

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Karen Kafadar**

**Running for: President-Elect**

### **Current Positions/Employers:**

Chair & Commonwealth Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Virginia,  
Charlottesville 2014-present

### **Statement**

"..as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times." - Thomas Jefferson I am pleased to run for ASA President at a time when our strategic plan goals are as urgent as they have ever been: enhancing diversity & breadth of our association; increasing visibility of our profession; and ensuring our future. But the "circumstances" that drive our goals has changed: we face complex challenges and we "must advance also to keep pace with the times." Challenges Our profession faces threats in many fields (data science, psychology, economics, bioinformatics) whose training may include casual brushes with statistics. This has created populations of self-proclaimed statisticians who can sideline us in critical research areas unless we actively change our approach to statistical education and our response to society's needs to be more relevant to today's demand for solutions to complex multifaceted problems. Complex problems, such as detecting emerging epidemics, ensuring food safety, protecting our communications, and establishing reliable standards, cannot be solved by single individuals. More urgently, we need to anticipate these needs before others capitalize on our delay and develop attractive but flawed approaches. These challenges require diverse talents that include domain scientists and the best statistical solutions from statisticians whom we attract to our field and prepare to face big problems. ASA must create ways to forecast these tsunamis of change, identify our present and future statisticians to address them, and assist our members in developing data-based solutions that require our statistical expertise. Teams for complex problems These challenges present opportunities to promote our profession and to grow our field, both in numbers of statisticians and in the nature and quality of research solutions that define us. In my experience, statisticians have been critical components of teams that address problems in academe, industry (HP), and government (NIST, NCI). All too often this involvement arises by serendipity. Two examples are the 2009 NAS report on Forensic Science and the IPCC climate change reports ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)); on both, ASA reinforced statisticians' roles by keeping the topics on congressional and media radar screens. We need to develop further mechanisms to both forecast areas of change and respond to them, while we continue to build on our past successes. Engaging our Sections and Chapters We can start by mobilizing the talent in our Sections and Chapters. In education, many ASA Chapters have active connections with their local schools and universities. Our future ASA members will come from diverse populations only if they can identify with those they see today. The Board and I can work with ASA Chapters to support good role models on their outreach visits to local colleges, elementary and high schools. Next, experts in Sections' disciplines such as the sciences, health care, and computing can easily identify critical problems

within their domains; ASA can mobilize teams to match these problems with scientific and statistical expertise and initiate mechanisms to tackle them. The next statistical frontiers The age of self-contained problems solved by analyzing a few data sets is rapidly being replaced by global challenges that span multiple disciplines whose diverse data demand a myriad of methodological approaches. We must design mechanisms so our engagement on important complex problems is more likely and timely than mere serendipity, and then deliver results. I am honored by the opportunity to serve ASA as President, and will work with the diversity of expertise and talent in our association to develop ways to better enable us to identify, mobilize, support, and encourage our members to work on important problems and, in so doing, learn from all of you as well.

**David L. Banks**

**Running for: President-Elect**

**Current Positions/Employers:**

Professor of the Practice, Dept. of Statistical Science, Duke University, 14 years

**Statement**

I have been fortunate to have had a checkered career. It has exposed me to a wide range of statistical activity, mostly at universities and federal agencies. But my first job out of college was doing statistical analyses for a government contractor, which is how I learned what I wanted to be. From graduate school forward, the ASA has been a presence in my professional life. I joined in 1980, attended my first Joint Statistical Meetings in 1982, and am happy to have been at every JSM since Philadelphia in 1984. The ASA is my community, and the friendships I have found within it have enriched my life. The American Statistical Association is 177 years old. It is a social machine built by generations of statisticians to achieve two purposes: to advance our profession, and to advance our careers. In terms of the first goal, the ASA has had many successes---it has distinguished statisticians from mathematicians, enabled and empowered the federal statistical agencies, and brought statistical thinking into the high school curriculum. But challenges change. I believe the hurdles ahead are to ensure that public policy is based upon data rather than politics, that we strategically redefine our relationship with the emerging data science community, and that we help the general citizenship to see us as somewhat cooler and a bit more trustworthy than they presently do. In terms of the second goal, the ASA has been strikingly successful in fostering careers. Compared to many other fields, we are, on median, well compensated and enjoy high levels of job satisfaction. But we need to do more to raise the floor. And, since careers at different stages use the ASA's assets in different ways, we need to clue in junior colleagues on how the ASA can help leverage professional growth. One of the joys of our profession is that, compared to other sciences, we are relatively diverse in gender and employment (besides academics and industry, we are prominent in government). We must work to build that out more. If elected as ASA president, I would use the office to further our field and to help others advance. Statistics has pivoted from mathematics towards applications (we are a big tent, and there will always be need for deep theory, but our world is bigger than that). We must provide capacity to support that change. For example, I believe MS and PhD

students (and everyone else) should have easier opportunities to learn the modern heavy-lifting Big Data programming languages, such as Spark. The ASA can help that happen. Also, I believe that our publication system no longer efficiently serves our science---I have an extended rant on this that appeared in Amstat News #424---and I shall urge the ASA to modernize.

Those who know me know that I would be an active president. The office is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with some of the best people on the planet to make our profession stronger. I could never waste that Chance.

**Lorraine Denby**  
**Running for Vice President**

**Current Positions/Employers:**

Principal, Murray Hill Data Science, 1.5 yr.

**Statement**

My history within ASA has been that, when elected to an office, I have created initiatives that make a lasting mark on our profession, raised the funds as needed and carried them out to fruition. Some of these initiatives are still in place today. I would be grateful to have this opportunity again as your Vice President. For example, you may not know the history of amstat.org. As representative to the Council of Sections in the mid-90s, I decided that it was time for the ASA to have a web presence. I approached the Board and got its approval but no financial assistance. I then approached each Section for a donation towards the project, raised over \$30K, formed the committee and, voila!, amstat.org was born. By the way, our first URL choice (asa.org) was already taken. Many kudos to my great committee as I did not have the talents to do this on my own. Our design and initial server stayed in place for many years. As Chair of the Graphics Section, I initiated the student poster competition where elementary and high school students pose a question of interest, collect and analyze the related data and display the results in a poster. I got the idea by attending an ISI conference in Tokyo. Such a contest was in place in Japan where over 10K students submitted entries. The winning posters were displayed at the JSM. I arranged an opening reception and invited the ambassador from Japan to attend. We were honored by the vice ambassador. The most recent poster winners were featured in August 2016 Amstat News. The first ASA data expo presented a data set for members to analyze and display their results in a poster session at the JSM. It was an artificial data set that when projected the right way displayed the word eureka. I decided that it would be a more meaningful exercise if we used real data. Thus, for the next several years I chaired the data expo and obtained real data to be analyzed: crab fishery data from Alaska Fish and Wildlife, places rated data from the Places Rated Almanac and baseball salary data. I even arranged for crab legs to be donated from Alaska and put on a crab dinner for those who participated. The data expo continued for 30 years until 2013 and featured the analysis of real data. But, these are examples from the past, what would I like to do in the future? Increase public and business awareness of statistics: Anyone who has a computer with some number crunching software feels that he/she can analyze data properly. My daughter worked at a

business intelligence company. When she tried to convince them to hire someone with training in statistics they felt there was no need for that since she could fill that bill with her two statistics courses in college. Yet, their business was based on the analysis of big data sets and advising clients about important business decisions based on this analysis. This situation is all too common. We need to develop a program to educate businesses about the need for trained statisticians and the benefits they could reap by hiring them. Sustainability of our society: Of the 7000 JSM participants last year about 1500 were students. But, do the students continue to join the ASA upon reaching the business world? For the most part not a large enough percentage do. We need to develop programs that will interest students in continuing their membership and becoming active members of our society. We can run focus groups for students at JSM. Doing so will give us ideas to implement so ASA will better meet their needs. I will also work with our chapters to encourage and support them in sponsoring local meetups, targeting JSM first-timers or potential members. Webinars are a popular vehicle these days for conducting meetings and training. We could add more of them to our offerings. Be assured that, if elected, I will initiate one or more programs that will have lasting value to our society and profession. I hope you will provide me that opportunity

**Katherine Monti**

**Running for: Vice President**

**Current Positions/Employers:**

Retired from Rho, Inc. January 2017

**Statement**

I am indeed honored to be considered to be a Vice President of the ASA. The field of statistics has come a long way since I joined the ASA in 1975 (two years before John Tukey formally introduced box and whisker plots in his Exploratory Data Analysis). The association has come a long way too. Neither statistics nor the ASA will stop changing and that's a good thing. The ASA is always changing as the membership grows. But not only does the association need new statisticians, the world needs more statisticians. Encouraging students to become statisticians has been a continuing goal for many of us. To this end, I have enjoyed giving talks at career nights, hosting career-oriented roundtables, and contributing to the Amstat News career-oriented series (A Day in the Life of a Statistician and STATtr@k). The Biopharm Sections Pharmaceutical Statisticians video (<http://community.amstat.org/biop/home>) has demonstrated that outreach efforts really work to attract young folks to the field. Reaching out works! But we have to keep finding new and engaging ways to encourage students to play in all corners of our diverse professional sandbox, or to at least let them know about statistics because even those who choose other careers need to know at least some statistics! Encouraging the appropriate application of statistics is another crucial challenge. I have seen a legal case partially derailed by a PhD non-statistician with his own way of thinking about data, have seen an MD non-statistician achieve significance in a clinical trial by treating the 3-month data and the 6-month data on the same patients as independent results, and & well, we all have our horror stories. Even daily news reports can give us pause: Did that study in the

headlines control for the covariates that bias the results if not taken into account? All too frequently the answer is no. As our Big Tent of Statistics grows even wider, we need to work on Big Education and Big Communication regarding the principles of design, the methods of analysis, and the ethical and valid interpretation of results. What types of programs increase our numbers and expand the appropriate use of statistics in applications? Many academic programs now incorporate supervised consulting experience in interdisciplinary consulting labs, some of which contribute to training of statisticians in developing countries. The ASA has backed pro bono efforts such as the student-run StatCom (Statistics in the Community) and the outreach group Statistics Without Borders. The newly instituted This Is Statistics campaign uses social media to encourage the exploration of statistics, and expanding the use of podcasts is one of the strategic initiatives of 2017 ASA President Barry Nussbaum. All of these efforts demonstrate our commitment to encouraging interest in the field and in the sound use of statistics. Tweets, podcasts, Facebook, Pinterest, K-12 online resources&the association is evolving with the times and will necessarily continue to do so. The ASA has a lot to tackle as it continues to evolve, so a broad perspective is valuable. The jobportion of my (very rewarding) career has taken me from academia, to non-pharma industry, to devices, to pharmaceuticals (at a sponsor and then at a CRO) with some additional consulting along the way. The equally rewarding service portion of my career includes diverse leadership roles in ASA chapters, committees, sections, and the Board. If elected, I look forward to bringing all these perspectives to serve the ASA as it moves forward. Member input is always highly valued so please share your ideas with any of those serving on the ASA Board. Remember: voting in the ASA election is an important form of input!

**Katherine Halvorsen**

**Running for: COSGB Rep to the Board**

**Current Positions/Employers:**

Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Smith College, Northampton, MA 28 years of service

**Statement**

My primary concern for our profession is that we continue to promote awareness of the essential importance of statistics in natural and social science research as well as in the public sphere including government, industry, and education. The ASA's strategic plan addresses my concern through its emphasis on membership growth in both numbers and diversity and on education from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, through post-graduate continuing education as well as outreach to special groups such as journalists and capitol-hill staff. I strongly support ASA's work on the undergraduate curriculum, the statistical education of teachers, and outreach to K-12 teachers through Meeting Within a Meeting.

Having served as Chair of the Council of Sections, I have worked with groups applying to become new sections as well as with the established sections, all of whom are concerned about having opportunities for their members to present invited sessions, panels, posters, and short courses at JSM. The proliferation of new sections fits neatly into the ASA's goal of being "The

Big Tent for Statistics,” encouraging a broadening and diversification of membership, but becomes unwieldy when we have to find opportunities for these groups to present at JSM. We need to find additional opportunities for members to present their work and network with others who share their interests. This might come through new specialized conferences (such as the Conference on Statistical Practice or Women in Statistics and Data Science), journals, webinars or even newsletters. I would like to work with the Board of Directors to address these issues.

I would be honored to serve as one of the Council of Section’s representatives to the ASA Board of Directors. I have been a member of the Association since the 1980’s and have served as chair and vice-chair of both the Council of Sections and the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education. I currently serve on the Leadership Support Council.

**John L. Czajka**

**Running for: COSGB Representative to the Board**

**Current positions/employers:**

Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2005-present)

**Statement**

I would be honored to serve as one of the Council of Section’s representatives to the Board of Directors. As a recent Chair of the Council of Sections, an earlier Vice Chair, and a former officer in three sections, I believe that I am well prepared to represent the sections on the ASA Board of Directors.

Under the first of three themes, ‘Fulfilling Our Role as “The Big Tent for Statistics,”’ the ASA’s Strategic Plan observes that a strength of the association is its mix of members from education, business and industry, and government. Students have provided the largest source of growth in ASA membership for a number of years, but retention of student members once they complete their degrees has been low. Retaining members who leave academia may pose the greatest challenge but is critical to maintaining the diversity of our membership and achieving other goals of the association. One of my priorities as a member of the Board of Directors would be to expand the ASA’s efforts to retain those former student members who have begun careers in business and industry and government. This must go hand-in-hand with continuing to support our strong academic membership.

Under the second theme of “Increasing the Visibility of the Profession,” I strongly support the ASA’s efforts to “promote the value of sound statistical practice” in policymaking. The importance of increasing the visibility of our association and profession will undoubtedly grow in the next few years. I commend the ASA for its initiatives in this area, which include the preparation of white papers; advocacy in support of the federal statistical system and major research budgets; the release of policy statements; and the development of resources for

policymakers. As a participant in the public policy arena professionally, I would work as a Board member to enhance these activities.

As one who has been active in sections from early on, I am puzzled that fewer than half of the ASA's members belong to sections. We need to understand why this is so and whether greater participation in sections is a goal that the ASA should pursue. For starters, I would work with the ASA to determine how we could enhance our membership data to enable us to better address fundamental questions about participation in sections. For example, how many of those who do not belong to sections once did so—and for how long? More effectively serving our membership may very well involve an expanded role for the sections.

The ASA has been a keystone of my professional life for more than 30 years. I would welcome the opportunity to share my extensive experience by serving on the association's Board of Directors.

**Donsig Jang**

**Running for: COCGB Rep to the Board, Region 1**

**Current Positions/Employers:**

Vice President and Director, Center for Excellence in Survey Research (CESR), NORC at the University of Chicago, September 2016 to present

**Statement**

If elected to serve as a Council of Chapters Representative to the Board, I will work with other board members to support ASA to have a strategic plan (Enhancing the Diversity and Breadth of our Association) well implemented. I strongly believe that this data driven world brings us statisticians an exciting opportunity to bring our value to help improve every part of our lives. But it won't happen without efforts. As an applied statistician working in an environment with subject matter researchers who are often highly quantitative, I strongly feel that real value statisticians should be able to bring to is not just statistical method but statistical lens to solve problems. It requires understanding of fields we are working on, communications skills to converse with clients and collaborators in the field, and proactive leaderships to work together with team members. I often made a joke that statistical value for a given project is not defined by a statistician but by a project director or subject matter expert. It's largely true to many statisticians almost everywhere. I hope that ASA provide necessary supports to members to help them have a right mindset as a statistician. Another areas I would like to work with other board members is to help broaden statistics to embrace machine learning and other computation disciplines. In this big data era, it is our obligation to have statistical principles continue to be relevant in extracting right information from messy data. It needs an effort to have statistical methods bridged with computer science perspectives. I hope that ASA will become a professional home for data scientists in coming years. Lastly, ASA members have become diversified in many different ways in recent years. But there are many professionals

who were trained in statistics or similar quantitative disciplines, but are not ASA members. I will work with the ASA board to have ASA outreach to them, particularly those who are in non-academic fields.

In closing, it is an honor and privilege to get nominated as a candidate for COCGB. I will continue to support ASA strategic plan and serve for whatever capacity I am allowed, regardless of this election outcome.

### **Alexander Cambon**

#### **Running for: COCGB Rep to the Board, Region 1**

#### **Current Positions/Employers:**

Mathematical Statistician, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 2015-present

#### **Statement**

“A strength of the ASA is the mix of members from business/industry, government, and education....” (From Theme 1, ASA Strategic Plan,). It has been my good fortune to work in all three of these categories due to my involvement in the ASA. In 1996 when I joined the ASA, I was a statistician teaching and implementing statistical process control, experiment design and reliability testing in an industrial/manufacturing setting.

ASA meetings and JSM Conferences increased my awareness of the growing field of biostatistics and clinical trials. I eventually became a biostatistician at the University of Louisville (U of L) Statistical Consulting Center. My connections in the ASA Kentucky chapter played a vital role in facilitating this career opportunity. I went to meetings because I enjoyed the talks, and I enjoyed getting to know statisticians and their different areas of work. This type of informal setting can be an important part of networking and career building. Many of us can probably think of ways ASA involvement has influenced/enhanced our careers. The membership fee is definitely a high-return investment. In telling our stories, let’s get the word out to “make the value of long-term membership evident to all groups that are well represented or ought to be well represented among ASA membership”. Strategies in the plan include expanding “our market research capabilities to provide more and better data about the needs and interests of members and potential members”.

Diversity has been a key part of my life. My father was an immigrant from Italy where I lived when I was very young. After college, I served as a water resource and health development engineer in a small village in Burkina Faso, West Africa for 2 ½ years. Later work took me overseas to teach short courses in reliability engineering. I then went to a Chinese school in Louisville to attain an intermediate speaking level in Chinese. The University of Louisville was a very diverse environment and I had many opportunities to practice Chinese on the bus or at work.



As part of my role as a biostatistician at U of L, I often organized local ASA chapter meetings, scheduled speakers, and attended JSM Conferences to present topics and attend ASA Meetings as a Chapter Representative. In 2010, with help from members of the Cincinnati and Kentucky Chapters, I organized a joint traveling course for the Kentucky and Cincinnati Chapters. Joint meetings such as this were very popular and provided additional opportunities to connect. Afterwards, I served as District 2 Vice Chair, Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB). In this capacity I endeavored to help the chapters that were more isolated by utilizing resources from ASA headquarters as well as resources from/connections with other chapters.

The strength of local chapters and JSM conferences also enhances the ASA's ability to invest in and support another theme in the strategic plan: "Increasing the Visibility of our Profession". In today's climate more than ever, our profession has vital input into increasingly complex areas of data science and analytics. Tools such as stats.org and ThisIsStatistics.org are two of many ways the ASA is using to elevate public awareness.

I am honored to be a candidate for the COCGB representative to the ASA Board of Directors. If elected, I will be an advocate for local chapters through my membership in the Council of Chapters and the COCGB. I will work to see that appropriate parts of the strategic plan (examples are highlighted above) are implemented to "make the value of long-term membership evident to all groups that are well represented or ought to be well represented among ASA membership".

### **Scott Evans**

#### **Running for: Publications Rep to the Board**

#### **Current Positions/Employers:**

Senior Research Scientist, Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research /Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University, 17 yrs. Director, Statistical and Data Management Center, Antibacterial Resistance Leadership Group, Harvard University, 4 yrs. Professor (visiting), Osaka University, Japan, 7 yrs.

#### **Statement**

It is an exciting and important time for statistics and the ASA. Rapidly evolving access to data, and advances in science and technologies create many challenges. But these challenges are also unprecedented opportunities to advance science, education, and policy, through discoveries that can change the world to better serve society. Statistics is a common denominator for much of science. We must strengthen our relationships and communications with data experts in other disciplines as well as the broader scientific community, media, and public. We must evolve with the data science and big data revolutions, promoting statistics at the core of these progressions. The need for statistical expertise and leadership has never been greater. The ASA plays an indispensable leadership role as the preeminent professional association for statistics. The ASA's Strategic Plan outlines three foundational themes. The first is enhancing ASA diversity and strength through membership, professional development and publications. The ASA has

more than 19,000 members with increasing student and senior memberships. Effort is needed to attract regular members. ASA publications have prestigious worldwide reputations and are a major asset to the profession and the ASA. But publications face modern challenges: transition to electronic/open access introducing financial viability issues with reduced individual subscriptions; an irreproducibility pandemic where statistics is often the scapegoat; journal proliferation threatening quality and citation rates; and slow review processes. The ASA must proactively address these issues. It is a time of great change and promise for publications. The ASA can modernize processes to maintain publication quality, utility, and relevancy with continued transitioning to electronic/open distribution while responsibly addressing the implications. New publication/peer-review models (e.g., living/collaborative documents) that exploit technology to increase access and improve functionality (e.g., rapid reviews) are emerging and can be evaluated. ASA and social media can engage members in the process. The ASA must seek balance, providing a vibrant journal portfolio that serves the diverse needs of ASA members while protecting against journal proliferation to ensure quality and impact. ASA publications also have the opportunity and responsibility to provide leadership and infrastructure for scientific issue positioning, e.g., ASAs statement on statistical significance and p-values. A second theme is ensuring the future of our profession through education, leadership development, and sound fiscal strategy. It is critical that the ASA to help lead the transformation of statistics education and teaching in the K-12 and college levels to improve the statistical literacy of society. We must also improve training of our future generations of statisticians focusing not only on fundamentals but also on leadership, supporting intangible skills, and creative thinking (thinking first and then researching and executing). Learning statistics is one thing but learning to be a statistician is another. The final theme is increasing the visibility and appreciation of our profession through public awareness, impact on policy, and contributions to interdisciplinary collaborations. The Statistical Ambassadors program that trains statisticians to communicate with the media plays a crucial role. Expanding our role and impact in science policy is paramount. The ASA now provides leadership and an infrastructure for impacting areas such as climate change and forensics. While interaction with other disciplines is natural for statisticians, we must better communicate with collaborators, engaging as thought leaders in addition to technical roles. The perception of statisticians as calculators, service providers, and data warehouses must evolve to innovative strategists and problem solvers that turn information into knowledge to improve decision-making.

