



Shaniwar Wada Fort in Pune

IISA Newsletter 2015

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We are looking for volunteers to serve on IISA committees. Please contact a member of the Executive Board 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 <http://www.intindstat.org/update-contact> to do so.

Message from S.N. Lahiri, President, IISA

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the current edition of the newsletter and to share some of the upcoming events and initiatives of IISA. Continuing its tradition, this year we are organizing a major international conference in **Pune, India** jointly with the Savitribai Phule Pune University (**Dec. 20-24, 2015**). The theme of the conference is "Celebrating Statistical Innovation and Impact in a World of Big & Small Data." The conference will provide a unique forum for information exchange and interactions with leading statisticians from around the world. In addition to the scientific talks at the conference, I would like to draw your attention to an invited panel discussion on professional development by experts from both industry and academia. Furthermore, as a part of its outreach efforts, IISA will offer four pre-conference half-day short courses by renowned statisticians on December 19, 2015. The short courses are open to all participants of the conference. I would like to encourage everyone, particularly the junior statisticians, to take advantage of these special opportunities. More information is provided in this newsletter.

Going forward, we would like to reduce the gap between our conferences, so that there is one conference in North America and one in India on alternate years. Accordingly, on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce that the next IISA conference will be held in August 2016 at Oregon State University, USA under the leadership of Professors Sastry Pantula and Debashis Mondal. As a final note, among other strategies, we are currently working on a fund raising initiative and a membership drive. We will keep you updated on these initiatives as we progress.

Thank you for continuing to support IISA. If you have an idea or a suggestion for the Executive Committee to consider, please send me an email at snlahiri@ncsu.edu.

- Soumen Lahiri, IISA President



Aga Khan Palace in Pune

Upcoming 2015 IISA Conference

IISA is holding its upcoming conference, Celebrating Statistical Innovation and Impact in a World of Big & Small Data, in Pune, India at the YASHADA Management Development Center (December 20th-24th, 2015). The conference is co-organized with the Department of Statistics at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Registration for the conference ends on November 30th. Submissions for the Student Paper Competition and nominations for the Young Researchers Award were both due by September 30th. For more information, please visit <http://iisaconference.org/>.

We have an exciting line-up of plenary speakers in Pune:

1. **Jessica Uffs**, President-elect of ASA and Professor at University of California, Irvine, will speak about the relationship between statistics and the wider lay community;
2. **Kerrie Mengersen**, Professor at Queensland University of Technology, Australia will discuss Bayesian latent variable models;
3. **Dipak Dey**, Associate Dean at University of Connecticut, Storrs, will connect big data and statistical modeling; and,
4. **Probal Chaudhuri**, Professor at ISI, Kolkata, will focus on high dimensional data.

Furthermore, we have half-day workshops on December 19th which are open to conference participants. Topics include Bayesian statistics, bioinformatics, and career development. If you would like to attend, please register in advance at <http://intindstat.org/IISA2015/workshops>.

To round out the great selection of technical talks, Amarjot Kaur and Soumen Lahiri have organized what will be a stimulating panel discussion on "Professional Development Skills for Effective Statisticians." The participants are from both academics and industry: Amit Bhattacharyya (GlaxoSmithKline, USA), Shailaja Suryawanshi (Merck & Co. Inc., USA), Rajeeva L. Karandikar (Chennai Mathematical Institute, India), Ajay Sathe (Cytel, India), Hira Koul (Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA) and Eric A. Vance (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA)

Contribute to the News!

Please submit items of interest to newsletter@intindstat.org

Festschrift Volume Published in Honor of Kanti Mardia

Professor Kanti Mardia was the founding Vice-Chairman of IISA and is a life member. He has just turned 80 and has been presented with a Festschrift volume by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Leeds, Sir Alan Langlands.

Mardia has been Professor at the University of Leeds in the Department of Statistics since 1973. He was Head of Department for an almost continuous period

from 1976 to 2000. When this post expired in 2000 he was made Senior Research Professor at the University of Leeds; the post is unique in the University and was created for him. The post will continue until the year 2020 in the first instance. Since 2013 Mardia is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford as well as a Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford.

The Festschrift volume is entitled *Geometry Driven Statistics* and is published by Wiley. On the cover it is described as "a timely collection of advanced, original material in the area of statistical methodology motivated by geometric problems dedicated to the influential work of Professor Mardia." This volume celebrates Mardia's long and influential career in statistics. A common theme unifying much of his work is the importance of geometry in statistics, and this book brings together 16 contributions from eminent statisticians and scientists in the areas in which he has been influential.



