

IISA Summer 2018 Newsletter



2019 IISA Conference

INDSTATS 2019: Innovations in Data and Statistical Sciences

December 26-30, 2019

Venue: IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India

<http://www.intindstat.org/IISA2019>

IISA2019@intindstat.org

Gateway of India, Photo courtesy: Somnath Datta.

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Message from Somnath Datta, President of IISA



Caption: Somnath Datta, IISA President

Where did the time go? Can't believe it's time for our summer newsletter already. Perhaps, time moves faster when you are having a good time.

We had an incredible conference in May (IISA 2018) at the HPNP Complex at the University of Florida. The conference theme was "From Data to Knowledge, Working for a Better World". It featured two short courses on Day 1 of the conference. Plenary talks were delivered by Professors Montserrat Fuentes, Hira Koul, and by Dr. Cyrus Mehta. This year's Bahadur lecturer was Professor Alexandre Belloni of Duke University. Special Invited talks were delivered by Professors Soumen Lahiri, Subhashis Ghosal, Michael Kosorok, George Michalidis, Bhramar Mukherjee, and Drs. Devan Mehrotra, Glen Satten, and Rajeshwari Sundaram. Additionally, the program featured 67 invited sessions, two student paper competition sessions and a poster session covering all aspects of statistical sciences. I am grateful to numerous individuals for making it a grand success. I invite you to have a look at the conference photo gallery at <http://iisa2018.biostat.ufl.edu/photos/>. A report on the conference will appear in a future issue of the newsletter. The current issue contains a summary of the feedback survey we had conducted following IISA 2018.

Like other recent years, IISA is playing a prominent role at JSM this year. IISA serves as the main sponsor for the following sessions: (i) [Recent Advances in High-Dimensional Bayesian Model Selection](#) (Invited), (ii) [Statistical Advancements in Forestry, Ecology and Climate Modeling](#) (Invited), (iii) [New Directions in Personalized Treatment Selection](#) (Topic Contributed). In addition, IISA serves as a co-sponsor for [Statistical Advances in the Design and Analysis of Sequence-Based Genetic Association Studies](#) (Invited), [Bayesian Variable Selection and Shrinkage in Epidemiology Studies](#) (Topic Contributed), [Statistical Leadership: Insights from Experiences of Prominent Leaders](#) (Invited Panel), [Are We \(Academia\) Producing Leaders with Necessary Statistical Skills?](#) (Invited Panel). Kindly add these to your JSM calendar and try to attend as many of them as possible. Last but not least, IISA is co-hosting the Asian Initiative Interviewing Skills Workshop at JSM 2018. This is primarily for junior statisticians and graduate students who are interested in improving their interviewing and resume writing skills to be more competitive in the statistics job market.

We are looking for volunteers for the IISA desk during JSM 2018. Please fill out the doodle poll that was sent by Soutir if you have not done so yet. This is a great way to show your support for IISA and

for our younger colleagues to earn some service credits which could pay great dividends later in their careers.

Following our tradition, we plan to organize a group dinner at a local Indian restaurant following the IISA General Body Meeting. Details of this event will be forthcoming. Certainly, I hope to see many of you at the IISA General Body Meeting which is due to take place at CC-East 4 from 6:00 PM on Monday, July 30. Both I and the president elect, Amit Bhattacharya, will make brief presentations sharing certain information which should be of interest to our members. We also take this opportunity to recognize many outstanding accomplishments by our members including introduction of new fellows of statistical societies in the current year. Please come early to attend this event and stay for the social afterwards.

IISA continues to operate and grow globally. The India chapter is renewing its activities under the new leadership of Mahesh Iyer. Talks are currently under way for the formation of a chapter of IISA in the UK.

Finally, I hope you are enjoying your summer travel as much as I am. We are blessed to be in a profession that allows us to travel and connect globally. I share with you some pictures from my recent trip to Mongolia.



Goodbye for now! Live simply and keep travelling! See you in Vancouver.

Somnath Datta
2018 IISA President

IISA @ JSM 2018

A. IISA sponsored sessions:

- a. [Recent Advances in High-Dimensional Bayesian Model Selection](#) (Invited),
- b. [Statistical Advancements in Forestry, Ecology and Climate Modeling](#) (Invited),
- c. [New Directions in Personalized Treatment Selection](#) (Topic Contributed).