**Richard Levine**

**Running for: Publications Rep to the Board**

**Current Positions/Employers:**

San Diego State University: Professor of Statistics, Department of Math and Stat 2009-present  
Faculty Fellow, Analytic Studies and Institutional Research, 2015-present  
Member, Computational Science Research Center, 2008-present  
Member, Center for Mathematics and Science Education, 2013-present

**Statement**

Over the past twenty years we have been confronted by a seemingly continuous attempt to rebrand our profession. The buzzwords of metrics (e.g., biometrics, chemometrics, and environmetrics), data mining, informatics, analytics, and now data science hit the scientific community, if not mainstream media, as we grapple with the deluge and complexity of data generated in this information age. The ASA leadership and Board of Directors have positioned our profession to be at the center of this movement. Recent developments that exemplify these directions include the *This Is Statistics* (ThisIsStatistics.org) public relations campaign, data science oriented curricula guidelines in K-12 and undergraduate statistics programs, PStat and GStat accreditations, and the p-value statement on good statistical practice. The Board, and particularly new Directors, must stay on top of, and more importantly ahead of, these data science trends.

At the heart of the data science evolution are digital technologies that have and will provide awesome new opportunities for ASA publications. These challenges present themselves through dynamic scholarly communication systems: peer review models with quicker turnarounds, open access portals with article/blog feedback and review mechanisms, and reproducible research via seamless dissemination of data, code, and methods. The Board will be challenged to meet the diverse statistical needs of our readership and the public broadly while maintaining our reputation for scientific excellence and publications of the highest quality.

I would be honored and excited to continue my service to the Statistics profession as a member of the ASA Board of Directors. I believe my experience and expertise ideally situates me to represent our publications on the Board, and collaborate with our membership to shape our initiatives and place Statistics as the leader of the data science crusade.

## **COGGB (Council of Chapters Governing Board)**

### **Chair-Elect**

#### **Isaac Nuamah**

Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R & D

### **Statement**

As known, the primary goals of the Council of Chapters are to encourage the development of chapters, assist in promoting specific chapter activities at the local level, promote member involvement in all ASA activities and act as the liaison body connecting individuals to chapters and the association as a whole. My focus if elected will be to work towards the strengthening of local chapters including the expansion of the formation of student chapters. We will continue our support for local chapters to increase their effort to get information about careers in statistics to local high schools, soliciting volunteers to go to high schools and give talks and also promote AP Stats. I will continue our work to promote statistical literacy at all levels of elementary school education (K-12). I will continue our efforts to increase our membership

including efforts to attract statisticians or people in statistical practice especially from non-academic institutions. I will work with local chapters on their effort to increase participation in ASA volunteer activities and provide mentorship to new and early career statisticians. I will work on minority outreach programs by encouraging the visit of statistical ambassadors to institutions that cater to minority students to help attract a new generation of statisticians.

**Chair-Elect**

**Andrew Reilly**

Retired

**Statement**

The ASA chapters are the core to promote statistics, its applications, and professional development. The Council of Chapters directly supports 74 chapters with: traveling courses in 20 chapters during 2016, the Chapter Chatter Newsletter, \$1000 in Chapter Stimulus Funding. Further efforts to increase unity and effectiveness of local groups of statisticians include: webinar series, leadership courses, media training, outreach to K-12 and AP courses. After serving in excess of a decade as president of an ASA chapter I am acutely aware of the role the national office plays to help chapters thrive in promoting collegiality, mentoring, networking, and continuing education. I heartily support these current and proposed activities.

**Vice-Chair, Region 1, District 1**

**Lynn Sleeper**

Boston Children Hospital & Harvard Medical School

**Statement**

In this position, using my leadership skills and interest in education and clinical research, my Aims are to: 1) implement approaches for local chapters to increase awareness of statistics and biostatistics as a rewarding career to younger students, i.e., middle and high school level; 2) foster alliances between local ASA Chapters and clinical settings & biotechnology companies to create educational and employment opportunities for both parties; and 3) create mechanisms for sharing amongst Chapters of successful strategies employed to increase membership and the breadth of Chapter activities. By collaborating and meeting with the leaders of the other ASA Regions, I am also looking forward to learning more about their initiatives that may help to foster the development of statisticians in Region 1!

**Vice-Chair, Region 1, District 1**

**Ofer Harel**

University of Connecticut

**Statement**

It is a great honor to be considered for the Health Policy Statistics Section (HPSS) 2018 Chair-elect. Our section is facing many opportunities for growth and expansion, in particular in the era of Big Data. This is the time for leadership to come together strengthen and grow the section from within by bringing in more members from across the ASA and beyond. While increasing membership is important, the mix of younger and enthusiastic researchers (students, Post-docs, junior researchers) together with well-established researchers is key. If elected, I hope to build synergy within the section by building its membership and develop mentoring programs. I want to increase the relationship between academia, government and industry to deal with health policy issues. Most importantly, I wish to create an environment in which all those dealing with health policy, health outcome research and any related field will feel welcome and enjoy their interactions with others. I have worked in the field of health policy statistics for over 15 years and I am very excited by the progress and accomplishments of the section. I also have a great deal of experience serving HPSS in a variety of roles including JSM Program Chair-elect, JSM Program Chair and its representative to the Council of Sections. I was part of the organizing committees of several ICHPS conferences the flagship conference of the section. I feel these experiences will be important in guiding our section forward.

**Vice-Chair, Region 1, District 2**

**Chandan Saha**

Indiana University School of Medicine

**Statement**

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**Vice-Chair, Region 1, District 2**

**David Fardo**

University of Kentucky College of Public Health

## **Statement**

My main goal as Region 1, District 2 Vice-Chair is to strengthen relationships throughout the district by utilizing the physical proximity of nearby chapters in order to provide constructive opportunities for trainees and professionals. This goal is readily attainable, and I outline below past experiences to provide evidence of what can be achieved in our future ASA. The rich statistical community provided through the ASA has benefitted my career tremendously beginning long before my first statistical employment. I have subsequently strived to give back to the ASA through both service and active participation. My first interaction with the ASA was as an undergrad student at Miami University in 1998. The ASA President at the time, Dr. David Moore, presented at a joint chapter meeting (the Dayton and Cincinnati chapters if my memory serves me) that a group of professors and students from Miami attended. It was a great experience, and I observed an obviously strong professional community. After a stint in the actuarial profession, I attended a joint meeting of the Kentucky and Cincinnati chapters in 2003. This was another ASA presidential talk (by Dr. Bob Mason), and I was now a graduate student at the University of Kentucky. But, again, I could sense the strong community. Later as a Ph.D. student at Harvard, I served on the programming committee for the vibrant Boston Chapter (2006-2008). This experience showed me even more the potential of synergy within statistical communities. Now, as an active member of the Kentucky Chapter (serving as Vice-President (2012-2014) and Council of Chapters Representative (2014-2016)), I have more firsthand experience linking chapters. We have jointly hosted meetings and short courses with other ASA Chapters. It is these types of opportunities that can provide invaluable opportunity for our profession's trainees and current members alike, and it is these types of experiences that I aim to promote within our district.

## **COSGB (Council of Sections Governing Board)**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Natalie Rotelli**

Eli Lily and Company

### **Statement**

It would be an honor to serve as the Chair to the Council of Sections Governing Board (COSGB). As Vice Chair, I have worked diligently as a conduit to my sections and interest groups, voicing their concerns and needs to the governing board, facilitating in discussions to improve support for interest groups, and helping hone the overall vision of sections within ASA. As Chair, would continue the great work being done in the COSGB, working hard to clarify benefits of having a 'section home' to members of ASA, and supporting sections in providing those benefits. My background as a Vice Chair to the COSGB and my accountability, tenacity, ability to build relationships, and genuine excitement for this organization make me a great fit for this role.

**Chair-Elect****Marlene Egger**

University of Utah Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

**Statement**

We live in a critical period at the interface of data-based thinking and policy. Data of all kinds and levels of reliability surround us in quantities that were unimaginable at the birth of computers. Media technology has advanced: information or misinformation circles the world in minutes. The future of the environment, health systems and medical products, public policy, business, and government depends on us as data curators, analysts, educators, interpreters, and communicators of reliable and valid statistics to drive decision-making and discovery. Sections and Interest Groups enhance the ability of like-minded statisticians to self-organize with others of common interests. They include some of the most creative and innovative members of ASA, those most familiar with its disciplinary boundaries and frontiers, those who translate statistical science by collaboration and consultation, and those who teach the next generations. They develop outstanding statistical scientists and future leaders of ASA by providing modern venues for dialogue, supporting our professional goals and disciplinary interests, and by creating opportunities to develop leadership skills as Section officers. The Sections and Interest Groups nurture statisticians from their early career needs through professional maturity, transitions of interests, the generative years, and their final legacy. The ASA Council of Sections supports and facilitates the goals, interests, and operations of the Sections and Interest Groups and gives them a stronger collective voice in ASA at large. As the Chair-Elect of the Council of Sections, I would seek to smooth the paths of Sections and Interest Groups as they make statistical contributions, engage in dialogue and professional development in new modes and venues, increase the statistical literacy of institutions and individuals, and promote evidence-based thinking in the larger community.

**Vice-Chair****Stephine Keeton**

Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc.

**Statement**

I am honored and excited to be a candidate for Vice Chair of the Council of Sections Governing Board (COSGB) and look forward to partnering with the Sections/Interest groups and working together to provide and encourage timely communication and achieve the strategic initiatives identified by the COSGB. I have been active in the ASA throughout my career and have served in a number of positions, including Council of Sections Representative for the Biopharmaceutical Section, giving me a perspective on the contributions and needs of Sections and Interest groups that represent the diverse interests and areas of expertise of the ASA membership. I will use my experience in both industry and government to identify opportunities where the COSGB can broaden services provided to the Sections and Interest groups and achieve the strategic goals set by the ASA leadership. The COSGB provides an organizational infrastructure to support Section/Interest group activities, encourage new initiatives, and share experiences, ideas and

concerns among the Sections/Interest groups. A strong partnership between the COSGB and the Sections/Interest groups will be needed to implement new approaches to statistical education which will assist in attracting individuals into the profession and growing membership. I will take seriously the responsibility to foster communication across all levels to bolster this infrastructure. I will be an ambassador for the continued growth and development of the Sections/Interest groups. As our profession continues to thrive and make connections with other scientists, attracting and retaining ASA members will lead to increased Section/Interest group membership. I will work with ASAS to determine how we could further improve our membership data. If elected, I look forward to working diligently to enhance and strengthen the capacity of the Sections, Interest groups and COSGB to move the discipline and the profession forward to a brighter future.

**Vice-Chair**

**Philip Scinto**

The Lubrizol Corporation

**Statement**

I am humbled by my opportunities to serve the ASA. It is a pleasure and an honor. My past and future goals for ASA are based upon a simple philosophy. What can be done to improve the value to our members? ASA has done a great job recently in providing mentoring opportunities as well as recognizing mentors. I would like to help build on these mentoring programs. I would also like to help create more opportunities for networking. Many of our members would like to be seen, bounce their thoughts off of colleagues, and get career advice. I believe that more mixers and 'open-mike' sessions at our major conferences would be of benefit in this area. Finally, since the lifeblood of the ASA is the sections, I would also like to explore ways for the sections to work together on projects while keeping their identities.

## **Section on Bayesian Statistical Sciences**

**Chair-Elect**

**Steven MacEachern**

Ohio State University

**Statement**

The Bayesian section is among the most vibrant of the ASA sections, with large membership, active participation at the JSM through short courses and talks, a strong program at the meetings, a sense of community easily apparent at the annual mixer, and a solid financial position. Thanks to the stewardship of current and past officers, the section has no major problems on the horizon. One issue to keep an eye on is the slowly dwindling number of invited and topic contributed sessions available to each section, including ours. Growth opportunities



for the section and for Bayesian methods include strengthening ties to the growth areas in the discipline and the sections that represent them. I would work toward strengthening these ties.

**Chair-Elect**

**Susan Paddock**

RAND Corporation

**Statement**

I would be honored to serve as SBSS Chair-elect. I would be well-positioned to lead and support the SBSS Executive Committee given I have first-hand knowledge of several Executive Committee roles: I was an SBSS Council of Sections representative (2013-2015) and Secretary/Treasurer (2004-2005). For the Health Policy Statistics Section (HPSS) I served as Chair (2016), Program Chair-Elect (JSM 2009), and HPSS Program Chair (JSM 2010). As SBSS Chair-elect, I would support SBSS in continuing to successfully provide a broad range of activities to its members, such as short courses and webinars, a robust JSM student paper competition, collaboration with ISBA, and co-sponsorship of awards that recognize excellence in Bayesian research at the dissertation stage (e.g., Savage Award) and beyond (e.g., Mitchell Prize). I would also support efforts for SBSS to synergistically tap into ASA initiatives that would benefit our membership, such as participating in diversity and mentoring programs and linking SBSS members with ASA's expertise in media relations and science policy to expand the impact of Bayesian statistical research on science and society.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Robert B Gramacy**

Virginia Tech

**Statement**

I am delighted to have been nominated for the program chair position for SBSS. Last year I worked closely with David Dahl, the SBSS program chair, as the ASA IBSA chair, to put together an exciting program for the 2016 JSM in Chicago. I had the privileged of seeing how it all works and am confident that I can emulate David's awesome performance, with the help (I'm sure) of the next ISBA program chair. It is important to me to put together a diverse group of presentations in all respects: subject, author, application, method, and computation. And in the past I have very much enjoyed being a part of the planning process for JSMs.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Christopher Hans**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Program Chair of the ASA's Section on Bayesian Statistical Science. As program chair, I would work to maintain the high quality of the sessions in the section's program and, because Bayesian statistics is a broad area, I would aim to build a program that reflects the section's diversity. As chair of the ISBA Program Council I liaised with the SBSS section officers to help ensure that Bayesian methods were showcased at the JSM, and I would use that experience to help further the section's goals as SBSS Program Chair.

**Publication officer**

**Anirban Bhattacharya**

Texas A&M University

**Statement**

I am looking forward to this exciting opportunity to serve as publications officer for the Section on Bayesian Statistical Science.

**Publication officer**

**Xinyi Xu**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

I am honored to have the opportunity to stand for election to the Publications Officer. ASA-SBSS has played a key role in developing and applying Bayesian methods. We have a rapidly growing group, with members from academic, industry and government. To enhance the communications within the ASA-SBSS group, it is crucial to disseminate announcements, news (e.g. awards) and activities (e.g. webinars and conferences) through Amstat News, ASA website, and social media channels in an accurate and timely fashion, and to adopt appropriate feedback mechanisms to ensure that the activities are relevant to the members' interests. Moreover, it is important to promote the connections with other Bayesian groups, such as International Statistical Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), and other ASA sections. As an associate editor of ISBA Bulletin, I have served to disseminate news around the Bayesian world to ISBA members. I am more than happy to apply my experience to seek appropriate methods and technologies for providing SBSS members with appropriate and timely information, if I am elected, and to help boost the communication between SBSS and ISBA.

## **Biometrics Section**

**Chair-Elect**

**Sheng Luo**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

**Statement**

I am honored to be considered a candidate for President-Elect of the ASA Biometrics Section. If elected, I will maintain the Biometrics Section's strengths, i.e., strong contributions to ASA, promoting ASA mission, and supporting junior and student statisticians. Moreover, I will work enthusiastically to foster the connection and collaboration among ASA, International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), Korean International Statistical Society (KISS), and International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) by engaging more Asian statisticians in ASA committees and organizing workshops at JSM on practical career issues. In the age of big data, I will strengthen the linkage of the Biometrics Section with industry, other ASA sections, as well as experts in computer science and bioinformatics, by organizing joint educational and outreach efforts.

#### **Chair-Elect**

**Second candidate withdrew**

#### **Council of Section Representative**

**Dipankar Bandyopadhyay**

Virginia Commonwealth University

#### **Statement**

I am honored and excited about my candidature for the Council of Sections Representative for the Biometrics Section. I have been fortunate enough to collaborate with outstanding scientists from various biomedical fields, and gain formal and informal knowledge. In this role, I look forward to utilizing that knowledge, and serve as a conduit between the Biometrics section and the ASA Board to advance the mission and vision of the ASA. Throughout my academic tenure, I have been associated with numerous ASA activities. These experiences enriched me immensely and will continue to assist me in identifying a number of opportunities for the section. One of my immediate goals will be to foster interdisciplinary activities. There is this recent upsurge in various data science initiatives, and the bio-statistical community should also be well equipped to ride the wave. Hence, silos should be broken, promoting collaborations between biostatisticians and computer scientists, engineers, and biologists. Although it can be achieved through focused symposiums and workshops, these collaborators also aspire recognition by the statistical community and the ASA. This calls for investigating mechanisms to increase section memberships and introduce new awards, which is my second goal. As statisticians, we perform poorly in our efforts to explain to non-(bio)statisticians what we do. We need to advertise our scientific contribution efficiently and assimilate the researchers working on disciplines such as ecosystem and forest biomass, occupational hygiene, and the recently emerged fields of big data and precision medicine under the common Biometrics umbrella. My final

#### **Council of Section Representative**

**Jay Bartroff**

University of Southern California

## Biopharmaceutical Section

### Chair-Elect

**Xiaohui (Ed) Luo**

PTC Therapeutics

### Statement

I am honored to be nominated to run for the Chair-elect for the Biopharmaceutical (BIOP) Section. In the past 15 years, my BIOP membership provided fantastic professional benefits. At the same time, I get actively involved with BIOP's initiatives. My previous position as Webmaster and Secretary of the section, and Co-chair for The Workshop allowed me to effectively interact with many EC members and section members, and have provided me the unique training and knowledge about the section. In the past two and half years, I have been collaborating closely with different functions from basic research to commercial in a small size company on numerous rare diseases with unmet medical needs and limited natural history data. I am thrilled by how my colleagues appreciate the statistical support beyond number crunching. Statistician should and will play an even more active role in the biomedical research by providing quantitative solutions to facilitate informed decision making. If elected, I will 1) promote the communication and collaboration among the statisticians in the biopharmaceutical/biotech industry, regulatory agencies and academia on biomedical research by empowering the Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop and by engaging more small interest groups; 2) attract talents to BIOP by reaching out to others sectors and chapters within ASA, other international organizations, and the statistics and biostatistics departments in the nation; 3) Increase the visibility and influence of statisticians in biomedical research by collaborating with relevant non-statistics organizations on advocating data driven decision making process; 4) expand the membership benefits by sponsoring webinars and short courses with non-technical topics. I highly value the opportunity to continue serving the Section and its members. Together we will make BIOP stronger and better.

### Chair-Elect

**Richard C. Zink**

SAS Institute

### Statement

I would like to continue building on the momentum of the last few years by 1) Further developing the BIOP website for a) communicating available educational and training opportunities from BIOP and other like-minded professional organizations b) documenting the history and achievements of the BIOP section c) summarizing the research of our scientific working groups 2) Capitalizing on the mentoring program to build closer ties with and get greater involvement from graduate students in biostatistics programs 3) Encouraging greater member participation in Section activities by clearly defining and communicating opportunities to serve 4) Improving transparency of BIOP Executive Committee activities and decisions 5)

Developing efficiencies and eliminating redundancies in BIOP planning and activities 6) Laying the foundation for a 40th Anniversary celebration of the BIOP Section in 2020 7) Soliciting member feedback and identifying strategic initiatives in which to invest the considerable BIOP surplus to best serve BIOP and the larger statistical community.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Margaret Gamalo-Siebers**

Eli Lilly & Company

**Statement**

While pharmaceutical sponsors still need to prove that their investigational drug/device is safe and effective to gain market access or remain commercially competitive, the goal posts of drug/device development have shifted with momentum towards evidence-based medicine. Providers, payers, and patients are now looking for data-driven proof that the prescribed drug/device helps to optimize treatment and brings added cost-efficiency. For this reason, I am interested in introducing and educating statisticians into the current issues that are affecting their profession and how they can take this as an opportunity to even gain more prominence in a cross-functional drug/device development environment. If elected as Program Chair, I am looking forward to creating a program for Biopharmaceutical Section that looks into the topics/issues that are either currently affecting the industry or will affect the industry in the near future in an enlightened way, i.e., why these topics/ issues matter, how do they matter, and what to do if they matter.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Judy Li**

Food and Drug Administration

**Statement**

Science is developing every minute, so is biostatistics. I think it is very important to keep up with the daily changing world and introduce new concepts and innovations to our community. So as the Biopharmaceutical section program chair elect, I would try my best to enhance the communications among academics, industry and regulatory agency, and introduce a variety of topics to our fellow statisticians.

