



# IISA Newsletter

## Spring 2014

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We are seeking volunteers to staff the IISA booth at JSM.

Contact to schedule a time  
[Sowmya.Rao@umassmed.edu](mailto:Sowmya.Rao@umassmed.edu)

### Call for editorial volunteers...

For more Info Contact  
Sowmya R Rao  
[Sowmya.Rao@umassmed.edu](mailto:Sowmya.Rao@umassmed.edu)

### Message from N. Rao Chaganty President, IISA

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor for me to serve as the President of IISA this year. It has been nearly a decade and a half since I first served IISA as treasurer, and since then I have witnessed the organization grow tremendously. Previous IISA presidents – Cyrus Mehta, Nandini Kannan, and their predecessors - have done an outstanding job to take this association to where it is now. I hope to continue their work to make IISA a relevant and thriving organization with your help and support.

An exciting year lies ahead of us. Our North American bi-annual conference will be held at Riverside, CA, from July 11th, 2014 to July 13th, 2014. In addition, there will be an IISA mixer and a number of IISA sponsored sessions at the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings, which will be held in Boston, MA, from August 2nd-7th, 2014. I encourage all of you to attend these conferences. Plans are also underway to hold a conference in India in December of 2015. Further details will be sent in future newsletters over the next few months.

Please encourage your friends and colleagues to become members of IISA. Our association is open to everyone, and members do not need to be of Indian origin. Do not feel hesitant to send comments and suggestions that you may have on how to improve our organization. Your feedback is important. As our organization continues to grow, I hope we can continue to make our community a prominent force in the statistics world. I thank you all for this opportunity to serve as your president.



Boston MA, Site of JSM 2014

# 2014 International Indian Statistical Association Conference

July 11-13, 2014

Riverside, California



## Conference On Research Innovations in Statistics for Health, Education, Technology, and Society

Friday, July 11- Sunday, July 13, 2014  
Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, California,  
<http://intindstat.org/conference2014>

All the Ph.D. students with at least one joint or single authored publication in preparation/ready to be submitted/already submitted/accepted/in press/published, are most welcome to join in the student competition at the 2014 IISA Conference. Twenty winners will be selected to present their work for 15 minutes at the conference. The winners will be reimbursed for their registration fees and possibly a part of their hotel expenses. They will also be recognized at the conference.

The conference will address advancements in the fields of Statistics, Biostatistics, Probability, and their application areas by bringing together national and international researchers, professionals, educators and students from academia, industry, government, and research institutes, to discuss the major issues and challenges, and share the latest developments. The 2014-IISA is co-sponsored by the American Statistical Association (ASA).

The conference features two plenary speakers: **Nicholas P Jewel**, *University of California, Berkeley* and **Katheryn Roeder**, *Carnegie Mellon University* and four special invited speakers: **Marc Suchard**, *University of California, Los Angeles*; **Mark van der Laan**, *University of California, Berkeley*; **Sudipto Banerjee**, *University of Minnesota*; **William DuMouchel**, *Chief Statistical Scientist, Oracle Health Sciences*. Invited sessions include many confirmed distinguished researchers, a mix of seasoned and new professionals. If you wish to present your work at 2014-IISA, please contact the program committee chair Dr. Nilanjan Chatterjee at [chattern@mail.nih.gov](mailto:chattern@mail.nih.gov).

Rooms are available at special rates for conference participants at:

- 1. Riverside Marriott**  
3400 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501  
Tel: 1 (951) 784-8000  
<http://marriotttriversidedowntown.com>
- 2. The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa**  
3649 Mission Inn Ave, Riverside, CA 92501  
Tel: (800) 843-7755  
<http://www.missioninn.com/>

**Make your hotel reservation as early as possible to get the special conference rate.**

**Two conference hotels provide free transportation from and to the Ontario airport for conference participants who made reservations with them.**

Riverside is the home of UCR: University of California, Riverside, <http://www.ucr.edu>. Riverside Convention Center is located in downtown Riverside and is about 4.5 miles from UCR  
<http://www.riversidecvb.com>

The nearest airport is the Ontario International Airport (ONT) about 25 miles from the Convention Center and conference hotels. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is about 70 miles and John Wayne Airport (SNA) is about 40 miles from downtown Riverside.

