WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

2011 WSS ELECTION CANDIDATES

The 2011 WSS election will be held online. Instructions on voting will be sent to members. Below are the candidates for this year's election. All WSS members are urged to vote once the balloting begins. The results will be announced in **early July**.

Candidates for President (select one)

Michael Larsen (George Washington University) received a PhD in statistics from Harvard University. He joined The George Washington University Department of Statistics as Associate Professor in 2009. Besides teaching survey sampling and advising PhD students in statistics, he is a faculty member at GW's Biostatistics Center, which coordinates multi-center clinical trials and runs long-term observational studies.   Before joining GW, Dr. Larsen was on faculty at four universities, most recently Iowa State University, where he earned tenure. He has consulted for and collaborated with researchers at a number of government agencies (including the Census Bureau and NCHS), research organizations (including Gallup, NORC, and Westat), and academic departments. His interests include survey sampling, missing data, record linkage and administrative records, disclosure limitation and confidentiality, Bayesian statistics, hierarchical and mixture models, statistical modeling of complex data, and statistics education. From 2008-2010 Michael was Executive Editor of CHANCE Magazine. Currently he is associate editor for three journals and serves on a National Academies of Sciences Panel on Census 2010. Previously he was on the ASA professional advisory committee to the Census

Bureau and has served on review panels for NIH and NSF.   In 2010, he became an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and the program chair-elect/program chair of the American Statistical Association's Survey Research Methods Section for 2011/2012. Previously he has been a council of sections representative and education officer for ASA SRMS. He joined WSS in 2009 and is a member of IMS and AAPOR.

Keith Rust (Westat and JPSM) is a Vice President and Associate Director of the Statistical Staff at Westat, and a Research Professor at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland at College Park. He holds a Ph.D. in biostatistics from The University of Michigan. Keith has extensive experience in sampling methods, the design and specification of large-scale sample surveys, and the analysis of survey data. He has applied his research and knowledge to a variety of education research projects over the past 25 years, both national and international. He has directed work on government surveys related to education, health, and social issues. He teaches survey methods at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology. Keith is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and has held elected positions in the Survey Research Methods and Social Statistics Sections. He was Methodology Section/Program Chair of the Washington Statistical Society in 2008-09, and is currently a member of the Hansen Lecture Committee. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on National Statistics during the 1990s.

Candidates for Methodology Program Chair (select one)

Dan Beckler (USDA-NASS) is a supervisory mathematical statistician at the National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture. He has worked in several areas of NASS, including Field Operations, Sample Design, and Research and Development. Dan is currently responsible for handling administrative data NASS receives from other agencies and NASS's Data Laboratory. He received his Masters from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (statistical concentration) at the University of Maryland.

Charles Day (IRS-SOI) is a statistician for the Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service (1983 – 1992, 2004 – 2011). He previously worked for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (1992 – 2004). He has served on FCSM's subcommittee on data editing, and on FCSM's working group on privacy. Charles received Master's Degrees in Statistics (1998) and Computer Science (2003), both from George Mason University. His primary areas of interest and experience are automated record linkage, classification of satellite imagery, optimal survey design, and evolutionary computation.

Candidates for Representative-at-Large (select two)

Safaa Amer (NORC) is a multi-lingual Senior Statistician at NORC with wide-ranging experience in statistical analysis, survey sampling, impact evaluation, missing data analysis and imputation, time series analysis, and data mining. She has been working on international projects with focus on poverty reduction and social development in the fields of education, health, water, and agriculture. Dr. Amer is also an Adjunct Professor at George Washington University. She received her Bachelor from the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences at Cairo University-Egypt. She then completed her Masters and PhD in Statistics from Oregon State University in addition to a professional degree in GIS. Dr. Amer is a member of several

national and international statistical associations. She is a referee at the Journal of Official Statistics and the Arab Journal of Administrative Sciences. She also contributed in several graduate level theses. She is dedicated to building capacity within the international community in Statistics and Survey research, adapting international standards to specific cultural settings, and raising awareness on human rights, data confidentiality, and professional ethics within the youth. She is a member of the ASA committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights as well as the Egyptian American Cultural Association.

Mel Kollander (Consultant) is an internationally known survey methodologist with more than 40 years of extensive experience in the public and private sectors. Currently, Mel is a consultant to the federal government and private companies. During his professional career, he held positions at Temple University as the founder and director of the Institute for Survey Research's Washington, D.C.office, the Environmental Protection Agency as the principal survey methodologist, Advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Kuwait. Mel is very active in the statistics community notably as a long time board member of the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and currently co-chair of WSS's Agriculture and Natural Resources Program. In 2006, he received the WSS President's Award for his service to the Society. Mel is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI).

Dan Liao (RTI International) is a research statistician at RTI International. Prior to joining RTI in 2010, she received her doctoral degree from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at University of Maryland-College Park and master's degree from the Survey Research and Methodology Program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has also worked for National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Gallup Research Center. Her survey research interests include multi-phase survey designs, combining survey and administrative data, survey data visualization, latent class analyses, mixture models, and, most recently, regression diagnostics for complex survey data through her dissertation. Dan has served as leader and committee member for multiple graduate student associations.

