



# WSS NEWS

September 2007

WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

## Congratulations!

The following were elected to the WSS board of directors:

President-elect  
Karol Krotki

Methodology Program Chair  
Keith F. Rust

Representative at Large  
Brian A. Harris-Kojetin  
Jeri Metzger Mulrow

Secretary  
Chris Moriarity

We congratulate the winners and express our thanks to the other candidates.

### WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)

September

- 4 Tues. **A Geostatistical Approach to Linking Geographically-Aggregated Data and A System for Detecting Arbitrarily Shaped Hotspots**
- 7 Fri. **Modeling multiple-response categorical data from complex surveys**
- 12 Wed. **An Introduction to the Key National Indicators Initiative: the State of the USA**
- 12 Wed. **New Experiments on the Design of Complex Survey Questions**
- 19 Wed. **Survey Methodology for Assessing Geographically Isolated Wetlands Map Accuracy**

October

- 30 Tues. **Morris Hansen Lecture  
Assessing the Value of Bayesian Methods for Inference About Finite Population Quantities**

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

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## Washington Statistical Society 2006-07 Annual Report

The 2006-07 program year for the Washington Statistical Society was again a very active one! Some highlights of the year include:

- The WSS membership continued to hover around 900.
- Subscribers to the electronic distribution list, which include both WSS members and building/agency representatives and contacts, surpassed 1,000 for the first time.
- The Short Course Committee sponsored a very successful short course on “R and Analysis of Complex Surveys” given by Thomas Lumley (University of Washington, Seattle).
- There were 37 regular technical sessions scheduled, and most of these were transmitted via video feed to remote sites. For the first time, slides from some technical sessions were posted to the WSS website.
- The WSS Human Rights program forged a partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which led to WSS/AAAS co-sponsorship of several seminars. The WSS/DC-AAPOR partnership also led to co-sponsorship of several seminars as well as a full day workshop on nonresponse.
- The Morris Hansen Memorial Lecture was held at the Jefferson Auditorium of the Department of Agriculture and featured Professor Michael F. Goodchild from the University of California, Santa Barbara, speaking on “Statistical Perspectives on Spatial Social Science.” The discussants were Sarah Nusser (Iowa State University) and Linda Pickle (National Cancer Institute). This lecture was made possible by the co-sponsorship of Westat, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and WSS.
- The 2006 Roger Herriot Award, co-sponsored by WSS and the Government and Social Statistics sections of ASA as an award for innovation in Federal statistics, was presented to Nathaniel Schenker at the 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings. A special WSS session, followed by a reception, was held in April to honor Nat.
- A special President’s Invited Panel held a technical discussion of finite population correction, followed by a reception.
- This year’s Holiday Party was held at Gordon Biersch and featured a special visit from Santa.
- The Quantitative Literacy committee submitted a strategic initiative proposal to ASA and was awarded a grant for planning and needs assessment in advance of preparation of a set of “Design of Experiments Interactive CD/DVD Instructional Materials.” The QL committee also continued its tradition of sponsoring workshops for Girl Scouts.
- This year’s student representative provided valuable feedback to the WSS Board as to student concerns and needs, and initiated a regular WSS News column geared toward students.
- Thanks to persistent, enthusiastic outreach by the respective committee chairs, WSS received a generous set of entries for Curtis Jacobs Award, the Poster Competition, and the Science Fair competition. The Gallup Organization continued to provide funding for the Science Fair awards for outstanding projects in statistics and/or mathematics. At the 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings, ASA is initiating a “Meeting within a Meeting” workshop for middle school teachers, and WSS is sponsoring a teacher’s attendance.
- A “WSS Board Officers’ and Committee Chairs’ Handbook” was compiled to list the duties and activities of each officer and committee.
- The Annual Dinner was held at China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn. In keeping with the tradition of the past five years, this year’s speaker was the recipient of the Gertrude Cox Award, Francesca Dominici. The Gertrude Cox Award is made possible by funding from RTI International.

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- The Julius Shiskin Award winner, presented at the Annual Dinner, was Arthur B. Kennickell of the Federal Reserve Board.
  - The Chapter Service Award was presented at the Annual Dinner to John Czajka in appreciation of many years of dedicated support to the WSS, for leadership in the development of Web-based voting and refined membership lists, and for promoting statistics on a regional level.
  - The WSS President's Award was presented at the Annual Dinner to John Dixon, for continuing support and dedicated service to the WSS as Videoconference Coordinator; to Tom Broene, for outstanding, dedicated service to the WSS as Secretary; to Glenn White, in recognition of extensive, unselfish, and dedicated service to the WSS in many roles and capacities; and to Polly Phipps and Nancy Bates, in recognition of the tremendous effort put forth as Representatives-at-Large in compiling the WSS Officer's and Committee Chairperson's Handbook.
  - WSS again presented awards at the Annual Dinner to Outstanding Graduate students attending area universities.

Sincere appreciation is extended to everyone who contributed to the success of the organization this year. The WSS Board, including officers, program chairs, and committee chairs, worked diligently to bring fruition to these efforts. Thanks also to the technical session speakers, chairs, and discussants who gave generously of their time to keep us abreast of new developments in their areas of expertise. I would encourage all who are interested to take an active role in the WSS. There are many opportunities available, both long-term and short-term, and these opportunities provide volunteers with a chance to stay connected to the local statistical community.