**Early bird registration deadline**

**Register Now**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Previous Conferences/ Workshops

### Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials: Theory and Methods Workshop held in Jan 2014 in Pune

During the IISA Conference at Chennai in January 2013, a special forum was arranged to discuss about the challenges in attracting young investigators and students to the statistics profession in India.



A common concern raised was the lack of practical training, exposure to real data, opportunities to consult with industry or the medical establishment, and inability to view statistics as an attractive career option.

There was general agreement that in order to help reverse this trend the IISA should offer more workshops that emphasized the practical applications of statistics. Motivated by this thought, a workshop on 'Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials: Theory and Methods' was organized on 3rd Jan 2014 jointly by IISA, Department of Statistics, University of Pune, India and Cytel. The workshop was hosted at the Department of Statistics, University of Pune and presided over by Professor Shailaja Deshmukh, the Chair of the Department. Prof Cyrus Mehta, President and co-founder of Cytel inc and Adjunct Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard University, USA and **Dr Devan Mehrotra current ASA Vice Presidential candidate**, Executive Director of Biostatistics and a Presidential Fellow at Merck Research Laboratories, USA conducted the training. More than eighty Masters' students and researchers along with a few professionals coming from different parts of the country participated in the workshop. No formal background in Clinical Trials was assumed while developing the contents of the course.

The workshop covered a variety of contemporary biostatistical topics involving the design and analysis of clinical trials in all phases of clinical development. Prof Cyrus Mehta took an overview of the Clinical Trials domain and presented two consulting examples introducing designing clinical trials and adaptive clinical trials at the confirmatory phase. He explained the concepts through two consulting assignments one on a Multicenter trial for HIV induced diarrhoea and another on Acute Myeloid Leukaemia. Students were inspired by his sessions and showed interest by asking several questions.

In the second half of the workshop, Dr Devan Mehrotra dwelt upon the innovative ways one can adopt to perform analysis of Clinical Trials data.

He made the students aware of the substantial opportunities as well as challenges Statisticians have in the field. He narrated his experiences while working at Merck as a biostatistician and how he and his team looked for new methodologies to arrive at decisions which led to make clinical trials smaller, cheaper, faster while maintaining strong scientific rigor. He maintained that there is a great demand for trained statisticians in pharmaceutical industries all over the world. Dr Devan's innovative strategies to handle problems in Stratified trials, crossover and longitudinal trials and small time to event trials enthralled the audience.

The workshop was a great success mainly in the sense of bringing industry and academia closer to accelerate further progress to both in a symbiotic way.

### Conference in honor of H.N. Nagaraja held in March 2014 in Dallas

The University of Texas at Dallas hosted the Ordered Data Analysis, Models and Health Research Methods: An International Conference in

Honor of H.N. Nagaraja for His 60th Birthday from March 7-9, 2014. The conference was sponsored by the following institutions: Cytel Inc., SAS JMP, The Ohio State University, Southern



Methodist University, and the University of Texas at Dallas.

Professor Nagaraja is currently the Chair of Division of Biostatistics at The Ohio State University. He joined the Department of Statistics at Ohio State in 1980 after receiving his PhD from Iowa State University. He is a fellow of both the American Statistical Association (2000) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2012). From 2010-2011, he was also the President of International Indian Statistical Association.

The conference featured a variety of topics in three areas of statistics in which Professor Nagaraja has made distinguished contributions, namely, order statistics, stochastic modeling, and statistical methods for health sciences. There were three plenary speakers: N. Balakrishnan (McMaster University, "Ordering Order Statistics"), Sally Morton

(University of Pittsburgh, "Data, Design, and Analysis for Comparative Effectiveness Research Decisions"), and Barry Arnold (University of California, Riverside, "Variations on Some Exponential Characterization Themes").