**Secretary**

**Ugochi Emeribe**

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals

**Statement**

At present, I serve as the secretary of ASA Biopharmaceutical section, and it will be an honor to continue to serve in this capacity for another term. The secretary role affords me a greater

opportunity to increase the visibility of ASA Biopharmaceutical Section particularly within the industry where I interact with many colleagues with varied backgrounds and work experiences. As a past editor of Biopharmaceutical Report and as current secretary of ASA Biopharmaceutical Section, I have had the incredible opportunity to learn much from many colleagues and to reach outside of my comfort zone to help promote statistics. Therefore, my mission is to continue to encourage statisticians to reach out beyond the daily work routines and collaborate with colleagues outside the immediate work environment for their professional development and to further the advancement of statistical science. I will continue to support the Chair and Executive Committee to foster and nurture excellent communication channels between the executive committee and the membership of ASA Biopharmaceutical section. I look forward to providing additional services to an organization that has given me the opportunity to grow as a leader.

### **Secretary**

**Janelle K Charles**

Food and Drug Administration

### **Statement**

It is a great honor to be nominated in this year's election for Secretary of the Executive Committee (EC) for the Biopharmaceutical Section of the ASA. Since 2010, I have been an active member and have made valuable contributions to the Section's activities. Notably, I was a member of the International Year of Statistics Subcommittee in 2013 where I co-authored an article titled "Statistics and Its Role in Global Public Health – A Snapshot View" that appeared in the Section's newsletter and I participated in planning activities to increase awareness of the importance of biostatisticians in the pharmaceutical field. More recently, I have served as member of the section's Mentoring Subcommittee and for the last two years, I have been serving as an Appointed member of the EC. As a member of the EC, I have had the opportunity to learn the roles of our elected members and to gain firsthand experience in the way the Section conducts its business. The Secretary is a vital component of the EC with responsibilities that include maintaining records, planning and participating in EC meetings, delivering oral reports of the minutes from previous meetings, and timely dissemination of information relevant to the Section activities and of importance to the Section's members. If elected to serve as your Secretary, I am committed to utilize my excellent communication and organizational skills in fulfilling these and other important duties of this role. In addition, I am prepared to accurately maintain records of agreements between the Section and other scientific bodies and to enthusiastically support the Chair and rest of the EC in executing the future activities of the Section and its commitments to the membership. I am truly excited to continue service to the Biopharmaceutical Section and look forward to the opportunity to do so in a new role as Secretary.

### **Council of Section Representative**

**Jennifer Gauvin**

Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation

**Statement**

As your Council of Section representative my goal is to share the accomplishments, goals and needs of the Biopharmaceutical Section with the broader ASA community. In addition, I will bring ASA objectives and messages to our section so we may align our activities to ASA initiatives and contribute effectively. Facilitating communication between ASA and Biopharmaceutical Section members – students, junior statisticians, and senior statisticians – will strengthen and build synergies within our membership and the ASA.

**Council of Section Representative****Brian Millen**

Eli Lilly & Company

**Statement**

The Biopharm Section is the ASA home for statisticians working in the biopharmaceutical industry. As a Council of Sections representative for the Biopharm Section, my focus will be on meeting the needs of our diverse membership and driving increased active participation in the section. Strategically, I will encourage collaboration with other Sections and groups to maximize opportunities for our members. I will also encourage cultivating new activities which provide value to our membership and drive increased participation. The experiences I've gained in my roles in the Section, on boards, and in ASA and other orgs will be valuable as I work to advocate for our Section, influence support for activities, and generate collaborative relationships. If elected, I will work to serve the entire membership of the Section -- from the student preparing for a career in pharma to the seasoned pharmaceutical statistics professional nearing retirement. Ensuring opportunities for both technical and broader, soft-skill enrichment/development, as well as networking and service opportunities for our members, is of particular importance.

**Business and Economic Statistics Section****Chair-Elect****Peter Zadrozny**

Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Statement**

As Chair of the Business & Economic Statistics (B&EStat) section of the ASA, I would try to figure out how to get more economists and econometricians to join ASA and attend and present in B&EStat sessions at JSM. My training and earlier work were mostly in macroeconomics and econometrics. Over time I moved away from doing macroeconomics and more to doing

theoretical and applied work with time series data the way mathematical statisticians do it. My migration resulted from working for several years at the U.S. Census Bureau, where I learned from top-notch statisticians their knowledge of theory and how to use it in empirical work. To me the following anecdote summarizes a key difference between common economic and statistical thinking. An economist at the Bureau once told me that an economic hypothesis he was testing was being rejected by “bad data”, so he had to find “good data”. That is, the hypothesis was being held onto tightly and the data served only to confirm the hypothesis, not to reject it. A statistician would more likely reverse these priorities: take the data as given and use whatever method worked well to achieve desired results. Of course, the anecdote is a statistician’s caricature of an economist. Nevertheless, at the time this was not so clear to me. The moral of the story is that economists can learn from statisticians. The reverse is also true, although here the first case is the relevant one. Although I am mostly still an economist-econometrician, I continue to learn and gain from my continued affiliation with mathematical statistics, now mostly by presenting at B&Estat sessions at JSM. I think not enough economists and econometricians are aware of how their understanding and work would improve by being exposed to statistical practice, in particular, by attending JSM and presenting in B&Estat sessions there. As Chair, I would do my best to increase this awareness and attendance.

**Chair-Elect**

**Erika McEntarfer**

U.S. Census Bureau

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Marina Gindelsky**

Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Mariana Saenz**

Georgia Southern University

**Statement**

My future goals to improve the ASA are: 1) to facilitate understanding of applicability of improved statistical techniques in Economics; 2) to promote the ASA conferences and activities among economists; and 3) to help increase participation of Hispanic students in statistical practice. I plan to achieve my goals by: 1) developing and promoting sessions of interest to economists; 2) promoting the use of analytical techniques not used in econometrics; and 3) serving as a mentor in the Joint Statistical Meetings Diversity Mentoring Program.

**Section on Statistical Computing**



**Chair-Elect****Wendy Martinez**

Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Statement**

If elected, I will work with the section officers and members of the Section on Statistical Computing to “promote the application of computer hardware, software, and systems to statistical problems.” I will continue the activities already supported by the section, such as annual awards, a Data Expo, and the annual JSM program. I will also work with section members to establish some new activities. One example is to conduct webinars on topics in statistical computing. Additionally, I will explore options for outreach activities to encourage young people to learn more about statistical computing. This outreach could be accomplished by working with other entities like Girls Who Code and RLadies.org.

**Chair-Elect****David Hunter**

Penn State University

**Statement**

I believe ASA works best when its members participate in the governance of its various sections. I am very much of the opinion that statisticians must incorporate more computing into how we think and train students—I am one of the co-developers of Penn State’s new data sciences undergraduate major—while holding onto the theoretical foundations that distinguish us from fields like computer science and machine learning.

**Program Chair-Elect****Usha Govindarajulu**

State University of New York Downstate Medical Center

**Statement**

I very enthusiastically would like to be elected as Program Chair Elect of the Statistical Computing Section in order to be involved with the program planning for the section. I have previously been involved with this section in roles of Secretary/Treasurer in assisting with the budget when the section had to deal with balancing the budget and most recently Publications Officer in terms of creating/publishing our yearly newsletters. I have always enjoyed working hard for this section and with the various executive members with whom I have served. I will be very committed in this new position, using my prior knowledge of the section and devoting my time and energy to developing our sessions and CE programs. I would be very happy to work with the current Program Chair to coordinate these efforts. I am always grateful to have an opportunity to serve in the sections/committees of the ASA.

**Program Chair-Elect****Sebastian Kurtek**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

I am honored and excited to be a Program Chair candidate for the ASA Section on Statistical Computing. While I have not served as a Program Chair for an ASA section in the past, I have been active in organizing sessions rooted in statistical computing at major statistics and applied mathematics meetings, and promoting statistical methods through various types of service for computer vision, machine learning, pattern recognition and medical imaging conferences. In 2016, I served as an Area Chair for the IEEE Conference on Applications of Computer Vision. My duties included overseeing the peer-review process for several manuscripts, and making final acceptance decisions based on the manuscripts' overall quality and reviewer comments. In 2015 and 2016, I was a co-organizer of the International Workshop on Differential Geometry in Computer Vision and Machine Learning. This is a smaller, topic-focused meeting that was held in conjunction with the British Machine Vision Conference in 2015 and the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition in 2016. One of my duties as co-organizer was assembling the conference program (assigning reviewers, making acceptance decisions, selecting papers for oral vs. poster track, etc.). These recent service positions provided me with valuable experience, which I will use to uphold the high quality of the ASA Statistical Computing Section's program. Additionally, statistical computing encompasses a wide scope of topics, and I feel that it is important for this diversity to be reflected in all of the section's sponsored activities.

**Secretary/Treasurer****Matthias Katzfuss**

Texas A&amp;M University

**Statement**

I am very honored to be nominated as a candidate for Secretary/Treasurer in the Section on Statistical Computing. I have strong research interests in statistical computing, and have been a member of this very important section since my first year in grad school. I have enjoyed serving as president of the local ASA chapter here in Texas for the past two terms. I would be delighted with the opportunity to contribute to the Section with my German efficiency and reliability.

**Secretary/Treasurer****Jared Murray**

Carnegie Mellon University

**Statement**

As an officer of the statistical computing section I plan to advocate for the role of statistics in "big data" and data science. I will work to enhance the visibility of statisticians working on large-scale, computationally intensive applications across disciplines. I think statisticians have much to offer, including development of methods that explicitly consider the tradeoff between statistical accuracy and computational cost, and that are cognizant of (or even take advantage of) modern computational architectures. I think we should also view the recent mixed results in poll aggregation (perhaps one of the most visible big data applications of late) as an opportunity to emphasize the need for understanding both sampling and non-sampling error - which does not diminish just by collecting larger samples -- in quantifying uncertainty in predictions and inferences.

**Council of Section Representative**

**David van Dyk**

Imperial College London

**Statement**

We are living in an information age—massive data streams are the norm in every sector of society. Marketing and sales, online activity, transportation, climate, medical records, and a myriad of other human activities and physical processes are under constant surveillance. As a society, we hope this information will be beneficial, be it through increased commercial profitability, tracking and fighting contagions, improving security, or understanding and curtailing threats such as global warming. While sophisticated statistical techniques and statistical models provide a map from new data streams to our scientific, economic, and human objectives, there are enormous computational challenges in dealing with these necessarily complex models and massive data streams. Progress can only be made in solving these challenges with a collaboration of statisticians in academia, industry, and government working alongside researchers in a variety of data-rich environments. The American Statistical Association is by far the broadest association of professional statisticians and as such is uniquely positioned to foster this collaboration. Within the ASA, the Section on Statistical Computing is an obvious forum for this work. It serves as a venue for developing networks, exchanging ideas, and fostering new collaboration. It would be an honor for me to have the opportunity to serve the Section as one of its representatives In the Council of Sections

**Council of Section Representative**

**Rajib Paul**

Western Michigan University

**Statement**

My objective as a Council of Sections (COS) Representative for the Section on Statistical Computing would be increasing the visibility of the section and enhancing the professional development of the members. I will encourage the members to submit proposals for invited sessions and topic contributed sessions for professional meetings and make the members

aware of section activities and awards. I will likewise apprise the members on federal and foundational research funding opportunities in the area of statistical computing and will promote interdisciplinary research in statistical computing, computer science, and engineering.

## **Section on Statistical Consulting**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Jonathan Mahnken**

University of Kansas Medical Center

### **Statement**

I am thankful for the support that the ASA provides for continuing education, networking through meetings and social media, and accreditation. I believe I have personally benefited from receiving the accreditation by the ASA. I am greatly appreciative of the benefits my membership in ASA has provided me, which serves as motivation for running for this office. I believe that my previous service activities provided me with a solid foundation to serve as Chair of the Section on Statistical Consulting. I have been a member of the ASA since 1998, and have attended each JSM over the last decade. I have also been a presenter for the ASA's Conference on Statistical Practice. And in 2017, I began service on the ASA's Accreditation Committee. My goals for the Section on Statistical Consulting are to work efficiently with the Executive Committee, particularly with the Program Chair, to develop a robust portfolio of sessions for JSM. We are a large section with a broad spectrum of statistical practices and diverse needs. I have gained a valuable, inside perspective as Program Chair into bringing JSM together, and have come to appreciate the very real challenges encountered, such as the competing obligations of all of our volunteers. Many in our Section take advantage of ASA's tools for connecting statisticians with questions to those with answers through the ASA Community, and supplementing this with well-planned meetings provides synergistic opportunities for focused learning and relationship-building with distant colleagues. Given my beliefs of the importance of these national meetings, as Chair I would like to explore ways the Section could increase participation and support for ASA's Conference on Statistical Practice.

### **Chair-Elect**

**LeAnna Stork**

Monsanto Co.

### **Statement**

As Chair-Elect, my goals for enhancing the Statistical Consulting Section are focused on improving the connectivity between Section members, enabling them to discuss, share, and promote best practices for statistical collaboration. I view statistical collaboration as any conversation between statisticians and/or business domain experts that contributes to solving a real-world problem or achieving a business goal. Statistical collaboration is a vital component to

successful statistical consulting. Statisticians should be at the collaboration table; whether they're invited or not. There are many ways to get to the table, but the key is to understand the real-world context of the problem by asking smart business questions. What is the goal? Value? Priority? Risk? What if we asked a different question, or looked at alternatives the norm? Successful statistical collaborators need to have strong communication skills and entrepreneurial thinking, as well as the ability to think innovatively, define efficient solutions, and tell compelling stories. To achieve my goals as Chair-Elect for the Statistical Consulting Section I plan to champion two initiatives. One is to emphasize the online discussion forum, and the other is to highlight the Section sponsorship of JSM sessions. In doing so, I hope to promote statistical collaboration, diversity of thought, and sharing of best practices to bring together statistical collaborators and consultants across academia, government, and industry.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Mekibib Altaye**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

**Statement**

I have been doing statistical consulting for the last 20 year in a semi-academic environment which brings both the advantage and challenges of the academic and non-academic settings. While statistical consulting is widely viewed as an important part of any research, the consultant doesn't necessarily viewed as such. Often the consultant is viewed as a hired help rather than an integral part of the research team. Changing the culture of the collaboration environment such that the consultant is considered as a significant contributor that should be included as a collaboration from the inception to the completion of the project and beyond is important. In my division we work hard to achieve this and we are making substantial progress and I would like to share and expand our experience to the larger statistical consulting community.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Chris Barker**

Statistical Planning and Analysis Services, Inc.

**Statement**

I will be honored to serve the section as Secretary-Treasurer. Previously I was the Publications officer for the Statistical Consulting section. I have also volunteered in the American Statistical Association in the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the ASA, and Statistics Without Borders.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Hsin-Yi (Cindy) Weng**

University of Utah

**Statement**

I am honored to be nominated for the position of the council of Sections (COS) Representative position from 2018 to 2020 to the ASA Section on Statistical Consulting. A Section's ability to function effectively is enhanced by communications. In addition, as a member of the ASA Section on Statistical Consulting, I would give voice to other professional sections. Having experiences served as an officer, I am cognizant of the importance of the work of the Representative position and I am fully ready to serve. I look forward to the opportunity to serve ASA and the members of the Statistical Consulting Section through this role!

**Council of Sections Representative****Hrishikesh Chakraborty**

University of South Carolina

**Statement**

I am honored to be considered for the position of Council of Sections Representative of the ASA. I have served the ASA in many ways over the last 20 years and I look forward to bringing this experience to the benefit of ASA members and society at large. I bring extensive academic experiences in research, teaching, and mentoring, including directing the biostatistics consulting and collaborative centers in different settings and capacity. Currently I am directing two centers at the University of South Carolina, Biostatistics Collaborative Research Core and Biostatistics Center for Health Sciences South Carolina. The world of data science is drawing heavily from these communities, and statistics holds a key place at the table. These interactions with different researchers provided me to do statistical outreach to researchers in different area as well as local, national and international communities. I have been fortunate to collaborate with outstanding researchers on a variety of biomedical and community intervention projects nationally and internationally and to educate formally and informally. I have had many opportunities to serve our profession, and each one has been a rewarding experience. My involvement in these interactions have demonstrated the need of statistical leadership and improved communication to ensure that science is on a solid foundation. We need to improve our communication to non-statisticians. I have co-chaired the ASA Committee on Statistical Partnerships among Academe, Industry, and Government, served as a North Carolina SAS chapter advisor, representative, vice-president, and president.

**Executive Committee at Large****Jason Machan**

Lifespan Hospital System

**Statement**

My personal goals are to explore how we can identify and capitalize on the doors opened by: a) the ubiquitous need of our technical skills, and b) how the application of these skills necessitates a deep understanding of the goals, logistics, and logic of our teammates. A visible investment in the latter, if coupled with effective soft skills and a degree of astuteness can be a

powerful means to advance an applied statistician's career. I received my PhD in Experimental Psychology, but have been employed as an applied biostatistician since 1999. I have been a member of the ASA and attending the Joint Statistical Meetings since 2004. Over those years, I've learned that it's not uncommon for we psychologists to end up in the statistical community, even contributing methodologically. While I don't rule out making such contributions, myself, it's not a priority. Rather, my goals align with the movement of Team Science. In my experiences, as I've become more involved with more teams, I've been asked to take on more leadership roles...in my organization...in my community. Interestingly, much of this has come not directly from technical skills, but rather through the network of other researchers and leaders whose respect I've earned. I believe I've earned that respect, as many others have, through a passionate pursuit of understanding of the problem through their eyes as I seek to add value from my perspective. I think many of us do these things naturally, but I haven't heard much about making these processes deliberate. I believe applied statisticians and biostatisticians are positioned to not only be among the most valued member of teams, but to become emergent leaders on a large scale. Not only can we create revenue a stream, but we can serve as a hub in a network interconnecting our clients, collaborators, and academic colleagues.

#### **Executive Committee at Large**

**Wei-Ting Hwang**

University of Pennsylvania

#### **Statement**

I will actively engage with section members and other section officers to better understand the issues relevant to the section and facilitate the communication in the section. I will assist to make informed decisions on initiatives that can deliver our members short-term and/or long term benefits.

### **Section on Statistical Education**

#### **Chair-Elect**

**Mine Cetinkaya-Rundel**

Duke University

#### **Statement**

I am honored and delighted to be a candidate for the Chair of the Section on Statistical Education. I am a Professor of the Practice and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Statistical Science at Duke University as well as a Professional Educator at RStudio. My most recent work focuses on integrating computation within all levels of the statistics curriculum, with an emphasis on reproducible research methodologies and analysis of real and complex datasets. My work on pedagogy focuses on developing student-centric approaches for teaching statistics, with a focus on the interplay between these pedagogical

approaches and self-efficacy of female and under represented students in STEM courses. I am also very active in open access education. I work on the Open Intro project authoring textbooks and developing supplementary resources, and I have developed and taught several massive open online courses. I think that this is a very exciting time to be a statistician and to be teaching statistics. If elected as Chair of the Section, I would like to continue the fantastic work former section officers on the curation and sharing of educational resources for teaching statistics and data science. I would also like to work on increasing awareness and adoption of reproducible science practices in statistics education. Additionally, I would like to strengthen the support for programs that cultivate statisticians at all levels with strong computational skills. These range from events like Data Fest that provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to immerse themselves in large and messy data to curriculum developments that incorporate modern computational methods for working with massive data streams, big data, complex data structure and models. I would also like to develop a teaching-focused sustainable mentorship program for graduate students and new faculty. I am excited to for this opportunity to more formally contribute to this community.

#### **Chair-Elect**

**Roger Woodard**

North Carolina State University

#### **Statement**

The teaching and learning of statistics remains a critical component of the ASA mission. Statistics education has grown and thrived over the past 30 years, yet it still faces major challenges. While projects such as the Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) have helped transform many classrooms, there are many classrooms that have not benefited from these resources. Large numbers of statistics students are taught by instructors who are not connected to the ASA, the section on Statistical Education or the resources provided by the broader statistics education community. I believe the section on Statistical Education can make a real difference in supporting all statistics educators, through 1. Reaching out to sister organizations such as MAA and AMATYC to help inform their members of resources and activities of both ASA and the Section on Statistical Education. 2. Engaging and informing ASA members through better communication and outreach. 3. Supporting the research and innovation of our section members through our publications and conference sessions. The strength of the section continues to be the passion of its members, I think it is vital for the section leadership to reach out to all of the members and potential new members, then help engage their passion at a national level.

