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## Annual Report of the Director

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### Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Highlights</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>NISS Research</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Ongoing Projects . . . . .	3
2.2	Research Initiatives . . . . .	4
2.3	Planned Proposals . . . . .	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Strategic Vision</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>SAMSI</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Affiliates Programs</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Affiliates Events . . . . .	7
5.2	Affiliate-Related Research . . . . .	7
5.3	Affiliates Services . . . . .	7
5.4	Affiliates Initiatives . . . . .	8
<b>6</b>	<b>Additional Activities</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1	Communication and Outreach . . . . .	9
6.2	Initiatives with Other Research Organizations . . . . .	9
<b>7</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	Associate Director . . . . .	10
7.2	Scientific Staff . . . . .	10
7.3	Support Staff . . . . .	10
<b>8</b>	<b>Finances</b>	<b>10</b>
8.1	FY 2004 Review . . . . .	10
8.2	FY 2005 Plans . . . . .	11

<b>9 Challenges</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>A Affiliates Events in 2004 and 2005</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>B Postdoctoral Fellows in 2004 and 2005</b>	<b>14</b>

# 1 Highlights

NISS continues to develop along multiple dimensions. Highlights of the year include:

**Strategic Vision.** Reflecting strong interest and engagement of the Board of Trustees—especially the Executive Committee—NISS has developed a strategic vision to guide our development over the next several years (§3). Although this is not a goal in itself, the strategic vision implies doubling the scale of NISS along most dimensions.

**Research.** Under the leadership of Assistant Director Stanley Young, NISS has a growing presence in bioinformatics. Two projects have been underway since 2003, and two proposals were submitted so far during 2004. There is also strong involvement with the affiliates programs and with SAMSI.

Through the Education Statistics Services Institute (ESSI), NISS has developed a significant presence providing statistical support to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which is now our second largest source of funds. In addition to ongoing research on data confidentiality and data quality, three major efforts are currently in place (§2.2).

**SAMSI.** The growing success of the SAMSI is yielding major benefits for NISS as well. These include scientific interactions. In particular, NISS has become a major factor in selection and successful execution of SAMSI programs, very favorable visibility, and financial stability (§4).

**Postdoctoral Program.** Following a “banner year” in 2003–04, the number of postdocs has declined in 2004–05. Two reasons for this are that one strong and very desirable candidate, whom we had high hopes of attracting, ultimately declined our offer, and that no postdocs are shared this year with SAMSI. The principal cause, however, is lack of synchronization between availability of resources and the recruiting season. Currently, we have resources to support at least three most postdoctoral appointments than are in place, but these resources were not in hand during the recruiting season.

**Affiliates Programs.** Despite difficult financial times, the programs are maintaining a strong membership base. Small-scale attrition is compensated by new affiliates. The designation of 2005 as the *Year of the Affiliate* will direct significant energy to the affiliates programs.

**Community Service.** Increasingly, NISS is leading initiatives of the statistical sciences community, and perhaps more important, the community is beginning to look to NISS for such leadership. Our continuing efforts on national defense and homeland security are one aspect of this service. In addition, NISS was a major co-sponsor of the 2004 ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference (Raleigh; May 19–21) and 2004 Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability (MMR 2004) (Santa Fe; June 21–25), and will host the 2008 “Interface” meeting.

**Finances.** NISS remains stable financially. SAMSI and the affiliates programs provide a steady source of income, and existing projects have remaining durations of one to three years. Financial reserves, including funded depreciation, are approximately \$1,500,000.

## 2 NISS Research

Currently, the NISS research portfolio is more diverse scientifically and in terms of funding sources than it has been in recent years. The strategic vision calls for further diversification in terms of scientific scope, institutional “homes” of PIs and other participants, and geography.

### 2.1 Ongoing Projects

Over the past year, there have been four main threads in the NISS research program and one smaller effort.

**Bioinformatics.** NISS has established a vigorous research program in bioinformatics. Its components include:

*CIIT–NISS Joint Postdoctoral Program.* NISS and CIIT Centers for Health Research (CIIT) have created joint postdoctoral program in bioinformatics. CIIT and NISS are sharing the costs (approximately \$100,000 per year, including indirect costs) for the first two years of the program, and seeking outside support for future years. The first NISS-CIIT postdoctoral fellow, appointed in 2003, has left to take a position at GlaxoSmithKline. The research has led to both publications and a major software product—PowerMV.