There were over 120 talks across 46 sessions, and close to 200 people from 14 countries participated in the conference. In addition, 11 posters from graduate students and a SAS JMP workshop were presented at the conference. Furthermore, The Ohio State University supported competitive travel awards for the following students and young researchers: Mark Burch (The Ohio State University), Ashok Chaurasia (University of Connecticut, Storrs), Bekir Çetintav (Dokuz Eylul University), Shyamal De (Binghamton University), Armin Hatefi (University of Manitoba), Jonathan Joseph (Louisiana State University), Patryk Miziula (Nicolaus Copernicus University), Lira Pi (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Weining Shen (University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center), Rashmi Tiwari (University of Delhi), and Amy Willis (Cornell University).

Please visit <http://faculty.smu.edu/ng/hnnconf.html> for further information about the conference.

## National Conference On Statistics And Mathematics Applications (COSMA) held in Jan 2014 in Nagpur

The Department of Statistics and the Department of Mathematics, Institute of Science, Nagpur, India organized a two day "National Conference on Statistics and Mathematics Applications" (COSMA) on January 3-4, 2014. Around 250 delegates comprising of Statisticians and Mathematicians from all over India and abroad participated in the conference. There were a total of eleven outstanding and interesting invited sessions and a total of eight contributed sessions including five in Statistics, three in Mathematics. In all there were about 65 presentations in the two day conference. An important highlight of the conference was a session entitled "Catch Them Young" geared towards students, young researchers and teachers. To encourage their participation, the organizing committee waived the registration fees for about 100 students and young teacher delegates. The conference that was organized to celebrate the International Year of Statistics was indeed a grand success. On behalf of the organizing committee,



Dr. K. S. Bhanu, Convener, COSMA, extends her sincere thanks to IISA for the financial support and for becoming a cosponsor of the event.

## 2013 Rao Prize Conference held at Penn State in October 2013

The Penn State Department of Statistics held the 2013 Rao Prize Conference on October 5, 2013 to honor the 2013 Rao Prize winner Herman Chernoff, Professor Emeritus of Applied Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and of Statistics at Harvard University, and the 2013 P. R. Krishnaiah lecturer Stephen E. Fienberg, the Maurice Falk University Professor of Statistics and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon University. This conference was co-organized with the 2013 Penn State Bioinformatics and Genomics Retreat. There were about 200 researchers, including statisticians and biologists, attending this conference.



The conference program consisted of two plenary speakers, five invited speakers, and more than 40 posters by graduate students. The plenary speakers were Chernoff and Fienberg. The invited speakers were Francesca Chiaromonte, a professor of statistics at Penn State; Jiashun Jin, a professor of statistics at Carnegie Mellon University; Shaw-Hwa Lo, a professor of statistics at Columbia University; Adam Smith, an associate professor of computer science and engineering at Penn State University; and Tian Zheng, an associate professor of statistics at Columbia University. More information about the conference is online at <http://www.stat.psu.edu/~rli/raoprize2013.html>.

One of the highlights of the conference was the awarding of the 2013 Rao Prize to Herman Chernoff. Chernoff is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, a winner of the Townsend Harris Medal and the Samuel S. Wilks Award, and a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the American Statistical Association. He was the president of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1968. He has received honorary doctorates

from the Ohio State University; the Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology; La Sapienza, the University of Rome; and the University of Athens.

This conference also highlighted the 2013 P. R. Krishnaiah lecturer, Stephen E. Fienberg. Fienberg is a recipient of the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies Presidents' Award, an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and a winner of its Wilks Award, and a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

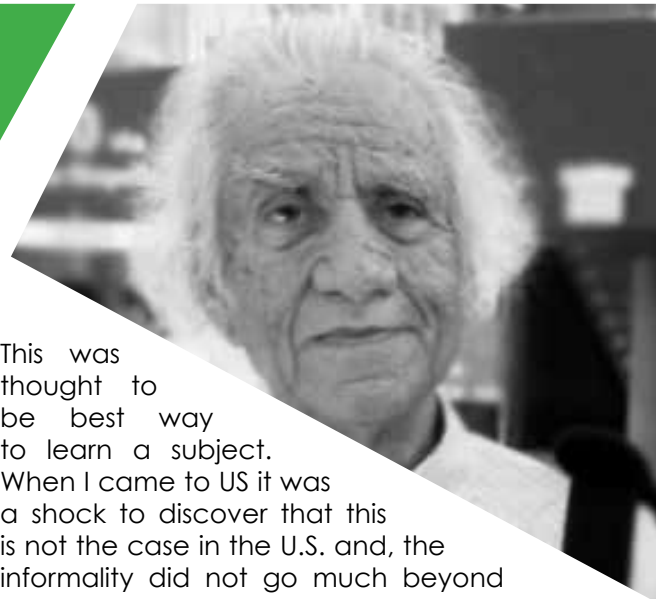
The C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize was established to honor and recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership

