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**NISS Affiliates
NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates
Planning Meeting**

Friday, March 5, 2004

NISS Headquarters, Research Triangle Park, NC

Summary

1 Summary

The annual planning meeting of the NISS Affiliates and NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates was held on March 5, 2004 at NISS headquarters in Research Triangle Park, NC, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Present were David Banks (Duke University), James Berger (SAMSI), Roger Berger (NSF), Somesh Chattopadhyay (Florida State University), Kevin Coakley (NIST), Steven Cohen (Bureau of Labor Statistics), Rob Creecy (Census Bureau), Moshe Feder (RTI International), Thomas Ferryman (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), Thomas Gerig (NISS), Alan Karr (NISS), Ravi Khattree (Oakland University), Gary McDonald (NISS), Sastry Pantula (North Carolina State University), Robert Rodriguez (SAS Institute), William Schucany (Southern Methodist University), Keith Soper (Merck & Company), Paul Speckman (University of Missouri), Cliff Spiegelman (Texas A&M), Dongchu Sun (University of Missouri), John Wierman. (Johns Hopkins), Lee Wilkinson (SPSS) and Stanley Young (NISS).

2 Program Review

Following the welcome and participant introductions, Karr reported on activities, recent initiatives and plans for the Affiliates Program.¹ Major points:

¹The presentation is available at www.niss.org/affiliates/planningmeeting200403.html.

1. The NISS Strategic Vision (see §6);
2. The search for an Associate Director for NISS and SAMSI;
3. The new Affiliates Problem Day, held for the first time on March 4, 2004;
4. A “Concordat” with EURANDOM that allows Affiliates Reimbursement Accounts to be used to attend events at EURANDOM, as well as facilitating other activities such as post-doctoral exchanges;
5. Changes in the leadership of the Board of Trustees for NISS effective July 1, Vijay Nair (University of Michigan) will become chair of the Board and Lee Wilkinson (SPSS), vice-chair;
6. Expanding bioinformatics research at NISS, including projects with the Hereditary Disease Foundation (HDF) and CIIT Centers for Health Research (CIIT);
7. Proposals to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and for statistical disclosure limitation (SDL) for geospatial image data;
8. The developing relationship between NISS and the DQRI;
9. Upcoming affiliates events, including a Technology Days on Pharmacogenomics (10/04), a workshops on Overarching Issues in Risk Analysis (date TBD) and a short courses on Validation of Mathematical Models and Computer Simulation for Product Development,² the SAMSI Hot Topics Workshop on Workshop on Mathematical Sciences Research to Meet National Security Needs (4/1–2/04) and the Closing Workshop of the SAMSI program on Data Mining and Machine Learning (5/17–18/04);
10. The 2004 Affiliates Proposal Development Fund (APDF): two awards are planned, proposals are due June 1, 200, and awards will announced at NISS/SAMSI JSM 2004 reception;
11. Other affiliates programs initiatives (some arising at the March 4 Problem Day), including events at affiliates’ sites, quarterly updates to affiliates on NISS research, and affiliate contact with NISS postdocs.

Gerig, McDonald and Young discussed additional aspects of the affiliates programs.

Items that arose in discussion included, in no particular order:

- A SAMSI program or NISS project on total survey error;
- Potential affiliates events and/or NISS research on risk analysis, model validation (specifically, feedback to improve models), genetic epidemiology and data streams;
- Remote access (for example, via streaming video) to affiliates events;
- An E-mail subscription list for affiliates that provides more information than the monthly updates;

²The latter, unfortunately, was canceled because of insufficient enrollment.

3 SAMSI

James Berger summarized current and future activities of SAMSI, with particular focus on future research opportunities, including:³

2004–05 programs on

- Computational Modeling of Infectious Disease, for which co-leaders are Thomas B. Kepler (Duke) and Denise Kirschner (Michigan);
- Data Assimilation for Geophysical System, led by Kayo Ide (UCLA), Christopher Jones (UNC; chair), Robert Miller (Oregon), Douglas Nychka (NCAR) and Francisco Werner (UNC);
- Latent Variable Models in Social Sciences, whose leaders are Ken Bollen (UNC; chair), James Heckman (Chicago), Alan Karr (NISS), and Susan Murphy (Michigan).

Anticipated 2005–06 programs on High-Dimensional Multivariate Statistics and Random Matrices and Mathematical and Statistical Finance.

Possible future programs on national defense and homeland security, agent-based simulation, design and analysis of computer experiments and astrostatistics.

Further information about all SAMSI activities is available on the SAMSI Web site—www.samsi.info, which is also linked from the NISS home page.

4 $2 + \varepsilon$ Minute Madness

As has become traditional, every attendee took (approximately) two minutes to describe concerns, needs and capabilities of his or her organization that are relevant to the affiliates programs.

5 NSF Presentation

Roger Berger, Program Director for statistics at the NSF, described a number of cross-disciplinary initiatives of interest. but possibly not known, to statisticians, several of which fall under the “Mathematical Sciences Priority Area” (MSPA). These include:

- New Mathematical and Statistical Tools for Understanding Complex Systems in the Environment (MSPA-CSE) (see www.nsf.gov/mps/divisions/dms/about/mspa-cse.htm);
- Interactions between the Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science (MSPA-MCS) (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04538/nsf04538.htm);

³The presentation is available at www.niss.org/affiliates/planningmeeting200403.html.

- Innovations at the Interface with the Sciences and Engineering (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04538/nsf04538.htm);
- Interactions Between the Mathematical Sciences and the Physical Sciences (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04538/nsf04538.htm);
- Mathematical Social and Behavioral Sciences (MSBS): Facilitating Research Interactions Between the Mathematical and Statistical Sciences and the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04548/nsf04548.htm);
- Joint DMS/NIGMS Initiative to Support Research in the Area of Mathematical Biology (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02125/nsf02125.htm);
- Collaborations in Mathematical Geosciences FY2004 (CMG) (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04508/nsf04508.htm);
- Focused Research Groups (see www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02129/nsf02129.htm).

6 NISS Strategic Vision

Karr presented⁴ publicly for the first time the recently completed NISS Strategic Vision (SV), which sees NISS as “a truly national institute that serves the statistical sciences community by:

- Performing and stimulating high-impact research at critical interfaces between statistics and disciplinary science, as well as between industry/government and academia;
- Supporting career development at all levels, with special emphasis on postdoctorals;
- Engaging the national community in a variety of activities, especially but not exclusively by means of its Affiliates Programs and SAMSI.

Karr elaborated on research, human resources, community engagement and scale components of the SV, culminating with a set of operational goals that would transform NISS to approximately twice its current size, in essentially all dimensions—scientific leadership, research activity measured by projects or dollars, project participants, especially postdoctorals and senior researchers from organizations other than NISS, personnel, including a small “permanent” scientific staff, and facilities.

⁴The presentation is available at www.niss.org/affiliates/planningmeeting200403.html.