



Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate in Chicago

IISA Newsletter Spring 2016

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Get Involved!

We are looking for volunteers to help at the IISA table at JSM.

Please email volunteers@intindstat.org if you would like to participate.

Update Your Contact Information

We have a new feature on our website which allows you to update your contact information and affiliation.

Please visit www.intindstat.org/update-contact

Message from Amarjot Kaur, President of IISA

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second issue of the IISA newsletter this year. We are making a concerted effort to increase the frequency of our communications and to share information regularly. The Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games are around the corner and there is a lot of news about the operational aspect of the games. While, on the surface, the Olympics appear to be about showcasing strength and determination, if we look deeply, the spirit of the Games is also to bring countries together. This idea of unity makes me think of bringing different statistical organizations together. ASA President-Elect Barry Nussbaum has eloquently described in this newsletter the collaborative efforts ASA is making across various organizations to nurture the statistical enthusiasm amongst Asian statisticians. I am very excited about IISA being a part of this initiative and am looking forward to a constructive collaboration of our organization with ASA and other organizations in the future.

Further, this year we continued to support various activities of IISA Committees. It is always good when the future objectives of our organization are shaped with the input of our membership. With that in mind, many of the committees are fully effective now and are working diligently towards their respective goals. This issue of the newsletter highlights the activities of three of the committees: the Awards, Membership, and Outreach. (We plan to highlight activities of other committees in the future.) On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to thank all committee chairs and members for their efforts in generating new ideas and helping achieve the broader goals of our organization. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact me or any other member of the leadership. A list of committee members is available on the IISA



website <http://www.intindstat.org/trustees#committees>.

As we are putting together this newsletter, the local organizers and the broader program committee are working relentlessly to finalize the program for the conference at Oregon State University, Oregon. Some highlights of the conference are included in this issue and I hope to see many of you there.

In addition, the Executive Committee is working on various IISA activities at the Joint Statistical Meetings at Chicago and I hope to see you at our mixer and general body meeting there. The details for JSM are included in this newsletter as well. I encourage you to volunteer your time at the IISA booth and help promote our organization and increase its membership. Your feedback is important and if you have an idea or a suggestion then please send me an email at amarjot_kaur@merck.com.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming conferences.

- Amarjot Kaur, IISA President

Contribute to the News!

Please submit items of interest to newsletter@intindstat.org



IISA at JSM

July 30-
August 4, 2016
Chicago, USA

IISA Meeting and Mixer

Please join us at the IISA General Body Meeting and Mixer on **Monday, August 1st from 6-8:30 PM**. The event will be held at the Hilton Chicago, Boulevard C (listed as session 213630). Furthermore, there will be an IISA group dinner on **Sunday, July 31st from 7:30-9:30 PM**, held at a restaurant near the JSM 2016 venue. Please visit the IISA website for updates: <http://www.intindstat.org>.

[intindstat.org](http://www.intindstat.org).

IISA Sponsored Sessions

Tue, 8/2/2016,

2:00 PM - 3:50 PM - Session # 404
(CC-W185d)

Recent Developments in the Study of Social Networks — Invited Papers

International Indian Statistical Association

Organizer and Chair: Sanjay Chaudhuri, National University of Singapore

Speakers: Carter Tribble Butts, University of California, Irvine; Mark Stephen Handcock, University of California, Los Angeles; and Sofia Olhede, University of College London

Wed, 8/3/2016,

2:00 PM - 3:50 PM - Session # 583
(CC-W175a)

Recent Advances in Empirical Bayes Methods — Invited Papers

International Indian Statistical Association , IMS

Organizer and Chair: Gourab Mukherjee, University of Southern California

Speakers: Ya'acov Ritov, Hebrew University and the University of Michigan; Samuel Kou, Harvard University; Eitan Greenshtein, Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel; and Lawrence D. Brown, University of Pennsylvania

JSM Leadership Skills Development Workshop

Our colleagues at the Korean International Statistical Society (KISS) are holding a leadership workshop at JSM and are inviting IISA members to participate. The event (session 213476) will be held on Sunday, July 31st from 4-5:30 PM at the Hilton Chicago Hotel (H-4M). Dongseok Choi, a Professor at Oregon Health & Science University and an ASA Fellow, is organizing the workshop. The panelists for the session are IISA member Sastry Pantula (Oregon State University), Jessica Kim (FDA), Wei Shen (Eli Lilly), and Motomi Mori (Oregon Health & Science University).