in directing statistics research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics. The Krishnaiah lectureship, which began as the P. R. Krishnaiah visiting scholars program in 1992, honors the memory of P. R. Krishnaiah by inviting outstanding researchers in statistics to deliver lectures at Penn State. More details about the Rao Prize and Krishnaiah lectureship can be found on the web at <http://stat.psu.edu/information/prizes-and-memorial-lectures>

## Workshop on Data Safety Monitoring

Steven Snapinn, Vice President of Global Biostatistical Science at Amgen was one of the speakers at the one-day pre-conference workshop on "Data Safety Monitoring Board" held on January 9, 2014 and organized by the Indian Society for Clinical Research & Harvard MRCT Center.

## Congratulations to Prof. J K Ghosh



Thanks to Prof. N. Rao Chaganty, President of IISA, for inviting me to write a few words about Prof. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh -- JKG for many of us -- on the occasion of the award of Padma Shri by the Government of India. To me, the only surprise regarding the award is that it was not awarded much earlier. A good account of JKG's academic contributions is already available in the profile written by Subhashis Ghoshal and Bertrand Clarke in the IMS Collection "Pushing the limits of contemporary statistics; Contributions in honor of Jayanta K Ghosh." So I will use this opportunity to write a brief, personal narrative.

I met JKG as when I was a student in the seventies. Those days the stalwarts in stat-math were Ashok Maitra, J.K. Ghosh and M.G. Nadkarni . They encouraged a culture where there were no lines between Faculty and Research scholars. We talked a lot, argued a lot and protested a lot. Much of what we learned came through this conversation and enabled us to imbibe the culture of research. It was fairly common for a research scholar to teach an advanced topic like weak convergence.

This was thought to be best way to learn a subject. When I came to US it was a shock to discover that this is not the case in the U.S. and, the informality did not go much beyond addressing each other by first names.

Those days the prevailing mathematical climate in stat math was set theory, measure theory, topology, harmonic analysis and the like. JKG was supposed to be a statistician. Yet he seemed to have a deep understanding of a wide sweep of mathematics. I have heard it said in the research scholars' hostel that "If you think you have a result then go to JKG and tell him. If he gives a proof within 10 minutes, get out quietly. If not, submit it for publication". At the time JKG himself was writing a paper on sufficiency that was largely measure theoretic.

All this fascinated me and I mentioned to JKG that I want to work on sufficiency. His immediate

response was to discourage me from working on it. "Most things are understood about sufficiency", he said, "and all that is left are some loose ends". I pointed out to him that he himself was guilty of the crime and then he said "I do other things too". On this and on many other occasions, he would tell me "I can just give you my advice. You should make your decision." Of course, I was stubborn and foolish and did manage to write a reasonably good thesis on sufficiency. It was only later that I realized the wisdom of JKG's advice - that it is alright to work on interesting questions even if it falls outside the mainstream as long as there is the integrity and wisdom to recognize it - that there is more to advising students than leading them along a beaten track. Some, among the many a lessons taught .

JKG was then handling much of Sankhya's affairs by himself. As research scholars we were given permission to check the mathematics and give our opinion. This provided a useful exercise that gently inculcated in us a sense of journals, papers, refereeing and related work. It is through this that I slowly found out the many "other things" that JKG was into: Asymptotic theory, sampling, sequential analysis, a paper involving harmonic analysis, etc. Even those days JKG had a favorable disposition towards the Bayesian view. Sometime in the late eighties and early nineties, I think, he became a committed Bayesian.