One challenge for next year and the coming years is to remain a *community* while taking advantage of technology. With the ability to videoconference seminars, we are able to reach out to a larger audience, but we must find other ways and opportunities to bring people together. If you have suggestions in this regard, or feedback on any other WSS matters, please contact any Board member.

I would like to personally thank Clyde Tucker (Past President, 2006-07) and Michael P. Cohen (President-Elect, 2006-07) for their invaluable input and guidance over the past year. I have truly enjoyed serving you over the past year, and look forward to continued participation in the WSS.

Jill Montaquila  
Past President

## Program Announcement

- Title:** A Geostatistical Approach to Linking Geographically-Aggregated Data and A System for Detecting Arbitrarily Shaped Hotspots
- Speakers:** Carol A. Gotway Crawford, CDC, and Reza Modarres, Dept of Statistics at GWU
- Chair:** Meena Khare, NCHS
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 4, 2007 / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. 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](mailto: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:** Methodology Program, WSS

### Abstracts:

#### 1. A Geostatistical Approach to Linking Geographically-Aggregated Data From Different Sources

Carol A. Gotway Crawford, Office of Workforce and Career Development, CDC; and Linda J. Young, Department of Statistics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL USA

The widespread availability of digital spatial data and the capabilities of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) make it possible to easily synthesize spatial data from a variety of sources. More often than not, data have been collected at different geographic scales, and each of the scales may be different from the one of interest. Geographic information systems effortlessly handle these types of problems through raster and geoprocessing operations based on proportional allocation and centroid smoothing techniques. However, these techniques do not provide a measure of uncertainty in the estimates and lack the ability to incorporate important covariate information that may be used to improve the estimates. They also often ignore the different spatial supports (e.g., shape and orientation) of the data. On the other hand, statistical solutions to change of support problems are rather specific and difficult to implement. In this presentation, we present a general geostatistical framework for linking geographic data from different sources. This framework incorporates aggregation and disaggregation of spatial data, as well as prediction problems involving overlapping geographic units. It explicitly incorporates the supports of the data, can adjust for covariate values measured on different spatial units at different scales, provides a measure of uncertainty for the resulting predictions, and is computationally feasible within a GIS. The new framework we develop also includes a new approach for simultaneous estimation of mean and covariance functions from aggregated data using generalized estimating equations.

#### 2. Upper Level Set Scan Statistic System for Detecting Arbitrarily Shaped Hotspots by Reza Modarres, Professor and chair, Dept of Statistics at GWU

The Upper Level Set Scan Statistic (ULS), its theory, design and implementation, and its extension to the bivariate data are discussed. We provide the ULS-Hotspot algorithm that maintains a list of connected components of the rate surface at each level of the ULS tree. The tree is grown in the immediate successor list, which provides a computationally efficient method for likelihood evaluation, visualization and storage. An example shows how the zones are formed and the likelihood function is developed for each candidate zone. The general theory of bivariate hotspot detection is discussed, including the bivariate binomial and Poisson models and the multivariate exceedance approach. We propose the joint and intersection methods for detecting bivariate hotspots and study the sensitivity of the joint hotspots to the degree of association between the variables. We investigate the hotspots in two diverse applications, one in Microbial Risk Assessment and the other in Mapping of Crime hotspots.

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## Program Announcement

- Title:**            **Modeling multiple-response categorical data from complex surveys**
- Speakers:**     Christopher R. Bilder, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and  
                      Thomas M. Loughin, Simon Fraser University
- Chair:**           Robert E. Fay, III, Census Bureau
- Date/Time:**    Friday, September 7, 2007 / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:**     Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. 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](mailto: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:**      Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:**      Although "choose all that apply" questions are common in modern surveys, methods for analyzing associations among responses to such questions have only recently been developed. These methods are generally valid only for simple random sampling, but many "choose all that apply" and related questions appear in surveys conducted under more complex sampling plans. The purpose of this talk is to provide statistical analysis methods that can be applied to "choose all that apply" questions in complex survey sampling situations. Loglinear models fit to marginal data are used to describe associations among the multiple responses that occur with this type of data. Model comparison test statistics along with their asymptotic distributions are presented in order to choose a good fitting model. Estimates of odds ratios and their corresponding standard errors are provided in order to measure associations among responses.

### Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the October issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until September 12, 2007. E-mail items to Michael Feil at [michael.feil@usda.gov](mailto:michael.feil@usda.gov).

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## Program Announcement

**Title:**           **An Introduction to the Key National Indicators Initiative: the State of the USA**

**Chair:**           Edward Sondik, National Center for Health Statistics

**Presenters:**   Christopher Hoenig, IBM  
                  Robert Groves, University of Michigan/JPSM  
                  Jane Ross, National Research Council, The National Academies

**Date/Time:**    Wednesday, September 12, 2007 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

**Location:**     Bureau of Labor Statistics, 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](mailto: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:**      Public Policy Section, WSS and DC-AAPOR

**Abstract:**      Several countries around the world have developed organized systems of statistical indicators that are used to inform civil discourse, to track the change in basic economic, social, and environmental statuses of the country. These key national indicator systems have audiences that are both the policy makers in central and local governments but also interested citizens.

The State of the USA is envisioned to be a web-based resources permitting user-friendly presentation of key indicators at national and subnational levels. It will have explicit quality criteria and interest thresholds that inform what indicators are contained in the system. It will include official government statistics, private sector statistics, and academic statistics.

The State of the USA is currently funded by grants from several private foundations and is being incubated in the National Academies.