Kanti Mardia with Sir Alan Langlands

Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis 2015

By Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut-Storrs

Professor T. N. Sriram's paper "Sequential Estimation for Time Series" (jointly authored with Professor Ross Iaci) published in the premier international journal, *Sequential Analysis* (SQA), in 2014, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 136-157 was unanimously voted the best paper among all papers published in SQA2014.

This joint paper received the internationally acclaimed Abraham Wald Prize in SQA, which was awarded in a special ceremony held during the 5th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies organized at Columbia University, New York during June 22-24, 2015. Sriram is a Professor in the Department of Statistics, University of Georgia-Athens, Georgia, USA and Iaci is a professor in the Department of Mathematics, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. Sriram accepted the award in person. Unfortunately, Iaci could not be present in person.

The aforementioned paper synthesized a large class of problems in the light of time series data modeling and analyses, which appeared in print with invited discussion pieces from world renowned scholars, for example, Sören Christensen (Germany), Leonid I. Galtchouk (France), Albrecht Irlle (Germany), Masayuki Kumon, Akimichi Takemura, and Kei Takeuchi (Japan), Tze Leung Lai (USA), Nitis Mukhopadhyay and Swarnali Banerjee (USA), A. Novikov and A. N. Shiryaev (Australia & Russia), and Tumulesh K. S. Solanky (USA). The main paper was followed by those discussion pieces which were then followed by responses from Sriram and Iaci.



From left to right: Professors T. K. S. Solanky, T. N. Sriram, and N. Mukhopadhyay

This year's Abraham Wald Prize ceremony was especially remarkable because Columbia University, New York was where Abraham Wald (and his collaborators) developed their groundbreaking research in sequential analysis that had a direct link with the US defense during WWII. The winning paper in SQA was chosen by an international selection committee taking into account input from all editorial board members of the journal.

IISA at JSM

This year at the Joint Statistical Meetings, held in Seattle, USA, IISA sponsored five sessions on topics ranging from phylogenetics and model selection to a historical perspective on clinical trials. IISA worked with the Statistical Society of Canada, the Committee on ASA Archives and Historical Materials, the Government Statistics Section of the ASA, and the Biometrics Section of the ASA to develop a few of the sessions. The IISA mixer was great fun and was followed by the General Body Meeting. Three IISA members who won prestigious awards were recognized at the meeting: Madan Puri from Indiana University, Bloomington (2014 Samuel S. Wilks Award); Sastry Pantula from Oregon State University (2014 Founders Award); and Arnab Maity from North Carolina State University (2014 Noether Young Scholar Award).

Nitis Mukhopadhyay Wins 2015 Don Owen Award

By David Han

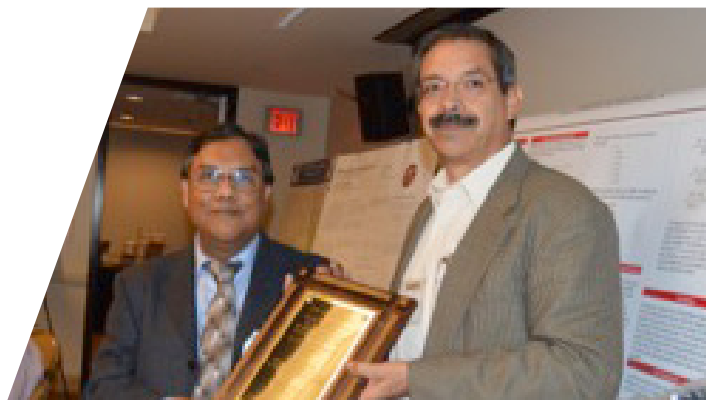
The 2015 Don Owen Award given by the San Antonio Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), was presented to Nitis Mukhopadhyay by the chapter president, Dr. Jesus Cuellar Fuentes on April 10th at the Conference of Texas Statisticians. The conference was held at the University of Texas in Austin, TX and was organized by Dr. Tom Sager at the Department of Information, Risk & Operations Management. Dr. Mukhopadhyay was nominated by Dr. Tumulesh Solanky, Professor and Department Head at the University of New Orleans.

