



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

November 2004

The 2004 Morris Hansen Lecture

The Washington Statistical Society is pleased to announce the fourteenth in its annual series of lectures to honor the memory of Morris Hansen. This lecture series is made possible by a grant from Westat, where Morris Hansen was senior statistician for 20 years and serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors at the time of his death.

This year the Morris Hansen lecture series speaker is Dr. Jennifer Madans. Dr. Madans has been the Associate Director for Science, National Center for Health Statistics, since May, 1996, and is responsible for the overall plan and development of NCHS's data collection and analysis programs. Since Dr. Madans joined the Center, she has concentrated her research efforts on data collection methodology, health services research and chronic disease epidemiology. She has directed two national longitudinal studies (NHANES I Epidemiologic Followup Study and the National Nursing Home Followup Study) as well as the redesign of the National Health Interview Survey questionnaire. She was one of the designers of the DHHS Survey Integration Plan. Dr. Madans is a graduate of Bard College (B.A.) and the University of Michigan (M.A. and Ph.D., Sociology). She completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University. She has served as a lecturer in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine and in the Department of Demography at Georgetown. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

The discussants will be Clyde Tucker of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Robert Hill of Westat. Nat Schenker of the National Center for Health Statistics will serve as this year's Chair.

Systems for classifying persons by race, ethnic background, and other attributes make it possible to compare population characteristics across data collection programs and over time. However, population changes make it necessary to update such systems periodically. To monitor population trends, bridges need to be developed that allow us to transition between system changes. The Office of Management and Budget's 1997 standards for the collection of data on race and ethnicity presented many challenges, especially because it allowed respondents to choose more than one race. The need for a bridging mechanism was particularly acute at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Calculating vital rates, a major NCHS program activity, requires data from the census for the denominators but data from state vital statistics offices for the numerators. Although the 2000 census adopted the 1997 standards, state vital statistics offices generally have not yet adopted them. Thus there is incompatibility between the race classifications used for the vital records and those used to estimate population counts. Bridging this gap required the development of strategies to modify data from one or both of the data sources, based on models for the relationship between race reporting under the new standards and the old ones, so that valid race specific rates could be calculated. In the course of this project, we analyzed multiple data sets addressing different aspects of multiple race reporting. This lecture will describe the approach taken by NCHS to build the bridge and the related infrastructure that supported the project. The importance of problem solving such as this to the mission of a statistical agency will also be discussed.

The lecture will be on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the Jefferson Auditorium, USDA South Building, between 12th and 14th Streets on Independence Avenue S.W., Washington DC. The Independence Avenue exit from the Smithsonian METRO stop is at the 12th Street corner of the building, which is also where the handicapped entrance is located. Except for handicapped access, all attendees should enter at the 5th wing, along Independence Avenue. Please bring a photo ID to facilitate gaining access to the building.

The lecture will be followed by a reception in the Whitten Building, across Independence Avenue S.W.

WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)	
November	
10	Wed.
	Performance Measurement: A Technical Perspective
16	Tues.
	Data Quality and Record Linkage: A Broad Survey of Applications and Techniques
17	Wed.
	<i>Morris Hansen Lecture: Bridging the Gap: NCHS's Experience Transitioning to the 1997 Standards for Collecting Data on Race and Ethnicity</i>
December	
1	Wed.
	Data Quality: Automated Edit/Imputation and Record Linkage

Also available on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

Announcements

Mid-Atlantic Regional Probability & Statistics Day - November 13, 2004

This year's Mid-Atlantic Regional Probability and Statistics Day will be held Saturday, 13 November 2004, at the Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory, located approximately midway between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC. This informal meeting provides an opportunity for professionals in academia, government, business and industry to meet and communicate recent findings and discuss common interests. Informal talks on all aspects of probability and statistics are invited, including discussions of preliminary and on-going work. Participation by graduate students is also encouraged. There will be several invited speakers in addition to the contributed talks. For more information, contact: Joseph D. Warfield, The Johns Hopkins University/ Applied Physics Laboratory, Room 24-E135, Laurel, MD 20723-6099; phone: (240) 228-5580/Washington or (443) 778-5580/Baltimore; e-mail: joseph.warfield@jhuapl.edu <<mailto:joseph.warfield@jhuapl.edu>>. The website is www.jhuapl.edu/ProbStatDay04/index.htm. The fax number is (240) 228-8240.