This WSS session will provide an introduction to the inception and development of the State of the USA, its basic goals, and its emergent organization. A demonstration of a test web site, illustrating some of the features of the indicator presentation will be given.

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## Program Announcement

- Title:** New Experiments on the Design of Complex Survey Questions
- Presenters:** Paul Beatty, National Center for Health Statistics  
Floyd J. Fowler, University of Massachusetts, Boston
- Chair:** Adam Safir, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Discussant:** Gordon Willis, National Cancer Institute
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 12, 2007 / 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 1. To be placed on the BLS seminar attendee list for this session, please RSVP at <http://www.dc-aapor.org/rsvpform.php> no later than COB Monday, September 10. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** DC-AAPOR and Methodology Section, WSS
- Abstract:** Survey researchers often need their questions to convey very specific information to respondents—for example, questions may include complex definitions, instructions to include or exclude various considerations while answering, and a particular set of closed-ended responses. Although questionnaire design principles provide some advice on constructing complex questions, little empirical evidence demonstrates the superiority of certain decisions over others. For example, in some questions, important respondent instructions “dangle” after the core question has been asked; one alternative is to provide such definitions before asking the core question.

We have conducted several rounds of RDD telephone surveys with split-ballot experiments to explore such issues. This seminar reports on the latest round of 425 interviews conducted via an RDD telephone survey, in which respondents received alternative versions of various survey questions. For example, in some experiments, alternative questions used the same words but were structured differently. Other experiments compared the use of examples vs. definitions to explain complex concepts, compared the use of one vs. two questions to measure the same phenomenon, and compared questions before and after cognitive interviews had been used to clarify key concepts. With permission, interviews were tape recorded and behavior-coded, making it possible to compare various interviewer and respondent difficulties across question versions, in addition to comparing differences in response distributions.

Taken in conjunction with findings from previous rounds of experiments, the results begin to suggest some general design principles for complex questions. For example, the disadvantages of “dangling qualifiers” are becoming clear, as are the advantages of using multiple questions to disentangle certain complex concepts. The seminar will report results of these and other experimental comparisons, with an eye toward providing more systematic questionnaire design guidance.

Following the seminar, all are welcome and invited to attend a social hour at Capitol City Brewing Company, located in the same building as the talk.

## Program Announcement

**Title:** Survey Methodology for Assessing Geographically Isolated Wetlands Map Accuracy

**Speaker:** Breda Munoz, RTI International

**Chair:** Mel Kollander

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 19, 2007 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. 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](mailto: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 Agriculture and Natural Resources Section

**Abstract:** Wetlands provide significant environmental benefits such as assimilation of pollutants, flood water storage, water recharge and fish and wildlife habitat. Geographically isolated wetlands (GIW) can provide the same benefits as wetlands in general, and are particularly vulnerable to losses from urbanization and agriculture precisely because they are geographically isolated and have varying amounts of regulatory protection. Currently, there is not a dependable and cost-effective method to generate an accurate GIW map without sending a field scientist to perform surveys or requiring image technicians to perform heads-up digitalization of aerial photography. By using statistically valid estimates of accuracy rates one can evaluate the quality of the information contained in GIW maps. Accuracy rates are used to describe the misclassification errors of the maps. A probability sampling survey methodology that balances statistical considerations, expert opinion and operational considerations is proposed for assessing the accuracy of GIW maps. The proposed sampling design is based on a stratified multi-stage sampling design that addresses sampling size requirements for the different strata and types of GIWs and also recognizes the need for spatial coverage while minimizing operational efforts. Expressions for design-based accuracy estimates and an estimate of the number of GIW, as well as their corresponding variances are also provided.

A simulation exercise is used to illustrate the proposed sampling methodology. A GIW map for Brunswick County in North Carolina, created using historical data was used as the sampling frame. The GIW map was created from a combination of satellite imagery, classification tools to process the imagery and auxiliary information. The sampling methodology was used to randomly select sites from this GIW map. An updated GIW map for the same counties showing exact location of GIW was used to provide "ground-truth" observations from wetland delineations approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Accuracy estimates was calculated by comparing site classification differences obtained by using both the original and updated GIW maps. Survey based accuracy estimates and their corresponding variance estimates were calculated.



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## Lecture Announcement

### 17th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture

Joe Sedransk, Professor of Statistics (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio), will give the 17th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture "Assessing the Value of Bayesian Methods for Inference About Finite Population Quantities" on Tuesday October 30 at 3:30 P.M. in the Jefferson Auditorium of the Department of Agriculture's South Building (Independence Avenue SW, between 12th and 14th Street). The Hansen Lecture Series is sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, Westat, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The USDA South Building (Independence Avenue SW) is between 12th and 14th Streets at the Smithsonian Metro Stop (Blue Line). Enter through Wing 5 or Wing 7 from Independence Ave. (The special assistance entrance is at 12th & Independence). A photo ID is required.

Please pre-register for this event to help facilitate access to the building. After September 1, pre-register on line at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/>. Additional information will appear in the October issue.

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## Announcement

The Graduate Certificate in Survey Design and Data Analysis, offered by The George Washington University, provides the framework to prepare professionals, from both public and private sectors, for a variety of career opportunities in the survey research field. This invaluable program focuses on the skills needed in today's changing survey environment, introducing students to all phases of survey research—designing and pretesting the questionnaire, sampling cases, collecting and compiling data, computing estimates and margin of errors, and writing reports, as well as managing the entire survey process. Two of the four courses are offered each semester on weekday evenings at The George Washington University's Alexandria Graduate Education Center.