Mukhopadhyay is a Professor at the Department of Statistics, the University of Connecticut in Storrs. He received his doctoral degree from the Indian Statistical Institute in 1975, and then he taught for six years at the Department of Statistics, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater before joining the University of Connecticut in 1985.

Mukhopadhyay has authored 6 books, 14 book chapters, and published over 215 refereed research articles in statistical journals. His research includes several topics, in particular, sequential analysis and multistage sampling; path-breaking research in selection and ranking. His work in sequential methodologies and many other areas of statistics have been of a fundamental nature and thought-provoking. Mukhopadhyay's consulting collaborations are also exemplary. He has supported the ASA's missions through his commitment and unparalleled dedication to preserve and celebrate statistical history. He has been a project director for the Films of Distinguished Statisticians, sponsored by Pfizer Global Research & Development and the ASA, for more than 20 years as well as the author of many top-notch interview pieces appearing in Statistical Science. He has been invited to deliver

major talks at numerous professional meetings and seminars. He has taught courses in a variety of topics and guided numerous masters and Ph.D. students. He has also served as the editor-in-chief (Sequential Analysis), associate editor, and editorial advisory board member for several statistics journals. He has impacted many all over the world through his research, teaching, mentoring, advising, consulting, and editorships.

The San Antonio Chapter is proud to honor Mukhopadhyay for his excellence in research, statistical consultation, and service to the statistical community. The Don Owen Award is presented annually by the ASA San Antonio Chapter, and sponsored by the Taylor and Francis Group, a leading international academic publisher.



The ASA San Antonio Chapter president Dr. Jesus Cuellar Fuentes (right) presented the Don Owen Award to Dr. Nitis Mukhopadhyay (left)

2015 Rao Prize Conference



David Hunter and C. R. Rao presenting the 2015 C.R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize to Sir David Cox

The Penn State Department of Statistics held the 2015 Rao Prize Conference on May 14, 2015 to honor three prize recipients: the 2015 C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize Recipient Sir David R. Cox, Professor Emeritus of Statistics and Honorary Fellow of Nuffield College at University of Oxford; the 2015 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer Nancy M. Reid, the University Professor of Statistical Sciences at University of Toronto; and the 2015 C. G. Khatri Lecturer Vijay V. Raghavan, the Alfred and Helen Lamson Endowed Professor in Computer Science at University of Louisiana at Lafayette. There were about 100 researchers attending this conference.

The conference program consisted of three plenary speakers, four invited speakers, and a poster presentation by postdocs and graduate students. The plenary speakers were Cox, Reid, and Raghavan. The invited speakers were Professor of Statistics Aurore Delaigle of the University of Melbourne, Professor of Statistics Bing Li of Penn State, Verne M. Willaman Professor of Statistics Runze Li of Penn State, and Senator William McMaster Chair in Econometrics and Professor of Statistics Jeffrey Racine of McMaster University.

One of the highlights of the conference was the award of the 2015 Rao Prize to Sir David R. Cox. Cox is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of London, Honorary Fellow of the British Academy, Foreign Associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Foreign Member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Foreign Member of the Indian National Academy of Science, and Foreign Associate of the Indian Academy of Science. He is a winner of the Guy Medal in Silver in 1961 and the Guy Medal in Gold in 1973 of the Royal Statistical Society, the Kettering Prize and Gold Medal for Cancer Research in 1990, and the Copley Medal of the Royal Society in 2010. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985. He was editor of *Biometrika* from 1966 to 1991. He has served as president of the Bernoulli Society, of the Royal Statistical Society, and of the International Statistical Institute. He has received honorary doctoral degrees from Harvard University, Oxford University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Toronto, Waterloo University, and many others.

This conference also highlighted the 2015 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer Nancy M. Reid and the 2015 C. G. Khatri Lecturer Vijay V. Raghavan. Reid is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a recipient of the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies Presidents' Award in 1992, the Krieger-Nelson Prize in 1995, the Statistical Society of Canada Gold Medal in 2009, and the Statistical Society of Canada Distinguished Service Award in 2013. Raghavan is a recipient of the Web Intelligence Consortium Outstanding Service Award, the Association for Computing Machinery Distinguished Scientist Award, and the IEEE International Conference on Data Mining Outstanding Service Award.