#### **Council of Section Representative**

**Matt Hayat**

Georgia State University

#### **Statement**



Thank you for considering me to serve as a Council of Section Representative in the ASA's Section on Statistical Education. I have been an ASA member since 1994 and have attended many of the Joint Statistical Meetings since joining. I've actively presented at many Joint Statistical Meetings over the years, include organizing and/or presenting at roundtables, panels, and contributed topic sessions, sponsored by the ASA Sections on Statistical Education, Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences, and Statistical Consulting. The ASA Section on Statistical Education has developed tremendously in recent years. I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to serve as a representative and contribute to its continued growth and visibility. Thanks to the National Science Foundation and its funding of statistics education research in the past several decades, a great deal of new knowledge about statistics education has accumulated. I'd like to see our section continue to support and promote accessibility and awareness of the relatively new (in the past few decades) statistics education literature and community. In my networking and interactions with statistics educators in academia, I've discovered a surprising lack of awareness of the widespread efforts to modernize statistics education, including the statistics education reform movement. The GAISE report is an incredibly valuable resource and sets a standard for modernized statistics education. I'm interested in building on the efforts of the section to continue to publicize the committee findings and recommendations and see them more widely used and applied with curriculum development and classroom instruction. I'd also like to explore ways our section can become more involved in graduate level statistics education. I've seen a lack of awareness in some programs about the GAISE report and ASA section efforts in this area.

### **Council of Section Representative**

**Adam Sullivan**

Brown University

### **Statement**

Until my master's degree, I really did not understand the possibilities of statistics. I was told by an amazing mentor of mine that if I wanted to get an academic position not to focus on mathematics but to take statistics. I reluctantly started taking mathematical statistics and probability classes. In 2008 I spent a month in a hospital. I read a lot of medical literature and kept noticing the numbers and analysis associated with them. I started my career in Biostatistics at that time. You may wonder I chose to tell this. I have a deep passion for education and never knew the power of statistics and I wish someone had helped me understand and know the true extents of this in high school or even undergraduate. This is where I feel the ASA and we as a Statistical Education Community can come in. This is a field for those passionate about using logic and data to solve real world problems. Whether you desire to work on the root of disparity issues, or understand whether or not a marketing plan had a positive or negative impact, statistics is the common denominator. My desire is for the ASA Statistics Education section to be a place where educators from can come and find content guidance, data sets and even lessons. We have the ability to share and build content so that students at all levels can be engaged with interesting and meaningful problems to solve. Working as a community to pool resources that so many of us our creating and using can

provide a wealth of understanding for students and for educators that do not have the same level of training that many of us do. This would also promote more collaboration for all members and grant funding opportunities. Working together we can create a generation of excited and passionate statisticians that are fully engaged to work on solving many problems in this world; Becoming an even greater influence on all fields and education levels. Reaching people like myself that never knew the amazing field statistics truly is.

**Executive Committee at Large**

**Leigh Johnson**

Capital University

**Statement**

Big Data and Data Science have grown tremendously over the past few years. In keeping with the strategic objectives of the section, we need to equip our future data scientists with a strong education. This necessitates educators that have broad knowledge of statistics, computer science and other interdisciplinary fields. Many educators are not confident about teaching in areas beyond their field of expertise. At larger institutions, this is not a problem. At smaller institutions, however, many professors find themselves needing to teach data science topics that are unfamiliar to them. I believe the section can help address this need for professional development in data science. In addition, there should be a focus to help those who are not necessarily data scientists better understand the massive amount of information that is being presented to them. Consumers of information are being developed everywhere, and at many levels. While data science curricula are forming at many larger colleges and universities around the world, and other national groups, such as ASA and the National Academy of Sciences and Medicine have formed committees to further the dissemination of data science education, it is often smaller colleges and universities where the reach of these programs can lack. Due to limited time and resources many educators struggle to gain the breadth of knowledge required to teach a more complete version of data science. I believe the Section on Statistical Education should play a central role in developing programs, conferences, and roundtables that bring together educators from the many different fields that are part of data science education. My goal as a committee member would be to advocate for these kinds of programs, especially ones targeted to individuals at smaller institutions and/or individuals who may not be considered part of traditional “data science” fields yet find themselves filling this role due to a need at their institution.

**Executive Committee at Large**

**Sharon Lane-Getaz**

St. Olaf College

**Statement**

"Toward improving the American Statistical Association Section on Statistical Education" The Section on Statistical Education goals aim to promote the teaching and learning of statistics by:

• Offering opportunities to share and discuss ideas. • Providing educational resources for the extended statistical community. • Creating and shaping policies regarding educational innovations. To help achieve these objectives, I aim to bring ideas from my own lessons learned. At St. Olaf we have implemented statistics education reform methods to engage students in actual data collection and analysis. We have emphasized methods that develop students' conceptual understanding of inference using the reform-based "Three Rs approach:" Randomize data, Repeat the process, and Reject models that don't fit the data. We have further improved teaching by "flipping" software demonstrations with small group work in introductory statistics courses. We created voice-over recordings to demonstrate how to use R software for data analysis. There are lessons to be shared from my role as a statistics mentor in the St. Olaf enhanced Center for Interdisciplinary Research (eCIR). I collaborated with two to three statistics concentrators and a domain expert in year-long research projects. An international leader in the statistics education reform wrote that "statistics education now faces the biggest challenge and opportunity in [his] 40 year career, and RPASS has the potential to help determine the direction of future efforts...[to] potentially influence how our profession teaches its subject." One avenue is research in the effect of statistics education reform on introductory statistics students' learning outcomes. Other avenues that need to be examined and supported are the effects of increasing data science content in our statistics curricula.

#### **Executive Committee at Large**

**Weiwen Miao**

Haverford College

#### **Statement**

Once elected, I will actively participated in all activities in the Statistics Education Section and try my best to serve its members.

#### **Executive Committee at Large**

**Cassandra Pattanayak**

Wellesley College

#### **Statement**

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Executive Committee and excited about the possible opportunity to contribute to the important conversations that lie ahead in our community. I believe that my unusual position at Wellesley - splitting my time between teaching undergraduate women, running a student-supported statistical consulting service, and working to expand the statistics curriculum (thankfully, no longer as the only statistician on campus) - gives me a useful perspective on the current issues in statistics education. If chosen for the committee, I would like to emphasize the role of internships and consulting; best practices for online and blended learning; and navigating the relationship between statistics and data science. Members of the Statistics Education section have developed a variety of successful models for providing students with extensive applied experiences, from statistical

consulting to project-based courses to capstones, in and out of the classroom, on and off campus. I would like to streamline the way we share and compare these models, with the goal of increasing the number of students whose statistics education includes an internship-like component. Many of us have experimented with online materials and flipped or blended classrooms, out of curiosity or necessity. Often, but not always, these resources are intended for the introductory course. We have also seen that online materials can play an important role in allowing students with varying backgrounds to participate in statistics courses past the introductory level or increase the level of statistics discourse in courses offered in other fields. I would like to work with others to refine guidelines for how best to take advantage of online possibilities. I would also like to work with colleagues to refine recommendations for data science and statistics curricula as the increasing number of new programs in data science are evaluated.

## **Section on Statistics and the Environment**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Christopher Wikle**

University of Missouri – Columbia

### **Statement**

We are facing an unprecedented challenge in environmental sciences related to communicating objectively the potential threats to our planet to an increasingly hostile audience. These communication challenges are also tied to the technical challenges of working with increasingly large and diverse data sets. Those of us who have worked in the environmental sciences for many years know that “big data” is not a new problem – we’ve been dealing with huge environmental information streams from remote sensing, computer models, and sensor networks for decades. Furthermore, we’ve had to face problems of substantial measurement uncertainty, non-Gaussianity, extremes, and spatio-temporal dependence. We still have a long way to go to develop methods to address these challenges and to cross the disciplinary boundaries in environmental science. I see the ENVR Section being a leading voice in this endeavor. The ENVR Section has already done an excellent job of starting many of these initiatives and has established partnerships with other similar organizations. I look forward to the challenge of continuing and adding to this positive trajectory and helping to expand the role of environmental statistics in science and public policy.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Jarrett Barber**

Northern Arizona University

### **Statement**

It is my pleasure and honor to be considered for the position of Chair-Elect for ENVR and for the continued opportunity to serve such a great group of people. Recent electoral events promise a challenging time ahead for our environment and ENVR. I look forward with renewed resolve to develop, with your help, new and innovative ways to increase awareness and membership, to improve education and outreach, to encourage and promote young investigators to address environmental problems, and to improve workshops and our presence at JSM. Let's make ENVR greater, still! And, I promise: no tweet storms.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**William Kleiber**

University of Colorado, Boulder

**Statement**

The ENVR section plays an important role within the ASA, and by expanding and improving our role, we will positively influence the society as a whole. Our group's mission statement emphasizes communication, policy guidance, and education. While in the past few years we have begun expanding our vision, I would like to see a broader spectrum of discussion at the JSM. In particular, expanded involvement from industry, government and national laboratories; invitations for participation from domain scientists (e.g., a session that explores a successful collaboration between an applied scientist and statistician, from each one's perspective); and a view toward emerging fields such as computational ecology, uncertainty quantification and physical-statistical modeling. Our section should strive for greater involvement in its educational component. Indeed, our mission highlights "advancement of research and education in environmental statistics." At least two possibilities arise: 1) a jointly sponsored session with the Section on Statistical Education, covering education strategies for teaching environmental statistics, and 2) a session emphasizing vertically integrated education, extending to undergraduate research opportunities; the latter case could be conceived as a special poster session aimed at pre-doctoral students.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Alexandra Schmidt**

McGill University

**Statement**

It was a rewarding surprise to receive the invitation to run for Program Chair Elect of ENVR. Although I was based in Brazil until last August, I have been a member of ENVR since 2009. Now, being based at McGill University, in Canada, I believe I can contribute more actively to ENVR. I have already served different societies in different capacities. In particular, related to similar activities to the position I am running for, I was part of the Program Council of ISBA between 2009 and 2011. Given my experience, if elected, I believe I can contribute to ENVR in different ways. A straightforward one is to organize the ENVR invited, topic contributed, and contributed sessions at the JSM. Beyond that, I find it important that ENVR organizes joint

events with other Environmental Societies and Environmental Sections of other Societies, similar to the ENVR/EnviBayes Workshop on Bayesian Environmetrics held at Ohio State University in 2016. If elected I plan to work in this direction. If you want to know more about me and my work, please, visit <http://alex-schmidt.research.mcgill.ca/>

**Treasurer**

**Maria Terres**

The Climate Corporation

**Statement**

As an early career statistician I expect this role as Treasurer for ENVR to provide great insights into the inner workings of the ASA and the ENVR section more specifically. My approach in any role is to absorb as much data about the organization as possible, thereby making informed decisions and contributions. The statistical community within the ASA, including the ENVR section, consists of both academic statisticians and statisticians in industry/government. In order to best serve this diverse community it is important to have a variety of perspectives represented in the executive boards. As someone who has experienced an early academic career through my postdoctoral experience, and am now in the early stages of my career in industry, I believe I have a strong capacity to bring useful insights and perspectives to the section.

**Treasurer**

**Ying Sun**

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

**Statement**

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for treasurer of the ASA Section on Statistics and the Environment (ENVR), if elected, to serve the profession. The ENVR Section offers a broad spectrum of services to support the activities and aspirations of its members and community. Currently, the ENVR Section has many ongoing activities guided by its strategic plan. If elected, I will continue to support these worthy endeavors as the treasurer, and bring my passion and enthusiasm. I look forward to hearing from members and leadership in further planning my own contributions. I believe I would be a valued member of the executive committee.

**Publications Chair-Elect**

**Oksana Chkrebtii**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

Communicating information to ASA members as well as connecting with the broader statistical community is an important goal. I would like to work towards this goal by providing timely and updated information to the Section on Statistics and the Environment as publications officer.

**Publications Chair-Elect**

**K. Sham Bhat**

Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Statement**

The publications chair is responsible for disseminating information regarding activities, accomplishments, and opportunities to the community. This will need to be done both through regular newsletters on the section website and ASA online groups as well as e-mail and social media. A large part of my career in statistics has been working on projects applied to environmental applications, including climate models, dam breaches, rainfall, and groundwater applications. For the past three years, I have been the chapter representative for the Albuquerque chapter for the ASA, which includes maintaining the chapter website, attending the Council of Chapter meeting at JSM

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Jenise Swall**

Virginia Commonwealth University

**Statement**

My somewhat unconventional career path has provided me opportunities to work in many different environments and in various roles (e.g., consultant, analyst). In my current faculty position, I devote much of my energy to educating and advising students, especially undergraduates, who are investigating potential careers in statistics and analytics. As a result, I'm convinced of the importance of building and maintaining partnerships between statisticians working in different areas, including the various sections and chapters of ASA.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**WendyMeiring**

University of California, Santa Barbara

**Statement**

If elected as ENVR COS representative, I look forward to participating actively in cross-section discussions that further the role of ASA and the Statistics profession as a whole, motivated by core interests of our ASA ENVR Section. These include discussions on the role and visibility of the ASA within the rapidly developing field of data science, of which statistics needs to be a core component within each of the research, application, and educational arenas. I believe ASA sections are stronger when supporting each other in core ASA initiatives, while also valuing

area-specific conferences/initiatives, including recognizing ENVR members' collaboration with policy makers, educators and scientists from other disciplines. I also aim to participate in ASA's support of recent graduates through career development opportunities.

## **Section on Statistics in Epidemiology**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Jing Cheng**

University of California, San Francisco

### **Statement**

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for chair of the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology (SIE). I have served the section in various ways as organizer and chair of JSM sessions since 2005, publication officer in 2009-2011 and program chair in 2013. If elected, I would continue the successful section activities in the past and welcome new ideas from all members responding to arising opportunities and challenges from changes in Big Data era. With increased attention on personalized care, I believe SIE should emphasize our mission to advance solid statistical methods and applications worldwide with rich potential resources at every level (individual, community, state, and country) to serving the public in cost-effective ways. The SIE will continue activities in and expand activities beyond North America, Europe and Australia. The SIE will work with international, regional and local statistical societies in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America to promote collaborations worldwide among statisticians with common interest in statistics and epidemiology, through special sessions, workshops, online blogs and groups. The SIE will also continue to promote cooperation with researchers in other fields via interdisciplinary workshops, conferences, courses and groups, deliver comments on policies to policy makers and disseminate important scientific findings to public via media as a common interest group. Besides offering awards and travel grants to attract young investigators to the field, we should also discuss and consider establishing a young investigator group or network run by graduate students and young investigators to exchange ideas and promote collaborations, and having an annual competition for solving a real challenging problem related to statistics in epidemiology. If elected, I look forward to contributing to this continued success.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Kathleen Jablonski**

The George Washington University

### **Statement**

As an advisor for students in the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Department (GWU), I encourage students to participate in the ASA through local chapters as well as national meetings. Through the ASA students not only have access to information about careers in



statistics, but they are given the opportunity to network. As an ASA member, I am interested in mentoring early-career statisticians and epidemiologists, to help them avoid some of the mistakes I have made during my career. With over 30 years of experience in data analysis, I have a fair bit of experience to share. I emphasize communication and collaboration.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Yingqi Zhao**

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Statement**

Financial It is a great honor to be nominated as a candidate for the Program Chair-elect American Statistical Association's Section of Statistical in Epidemiology. If elected, I will promote sessions and webinars that advance statistics in epidemiology research and meet the identified epidemiological and public health research needs. My goals include enhancing interaction between section members and increasing the section's visibility to the ASA community.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Veronica Berrocal**

University of Michigan

**Statement**

I have started my statistical career working mostly on environmental and weather-related problems and have gradually migrated to working on problems related to environmental health (air pollution, and exposure to environmental risk factors), and more generally public health and epidemiology. Through my collaboration with epidemiologists, some of which are involved in Community-Based-Research projects, and through my service activities mostly with the Environmental Protection Agency as an ad-hoc or external review panel member, I have been fortunate to appreciate more and more not only the importance that us, statisticians, play in scientific research but also the role that we can potentially play in influencing policy and societal change, public health, and more generally the public discourse. The Section on Statistics in Epidemiology with its focus on epidemiological issues is certainly at the forefront of this type of important discussions. As a candidate for the position of Program Chair Elect for the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology I will try to make sure that the program the section sponsors at JSM will not only highlight statistical challenges and advances in epidemiology, but it will also shed light on topics that are of great importance to federal governmental agencies and on which statisticians can provide an important input and perspective. Ultimately, my goal as an elected officer for the section is to foster a greater collaboration between academic statisticians/institutions, non-academic statisticians, and federal governmental agencies.

**Publications Officer**

**Yan Ma**

George Washington University

**Statement**

I am honored to be nominated for the position of publication officer, American Statistical Association's Section of Statistical in Epidemiology (SIE). As an statistician who is working in a department of epidemiology and biostatistics, I have had the unique opportunity to learn and to teach how to integrate statistical and epidemiological perspectives in medical and public health research. If elected, I will work with SIE officers to ensure that materials are reviewed and published in a timely matter.

**Publications Officer****Colin Fogarty**

MIT Sloan School of Management

**Statement**

As publications officer for the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology, I would send out announcements to the listserv, submit articles to the ASA for publication in the monthly newsletter, and submit articles for publication in the JSM program booklet promptly and without delay. I would ensure that the posted information is clear, concise, and (above all else) correct! I would also explore additional forms of media that would help the section's publications better reach their target audience. I would do my best to further the section's objectives and initiatives whenever possible.

**Council of Section Representative****Rebecca Yates Coley**

Group Health Research Institute

**Statement**

As a statistician on an interdisciplinary faculty, I collaborate with experts in cancer, mental health, and diabetes to design and conduct high quality epidemiological research with a major clinical and public health impact. I see day-to-day the importance of combining rigorous statistical methods with scientific knowledge to analyze longitudinal data collected in clinical and other observational settings. As the Council of Section Representative for the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology, I will advocate for the value of statistical expertise in epidemiological research by promoting statisticians making important contributions in the field, voicing the interests of our section to the Council of Section Representatives, and encouraging productive collaboration between sections.

## **Council of Section Representative**

**Nandita Mitra**

University of Pennsylvania

### **Statement**

As a Council of Sections Representative, I would welcome the opportunity to support and develop further outreach initiatives to attract high school students and undergraduates to the field of statistics. In addition, I hope to help increase enthusiasm for our Section on Statistics in Epidemiology by encouraging graduate students to participate in epidemiology and causal inference related tutorials and short courses and to give poster and oral presentations in these areas at JSM, ASA sponsored ENAR sessions, and at other national and international meetings. I also hope to build stronger ties with the ASA sponsored Colleague-to-Colleague program which pairs long-standing ASA members with new members to help initiate and encourage participation in our Section. I am also passionate about advancing our field by fostering cross-disciplinary relationships with economists, political scientists, health policy makers and others who have a shared interest in causal approaches.

## **Section on Government Statistics**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Michael Messner**

Environmental Protection Agency

### **Statement**

As an officer of GSS, I expect to enthusiastically support and promote the following: • interagency communities of practice and engagement • linking of intra-agency communities of practice • cross-sector (government, academic and corporate) communication, collaboration and knowledge-sharing • platforms for knowledge management (KM) and sharing • the movement toward open data, open analytics and open information Regarding interagency communities, I would reach out to OMB/Statistical and Science Policy staff to re-energize SCOPE (the Statistical Community of Practice and Engagement). SCOPE's only sign of life this past year has been a few meetings to discuss metadata. Clearly, many more issues need attention and this group is a good starting point for interagency efforts to address them. Among the wide-ranging issues are survey non-response, code-sharing, measurement of sexual orientation & gender identity, information security, confidentiality, open code, platforms for KM and managing intra- & inter-agency CoPs. Regarding statistical communities, KM and openness, I would like to connect intra-organization communities and leaders to share best practices and to identify opportunities for cross-organization collaboration and sharing. I would like to find or create a place where one can find information on all these matters – a one-stop shop for information of all sorts on government statistics. Is it possible to have – in one place – links to key government information dashboards? To government data gateways? Metadata

and code repositories? I would like to explore these ideas and, where possible, build the one-stop shops for finding all this stuff.

**Chair-Elect**

**Elizabeth Mannshardt**

Environmental Protection Agency

**Statement**

I strongly support and will enthusiastically continue GSS's outstanding tradition of supporting production and use of statistics across governmental bodies in statistics across a diverse range of topics and disciplines in government, as well as practice of statistics in the private sector including collaboration with our crucial partners in academics and industry. Having spent the first decade of my career in academics, I understand the importance of these connections and am well-poised to continue to strengthen them. An example is my work in the last year with an ASA team of government, industry and academic statisticians interested in coordinating the communication with and participation of statisticians on technical regulations, which is an important aspect of public policy. An additional component of GSS that I feel is vital is outreach to young statisticians in the field to encourage careers in government. It is also important to consider the dissemination of broad statistical and scientific innovations as they relate to statistics in government and public policy. If elected, as GSS chair I plan to continue and further develop opportunities for outreach and communication. This should be at the forefront of our attention as communication and collaboration are crucial to our discipline.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Jeffrey Gonzalez**

Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Statement**

As a member of the Executive Board for the Government Statistics Section, my primary focus will be on ensuring a diverse program for the upcoming Joint Statistical Meetings. The program will consist of a variety of presentations and posters from various statistical application areas from across the federal statistical agencies.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Jonathan Lyle Auerbach**

Columbia University

**Statement**

My goal as programming chair would be to arrange programming that emphasizes the achievements of Government Statistics Section members. Broadcasting these achievements is more important now than ever. Government statistics is at a crossroads. Free and unfettered information is the backbone of a thriving democracy. Yet the public's faith in statistics has

eroded due to failed predictions, misinterpreted surveys, information leaks and reproducibility crises. Ironically, public misinformation about the role of statistics threatens the data and funds set aside explicitly for informing the public. GSS is uniquely qualified to comment on the state of government statistics and its essential role in policymaking (the JSM 2017 theme). From attending GSS programming in past conferences, I know that GSS members have worked hard each year to address the challenges of government statistics, and I believe GSS sessions should reflect our collective progress in upholding the GSS mission of improving the production and use of statistics in the public sector. Anyone thumbing through a GSS program should instantly appreciate the current state of government statistics. I would identify the broad challenges addressed by session proposals and then facilitate discussion by coordinating and consolidating works that address similar challenges. I would also encourage submissions that demonstrate new opportunities for government statisticians, using my diverse experiences with government and those of government veterans. I began my career with New York City's legislature where I worked on the open data law. I worked with over a dozen government offices, ranging from local community boards to massive federal agencies, to establish sound statistical practices. Through the ASA, I've also worked with journalists and the media to clarify the purpose of these practices. As a secondary goal, I would like to engage more students and data analysts in state and local government.