Please join us for an Information Session at the Alexandria Graduate Education Center to learn more about this program and meet the Academic Program Coordinator.

Wednesday, September 19, 6:30pm  
Wednesday, November 14, 6:30pm

RSVP for a session today [www.nearyou.gwu.edu/survey](http://www.nearyou.gwu.edu/survey) or call 202-973-1130.  
For more information please contact Helen Forner 703-299-9147 [hforner@gwu.edu](mailto:hforner@gwu.edu)

### **Fall courses:**

#### **Stat 183: Statistical Computing Packages**

This course covers the major statistical packages, particularly SAS and SPSS, and how to employ them to solve both simple and complex real-life data problems including one-, two-, and k-sample statistical problems. Basic concepts include data preparation, modification, analysis, and interpretation of results—with particular emphasis on a case study approach.

#### **Stat 238: Survey Management**

The goal of this course is to describe the modern tools used in the management of a survey operation from the initial customer contacts through training, field work, data processing, data analysis, report writing, and presentation of results. Practical issues in budgeting and scheduling are covered with hands-on projects. Modern quality management ideas will be emphasized.

### **Spring Courses:**

#### **Stat 187: Applied Sampling Techniques**

This class introduces the major approaches now applied in sampling: how to decide on what type of sample to draw, how to select the sample, and how to analyze the results. Included are simple random, stratified, systematic, cluster, and multistage designs. Ways to control sampling errors are emphasized and efforts to reduce non-sampling errors are discussed.

#### **Stat 233: Questionnaire Design**

This course covers questionnaire development from the perspective of modern cognitive techniques. Included are a range of questionnaire, issues from choosing the mode of data collection (mail, telephone, or in-person) to selecting the respondent, to the differences between asking attitude and factual questions—even how to pretest the instrument chosen.

## Announcement

**PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR NONRESPONSE BIAS STUDIES** A one-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

JANUARY 24, 2008

Presented at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington VA

**ROBERT M. GROVES**

Research Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology Director, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

**J. MICHAEL BRICK**

Director, Survey Methods Unit

Senior Statistician, Westat

Research Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland

### COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to help in addressing new OMB guidelines for conducting nonresponse bias studies when response rates in surveys are less than 80 percent or there is reason to suspect that estimates are biased from nonresponse. Practical tools are described and examples are used to illustrate methods that can be used to conduct these studies.

The advantages and disadvantages of these methods are presented, and the value of having multiple approaches is highlighted. The need to devise strategies for nonresponse and for its analysis in the planning stage, prior to completing the survey are emphasized.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Individuals in government, universities, business and nonprofit organizations who are involved in the development, implementation or evaluation of surveys, especially surveys for the federal government.

The course will assume a working knowledge of data collection methods in survey research. Examples will be presented and only rudimentary statistical knowledge of concepts such as bias and variance of the estimates is required of participants.

### THE INSTRUCTORS

Robert M. Groves is Research Professor at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology and Director, University of Michigan Survey Research Center. He is the author of *Survey Errors and Survey Costs* and co-author of the new text *Survey Methodology* (both by Wiley). He is a student of survey participation, working now on behavioral foundations of decisions to participate in surveys and the determinants of nonresponse error arising from nonparticipation.

Dr. J. Michael Brick is the director of the Survey Methods Unit and a senior statistician at Westat. He is also a research professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. He has been involved in a wide variety of statistical and methodological studies over the past 30 years.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

7:30 - 8:30	Registrant Check-In and Continental Breakfast
8:30-10:00	Introduction
	Nonresponse Rates and Nonresponse Error
	Benchmarking
10:00-10:15	Break

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10:15-12:30	Study designs using external data Sampling frame External data matched to sample Observations taken during data collection Seeded sample
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	Study designs using internal data Comparing response rates on subgroups Use of screening and prior wave data collection Following up nonrespondents Two phase (double) sampling of nonrespondents Analyzing estimates by level of effort
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:30	Postsurvey adjustment analyses
4:30-5:00	Summary RFP language for nonresponse bias studies Five things you should remember about the course
5:00	Adjourn

### COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course pack containing course notes.

### MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and breaks are included in the course fee.

### JPSM SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

### FEES

The registration fee for staff at sponsoring agencies and affiliates is \$350, \$350 for full-time university students, and \$480 for other participants. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by January 10, 2008.

### REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the web generated registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. The registration deadline is January 10, 2008.

### CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by January 10, 2008. Cancellation January 11-16, 2008 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after January 17, 2008 is subject to the full fee amount.

### LOCATION

The course will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia. The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel is located in the "Crystal City" business district of Arlington, with nearby access to the Crystal City Metro Stop. Located at the intersection of 18th and Eads Street the hotel is 1 mile from Ronald Reagan National Airport. Information, directions, and times will be sent with your acceptance email letter.

### OVERNIGHT ROOMS

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Individuals are responsible for making their own overnight room reservations and for payment. A limited number of rooms have been reserved for the JPSM Short Course at a rate of \$249 per night. The "cut-off date" for accepting reservations into this room block is December 24, 2007. Contact the hotel's reservation department at 1-888-627-8209. The registrant must identify themselves as part of the JPSM group.

### MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. Applicants should submit:

- (1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
- (2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
- (3) The online course registration form.