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 C. G. Khatri Memorial Lectureship and P. R. Krishnaiah Memorial Lectureship honor the memory of C. G. Khatri and P. R. Krishnaiah by inviting outstanding researchers in statistics to deliver lectures at Penn State. More details about the conference can be found on the web at <http://stat.psu.edu/Events/2015-Rao-Prize>.



Sir David Cox giving the 2015 C.R. and Bhargavi Rao lecture

Member News

Sudipto Banerjee, Professor of Statistics at the University of Minnesota, has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and was awarded the Distinguished Achievement Medal from the American Statistical Association's Section on Statistics and the Environment.

Rao Chaganty, Sastry Pantula, and Bimal K. Roy, were invited to visit the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The importance of alumni connections to the Indian Statistical Institute in conducting research, training students, and developing policy was discussed at the meeting.



Meeting with President Pranab Mukherjee. Can you spot our IISA members?

Yogendra P. Chaubey, Professor of Statistics at Concordia University and former IISA Secretary-Treasurer, has been elected to the Board of Directors at the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI).

Susmita Datta, Professor of Biostatistics, College of Public Health and Health Professions & College of Medicine at the University of Florida, Gainesville, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Her work in bioinformatics, computational biology, and biostatistics along with her efforts in encouraging students, especially, women to pursue STEM subjects was recognized.

C.R. Rao, Emeritus Professor of Statistics at Pennsylvania State University was awarded the Jerzy Splawa-Neyman Medal by the Polish Statistical Association for his contributions to statistical theory, applications, and teaching.

Bimal K. Roy, head of the R.C. Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security and Professor of Applied Statistics at the Indian Statistical Institute, was awarded the Padma Shri in Literature and Education, one of India's highest civilian honors. Roy's accomplishments in cryptology and statistics education were acknowledged.

Sounak Sen is moving from the University of California San Francisco to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee to become Professor and Chief of Biostatistics in the Department of Preventive Medicine. If you are interested in working at the center, please email sen@uthsc.edu.

IISA members participated in the 9th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures in Hyderabad, India (September 2nd – 5th).

Congratulations to IISA Members Who Became ASA Fellows

Girish Arun Aras,
Amgen, Inc.

Subhash C. Bagui,
The University of West Florida

Ofar Harel,
University of Connecticut

John P. Morgan,
Virginia Tech

Daniel J. Nordman,
Iowa State University

Jaya M. Satagopan,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Karan P. Singh,
University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL

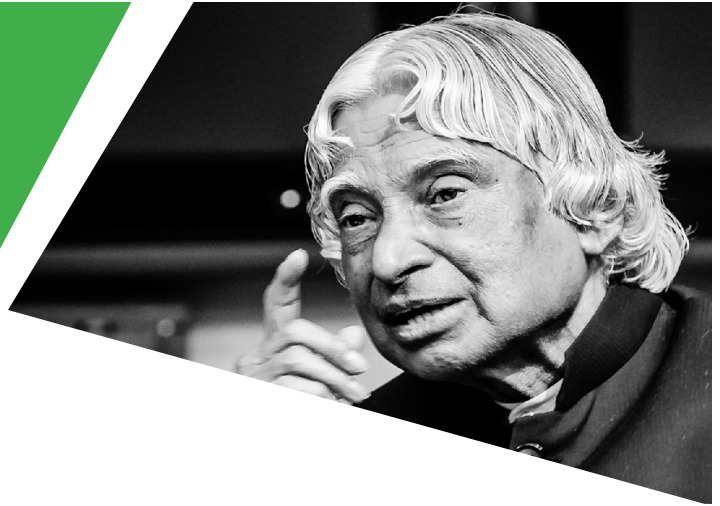
Peter F. Thall,
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Abdus S. Wahed,
University of Pittsburgh

My Memories of Kalam

(1931-2015)

by Srinivas Bhogle



I first met A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in the summer of 1984. I had just joined the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bangalore and was staying in one of NAL's new apartments on the campus. Being still unmarried, I often skipped breakfast and made up with a more sumptuous lunch in the NAL canteen. Dinner, however, remained a problem until NAL's guesthouse manager offered to provide it to me ... in what was then just a tiny dining hall.

One night when I showed up for dinner, I saw a short gentleman with long hair on the next table. When I looked curiously at the manager to ask who he was, he whispered back something softly. I lip read him to say "Director of DRDL, Hyderabad."