Van Parsons (NCHS) received his PhD in mathematical statistics at the University Iowa, and has spent his professional career in academia and government. For the past 26 years he has been a Mathematical Statistician in the in the Office of Research and Methodology at the National Center for Health Statistics.   His prior working experience has been at SUNY-Binghamton, University of Cincinnati and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Van is interested in statistical applications involving complex survey data and has focused much of his efforts on design and analysis issues related to the National Health Interview Survey. His current primary research interests are in Bayesian methods, small area estimation and order-restricted inference. He has recently coauthored papers in *JASA* (2007) and *Statistics in Medicine* (2011).

Candidate for Secretary (select one)

Darryl V. Creel (RTI International) is a Senior Research Statistician at RTI International and has worked there for six and a half years. Prior to working at RTI, he worked at Mathematica Policy Research. In 1997, he received an M.S. in Statistical Science from George Mason University and became a member of the Washington Statistical Society. His general research interest is the survey process. His specific research areas of interest are imputation, nonresponse adjustments, and the analysis of survey data.

Attendees of a WSS Board meeting (2011)

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Title: **Why one should incorporate the design weights when adjusting for unit nonresponse using response homogeneity groups**

Organizer: David Judkins, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Chair: Adam Safir, WSS Methodology Program Chair

Speaker: Phil Kott, RTI International

Discussant: Roderick J.A. Little, U.S. Census Bureau and University of Michigan

Date & Time: Thursday, June 9, 12:30pm-2:00pm

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10
To be placed on the seminar 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: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract:

When there is unit nonresponse in a survey sample drawn using probability-sampling principles, a common practice is to divide the sample into mutually exclusive groups or "adjustment cells" in such a way that it is reasonable to assume that each sampled element in a group is equally likely to be a survey nonrespondent. In the introduction to Little and Vartivarian (Statistics in Medicine, 2003), the authors write, "if adjustment cells are formed in this way [homogenous with respect to response probability], then weighting the non-response rates is unnecessary and inefficient, that is, it adds variance to estimates." We will see that this statement is, at best, misleading. Moreover, it is not supported by Little and Vartivarian's own simulations. In fact, if the goal is to estimate the population mean of a survey variable that roughly behaves as if it were a random variable with a constant mean within each group regardless of the original design weights, then incorporating then design weights into the adjustment factors will usually be more efficient than not incorporating them under the assumed response model. Moreover, if the survey variable behaved exactly like such a random variable, then the estimated population mean computed with the design-weighted adjustment factors would be nearly unbiased in some sense even when the sampled elements within a group are not equally likely to respond.

Title:	**Using statistics to solve the medical mystery of the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**
Speaker:	David T. Mage, (WHO and USEPA, Retired),
Chair:	Mel Kollander
Date/time:	**Wednesday, June 15, 2011 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 (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: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Abstract:

The Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is a diagnosis of exclusion in the absence of finding any sufficient cause of death at autopsy and death scene investigation. The ages of SIDS have a 4-parameter lognormal (Johnson SB) distribution that is apparently SIDS most unique and characteristic property, so any theory for the cause of SIDS must explain its universality.

The four parameters of this distribution appear to apply to all countries and have remained virtually constant during the period of redefinition of SIDS and change of preferred sleeping position from prone to supine in which the SIDS rate decreased dramatically. These data are shown to obey Cramer's Theorem in that age distributions of male SIDS, female SIDS, and Sudden Unexpected Death in infancy (SUDI) [defined here as 'SIDS mentioned on death certificate as a possibility but other possible cause assigned'] have similar age distributions to SIDS where it is the only cause of death given on the certificate.

The proposed universal SIDS age Normal Transform is $y = \text{Log}[(m - a)/(b - m)]$, where $y = mu + sigma\ z$, m is age in months, z is a standard normal deviate, and $mu = -1.05$ and $sigma = 0.291$ are median and standard deviation of y. $a = -0.31$ month and $b = 41.2$ months are the 3rd and 4th parameters, respectively. For these fixed 3rd and 4th parameters the relative constancy of the mean and standard deviation of the SIDS and SUDI age distributions over many years implies that its parameters are both universal and independent of sleep position. [Internation Journal of Pediatrics 2009 (Free on-line),Scandinavian Journal of Forensic Sciences, 2010;16(1) and 2011;17(1) in press]

POC: MageDonner@aol.com

Title: **Design and Analysis of a Dual-Frame Survey: The National Bald Eagle Post-Delisting Survey**

Speaker:

Mark C. Otto, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John R. Sauer, U.S. Geological Survey
Emily Bjerre, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: **Wednesday, 29 June 2011 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

Location:

228 Gabrielson Hall, Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge,
Laurel, MD 20708

Directions:

From the NE portion of the beltway, go north on the Baltimore Washington Parkway (295). Go east at the third exit, Powder Mill Road (212), and go to the end. Cross 197 into the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge. Go about a mile curving around to the right until you drive into a parking lot. There will be a pond on the right and two buildings on the left. Park and walk between the two buildings to Gabrielson, the larger, modern building. Conference room 228 is upstairs at the end of the main hall on the left. For more information, contact Mark Otto (301) 497-5872, Mark_Otto@FWS.Gov.