If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before December 27, 2007. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by January 3, 2008. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, the course materials and the group lunch.

### JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

### INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320, Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: [jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu](mailto:jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu) .

JPSM HOME PAGE: <http://www.jpsm.org> Click on "Short Courses"

JPSM SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

CLASS INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

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## Students' Corner

Let me introduce myself. I am the new student representative to the WSS board, succeeding Hiro Hikawa for the coming year. He will be a difficult act to follow writing gracefully each month on statistical issues pertinent to students.

If you are a student and reading this, the conditional probability that you're already a student member of the American Statistical Association may be rather high. If you are not a member of the American Statistical Association, I strongly recommend that you obtain student membership in the ASA for only \$10. You can join online at:

<https://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=onlineapp>

Scroll down to the section entitled "STUDENT". Please encourage your classmates to do the same.

The main reason why I'm recommending this is that you automatically get a subscription to STATS magazine along with the student membership. I'm a new student member of the ASA myself, and the latest issue of STATS arrived earlier this summer. It had several very interesting articles, including an article on how to determine which came first, the chicken or the egg (the cover story); a short piece on the use of permutation testing on data from the 1986 space shuttle Challenger disaster; and an interview with Dr. Sallie Keller-McNulty, a past president of the ASA. Some of the questions and answers in this interview are of special interest to students of statistics since Dr. Keller-McNulty answers one question about what skills she thinks might be helpful for students to develop while in school.

If you do get around to signing up for a student membership in the ASA, consider subscribing to CHANCE magazine. This magazine presents interesting statistical concepts in an easy-going, informal style similar to STATS.

Please also consider student membership in our local group, the Washington Statistical Society. You can join online at: <http://wss.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/join.html>.

If you have any feedback on this column or ideas of topics for future issues, please email me at [jmm97@georgetown.edu](mailto:jmm97@georgetown.edu). Your thoughts will be greatly appreciated!

Joe Maisog  
Georgetown University

## 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](mailto:apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com) or (703) 373-6645.

### **CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS M.S. and Ph.D. Level Positions**

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We enjoy over \$45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of over 100 with 27 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 10 faculty. We are recruiting M.S. and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

**Master's Level Research Positions:** These positions require a Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required. Send CV to address below.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions are available immediately to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

**Minimum Position Requirements:** Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience.

**Application Procedures:** Applicants must send a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: Sarah Fowler, Research Professor and Director, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852.

[HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu)

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Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment. Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: [www.bsc.gwu.edu](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu).

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer

### **Survey Sampling Statistician**

#### **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 1,800 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/7001)

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 is 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](mailto:resume@westat.com) • FAX: (888) 201-1452

Equal Opportunity Employer. [www.westat.com](http://www.westat.com)



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### **Associate Director Biomedical Research Support Manager of Biostatistics**

Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., (SSS) is looking for a Biostatistician seeking an opportunity to develop and lead a new business unit inside our flourishing company. Position may be located in our Silver Spring, Maryland or Durham, North Carolina office.

Successful candidate will work with researchers in government, industry, non-profit, and academic settings to provide statistical collaboration in the fields of health research, clinical trials and epidemiology.

Responsibilities include:

- a. Development of new business contacts
- b. Management of biostatistical projects and direct supervision of a staff
- c. Direct liaison with clients
- d. Interact with research personnel, clinical and epidemiological, in planning, design, conduct, evaluation, and interpretation of study results and reports.
- e. Develop and select appropriate statistical methods for design and analysis of studies and reports
- f. Supervision of data management system including: data entry, data processing, and database development
- g. Design and implementation of quality control procedures
- h. Preparation of reports of statistical analyses and quality control procedures
- i. Preparation of scientific manuscripts and presentation of results of analyses at meetings with clients
- j. Excellent SAS programming skills, and excellent knowledge of SAS statistical analysis procedures are preferred

Qualifications:

Doctorate in biostatistics, statistics or epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in biological science, physical science or computer science with a Master's in biostatistics or statistics, 5+ years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience. Experience in pharma, CRO, or other industry focused on clinical trials preferred.

SSS offers an excellent compensation and benefits package. SSS is an employee-owned company. Become an employee-owner! Please be sure to apply online at [www.s-3.com](http://www.s-3.com) EOE M/F/D/V

### **Programmer Analyst**

Seeking a Programmer Analyst to work with the HIV Research Program in Rockville, MD. Incumbent is responsible for programming support of research data management, and analytic requirements for the HIV Research Program. This is to include database and statistical programming, programming for standard report generation, ad-hoc queries, analyses, data manipulation, extraction and export. The Incumbent should have knowledge of commonly used concepts, practices and procedures within the clinical data management/analysis field. Incumbent will rely on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the job. The incumbent will be a member of the Data Coordinating and Analysis Center which is responsible for providing data management, processing and analytical support to the U.S. Military HIV Research Program. The incumbent will provide database, analytical and statistical programming support to HIV Research Program Protocols. Coordinate, program, analyze, and evaluate clinical data using the SAS programming language. Generate and maintain administrative and statistical reports to be run on a periodic or ad hoc basis. Coordinates, programs, analyzes, and evaluates clinical data using the SAS programming language. Assist Principal Investigators and Scientists in retrieving and incorporating information from multiple data sources using SAS, SQL or other query tools. Interact

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with Information Systems Group in modeling research protocols on in- house data management software package. Provide written documentation to include description of pertinent data sets, formats, and structures. Insure that data sets are complete and correct. Provide written documentation in the form of Standard Operating Procedures for project related tasks in the department. Adheres to a policy of strict confidentiality concerning all documents, data, and information maintained within the department. Adheres to department Standard Operating Procedures for all data management responsibilities. Performs other duties as required. Must have knowledge of the SAS programming language, especially SAS/STAT and the DATA step and the ability to perform programming tasks in a SAS/Oracle environment. Experience in handling large data sets, awareness of data quality issues, and familiarity with programming in a research environment. Familiarity with personal computers and the ability to learn systems necessary for job completion. Knowledge of word processing and spreadsheets on Macintosh computer systems. Ability to work independently, as part of a team setting, and meet deadlines Must have excellent oral and written communication skills. Must be detail oriented, possess problem-solving skills and the ability to handle multiple tasks.