## **Section on Statistics Graphics**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Dianne Cook**

Monash University

### **Statement**

Statistical graphics has a long history as area of focus in the field of statistics. It is increasingly important in today's data science era. My goal will be to grow the membership of the section, and encourage interest in the area among young statisticians.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Kaiser Fung**

Columbia University

### **Statement**

I am eager to start my journey of service to the ASA membership and the statistical graphics community in particular. Within the graphics community, I am known for creating Junk Charts, the pioneering blog offering data visualization critique since 2005. This blog has been a labor of love to our community: my weekly posts offer detailed critiques and re-visualizations that frequently take up to a week to produce, and I keep doing it for the sole purpose of spreading the gospel of effective visualization of data. For most of my career, I led business statistics

teams for various companies, including American Express, SiriusXM Radio and Vimeo. Recently, I switched to the training and education of the next-generation statisticians and data scientists. As founding director of the Applied Analytics program at Columbia University, I launched a new Master's degree aimed at training data-savvy managers who will bridge the gap between business and analytics teams within organizations. I co-founded RSquareEdge, a startup supported by Harvard Business School that focuses on re-training workers to transition careers into the analytics field. I have taught or given guest lectures on data visualization at New York University, Columbia Business School, Parsons School of Design, New School and CUNY; as well as delivered training in statistical communications at companies such as Google and 3M. As the amount and complexity of data sources explode, effective statistical communications becomes paramount to the success of many organizations. I believe the Statistical Graphics section should work on the following initiatives: - Enhance member engagement - Provide service to the public, such as webinars - Further industry and academic flow of ideas, including appropriate forums at JSM I have benefited greatly from attending JSM meetings, and interacting with ASA members, and I am excited to give back to the community.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Mahbubul Majumder**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Statement**

I will be happy to serve as a program chair. My goal is to organize JSM sessions such that 1. it brings interest/awareness about data visualization and graphical statistics. 2. it naturally meets the current demand of data visualization in data science. 3. it attracts a broader community as well as keeps the interest of more focused groups from statistical graphics section

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Edward Mulrow**

NORC at the University of Chicago

**Statement**

As Data Science and Big Data evolve, graphical depiction of data evolves as well. While many interactive displays provide insight, numerous displays are created using graphical forms that ignore many of the lessons learned from the creation of static displays of "small" data. The ASA and the Graphics Section are in a position to help data scientists, data journalists and others who seek to visualize data with guidelines for producing better displays. We should encourage section members to focus efforts on helping those outside of the section who seek to produce visualizations. As program chair I will look to organize sessions geared towards helping others improve the graphical products they are currently producing. In other words, a primary focus will be graphical makeovers.

**Publications Officer****Joyce Robbins**

Columbia University and NBR

**Statement**

This is an exciting time for Statistical Computing & Graphics. As Publications Officer, I will work to bring the latest developments of section members in academia and industry to the section at-large. I have extensive writing and editing experience, and will produce the section newsletter in a timely manner.

**Publications Officer****AbbassSharif**

University of Southern California

**Health Policy Statistics Section****Chair-Elect****Ofer Harel**

University of Connecticut

**Statement**

It is a great honor to be considered for the Health Policy Statistics Section (HPSS) 2018 Chair-elect. Our section is facing many opportunities for growth and expansion, in particular in the era of Big Data. This is the time for leadership to come together strengthen and grow the section from within by bringing in more members from across the ASA and beyond. While increasing membership is important, the mix of younger and enthusiastic researchers (students, Post-docs, junior researchers) together with well-established researchers is key. If elected, I hope to build synergy within the section by building its membership and develop mentoring programs. I want to increase the relationship between academia, government and industry to deal with health policy issues. Most importantly, I wish to create an environment in which all those dealing with health policy, health outcome research and any related field will feel welcome and enjoy their interactions with others. I have worked in the field of health policy statistics for over 15 years and I am very excited by the progress and accomplishments of the section. I also have a great deal of experience serving HPSS in a variety of roles including JSM Program Chair-elect, JSM Program Chair and its representative to the Council of Sections. I was part of the organizing committees of several ICHPS conferences the flagship conference of the section. I feel these experiences will be important in guiding our section forward.

**Chair-Elect**  
**Ruth Etzioni**

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Statement**

The ASA can be an overwhelming place. Sections like HPSS can provide a home; a place for members to belong and connect. This has been particularly significant for me in my trajectory from student to senior investigator. I joined the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center faculty almost 25 years ago. My research uses statistical models to fill in the evidence gaps that arise when developing guidelines for cancer screening and treatment. I have served on three national panels on prostate cancer screening. In parallel, I have designed a curriculum for the teaching of statistical methods in the Health Services PhD program at the University of Washington and served on the Health Services Outcomes and Delivery study section at NIH. It took many years for me to feel at home in ASA because I did not understand how I fit in to the organization. I am grateful to the HPSS Fellows Committee for helping me to realize that I have a place here; they are the reason why I am now invested in doing more. As HPSS program chair for JSM 2017, I have realized that HPSS is a huge tent – we are the section for traditional health policy investigators, but also for statisticians in medical decision making, comparative effectiveness, health data analytics and health economics. One of my main objectives is to make explicit the wide range of research fields that fit in to HPSS. Doing so will enable us to expand our membership and strengthen ties with other sections that share common interests. I would love to see HPSS become a more connected community where statisticians working within the big tent that is health policy statistics feel that they have something to offer and a place to call home. I would also like to work on connecting HPSS with allied organizations outside of ASA such as Academy Health, SMDM and ISPOR. I believe that this kind of outreach would enhance the opportunities available to our members, and help them to grow professionally and increase the impact of their work.

## **Section on Statistics in Marketing**

**Chair-Elect**  
**Lynd Bacon**

Loma Buena Associates, Northwestern University, Notre Dame University

**Statement**

Technological innovations are increasingly shaping marketing practice, and are providing an ever-growing set of opportunities to apply statistical thinking. These opportunities range from supporting the best possible strategic and tactical decision-making in a dynamic, omni-channel marketing environment, to improving the efficacy of marketing automation applications. A central question for the Section on Statistics in Marketing is, how can we add value for our membership by enabling research on, and engagement with, these new opportunities? To address it we'll get input from current and prospective Section members to identify new



offerings that will enhance the value of membership, and that will encourage participation and member retention. Our Section leadership team will engage in this effort on a regular basis throughout the year, and we'll make use of committees and interest work groups comprised of regular and student members. The ongoing success of our Section depends on leadership continuity. One of our goals will be to define and implement a leadership succession plan based on the Section's planning efforts to date, that facilitates recruiting candidates for Section officer positions, and that codifies hand-offs between incoming and incumbent Section officers. In summary, our Section's goals will be twofold: (1) get input to define and selectively deploy new, value-added offerings reflecting new marketing innovations that encourage member participation and retention; and (2) implement a Section leadership succession plan.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Victoria Gamerman**

Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

### **Statement**

To support the mission of the Section on Statistics in Marketing, "to foster the development and application of innovative statistic methodologies for the resolution of substantive decisions problems in marketing", I am eager to contribute to support the growth and development of ASA members in methodological and applied research in the practice of marketing. In my current role as the Associate Director of Biostatistics for Health Informatics and Analytics, I work with colleagues across medical and marketing functions on various initiatives within the competitive environment to optimize our organization's ability to meet current and emerging needs for real world evidence and to engage medical and commercial customers through an integrated environment delivering scientific/medical content and information to help meet patients' needs. My expertise is in the planning, conduct, and reporting of non-interventional studies, registries, and market research studies across therapeutic areas requiring close collaboration with colleagues from medical and marketing. I have previously attended FDA meetings with the nonprescription division discussing market research studies. My interests include cluster randomization, pragmatic studies, patient-reported outcomes and patient preference studies, regression tree analysis, meta-analysis, data visualization, and propensity scores. I am passionate about being a statistician and hope to have the opportunity to share that with the Section on Statistics in Marketing!

### **Program Chair-Elect**

**Tim Trudell**

Nielsen

### **Statement**

Creating good discussion involves bringing varying points of view together. As Program Chair-Elect, I would like to further discussion between academia and industry and how industry needs can inform directions in academic research. In both professional work and as a board member

in my condominium association, I have experience working with committees and doing the legwork to get things done on schedule.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Sarjinder Singh**

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

**Statement**

I will follow TRUMP. It has five letters. I will divide total time allocated to me in five equal intervals. First letter T corresponds to first interval means that I will learn the Tune of the system; second letter R corresponds to second interval that I will Review the work done; the third letter U means in the third interval my policies will show Unbiasedness; the fourth letter M means that in fourth interval I could be close to Mean to be fair; and in the fifth interval the fifth letter P meant you will see Sarjinder's Performance was the best!

**Treasurer**

**Hiya Banerjee**

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Inc.

**Statement**

As the Treasurer, my goal is to ensure sound finances and work on ways to maintain a healthy fiscal balance for this section. In addition, I will work actively to ensure good use of funds, this includes working on fundraising ideas/projects and working on member retention. I will assist the section officers with financial matters. I will maintain the transparency and accountability to the members of this section from the beginning of my service. As an elected section officer, I will work on expanding student and member involvement in the Marketing Section and would encourage spending on sharing of statistical methodology in marketing section to our members and students.

**Treasurer**

**Lihang Yin**

Leaders Financial & Insurance Services, Inc.

**Section on Physical & Engineering Sciences**

**Chair-Elect**

**Byran J Smucker**

Miami University, Oxford, OH

## **Statement**

The domains served by SPES continue to evolve and new problems continue to emerge. Even though our section has a long and venerable tradition, we must continue to look forward and take advantage of the fertile areas in the physical sciences and industry that will supply the problems solved by our most impactful research. So first of all, I'd like to continue to orient SPES as a forward-thinking group that embraces and shapes the inevitable change. David Steinberg, in a 2016 Quality Engineering article (<http://tinyurl.com/zg9b5a2>), recently summarized the current state of industrial statistics and suggested that we should be involved in areas such as machine learning and big data that are not traditionally associated with our community. Toward this end, SPES should carefully consider the opportunity to welcome groups - like the Uncertainty Quantification Interest Group - into its fold. As 2017 SPES Chair James Wendelberger argues (<http://tinyurl.com/jr66823>), we should also be quick to partner with other sections of the ASA. This will encourage members of SPES to develop interests and capabilities that they can then apply to problems from industry, engineering, and the physical sciences. Secondly, I'd like to encourage researchers within our community to work on problems motivated by applications in science and industry. In his article, Steinberg also notes that though an increasing number of papers are motivated by real problems, few of them originate from industry. In 2016, the Industrial Statistics Virtual Collaboratory (<http://tinyurl.com/jj3yqy2>) was initiated and has spawned new collaborations. The development of the ISVC has also produced additional ideas of ways to encourage industry/academic partnerships. However, more work must be done to provide a vibrant, sustainable, mutually beneficial forum. I welcome additional input.

## **Chair-Elect**

**Ananda Sen**

University of Michigan

## **Statement**

One of my goals for ASA is to see an improvement in promotion of interdisciplinary activity. As we shape into a data-driven society, the need for collaboration between statisticians, computer scientists, engineers, and biologists is increasing rapidly. As the largest official organization of statisticians, ASA has a responsibility to promote and facilitate such meeting of minds. It can be accomplished through focused workshop and symposiums among others. As a senior statistician in the profession for nearly twenty five years, I feel strongly about mentoring statisticians at the early stage of their career, be it in an industry or in an academic environment. Such mentoring can potentially benefit both the mentee and mentor. While the fresh graduates may find the career advice and insights from a senior member of the community immensely helpful in their professional development, they themselves bring to the table expertise in methodology in newer fields. ASA has recently initiated efforts in a formal mentoring process, which I have been involved in. My second goal as the chair of SPES will be to implement such efforts within the section. My third goal is to see an improvement in outreach, especially in the student community. As statisticians, we perform poorly in our efforts to explain to non-statisticians what we do. We need to advertise our scientific contribution and

activities more aggressively. Consequence of such outreach effort can result in stronger recruitment of bright scientific minds. ASA can promote such outreach through formal sponsoring of statistics camps to high school students at state and national levels. Sponsoring visits to schools through the local ASA chapter may also facilitate such endeavors.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Xinwei Deng**

Virginia Tech

**Statement**

It is my honor to be nominated for a program chair position of the SPES. I have been an active member of the section since 2007. I have regularly organized sessions, presented research work, participated in business meetings. As a member of SPES for many years, I have benefited a lot by ASA and SPES activities for my career. I would like to make more contributions to serve the SPES community. If elected, I will promote emerging statistical techniques and applications in the physical and engineering sciences. In particular, I will focus on two directions: (a) strengthen collaborations among statisticians and engineers in the emerging areas and modern applications; (b) promote the participation of engineers, researchers, and practitioners in the SPES activities. As the technology advances rapidly, there are great opportunities and challenges for statisticians in the area of physical and engineering science. It will require statisticians having more interactions and collaborations with scientists/engineers. I will promote invited sessions and topic-contributed sessions in SPES, in which statisticians, scientists, and engineers can present and exchange their emerging areas, modern applications and innovative solutions for the problems in their fields. I will work diligently to promote the participation of researchers and practitioners in SPES activities. For example, I will promote the SPES to people in engineering community of QSR (quality, statistics, and reliability) section at INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences), attracting more membership and participation. Other ways of increasing SPES participation include inviting junior researchers and newer members to chair contributed sessions, encouraging them to participate in roundtable discussions, and inviting them to apply for JSM sponsored awards and scholarships. I will also actively reach out to academic and industrial communities for short courses and roundtable discussions.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Brad Evans**

Pfizer, Inc

**Statement**

As a candidate for program chair, I will have the opportunity to set the tone of our section for one of the most important conferences for research dissemination in statistics. My vision would be to balance applications and theory, provide a diverse program, and sponsor sessions from diverse interest groups. I have attended the Fall Technical Conference regularly over the past

several years and particularly appreciate the high level of statistical expertise applied in real world settings. I have a track record of successfully developing conference programs with my role as a session chair Session Chair, Midwest Biopharmaceutical Statistics Workshop (2012-2015, 2017). In this role, I have sought out speakers, lead sessions and helped organize topics for a key pharmaceutical conference. I look forward to combining my knowledge of SPES areas with my program organizing experience in the pharmaceutical world to develop an interesting and diverse program. Furthermore, I would like to continue my involvement in SPES in a leadership capacity. The ASA has a long history of excellence and has many outstanding ambassadors at the top of the field. My interest is in seeking out and developing those that will be the future of ASA and strengthening the relationships of its members as they work in many diverse areas, companies and geographic regions. This would be done through networking, in particular the conference and service opportunities that exist across the many areas that comprise the ASA today. Having worked in the cereal industry and pharmaceutical industry, I have a broad network on which I could draw. I would work diligently to enhance the services and opportunities that SPES provides to its members.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Jennifer Kensler**

Shell International Exploration and Production

**Statement**

As Secretary/Treasurer of SPES I will work to grow SPES initiatives, seek new ways to reach members, and work to increase membership value. One objective is to make students familiar with SPES by increasing the visibility of the Marquardt Memorial Industrial Speakers Program, which brings experienced industrial statisticians to visit academic departments to share their experiences. In addition, I would like to expand mentoring opportunities for students and new professionals, which will promote early involvement in SPES. Another objective is to expand opportunities for knowledge sharing by sponsoring webinars and increasing website content, to supplement training and conferences (JSM, Fall Technical Conference, and Spring Research Conferences).

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Matthew T. Pratola**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

Education Chair of SPES since fall, 2015 and was the Publicity Chair of SPES since 2012. During these years, I have had the opportunity to learn how the section works and the important contributions it makes to this area of statistics and science. I am excited for the opportunity to continue learning how to contribute to SPES and the wider statistical community in this new role. If elected, I will continue exercising careful fiscal management of our resources as well as

supporting the Chair and Executive Committee through detailed meeting minutes, budget preparation and other organizational responsibilities as outlined in our charter.

## **Section on Quality & Productivity**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Brian PWeaver**

Los Alamos National Laboratory

### **Statement**

One of the biggest issues facing the Quality and Productivity (Q&P) section of the American Statistical Association is recruitment of new members. My focus will be new ways of reaching out to a broader audience, perhaps through social media. Los Alamos will also be hosting two separate conferences during time I would potentially be an officer. I would use these opportunities to reach out to both current and future Q&P researchers.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Peng Liu**

JMP Division, SAS Institute

### **Statement**

It is an honor to be a candidate for the chair of the Q&P section of ASA. In my career, I have met and worked with several ASA fellows. They mentored my study and work. I also work with many wonderful colleagues who are ASA members and former officers. I am proud of being a member of the community and treasure this opportunity to provide my service. As what the ASA strategic plan has set forward, with a mission to promote the practice and profession of statistics, my goal is to follow the leadership and contribute to accomplish the mission. The first effort is to continue my involvement in the reliability engineer community. To serve them, and also work with them. That will also lead to my second effort, which is to explore the field of the reliability engineering, discover challenging problems that can open up new research directions of statistics. The two efforts form a healthy circle, in which they complement and boost each other. Some challenging problems at the present are the big data problems. Statisticians are at an advantageous position to provide ground breaking solutions to many of these problems. Statisticians, the ones in the Q&P section in particular, have extremely valuable experience in engineering. They can bring a great understanding about the context where problems reside. They are systematically trained by using a century of knowledge of statistics. They can bring unique insight to the mechanism of the most popular machine learning algorithms, which can help engineers to evaluate, choose, and make informed judgement about those mysterious but successful tools. As a candidate for the section officer, I understand that it is a serious commitment of time. Thanks to full-hearted commitments from many former officers, the community is very active, influential, and successful today. I will be grateful to have the

opportunity to provide my service and serve the members, by working with other officers. I am looking forward to working with you!

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Abdel-Salam Gomaa**

Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University

**Statement**

I am proud to call the Q&P Section of ASA my professional home because this organization does so much so well. It is my great pleasure to participate in the Q&P Program Chair-Elected. With my interdisciplinary experience, I will concentrate on the following areas: (1) Promote the development and application of statistical methodology to areas of quality and productivity; (2) Enhance the collaboration between academia and industry; (3) Bridge the gaps between academic research results and industrial application needs; and (4) Focus on the critical statistical thinking, problem solving, education and career developments for Q&P members.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Shan Ba**

The Procter and Gamble Company

**Statement**

In the past a few years, I have been fortunate to get the opportunities to work as a faculty member in the academia and also as an applied statistician in the industry. Being able to see both sides of the world, I have learnt to appreciate not only the beauty of the rigorous theories and methods, but also the importance of the application works in practice. As the program chair for Q&P, I would work to promote: (1) New statistical methodologies with great application impacts; (2) Collaborated works between industry and the academia; (3) Topics to address the new emerging big data challenges in the quality and productivity field; (4) Education of proper statistical thinking and application tools.

## **Section on Risk Analysis**

**Chair-Elect**

**Jing Zhang**

Miami University

**Statement**

I got involved in the program committee of JSM 2017 this year and throughout the process I started to think more about the future of the profession and how changes in the profession

should be reflected in higher education, faculty research and statistical practice. I am interested in improving the connection between academia and industrial/government statistical researchers and data practitioners. I would like to see the data practitioners seeking appropriate analysis approaches in their practice and there would be tools that are readily available for them to use. Also this is consistent with what ASA advocates: elevating the profile of statisticians in policymaking. This would take lots of effort of promoting "packagable" analysis and accessible tutorials from researchers developing new methodology in various areas. ASA can play an active role in such promotion by encouraging publication of workshop tutorials and software packages. ASA can also interact with practitioners more and provide recommendations of analysis options. The ASA journal and magazines have been doing great jobs introducing case studies, but there are lots of unofficial interaction opportunities that ASA might be able to integrate more in the future: creating active online forum and social network of ASA sections and chapters.