While the event is free, participants must pre-register using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kiss-leadership-skills-workshop-tickets-26055831694>. Spots are filling up quickly so register soon!

2016 IISA Conference in Oregon

By *Debashis Mondal, Oregon State University*



Please join us for the 2016 International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Conference, "Statistical and Data Sciences: A Key to healthy people, planet and prosperity," to be held from August 18-21, 2016 at Oregon State University, Corvallis, USA.

The Regular Registration deadline is July 31st. For more details on important dates, conference program, and travel and lodging information, please visit the conference website <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/iisa/>.

We will begin with four half-day short courses on August 18th, which are open to conference

participants. Ajit Tamhane from Northwestern University will cover multiple comparisons; Hua Zhou from UCLA will discuss a new programming language called Julia; with Fang Chen from the SAS Institute, you can study Monte Carlo methods; and with Richard Davis from Columbia University, you can learn more about topics in time series modeling. If you would like to attend, please register in advance online.

Plenary Talks:

Kanti Mardia, Senior Research Professor at the University of Leeds. Mardia has received many prestigious honors, including the Guy medal in Silver by the Royal Statistical Society and the Wilks memorial medal by the American Statistical Association.

Xiao-Li Meng, the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Whipple V. N. Jones Professor of Statistics, Harvard University. Meng is the recipient of the COPSS Presidents Award in 2001.

Keynote Talks:

Kathy Ensor, Professor and Chair of Statistics in the School of Engineering, Director of CoFES at Rice University and ASA Vice President-Elect.

Kannan Natarajan, Senior Vice President/Global Head of Biometrics and Data Management at Novartis.

Debashis Ghosh, Professor and Chair of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, Statistical Genomics and Statistical Computing at the Colorado School of Public Health. Ghosh is the winner of the Mortimer Spiegelman Award in 2013.

Ajit Tahmane, Senior Associate Dean, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science and Professor of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University.

Memorial Sessions:

Iain Johnstone of Stanford University and **Soumen Lahiri** of North Carolina State University will speak about Peter Hall.

Richard Davis from Columbia University and **Subhadeep Mukhopadhyay** from Temple University will speak about Emanuel Parzen.

2016 IISA Conference in Oregon *Continued*

Additional Sessions:

A young researchers session is planned with speakers **Partha Dey** (UIUC), **Rahul Mazumder** (MIT) and **Suchi Saria** (John Hopkins University).

About fifty invited sessions are being planned comprising a great selection of technical talks that will bring together statisticians from academia, industry, government, and research institutes.

Amarjot Kaur, current IISA President and Executive Director at Merck & Co., Inc. will moderate a panel on early career development. More information on this session can be found in the subsequent article by Satrajit Roychoudhary. Furthermore, **Ellen Snyder**, Senior Principal Scientist at Merck & Co., is organizing a session on Women in Statistics. This will be an exciting session covering issues such as training, recruitment, and career advancement for women in industry, academia and government. The session will end with a question and answer period so that conference attendees can participate in the discussion.

More than 200 individuals have already registered for the conference and the number is rising. We are anticipating funding from a federal agency, and sponsorship from quite a few industries. We are expecting the entire program to go online shortly. We hope to see you there!

Career Development Skillsets for Successful Statisticians: Panel Discussion at IISA Annual Meeting 2016

By Satrajit Roychoudhury, Novartis

In today's cross-functional research environment, early careerists need skills and strategies to position themselves for the future. Young statisticians work hard to create a career path that links their talents with their interests. Career paths can take different directions in academia and industry and no job comes with a lifetime guarantee. Therefore, flexibility is important.

To achieve upward mobility in a career, a person must constantly reformulate his or her vision and improve upon his or her strengths. Learning from one's peers is a necessary step in this process.

The 2016 IISA conference in Oregon will feature a panel that will focus on the nuts-and-bolts of career planning for early careerists. This panel will be held on Friday, August 19, 2016 at 10:30 AM – 12 PM. The primary goal of this session is to discuss the career development needs for young statisticians. The panel will consist of leaders from academia, industry and government. We will begin with brief opening remarks by the moderator, followed by remarks from panelists. The panelists will reflect on some important aspects such as value of mentorship, role of cross-functional collaboration and networking in early career development. The program will conclude with a question and answer session.