Abstract:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's dual-frame bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) post-delisting survey provided additional statistical survey design and analysis issues. Bald eagles in the contiguous 48 States are statistically rare. The dual frame sample design took advantage of existing valuable information to target samples. A nationwide list of known bald eagle nest sites provided by State wildlife agencies made the primary sampling frame (the list frame). An additional area-based sample (the area frame) was selected from a grid of 10 by 10 km2 plots in 18 strata in 20 States with high densities of bald eagle nests, totaling approximately 400 plots. Surveys were conducted during the spring of 2009, using fixed wing aircraft in most states and helicopters in Washington and Oregon. Double-observer methods were used in the aircraft to estimate detectability of nests.

Sampling strata were developed using historical data on densities of occupied nests. These densities were summarized over 165 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) within States, then aggregated into 20 larger strata sequentially by combining adjacent State-BCR regions with similar densities while monitoring increases in the survey total standard error. Sample sizes had to be allocated over not only the strata but also the list and area sampling frames. Allocation of samples to the list frame depended on the unknown coverage of the State nest lists. A general method of obtaining optimal stratum allocations and cost-variance curves was developed: simulating over a reasonable range of uncertain (nest occupancy rate) and unknown (coverage of the State nest lists) parameters, then fixing the cost and minimizing the variance in the cost-variance equation. The Haines-Pollock dual frame screening estimator was used

to estimate the number of active nests in the list frame plus the number of "new" nests found in only the area frame. When separate occupancy surveys or censuses were done, an occupancy misclassification rate could also be estimated to account for the birds missed on single visits in the area frame.

Results from a 2008 New Brunswick Canadian Provincial survey and the 2009 baseline survey give some idea of the efficacy of the dual-frame design. The dual-frame design allowed us to estimate the completeness of the nest lists.

POC: Mark_Otto@fws.gov

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: **Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**
Date: **June 11–14, 2012**
Host: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions
Location: Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Description:

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:

- Updating business registers
- Sample design challenges
- Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
- Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
- Issues of multi-mode data collection
- Factors that affect establishment survey participation
- Generalized survey processing systems for establishment surveys
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys
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The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions. Inquiries may be directed to ices4@amstat.org.

Call for Topic-Contributed Sessions, Contributed Papers, and Posters:

Online submission will open on **June 1, 2011**, and close on **August 31, 2011,** at http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012. Contributed papers and poster presentations submitters need to submit an abstract not to exceed 1,200 characters (including spaces). Topic-contributed session organizers need to submit a proposal describing the session topic and why it is important or what has changed since ICES-II in 2007, including the names of session presenters and providing abstracts for each presentation. The ICES_IV Program Committee will review the submissions and notify submitters by the end of December 2011 whether their submissions have been accepted.
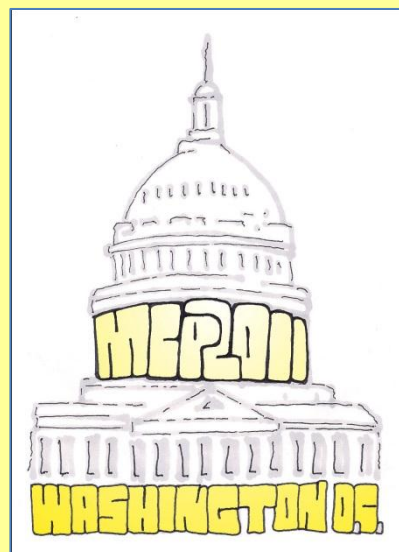
Event: **The 7th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures**
Date: **August 29 – September 01, 2011**
Location: Hilton, Rockville MD
Description:

The 7th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures will be held on August 29 - September 01, 2011 at the Hilton Rockville Hotel, MD. The main goal of the conference is to promote research and applications of multiple comparison procedures. The application areas of multiple comparison procedures are a rich and important source of cross-disciplinary statistical research. This conference will provide a forum for technical interactions among industry practitioners, research scientists from different subject matter areas and statisticians.

Keynote speakers:

- James O. Berger (Duke University, USA)
- Terry Speed (WEHI, Australia & UC Berkeley, USA)

Topics include:

- Bayesian Methods and Decision Theory
- Bioinformatics and Pharmacogenomics
- Multiple Endpoints Problems
- Adaptive and Sequential Designs
- Clinical Trial Applications
- Closed Testing and Partitioning Principles
- Screening and Selection
- Theory and Foundations (Error Rates, Estimation Procedures, etc.)