This pantomime was quite unnecessary because Kalam smiled at me from the next table and gestured that I should join him. I walked across and was soon subjected to a detailed interrogation about my family and education. When he discovered that I was a young "foreign-returned Ph.D." of Hyderabad origin, he promptly offered me a job at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL). "We're starting a national programme to build missiles and I need everyone's help," he told me. I declined politely because I was quite happy to remain in Bangalore. Kalam didn't seem upset by my response and complimented me for returning to work in my motherland.

It was in 1989 that Kalam burst spectacularly on the national scene with the successful launch of the Agni missile. Agni was the superstar because it was India's first intercontinental ballistic missile. That year we invited Kalam to deliver the NAL Foundation Day lecture. I still remember the thunderous applause as he entered our packed auditorium to deliver the talk. It wasn't just for the man; it was also an expression of national pride.

At the Q&A session that followed the lecture someone asked Kalam why India needed intercontinental missiles. "You want to know why? My answer is very simple," he said in his delightful Tamil accent, "Because strength respects strength!" Once again there was tumultuous applause. It was clear to me at that instant that Kalam would become India's true technological messiah.

I met Kalam next when I interviewed him – for a newsletter I edited – in Delhi in 1990 while driving in a jeep from South Block to Yojana Bhavan. The jeep ride was bumpy, but Kalam happily sat behind with me to do the interview. Luckily there was a dignitary arriving to meet the Indian President at Rashtrapati Bhavan and police stopped all traffic for 10 minutes. "Now we can talk peacefully," Kalam told me. This scenario– that a future President was held up by traffic outside his future home – seems ironic today, but that afternoon I was just relieved that I could write down my notes more comfortably without the bumps.

Thereafter I kept seeing Kalam when he visited NAL for technical meetings. He showed up in 1993 when he heard that NAL was organizing a one-day seminar in honor of its outgoing Director Roddam Narasimha. Although not on the invitee list, Kalam insisted on participating. During this event he paid a moving tribute to Narasimha's intellect, saying that he wished he could have written a thesis under his supervision.

This wasn't an idle wish. Scientific prowess was never Kalam's strongest suit; he was much more the technology enabler. Kalam could motivate people and teams enormously well, he worked incredibly hard, and he was frugal and impeccable honesty. I remember I once asked Narasimha what was Kalam's top skill. He told me that he had an engineer's sixth sense and could make excellent technology choices: "When required to choose one technology option out of several available ones, Kalam almost always gets it right."

Although based in Delhi now, Kalam was on a plane to Bangalore every week in his capacity as the Director-General of all national defense labs. A lot of the design and development work for India's light combat aircraft Tejas happened at NAL and Kalam stayed in constant touch. Kalam would often show up unannounced after midnight at NAL—and find

people busy at work on constructing the Tejas fin or rudder.

"That's why I respect NAL so much," he would say after such surprise visits, "you guys are a class apart!" It is probable that he lavished such compliments because Defense critically needed Tejas work from NAL – but he did it with such charm!

As the years went by, Kalam's clout and influence continued to rise; his popularity zoomed when Prime Minister I. K. Gujral's government awarded him the Bharat Ratna in 1997. Soon thereafter Kalam showed up in the desert, wearing a stylish cap, in the company of the new Prime Minister Vajpayee after the Pokharan-2 nuclear test in 1998. Looking back, I have no doubt that Kalam's desert appearance bolstered his image as India's top technology messiah, and planted a thought in the BJP government that this man – often also called 'Kalam Iyer' – could be a future President.

Even as Kalam's innings in Defense was ending, he had essentially made up his mind to become a fulltime technology evangelist. This choice was vindicated when his 1999 book *Wings of Fire* became a surprising bestseller. Kalam's popularity was soaring!

Kalam was also accepting invitations to lecture all over the country because he enjoyed these interactions and they made him a beloved celebrity. In these lectures, Kalam talked more like a guru and less like a hardcore technology manager. He discussed issues from society and welfare to heritage and spirituality.

Soon we started hearing rumors that Kalam was a dark horse for President. We did not believe it would happen, and thought that even if it happened Kalam might refuse. Then I heard that Kalam was keenly interested in the position, but didn't want to show his cards lest he suffered a loss of face.

Vajpayee was quite keen to have Kalam (he liked Kalam's simplicity and apolitical image, and had frequent meetings with Kalam after Pokharan) and when Advani and the rest of the ruling BJP backed him strongly, there was suddenly a surge in his favor. Kalam would go on to become India's most popular President.