**Qualifications:** Minimum Education/Training: Bachelors Degree from a 4 year accredited college, with a concentration in statistics, computer science, or a related research field.

**Minimum Experience:** 0-3 years SAS programming experience in a research environment. Education may be substituted for experience

**How to Apply:** Please apply on-line at [www.hjf.org/careers](http://www.hjf.org/careers) Please click on Advanced Search and enter the job number - 201974 in the Job Opening ID box or fax your resume to 240-314-7334 Please specify title and job number on fax. The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine offers a competitive salary and generous benefits package. AA/EEO

### **Biostatistician**

**Location:** Bethesda, MD - Full Time

**Job Summary:** Working closely with clinicians, statisticians, biologists and bioinformaticans, the incumbent will provide statistical consultancy and guidance in experimental design and approaches to analyzing data to the functional areas of the Immune Tolerance Network (ITN). The incumbent will contribute to the development of novel methods, as well as the application of these and existing methods, to solve complex problems in genomics, proteomics and statistical genetics. An initial area of focus will be flow cytometry and gene expression analysis with clinical data.

**Qualifications:** Solid background and experience using statistical approaches to analyze large data sets; Experience with parametric and non-parametric tests; Understanding of supervised and unsupervised machine learning algorithms; Knowledge of microarray or cellular based assay technology is helpful. Ability to clearly communicate ideas and results of analyses with researchers of various backgrounds; Ability to work well in a team environment; Excellent organizational and computer skills. Excellent written and verbal communications skills.

**Preferred Qualifications:** Qualifications for this position include a PhD or Master degree with 1-2 years experience in Biostatistics, Applied Mathematics, or related field; Knowledge of advanced statistical methods; Programming skills in R, S-PLUS, or SAS; Some biology background is preferred. Experience with Affymetrix technology of Flow Cytometry analysis is a plus; Knowledge of Bioconductor/R is a plus.

The Immune Tolerance Network (ITN) is a collaborative research effort that solicits, develops, implements and assesses clinical strategies and biological assays for the purposes of inducing, maintaining and monitoring tolerance in humans for kidney, liver and islet transplantation, autoimmune diseases and allergy & asthma. The ITN is funded by the National Institute for Allergy

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and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. It is headquartered at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and maintains satellite offices in Bethesda, MD and Pittsburgh, PA. (This position is located in Bethesda, MD.)

Please send your CV and a brief statement of interest directly to [melissa@washingtoncareerservices.com](mailto:melissa@washingtoncareerservices.com) if you are interested in applying for the position described above.

Melissa Fireman  
Tolerance Assays and Data Analysis  
4800 Montgomery Lane, Suite 300  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
240-421-2108  
[melissa@washingtoncareerservices.com](mailto:melissa@washingtoncareerservices.com)  
<http://www.immunetolerance.org>

### **Biostatistician**

The intramural program of NINDS is seeking an experienced Biostatistician to serve in its Biostatistics Unit at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. This is a full-time position with responsibility for reviewing and providing statistical support toward improving clinical protocols; general statistical consultation service to research staff for data analysis and study design; and substantial collaboration on projects as a coauthor in published work.

A Doctoral Degree is required. Experience in biostatistics or statistics with working experience involving biostatistical applications to clinical trials and/or observational studies is preferred. Appointment will be in the Staff Scientist (non-tenure track) series and salary will be commensurate with experience.

Applicants should send a cover letter, C.V., and names of three references to:

Ms. Caren Collins  
NINDS/NIH/DHHS, 10/5N254  
10 Center Dr., MSC 1430,  
Bethesda, MD 20892, or via  
E-mail: [collinsca@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:collinsca@ninds.nih.gov)

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers.

### **Assistant Professor - Biostatistician**

The Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine has an opening for a full-time non-tenure-track faculty member at the Assistant Professor level. Candidates should have expertise in standard statistical methods and analysis using statistical analysis packages (preferably including SAS), and the abilities to perform research in biostatistical methods, develop and manage databases as applied to medical research, to multi-task in a work environment that is highly complex and varied, and to work independently with minimal guidance after initial direction. The successful applicant will have highly developed interpersonal and communication skills, be skilled in critical thinking and complex problem solving, be able to work as part of a team and have excellent organizational, project management and written statistical report skills.

This position offers an outstanding opportunity for collaborative research in a highly interactive,

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multi-disciplinary group of clinical, laboratory, and epidemiological researchers, as well as independent methodological research in biostatistics. Send C.V. and the names of four references to Myron Levine, M.D., DTPH, Professor & Director, Center for Vaccine Development, c/o JoAnn Gibbs, Academic Programs Office, Department of Medicine, N3E09, University of Maryland Medical Center, 22 S. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-1595, Reference position 03-309-483. The UMB encourages women and minorities to apply and is an AA/EEO/ADA employer.

