

Washington Statistical Society

W.S.S. Newsletter—March 1980

CALENDAR

Title: Health Policy and Health Statistics in the '80's
Speaker: Joseph W. Duncan, Director
Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards
Date and Time: Wednesday, March 12, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: FAA Auditorium—800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
(Opposite the Hirshhorn, near the L'Enfant Plaza Metro Station,
7th & Maryland Ave. exit)

Topic: New Statistical Methodologies in the Analysis of Quantitative
Family Traits: Including Specific Application to the Mode of
Inheritance of Several Heart Disease Risk Factors
Speaker: Samuel Karlin, Professor of Mathematics, Stanford University
(Current past president, Institute of Mathematical Statistics)
Date and Time: Thursday, March 13, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: George Washington University Auditorium, Room 103,
Building C—G Street between 22nd and 23rd—Visitors parking
structure on I Street at 23rd

Topic: Information System for Measuring the Well-Being of Older People
Speakers: William Ammann, Principal Analyst, GAO
William Laurie, Team Leader, GAO
Thomas Walsh, Team Leader, GAO
Date and Time: Wednesday, March 19, 1980, 10:00 A.M.
Location: Federal Center Building, Room G-20, Hyattsville, Maryland
Washington Alliance of Statisticians

Topic: The Art of Consulting
Discussion Leader: Donald W. King, King Research
Date and Time: Evening Meeting, Wednesday, March 19, 1980, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
Location: Nativity Catholic Church—downstairs meeting room on 13th St.,
between Peabody & Quackenbos Sts., N.W. (just north of Missouri
Avenue—Military Road)

Topic: Recent Research on Immigration and Undocumented Workers
Speakers: Manuel Garcia, Department of History, University of California at
Los Angeles; Review of Recent Studies on the Volume of Un-
documented Immigration
Carlos Arce, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social
Research, University of Michigan; The Mexican Immigration:
Recent Findings from the National Chicano Research Program
Date and Time: Thursday, March 20, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd & Constitution, N.W.

Luncheon Session

Topic: Research Strategies in Clinical Medicine
Speaker: John C. Bailar, III
Date and Time: Tuesday, March 25, 1980; Cash bar—11:30 A.M.;
Lunch—12:00 Noon
Location: Ramada Inn, 8400 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD

Detailed Information on the Meetings

Title: Health Policy and Health Statistics in the '80's
Speaker: Joseph W. Duncan, Director, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards
Discussant: Ruth Hanft, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Research, Statistics, and Technology, HEW
Chair: Richard C. Taeuber, Women's Action Program, HEW

Health policy dimensions are growing steadily. Our body politic is increasing its concern with general health level, national health insurance, exposure to environmental factors, exposure to an ever-increasing number of carcinogens—almost to the point of exposure to burnt toast, etc. Add to this the perception by many, especially statisticians, that quantitative information is useful in the policy making process. With this inflation in demands for information in health areas, a standstill budgetary commitment of resources can yield a lessening of available information, if not also of available data. Will health data increase its relevance to and use in policy making? Are our data relevant to current issues and conditions—do we really care if people cannot hang out their wash? Will the clearance system, both within HEW and at OMB ever recognize that time is a crucial factor in the value of information? What impact will the looming reorganization of the Federal Statistical System have on this issue?

Sponsor: Public Health and Biostatistics Section

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Topic: New Statistical Methodologies in the Analysis of Quantitative Family Traits: Including Specific Application to the Mode of Inheritance of Several Heart Disease Risk Factors

Speaker: Samuel Karlin, Professor of Mathematics, Stanford University
(Current past president, Institute of Mathematical Statistics)

Chair: Samuel W. Greenhouse, Professor of Statistics, George Washington University

New statistical methods useful in the study of aggregations of family traits will be discussed. Several indices and statistical methods (major-gene index, midparental correlation), offspring between parent (OBP), cumulant function and graphical aids have concurrently evolved at three levels: (a) theoretical development; (b) simulation studies; and (c) application to data, to yield a robust statistical methodology for determining whether a trait is transmitted through many small additive genetic factors (polygenic) dominated by a single genetic factor (major gene) or largely environmental. The statistical methods can be applied to the study of aggregation of family traits in economic, sociological and psychological contexts.