I last met Kalam a fortnight after he became President to do an interview for a newsletter of the Aeronautical Society of India. Kalam was arriving from Delhi and, being Kalam, it was no surprise that the appointment was at 11:30 PM in the Governor's official residence.

At 11:10 in the night, I was hanging out on the road waiting for the Tejas boss Kota Harinarayana's security-cleared car to pick me up. A cop told me to

clear off from the road since the President's convoy was expected. I told him I was actually supposed to meet the President in 20 minutes. "I too am supposed to meet Veerappan (the dreaded Karnataka dacoit) in 30 minutes," he replied sarcastically, "so vanish quickly!"

Luckily Harinarayana's car came just at that moment. I got in. We entered the Governor's residence after being politely interrogated. Soon the wireless lines were buzzing: "President landed. Now crossing NAL." Kalam arrived 10 minutes later, not in the decoy limousine but in a stuffy Ambassador car sitting next to the driver! Kalam was still wearing his trademark blue shirt and was unbelievably informal (later officials would insist that he wear a more formal jacket). He bounced up the stairs like a fleet-footed athlete and charmed the staff by greeting them in Tamil. Kota introduced me to Kalam. "I think I've seen you before," he told me, "come, sit next to me."

The interview, while sipping tender coconut water, started well. Kalam even briefly turned poetic as he talked of the beautiful birds and trees at Rashtrapati Bhavan, and of his joyous interactions with school children. But then he suddenly stopped talking. I was puzzled by his sudden silence and didn't know whether to linger or disappear. Finally Kota gestured that my time was up and I should leave. I would never meet this great Indian again.

Obituary: Gopinath Kallianpur (1925-2015)

Professor G. Kallianpur was born in Mangalore, India in 1925. He studied at the University of Madras and completed his doctorate in statistics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1951 where Herbert Robbins was his advisor. Kallianpur's research focused on various aspects of stochastic processes. Of particular import is his Kallianpur-Striebel formula and Fujisaki-Kallianpur-Kunita equation that are used in stochastic analysis. He held a number of prestigious faculty positions including at the University of California, Berkeley (1951-1952), the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton (1952-1953), the Indian Statistical Institute (1953-1956), and back at his alma mater at UNC-Chapel Hill (1979-2001) as Alumni Distinguished Professor. He was the first director of the Indian Statistical Institute (1976-1979) and presided over the creation of the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore Centre in Karnataka, India.



Student Project Competition

Rules of the project competition:

1. A team cannot have more than 3 students.
2. A faculty member can guide only one team.
3. The competition is open for students of all universities/institutes (within India) where M.A/M.Sc. or a post-graduate Statistics course is taught.
4. The team should write to the President, IISA, India Chapter by August 31, 2015 (see below) giving names and email addresses of the students of the team, along with the faculty member's name (if there is any supervisor) and the name of the Department and the University.
5. The last date for submission is June 30, 2016.
6. The project must be submitted in the form of a single file (pdf), not exceeding 20 pages.

The International Indian Statistical Association (India Chapter) is holding a project competition for post-graduate students of statistics from Indian institutes and universities. The topic for the project is "Forecasting medal winners' performance for athletics events in Rio (August 2016)."

In this project, students are expected to predict performance (as measured in time) of gold, silver and bronze medal winners in the Rio Olympics, to be held in August 2016. Forecasts for competitions for both men and women need to be made. The following racing events are to be included in the project: 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters, 1,500 meters, 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters. The top two teams selected will be awarded prizes of Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000 respectively.

M.B. Rajarshi (President, IISA India Chapter) - m.b.rajarshi@gmail.com

N. Balakrishna (Treasurer, IISA India Chapter) - balajicusat@yahoo.com

Call for IISA Election Nominations

We would like to solicit nominations for two IISA posts:

- 1) President-Elect for a one-year term beginning Jan 1, 2016. The President-Elect will serve as the President for the term Jan 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017.
- 2) A Board of Trustees Member for a 3-year term beginning Jan 1, 2016. This member will replace Prof. Kirti Shah, who is concluding his 3-year term.