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall 2004

November 10, 2004: ODS Statistical Graphics (<http://support.sas.com/rnd/base/topics/statgraph>)

On an experimental basis in SAS 9.1, a number of SAS/STAT procedures support an extension to the Output Delivery System (ODS) to create statistical graphics as automatically as tables. This facility is referred to as ODS Statistical Graphics (or ODS Graphics for short). With ODS Graphics, a procedure creates the graphs that are most commonly needed for a particular analysis. Using ODS Graphics eliminates the need to save numerical results in an output data set, manipulate them with a DATA step program, and display them with a graphics procedure. Linda Atkinson will be the speaker.

December 8, 2004: PROC MIXED - Part 7: Generalized Linear Mixed Models (<http://www.sas.com>)

We continue with the topic begun in October 2003. In the June 2004 meeting, the difference between general linear models and models using generalized estimating equations (GEE's) was covered. The available correlation structures in PROC GENMOD were discussed and GENMOD was used to fit a longitudinal data model. To wrap up this topic, the concepts behind generalized linear mixed models are discussed and a longitudinal data model is fit using the GLIMMIX macro.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG**, the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science. All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk. First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the January WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than November 30, 2004. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Performance Measurement: A Technical Perspective
- Speaker:** Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Discussant:** Fritz Scheuren, NORC, University of Chicago
- Chair:** Alan K. Jeeves, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday November 10, 2004/12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB) Conference Center, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.
- Sponsor:** WSS Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences Section
- Abstract:** Performance-based evaluation is, in principle, a great step toward government accountability. As usual, however, the devil is in the details. This paper focuses on issues surrounding the implementation of the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA) in federal statistical agencies. The paper does not address political issues concerning GPRA, but, instead, deals with technical concerns. The topics covered include, but are not limited to, the measurement of future costs and benefits of statistical programs, determining the market value of government products, measurement issues involved in developing indicators of performance, and the resources required to carry out the GPRA mandates.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Data Quality and Record Linkage: A Broad Survey of Applications and Techniques**
- Speaker:** Thomas Herzog, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Discussant:** William Winkler, U.S. Census Bureau
- Chair:** Fritz Scheuren, NORC
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, November 16, 2004/12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** BLS Conference Center , Room 1. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Section
- Abstract:** As the cost of computing continues to drop, and more practitioners have access to large data warehouses, the importance of data quality continues to increase commensurately. With this in mind, the speaker will briefly describe some of the key methodological issues dealing with data quality and record linkage. He will present a wide range of applications including (1) Biomedical and Genetic Studies, (2) Transportation Studies, (3) Sample Surveys and Censuses, (4) Federal Tax Policy, (5) Social Insurance, and (6) Cargo Shipments. A wide variety of references to the literature will be provided for those interested in delving further into these topics.

Program Announcement

Topic: **Data Quality: Automated Edit/Imputation and Record Linkage (Repeated)**

Speaker: William Winkler, US Census Bureau

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 1, 2004/10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Auditorium Building 3, US Census Bureau

Abstract: Statistical agencies collect data from surveys and create data warehouses by combining data from a variety of sources. To be suitable for analytic purposes, the files must be relatively free of error. Record linkage (Fellegi and Sunter, JASA 1969) is used for identifying duplicates within a file or across a set of files. Statistical data editing and imputation (Fellegi and Holt, JASA 1976) are used for locating erroneous values of variables and filling-in for missing data. Although these powerful methods were introduced in the statistical literature, the primary means of implementing the methods have been via computer science and operations research (Winkler, Information Systems 2004). This talk provides an overview of the recent developments.

Note: This is a repeat of the September 21st WSS talk at BLS by the same title. Due to technical difficulties, remote sites were unable to participate and the speaker has graciously agreed to repeat the presentation.

Visitors will need to contact barbara.a.palumbo@census.gov at least three days before the talk to be placed on the visitors list. If driving, be sure to specify you also need to be on the parking sticker list.

Announcements

American Public Health Association and American Statistical Association Continuing Education Institutes

The APHA Epidemiology and Statistics Sections and the American Statistical Association are jointly sponsoring five CEI's at the upcoming 2004 APHA annual meeting in Washington, DC on November 6 and 7. We have been jointly sponsoring these courses with the Statistics Section for several years and the programs have been well received. They were developed in cooperation with the Statistics Section after an E-mail survey of the APHA Epidemiology Section was conducted.

CEI 1001.0, "Statistical Methods for State and Local Public Health Data", Michael A. Stoto, PhD, Saturday, November 6, 2004, 9 am - 12:30 pm.