*Hereditary Disease Foundation (HDF).* NISS is providing statistical and computational expertise for the HDF’s Cure Huntington’s Disease Initiative, a national effort that also involves biologists and chemists from a large number of institutions. Our major role is to analyze data generated by the biologists and chemists, a process that feeds back to the physical experiments. Funding for this two-year project is \$225,000.

**Digital Government (DGII).** This project, *Data Confidentiality, Data Quality and Data Integration for Federal Databases: Foundations to Software Prototypes* is a four-year, \$2,560,000 follow-on to the first NISS Digital Government (DG) project. The research addresses a broad set of statistical problems with special application to unique problems faced by federal agencies—especially the necessity, in a electronic world, to balance privacy and confidentiality against user access to high-quality statistical data. Participants come from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Iowa State University (ISU), the University of Michigan, Purdue University and Southern Methodist University, as well as the five federal agency partners: the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), Census Bureau (Census), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and NCES.

Over the past year, the research has shifted substantially, with a new thrust on application of techniques for secure multi-party computation to perform statistical analyses of distributed databases. Tabular data and analysis servers remain strong components of the research.

**Computer Model Evaluation.** This effort comprises two linked projects: (1) An NSF-funded Focused Research Group (FRG) project *Statistical Framework for Evaluation of Complex Computer Models*; and (2) a targeted project funded by NISS Affiliate General Motors (GM). The research addresses Bayesian methodology for model validation. Both of these projects end during the fall of 2004; follow-ons with GM are being explored, as is the possibility of a SAMSI program in 2006–07.

**Information Technology**, composed of two NSF-funded projects.

The goal of the five-year project *Collaborative Research: Acquiring Accurate Dynamic Field Data Using Lightweight Instrumentation*, is to design, implement and evaluate light-weight, in-field instrumentation for software testing and profiling. Collaborators include software engineers from the Georgia Tech, the University of Maryland, Vanderbilt University and the University of Washington.

The thrust of the project (*Bayesian Models Linking Web Site Structure and Usage*) is to relate visitor behavior to web site structure through a series of increasingly complex Bayesian models. The principal partner is 2nd Sight, Inc., a provider of Web site analytics.

**Global Climate Change (GCC)**. This project funds an Federal Agency Affiliate postdoc (\$5.3) to work on statistical issues associated with global climate change. The specific foci are: 1) Trend analysis of extremes; (2) Modeling extremes in temperature; and (3) Network design for extremes.

## 2.2 Research Initiatives

A number of new components of the research program have achieved significant momentum during the past year.

**Bioinformatics.** The proposal *Method for Qualifying Complex Metabolic Measuring System* was submitted to NIH in March 2004, with Stanley Young (NISS), David Banks (Duke) and Chris Beecher (Metabolon) as key participants. The thrust of the research is to employ statistical design of experiments and statistical analysis of the resulting experiments to metabolomics data from mass spectrometers. Unfortunately, the proposal was not successful, but alternatives, including re-submission, are under consideration.

The proposal *Fast Molecular Similarity Searching for Drug Discovery* was submitted to the Multidisciplinary Research Grants program of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in October of 2004. Led by Stanley Young, the research has as its goal to use field programmable gate arrays to produce a ten- to one hundred-fold increase in the speed with which large molecular databases can be screened in order to identify those molecules that bind best to a protein drug target. Personnel are from NISS, IBM and the University of Kansas. The amount requested is approximately \$100,000.

**Studies for NCES.** Currently, NISS is conducting three major studies for the NCES. The total funding for these amounts to approximately \$500,000.

*Graduation, Completion and Dropout Rates.* Stimulated by school performance assessments mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), NCES requested NISS to organize a Task Force charged to “Consider what dropout and completion statistics are needed for what purposes; Review existing NCES methodology for calculating dropout rates; Examine the criticisms that have been raised; Consider alternative means of measuring dropouts and completers in terms of both school system needs and broader community-level needs; Recommend ways to improve data collections and measures.” The Task Force report was submitted on September 30, 2004, and will be released by NCES in the near future.