For more information, please check the web site www.mcp-conference.org, or contact either Sue-Jane Wang at Suejane.Wang@fda.hhs.gov, Jason Hsu at jch@stat.osu.edu or Frank Bretz at frank.bretz@novartis.com.
The conference is supported by *The International Society for Biopharmaceutical Statistics*

Event: **The SouthEast SAS® Users Group (SESUG) 19th Annual Conference is coming to your area.**

Date: **October 23-25th, 2011**

Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA

Description:

For the first time, the SESUG will hold their annual conference in the Washington D.C. area, making it very convenient for professionals in the DC Area to attend. The conference will be held October 23-25th, 2011 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. The conference schedule, academic sections, and events are planned to accommodate local users. Some examples include:

- Opening session on Monday morning rather than Sunday evening
- Internet connection availability in the conference area
- Two full days of content rather than a day and a half

SESUG is a regional user group that welcomes all SAS users with conference locations in the southeastern United States. SESUG is a great opportunity for significant SAS training and networking with other SAS professionals.

For those interested in sharing how they use SAS, the call for papers is currently open. Submit an abstract to share your knowledge through a paper presentation, poster or a panel discussion. Abstracts are due May 2, 2011. Academic sections are listed below.

- Government and Health Care Apps
- Beyond the Basics
- Step by Step
- Coders Corner
- JMP®
- Reporting and Information Visualization
- Statistics and Data Analysis
- Posters

Registration:

Conference registration will open **June 8th**. We hope you will join us in a great opportunity to enhance your SAS knowledge and network with other SAS users. More information can be found at the conference website: http://www.sesug.org/SESUG2011/index.php.

Event:　　　**Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference**
Date:　　　**January 10-12, 2012 (Save the date!)**
Location:　Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
Description:

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on **January 10-12, 2012**.

Schedule of Activities:

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	May 6, 2011
Papers selected/Authors notified	June 22, 2011
Advance program ready	September 2011
Conference registration open	October 3, 2011
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	November 16, 2011
Final program ready	December 2011
Conference dates	January 10-12, 2012
Final paper due (FCSM Web site)	March 2012

POC:

To obtain conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:
Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator
Email: fcsm@census.gov
Phone: 202-874-0464

For questions about abstracts contact:
Kevin Cecco, Program Chair
Email: Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov
Phone: 301-763-2308

Event: **2nd ACM SIGHIT International Health Informatics Symposium (IHI 2012)**
Date: **January 28-30, 2012**
Location: Miami, Florida
Website: http://www.sighit.org/ihi2012 , http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/ihi2012/
Description:

IHI 2012 is the main conference of the newly formed ACM Special Interest Group on Health Informatics (SIGHIT). IHI 2012 is ACM's premier community forum concerned with the application of computer science principles, information science principles, information technology, and communication technology to address problems in healthcare, public health, and everyday wellness. The conference highlights the most novel technical contributions in computing-oriented health informatics and the related social and ethical implications. IHI 2012 will feature keynotes, a multi-track technical program including papers, demonstrations, and panels. New additions to the IHI 2012 program include tutorials and a doctoral consortium.

IHI 2012 serves as a venue for the discussion of innovative technical contributions highlighting end-to-end applications, systems, and technologies, even if available only in prototype form (e.g., a system is not deployed in production mode and/or evaluation may be performed by giving examples). We strongly encourage authors to submit their original contributions describing their algorithmic contributions, methodological contributions, and well-founded conjectures based on an application-oriented context. A paper does not have to be comprehensive and can focus on a single aspect of design, development, evaluation, or deployment.

Contributions in the realm of social and behavioral issues might include empirical studies of health-related information use and needs, socio-technical studies on the implementation and use of health information technology, studies on health informatics in the context of community impact and implications, studies on public policies on leveraging health informatics infrastructure, among others.

Call for Papers:

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

The conference will accept both regular and short papers.

Regular papers (6-10 pages in length) will describe more mature ideas, where a substantial amount of implementation, experimentation, or data collection and analysis will be described.

Short papers (1-5 pages) can be less formal and will describe innovative ideas where a less degree of validation and implementation have occurred.

All papers will appear in the ACM Digital Library. The list of conference topics is available on the conference web site.

The best papers of IHI 2012 will also be considered for journal publication in a special issue of the ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST).

IHI 2012 has three tracks: analytics, systems, and human factors.

- The analytics track focuses on data analysis.
- The systems track focuses on building health informatics systems (e.g., architecture, framework, design, engineering, and application).
- The human factors track focuses on understanding users or context, interface design, and user studies of health informatics applications.

When submitting a paper, the authors must select a track that they regard as the most appropriate one for their paper. Before the review process starts, the PC co-chairs will check each paper and make adjustment if necessary to ensure the submission will be reviewed in the correct track.

A subset of highly-ranked papers will have oral presentation slots. The other accepted papers, which are not selected for oral presentation, will be presented as posters.

Submitted papers must not have appeared in, or be under consideration for, another conference, workshop, journal, or other target of publication.