CEI 1009.0, "Multilevel Analysis in Public Health", Steven W. Raudenbush, EdD, Saturday, November 6, 2004, 9 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 5 pm.

CEI 2016.0, "Introduction to Spatial Epidemiology", Andrew Lawson, PhD, and Richard Hoskins, PhD, Sunday, November 7, 2004, 8 am - 11:30 am and 2:30 pm - 6 pm.

CEI 2017.0, "Introduction to Statistical Methods for Longitudinal Research", Garrett Fitzmaurice, ScD, and Nan Laird, PhD, Sunday, November 7, 2004, 8 am - 11:30 am and 2:30 pm - 6 pm.

CEI 2019.0, "Interpreting and Reporting Public Health and Medical Research: Techniques and 13 Key Questions", Tom Lang, MA, Sunday, November 7, 2004, 2:30 pm - 6 pm.

For more information please review the APHA website at www.apha.org/meetings/cei

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Statistical Policy Seminar

The seventh in a series of seminars hosted by COPAFS (Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics) titled "Achieving Statistical Quality in a Diverse and Changing Environment" will be held on December 15 to 16, 2004. The subjects include

- Standards for Statistical Surveys
- Agency Incentives to Monitor Survey Quality
- Recent Advances in Measuring Quality Assurance
- CIPSEA: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?
- Integrated Survey Designs: Analytical Enhancements Achieved Through Linkage Surveys, Administrative and Secondary Data
- Telephone Surveys in a Changing Environment
- Incentives in Government Surveys: Practices and Perspectives
- Web Surveys: A Research Agenda For a Changing Environment
- Seeking User Feedback to improve Quality of Statistical Programs
- Researcher Access to Confidential and Micro Data From Home Institutions
- Data Mining: Policy Implications and Applications
- Tools, Policy and Procedures for Survey Improvement

The keynote speaker will be Richard Kulka, RTI International. Participants will include federal statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as others in the broader statistical community who share an interest in the quality of federal data. The location will be at the Holiday Inn Select Bethesda (8120 Wisconsin Ave.) in Bethesda, MD. The cost is \$150 per person. For additional information, contact the COPAFS office at: 703/836-0404; fax: 703/684-3410; or e-mail: copafs@aol.com.

JPSM Courses Announcement

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology is offering a two day course.

The title of the course is ***CREATING AND UPDATING PRICE INDEXES: THEORY AND PRACTICE*** on December 16 and 17 , 2004. The course blends the conceptual approaches to creating indexes of price change with the science underlying representative procedures for pricing goods and services sold. An overview will be given of the economic concepts that price indexes are intended to measure and of the types of indexes used in practice, including Laspeyres, superlative, and geometric indexes. We will discuss the process for creating a frame, sampling transactions, and processing price quotes on a periodic basis. Problems in constructing indexes will be discussed, including replacing goods, detecting new goods, and adjusting for changes in quality. Design of a sample of goods and services and statistical estimation of indexes from a sample will be covered along with methods of variance estimation. Examples will be taken from the Producer Price Index and the Consumer Price Index. **STUDENTS SHOULD BRING A CALCULATOR TO CLASS.** The instructors are Dennis Fixler, who is Chief Statistician, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Richard Valliant, who is a Research Professor at University of Michigan. Online registration is required. Confirmation of registration and further instructions will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive a confirmation letter. Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be made online following receipt of the confirmation letter using the student's confirmation number. Please note your confirmation number. **The registration deadline is November 29, 2004.** Payment is required by November 29, 2004 or the registration will be cancelled. The registration fee is \$730. Full-time university students (with a supervising faculty advisor's signature) and employees of JPSM sponsor/affiliate organizations are eligible for a reduced fee of \$550. Lunch and refreshments are included in the fee. Participants will be provided with a notebook containing detailed course notes. The course will be held at The Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, Maryland. It is located on University Boulevard at Adelphi Road, adjacent to the College Park campus of the University. Convenient parking in the UMUC garage is included in the registration fee. Information, directions, and times will be sent with your confirmation letter. For hotel room reservations, call the Conference Center at 800-727-8622.

Questions about this course should be directed to (301) 314-7911, Fax: (301) 314-7912, JPSM, University of Maryland, 1218 LeFrak Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, WSS News provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 387-3032.

Tenure Track Assistant Professor

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences at American University has an opening for one tenure track assistant professor in statistics for Fall 2005.

Qualifications: earned doctorate in Statistics or in Mathematics with a specialty in Statistics by Fall 2005, as well as evidence of effective teaching and either a record of or the potential for continuing productive scholarship. **Responsibilities:** Teaching undergraduate and graduate level statistics courses; conducting research, advising and mentoring students, with particular sensitivity to women and minority students; institutional service.