*OCR Data Manual.* NISS is conducting a variety of statistical analyses of 132 cases dealing the possible violations of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which mandates equal opportunity for

males and females to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Issues involve the nature of the institutions involved in the cases and the use of surveys to ascertain whether program are appropriate to students' interests and abilities. A draft report will be delivered to NCES in November, 2004.

*US Participation in International Assessments.* US participation in major international educational assessments<sup>1</sup> is declining to the point that response rates do not meet NCES' statistical standards. For a variety of reasons, the decline is expected to continue or accelerate. NISS has organized a Task Force for NCES that is charged to "make recommendations for improving participation rates in international assessments, and in particular to suggest new methods beyond the usual." An interim set of recommendations was delivered to NCES on October 11, 2004; the final report will be in the summer of 2005.

**New NSF Projects.** Two NSF-funded projects began in 2004.

*Dynamics for Social Networks Processes: Comparing Statistical Models with Intelligent Agents.* This one-year, \$220,000 project, funded by the cross-directorate Mathematical Social and Behavioral Social Sciences program, involves statisticians, applied mathematicians, computer scientists and sociologists from NISS, CMU, Duke, North Carolina State University (NCSU) and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). The goal of the project is to reconcile two methods for modeling change in social networks over time: a class of statistical models and intelligent agent models. To a significant degree, this project is a spinoff of the 2004–05 SAMSI program on Latent Variable Models in the Social Sciences.

*Statistical Disclosure Limitation for Geospatial Image Data.* This is a one-year, \$98,000 project funded by the Human and Social Dynamics Program for exploratory research to produce initial formulations and techniques for statistical disclosure limitation (SDL) for geospatial image data, using longitudinal analyses to frame questions and as pointers to testbed data sets. The research will address the extent to which existing risk–utility formulations for SDL, existing techniques for record linkage and existing computational methods and systems, especially geographical information systems (GIS), can be adapted to yield immediate impact. Participants are statisticians and geographers from NISS, CMU, and the University of Iowa.

## 2.3 Planned Proposals

Efforts are underway with the Data Quality Research Institute (DQRI) (an independent institute located in Chapel Hill, NC; see [www.dqri.org](http://www.dqri.org)) for a collaborative proposal—to NSF or elsewhere—on *Exploratory Research on a Decision-Theoretic Framework for Data Quality*.

## 3 Strategic Vision

Through the initial energy of the Executive Committee, and ultimately the energy and engagement of the entire Board of Trustees, NISS has developed a strategic vision—together with associated operational goals—to guide our development over the next five years.

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<sup>1</sup>Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), and Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

The strategic vision calls for NISS to become “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.”

Specifics of the strategic vision address *Research, Human Resources, Community Engagement, and Scale*.

To help implement the strategic vision, six committees of the Board of Trustees have been established: Affiliates, Awards, Building, National Presence, NISS History, and Science. Each is chaired by a member of the Executive Committee.

## 4 SAMSI

The relationship between NISS and SAMSI continues to mature.

**Science.** It is becoming clear that NISS—and therefore, the affiliates—is becoming the driving force behind one of the three SAMSI programs each year:

**2003–04:** Data Mining and Machine Learning (DMML), which had strong engagement from GM, ICAGEN, Metabolon and SAS. As part of this program, NISS conducted in-depth analyses of testbed databases provided by GM.

**2004–05:** Latent Variable Models in the Social Sciences (LVSS), of which the “Social Networks” project (§2.2) is a working group.

**2005–06:** National Defense and Homeland Security (NDHS), which has program co-chairs from two affiliates: the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

**Affiliates Programs.** SAMSI is an attraction to university departments to become NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates. Because SAMSI programming reflects all affiliates’ interests, SAMSI also has increasing influence on the NISS corporate, federal agency and national laboratory affiliates.

**Visibility.** SAMSI generates significant visibility for NISS, through workshops, research visitors and the NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates. SAMSI workshops too large to hold at NISS have at least one activity, such as a poster session, at NISS, bringing hundreds of people per year to the building.

**Finance.** SAMSI is a significant source of financial stability for NISS. The monetary flows from SAMSI to NISS are summarized in Table 2 in §8.

## 5 Affiliates Programs

While still developing, the affiliates programs are assuming a distinctive form: a growing set of events (§5.1), ongoing engagement of affiliates in NISS research (§5.2), and services to affiliates (§5.3). Affiliates initiatives are described in §5.4.