Panelists:

- **Amarjot Kaur** (Executive Director, Merck & Co., Inc. and IISA President) as moderator
- **Sastry Pantula** (Dean, College of Science at Oregon State University)
- **Lisa Lupinacci** (Merck & Co.)
- **Shanthi Sethuraman** (Advisor, Project Management at Eli Lilly and Company)
- **Ram Tiwari** (Director, Division of Biostatistics, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH, FDA))
- **Susmita Datta** (Professor, University of Florida)
- **John Eltinge** (Associate Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

IISA Awards Committee Summary



Composition:

In October 2015, the IISA Executive Committee (EC) formed a new IISA Awards committee, and appointed T. N. Sriram as the Chair of the committee for a three-year term. Subsequently, Sriram invited Rahul Mukherjee (Indian Institute of Management Calcutta), **Sanjay Shete** (MD Anderson Cancer Center), and **Pandurang Kulkarni** (Eli Lilly and Company) to join as committee members.

Committee Goals:

Over the years, IISA has given out Lifetime Achievement Awards, Service Awards, Best Researcher Awards, and Student Paper Competition Awards. The primary goal of the Awards Committee is to streamline the awards process and, more importantly, present the prestigious awards on a regular basis.

Current activities:

The committee selected **Cyrus Mehta** for the "Life Time Achievement Award". Mehta received the award during the 2015 IISA Conference held in Pune, India, in December 2015.

During the upcoming IISA conference in Oregon (Aug 18-21, 2016), the committee will be in charge of deciding the "Young Researcher Award" and the "Student Paper Competition Awards". Since the review of these nominations and the student paper competitions will involve additional work, the EC has suggested that they form a temporary extended awards committee to arrive at these important decisions. **Cyrus Mehta, Sudipto Banerjee, Amit Bhattacharyya, and Nilanjan Chatterjee** will serve on this extended awards committee. The committee is currently looking for more volunteers to judge the student paper presentations during the 2016 conference.

Future Plans:

The committee will be streamlining all the existing awards and possibly introducing new ones that would include interdisciplinary areas.

In the next few months, the committee will be actively involved in various awards related matters. After the IISA 2016 conference, the committee plans to prepare a "Manual of Operation", which describes the role of the Awards Committee along with the list of awards presented thus far.

IISA Membership Committee Summary

The IISA Membership Committee is formed this year in order to enhance the service to our members and to promote our organization. The Membership Committee will be the liaison between IISA members and the Executive Committee. In order to learn more about our members and to understand members' needs, there will be a membership survey rolling out at the end of this year or early in 2017. Recommendations from members will be communicated to the Executive Committee and actions will be taken as appropriate. The survey report will be available to all of our members through the IISA website. The Membership Committee will also help the organization recruit new members and retain current ones.

If you are interested in learning more of the membership committee or want to volunteer, please contact **Soumi Lahiri** (soumi.2.lahiri@gsk.com).

IISA Outreach Committee Summary



Composition:

The Committee consists of 2 co-Chairs, appointed by the EC for a term of 3 years. Committee members are invited by the co-Chairs and must be IISA members.

Co-Chairs:

Isha Dewan (Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi) and **Shailaja Suryawanshi** (Merck & Co., Inc. USA)

Members:

Debjit Biswas (Ablynx, Brussels), **Sanjay Chaudhuri** (National University of Singapore), **Ayan Das Gupta** (Novartis, India), **Vishwanath Iyer** (Novartis, India), **Arnab Laha** (Indian Institute of Management, India), **Marepalli B. Rao** (University of Cincinnati, USA)

Committee Goals:

Organize events & undertake activities to educate the general public and high school and undergraduate students about advances in the discipline, its contributions to society, and opportunities in the profession, both in India and in North America.

Current activities:

Formalize short- and long-term plans for the committee. Short-term activities include developing a list of platforms and events for informational outreach, creating presentation materials to use for this purpose and recruiting interested speakers to convey this message. **Debashish Kundu** will be giving a talk at a High School in Kanpur in August 2016.

Future Plans:

Seek collaborative opportunities with other ASA and International groups. Make successful activities sustainable.