Abstract submission deadline: June 23, 2011 11:59pm EST
Paper submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

NON-REFEREED EXTENDED ABSTRACTS SUBMISSIONS

The non-refereed extended abstract track offers an opportunity for health informatics practitioners and researchers to present their work in progress in two ways:
(1) as a poster presentation at the IHI conference and;
(2) as an article in the SIGHIT Record, the newsletter of SIGHIT (http://www.sighit.org/record/).
Extended abstracts will not appear in the conference proceedings.
Although the non-refereed extended abstract submissions will not be formally reviewed, the IHI 2012 conference organizers will read all of the submissions to ensure every accepted submission is appropriate for IHI.
The conference organizers will work on ensuring that poster sessions are well attended and have a vibrant discussion environment.
Extended abstract submission deadline: September 8, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 15, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

DEMOS SUBMISSIONS

A submission proposal includes a demo paper and can optionally include a demo video, whose URL should be referred to in the textual demo description for reviewers to take into consideration when analyzing the submission. Note that the demo paper should differ from regular papers in several important aspects.

(1) it should clearly describe the overall architecture of the system or technology demonstrated.
(2) the paper should put great emphasis on the motivation of the work, on the applications of the presented system or technology, and on the novelty of the work.
(3) the proposal should clearly describe the demo scenario. In particular, it should describe how the demo audience can interact with the demo system, to better understand the underlying technology.

A list of IHI areas/topics can be found in the Call for Papers.
For demos running over the web, a back-up scenario should be described, in case connectivity is limited at the demo venue.
The notification for acceptance of demo papers is the same as that for regular papers.
Accepted demo proposals will appear in the final proceedings and in ACM digital library.

Demo paper submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM SUBMISSIONS

The doctorial consortium is expected to offer a supportive learning opportunity for doctoral students in two ways:
(1) as a poster presentation during a poster session of the IHI conference and
(2) as an article in the SIGHIT Record, the newsletter of SIGHIT (http://www.sighit.org/record/).
Extended abstracts will not appear in the IHI conference proceedings.
All extended abstract submissions for the doctoral consortium will be formally reviewed by the IHI Program Committee to ensure every accepted submission is appropriate for IHI.
The conference organizers will work on ensuring that the doctoral consortium is well attended and have a vibrant discussion environment.
Doctoral consortium submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

PANEL PROPOSALS SUBMISSIONS

Panel proposals are expected to address new, exciting, and controversial issues on computing-oriented health informatics and appeal to IHI 2012 attendees with various health informatics-related expertise. The proposed panel should be provocative, insightful, and informative. A mix of industry, government, and academic panel members is encouraged.
A panel typically includes approximately 4 panelists and a chair who serves as the moderator. The 90-minute panel should provide a balance between panelists' presentations/debate and audience interactions/discussions.
Panelists must make a commitment to participate. If for any reason, one panelist cannot attend the panel, the panel chair must first obtain the approval of the conference general/PC chairs before making another arrangement.
Panels will be featured prominently in the conference program.
Panel proposals will be reviewed by the PC Co-Chairs and the Conference Leadership, based on the IHI attendees' likely interest in them, the expertise of the chairs and the panelists, and the planned interactivity.
Panel proposal submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

TUTORIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

Tutorials at IHI 2012 will be presented by domain experts to cover current topics directly relevant to the conference theme of computing-oriented health informatics (a list of IHI areas/topics can be found in the Call for Papers). Proposed tutorials should be comprehensive, informative, and appealing to IHI 2012 attendees.

Each tutorial will be 120-minutes long. Tutorial instructors must make a commitment to prepare the tutorial materials (e.g., slides) that reflect the high quality standard of IHI.

Tutorials will be free to all IHI 2012 attendees, and tutorial instructors will receive free registration but not any financial aid from the conference.

All tutorials will be featured prominently in the conference program.

Tutorial proposals will be reviewed by the PC Co-Chairs and the Conference Leadership, based on the IHI attendees' likely interest in them, the breadth and depth of the topic(s), the planned materials to be used, and the expertise and credential of the instructor.

Tutorial proposal submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST

Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Event: **Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**
Date: **June 11–14, 2012**
Host: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions
Location: Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Description:

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:

- Updating business registers
- Sample design challenges
- Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
- Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
- Issues of multi-mode data collection
- Factors that affect establishment survey participation
- Generalized survey processing systems for establishment survey
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys

The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions. Online solicitation for contributed papers will occur **June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011**.

Inquiries may be directed to ices4@amstat.org.

Invited Paper Session Proposals:

Deadline to submit a proposal for an invited paper session has *passed*.

The ICES-IV program committee will review submitted proposals and notify session organizers by the end of May 2011 to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

Invited sessions will have three 25-minute presentations, a 15-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes of the session and asks questions of the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion.

Session Proposals:

Deadline for online submission of invited session proposals has *passed.*

If a session proposal is accepted, session presenters will be asked to upload an abstract to the conference system by September 30, 2011. If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic-contributed session. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic-contributed sessions) is August 31, 2011. Information about the differences between the invited and contributed sessions and their formats is available at **www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012**.