Sponsors: Methodology Section and Statistics Department, George Washington University

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Topic: Information System for Measuring the Well-Being of Older People

Speakers: William Ammann, Principal Analyst, GAO
William Laurie, Team Leader, GAO
Thomas Walsh, Team Leader, GAO

Chair: Monroe Sirken, NCHS

The seminar will present the methodology and findings and implications of a pilot study that investigated the problems of (1) defining, measuring and evaluating the conditions of older persons, and (2) assessing the costs and benefits of services provided to older persons.

Sponsor: Public Health and Biostatistics Section

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Washington Alliance of Statisticians

Discussion Topic: The Art of Consulting

Discussion Leader: Donald W. King, King Research

Don is president of King Research, a consulting and contract research firm. His previous activities include periods of independent/individual consulting. Additionally he was a co-founder and long-term executive vice president of WESTAT.

The ALLIANCE, as discussed in earlier WSS newsletters, is an affiliation of statisticians in the Washington area, concerned with career development aspects other than straight statistical theory and methods, topics which especially impact on all professionally junior statisticians, both male and female. ANY statistician in the local area is invited and welcome, whether or not s/he is a WSS or ASA member.

If you have any questions about the meeting or the ALLIANCE, or need a ride to the meeting, please call Ruth Foster, 245-3000; Marcia Glauber, 632-9797; Lee-Ann Hayek, 381-4204; Nancy Schroeder, 827-6798; or Dick Taeuber, 790-1580, x238.

(Ample Parking)

Topic: Recent Research on Immigration and Undocumented Workers
Speakers: Manuel Garcia, Department of History, University of California at Los Angeles; Review of Recent Studies on the Volume of Undocumented Immigration
 Carlos Arce, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan;
 The Mexican Immigration: Recent Findings from the National Chicano Research Program
Discussant: Guillermina Jasso, Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy
Chair: Leo Estrade, U.S. Bureau of the Census

This session will review current and ongoing research on immigration and undocumented workers. Dr. Garcia's presentation will focus on demographic studies on the volume of the undocumented population. Both the results and limitations of past studies will be reviewed. Dr. Arce will discuss recent findings of a national household survey of people of Mexican origin. The focus will be to contrast the immigrant population with the native-born population on socioeconomic characteristics. Dr. Jasso will discuss ongoing research. This will attempt to place recent studies in a context which emphasizes fruitful areas for future research.

Sponsor: Social and Demographic Studies
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 Luncheon Session

Topic: Research Strategies in Clinical Medicine
Speaker: John C. Bailar, III

What kinds of research approaches do medical investigators really use? Bailar has been studying and classifying original articles in the medical literature for the purpose of learning what techniques are in most common use, where better techniques might be appropriate and what the greatest problems are. He will discuss approaches to a number of problems including: bias, generalizeability, inadequate samples, failure to use pairing in follow-up studies, and the important role of uncontrolled studies in exploratory work at the leading edge of science.

Location: Ramada Inn, 8400 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD
 Terrace B Conference Room (Take main lobby elevator to 5th Floor)

Reservations are \$6.75/person and must be received by March 23, 1980. Because space is limited, reservations will be accepted in order of receipt.

Name: _____ **Send \$6.75/person to:**
Address: _____ Jim Carpenter
 _____ Rt. 1, Box 410
 _____ Jefferson, MD 21755
No. of Persons: _____ **Checks payable to:** Washington Statistical Society
 For inquiries call Jim Carpenter
 Work Tel.: 523-1194

PROBABILITY-STATISTICS DAY
 Jointly sponsored by the Mathematical Statistics Program,
 Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, and the Statistical Engineering
 Division, National Bureau of Standards

Date: Saturday, April 12, 1980
Location: University of Maryland, College Park (Ample parking available)

This Probability-Statistics Day is part of a series of informal meetings in the Chesapeake Bay-Delaware Bay region initiated by the colleagues in the Johns Hopkins University, University of Delaware, and University of Maryland. The purpose of these one-day gatherings is to foster academic and personal interaction among probabilists and statisticians and people interested in the subject. The program consists of informal talks and discussions to be held in a morning (10-12 A.M.) session and an afternoon (2-4 P.M.) session followed by a wine and cheese party. A contribution of three dollars is requested from each participant to share the expenses.

Anyone interested in giving a presentation (20 minutes duration): Please mail the title and abstract to Prof. Grace Yang, Mathematical Statistics Program, Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 20742. For further information, please write or phone Professors Paul Smith or Grace Yang at 454-4883.

**Conference on
Applications of Numerical Analysis and Special Functions in Statistics**

As part of its Special Year in Numerical Analysis, the Mathematics Department of the University of Maryland is sponsoring an interdisciplinary conference on the Applications of Numerical Analysis and Special Functions in Statistics. The purpose of the conference is to describe how existing techniques in numerical analysis and special function theory can be used to solve problems in statistics and also to uncover areas of future research.

