NISS

Affiliates Update

Welcome!

This monthly Affiliates Update highlights upcoming NISS sponsored events.

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS AFFILIATES UPDATE TO YOUR COLLEAGUES!

NISS sponsored events encourage cross-sector and cross-disciplinary networking. Let us know if you are planning an event and would like NISS to co-sponsor it. NISS affiliates can use their award funds to support these events or receive discounted registration. For more information about the NISS Affiliate program, see: https://www.niss.org/affiliate-program-information.

James Rosenberger, Director NISS

TWO FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS!

NISS/Merck Meetup on Diversity and Inclusion Issues in Pharma

Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 11:00am - 12:30 pm ET

There is general agreement that diversity and inclusion in the workplace is highly desirable. In addition to arguments around fairness, many would argue that diverse and inclusive workplaces are more innovative and have higher performance. However, building such a workplace can be challenging, especially for statistics departments in the pharmaceutical industry. Among the challenges are finding, hiring, and retaining candidates with diverse backgrounds. In this meet-up we will examine how three Pharma are attempting to meet some of these challenges.

Speakers

Adrian Coles, (Bristol Myers Squibb)
Brian Millen, (Eli Lilly)
Paulette Ceesay, (Merck)

This session will be moderated by Junshui Ma (Merck).

Register for This Event Today!
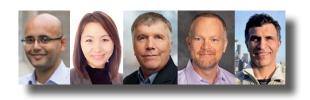
How to Write a Successful Grant Proposal

Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 12:30 - 2:00 pm ET

Research grants are important for career advancement. Grants also allow researchers to protect their time while providing resources necessary for statisticians in academia to pursue an independent area of research. But the process can be challenging to figure out where to apply for a grant and how to write a strong proposal. Which organizations offer funding for statistical research? How can you increase your chances of getting funded? What are the elements that are commonly found in successful grant applications? If you asked reviewers for their advice, what would they point out as being essential?

Speakers

Huixia (Judy) Wang (NSF DMS Statistics Program Director/ George Washington University), Steven Kern (Gates Foundation), Joshua M. Tebbs (University of South Carolina, former BMRD study section of NIH) and Ali Shojaie (University of Washington). This session will be moderated by Sumanta Basu (Cornell).

Register for This Event Today!

RECENT EVENT: ITSEW A VIRTUAL SUCCESS IN 2021, LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 IN MANCHESTER, UK

After a hiatus in 2020 due to COVID, The International Total Survey Error Workshop this year featured a series of virtual seminars on three successive Friday mornings. The theme of the workshop sessions was *Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19*. The goal of every ITSEW event is to promote discussion of questions of research, methodology and practice relating to Total Survey Error (TSE) and Total Survey Quality. And, as in ITSEW events in the past, the workshop attracted researchers and official statistics organizations from across the globe. The virtual sessions were hosted in Zoom by NISS. Despite the virtual format ITSEW successfully fulfilled it mission to provide a venue for sharing the latest research and insights as well as the opportunity for vigorous discussion.

ITSEW 2021 delivered a stirring message that high-quality data collections were carried out under the most trying circumstances. Among the challenges were inability to collect data in person, political pressure for quick results and remote collaboration. Some ad hoc practices adopted out of necessity seem likely to persist.

During the first Friday morning session on September 24, 2021 four speakers presented papers on the topic of Total Survey Error for Data Collections about COVID. Alan Karr served as moderator for the following speakers followed by the titles of their papers: Jason Fields, (US Census Bureau) "*Revisiting the Balance: The Household Pulse Survey in a Total Survey Quality Framework*", Carina Cornesse, (University of Mannheim) "*Errors of Representation in the Mannheim Corona Study*", Andrew Phelps, (UK Office for National Statistics) "*Quick but Not Dirty: Balancing the Requirement to Set Up UK COVID-19-related Primary Data Collections at Pace with Maximising Data Quality for Official Statistics*", and Jamie C. Moore, (University of Essex - UK) "*Bias Prevention and Bias Adjustment in a National Longitudinal COVID-19 Survey*". Paul J. Lavrakas, (Private consultant) followed the speakers as discussant providing comments about each paper as well as comments on the general problems faced.

The second Friday used a similar format but a different topic: The Effects of COVID on Other Data Collection. Olga Maslovskaya served as moderator during the session where the following papers were presented. Martina Helme and Salah Merad, (UK Office for National Statistics) "*Mitigating the Impact of the Pandemic on Data Quality in ONS Social Surveys, with a Specific Focus on the Labour Force Survey*", Nicky Rogers and Duncan Elliott, (UK Office for National Statistics) "*Estimating How Levels of International Migration to and from the UK in 2020 Have Been Affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic*", and Jan van den Brakel, (Statistics Netherlands) "*Official Statistics Based on*

the Dutch Health Survey during the COVID-19 Pandemic". John Eltinge, (US Census Bureau) served as discussant for this session providing insights from all papers on this topic.