Event: **International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations**

Date: **October 31—November 3, 2012**

Host: H2R|2012: Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

Location: Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Description:

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations. Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)

Defining H2R populations
Measuring undercounts for H2R groups
Improving measurement with administrative records
Sampling H2R populations

Techniques and Methodologies

Recruitment methods
Targeting the H2R
Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
Overcoming language and literacy barriers
Use of community-based organizations
Dealing with complex living and housing situations
Tracking and tracing H2R populations

H2R Subpopulations

Racial minorities
Immigrant populations
Indigenous populations
Highly mobile and migrant populations
Homeless and refugee populations
Sexual minorities
Populations affected by natural disasters
Populations in zones of armed conflict
Stigmatized populations
Cross-cultural similarities and differences in H2R populations
Linguistic and cultural minorities

Information: (website) www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
(email)   H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JPSM Short Course

Main site: www.jpsm.org
Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Forthcoming Info-Metrics Workshops and Summer Classes:
(Announcements and Call for Papers)

Registration and additional information about activities, reports, etc., see:
http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/index.cfm

WORKSHOPS:

Fall 2011 (October)
Philosophy of Information, October 3, 2011, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-fall.cfm

Fall 2011 (November)
Information Theory and Shrinkage Estimation, November 12, 2011, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-november.cfm

Spring 2012 (March)
Information and Econometrics of Networks, March 30-31, 2012, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2012-spring.cfm

Five-Week Online SAS Training in Summer

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University will be offering a 5-week introductory course in SAS programming in Summer 2011 from **6/6/011 to 7/10/2011**. This is a perfect opportunity to become facile with one of technology's leading software packages to perform data management and data analysis using modern statistical methodology, from the comfort of home or office.

The course is offered completely online and does not require coming to campus. The course is taught by Dr. Linda Davis, Associate Professor of Statistics. Dr. Davis holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from Rutgers University and is an expert in data analysis and applied statistical methods.

There are two mechanisms to register for the training course:

Continuing Education: not for credit, fee $500. Register at
http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/seminars/sas_programming.php

Summer Statistics Courses at George Mason University

- STAT 250   Introductory Statistics I
- STAT 250 (Distance Education) Introductory Statistics I
- STAT 344   Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I
- STAT 350   Introductory Statistics II
- STAT 501 (Distance Education)   SAS Language and Basic Procedures
- STAT 789   Bootstrapping Methods

Contact: William F. Rosenberger, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman
            George Mason University, Department of Statistics, Volgenau School of Engineering
            4400 University Drive, MS 4A7
            Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
             Phone: 703-993-3645
            FAX: 703-993-1700
            wrosenbe@gmu.edu
webpage: http://statistics.gmu.edu, http://summer.gmu.edu

STUDENT COLUMN

Probability and Statistics Day at UMBC

Every spring semester at UMBC, the department of Mathematics and Statistics organizes the **Probability and Statistics day.** This event is organized with the aid of students and faculty members; students participate in the event with either a poster or an oral presentation and are involved in the logistics. The person orchestrating the whole event is our very own **Dr. Bimal Sinha** who is an inexhaustible source of energy and enthusiasm for his students and his colleagues at UMBC. He always encourages everyone to participate and by doing so ensures the event is a resounding success.

Probability and Statistics day is a weekend conference. This year the conference began on Friday April 22nd with a workshop on Synergistic Statistics and Graphics in Safety Reviews of Clinical Trials presented by **Dr. Russ Wolfinger**, Director of Scientific Discovery, SAS Institute, and assisted by **Dr. Kelci Miclaus** from SAS Institute too.

On Saturday, we started with a welcome by **Dean Philip Rous**, Dean of the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences at UMBC, **Dr. Nagaraj Neerchal,** Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UMBC and **Dr. Bimal Sinha,** Conference Chair. Then we had three keynote speakers: **Professor Jun Shao** of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Professor Dennis Cox** of Rice University and **Professor Marie Davidian** of North Carolina State University. In addition, poster presentations were held in the lobby throughout the day.

We also had three parallel sessions: two graduate students' oral presentations and one international invited session with speakers from Canada, Germany, Poland and Portugal. The last presentation was given by the top three UMBC alumni: **Inna Perevozskaya** (PhD, 2000) from Pfzier, **Justin Newcomer** (PhD, 2009) from Sandia National Lab and **Martin Klein** (PhD, 2009) from US Census Bureau. The conference ended with a banquet and a speech by **Dr. Larry Cox**, Assistant Director of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences.

For alumni and statisticians in general, this conference provides an excellent opportunity to keep in touch with colleagues and get updates as well as new insights on interesting topics. For current students, this is an opportunity to meet role models and of course, do some internship hunting. Registration is free for students and also student's top oral and poster presentations receive certificates and cash prizes. Next year, **Probability and Statistics day** will be on April 20th and 21st, save the date and be sure not to miss this unique event.

Paula Borrego
Statistics Graduate Student
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Web Volunteers Needed

To communicate more effectively with our members, the Washington Statistical Society is developing a new web site. The design, major functions, and main pages of the new site will be created by our vendor using a content management system. We are looking for volunteers to help with other tasks. These include:

1. Use the new content management system to create additional web pages.

2. Help convert email functions to operate with Constant Contact®.

No special skills are needed — just good attention to detail and familiarity with web browsers.

If you would like to help, or if you would like more information, please write to Phil Kalina at *wssvolunteer@philkalina.com*.

Thank you.