"The Man Who Knew Infinity"

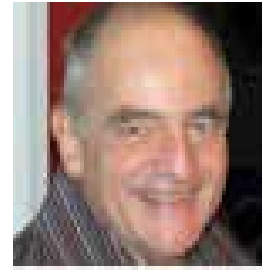
By Chaitra H. Nagaraja, Fordham University

This year, the movie *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, a biopic about the mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1920) was released. Robert Kanigel wrote the book on which the movie was based and it stars Dev Patel (of *Skins* and *Slumdog Millionaire* fame) as mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan and Jeremy Irons as Cambridge Professor G.H. Hardy.

A quartet of statisticians (my parents, my husband, and myself) had the chance to see this film at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival in New York. We unfortunately found that a more appropriate name for the movie would have been, "The man who knew the man who knew infinity," given its focus on G.H. Hardy. Despite this disappointment, an exciting moment was the introduction of Prashanta Chandra Mahalanobis. As **Ravi Khattree** of Oakland University pointed out, Mahalanobis—among many other accomplishments—founded the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Played by Shazad Latif (see IMDB.com), Mahalanobis is shown briefly as a fellow contemporary of Ramanujan while he was a student at Cambridge University. This was definitely a nice surprise!

The American Statistical Association, the International Indian Statistical Association and YOU

*By Barry D. Nussbaum, President-Elect,
American Statistical Association*



For many young statisticians, the task of either successfully fulfilling scholastic requirements or starting work and trying to, "get up the corporate or academic ladder" seems like more than a full time job. However, this is the perfect time to add active statistical society membership to your "to do" list. Today's statistics departments in graduate schools have many Asian students. Frequently, these students excel at statistics, data science, and many related analytic fields. They frequently come to the major meetings such as the Joint Statistical Meetings (this year in Chicago) and/or the IISA international conference (this year in Oregon) and present outstanding papers. BUT there is more!

Success in the profession requires more than doing outstanding work and presenting excellent papers and seminars. It also involves actively participating in one or more of the chapters, committees, or sections of the statistical societies. The American Statistical Association wants to see more and more Asian statisticians participating in association activities. There are many avenues to choose from. ASA chapters are based on geographical areas. This is an opportunity to meet and collaborate with statisticians in your area. No need to bemoan the lack of travel funds! ASA committees cover such diverse areas as publications; survey review; awards; collaboration among academia, industry, and government; career development; and minorities just to name a few. While actual committee members are appointed, you have the opportunity to view and indicate your desire to be appointed to a committee

by visiting the <http://www.amstat.org> website. ASA sections are based on subject matter. These include sections on biometrics, biopharmaceuticals, education, government, defense, sports, and many more. There are over 25 sections and they are all open to all to join with very modest fees.

For full disclosure, I started my ASA involvement by joining the environment section when I was a new statistician for the US Environmental Protection Agency. As I rose to become the EPA's chief statistician, I was careful to keep my ASA ties and progressed to chair of the environment section, then chair of the SPAIG committee, and now elected to be the next president of the ASA. OK, not everyone gets to be the president of the ASA, but there are plenty of very gratifying positions in the association that mutually benefit your career, the association, and the profession as a whole.

Recognizing the large number of Asian statisticians, ASA is starting a brand new initiative in conjunction with IISA (as well as ICSA and KISS). We are setting up a task force to determine the needs of Asian statisticians as they prepare for and enter the profession, with a view to their success as professionals and to their on-going involvement in our societies. This task force is clearly designed to understand the needs of Asian statisticians and to make sure all our societies are meeting those needs. I am convinced this will lead to better careers, increased societal involvement, and an improved profession.

Member News

We would like to congratulate the following IISA members on becoming **Fellows of the American Statistical Association**:

Veera Baladandayuthapani, Associate Professor and Faculty Scholar at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, was recognized for his research on graphical models, functional data analysis, Bayesian variable selection, and applications to genomics and cancer research along with his service to the profession.

Theodore C. Lystig, Director of Corporate Biostatistics at Medtronic, was acknowledged for his leadership in incorporating statistical methods into the medical device and diagnostic industries.

Hon Keung Tony Ng, Professor of Statistics at Southern Method University, was recognized for his research accomplishments in reliability and lifetime data analysis along with developing methodology for biomedical applications and for his editorial service.

Sally C. Morton, Professor of Biostatistics, has been appointed Dean of the College of Science at Virginia Tech.

Naveen Narisetty completed his PhD in Statistics at the University of Michigan and will begin an Assistant Professor of Statistics post at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign starting in the fall.

