—a national contest for high-school and undergraduate students to put their statistical and data visualization skills to work creating safer communities. Data sets from
metropolitan police departments in Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Seattle are available for participants to peruse in formulating analyses and recommending innovative solutions to enhance public safety. Teams of 2–5 high-school or college undergraduate students in the US and Canada can submit an entry. Submissions are comprised of a short essay describing the team's process and a presentation of the team’s analysis and recommendations via PowerPoint. Awards will be given in the categories of Best Overall Analysis, Best Visualization, and Best Use of External Data. Submissions are due by Friday, November 3.

(3) **ASA-CRC Series on Statistical Reasoning in Science and Society**

https://www.crcpress.com/go/asacrc

There is a growing recognition of the importance of statistical reasoning across many different aspects of everyday life. This is the case now more than ever, in our data-rich world, where the volume, availability, and types of data have increased significantly. It is crucially important that statistical reasoning is introduced to students early in their education, giving them key skills for nearly any career path they choose. Professionals in every field encounter data throughout their working lives, and the ability to reason statistically will enable them to make better evidence-based decisions. For members of the general public, learning how to reason statistically enables them to better understand risk, make decisions in the face of uncertainty, and become more informed citizens.

This exciting book series features:

- A forum highlighting the important role of statistical and probabilistic reasoning in many areas.
- Concepts presented while assuming minimal background in Mathematics and Statistics.
- A broad audience including professionals across many fields, the general public and courses in high schools and colleges.
- Topics include Statistics in wide-ranging aspects of professional and everyday life, including the media, science, health, society, politics, law, education, sports, finance, climate, and national security.
- Short and inexpensive books of 100-150 pages that can be written and read in a reasonable amount of time.

(4) **Envisioning the Data Science Discipline: The Undergraduate Perspective**

Math and Statistics at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

**Download the Interim Report**

Our committee on Envisioning the Data Science Discipline recently released its [interim report](https://nas.edu/EnvisioningDS), which offers perspectives on the current state of data science education and poses questions that may shape the way data science education evolves in the future. The study will conclude in early 2018 with a final report that will lay out a vision for the emerging discipline of data science education at the undergraduate level.

Learn more about the study and share your thoughts with the committee on the study webpage at nas.edu/EnvisioningDS.
Register for the Webinar Series

If you haven’t registered for our webinar series on data science undergraduate education, it isn’t too late! We had a great turn out for the first three webinars and we encourage you to tune in to the rest. Webinars take place on Tuesdays from 3-4pm ET ending on November 14. See below for the list of dates and themes for each webinar. For more information on webinar topics and speakers and to watch recorded webinars, visit the webinar series website.

Webinar Dates and Topics

- 9/12/17 - Building Data Acumen - [Watch Recording]
- 9/19/17 - Incorporating Real-World Applications - [Watch Recording]
- 9/26/17 - Faculty Training and Curriculum Development - [Watch Recording]
- 10/3/17 - Communication Skills and Teamwork
- 10/10/17 - Inter-Departmental Collaboration and Institutional Organization
- 10/17/17 - Ethics
- 10/24/17 - Assessment and Evaluation for Data Science Programs
- 11/7/17 - Diversity, Inclusion, and Increasing Participation
- 11/14/17 - Two-Year Colleges and Institutional Partnerships

Register to Attend Online