One consequence of his interest in Bayesian statistics is his decision to teach Bayesian nonparametrics at Purdue. I was vaguely familiar with Ferguson's paper and some early work of Dubins and Freedman and not much else. JKG would call me to discuss various measure theoretic aspects of Dirichlet processes and priors on the space of probability measures. This started a collaboration

which culminated in our book on Bayesian nonparametrics. The collaboration was not without its disagreements and rough moments but, thanks to at least one of the collaborators being wise, our friendship not just survived but thrived. Since then, as he seems to do with great ease, JKG has moved into other problems of interest in model selection and high dimensional data.

Research apart, JKG has played a major role in ISI and ISI has played a major role in his life. He took on the demanding job of Director. By then I had left ISI and all that I know of this phase is a bit from him and a bit from friends in ISI. What I do know from JKG is that, for JKG, ISI is more than a place where he worked. It is a part of him and he too feels that he is a part of the institute. He continues to be associated with ISI and for the last many years has played a double role being a mentor both at ISI and at Purdue University.

JKG is not all mathematics and statistics. He is interested in music, has read widely in Bengali and English literature and is almost an expert on Modern English poetry. He has deep affection for plants and flowers; in fact so much affection that once, until Mrs. Ghosh pointed it out, he was regularly watering a plastic plant!!

I learnt of the Padma Shri from Surekha Rao, a former ISI faculty member, and called JKG to congratulate. He seemed more embarrassed than proud of the award. That is typical of the man that I have come to admire, respect and love. I am sure like me, IISA too is proud of and delighted at this award to JKG and will join me in congratulating him and wishing him a long and active future.

- R. V. Ramamoorthi

## Call for Volunteers

Network / Participate / Explore / Be Enriched / Learn

### Volunteers needed for:

- IISA helpdesk at JSM
- Newsletter assistance

Be Active in the IISA Network -  
Make New Friends



## Honors and Awards

The Award Committee chaired by Moulinath Banerjee decided to award the IISA Young Researcher Awarded to the following at the IISA Riverside Conference:

### Theory



**Debashis Paul** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics at UC Davis, CA. He joined UC Davis as an Assistant Professor after earning his PhD in Statistics from Stanford University in 2005. His

research interests include multivariate statistics, random matrix theory, high-dimensional inference, nonparametric regression, statistical inverse problems, functional data analysis, spatial statistics and random dynamical systems. He has also collaborated with mathematicians and statisticians at SAMSI on the development of research directions on high dimensional data analysis, and with scientists at the Center for Neuroscience at UC Davis on the cognitive functions of brain based on diffusion weighted MRI. He serves as an associate editor for *Statistics Sinica*, *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, *Sankhya Series A* and *Annals of Statistics*.

### Theory



**Shalabh** completed his degrees in graduation, Master's and Ph.D. in Statistics from University of Lucknow (India). He received the Junior Research Fellowship from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.), India to do the Ph.D. in 1993. Later he successfully completed his post-doctoral research work from University of Pittsburgh (U.S.A.) during 2000-2001 under the BOY-SCAST fellowship and from University of Munich (Germany) during 2006-07 under the Humboldt fellowship. He started his career as Lecturer in Statistics at Jammu University in 1995 and moved to Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1998. Later he joined Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in 2003 where he is continuing his professional career as a faculty and researcher. Shalabh has won several prestigious awards from national as well as international organizations. He is a recipient of Young Statistician's Jan Tinbergen award from International Statistical Institute (The Netherlands) in 1995, Young Scientist Award from Indian Science Congress Association (India) in 1997, Mahalanobis Memorial Gold Medal from The Indian Econometric Society in 2010 and the National Award for Young Statisticians -- Professor C.R. Rao Award in 2011 by the Govt. of India.