### 5.1 Affiliates Events

Affiliates events currently consist of:

**Technology Days** that give affiliates early access to NISS research, or address important emerging areas.

**Short Courses** on important areas of theory and methodology, which have been held at both NISS and affiliates' sites.

**Workshops**, which will include a major workshop on risk analysis, to be held April 29–30, 2005, that is co-sponsored and hosted by Iowa State University.

**SAMSI Workshops**, many of which inform the course of NISS research.

**Co-Sponsored Events**, which in 2004 included the 2004 ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference (Raleigh; May 19–21) and MMR 2004 (Santa Fe; June 21–25).

**Planning Meetings** twice each year, in March at NISS and in August at the JSM. Starting in 2005, we plan to devote a significant part of this meeting to soliciting ideas for future SAMSI programs.

Affiliates events for 2004 and 2005 are summarized in Table 4 in Appendix A.

### 5.2 Affiliate–Related Research

During 2004, NISS was engaged in research funded by, or in collaboration with, the BLS, BTS, Census, General Motors, ICAGEN, Metabolon, NASS and NCES.

### 5.3 Affiliates Services

**Job Listings.** A Web-based job listing service for all affiliates was initiated in 2001. It is available at [www.niss.org/affiliates/ajls.html](http://www.niss.org/affiliates/ajls.html).

**Publicity.** The most recent annual announcement about the program, listing current affiliates and inviting others to join, appeared in the December, 2003 issue of *AMSTAT News*. All affiliates received a poster-sized, color version.

**Postdoctoral Program for Federal Agency Affiliates.** A joint postdoctoral program of NISS and its Federal Agency Affiliates (FAAs) is in operation. Two appointments have been made, in conjunction with the Census Bureau and EPA.

**Event Co-Sponsorship.** Both as service to affiliates and as a means of increasing the flexibility of the Affiliates' Reimbursement Accounts, NISS is selectively co-sponsoring a number of other events. Affiliates may use their Reimbursement Accounts to attend. As part of a broader agreement with EURANDOM (§6.2), all EURANDOM workshops are part of this program. Upcoming examples include a workshop on Statistics and Counterterrorism, to be held at New York University on November 20, 2004.

## 5.4 Affiliates Initiatives

**Year of the Affiliate.** As part of implementing the Strategic Vision, planning is underway for 2005—*The Year of the Affiliate*. Potential components of this year include:

- Visits by me to affiliates. Within the past year, visits to Iowa State University, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Telcordia and Texas A&M University have been uniformly successful.
- Articulating measures by which NISS and affiliates agree to judge the value they derive from the Programs.
- Growing the program by 10-20%.
- Expanding the scope of NISS research driven by affiliates.

**Affiliates Proposal Development Fund (APDF).** Created this year to further the NISS mission “to catalyze . . . high-impact, cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences,” the Affiliates Proposal Development Fund (APDF) makes up to two awards annually, of up to \$10,000, for expenses associated with preparation of cross-disciplinary, preferably multi-institution proposals by researchers from NISS Affiliates or NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates. The one APDF award for 2004 was made to a group of researchers led by Jacqueline Hughes–Oliver of NCSU for the proposal *Benchmarking Computational Models for Drug Discovery: Chemical Descriptors, Model Validation, and Model Applicability Criteria*. Other participants are statisticians and chemists from Abbott Laboratories, UNC, and the University of British Columbia.

**Annual Affiliates Problem Day.** The first of these was held on March 4, 2004, in conjunction with the March 5 Affiliates Planning Meeting. At it, several corporate, federal agency and national laboratory affiliates made in-depth presentations of research needs, with the goal of catalyzing collaborations to address them that involve NISS and other affiliates of all kinds. The event will be repeated in 2005.

**Events at Affiliates' Sites.** My visits to affiliates confirm that there is continuing interest in affiliates events at sites other than NISS.<sup>2</sup> Although this must be done selectively, it clearly is desirable. The next such event will be the April 2005 workshop on risk analysis, which will be hosted and co-sponsored by Iowa State University.