**Chair-Elect**

**Susan Simmons**

North Carolina State University

**Statement**

The Risk analysis section has applications in many different fields. It would be nice to grow our section and be more inclusive to practicing statisticians in the area of risk analysis. We have already begun such efforts: reaching out to SOA to give a session at JSM when it was in Chicago and organizing a risk conference in the Research Triangle area, NC.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Aric LaBarr**

North Carolina State University

**Statement**

My name is Dr. Aric LaBarr and I am an Assistant Professor of Analytics at the Institute for Advanced Analytics at North Carolina State University. My passion is innovating the current structure of education to better prepare a modern work force ready to communicate and handle a data driven future. I teach courses in statistics, mathematics, financial risk, and operations research for the nation's first Master of Science in Analytics degree program. My focus is to teach, mentor, and consult students as well as businesses on modern analytic techniques for making data driven decisions. I am a four degree graduate of North Carolina State University. I have undergraduate degrees in both Statistics and Economics along with a Master's degree and PhD in Statistics with a minor in Economics from North Carolina State University in 2010. Before attaining my PhD, I worked as an Economic Analyst for FMI Research where I provided statistical analysis and research for the construction industry. There I analyzed and forecasted many economic indicators in construction for metropolitan statistical areas all across the United States. On a more personal level, I was born on the shores of Lake Ontario in



Rochester, New York. I did not stay there long as my parents decided the snow was too much and they moved us all south, eventually ending up in North Carolina. It was here I met my wife and we have since been blessed with a young son who has not stopped running around since he was able.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Jiwei Zhao**

State University of New York at Buffalo

**Statement**

I feel honored to be nominated as a candidate for the Program Chair-Elect in the Risk Analysis Section. The Risk Analysis Section, established in 1994, is one of the most important sections in ASA. Risk crucially exists everywhere and “Progress always involves risks” (quoted from Frederick B Wilcox). Risk analysis can be broadly defined to include risk assessment, risk characterization, risk management, and policy relating to risk. The members of this section are statisticians with interests in almost every discipline, including economy, environment, medicine, public health, etc. The mission of this section is to study methodology of risk analysis, and develop their applications to various subject matter areas. If elected, I would like to make my best efforts to continue our session’s endeavor to increase the visibility and to promote our role in the communities. I will mainly focus working on the following three perspectives. First, enhance our session’s visibility. Our section exists in the ASA as a very special and important role. Risk exists in every area and risk analysis can be the principal and essential step for decision making. Increasing the visibility of our section will underscore the contribution from our own and achieve more appreciation from the others. Second, make a closer tie with other sections. Each section doesn’t work separately and independently. On the contrary, sections should work more closely to formulize more interesting and more attractive themes of sessions in meetings and conferences. Our section can be of paramount importance when synthesizing this function. Third, make our section a more appealing place to nurture junior statisticians. As a more distinctive component among the ASA, our section can play a more important role in nurturing new researchers. I am delighted to be nominated for this position and looking forward to serving our section for its continuous success. Thank you for considering me for this position.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Piaomu Liu**

Bentley University

**Statement**

If I were to be selected as the Secretary/Treasury at the Section on Risk Analysis of ASA, I would dedicate my best efforts to assist promoting discussions and dialogues regarding statistical research and practices in risk analysis among members of our statistical community, and the public. To be able to put my best efforts forward, I will continue actively participating in ASA

activities and other related professional activities. Through these activities, which include presenting my research work in life time data analysis and expanding my horizon in statistical research, I will quickly learn and cater to the needs of the section in fulfilling its mission and the mission of ASA. I will work closely with other officers and Chair of the section to ensure successes of activities held both within the section and in collaboration with other sections. For example, some of the places where I would provide the best support as the Secretary/Treasurer are, the annual SRA student paper competition, the mixer and the section's business meeting at JSM. I hope my work will contribute to a continued platform for discussions about risk analysis in ASA, and attracting new statistical talents to join such discussions.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Christopher Sroka**

New Mexico State University

**Statement**

Risk analysis methods are used in a diverse range of applications, including medicine, national security, food safety, and finance. The Section on Risk Analysis is an excellent organization for bringing together statisticians from these fields to develop methodologies to analyze and assess risk. I am running for Secretary/Treasurer for the Section so that I can contribute to the success of the organization and its activities. During my 8 years as a consulting statistician, I routinely set and managed project budgets. If elected to Secretary/Treasurer, I will use this experience to assist the other Section officers in preparing the annual budget and to provide timely reports on the financial condition of the Section.

**Publications Officer**

**Lingling An**

The University of Arizona

**Statement**

It is an honor and privilege for me to be a candidate for Publication Officer of the Risk Analysis Section. Risk Analysis lies on the interdisciplinary boundaries of many fields, including risk assessment, characterization, communication, management, and policy relating to risk issues. If elected, I would like to work with other members in increasing the visibility of our section, enlarging our membership and facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations, as well as promoting and fostering careers of junior statisticians. I would send emails/announcements to the section members on behalf of the section officers, and participate in discussions, such as section budget, student paper award, and JSM business meeting, and in teleconference with other section officers.

**Publications Officer****Maria Barouti**

American University

**Statement**

My interest to explore new research areas as well as the satisfaction obtained by collaborating with other members leads me to apply for this position. Serving as a member of the Executive Committee and also as the Section's representative on Association committees, I will have the chance to coordinate activities within the Section as well as analyze and understand the views of the Section's members concerning the content and operation of the Association's journals. Moreover, when requested, I will assist in soliciting, reading, and editing articles on risk analysis for publication in the Association's journal.

**Council of Sections Representative****Alexandra Kapatou**

American University

**Statement**

As an applied statistician, I am very interested in statistical ideas derived from current events. If elected, I will focus the efforts of the Section on Risk Analysis in the direction of national and global issues, such as the recent Zika virus outbreak, our national defense against terrorism, the economic challenges facing our country, and the critical environmental issues that may affect everyone on the globe. The Section on Risk Analysis belongs at the front and center of the ASA on all these issues. I believe that we can use the new web facilities provided by the ASA to further discussions and potential collaborations with other ASA sections and with scientific associations and organizations outside the ASA.

**Council of Sections Representative****Edsel Pena**

University of South Carolina

**Statement**

The ASA is the major statistics professional organization and as such should play a leading role in making the statistics profession advance through education, research, and outreach. As Council of Sections Representative from the Section on Risk Analysis, I will dedicate my efforts into helping the ASA achieve its goals, objectives, and missions. This will entail communicating with the section members about ASA's activities related to the Risk section, and helping in planning and performing activities for the section that will advance the dissemination of statistical knowledge to statisticians and to the community outside of statistics.

## Social Statistics Section

### Chair-Elect

**Tim Liao**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Statement

In addition to continuing his own research on social statistics, he plans to strive to improve the quality of section activities. He believes the Social Statistics section can better serve the discipline and the general public (both academic and non-academic) by organizing two kinds of activities. One type is on issues located at the cutting edge of current social statistical research, and the other is about outreach or how to best make our research available across disciplines and beyond the confines of the academia. In addition to annual meetings, these activities can be archived by a section website, newsletters and discussion forums.

### Chair-Elect

**Trudi Renwick**

US Census Bureau

### Statement

As chair-elect of the Social Statistics Section of the ASA I would endeavor to reach out to members and other practitioners in the field to ensure that the program at subsequent ASA meetings is relevant to the work being done in the social statistics field.

### Chair-Elect

**Eileen O'Brien**

U.S. Energy Information Administration

### Statement

I am honored to be a candidate for chair of the Social Statistics Section and, if elected, would be an avid promoter of stronger methods, communication and use of social statistics. This section has a unique opportunity to support and benefit from new data sources. \* Expand the capacities and pace of interdisciplinary collaboration\* More professions are jumping into the data pool. Meanwhile, tougher policy questions and alternative sources of information are arriving at a pace at which no single institution, whether public, private or academic, is singularly equipped to assess and respond. As well, policy goals for federal programs rely on specific data series and metrics, but these programs necessarily adapt to new data and needs cautiously. Because the Social Statistics section is a leader in including and socializing new data consumers, sponsoring more JSM sessions on topics of mutual interest to data scientists and social scientists, encouraging joint research on multiple sources of data to address common problems, and sharing educational platforms can accelerate the learning and collaboration

between communities. \*Reinvigorate the public's engagement in social research\* Social surveys depend on public participation. While falling response rates suggest less engagement, rates in federal surveys greatly outpace voter turnout, participation in polls and marketing studies. So, the public cares about why and how we study them. Their voice is growing in media other than surveys, principally social media. This suggests we can try new forums to engage people more broadly, genuinely and quickly before we launch full studies, providing valuable new insights. Because the studied population is seldom in the room when policy is being formed or decisions are being made, innovation in how we engage the public can amplify the legitimacy and impact of social statistics. Again, the Social Statistics section can lead in studying and promoting advances in this area.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Stephanie Ewert**

US Census Bureau

**Statement**

The development of our field of social statistics requires strong communication to foster innovation and disseminate work. Strong communication enables section members to share new data sources, brainstorm research ideas, fine tune new methodologies, and publicize research to a wide audience. As chief of the Foreign-Born Population Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau, I have worked with internal stakeholders, other federal agencies, the academic community, and special interest groups to accomplish similar goals. My participation in interagency working groups, professional meetings, and international conferences have strengthened my ability to bring together a diverse group of researchers to accomplish a goal. As Program Chair of the Social Statistics Section, I will work with section members and other ASA section committees to foster communication and reach the goals of the section. I will be able to use my experience working across diverse sectors to help share the work of the section to interested audiences outside of ASA.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Second candidate withdrew**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Yulei He**

National Center for Health Statistics

**Statement**

As a statistician working in government agency (CDC/NCHS), I feel compelled to contribute to the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of ASA as I am strongly interested in the interplay between statistics and social issues and challenges. I began my involvement with SSS in graduate school and have greatly benefited from many opportunities provided by the section, especially by

participating in various conferences sessions sponsored by SSS and learning from/interacting with colleagues in the community. I am looking forward to being engaged in more activities and would be honored to serve SSS as the secretary/treasurer. I have extensive experience in serving as program chair-elect and program chair for other ASA sections (e.g. Health Policy Statistics Section) and ENAR. It has given me great insight into how to work on ASA section related activities. My current roles in various statistical organizations and Federal statistical committees will also greatly assist me in working well with other colleagues in the community. If elected, I will actively seek advice from my colleagues and predecessors and effectively work with other section officers. I will carry out my duties as a team player and in a timely manner. I would be very excited about these opportunities!

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Stephanie Eckman**

RTI International

**Statement**

My own research and career sit at the intersection of social science and statistics, and I'm passionate about using data to understand society. As a long-term member of the ASA and attendee of the Joint Meetings, I would like the opportunity to help the Social Statistics Section engage with its members. I have just finished a term as a member of the board of DC-AAPOR and recently co-chaired a large international conference. I also serve on the Standards committee and the Committee of the European Survey Research Association. Thus, I am familiar with the workings of professional organizations. I have the interests, skills and dedication needed to serve as the SSS Secretary-Treasurer.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Jiashen You**

Department of Homeland Security and George Washington University

**Statement**

I am honored to have been nominated for the Secretary/Treasurer position in Social Statistics Section, one of the longest standing in the history of ASA. 2016 has been a turbulent year for many statisticians as well as various predictive efforts in worldly events. In an era where swarms of self-enrolled data collection meet ever-declining response rates for complex surveys administered by government agencies or the academia, it has become increasingly challenging to spot date from noise. Equally as difficult is to inform the public truth with measured uncertainty. This makes our mission "to advance knowledge in the social sciences by use of statistical facts and methods" more pressing than ever. Though my tenure as a "DC statistician" is relatively short, I have had the distinct honor of working with many talented individuals spanning several federal statistical agencies. Almost everyone has a deep passion for their work and many would not hesitate to volunteer their time to help the public understand real policy impact beyond the numbers. I believe that there is underutilization of this potential from many

statisticians in the area who share the vision on the importance of continuing education. As your secretary/treasurer, I would dedicate the next two years to assist the Section Chair in stimulating conversations and facilitating outreach efforts. If elected, I will engage in a real and meaningful way with members from both Social Statistics Section and Government Statistics Section to garner input. I commit to work with other members of the Association to be transparent with financial matters for which I am responsible. I would join the expanded effort by the Association to recruit new members from ethnic minority groups. I respectfully request your vote and support.

## **Section on Statistics in Sports**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Luke Bornn**

Simon Fraser University

### **Statement**

My work with professional basketball and soccer teams has opened my eyes to the vast amount of unsolved problems in the area of sports analytics. These problems created by proprietary data and specialized in-house knowledge, remain unsolved within the silo of a professional sports team for various reasons, yet are well-suited for exploration by academics. My goal as president-elect, therefore, is simple -- namely to bring together academic sports statisticians and those directly involved in professional and amateur sports. The sports science community has done a good job over the past decade of integrating themselves within the broader sports community, and the result has been improved performance on the applied side, and also more focused, pertinent research on the academic side. The sports analytics community has much to learn in this regard, and the Section on Statistics in Sports is well placed to leverage the expertise and connections of its members to better connect with the sports community.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Shane Reese**

Brigham Young University

### **Statement**

Statistics in sports is a major growth area with increased visibility at all levels of the discipline. My vision is to foster transition of big data and high throughput data tools being developed across the statistics discipline into sports applications where the variety, veracity, volume, velocity, and value of sports data are continuing to develop. The challenge for sports statisticians is to transition from data (and all of its 5 V's) to useful information. My vision will be to help lead the Section on Statistics in Sports to sessions, conferences, webinars, that will

facilitate conversations and idea development that could lead to increased publication, potential funding sources, and increased visibility in the profession.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Sam Ventura**

Carnegie Mellon University

**Statement**

As program chair elect for the Section on Statistics in Sports, I will choose a program that aims to bridge the widening gap between the academic and the online sports analytics communities.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Andrew Swift**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Statement**

The area of Statistics in Sports has grown exponentially during my time participating in the section, and continues to grow. My aim as program chair for SIS would be to organize sessions that would demonstrate the cutting edge analysis being performed in the sports statistics field, and bring together speakers and panelists from academia and industry.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Stephanie Kovalchik**

Tennis Australia/Victoria University

**Statement**

As Council of Sections Representative my goal would be to continue to support the field of sports statistics by giving more opportunities for sports statisticians to share their work through ASA events and sponsorship. I am colleagues with number members of the Section on Statistics in Sports and familiar with the work of many more of its members. This puts me in a good position to contribute ideas and organize activities at JSM to promote work in sports statistics, as I've done in the past. I was fortunate to be involved in an ASA sponsored Career in Statistics webinar this year whose aim was to provide information to students in statistics about jobs in sport. We received a great response from students and I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm about sports statistics that this event generated. I think this is a great resource for students and I would like to use my role in the ASA to create more opportunities like this where students can learn from working professionals in the statistical sciences in sport.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Kenny Shirley**



Amazon

## Survey Research Methods Section

### Chair-Elect

**Kennon Copeland**

NORC at the University of Chicago

### Statement

Probability-based survey methodology is facing ever increasing threats, not only falling response rates, costs, and ability to contact sample, but also proliferation of non-probability surveys, availability of administrative, social media, and other data sources for large numbers of the population, and negative public perceptions following polling results for BREXIT and the 2016 presidential race. As a community, we must identify a way forward that recognizes these environmental shifts and incorporates them into survey methodology as appropriate, but also maintains core principles related to accuracy and integrity of survey data. This means having open dialogue on the topic of the future of survey methodology in the form of town halls, seminars, workshops, and symposia. Creating forums for this dialogue should be a key focus of the SRMS.

### Chair-Elect

**Mansour Fahimi**

GfK Custom Research

### Statement

Undoubtedly, our industry is in need of a deep and comprehensive soul-searching to realign itself with the realities of the 21st Century. As manifested by the suboptimal performances of recent surveys, particularly those during the 2016 Election, many of our traditional methods stand to be retooled and made relevant to the digital world we live in. Without throwing out the baby with the bathwater, we need to look outside of the conventional survey sampling toolbox we have relied on for decades for sampling, instrumentation, data collection, and weighting adjustments. On the one hand, under-coverage due to sampling frame inadequacies and proliferating nonresponse rates are evolving beyond the remedial reaches of standard sampling and weighting techniques. On the other, information gathered via structured questionnaires does not capture all of the behavioral/attitudinal nuances that are necessary to provide a comprehensive understanding of survey respondents. With a deep theoretical underpinning and nearly three decades of hands-on experience with complex surveys both nationally and internationally, Mansour offers a uniquely well-rounded perspective on the challenges and solutions facing our industry. In recent years, his research and publications have focused on improving the statistical integrity of data from surveys that are subject to non-ignorable under-coverage due to sampling and nonresponse, as well as supplementation of

structured surveys with data from nontraditional sources to address clients' evolving informational needs.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Asaph Young Chun**

US Census Bureau

**Statement**

My goal, if elected as Program Chair, is to spearhead a SRMS mission-enabling program that promotes the improvement of survey practice, empowers survey research-based evidence to inform public policy, and advances knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences by the rigorous use of survey methods. How can I accomplish this goal? First, leveraging over 25 years of my experience in organizing a number of national and international conferences, I will work closely with SRMS members in developing sessions covering a broad set of applied and theoretical topics of survey research methods that appeal to a wide variety of the membership. Second, knowing our field generally associated with the social and behavioral sciences, public policy, and program evaluations plus increasingly with data science, I will reach out to producers and users of sample survey and census data in government, academia and private sectors to craft sessions of interdisciplinary survey research methods and stimulate methodological innovation. My program outreach will be inclusive of concerted efforts to work with program chairs of other ASA sections in creating sections of crosscutting interests and disseminating information on innovative survey methods. Third, anticipating students to lead the future of SRMS, I will develop a variety of ways students and emerging leaders of survey research methods will be active participants in a variety of SRMS sections and quality publications. A journalist-turned-sociologist with over 25 years of interdisciplinary research leveraging survey methodology, research administrator and catalyst of innovation, I feel comfortable and confident to organize one of the most rigorous programs of SRMS, together with each of you!

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Michael Sinclair**

Mathematica Policy Research

**Statement**

Dr. Michael Sinclair is an expert on the design, analysis and management of large-scale household and establishment surveys and is committed as a fellow of the ASA to assisting the membership in the development and testing of new survey methods, estimation procedures and dissemination of statistical findings to support governmental statistical programs to qualify him as a Program Chair-Elect in the Section. Dr Sinclair will work to obtain the best possible set of speakers, poster authors and roundtables on current and important topics in the government statistics arena under his term, if selected, and will promote student involvement through the student paper competition. To meet these objectives, Dr. Sinclair will draw on his

experience and contacts across his 30 years of experience in designing complex sample designs and methods to efficiently and effectively enable studies to achieve a variety of difficult and often competing program objectives subject to emerging cost and timing constraints. Recently, he is exploring methods to link and blend non-probability based sample survey and administrative data with traditional surveys to reduce government survey costs and to provide estimates between survey cycles. Michael D. Sinclair is currently Senior Fellow at Mathematica Policy Research conducting analytical investigations for government agencies and non-profit organizations. In addition, he has served in many government positions to give him a unique understanding of issues and challenges statistical agencies face in conducting studies and soliciting and working with federal contractors. Dr. Sinclair served for 21 months as the Acting Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and four years as the Director of Statistical Analyses for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) along with a six year term at the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Secretary**

**Safaa Amer**

RTI International

**Statement**

Considering the diversity of cultural backgrounds within USA, ASA, and SRMS my main goal is to encourage a wider range of participation and visibility of different groups (e.g. ethnic backgrounds, gender, age, nationalities, and subject matter expertise) to address cross-cultural issues and challenges across these groups. In order to achieve this goal, brainstorming sessions will be held within SRMS and with other ASA members to explore innovative ways of seasoning our events and social activities to attract a wider range of participants and new members. This would be coupled with outreach efforts to attract participation of both national and international experts in the survey research area. In order to enrich SRMS members experience, I would also like to encourage active collaboration of SRMS with other professional organizations which are aligned with our mission statement to benefit from cross-linkage with scientific and social developments. Inclusion of these researchers will allow us to explore new grounds for research and diversification. Last but not least, I would like to explore new ways of attracting more undergraduate students into Survey research field through mentoring, storytelling, and by showing how fun survey statistics can be! One day I was told that "statistics is a back office job" and my answer was "You should shadow the adventures of a survey statistician across the world contributing to international development... Statistics can be louder than words not only in bringing attention to social issues and challenges but also in supporting decision making to explore and validate alternate solutions".

**Secretary**

**Bo Lu**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

I am interested in serving the secretary of Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) as I strongly believe in the importance of scientific survey research. The success of SRMS plays a vital role in improving survey practice and research and promoting the understanding of survey methods. I am an Associate Professor in the Division of Biostatistics at The Ohio State University. My research interests primarily focus on causal inference, survey sampling and missing data methodology. My most recent R01 grant sponsored by AHRQ is about statistical methodology for estimating causal effect from complex population surveys. I have been teaching graduate level survey sampling or missing data classes regularly at OSU. In addition to teaching and methodology research, I have also served as the lead statistician for the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (OMAS) series since 2008. OMAS is one of the largest state-level health surveys in US. Collaborating with industrial partners, such as RTI and ICF Macro, etc. on OMAS, I have the unique opportunity to gain insights on the practical side of survey sampling. In the era of “big data”, survey research and practice face new challenges. Survey data may create new values if they can be linked with other administrative databases, such as registries, electronic medical records or claim data, etc. But there are both methodological and ethical issues to be resolved. Moreover, there are more and more non-probability sampling data available at lower expense and larger volume. How to best use such data will likely play an important role in shaping the future of survey research. My experience from both academia and industrial collaboration can positively contribute to my service for SRMS. Working with other section officers, I am very confident that I can assist the section leadership carrying out both research and practice missions of SRMS through various activities.

