



Affiliates Update

Spring Affiliates Meeting Focused on Biosimilars and Data Science

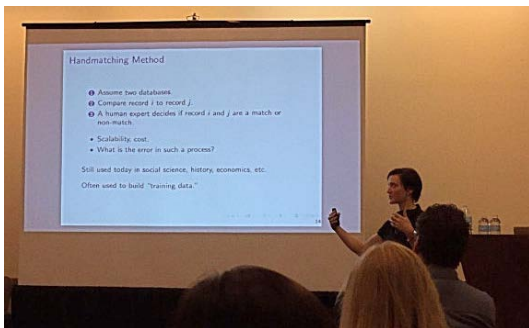
This year's annual NISS/SAMSI Affiliates Meeting was held in Austin, in conjunction with the Eastern North American Region International Biometrics Society's (ENAR) meeting. A lively discussion about the future of the Affiliates program took place and many great ideas were generated.

One session focused on biosimilars. According to the FDA website, a biosimilar is, "A biological product that is approved based on a showing that it is highly similar to an FDA-approved biological product, known as a reference product, and has no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety and effectiveness from the reference product." Speakers included Thomas Gwise, FDA; and Yulan Li, Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

SAMSI postdoctoral fellows Yize Zhao and Zhengwu Zhang shared the work they are doing in the Challenges in Cognitive Neuroscience program.

Joel Dubin, University of Waterloo, finished the day by leading a panel discussion on data science with Vladimir Svetnik, Merck; Garrett Grolemond, RStudio; and Eric Laber, N.C. State University.

The next Affiliates meeting will be held at JSM. Details to come soon.



Now Accepting Nominations for the 2016 NISS Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research

Nominations are sought for the 2016 National Institute of Statistical Sciences' (NISS) Jerome Sacks Award for Outstanding Cross-Disciplinary Research. The prize recognizes sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences.

An award of \$1,000 will be presented during the National Institute of Statistical Sciences/Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute reception at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Chicago, IL, July 30 - August 4.

For more information and to see the list of previous winners, please see:

<http://www.niss.org/about/awards/jerome-sacks-award-outstanding-cross-disciplinary-research>.

Procedure

To nominate an individual, submit as one PDF document the following information to sacksaward2016@niss.org by **May 1, 2016**:

1. Nomination letter (maximum two pages)
2. Supporting letters from two individuals (other than nominator)

3. The nominee's CV

Questions about the award or the nomination process can be sent to kkantner@niss.org.

Co-Sponsored Events

Network of Greater Georgia Institutions for Neuroimaging and Statistics (NOGGINS)

When: Friday, April 15, 2016

Where: Athens, Georgia

The 4th NOGGINS Workshop provides a forum for scientific communication and collaboration between researchers in the area of neuroimaging and neuroscience.

For more details, [click here](#).

2016 Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS)

When: June 6-9, 2016

Where: Bentonville, AR

Summer Research Conference will be held at the Doubletree Suites from June 6-9, in Bentonville, AR. The program includes keynote speakers Naiysin Wang and Terry Therneau. Jim Cochran will be delivering the banquet speech. Eugene Huang of Emory University and Jacqueline Hughes-Oliver of North Carolina State University have agreed to be program co-chairs. [More details here](#).

Latent Variables Conference

When: October 12, 2016

Where: Columbia, South Carolina

The University of South Carolina Department of Statistics is hosting a Latent Variable Conference. More [details here](#).

SAMSI Events

Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk Workshop

When: May 16-20, 2016

Where: SAMSI

Deadline to Apply: **March 28, 2016**

The objective of the workshop is to present novel use of game and decision theory in reliability and risk analysis and to bring together researchers from diverse disciplines such as economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability and statistics who find themselves working with, and contributing to, this theme. The workshop at SAMSI aims also to check the feasibility of a deeper interaction, possibly through a SAMSI program, among statisticians, mathematicians, decision analysts, game theorists and researchers from the areas mentioned earlier.

Interdisciplinary Workshop for Undergraduate Students

When: May 22-27, 2016

Where: SAMSI and NC State University

Deadline to Apply: **April 1, 2016**

For a good part of the week, students, in teams of 3 or 4, will use data from different sources to investigate a variety of questions related to several exciting and emerging area of research ranging from the mechanisms that bridge multiple spatial and temporal scales, linking the activity of individual components (e.g., molecular biology, genetics, and neuron networks) and their interactions to the overall complex dynamic behavior of the brain and nervous system. The students will also explore the statistical underpinning for forensic procedures, including fingerprints, patterns and impressions (footprints and tire tracks), toolmarks and firearms, hair, fibers, documents, paints and coatings, bloodstains, and fire debris. Finally, student teams will be prepared to make short presentations on the last day of the workshop, and have the option of having their final presentations reside on the SAMSI website. For details and to apply, [click here](#).

2016 Industrial Math/Stat Modeling Workshop for Graduate Students (IMSM)

When: July 17-27, 2016

Where: NCSU, Raleigh, NC

Deadline to Apply: **May 15, 2016**

Graduate students will collaborate in teams of 5-7 on industrial projects presented by experienced scientists and engineers. These projects are not academic classroom exercises but "real-world" challenges that require fresh new insight for both formulation and solution. [Details and apply here](#).

Optimization Program Summer School

When: August 8-12, 2016

Where: SAMSI

Deadline to Apply: **June 8, 2016**.

The Summer School will introduce graduate students and early-career researchers in the Mathematical and Statistical Sciences to the mathematical and statistical approaches in Optimization, and their applications. [Details here](#).

Astronomy Opening Workshop

When: August 22-26, 2016

Where: Hamner Conference Center, NC Biotech Center

Deadline to Apply: **TBD**

Details about the workshop [here](#).

Optimization Opening Workshop

When: August 29-September 2, 2016

Where: Hamner Conference Center, NC Biotech Center

Deadline to Apply: **TBD**

Details about the workshop [here](#).

2016-17 Program on Statistical, Mathematical and Computational Methods for Astronomy

This year-long research program focuses on the vast range of statistical and mathematical problems arising in modern astronomical research, particularly due to the flood of data produced by both ground-based and space-based astronomical surveys at many wave-bands. The research areas that form the main ingredients of the program include:

- Astronomical simulations and big data issues
- Exoplanets
- Functional data analysis
- Gravitational wave astrophysics
- High-performance computing for Bayesian inference and machine learning
- Lightcurve analysis/time domain astronomy

Opening Workshop - August 29-
September 2, 2016

For details visit

<http://www.samsi.info/ASTRO>

2016-17 Program on Optimization

This year-long research program aims to produce a synergy between mathematics, statistics and operations research to produce ground breaking advances in:

- Optimization for large-scale statistical analysis
- Statistical approaches for the numerical solution of large-scale optimization problems
- Applications of optimization

Opening Workshop - August 22-
26, 2016

For details visit

<http://www.samsi.info/OPT>



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