Application review will begin November 15, 2004, and continue until the positions are filled. Submit letter of application and vitae to Search Committee, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016-8050. Have transcripts and three letters of reference sent directly to the department. At least one letter should specifically mention teaching experience.

All applicants are strongly advised to review full application instructions, available at www.mathstat.american.edu/positions, or from the department at (202) 885-3120. American University is an Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer, committed to diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Women and minority

candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Biostatistician

[http://www.hgsi.com/jobs/listing/Job posting number: 1585](http://www.hgsi.com/jobs/listing/Job%20posting%20number%201585)

Position Title: Biostatistician
Location: Rockville, MD
Employment Status: Full-Time Regular
Required Experience: 2-5 years
Required Education: Doctorate Degree or Equivalent
FLSA: Exempt (Salary)
Work Hours Per Week: 40
Required Travel: 0%
Relocation: Yes

Summary/Description: You are part of an intensive, cutting edge team that is looking for novel ways to improve the drug development clinical trial design process. As a member of the Biostatistics department, you will be responsible for providing statistical and data analyses support for HGS clinical products. You will be an integral member of a clinical team designing clinical protocols and trials, reviewing and preparing statistical data, and authoring analytical plans, case report forms, and clinical study reports. You will be gaining experience and learning within a fast-paced drug development environment.

HGS is currently developing novel monoclonal antibodies in several oncology indications that specifically bind to the TRAIL Receptor-1 or TRAIL Receptor-2 protein and trigger programmed cell death, or apoptosis, in cancer cells.

Responsibilities include: provide statistical support to the design, analysis and reporting of pre-clinical and clinical studies supporting the oncology program; develop statistical methodology to support pre-clinical and clinical studies; actively participate in oncology project teams; write clinical protocol and statistical analysis plans; collaborate with Medical Writing in the authoring of final clinical study reports.

Requirements: Minimum Requirements - M.S. or Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics or related field; at least 2 years experience in the biopharmaceutical industry while at least 5 years experience in the biopharmaceutical industry is required for the manager position; knowledge of S-Plus, SAS, or R statistical packages; good verbal and written communication skills a must; and familiarity with Federal regulations, FDA guidance and ICH guidelines.

Our Culture: Dedicated to bringing new gene-based treatments and cures to patients who need them, Human Genome Sciences offers the opportunity to combine breakthrough science and business work in a fast-paced and fast-growing organization. HGS places no limits on the career opportunities that employees can pursue as the company realizes its goal of becoming an independent and global biopharmaceutical leader. Committed to supporting employees both professionally and personally, HGS offers tailored education, benefits and personal life support programs to help employees achieve their full potential.

PROGRAMMER

Small, downtown, professional, yet outwardly informal biostatistical firm involved in medical studies seeks a programmer with 2 years experience. Strong SAS programming skills, including data steps, macros, and graphics. Position requires a BS or MS in statistics, math, computer science, or life sciences. Fax cover letter, resume, sample SAS programs, and references to (202) 429-9268 or email to office@statcollab.com. Use Ref WSPR

(BIO)STATISTICIAN

Small, downtown, professional, yet outwardly informal biostatistical firm involved in medical research & consulting seeks a (bio)statistician; attention to detail, accuracy, initiative & excellent communication skills are essential. Must be able to juggle several complex projects simultaneously, including project coordination, data analysis, SAS programming, data management for medical studies & technical writing. MS in (bio)statistics required. Fax cover letter, resume, sample SAS programs and references to (202) 429-9268 or email to

office@statcollab.com. Use Ref WSBS

RESEARCH ASSISTANT/ JR. PROGRAMMER

Small, downtown, professional, yet outwardly informal biostatistical firm involved in medical research/consulting seeks a research assistant to support study team in compiling reports, word processing, correspondence and documentation. Attention to detail, accuracy, initiative, and excellent communication skills essential. Opportunity for professional growth through introduction to SAS programming & statistical methods used to analyze data from clinical trials. Proficiency in MS Word helpful. Fax cover letter, resume, and references to (202) 429-9268 or email to office@statcollab.com. Use Ref WSRA

WESTAT AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,700 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.

We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/4001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to:

Job Code is REQUIRED to apply.
Westat • Attn: Resume System • 1650
Research Boulevard • Rockville, MD 20850-3195
Email: resume@westat.com • FAX: (888) 201-1452

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