**Council of Sections Representative****Jamie Ridenhour**

RTI International

**Statement**

Hello Fellow SRMSers – I previously served the SRMS community in the unelected role of co-editor of the twice yearly SRMS newsletter. It was a great opportunity to observe the work that goes into keeping the SRMS running and thriving. Now I am looking to serve the community again as a representative of SRMS to the Council of Sections. If elected, I will do my best to represent the interests of SRMS and its members and seek the input of our membership on changes proposed to the broader ASA community.

**Council of Sections Representative****Michael Yang**

NORC at the University of Chicago

**Statement**

In the era of big data, survey research faces a myriad of challenges. Data proliferation characterized the information age from the start. However, the demand for information to

track public behaviors, experiences, needs, and preferences has risen dramatically in recent years. Government agencies, businesses, academics, and others make decisions and create policies based on knowledge of populations, and a great deal of such information is collected via surveys. We acknowledge that these are still early days for big data, which is evolving as an academic concept in tandem with the underlying technologies. Big data ushers in the possibility of a fundamentally different type of data-driven decision making. The survey research community needs to start thinking in earnest about whether we are organized to exploit big data's potential and to manage the threats it can pose. Our challenge is to combine and analyze information from multiple sources to make inferences and generate insights for clients. In health care, for example, this may involve integrating clinical, payment, public-health, and behavioral data to develop more robust illness profiles that help clients manage costs and improve treatments. As a community, our success will demand not only new skills but also new perspectives on how the era of big data could evolve. The importance of big data doesn't revolve around how much data you have, but what you do with it. As a COS representative, I will focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by big data, which will involve organizing professional activities to promote research on integrating data from multiple sources. It is particularly important to develop recommendations for best practices regarding data integration, analysis, and reporting.

## **Teaching Statistics in Health Sciences Section**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Amy Nowacki**

Cleveland Clinic

### **Statement**

It is an exciting time to be in statistics education as the need for a strong quantitative skill set has never been more prominent. In particular, the evidence-based approach to medicine, the electronic medical record and the expanding realm of personalized medicine have made biomedical research a major component of most training programs in the health sciences. The Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) section of the ASA is a community for such educators. Those of us teaching health science students face unique challenges and often feel isolated. My primary goal for the section is to increase membership. Strength in numbers! I hope to increase the sections visibility by reaching out to graduating students and emphasizing the benefits of section membership to all educators, not just health sciences. Having a strong and diverse network is paramount for idea exchange, collaboration and promotion. First time teaching or developing a new course? No need to start from scratch, rather we should encourage the sharing of resources and properly crediting others. I aim to continue building and expanding the section's Portal which provides vetted and peer-reviewed datasets and teaching materials for educators. Have a research idea but looking for like-minded collaborators? I hope to begin a community dialogue where education researchers can connect. Finally, I hope to revitalize the sections awards (streamline and simplify the nomination

process) and colleague recognition (encourage/organize ASA fellow nominations) to continue to acknowledge the excellent educational and service contributions of our amazing current TSHS membership. It would be an honor to serve as the TSHS section chair.

**Chair-Elect**

**John McGready**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Statement**

Greetings. I am John McGready, a faculty member since 1999 in the Department of Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I have taught the joys of both statistical reasoning and statistical analyses to thousands of masters and PhD students in Public Health. I have work closely with many masters and doctoral students on their thesis research. I am on the Department's curriculum matters committee, and on the advisory boards for the School's Master of Public Health (MPH) program, and the Center for Teaching and Learning with Technology. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I engage in collaborative research with faculty around the University. These experiences have fostered much growth for me as both a scientist and statistician. I am inspired by the explosion of interest in statistics and data science, and want to ensure that we in the traditional academic settings meet the changing needs of students in the health sciences but not abandon critical core elements of our approaches. (The need for good study designs, interpreting results in both scientific and statistical contexts, logical analyses etc.) Some of the things I would like to work on with regard to the future of statistical education in the health sciences: 1) Continuing to transition our approaches to teaching and curriculum from traditional (using t-tables, ANOVA by hand etc.) to embracing technology, both open source and proprietary. 2) Working towards amassing and cataloging a set of existing educational, computing and other materials that aid and abet the teaching process (some example: Shiny apps, GitHub public directories, swirl R tutorials, MOOCs) 3) Developing materials to teach students and researchers about prediction with statistical models: a very important and complicated topic that is given the short shrift, especially in introductory courses for public health and medical researchers. Thank you very much for your consideration!

## **Section on Nonparametric Statistics**

**Chair-Elect**

**Piotr Fryzlewicz**

London School of Economics, UK

**Statement**

I would be honored to serve as Chair of the Nonparametric Statistics Section. As the (outgoing) Joint Editor of the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B, I would be coming on board

not only with a decent overview of recent developments in nonparametrics, but also with the experience of running an institution at the forefront of modern statistics. My regular yearly visits to the Joint Statistical Meetings have helped me appreciate the ASA's vibrancy and its openness to statistical innovation. As a frequent and active statistical consultant and a former researcher in the finance industry, I am well aware of the importance of nonparametric statistics to data science employers. I would like to strengthen links between the student members of the Section and potential employers by investigating options for setting up a career discussion forum specific to nonparametric statistics. Responding to the growing importance of data science is of utmost importance for any section, including the NPS. I am aware of and applaud the planned joint activities (including a possible joint meeting) with the Machine Learning Section, which I would intend to continue and reinforce. I would also seek to increase the international visibility of the Section by promoting its membership to doctoral students in statistics outside North America - including in the UK and continental Europe. I would do this via targeted advertising of the NPS competitions, the JSM best student paper and the JNPS best student paper, at universities abroad.

**Chair-Elect**

**Dimitris Politis**

University of California, San Diego

**Statement**

The field of Nonparametric Statistics has been growing exponentially since the 1980s at which point statistical computing became more widely available. Computer-intensive techniques like the bootstrap and cross-validation revolutionized statistical practice as well as theory. Furthermore, in the Big Data era, the importance of Nonparametric Statistics cannot be overemphasized. It is therefore imperative to foster both research and applications of our field, and to promote the dissemination of new developments through conferences, monographs, and journal publications. Joint activities, e.g. workshops, with closely related groups such as the International Society for Nonparametric Statistics may also prove beneficial. Focused book volumes containing cutting-edge results on a given subfield of Nonparametric Statistics can also be pursued.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Richard Samworth**

University of Cambridge, UK

**Statement**

I have always been very impressed by the way the ASA operates; it is full of energetic and thoughtful people who care deeply about our discipline. The annual JSM serves as a model of how to organise a large conference efficiently and effectively. If elected to the position of ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section Program Chair Elect, I would be delighted to support the JSM

by organising the ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section sessions, and by helping out the chair of the section as and when needed.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Bing Li**

The Pennsylvania State University

**Statement**

Nonparametric Statistics has been one of the pillars of modern statistical theories and methodologies. It is becoming increasingly important in the era of big data, where large sample size and high dimension make it particularly attractive and indispensable, and which provides it with fertile grounds for further developments and innovations. In the position of the Program Chair in the Section on Nonparametric Statistics, Dr. Bing Li would like to promote and advocate these developments and innovations. In particular, in the recent decade or so, new nonparametric theories, methodologies, and asymptotic tools have emerged for kernel mapping and linear operator based statistical procedures in the fields of statistical learning, dimension reduction, graphical models, and functional data analysis. Dr. Bing Li hopes to see them further advanced and integrated into the mainstream statistical practice and education.

**Treasurer**

**Limin Peng**

Emory University

**Statement**

I am honored to run for Treasurer of ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section. I am well prepared for this position given my former experience of serving on the officer positions for ASA Georgia Chapter. More importantly, I have genuine passions for serving statistical communities, and have deeply devoted to it throughout my career. In the past, I have actively made efforts to support ASA through engaging in local chapter activities, serving on committees, participating in conference organizations, and providing editorial service. I am excited about this service opportunity with ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section, which can be my new venue to make further contributions to promote statistical research and education.

**Treasurer**

**Yoonkyung Lee**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

I am honored to run for Treasurer of ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section. I am well prepared for this position given my former experience of serving on the officer positions for ASA Georgia Chapter. More importantly, I have genuine passions for serving statistical communities, and



have deeply devoted to it throughout my career. In the past, I have actively made efforts to support ASA through engaging in local chapter activities, serving on committees, participating in conference organizations, and providing editorial service. I am excited about this service opportunity with ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section, which can be my new venue to make further contributions to promote statistical research and education.

**Publications Officer**

**Naveen Naidu Narisetty**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Statement**

I am very enthusiastic about this opportunity to potentially serve the Nonparametric Statistics Section. As Publications Officer, I will be committed to actively working to keep the members updated and well informed about the activities of the section. I have been actively engaged in professional activity in various roles that will be helpful for this role. In particular, the experience as Webmaster for the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics has helped me understand the dynamics and importance of information dissemination in relation with retention and growth of membership. Serving on the local organizing committee for the section's Nonparametric Statistics Workshop 2016 held in Ann Arbor gave me good insight about the nature and objectives of the section. In addition to the official website and email as regular outreach media, I would be keen on building a social media presence for the section using Facebook and Twitter which has a great potential to attract new members and to keep the section easily reachable. Some other sections of the ASA have successfully used social media to have broader exposure and I am confident that this will be beneficial for our section.

**Publications Officer**

**Po-Ling Loh**

University of Wisconsin at Madison

**Statement**

I would be honored to serve as an officer in the Nonparametric Statistics Section of the ASA. I am enthusiastic about helping aid the spread of knowledge both within the statistical community and beyond. I am excited about an opportunity to work alongside highly esteemed members of the ASA and assist in any way I can. I also believe that certain non-technical aspects of my profile make me particularly well-suited for the Publication Officer position. I place great value in the importance of clear and effective communication, as evidenced by my decision to pursue an English minor while at Caltech. I am also very organized and efficient. Finally, my academic appointment at UW-Madison, with affiliations in both the Electrical & Computer Engineering and Statistics Departments, provides me with a unique opportunity to promote participation and membership in the ASA to colleagues in another field.

## **Statistics in Defense and National Security Section**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Jane Pinelis**

Johns Hopkins University

### **Statement**

I have always looked at Statistics as a skillset which underpins policy choices, decision making, and risk analysis, all areas critical to defense and national security. As statisticians, we get uniquely exposed to a variety of work within the defense space, and I consider being able to contribute to our national security the most rewarding part of my our careers. The hallmark of our contribution has to be ensuring analytical rigor in quantitative and qualitative studies in the defense space. As data science becomes more prominent in the national security community, statisticians in defense face both, new opportunities and challenges. Our opportunities lie in using statistics in areas of national health, nuclear nonproliferation, cyber-security, and operational testing and evaluation. Our challenges remain in adapting our rigorous analytical techniques to a variety of new problems, and, just as importantly, communicating our work to decision makers. The ASA provides unique opportunities for defense statisticians to collaborate and improve as a group. At the same time, it serves as an important setting for us to publicize our work which is how the defense decision makers learn about the applications of statistics in national security. An important step in our professional development and increasing our visibility will be cross-section collaboration. We work in a variety of statistical areas like design of experiments, reliability, causal inference, modeling and simulation, and apply our discipline to many fields like national health, manufacturing, and cyber-security. These methodology categories and application areas span several other sections that we could collaborate with to enhance our ultimate outcome – safety and security of our nation.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Taps Maiti**

Michigan State University

### **Statement**

Promote statistics to broader community and enrich statistical science by exchanging ideas, developing foundation and helping policy making decisions. Promote transparent, replicable and high standard statistical research, increase diversity and inclusiveness.

### **Program Chair-Elect**

**Erin Hodgess**

University of Houston

### **Statement**

I would like to use my interest in geostatistics and maps to promote interest in defense-related statistics. Using the R programming language, such topics can be easily produced. Also, large data sets can be quickly handled via supercomputers. These are excellent tools for research topics along with subjects to pass for upcoming students. I believe that our program needs to be a combination of research for the current statisticians and data scientists along with inspiration to the up-and-coming scholars.

### **Program Chair-Elect**

**Kassandra Fronczyk**

Institute for Defense Analyses

### **Statement**

Call more attention to the statistical challenges in defense through conference attendance.

## **Section for Statistical Programmers and Analysts**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Jonathan Lisic**

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

### **Statement**

While working on my M.S. in Statistics, I attended a presentation from Bob Mason entitled “Future Trends in Statistical Science.” The topic presented was the role of statisticians in a world where statistical tools for non-statisticians were ubiquitous and turn-key. Fourteen years later, we are now in a world where every statistician programs, but not every statistician is a statistical programmer or an analyst. Defining and promoting the roll of the statistical programmer and analysts has been a role of the SSPA since its it's founding in 2009. As Section Chair-elect I hope to continue this work through three goals: (1) Promote the contributions of statistical programmers and analysts to the statistical community in ASA. (2) Increase dialog with existing communities of statistical programmers and analysts. (3) Improve the art and science of statistical programming and analysis through partnerships with academia, government, and industry. I plan to achieve these goals through specific activities: I will promote the importance of software package development in applied statistics, statistical programming methodology, and analysis through ASA publications and invited sessions. I will develop a greater dialog between SSPA and existing communities, in particular vibrant open source statistical programmer and analyst communities. This includes increasing our social media presence and engaging with members of these communities through current mediums. Finally, I will work within government and industry to identify and share “best or suggested practices” for analysis and statistical production environments through round-tables, invited sessions, and webinars. In conclusion, I would like to thank fellow SSPA members for

their contributions. Your hard work and generosity has improved the practice of statistical programming and analysis since 2009, and I can't wait to see what we do in the future.

**Chair-Elect**

**Second candidate withdrew**

**Program Chair-Elect**

**William Coar**

Axio Research

**Statement**

In the course of our careers we acquire a wealth of knowledge and experience. As leaders in our field, we have a responsibility to share this with others. I believe knowledge should flow through us to others. The program at JSM serves as an ideal opportunity for professionals in our community to share knowledge. While my career path has emphasis on statistics and programming using SAS in the pharmaceutical industry, the principals of education and growth are not specific to any industry or programming language. I believe the opportunity to serve as the Program Chair Elect with the SSPA will allow me to work a broader community of programmers and statisticians on outreach and growth of our profession. I have great interest in exploring ways to more effectively provide educational opportunities within our profession. Round tables, oral presentations, poster presentations, and webinars are all tailored to provide different opportunities for different styles of learning. I believe we can learn from each other to enhance these, and develop additional techniques to today's professionals.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Richard Schwinn**

US Small Business Administration

**Secretary**

**Marianne Miller**

Eli Lilly and Company

**Statement**

Hello ASA members, my name are Marianne Miller and I currently work as a Sr. Statistician at Eli Lilly and Company. Before coming to Lilly, I worked as a statistical intern at the Biostatistics Consulting Unit (BCU) at The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing where I assisted with several dissertation and research projects. At Lilly, I provide statistical support to ongoing clinical trials in the Oncology Business Unit and am an active member of the African American Network. As a young professional, I believe that I have a lot to contribute to the further development of the SSPA chapter. First, I will contribute new ideas to upcoming events hosted by SSPA by reaching out to ASA members and learning about new hot topics in statistics.

Second, I will strategize with members to implement different ways to encourage current members of SSPA to become more active and others that are new to ASA to join our up and coming chapter. Lastly, I plan to work on the recruitment of young professionals to join SSPA so that the chapter can continue to grow and build up new leaders in the field of Statistics. Thank you for your time, I look forward to working with you all in the future!

**Secretary**

**Pratheepa Jeganathan**

Stanford University

**Statement**

I am a candidate for secretary of the Section in Statistical Programmers and Analysts in 2018 to contribute to improving SSPA, ASA through achieving three goals: (I) Promoting mathematics for statistical inference to data science by (i) organizing webinars such as application of bootstrap, empirical Bayes method for bootstrap, modern computational intensive methods, etc., (ii) organizing an interactive session on computational intensive methods at JSM 2018, (iii) promoting the participation of high-school students to present on statistics for daily life at JSM 2018. (II) Promoting SSPA student poster/presentation award based on statistical thinking, programming and problem-solving by (i) choosing the problems from the award sponsoring industries, (ii) promoting candidates to follow state of the art, (iii) promoting industries to use the end-products of this competition. (III) Helping graduates to identify the most appropriate jobs and internships by (i) developing a framework to post the job and internship opportunities on SSPA website, (ii) promoting a mentoring program for members of the SSPA, (iii) promoting and posting videos from the statisticians in academia and industry on SSPA website. I believe that the experience I gained through the past five years of graduate education, ASA activities, internships, teaching, mentoring, professional development workshops, and current profession as a postdoctoral research fellow would help me to achieve these goals.

**Treasurer**

**Amy Gillespie**

Merck & Co., Inc.

**Statement**

As treasurer for the ASA Section for Statistical Programmers and Analysts, my objective is to highlight the importance of the statistical programming profession and the value statistical programmers bring to many different industries. Statistical programmers have both an opportunity and responsibility to help make sense of the multitudes of data collected every day. From data collected in the clinic, electronic medical records, from insurance claims, medical devices, preclinical experiments and social media, statistical programmers have the tools and skillset to make a real difference. It is important for statistical programmers to be strategic partners with our statistical and scientific stakeholders and to have a “seat at the table” when analysis plans, statistical deliverables, and decisions are being discussed. This

provides an opportunity for statistical programmers to comprehend the bigger picture, provide valuable input, and get away from any notion that we just “push buttons”! As an officer of SPAA, I want to improve the brand of our profession and to encourage college students to pursue a career as a statistical programmer. Additionally I’d like to identify the differentiators and values of being a member of SPAA, promote those differentiators, and determine relevant partnerships with other professional organizations such as PhUSE.

**Treasurer**

**Michael Yingling**

Washington University School of Medicine

**Publications Officer**

**Enayetur Raheem**

Carolinas HealthCare System

**Statement**

For the SSPA publication officer position, I will bring over 15 years’ worth of experience working with a journal as an editorial board member. I am active in the statistical community in a developing country to promote and encourage students to pursue career in statistics. As part of it, I’ve created ‘Porishonkhan Pathshala’ which translates to School of Statistics (schoolOfStatistics.Org) where I teach statistics in Bangla language. This has been a huge success to motivate and encourage Bangla speaking young statisticians all over the world. With experience of working in both academia and industry, I am willing to utilize my experience to promote and make progress for SSPA.

**Publications Officer**

**Tasneem Zaihra**

The College at Brockport-SUNY Brockport

**Statement**

Thanks for considering me for the Publications Officer position in the Section for Statistical Programmers and Analysts. I want to be your voice through the publication officer position. I have a pragmatic view of the ASA and its members. As someone who is committed to quality teaching and interdisciplinary research and who has worked with small liberal arts colleges, research universities, and applied settings, I look forward to representing, promoting participation among the section members, providing transparency, and advocating for the ASA and the section membership. Given the opportunity, I will work to expand the reach and impact of statistical analysis and programming section, by using new media to bring it forth to its members, whether they are employed in liberal arts colleges, research universities, applied settings, or elsewhere; whether they are students starting out with their academic career or retired statisticians; whether they are motivated primarily by teaching or research; whether

they assign greater importance to disciplinary concerns or to broader use of statistics as an interdisciplinary tool. I would like to take it to the next level.

## **Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science**

### **Chair-Elect**

#### **HepingZhang**

Yale University School of Public Health

### **Statement**

It is a great privilege to be nominated as a candidate for the Chair of the Statistical Learning and Data Mining (SLDM) Section of the ASA. If elected, I will follow the tradition of the previous leaders and continue to promote the section's excellence, growth and visibility, and in particular, encourage junior colleagues as well as crossed discipline scholars and practitioners to join the section. The era of big data presents the SLDM section with a remarkable opportunity to grow because the methods of data mining and statistical learning are more important than ever, as challenges arising from governments, industries, and almost everywhere in our societies. It is upon us to develop and apply novel statistical methods and theory, and implement them with fast algorithms for real time and often parallel computation in order to meet the increasing and diverse needs in practice. We are grateful to the former leaders and active members who have led SLDM to where we are today, but we have a lot of work ahead of us to establish and solidify our research visibility and leadership in the global era of big data. We have to accomplish our goal by interacting with colleagues from any discipline who share the common interest in SLDM, by reaching out to other sections of the ASA and any organizations that are relevant to SLDM, by going to the classrooms to educate both graduate and undergraduate students, by actively holding and sponsoring conferences and workshops that disseminate our work and advocate our mission, and by sharing our experience, expertise, and perspectives through AMStat News, meeting newsletters, and other social media. These steps are not unique to SLDM, but are effective. I am committed to be a passionate and dedicated chair to work with all members to execute these steps and accomplish our common goal.

### **Chair-Elect**

#### **Tian Zheng**

Columbia University

### **Statement**

I am honored to be considered for the chair-elect of the ASA section of Statistical Learning and Data Science, during the exciting time when data science and Statistics are gaining more public recognition and playing critically important roles on all frontiers of human quest for knowledge. I am very enthusiastic about the increasing engagement of ASA in the data science community.