### Application



**Bhramar Mukherjee** is currently a Professor of Biostatistics and Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, University of Michigan. She completed her Ph.D in Statistics from Purdue University in 2001. She was an Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of Florida from 2002-2006, before coming to Michigan. Her research interests are gene-environment interactions, Bayesian methods in genetic and environmental epidemiology and statistical analysis under outcome dependent sampling. Dr. Mukherjee has authored more than 110 articles in reputed Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology journals. She is leading multiple NIH and NSF grants on gene-environment interaction analysis as principal investigator. She is the director of Biostatistics core in two

large center grants related to environmental health. She is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and is a fellow of the American Statistical Association. She received the distinguished alumnus award from Purdue University School of Science in 2012. She has won multiple awards for her teaching accomplishments including the 2012 School of Public Health Excellence in Teaching Award at University of Michigan.

## Member News

**Somnath Datta**, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics, University of Louisville receives President's "Distinguished Faculty Award in Research for Career Achievement" in 2013.

**Susmita Datta**, Professor of Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics received the designation of "Distinguished University Scholar" in June 1, 2013.

**Professor Dipak Dey** received a major Recognition Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the ASA for his leadership at the University of Connecticut and significant contributions to statistical research.

**Bovas Abraham** is the recipient of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) Shewhart medal. It will be awarded during ASQ's World Quality Congress to be held in Dallas, Texas in May 2014. Shewhart medal recognizes outstanding leadership in modern quality control.

**The C. R. Rao Gallery**, capturing C. R. Rao's life in statistics over 65 years (40 years at the Indian Statistical Institute and 25 years at Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh), was inaugurated by Nobel Laureate V. Ramakrishnan December 22, 2013, in the C. R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, at Hyderabad, India. The gallery is open to the public.



**Professor S. Rao Jammalamadaka** was awarded the "Bharat Gaurav (Pride of India) Award" for the year 2014 by the India International Friendship Society, New Delhi for his research and professional accomplishments. Professor Jammalamadaka was honored with the Bharat Gaurav Award along with a Certificate of Excellence at a high profile Global Friendship Day gala banquet held on January 9th, 2014 at Le Meridian in New Delhi.

**Dr. R.Prabhakar Rao** was awarded prestigious SAI KRISHNA award for excellence in research for the year 2012 -13 at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning ( Deemed to be University), Andhra Pradesh India.

**Debashis Mondal and Sharomdeep Bhattacharyya**. Department of Statistics at Oregon State University recruited these two ISI alumni.

**Sandeep Menon**, Pfizer Inc, edited a book titled "Clinical and Statistical Considerations in Personalized Medicine" along with Claudio Carini and Mark Chang. This book is available at [www.crcpress.com](http://www.crcpress.com).

**Dr Devan Mehrotra** is running for ASA Vice President - please make sure to vote for your fellow IISA member

### New IISA Lifetime Members

**Shuva Gupta**, NCSU

**Sandeep M. Mennon**, Pfizer

**J. Sunil Rao**, University of Miami

**Pandurang M Kulkarni**, Eli Lilly Company



### STATISTICS.COM

With over 110 online courses in statistics, biostatistics, data mining, text analytics and operations research, The Institute for Statistics Education at Statistics.com is a pioneer in online education. The original spark for Statistics.com came during a conversation over 12 years ago about continuing education in statistics with Nitin Patel, at the offices of Cytel Software in Cambridge. The course delivery model introduced by Statistics.com in 2002 is still followed today:

- Courses are taught by leading experts (often the author of a relevant text)
- Are organized into 4 weekly lessons and scheduled for a particular calendar period
- Don't require that students or instructors be online at particular times
- Include written materials, short videos, and practical exercises, usually involving software
- Provide interaction with instructors throughout the period via private discussion forum
- Employ teaching assistants to mark the homework and offer feedback to every student

A support center in Pune, India, provides teaching assistant and administrative services to The Institute. Assistant teachers are recruited from the University of Pune and other universities. The faculty is drawn from all over the world (several are from India). Students come to The Institute in nearly equal numbers from academia and business/government. The latter have usually been on the job for several years, and are looking to boost their analytics/statistics skills to meet specific project-related demands, or to enhance their careers. Classes are limited to 20-30 students, and lasting professional connections among students are often formed.