**Director, Statistical Services** – location: Falls Church, VA (2984BR)

IMS is the one global source for pharmaceutical market intelligence, providing critical information, analysis and services that drive decisions and shape strategies. Our employees set the standard for comprehensive, high-quality pharmaceutical industry information and insight around the world.

**Principal Accountabilities:** This position will jointly serve in IMS' Government Solutions (GS) group and in IMS' Statistical Services and Advanced Analytics group. This individual will collaborate extensively with the Government Solutions team and serve as the statistical expert for meetings with government personnel. This will involve serving as statistical lead on proposals, contributing to the methodology and technology sections, demonstrating our capabilities and innovative solutions, overseeing the various project components, and presentation of results to the client. The position will require matrix management of resources familiar with IMS data assets, and on-site analysts and developers at GS. In addition, the individual will manage/mentor several GS statistical analysts with career development and performance management. Within Statistical Services, this role will provide internal consulting on statistical analysis to the broader team. The ideal candidate is self-motivated and demonstrates consulting, creativity, project planning, attention to detail and critical thinking skills. He or she possesses in-depth knowledge of statistical methodologies applied to large data sets typical of health care surveys. Clear written and oral communication skills are essential. Previous experience with IMS data assets is desirable.

**Requirements:** Typically requires a Ph.D. with 8+ years of experience or a Masters degree in Mathematics, Statistics or Information Technology with 10+ years experience in research projects, survey methodology applications, and project management.

For more information and to apply visit our website at: [www.imshealth.com/careers](http://www.imshealth.com/careers) and click on Job Opportunities. Under search openings use 2984BR to direct you to this open position. Resumes with letters of interest may also be send to: [jfranzen@us.imshealth.com](mailto:jfranzen@us.imshealth.com)

**Data Access & Confidentiality Manager**

**Job Description:**

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (Center) has an outstanding career opportunity for a Data Access & Confidentiality Manager (Manager) to join its world-class team. The Center is one of the nation's leading health policy research centers and the premier source of health policy information for California. Established in 1994, the Center is based in the School of Public Health and affiliated with the School of Public Affairs.

The Manager is responsible for confidentiality policies and security procedures for all data released through the Data Access Center at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Major responsibilities include:

- \* Evaluating confidentiality policies and data access requests for the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the largest state health survey in the nation.
- \* Developing and implementing computer security plans and risk assessments; negotiating restricted-access data agreements with funders.
- \* Providing consultation on statistical disclosure limitation techniques, state and federal data privacy

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laws (including HIPAA), data security best practices, and legal and ethical concerns.

- \* Preparing or supervising the preparation of CHIS applications to the UCLA and state human subjects protection committees in compliance with applicable policies and procedures. Ensuring that questions and concerns are responded to clearly in writing with appropriate source documentation.
- \* Developing submissions and obtaining approvals for a CHIS Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- \* Ensure timely completion of project deliverables and ongoing operations of the Data Access Center.

#### Qualifications:

- \* Advanced degree in survey research, public health, law, sociology, demography or a related field, or combination of relevant experience and education desirable, preferred.
- \* Knowledge of computer security planning, processes, and standards (including HIPAA), and the ability to design, evaluate and implement administrative systems related to secure environments.
- \* Ability to develop and implement policies and procedures regarding confidentiality and security.
- \* Detailed knowledge of statistical disclosure limitations theory and methodology as applied to survey data.
- \* Knowledge of federal and state laws, regulations, policies and procedures related to the protection of human subjects.
- \* Ability to draft and negotiate agreements with federal, state, and private organizations, in consultation with legal counsel, and serve as liaison with legal counsel and institutional review boards.
- \* Skills in developing applications to federal agencies and institutional review boards.
- \* Demonstrated skills in data management and understanding of data systems.

#### Compensation:

\$4,875 to \$7,500 monthly, dependent on experience. Excellent benefits. Equal Opportunity Employer.

#### How to Apply:

Go to <https://hr.mycareer.ucla.edu> and search for Requisition Number 10178.

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**MATHEMATICAL STATISTICIANS, GS-1529-14**  
**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY**  
**DIVISION OF HAZARD ANALYSIS**

The CPSC has two opportunities for GS-1529-14 Mathematical Statisticians. CPSC is an independent Federal regulatory agency that is responsible for protecting the American public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from over 15,000 consumer products. Your statistical training and experience will play a major role in helping us characterize the prevalence and hazard patterns associated with consumer products. These statistics are integral to identifying emerging trends, supporting development of safety features and standards and informing consumer product related enforcement and regulatory decisions.

Successful candidates for the position of Emerging Hazards Team Leader and the Mathematical Statistician position will join a team of statisticians in the Division of Hazard Analysis. Both positions require degrees in statistics, epidemiology, or mathematics. Specifically, experience with generation of parametric and non-parametric point and interval estimates, statistical modeling, design of experiments, sample size determination, and analysis of data from complex surveys is necessary. The ability to process, integrate, analyze and interpret results from multiple sources of national incident data and to formulate solutions that produce quantitatively defensible products is required.

The Emerging Hazards Team Leader will plan, direct and develop statistical efforts to identify emerging hazards and monitor the conduct of product safety assessments. The Mathematical Statistician will conduct statistical analyses to characterize consumer product related hazards and evaluation of reduction options.