The IISA Nominating Committee—consisting of Dr. Amit Bhattacharya, Prof. Rao Chaganty, and Dr. Ram Tiwari—has submitted its recommendations to the President. The nominees are Prof. Sujit Ghosh (SAMS and NC State, <http://www4.stat.ncsu.edu/~sghosh2/>) for President-Elect and Prof. Dipak Dey (University of Connecticut, <http://merlot.stat.uconn.edu/~dey/>) for Board of Trustees member.

As per Article 3.1 of the IISA By Laws, current IISA President, Soumen Lahiri, is calling for additional nominations for the above positions. These nominees will be added to the Nominating Committee list to

make up the final list that will be used for the election. The nominee needs to be a current IISA member, be willing to serve if elected, and be supported by at least 10 current members. The names and email addresses of the nominating members must accompany the nomination(s) for verification purposes.

Please email Sowmya Rao (srao@dmorgan.org) your nomination(s) by **November 9th, 2015**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Call for Papers

Drs. Vijayaraghavan, Govindarajulu, Gudivada and C. R. Rao are looking for authors on Cognitive Computing to contribute papers to the forthcoming Handbook of Statistics, Volume 34 they are editing. This is a sequel to following volumes: 31 on Machine Learning, 32 on R computing and 33 on Big Data Analytics. If you would like to contribute an article for the proposed volume, kindly contact C.R. Rao (crr1@psu.edu).

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

National Meet of Research Scholars in Mathematical Sciences

November 24-28, 2015

Gauhati University, Guwahati, India

http://www.gauhati.ac.in/files/notification/Brochure_NMRSMS15.pdf

2015 IISA Conference

December 20-24, 2015

YASHADA, Pune, India

<http://www.intindstat.org/IISA2015>

2nd International Conference on Theory and Applications of Statistics

December 27-29, 2015

University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<http://www.dusdaa.org/conference2015>

9th International Triennial Calcutta Symposium on Probability and Statistics

December 28-31, 2015

Calcutta University, Kolkata, India

<http://triennial.calcuttastatisticalassociation.org>

National Workshop on Mathematical Algorithms in Advanced Stochastic Modeling and Data Analysis

January 4-9, 2016

S.V. University, Tirupati, India

<http://www.isps1980.org>

2016 IISA Conference

August 19-22, 2016

Oregon State University, Corvallis, USA

For more details contact Debashis Mondal at

debashis@stat.oregonstate.edu

SAMSI Workshops open to both students and researchers

North Carolina, USA

<http://www.samsi.info/activities/research-workshops>

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 1,500 for residents in the Indian subcontinent).

New IISA Lifetime Members

Firdous Ansari, Jainarayan Vyas University

Veera Baladandayuthapani, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Antar Bandyopadhyay, ISI, Delhi Centre

Soutir Bandyopadhyay, Lehigh University

Moulinath Banerjee, University of Michigan

Mousumi Banerjee, University of Michigan

Swarnali Banerjee, Old Dominion University

Sanjeev Bansal, Amity Business School

Amit Bhattacharyya, GlaxoSmithKline

Anup Biswas, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune

Arindom Chakraborty, Siksha-Bhavana

Hukum Chandra, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute

Kingshuk Roy Choudhury, Duke University

Yogesh Gadre, Navsari Agricultural University

Adityanand Guntuboyina, University of California, Berkeley

Nitin Gupta, IIT Kharagpur

Rakhi Kilaru, Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc.

Jitendra Kumar, Banaras Hindu University

Arnab Maity, North Carolina State University

Suman Majumdar, University of Connecticut, Stamford

Peeyush Misra, D.A.V. P.G. College

Pradeep Mohan, SAS Institute, Inc.

Amitava Mukherjee, XLRI-Xavier School of Management

Veena K.N., Indus Business Academy

Anand Nayyar, KCL Institute of Management and Technology

Hossein Niavand, University of Mysore

Daniel J. Nordman, Iowa State University

Suvra Pal, University of the Witwatersrand

Amitkumar R. Pargharmol, SGB Amravati University

Debatma Purkait, Tata Consultancy Services

Ahammad Basha Shaik, Sri Venkateswara University

Richa Sharma, Punjab University

Shaik Chand Thasleema, Sri Venkateswara University

Manas Ranjan Tripathy, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela

Cini Varghese, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute

Pradeep Kumar Vishwakarma, Banaras Hindu University



**Office of Biostatistics, Office of Translational Sciences
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research,
Food and Drug Administration**

**Do you seek a challenging and career enhancing position?
This is your chance to make a difference!**

The Office of Biostatistics in the Office of Translational Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA, invites applications from Mathematical Statisticians with a background in biomedical, biological, or pharmacological sciences and strong skills in statistical methodology and communication.