Anand Nayyar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Applications & IT at KCL Institute of Management and Technology, Jalandhar, was recently awarded the Indira Gandhi Award of Excellence for Education & Scientific Research (Friendship Forum of India) and the Global Teacher Role Model Award (MVLA Trust).

Dipak Dey, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at the University of Connecticut, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal, (*Sankhya*, the Indian Journal of Statistics.) Manuscript submissions to both *Series A* and *Series B* of *Sankhya* will now be published exclusively online. See the journal website on Springer for more details.

Devan Mehrotra, Associate Vice President (Biostatistics) and Presidential Fellow at Merck Research Laboratories, USA, was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award by his post-graduate alma mater, the University of Delaware.

Getting IISA membership

Join the IISA Community! To become a member, please visit <http://www.intindstat.org/membership>. Fees differ based upon country of residence. Reduced prices are available for students. Life memberships are USD 450 (or INR 5,000 for residents of the Indian subcontinent).

New IISA Lifetime Members

Kshitij Khare, University of Florida, USA

Suresh Chander Malik, Maharshi Dayanand University, India

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

4th Institute of Mathematical Statistics Asia Pacific Rim Meeting

June 27-30, 2016

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

<http://ims-aprm2016.sta.cuhk.edu.hk>

Tenth Statistics Day Celebrations

June 29, 2016

C.R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, University of Hyderabad, India

<http://www.crraoaimscs.org>

International Conference on Applied Statistics 2016

July 13-15, 2016

Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa, Thailand

<http://icas2016.org/index.php>

Joint Statistical Meetings

July 30-August 4, 2016

Chicago, USA

<https://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2016/>

Ordered Data and Their Applications in Reliability and Survival Analysis: An International Conference in Honour of N. Balakrishnan for his 60th Birthday

August 7-10, 2016

McMaster University, Canada

<http://mathandstats.mcmaster.ca/odreliabilityandsurvival/>

2016 International Indian Statistical Association Conference

Oregon State University, USA

August 18-21, 2016

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/iisa/>

37th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

August 21-25, 2016

Birmingham, UK

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/mds-cpd/conferences/iscb-2016/index.aspx>

Challenges and Advances on Big Data Neuroimaging

August 25-26, 2016

InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center, Cleveland Clinic, USA

<http://www.bio.ri.ccf.org/bigdata/meeting.html>

International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics

September 30-October 2, 2016

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA

<http://www.uncg.edu/mat/aisc/2016/index.html>

Statistical Methods in Finance

December 19-22, 2016

Chennai Mathematical Institute, India

<http://www.cmi.ac.in/%7Esourish/StatFin2016/>

International Conference on Computational Mathematics & Statistics

January 24-26, 2017

Banasthali University, India

<http://www.iccms2017bu.in/#>

SAMSI Programs

2016-2017 Program on Statistical, Mathematical, and Computational Methods for Astronomy

2016-2017 Program on Optimization

For additional information, please visit

<http://www.samsi.info/programs/research-programs>.

Call for Nominations

C. R. AND BHARGAVI RAO PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH IN STATISTICS
to be awarded by PENN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

The C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize was established to honor and recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership in directing statistical research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics. The Rao Prize is awarded by the Department of Statistics at Penn State University to a nominee selected by the members of the Rao Prize Committee. C. R. Rao, Emeritus Professor of Statistics at Penn State, held the Eberly Chair in Statistics at Penn State from 1988 to 2001.

Previous Rao Prize recipients are:

2003: Bradley Efron, Stanford University
2005: Jayaram Sethuraman, Florida State University (emeritus)
2007: Lawrence D. Brown, University of Pennsylvania
2009: Peter J. Bickel, University of California, Berkeley
2011: James O. Berger, Duke University
2013: Herman Chernoff, Harvard University (emeritus) and MIT
2015: Sir David Cox, University of Oxford

Nominations for the 2017 Rao Prize should be submitted by December 31, 2016 by email to depthhead@stat.psu.edu or by regular mail to:

Chair, Rao Prize Selection Committee
326 Thomas Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802-2111

The Rao Prize shall be awarded in odd numbered years. The award recipient will receive a medal, a cash prize, and an invitation to visit Penn State and give a talk as part of a daylong workshop.

Nominations should include a letter describing the nominee's outstanding contributions to leadership and research in statistics, a current curriculum vita, and two supporting letters.

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

-Editorial Team