Both of these positions are located in Bethesda, Maryland and are open to qualified U.S. citizens with either no prior Federal status or prior Federal Status. Civil Service Salary for GS-14 is \$93,822 to \$121,967.

The CPSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for these positions shall be determined on the basis of merit and without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, political preferences, marital status, sexual orientation, labor affiliation or non-affiliation or other non-merit factors.

For more information and to submit an application, please click on the Vacancy Announcements link at <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/hr.html>. There are two vacancy announcements for each position. One is open to the public. The other is for status candidates. The vacancy announcements are numbered 4320EPHA-2007-0004 through 4320EPHA-2007-007.

**Research Assistant**

InterMedia, a global research, evaluation and consulting firm specializing in the field of media and communications has a great entry-level opportunity for qualified individuals who are eager to learn and highly motivated in pursuing a career in qualitative and quantitative research. We are seeking a Research Assistant who will be responsible for providing support to the Research and Analysis Unit and the Project Management staff in all stages of the survey data processing to include data management, retrieval and archiving. The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- \* Bachelors degree with a minimum of 1-2 years work experience in SPSS data processing/programming;
- \* Solid knowledge of SPSS programming;
- \* Some knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite;
- \* Working knowledge of graphic and other presentation software, desirable;

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- \* Strong analytical and writing skills;
  - \* Good planning and organizational skills;
  - \* Good customer service skills;
  - \* Ability to work positively within a team environment.

InterMedia offers an excellent compensation and benefits package, a casual and friendly work environment, and a convenient downtown DC location. We invite qualified candidates to email their cover letters and resumes to RAU-HR@intermedia.org or fax to 866-500-4095.

EOE/M/F/V/D

### **Statistical Consultant**

Statistical Consultant needed for federal agency investigating employment discrimination.

- \* Selects appropriate statistical methodology
- \* Performs analysis, evaluation and interpretation of results
- \* Generates data summary reports for cases and other matters under investigation
- \* Serves as resource regarding statistical questions

Specific responsibilities include:

- \* Analysis of hiring process to determine whether there exists statistically significant adverse impact on minorities during hiring process
- \* Comparison of percentage of minority incumbents to civilian labor force for specific job classifications in order to target jurisdictions for potential litigation;
- \* Calculation of monetary damages (back pay with interest, pension, etc.) for plaintiffs

Requirements and experience:

- \* M.S. in Statistics
- \* Proficiency with SAS, statistical analysis, programming, data manipulation and data quality management
- \* Experience with data editing procedures, data processing and analysis of large datasets, and statistical analysis of categorical data.

This is a part-time, contract position (2-3 days per week).

For additional information, contact

Rick Shapiro  
Lockheed Martin Business Processes  
Rick.Shapiro@usdoj.gov  
202-305-1297



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## Washington Statistical Society - Short Course Announcement

### The Analysis of Cross-Classified Categorical Data

September 27-28, 2007

**Registration Due By September 17, 2007**

Statistical methods for the analysis of categorical data in the form of contingency tables were transformed by the development of log-linear model methods in the 1960s and 1970s when computation via maximum likelihood estimation became not only feasible but widely accessible via the major statistical packages. This two day short course is based on materials from an M.S. level course taught at Carnegie Mellon and will introduce participants to log-linear models and methods for fitting them to multi-dimensional contingency tables. The material will include the use of graphical models and their interpretation, and the applicability of the methodology to large sparse tables.

**Who Should Attend:** Participants should have background in basic statistical theory and some familiarity with two-dimensional tables. The course will presume participants have access to computer programs in such systems as R, S-plus, and SAS, and to MIM, a freely available PC-based program for graphical models. The lectures will use output from such programs but no training in their use will be provided.

**About the instructor:** Stephen E. Fienberg is Maurice Falk University Professor of Statistics and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon University, with appointments in the Department of Statistics, the Machine Learning Department, and Cylab. He is a co-author of *Discrete Multivariate Analysis* and the *Analysis of Cross-Classified Categorical Data*, both Citation Classics originally published by MIT Press and reprinted by Springer-Verlag this summer and he continues to publish widely on categorical data topics. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He served as ASA Vice-President, IMS President, and was a recipient of the COPSS' Presidents' Award and the ASA's Samuel S. Wilks Award.

**Text:** Stephen E. Fienberg *The Analysis of Cross-Classified Categorical Data*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Reprinted by Springer-Verlag, 2007. (Included with registration fee along with updated lecture notes.)

**Schedule for Course:** The course will be held over two days September 27 and 28. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM on Day 1 and the class will run from 9 AM to 4:30 PM both days. There will be coffee and Danish in the morning before class both days and at the morning break, with beverages and cookies in the afternoon. Lunch will also be provided both days.

**Location:**

American Statistical Association (near Braddock Road Metro stop)  
732 N. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Registration Fee: (Please send registration form along with payment to Brenda Boateng by September 17, 2007). Class size will be limited, so please register early.**

Full-time students (Provide copy of student ID with registration—only 5 student slots available)	\$ 70
WSS members	\$ 225
All other registrants	\$ 275

**For more information on this course**, please contact the WSS short-course co-chairs:  
Sylvia Dohrmann – [SylviaDohrmann@westat.com](mailto:SylviaDohrmann@westat.com)  
Trena M. Ezzati-Rice – [trena.ezzati-rice@ahrq.gov](mailto:trena.ezzati-rice@ahrq.gov)