Many students choose to take individual courses "a-la-carte" to meet specific needs for skills. Others enroll in our Certificate Programs in Biostatistics, Analytics for Data

Science, Programming for Data Science, and Social Science Statistics. We staff a sales office in Pune, where residents of India may take advantage of preferential tuition rates and the ability to pay in rupees - see [india.statistics.com](http://india.statistics.com) (or call 020-6680-0300 ext.322 (Pune) or email [avinash.chamwad@celt.com](mailto:avinash.chamwad@celt.com)).

### CR and Bhargavi Rao Prize:

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 in odd-numbered years by the Department of Statistics at Penn State University to a nominee selected by the members of the Rao Prize Committee.

Nominations for the 2015 Rao Prize should be submitted by July 1, 2014 to Dr. Hunter at [depthhead@stat.psu.edu](mailto:depthhead@stat.psu.edu) by email. Candidates nominated in previous years will be considered. 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. The award recipient will receive a medal, a cash prize, and an invitation to visit Penn State to give a talk. See <http://stat.psu.edu/information/prizes-and-memorial-lectures/c.-r.-rao-prize-for-outstanding-research-in-statistics> for additional details.

### COPSS Book:

IISA is a co-sponsor of the book titled "COPSS 50th Anniversary volume on Past, Present and Future of Statistical Science" which will be published in April by Chapman and Hall. The book is now freely available on the COPSS website <http://www.copss.org>.



# 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings August 2-7 Boston, MA

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center  
Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
Conference website:  
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2014/index.cfm>  
Contact e-mail address: [meetings@amstat.org](mailto:meetings@amstat.org)

## IISA Events at JSM in Boston Meetings

**Executive Committee Meeting** (closed).  
**General Body Meeting and Mixer**  
Sunday, August 3rd, 7:00-8:30pm  
Westin – Commonwealth Ballroom A.

## Program

Session 4, Sunday 8/3/2014, 2:00 PM – 3:50 PM,  
Room CC-157B  
"Memorial Session: Prof. Dayanand N. Naik"

Session 100, Monday 8/4/2014, 8:30 AM- 10:20 AM,  
Room CC-153B  
"Large scale computational and methodological  
challenges with "Big Data" in environmental and  
spatial statistics"

Session 229, Monday 8/4/2014, 2:00PM- 3:50 PM,  
Room CC-151A  
"Multivariate Data Models and Inferential Methods"

## JSM 2014

### Program Committee:

**N. Rao Chaganty**, Old Dominion University (Chair)  
**Sowmya Rao**, UMass Medical School (Member)  
**Amit Bhattacharyya**, GSK (Member)

Session 276, Tuesday 8/5/2014, 8:30 AM-12:20 PM,  
Room CC-102B  
"New Statistical Methods in Phylogenetics"

Session 384, Tuesday 8/5/2014, 2:00 PM- 3:50 PM,  
Room CC-204B  
"Bayesian Methods in Bioinformatics"

Session 538, Wednesday 8/6/2014, 2:00 PM- 3:50 PM,  
Room CC-104B  
"Penalized Methods for Applications"

Session 620, Thursday 8/7/2014, 10:30 AM – 12:20 PM,  
Room CC-156C  
"Memorial Session: Prof. Damaraju Raghavarao"

**Please do come to these IISA events. Your presence will contribute to their success!**

## Conferences

### Women in Statistics - IISA Sponsored May 15-17, 2014

Embassy Suites, Raleigh-Durham Research Triangle,  
NC, . <https://women-in-stats.org/>

### Modern Adaptive Designs for Metabolic Disorders and Oncology Clinical Trials - Cytel East User Group Seminar.

**June 19, 2014**

San Diego, CA

<http://www.cvent.com/d/g4qx5z>

### 2014 Joint Applied statistics Symposium of ICOSA & KISS

**June 15-18, 2014**

Portland, OR,

<http://www.statkiss.org/icsakiss2014/>

### IIASL Conference

**December 28-30, 2014.**

Colombo, Sri Lanka

IASSL website: <http://www.iappstat.lk/home/>

jointly with the Department of Bioinformatics and  
Biostatistics, University of Louisville