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University Affiliate
Update
September 2009

Jerome Sacks Award for Outstanding Cross-Disciplinary Research

Ram Gnanadesikan, who is retired from Bellcore, received the 2009 Sacks Award, in recognition of "a dazzling array of cross-disciplinary innovations and leadership in information technology and telecommunications--all focused on data analysis--including speaker recognition, aging of semiconductor devices and relationships between risk and rate of return, as well as high-impact contributions to practical statistical methodology for multivariate analysis."



Although not able to attend in person, Ram sent acceptance remarks read by Jon Kettenring, in which he noted that "Unlike the previous awardees, whose careers were in academia, I spent my long career at Bell Telephone

Laboratories and Bellcore, where cross-disciplinary research was cherished and nourished. In that environment, there were rich opportunities to interact with other research scientists and engineers, who were involved in exciting and often path-breaking research and projects. I started my career at Bell Labs in a department that was headed by John Tukey, who was certainly a role model for his wide cross-disciplinary interests and contributions."

NISS Distinguished Service Awards

This year's awards, which recognize individuals who have given extraordinary service that significantly advances NISS and its mission, were presented to

- **VIJAY NAIR**, "for service to NISS as chair of the Board of Trustees during nearly all of the building addition project, a major role in development of the 2004 strategic vision and leading the 2007 strategic positioning study."



- **JOHN ROLPH**, "for service to NISS as a long-term member of the Board of Trustees and leadership within the Board, which has included chairing the Science Committee and, especially, chairing the Finance Committee throughout the building addition project."

Syndromic Surveillance Grant

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and NSF have made a two-year, \$644,109 award for the NISS-led project "Bayesian Methods in Syndromic Surveillance: CAR Models

and Computational Implementation," under the joint program on Algorithms for Threat Detection (ATD). Alan Karr is the PI; other senior investigators are David Banks (Duke), Gauri Datta (Georgia), James Lynch (South Carolina) and ex-NISS/SAMSI postdoc Francisco Vera (Clemson).



NISS postdoc Frank Zou is also a key member of the team. To a significant degree, this project is a spinoff of the 2005-06 SAMSI program on National Defense and Homeland Security.

Affiliates Events

Affiliates Workshop on Computational Advertising

November 4-5, 2009, at NISS.

ARA ELIGIBLE.

[Details here.](#)

SAMSI Events

Math Institutes' Modern Math Workshop

October 14-15, 2009

In conjunction with the 2009 Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference in Dallas, Texas.

[Details here.](#)

Two-Day Undergraduate Workshop

October 30-31, 2009

At SAMSI, emphasizing the 2009-10 program on Space-Time Analysis for Environmental Mapping, Epidemiology and Climate Change

[Details here.](#)

Application Deadline: September 25, 2009

2008-09 Program on Sequential Monte Carlo Methods: Transition Workshop

November 9-10, 2009

In Research Triangle Park. ARA ELIGIBLE.

Details: Forthcoming

2009-10 Program on Space-time Analysis for Environmental Mapping, Epidemiology and Climate Change: GEOMED--Spatial Epidemiology 2009 Workshop

November 14-16, 2009, in Charleston, SC. ARA ELIGIBLE.

[Details here.](#)

NISS Events

Exploration Workshop II on Financial Risk Modeling

October 21-22, 2009

Washington DC

ARA ELIGIBLE.

Details: Forthcoming within a week [here.](#)

Co-Sponsored Events

These are ARA ELIGIBLE.

Design and Analysis of Experiments Conference: DAE 2009

October 14-17, 2009, at the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

[Details here.](#)

2009 Non-Clinical Biostatistics Conference, October 21-23, 2009, at the Harvard Medical School's Joseph B. Martin Conference Center in Boston

[Details here.](#)

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