The final session on October 8, 2021 focused on Total Quality for Censuses. Natalie Shlomo, served as moderator for the following speakers: J. David Brown, (US Census Bureau) "*Using Administrative Records to Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 U.S. Census*", Owen Abbott, (UK Office for National Statistics) "*Busting the Census Count Myth*", Stefano Falorsi, (Italian National Institute of Statistics) "*The Italian Experience for the Population Census in the Year of COVID*" and Christiane Laperrière, (Statistics Canada) "*Quality-driven collection operations during the 2021 Canadian Census of Population*". Nancy Potok (NAPx Consulting) and former chief statistician of the United States provided comments and insights as discussant.

Review the photo albums of screen shots from the three days of this workshop!

Remembrances of Lars Lyberg

This final session of the workshop ended with a very special 'memorial' session in remembrance of Lars Lyberg, a beloved, well respected and influential member of this statistical community who passed away in March of 2021. The session was led by Paul Biemer, (RTI International) who reminisced about his interactions over the years with his colleague and friend and then invited others, many of whom also joined in to share their own stories and comments. The group was particularly honored that Lilli Japec, Lars' wife, was able to join and contribute her thoughts. It was a poignant way to close the session.

Next Year in Manchester, England!

Natalie Shlomo, the conference chair for next year's ITSEW workshop asked everyone to put ITSEW 2022 on their calendars. Planning next year for a person-to-person event she reported that the tentative dates were September 5-6, 2022. Mark this on your calendars!

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

RECENT EVENT: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NISS CAREER FAIR!

Statisticians in the Consumer Products & Biopharm Industries Highlighted in Virtual Career Fair

This second career fair this fall featured career opportunities at consumer products and bio-pharmaceutical industries Procter & Gamble, Merck and Eli Lilly. The panelists for this session included: William Brenneman, a Research Fellow and Global Statistics Discipline Leader within the Statistics Department at Procter & Gamble Company; Junshui Ma, Senior Principal Scientist at Merck Research Laboratories, Merck & Co., Inc. and Wei Shen, Senior Director, Statistics, Data and Analytics at Eli Lilly and Company. Ying Ding, Associate Professor from the University of Pittsburgh served as moderator for this event.

All three speakers began their presentations providing a quick overview of their company, the business their company focuses on and then the role that statisticians play within this mission. From here each panelist

followed up by providing lots of good advice regarding the qualifications and skills that will make a difference in your application, specific information about available career paths, and most importantly each of them reviewed the positions that each company is trying to fill! Any students looking for positions in the near term learned lots about the future opportunities!

Read the Full News Story and Review a Recording of this session on the NISS website!

Keep an eye open for the next virtual career fair! Besure to Register Early!

OCTOBER

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, October 29, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Itai Ashlagi, (Stanford University)

NOVEMBER

NISS/Merck Meetup on Diversity & Inclusion Issues in Pharma

Event Date: November 4, 2021 - 11:00am - 12:30 pm ET
Event Type: Virtual Meet-up

The National Institute of Statistical Science (NISS) and Merck are sponsoring a Virtual Meet-Up on Diversity and Inclusion issues in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Overview There is general agreement that diversity and inclusion in the workplace is highly desirable. In addition to arguments around... (read more)

How to Write a Successful Grant Proposal

Event Date: November 4, 2021 12:30 - 2 pm ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Research grants are important for career advancement. Grants also allow researchers to protect their time while providing resources necessary for statisticians in academia to pursue an independent area of research. But the process can be challenging to figure out where to apply for a grant and how... (read more)

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, November 5, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Alekh Agarwal, (Microsoft Research)

Virtual Career Fair: Hi-Tech Industries

Event Date: November 10, 2021
Event Type: Online Webinar

Details coming soon!

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, November 12, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Jiawei Han, (UIUC)

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, November 19, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Vasilis Syrgkanis, (Microsoft Research)

DECEMBER

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, December 3, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Lars Peter Hansen, (University of Chicago)

Virtual Career Fair: Government Agencies

Event Date: December 8, 2021
Event Type: Online Webinar

Details coming soon!

14th Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials: Subgroup Analysis

Event Date: April 12, 2022, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM ET
Event Type: Being planned as an in-person event

Conference Theme is Subgroup Analysis. Save the Date! Registration will open beginning in January 2022!