EMPLOYMENT

Senior Service Fellowship in Data Integration

Position and organization

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the principal health statistics agency in the United States. One of the 10 centers and institutes that constitute CDC, NCHS' mission is to compile accurate, relevant, and timely statistical information to guide actions and policies that improve the health of the American people. Within NCHS, the Office of Analysis and Epidemiology (OAE) is responsible for conducting developmental and evaluation research and analysis in the fields of epidemiology, health status, health services utilization, health promotion, and health economics. Within OAE, the Special Projects Branch (SPB) coordinates the data integration activities of NCHS and provides support and technical assistance to users of linked data files. For more information, visit the NCHS Data Linkage Activities page.

Fellowship overview

SPB's record linkage program is designed to maximize the scientific value of the Center's population-based surveys by linking NCHS surveys and administrative records, such as vital statistics and records from other agencies, enabling researchers to examine the factors that influence disability, chronic disease, health care utilization, morbidity, and mortality. As a member of SPB, the Senior Service Fellow will plan, conduct, and oversee evaluation studies related to data linkage, including those addressing complex methodological issues; conduct specialized health and health care studies using linked data for scientific presentations, NCHS reports, and scientific journals; mentor junior analysts and provide technical consultation to data users; and participate in external working groups. In addition, the Senior Service Fellow will contribute to all aspects of the planning and implementation of record linkages.

Qualifications

This fellowship is open to all citizens of the United States or legal permanent residents with a work authorization. Applicants must have successfully completed a doctoral degree or higher in statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, or a related field (e.g., medicine, economics, or health sciences) and have at least 3 years of postdoctoral training or work experience. Experience or applied coursework in collecting, computing, and analyzing statistical data and applying statistical techniques is required. Strong skills in using SAS, STATA, SPSS, SUDAAN, or other statistical software for complex data, as well as in speaking, writing, and interpersonal communication, are also expected.

Terms of appointment

The Senior Service Fellow will be offered an initial 24-month appointment, with potential for extension up to 5 years. A starting date will be determined by mutual agreement. An initial salary of $105,211 to $136,771 will be offered based on education and experience. Salary increases will be commensurate with performance. Fellows are eligible for annual and sick leave, Thrift Savings 401(k)-equivalent, health and life insurance, and a flexible work schedule. The Senior Service Fellow will have the option of free onsite parking or a public transportation subsidy. The local subway station is within walking distance.

Application process

Applications will be accepted through May 27, 2011. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, their curriculum vitae, official transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate credits, and two reference letters to Jennifer Parker at the mailing address below. Questions regarding this fellowship can be directed to Dr. Parker at jdparker@cdc.gov.

Mailing address

Jennifer D. Parker, Ph.D.
Chief, Special Projects Branch
Office of Analysis and Epidemiology
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 6418
Hyattsville, MD 20782

CDC/NCHS is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

Additional employment vacancies may be posted on http://washstat.org/employ.html.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tom Mesenbourg to Receive 2011 Julius Shiskin Award

Thomas L. Mesenbourg Jr., the Deputy Director of the U.S. Census Bureau has been selected to receive the 2011 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. This award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics interpreting the economy. The award recognizes Tom **for his contributions to developing and advancing economic statistics programs that meet the needs of a rapidly changing economy.** He is the 38th recipient of the award and will be honored at events hosted by the three sponsors of the award: The Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Director of the U.S. Census Bureau in 2008, Tom served as Associate Director for Economic Programs (2005 to 2008), Assistant Director for Economic Programs (1994 to 2005), and Chief of the Economic Census and Surveys Division (1991 to 1994). In 2004, Tom was the recipient of a Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Senior Executives, the government's highest award for career executives. Most recently as Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Census Bureau, he played a critical role in the 2010 Decennial Census that was completed under budget and on-time.

Tom's major contributions to economic statistics have been meeting the needs of a rapidly changing economy and include expanding coverage of services, introducing innovative classification systems of economic activity, and providing new data on the impact of technology. Although the direct impact of these contributions shows up as Census Bureau programs, he developed and implemented them by working with other Federal statistical agencies. Through this interagency cooperation, he was able to greatly enhance the usefulness of the new programs to other agencies. Thus, Tom has been a key leader in efforts to better integrate and improve statistics across statistical agencies, in particular the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census Bureau. His leadership and collaborative efforts have not only enhanced the usefulness of new Census Bureau programs,

but also has significantly improved the consistency, coverage, and accuracy of the data compiled by these three agencies.

Expanding coverage of services -- As the services sector was playing an increasingly important role in the economy, it became evident to users and producers of economic statistics that services were not being well covered in the United States and abroad. During his tenure at Census, he successfully led efforts to expand coverage of the services sector and improve the timeliness of data on the sector. He directed the implementation of a major expansion of the coverage of service industries in the 1987 Economic Census and further expansions in subsequent censuses. Also for the 2002 and 2007 economic censuses, he initiated a major expansion of the collection of product detail, adding almost 2000 types of services. To improve timeliness of the data on services, he carried the expansion of service industries from economic census years into the Services Annual Survey, completing this effort in 2008. He established the Quarterly Services Survey in 2004 and in 2005 expanded coverage of Annual Wholesale Trade Survey to include manufacturers' sales branches and offices as well as wholesale electronic markets and agents and brokers. Tom's work on the new quarterly survey and the additional data on wholesale trade provided critical source data for the estimates of GDP, which are prepared by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The Quarterly Services Survey provided for the first time quarterly estimates of service industry output giving BEA quarterly information for almost 20 percent of GDP.