- Time and Place:** The conference will be held from October 2 through October 8, 1980, at the Adult Education Center of the University of Maryland. The first three days will be devoted primarily to numerical analysis, the last three to special functions, with statistics as the focus of the entire meeting.
- Principal Speakers:** There will be twelve fifty-minute lectures given by a selection of distinguished specialists. The tentative list is:
W.J. Cody, Argonne National Laboratory
J. Dennis, Rice
W. Gautschi, Purdue
G. Golub, Stanford
S. Karlin, Stanford
P.R. Krishnaiah, Pittsburgh
J. Lyness, Argonne National Laboratory
C. Paige, McGill
J.L. Snell, Dartmouth
J.H. Wilkinson, National Physical Lab., U.K.
- Invited Speakers:** Eighteen speakers will be asked to give half-hour talks. They will be selected from those submitting extended abstracts of about four typewritten pages. The deadline for submitting extended abstracts is June 1, 1980.
- Contributed Papers:** There will be parallel sessions at which fifteen minute contributed papers may be presented. Abstracts for contributed papers must be received by August 15, 1980.
- Accommodations:** The Adult Education Center has motel style rooms and a cafeteria. In addition, there are motels and restaurants within walking distance of the Center. Early reservations will insure accommodations.
- Inquiries:** Address inquiries to:
Professor Frank Olver, Institute for Physical Science and Technology
Professor G.W. Stewart, Department of Computer Science
Professor Grace Yang, Mathematical Statistics Program
Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742

**CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR FOURTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
IN MEDICAL CARE**

Nov. 2-5, 1980, Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Original papers are now being solicited for presentation at the Fourth Annual Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care, which takes place November 2 through 5, 1980, at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. The deadline for submission of abstracts is May 1, 1980.

The Symposium is designed to inform physicians, health care administrators, biomedical scientists, engineers, and other health care professionals about current and potential applications of computer technology to health care and to identify areas of research and development that need to be addressed. Papers are solicited from the medical and computer science perspectives. Topic areas include Medical Applications, Computer Systems and Techniques, and Issues of the 80's. Papers accepted will be reviewed and published in the *Proceedings* of the Symposium.

For further information, contact the Symposium Program Chairman: Joseph T. O'Neill, National Center for Health Services Research, Center Building, Room 8-30 No. 1, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782. Telephone: (301) 436-8946.

Inquiries regarding EXHIBITS should be directed to the Exhibit Chairman: Michael J. Ackerman, Ph.D., Naval Medical Research Institute, Mail Stop 38, Bethesda, MD 20014. Telephone (202) 295-1810.

Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Twelfth Annual Conference
of the Society for Advanced Medical Systems

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is the 10th of the month preceding the publication date.

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202 (202)245-8340

Job Openings

Mathematical Statistician
GS-1529-12/13

A research position is available for an applicant with a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in statistics with a strong background or interest in multivariate analysis and distribution theory. Some knowledge of computers preferred.

Mathematical Statistician
GS-1529-12/13

Positions for applicants experienced in the areas of operations research and quality control are available in the Division of Survey Operational Quality Research to develop quality control programs for large-scale sample surveys.

Mathematical Statistician
GS-1529-9/11/12

Several positions are available in the Office of Survey Design for developmental survey design work on major new ongoing programs. Applicants should have a Master's degree or equivalent experience or an interest in survey design.

For any of the above positions, send SF 171 to Barbara Boyes, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 2146, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20212, or contact Cathryn Dippo at 202/523-5448.

Statistician GS-1530-9/11/12
or
Math Statistician
1529-9/11/12

Positions require knowledge of Research and Development (RD) and/or Test and Evaluation (TE) in the materiel acquisition process; skill in the application of mathematical, statistical, or operations research techniques (e.g., principles of experimental design, probability modeling, statistical inference, sampling and analysis, reliability and life testing); application of analytical methods in reliability and maintainability; knowledge

of communications/electronics, mechanical/automotive or aviation systems. Send SF 171 to ANCIV-MPL (Attn: MANOV) Building 305, Fort Myer, VA 22211. Attach current performance appraisal and proof of status (SF 50) or copy of application under the Engineering, Physical Sciences and Related Professions register. Questions may be addressed to Mrs. Manov at 202/692-0598.