You will work with multidisciplinary teams of review scientists in a dynamic, highly challenging, and innovative atmosphere of drug and therapeutic biological development, evaluation, and research. You will have the opportunity to employ a broad variety of statistical procedures relevant to the approval and regulation of new and generic drugs, new and biosimilar biologics, as well as the emerging field of quantitative risk assessment.

As a mathematical statistician in the Office of Biostatistics, you will apply your skills to address unique and precedent setting problems while refining your consulting, communication, and presentation skills. You will evaluate and advise on protocols for clinical, non-clinical, and post-marketing studies and assess the evidence for safety and efficacy from studies submitted in drug and biologic applications. Our active regulatory research program will allow you to improve your skills and provide for professional development. In addition, you will have the opportunity to interact with national, international, public, and private organizations on statistical issues, and will help develop guidance for the pharmaceutical industry and clinical investigators.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must possess a degree that included 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, of which at least 12 semester hours were in mathematics and 6 semester hours were in statistics, OR a combination of education and experience - at least 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, including at least 12 hours in mathematics and 6 hours in statistics, plus appropriate experience or additional education. Candidates with a Doctorate or Master's degree and associated experience are highly desirable. In addition to a background in statistics and analysis, applicants should have an interest in clinical trials, epidemiology, genomics, risk assessment, or experimental design. Candidates should also possess excellent communication skills, both oral and written. Since work is conducted in interdisciplinary groups, the ability to communicate statistical issues to non-statisticians is important. Candidates for Civil Service or USPHS Commissioned Corps must be U.S. citizens. Permanent U.S. residents may apply for staff fellowship appointments. Applications will be accepted from other Non-Citizens as allowed by appropriations and statute.

SALARY/BENEFITS: Civil Service Salary for GS-11 is \$68,739 to \$89,362; for GS-12 is \$76,378 to \$99,296; for GS-13 is \$90,823 to \$118,069. The FDA is a family friendly workplace offering excellent benefits with flexible work hours and location. CDER's Office of Biostatistics is located in Silver Spring, Maryland, just outside the Washington, D.C. beltway. For more information regarding salary/benefits, please visit the US Office of Personnel Management website at www.opm.gov.

The FDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and has a smoke-free environment. We particularly welcome applications from women and minority candidates.

HOW TO APPLY: If you are interested in considering employment with CDER's Office of Biostatistics, please submit your resume to:

OB Search Committee:
e-mail: CDER-OTS-OB-Recruitment@fda.hhs.gov

For more information, please visit the Office of Biostatistics website: <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDER/ucm166250.htm>

**Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics,
School of Public Health and Information Sciences,
University of Louisville**

[\(http://louisville.edu/sphis/bb/\)](http://louisville.edu/sphis/bb/)

Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics, School of Public Health and Information Sciences, University of Louisville is inviting applications for a tenure track or tenured faculty position, beginning Spring of 2016 or fall of 2016, at the level of experienced assistant (3 or more years in rank) or associate professor. An appointment at a full professor level may be considered for an applicant with suitable credentials in teaching, service and funded research.

Duties include, but are not limited to, conducting high quality research in biostatistics, pursuing collaborative and individual research grants, taking part in consulting initiatives and teaching in the departmental and school's graduate and undergraduate programs.

While strong candidates from all research areas will be considered, we prefer candidates whose research areas are complementary to those of the existing faculty. Persons with collaborative research experiences including funding and a broad teaching background in public health, information sciences and related areas are highly encouraged to apply. The department currently maintains very successful MS and doctoral programs in biostatistics. It also takes part in school based public health undergraduate and masters programs.

Applicants must have earned a Ph.D. or equivalent in biostatistics, statistics, or a closely related discipline by December 31, 2015. Screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

A curriculum vita is required to be submitted as part of the online application at <http://louisville.edu/hr/employment/applicants> (Job Opening ID 31573). Additionally, a CV and three reference letters, along with a cover letter detailing the background, research interests, teaching interests and relevant experience, are required to be sent to Lynne Dosker by email at lynne.dosker@louisville.edu.

The University of Louisville is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, Americans with Disabilities Employer, committed to diversity and, in that spirit, seeks applications from a broad variety of candidates.