Introducing innovative classification systems of the industrial activities – Tom played a pivotal role in the interagency development and implementation of the landmark North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). NAICS not only updated the old classification system to reflect the expanded importance of services and technology, but also was jointly developed by partnership with Mexico and Canada. Tom began his involvement with NAICS by planning and organizing the 1991 International Conference on Classification in Williamsburg, VA, which laid the groundwork for NAICS. Then, during the implementation, maintenance, and revision phases of NAICS, he served as the Census Bureau representative on the interagency Economic Classification Policy Committee. His main contribution to NAICS was his strong leadership of the Census Bureau as the first federal statistical agency to incorporate NAICS into its statistical programs beginning with the 1997 Economic Census followed by the related annual and monthly surveys. Tom continued his role in improving classification systems though his efforts to develop a companion product classification system – the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS). He began directing the Census Bureau's participation in the development of this system in 1999, with NAPCS data on service products first collected in the 2002 Economic Census and more fully implemented in the 2007 Economic Census.

Providing new data on the impact of technology – In addition to his contributions to modernizing the industry classifications used by federal statistical agencies, he also developed and implemented a number of new data collections at the Census Bureau that provided critical information on the impact of changes in technology. In the second half of the 1990s, private sector analysts issued estimates that showed that an unexpectedly large proportion of business activity was being conducted over the internet or other electronic channels. Tom took the lead in putting the federal government into the business of measuring electronic commerce. In 1999, the Census Bureau began to collect quarterly data of retail e-commerce sales, followed in 2002 by annual estimates of e-commerce activity for manufacturing, wholesalers, selected

service industries, and retail trade. These data showed that that although e-commerce sales were increasing rapidly, the levels published by the private analysts were grossly overstated. Another example, of Tom's developing new data on technology was the rapid growth of business expenditures for information and communication technology equipment and computer software, In 2004, Tom served on an interagency committee to look at filling this gap, and with his leadership, the Census Bureau launched the annual Information and Communications Technology Survey (ICTS) to collect data on non-capitalized and capitalized spending for information and communication technology equipment and computer software by U.S. nonfarm businesses. Data from this survey assist BEA in constructing the investment component of GDP; The Federal Reserve Board and the BLS also make use of these data to study the implications on technology for growth and productivity, measurement. Most recently, Tom facilitated the efforts by the National Science Foundation to develop a new survey of innovation that covers both research and development and a broad range of managerial, design, and creative innovations.

These improvements demonstrate his effectiveness in mobilizing the resources to develop new information in a timely manner. Working with other federal statistical agencies, the Department of Commerce, the Office of Management of Budget, and the Congress, he showed an exceptional ability to navigate the budget process with great success. In addition to obtaining funding for the improvements described above, another example of Tom's advocacy of new programs is the Bureau's innovative Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program and its Quarterly Workforce Indicator reports. Through his recent efforts, this program not only has received the necessary funding but also established the LED as an ongoing Bureau program.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner
Thursday June 16th, 2011 at 5:30 PM
China Garden, Rosslyn VA

Guest Speaker: Nilanjan Chatterjee, National Cancer Institute, NIH
Recipient of the 2011 Cox Award

Schedule:
5:00PM- Bar Opens
5:30PM- Presentation: Estimating the "known-unknowns" from "known-knowns" in the search of missing heritability of complex traits
6:30PM- Awards
7:00- 9:00 PM- Dinner

Dinner Details:
China Garden, *1100 Wilson Blvd # M76, Arlington, VA 22209*
Phone: (703) 525-5317 (Metro: Rosslyn- Orange/Blue)
http://superpageshosting.com/chinagardenvacom/door/

Cash Bar
Dishes to be served (all inclusive):

- Veggie Spring roll
- Shrimp Wonton
- Beef Chocho
- Flounder Filet
- Young Chow & Fried
- Crispy Sesame balls

- Asparagus Soup
- Prawns in House Salad Sauce
- Filet Mignon
- Rice
- Fresh Fruit

- Meat Dumplings
- Roasted Chicken Cantonese style
- Braised Mixed Veggies Buddhist Delight

Price: .... $47.00 by online register
.... $45.00 by check
.... $25.00 **full-time student***

* Full-time students must have 12+ credit hours. Send check for $25 or pay $47 online and receive a $20 reimbursement after dinner.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: FRIDAY, JUNE 10th

- Please register at: https://www.123signup.com/register?id=vhbgg
- Or make check payable to: "Washington Statistical Society"
  –**Include the full names of all individuals paid for by the check**.

Send to: Chris Cummiske, 701 13th Street, NW Suite 750, Washington DC 20005
Questions? Please Contact: Chris Cummiskey, ccummiskey@rti.org

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **July 2011** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15**th of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format (e.g., in an email) will be returned.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF.

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