**Retention and Recruitment.** Two new corporate affiliates in the pharmaceutical industry have joined: Golden Helix and Metabolon. The only losses were one corporation (Amgen), one national

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<sup>2</sup>In the past, such events have been hosted by Amgen, BLS and Telcordia Technologies.

laboratory (PNNL, despite an otherwise successful visit) and two university departments. Current membership is comprised of 14 corporations, 8 federal agencies and national laboratories, and 32 university departments. Disappointingly, has SAMSI not yet proved to be a strong attraction for university departments, and this needs to be dealt with.

## 6 Additional Activities

### 6.1 Communication and Outreach

Largely, these are expansions and refinements of ongoing activities.

**NISS Newsletter.** The quarterly newsletter is distributed by both mail and the NISS web site. Katherine Kantner continues as the editor.

**Monthly updates** from me are sent to the Board of Trustees and Members of the Corporation, with separate updates to the affiliates.

**JSM 2004 Events.** At JSM 2004, I reported on NISS and SAMSI to the Board of Directors of the ASA<sup>3</sup> and made a presentation on the affiliates program in a session organized by SPAIG. More than 30 affiliates attended the JSM Affiliates Meeting, and more than 200 people came to the NISS/SAMSI Reception.

**Sacks Award.** The 2004 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research was presented to Douglas Nychka of the National Center for Atmospheric Research. At current low interest rates, the \$30,000+ Sacks Award endowment is marginally unable to support the award of \$1000; the difference is made up from NISS general funds.

### 6.2 Initiatives with Other Research Organizations

**EURANDOM.** A memorandum of agreement with EURANDOM has been implemented to establish and implement sensible forms of interaction, including joint workshops and a postdoctoral exchange program, both of which are underway already. In addition, Affiliates Reimbursement Accounts may be used to fund participation in workshops and other events at EURANDOM.

Various forms of cooperation with DIMACS and the Canadian National Program on Complex Data Structures are being explored. In addition, I am a “founding member” of the Bernoulli Society Committee of Stochastic Sciences Institutes, on which members of all major institutes world-wide in the statistical and stochastic sciences are represented.

## 7 Personnel

Flexible (medical and dependent care) spending accounts have been instituted as an additional personnel benefit. I plan to institute a pension program during FY 2005.

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<sup>3</sup>A similar report was made to the IMS Council at its July, 2004 meeting in Barcelona.

## 7.1 Associate Director

A national search for an Associate Director of NISS, who will be major force in implementing the strategic vision, was initiated in January of 2004. The Associate Director will serve as well as the NISS representative on the SAMSI directorate.

Negotiations are currently underway with an outstanding candidate, and I am very optimistic that they will concluded successfully.

## 7.2 Scientific Staff

The NISS scientific staff is strong and stable. It includes:

**Thomas Gerig**, Assistant Director for NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates, has as primary responsibility communication with and recruitment of NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates.

**Ashish Sanil** is Research Statistician at NISS. He has a major role in research on DG, data quality (DQ) and software engineering, and is co-PI on the WEB project (§2.1).

**Stanley Young**, as Assistant Director for Bioinformatics, is managing and developing research programs in drug discovery, genomics and proteomics, as well as interaction with affiliates in the pharmaceutical industry.

**Postdoctoral Fellows.** As noted in §1, the postdoctoral program increased dramatically in terms of both number and diversity of appointments. A complete list of postdocs for 2004–05 appears in Appendix B.

## 7.3 Support Staff

The NISS staff consists of three extremely dedicated and efficient individuals. **Martha Williamson**, Administrative Assistant, provides strong support for me and functions as business manager of NISS. **Katherine Kantner** has major responsibilities in connection with the affiliates programs, the Board of Trustees and communication for both NISS and SAMSI. **James Thomas**, computer system manager, provides system, software and network support to NISS and SAMSI.

## 8 Finances

NISS was financially stable in FY 2004 (ended June 30, 2004) and will be so again in FY 2005. Our financial reserves continue to grow.

## **9 Challenges**

With the strategic vision in place, the challenge facing NISS is simple: to implement it. Specific priorities include:

## A Affiliates Events in 2004 and 2005

These are summarized in Table 4.

## B Postdoctoral Fellows in 2004 and 2005

**John Aston** (Ph.D., Statistics, University College London), completed his appointment in March, 2004. He was based full-time at and supported by the Census Bureau.