Statistician (Medical)
GS-1530-9/11/12

Position involves analysis of data from hospital discharge records and special surveys conducted by the Division, as well as publication of agency reports and articles for professional journals. Recent topics have included cancer survival, psychotropic drug prescriptions, arthritis, alcoholism, long-term care, and data-collection and editing techniques. Applicants should have at least a master's degree in statistics with a background in health statistics or equivalent experience, strong qualifications in report writing, and experience in using statistical packages, especially SPSS and SAS. Send SF 171 to Dr. William Page, Acting Chief, Biometrics Division (042A2), Reports and Statistics Service, Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, or call 202/389-3458.

Statistician-2394
Salary \$23,102

Applicant should have a graduate level understanding of statistical sampling, including 3 to 5 years experience working with sample surveys, and a background in the application of systems analysis and ADP techniques in a large-scale systems environment. Experience should include questionnaire design, development of data-collection procedures and quality control techniques. Send application or resume to U.S. Postal Service, Attn: Mrs. Watson, Room 1727, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W., Washington, DC 20260.

**Statisticians/
Biostatisticians**
GS-1530-9/13

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances is seeking statisticians and biostatisticians to work in the design and analysis of environmental and human exposure studies and epidemiologic studies in support of the risk assessment of toxic substances. In some positions, experience in the design and analysis of complex sample surveys and QA/QC is desirable. Programming experience in FORTRAN, SPSS, and FMDP is desirable. Send SF 171 and Transcript to Joe Carra, EPA-TS-793, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; or call 202/755-8294.

Mathematical Statistician
(Supervisory) GS-1529-14

The Food Safety and Quality Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a vacancy in its Mathematics and Statistics Division. Serves as Chief of the Experimental Design Branch and supervises the work of seven individuals, five of whom are mathematical statisticians.

Applicants should have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree or equivalent, including 24 semester hours in mathematics and statistics and 3 years of professional experience in mathematics or statistics fields. Applicants should also have a strong background in statistical theory, especially in experimental design and demonstrated competence in its application. Send SF 171 to Winnie Joy, USDA, FSQS, PD WSPO, Room 3438-S, 14th & Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Refer to announcement FSQS-80-08WSS. Applicants who applied under announcement FSQS-79-288 need not reapply. DEADLINE DATE: March 31, 1980.

Statistician
GS-1530-11

Plans, designs, conducts, and analyzes surveys. Requirements: (1) Knowledge of behavioral science research techniques gained through BA or MA coursework in psychology or sociology, (2) BA with 3 years' experience or MA with 2 years' experience or 90 graduate hours, (3) working knowledge of SPSS. Send SF 171 to Donna Johnson, U.S. Army Military Personnel Center, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332. Telephone 325-9680.

Statistician
Grade open

The Environmental Protection Agency is interested in applicants for future possible positions. Specialists in sampling or survey research, with private consulting or government background, should send an SF 171 to D. Bowers, EPA-PM 223, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Statistician
Graphics Specialist

The Senate Computer Center is expanding its statistical services to include graphics. Multiple positions are available requiring some combination of statistical analysis, especially survey statistics, computer graphics, and computer programming. As the Center is in the early stages in developing a graphics capability, graphics expertise is especially desirable. The positions involve performing and explaining computer-based analyses of a wide range of substantive issues at the request of members and committees of the U.S. Senate. Send resume to Jim Estep, Senate Computer Center, G-116 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Director, Statistics Division,
IRS, ES-1530
(\$47,889 to \$50,112)

The Director is responsible for the collection and publication of statistical data with respect to the operation and administration of the tax laws. The Director provides information for administrative use by the Service, for research studies within the Department of the Treasury for legislative use by the taxwriting committees of the Congress, and for use as benchmark data by others, both within and outside of government, who are engaged in forecasting economic activity in the private and business sectors.

Candidates should forward a Standard Form 171 to the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Resources Board, Internal Revenue Service, Room 3335, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20224. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 25.

Job Applicant

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant should notify Mrs. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

CODE NUMBER 3-3-80

Education: Ph.D. (Cornell University, 1976), Human Development/Educational Research. Postgrad work in computer programming.

Areas of Competence: Survey research, education program evaluation. Data collection methodology, sampling, statistical analysis, report writing.

Experience: Three years' experience teaching child development, research methodology at the graduate level. Three years as educational researcher/evaluator. Six years with SAS and SPSS packages on IBM 360/370 computers.

Position & Salary: Statistician, social science research analyst. GS-9/11 or equivalent.

Type of Employment: Public or private in Washington, D.C. metro area.



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