Find Full Details for All Events on the NISS Website!

NISS Affiliates, if you would like to be featured in upcoming career fairs, please do not hesitate to contact NISS! NISS is always looking for ways to support the missions of each affiliate.

Become a Sponsor of NISS Hosted Events!

NISS Invites corporations, institutions and individuals to sponsor events that are hosted by NISS. Sponsorship helps to defray the cost of organizing events and is a great way to give your organization visibility that targets statisticians and other related professions who attend NISS events! *Learn More!*

Affiliates! Post Your Job Announcements On the NISS Website!

A link to the Job Announcements page can be found at the bottom of of every page of the NISS website! Share your announcement with other organizations associated with NISS or other visitors to our website. Interested in the positions that have been posted?

Visit the NISS Job Annoucements Page

NISS ▶ YouTube

NISS Postdoctoral Fellow / Early Career Researcher

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is a research institute focused on bringing advances in statistics to high priority projects with national / international impact. Early career researchers at NISS have the opportunity to work with researcher leaders to develop innovative statistical solutions to high impact problems and to see the impact as these solutions are implemented.

RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

NISS researchers make a difference by developing innovative data science technology and statistical modeling methodology for high priority projects at federal statistical agencies. Primary focus a of specific project may use statistical and AI modeling to analyze massive and high dimensional data, or develop models that integrate heterogeneous data types (satellite image, GIS, survey, theoretical or empirical model) or create statistical data visualizations. NISS Research Associates have received many awards for their contributions in innovation of statistical processes for key national statistics and indicators.

Appointments are for one year with expectation of renewal. Projects are not limited to the examples below.

Work with multidisciplinary team to formulate comprehensive technical approaches problem solving.

Develop, implement and test statistical/computational technologies for high-dimensional spatial, image, survey and/or administrative record data to create models for estimation and forecasting.

Conduct research to meet one of the following challenges:

1. Develop innovative models that integrate biological development/function (theoretical or empirical) models with historical patterns and current observed data.

2. Use deep learning technologies to analyze complex data and to create high-dimensional synthetic populations for research purposes that fully incorporate fine structure from large-scale original data.

3. Extend small-area estimation to time domain to allow interim predictions with model updating based on partial new information.

4. Create interactive graphics examples for federal data display that includes representation of uncertainty.

See the Job Announcement on the NISS website for all details, application instructions and contacts.

NISS Seeking Next Director

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) seeks a talented statistical/data scientist to serve as its Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In 2020, NISS celebrated its 30th anniversary with a renewed focus on its mission to identify, catalyze and foster high-impact research and to offer exceptional opportunities for training to promote and advance the statistical and data sciences in the United States. The NISS legal corporate home is in North Carolina; its scientific and professional activities currently are centered at hubs at Penn State University, and Washington, DC, with future locations anticipated.

NISS delivers research on critical issues in science and in public policy by leveraging the rich expertise of its staff with that of its 48 affiliated organizations in academia, industry, and government. The hallmark of a NISS project is the high level of expertise that leads to relevant and implementable solutions. NISS achieves high-quality results by pairing experienced senior leadership with teams of talented (post-PhD) junior researchers and technical staff. Current activities include research contracts with the Departments of Agriculture and Education as described on the NISS website: www.niss.org.

NISS also serves as a national thought leader and catalyst, hosting conferences and workshops for the statistical science community. NISS annually convenes conferences on topics of high current interest, e.g., the COVID Data Science webinar series presented in 2020-21. In addition, small "think tank" working sessions are

convened so problem-holders in a science or public policy community can bring their pressing issues and challenging problems to select experienced statistics researchers. The goal of these workshops is to articulate the needs of the community and to explore potential technical statistical solutions. NISS additionally sponsors series of workshops such as the International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW), which it co-founded to meet the need for survey methodology.

NISS seeks a Director to expand its focus, retaining and growing its active hubs and increasing its engagement with the broader statistical community. The Director of NISS is responsible for every aspect of the Institute's vision and operation, including:

- Serve as NISS' most articulate and persuasive advocate.
- Envision, develop, and execute the scientific programs of NISS.
- Ensure continued independence, unassailable quality, and the relevance and timeliness of the NISS research portfolio.
- Recruit, nurture, and strengthen community engagement in support of NISS.
- Develop new sources of funding with grants and contracts.
- Safeguard the fiscal health of NISS while maintaining the strength of the NISS Affiliates Programs.

See the Job Announcement on the NISS website for all details, application instructions and contacts.

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The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is an organization whose mission fosters cross-disciplinary research and advocates for statistical engagement in data science.

NISS