**Max Buot** (Ph.D., Statistics, Virginia) spent January–May of 2004 at NISS, in conjunction with a postdoctoral position at Carnegie Mellon University, working on record linkage as part of the digital government project.

**Jun Feng** (Ph.D., Computational Chemistry, North Carolina) is supported by the Hereditary Disease Foundation (HDF) (§2.2).

**Amy Grady** (Ph.D., Statistics, North Carolina) is doing research pertaining to global climate change, focusing on trend analysis of extremes of precipitation and temperature, modeling extremes in temperature and network design for extremes. She is supported by a cooperative agreement with the EPA.

**Murali Haran** (Ph.D., Statistics, Minnesota) left in August, 2004 to assume a faculty position in statistics at Penn State. He was engaged in the NSF-funded software engineering and web data projects.

**Xiaodong Lin** (Ph.D., Statistics, Purdue) divided his one year here between the SAMSI DMML program and NISS, where he worked on privacy-preserving data integration. Xiaodong assumed a full-time faculty position at the University of Cincinnati in September, 2004.

**Kejun (Jack) Liu** (Ph.D., Bioinformatics, North Carolina State) was the first CIIT–NISS Joint Postdoctoral Fellow. He was mentored by Stan Young and Kevin Gaido of CIIT, and divided his time between CIIT and NISS.

**Anna Oganyan** (Ph.D., Statistics, Catalonia Polytechnic University, Barcelona) joined NISS in August, 2004, and is working on development of confidentiality-preserving methods for statistical analysis of distributed data. Following completion of her Ph.D., Anna spent several months at the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Center.

**Rui Paulo** (Ph.D. Statistics, Duke) worked on GM- and NSF-supported research on computer model evaluation, and has left to assume a position at the University of Bristol.

Event	Date	Location	Affiliate Attendance
<u>2004</u>			
SAMSI DMML Mid-Year Workshops	1/28/04 2/4/04 2/11/04	NISS/SAMSI	25
SAMSI Undergraduate Workshop: Data Mining—Handling the Flood of Data	2/14–14/04	NISS/SAMSI	5
First Affiliates Problem Day	3/4/04	NISS	25
Affiliates Planning Meeting	3/5/04	NISS	30
SAMSI DMML Closing Workshop	5/17-18/04	RTP	20
SAMSI Internet Closing Workshop	6/25-26/04	NISS/SAMSI	15
JSM Affiliates Meeting	8/8/04	Toronto	35
SAMSI LVSS Kickoff Workshop	9/11-14/04	RTP	40
SAMSI CompBio Kickoff Workshop	9/19-22/04	RTP	30
SAMSI Multiscale Closing Workshop	9/27-28/04	NISS/SAMSI	5
Workshop: Statistical Issues in Counterterrorism (*)	11/20/04	New York	
<u>2005</u>			
SAMSI Data Assimilation Kickoff Workshop	1/23-26/05	RTP	
SAMSI Undergraduate Workshop	2/18-19/05	NISS/SAMSI	
SAMSI Workshop: Data Assimilation—Issues, Challenges and Interdisciplinary Perspectives	2/22-25/05	Los Angeles	
Affiliates Problem Day	3/3/05	NISS	
Affiliates Planning Meeting	3/4/05	NISS	
Workshop: Total Survey Error	3/17-18/05	Washington	
Workshop: Overarching Issues in Risk Assessment (*)	4/28–30/05	Ames, IA	
Workshop: Latent Variable Models and Survey Data (*) for Social and Health Sciences Research	5/4-6/05	Montreal	
SAMSI LVSS Closing Workshop	5/19-21/05	RTP	
SAMSI CompBio Closing Workshop	5/22-24/05	RTP	
SAMSI Data Assimilation Summer School	6/12-23/05	Boulder, CO	
Workshop: SDL for Geospatial Data	Spring 2005	NISS	
Technology Day: Metabolomics	Spring 2005	NISS	
JSM Affiliates Meeting	8/7/05	Minneapolis	
SAMSI NDHS Kickoff Workshop	9/11-14/05	RTP	
SAMSI Financial Mathematics, Statistics and Econometrics Kickoff Workshop	9/17-20/05	RTP	

Table 4: Summary of principal affiliates events in 2004 and 2005. Events co-sponsored by NISS are indicated by (\*).