The SLDS section has been a liaison and a hub for data science discussions and activities within and beyond ASA. I will do my best to support and expand this role. I have been actively involved with the “data science movement”. At Columbia University, I am the chair for the center on foundations of data science in the Data Science Institute (DSI) at Columbia University. I am also a member of the education committee at DSI and participated in the development of a certificate program, a MS program, a MOOC and a Phd program proposal in Data Science for DSI. For our master students in Statistics, I developed a successful project-based course on data science skills. I have observed that a number of important research areas in data science have been heavily fueled by industry participation. Through research and teaching, I am acquainted with researchers at a number of data science research labs in the industry, including Microsoft Research, Google Research, AT&T research, Bell Labs, Facebook, Amazon, Alibaba, and etc. As chair of SLDS, my vision is to focus on increasing the visibility of SLDS, and ASA in general, in the data science community via carefully planned activities (such as organizing themed workshops at major data science conferences) and collaboration on predictive analytics competitions. These activities would also allow us to engage graduate students and young researchers in ASA activities. I am excited about this opportunity to participate more actively in increasing the visibility of SLDS and ASA in the data science community.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Ali Shojaie**

University of Washington

**Statement**

The increasing applications of quantitative methods in analyzing big data from biology, social media networks, astronomy and engineering accentuates the significance of statistical tools for machine learning and data mining in diverse set of applications. My main goal as the program chair elect of SLDS is to reflect this diversity, both in the type of methods developed and in applications of statistical machine learning and data mining techniques, by selecting influential invited sessions that showcase cutting-edge statistical methods and demonstrate where these methods can make a difference in their wide variety of applications.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Vincent Vu**

The Ohio State University

**Statement**

My heart is and has always been in finding opportunities for statistical ideas, theory, and computational technology to come together to solve interesting scientific and engineering problems. This perspective is rooted in my own professional career, which I began as a software engineer during the "dot-com" bubble of the late 1990's, working in the tech industry for six years, before entering academia full-time and earning my Ph.D. in Statistics in 2009---the very



same year that the section was established. In the ten years that have passed since "Statistical Learning and Data Science" began as an interest group, there has been a tremendous explosion in data driven applications that have been fueled by rapid technological advances and that demand new statistical ideas and theory. Some might argue that this is just a transient facet of a second "tech bubble", but I believe that these changes are permanent and that our section should be prepared to lead the way for statistics to be at the center of the emergent area of data science. So if elected program chair, I will work together with the executive committee and ASA to ensure that our program at key conferences such as JSM keeps reflects our role in this new regime and keeps our members close to the heart of data science.

## **Section on Statistics in Imaging**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Xi Luo**

Brown University

### **Statement**

I am honored to run for the Chair position of our section on Statistics in Imaging. If elected, I will serve our community with three major goals: promoting our presence across disciplines, supporting young researchers, and encouraging interactions and collaborations. My plan to achieve these goals is described below. In the era of international efforts on the BIG DATA and BRAIN initiatives, I will continue to reach out to grant agencies, research organizations, and other disciplinary societies to advocate method research and findings generated by our community. I will also reach out to journals and conferences in related disciplines to organize special issues and sessions for imaging statistics and method research, and these research outlets will give favorable considerations for young researchers and students. In addition to our continued commitment to well-received activities within our section (e.g. student paper competitions, workshops), I will seek additional partnerships and sponsorships for supporting and possibly expanding these activities, for example sponsoring gatherings at various conferences and more travel awards for students and young researchers. Leveraging modern social network technologies (e.g. Facebook), I will explore if these new tools can help enhance interactions within our community and welcome new members, especially young researchers, to our community. I will also use these as a cost-effective way to advertise for our community and our contributions to science and statistics.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Bin Nan**

University of Michigan

### **Statement**

Dr. Nan's future goals are to continue growing section membership by attracting young researchers (Ph.D. students in particular) into imaging research and promoting intellectual interactions among statisticians who work on imaging research through section activities.

**Chair-Elect**

**Hernando Ombao**

University of California at Irvine

**Statement**

As Chair of the Section on Statistics in Imaging, my key goals are to build on the work by previous leadership on increasing the stature and significance of the Section within the American Statistical Association; to continue to foster our relationship with the brain imaging community at large; to engage members of our section who work on non-medical applications of imaging; and to work with the ASA on promoting diversity and inclusion in our section. In particular, I will work with the leaders on increasing section membership. Increasing membership will be key to ensuring that we maintain and increase allotted invited sessions for the JSM. To accomplish this, we will increase recruitment advertising and intensity efforts on improving the section website. I will also work with ASA and ENAR on solidifying the place of invited poster sessions at JSM and ENAR in order to accommodate work that is best disseminated through posters rather than oral presentations. Poster presenters will be encouraged to conduct a demo of their toolboxes, software, data visualization results. The topics will include applications on functional imaging, structural imaging and non-medical applications (e.g., climate, ecology, surveillance and traffic).

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Nichole Carlson**

University of Colorado

**Statement**

It is an honor to have been nominated for this position. My goal is to continue to broaden the types of imaging problems members are solving and exposed to. I want to continue to enhance the warm and collaborative environment this group has extended to me when I joined just a few short years ago.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Linglong Kong**

University of Alberta

**Statement**

My goal of program chair for section on statistics in imaging is to continue successful activities, explore new opportunities, and tackle potential challenges. Such activities include organizing

invited and topic contributed session, student paper awards, short courses, and round table discussion in JSM. New opportunities include annual imaging workshop started by Prof Johnson and Nan at UMICH, Banff and Sanya workshop, and others. To tackle new challenges, especially in big data, interdisciplinary conference and workshop, with genetics, machine learning, engineering and others will be possible movements.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Ting-ting Zhang**

University of Virginia

**Statement**

Since I was an Assistant Professor, the imaging community has given me tremendous support, encouragement, and guidance. I always hope to serve the community. I plan to improve ASA mainly in two aspects: (1) increasing the impact of statistics in the application fields, specifically Psychiatry, Psychology, Neurology, and other fields related to the imaging section; and (2) increasing the involvement of young researchers. I will achieve the above goals through three ways. First, organize or encourage JSM and ENAR sessions focused on solving real scientific and clinical problems using statistical techniques. Second, organize student paper competitions and encourage submission of paper on new methodology development for non-traditional data, especially in the new application areas. Third, ensure involvement of statisticians, especially young researchers, across diverse fields of statistics from theory to application.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Amanda Mejia**

Indiana University

**Statement**

As Council of Sections Representative for the Section on Statistics in Imaging, I look forward to working alongside colleagues from other sections to promote the interests of the diverse membership of the ASA by investing in the development of sections, encouraging communication and collaboration between sections, and promoting member involvement. Several previous leadership experiences have prepared me for the responsibilities of this role. As an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at Indiana University, I serve on the Outreach Committee, which is charged with promoting the interests of the department across the college and university. Previously, as a PhD student in the Department of Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins I served as student-faculty representative, functioning as a liaison between the student body and the faculty. In this role, I attended faculty meetings, communicated the needs, concerns and activities of the student body to the faculty and chair, and provided formal and informal updates on departmental activities and initiatives to the students. Recently, I participated in strategic planning for the Indiana Neuroimaging Hackathon and led teams at two brain imaging hackathons. Since my first JSM as a second-year PhD student, I have been fortunate to attend JSM each year and have found it to be a rewarding experience. I am an

active member of the Section on Statistics in Imaging and participate in the annual business meeting. I have attended the Section's flagship annual event, the Statistics in Imaging Conference, since its inception in 2015 and am organizing an invited session for the upcoming 2017 conference. As a new faculty member, I look forward to continuing my involvement with this community and serving as your Representative to the Council of Sections, where I plan to work with and learn from other representatives to promote and develop the membership of the Section on Statistics in Imaging and the ASA.

### **Council of Sections Representative**

**Dana Tudorascu**

University of Pittsburgh

### **Statement**

I am assistant professor of Medicine, Biostatistics and Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. My research interests focus on applications and methods development for neuroimaging data in studies of Alzheimer's disease and Late Life Depression. This has led to investigations that include brain tissue classification in people with late life depression as well as recent work on reproducibility in healthy subjects. I am currently organizing the Statistical Methods in Imaging Annual meeting. I have published papers mainly in the neuroimaging journals but also in radiology, MRI, neuroscience and geriatric psychiatry. I would be honored to serve in this position for the ASA.

## **Section on Mental Health Statistics**

### **Chair-Elect**

**Booil Jo**

Stanford University School of Medicine

### **Statement**

Mental health always has been a methodologically intriguing field of research, where behavioral science meets medicine. Recent technological developments add further complexities to this unique landscape, by generating new forms and sources of information such as from neuroimaging, genetics, endocrinology, and even social media and internet. It seems apparent to me that mental health research is becoming the busiest juncture of different research fields, research methods, and a multitude of information. This situation is an overwhelming challenge for statisticians in the MH field and at the same time opens up unique opportunities for exciting developments and collaborations. As MHS program chair elect and chair, I would like to help the MHS section shape as an ideal outlet that fosters statistical development and collaboration sorely needed for mental health research that is going through an unprecedented change. Specifically, I would like to encourage activities and sessions that involve most interdisciplinary collaboration among statisticians and methodologists across ASA

under the common theme of mental health research (e.g., combinations among RCT methods, prediction/data mining methods, causal inference, latent variable modeling/psychometrics, etc; collaboration across psychology, psychiatry, sociology, epidemiology, neuroscience, sleep, endocrinology, etc). I believe this strategy will also help promote interests in mental research and improve the bandwidth of statistics support for ever evolving field of mental health research.

**Chair-Elect**

**Satesh Iyengar**

University of Pittsburgh

**Statement**

The main aim of translational mental health research and clinical practice is to alleviate suffering and improve the lives of those afflicted with psychiatric disorders. Both research and practice are both undergoing remarkable change because of many factors: developments in imaging, genomics; several brain initiatives, and the NIMH's RDoC framework. These developments have already led to a huge increase in the data collected from different modalities. These present challenges for us: ensuring high-quality and secure data collection, storage, retrieval, and fusion; development of methods for analysis; and effective communication with scientists and clinicians to promote better mental health. This Section is well positioned to foster interactions between members of relevant fields — both in the US and abroad — to promote sessions at regular meetings, and to publicize the role of statistics and data science in this area, especially to students and young investigators.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Dulal Bhaumik**

University of Illinois at Chicago

**Statement**

I have made profound contributions in several disciplines of Mental Health, such as Basic Biological Studies, Epigenetics, Neurobehavioral and Neuroimaging studies. As I see, these important disciplines are currently being considered as isolated islands, though it is critically important to integrate and provide evidence based support from one area to the other areas. As Program Chair, my goal will be to further strengthen the platform of the Mental Health Section of ASA so that members can continue to share their research findings and benefit from others expertise and contributions. Utilizing the current resources of ASA, I plan to increase communication to members of our section regarding availability of grant funding, publication and continuing education opportunities, with special focus on young members. I will also try to increase the number of invited and contributed sessions focusing on mental health in various ASA events including JSM, Statistics in Practice and Women in Statistics and Data Science etc. To encourage participation of graduate students on mental health statistical research, I would like to establish a research award for contributed sessions and poster presentations during ASA

events. I will carefully listen to any suggestions from our members and discuss those with other committee members. I believe my experience, innovative approach and open door policy will help improve the quality of the section and members.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Ramzi Nahhas**

Wright State University

**Statement**

My name is Ramzi W. Nahhas. I am a Ph.D. biostatistician focused on collaborative research in the Wright State University (WSU) Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton, Ohio. My primary appointment is as Associate Professor, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Population and Public Health Sciences ([people.wright.edu/ramzi.nahhas](http://people.wright.edu/ramzi.nahhas)). Since 2014 I've also had a secondary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry in which I teach residents and serve as the biostatistician on research projects including investigations of PTSD, stigma, paternal age effects, and the impact of mental health referral on juvenile recidivism. Additionally, through collaboration with WSU's Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research, I have been a Co-Investigator on a number of NIH/NIDA-funded research projects studying drug abuse. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as Program Chair-Elect for the Mental Health Statistics Section. If elected, I look forward to working with the other members of the Executive Committee to further the mission of the Section. As yet, I have limited experience serving in ASA. I am excited about this position, both for the sake of implementing an excellent Program, as well as to gain experience and make myself a useful Section member. I'm not sure if "attention to detail" sets me apart within a group of statisticians, however I do consider that a strength of mine and one that is a good fit for the position of Program Chair-Elect. Thank you for your consideration.

## **Section on Medical Devices and Diagnostics**

**Chair-Elect**

**Zhen Zhang**

Abbott Vascular

**Statement**

I'm honored to be running for the president of the Section on Medical Devices and Diagnostics (SMDD). I was the correspondence secretary in 2013 when I was fortunate to be working FDA and industry leaders to transform SMDD from an interest group to a section of the ASA. It is with great joy to see SMDD's continued growth since then. After receiving my PhD, I have been working in the medical device industry for over 9 years. My experience covered the whole development cycle of a medical device, from R&D, pre-clinical, to clinical trials. In addition, as a member of the AdvaMed Statistics Working Group, I have been actively involved in organizing

the annual AdvaMed/FDA statistics workshop. As the chair of SMDD, in addition to my required responsibilities, I plan to focus on one initiative, outreach. My effort will be two-fold: first, outreach to students in statistics. We face unique statistical challenges in our industry and it is critical for us to recruit future talents. However, due to our diversity, there has been a lack of a synchronized outreach effort. I will host at least one meeting to discuss how to raise awareness among students so that we can better tap into the talent pool. Second, outreach within our industry. Inspired by the World Statistics Day, I have led a group of statisticians to host a Stats Day at Abbott. It was a fun-filled event and we have increased the awareness of the importance of statistics. This is especially relevant for our industry because most of the companies are small. Our colleagues need to understand what we do in order to foster collaborations. I will host at least one meeting to discuss how we can raise awareness of statistics within our industry. It is a great time for statisticians. We're facing transformative challenges such as how to incorporate real-world evidence. In addition, there is a growing demand for creative trial designs. I look forward to the opportunity to work with everyone to strengthen our profession.

### **Chair-Elect**

**Beimar Iriarte**

Abbott Laboratories

### **Statement**

I'm honored to be nominated for the MDD section's position of Chair-elect, 2018. I came in the industry with a degree in Biochemistry. After seeing the importance Statistics, I went back to school and graduated with a MS Statistics. Since then, I have enjoyed this discipline and taken additional courses. I have attended, presented, organized, and chaired at JSM, FDA/Industry, AdvaMed and Abbott's World conferences. I have participated in the section since its inception as SIGMED, then as MDD. As Chair-elect, I will work with the officers and executive committee on the following: 1. Increasing visibility of the MDD and ASA by marketing to department heads of universities and colleges, for distribution of section's information to their students. Higher visibility will translate in new members coming to the association and the section. 2. Engaging our members by surveying their professional needs and interests, posting those needs on the website such that members and visitors with expertise on the topic can respond directly or provide links to sources. Meeting those needs will also be accomplished with webinars and seminars at JSM and other conferences. I will engage members by encouraging participation not only at ASA's meetings and committees, but also at other professional / scientific organizations whose work relies heavily on statistical applications. We will engage members thorough newsletters with technical and non-technical information. 3. Promoting the profession and educating the younger generation on the power of Statistics and Data Science. This initiative will be undertaken with ASA and in alignment with its strategies at the policy level. At the non-policy level, promoting the profession will involve giving presentations in colleges to students in STEM disciplines. For additional funding of this endeavor, I will reach out to industry, government and academic institutions.

**Program Chair-Elect****Gerry Gray**

Data-Fi, LLC

**Statement**

I would love to help make the sessions for the Medical Devices and Diagnostics section as interesting and informative as possible. I favor sessions that meet practical needs, addressing some of the current challenges that we all face.

**Program Chair-Elect****Martin Ho**

Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

**Section on Statistics in Genomics and Genetics****Chair-Elect****Dan Nicolae**

University of Chicago

**Statement**

The ASS Section of Statistics in Genomics and Genetics is relatively new, and was established to promote research and education in statistical genetics and genomics, to institute awards that acknowledge the research of students and young investigators in this field, and to build an intellectual community around common research themes. Genetics has been over the past decades an important field of applications that inspired problems and methodological innovation that are at the core of modern statistics. Genetics has continually evolved over the past decade, driven in part by technological innovation, and continues to yield remarkable challenges and opportunities. As Chair, I hope to continue and enhance the mission of the section by: (i) organizing sessions at major ASA conferences around the newest methodological challenges in genetics and genomics; (ii) developing the ASA statistical genetics community through events during ASA meetings and conferences; (iii) attracting talented young investigators to the field through workshops and short-courses on important problems and advances in genetics; (iv) increasing the membership of the section with well-designed, targeted email campaigns.

**Chair-Elect****Dan Nettleton**

Iowa State University

**Statement**



I feel honored to be nominated as a candidate for the position of Chair-Elect in the Section on Statistics in Genomics and Genetics (SGG). I have been a member of the ASA for over 20 years and have been working on problems in statistical genomics/genetics throughout my time in the ASA. Since joining Iowa State University in 2000, my work has been heavily influenced by numerous collaborations with leading plant and animal scientists who seek to understand the functions of genes in biological systems and to learn how genotype and environment interact to shape important phenotypes. I see the relatively new SGG Section as a valuable resource for members of the statistics community who work in academia, government, or industry on problems related to genomics and genetics. The SGG Section should continue to provide opportunities for students via the recently established student paper competition. The Section should continue to enhance its reputation within the statistics community with high-profile invited sessions at the Joint Statistical Meetings featuring outstanding speakers carrying out leading research in statistical genetics and genomics. In future years, the Section's website should increasingly become a go-to source for information about statistical genetics and genomics. In addition to providing postings about meetings and open positions of interest to Section members, I would like the site to include fundamental information about genetics and genomics and links to resource that could lower the barriers to entry for outstanding statisticians who lack training and experience in biology, genetics, and genomics. The Section can be strengthened by broadening participation of the statistics community in the challenging, fascinating, and important work carried out every day by statistical scientists engaged in genomics and genetics research. Regardless of the election outcome, I look forward to working with SGG members to advance statistics in genomics and genetics.

### **Program Chair-Elect**

**Hongkai Ji**

Johns Hopkins University

### **Statement**

I am honored to have this opportunity to serve our community as the program chair of the Section on Statistics in Genomics and Genetics (SGG). As a relatively new section of the ASA, the SGG provides a crucial platform for our profession to benefit from, contribute to, and make an impact on the booming genomics and genetics research and applications. If elected, I will work with our community members together to create a program in key statistical conferences that promotes innovation in both research and education. Since the organic and effective interaction and collaboration is crucial for the success of statistical genomics and genetics, I would like to build a program that facilitates communications and collaborations between statisticians and domain scientists, between theoretical and applied statisticians, and between our discipline and other disciplines such as computer science and biomedical engineering. My objective is to have a program that not only promotes exciting theoretical and methodological developments in different areas but also presents new opportunities and challenges in emerging new fields such as single cell genomics, microbiome, genome editing, precision medicine, big data, etc. I would like to launch a new crowd-sourcing initiative that leverages the wisdom of crowds to formulate, solve and evaluate solutions to emerging new statistical

problems in our field. This initiative will be incorporated into our program to energize students and young researchers and provide a new platform for them to effectively collaborate, contribute to and make an impact on both science and statistics. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the ASA and work with you to develop a SGG program that best serves the needs of our community and profession.

**Program Chair-Elect**

**Li-Xuan Qin**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Statement**

I am honored to be a candidate for the Program Chair-Elect position for the section on Statistics in Genomics and Genetics (SGG). I discovered my passion in statistics as a discipline during my graduate study in biology at the University of Iowa and subsequently sharpened my focus into the field of SGG while doing graduate school work in biostatistics at the University of Washington. Growing together with this exciting new field, I have been developing a career as a biostatistician doing both methodological and collaborative research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and loved to be among those who help the public learn intelligently from the data and make the best decisions. I have contributed to our profession through ASA by organizing and chairing invited, topic-contributed, and contributed sessions for the JSM since 2011. These sessions were under a versatile array of timely topics, such as genomics data normalization, interaction modeling, integrative analytics, deep sequencing data analysis, and reproducible research. As the Program Chair-Elect for the young section on SGG, I will work closely with the section Chair-Elect for the continued growth and development of the section, and in particular help put together an engaging and innovative program of section-sponsored sessions for the JSM at this transformative time of the field. In closing, I am grateful to be nominated for an office position with ASA and look forward to an opportunity to continue serving our profession. Thank you for your consideration.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Pei Wang**

Mount Sinai School of Medicine

**Statement**

As a member of SGG, I will work with all other section members to foster research, education and influence of statisticians on genomics and genetics researches, aiming to produce a focal organization for statisticians working in this field. We will introduce statisticians and students to modern problems in genomics and genetics and its associated areas of application. We will organize student paper competitions and establish a forum for statisticians working on genomics and genetics problems to exchange ideas and information (as we have already begun to do). We will also try to promote academic, translational and non-journal research in statistics

in genomics and genetics. We hope our section services become a resource for public and private agencies seeking assistance in these fields of interest.

**Council of Sections Representative**

**Peng Wei**

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Statement**

As a member of SGG, I will work with all other section members to foster research, education and influence of statisticians on genomics and genetics researches, aiming to produce a focal organization for statisticians working in this field. We will introduce statisticians and students to modern problems in genomics and genetics and its associated areas of application. We will organize student paper competitions and establish a forum for statisticians working on genomics and genetics problems to exchange ideas and information (as we have already begun to do). We will also try to promote academic, translational and non-journal research in statistics in genomics and genetics. We hope our section services become a resource for public and private agencies seeking assistance in these fields of interest.