B. IISA co-sponsored sessions:

1. [Statistical Advances in the Design and Analysis of Sequence-Based Genetic Association Studies](#) (Invited),
2. [Bayesian Variable Selection and Shrinkage in Epidemiology Studies](#) (Topic Contributed),
3. [Statistical Leadership: Insights from Experiences of Prominent Leaders](#) (Invited Panel),
4. [Are We \(Academia\) Producing Leaders with Necessary Statistical Skills?](#) (Invited Panel).

C. IISA General Body Meeting: CC-East 4 from 6:00 PM on Monday, July 30.

D. IISA Executive Committee Business Meeting: Sun, 7/29/2018, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM F-Waterfront Ballroom B.

- E. The IISA Group Dinner at JSM in Vancouver will take place on Monday, July 30, 2018 at 8PM in Salam Bombay Restaurant, 755 Burrard Street, second floor, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1X6, Canada; Ph. [604-681-6300](tel:604-681-6300). Members can reserve a seat at the discounted rate of US \$30 per person if they book in advance (by July 28th, 11:55p) using the following web-site: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iisa-group-dinner-jsm-2018-vancouver-tickets-48274136241#tickets>
- Remaining seats, if any, will be sold at the GB meeting or at the door for a price of CA\$ 55 (or US \$ 41) each. The above website also has description of the dinner menu. Note: There are limited number of seats and they will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Please purchase you ticket early to avoid disappointment later.

IISA 2018 Florida Photos



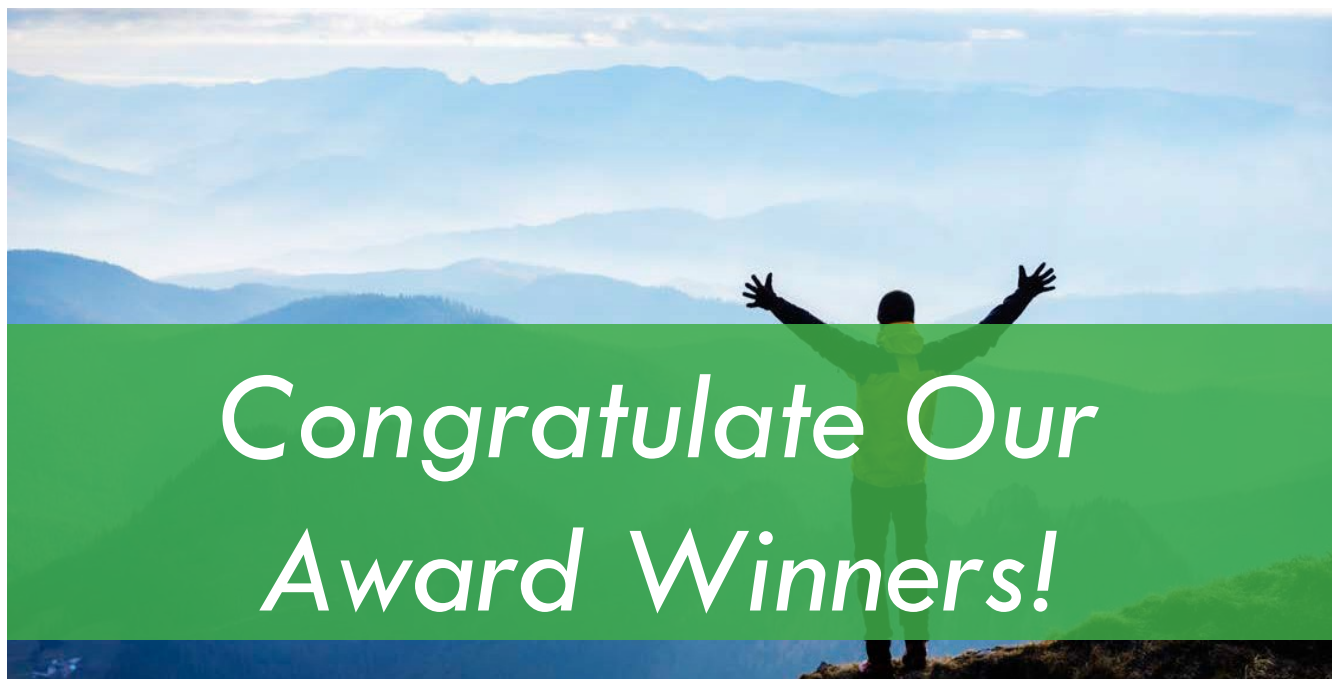
Opening remarks: Somnath Datta, President, IISA



Group photo: (L-R) Sudipto Roy Choudhury, Soumen Lahiri, Marianna Pennsky, Hira Koul.



Group photo: (L-R) Somak Dutta, Sayan Banerjee, Sayar Karmakar and Bhramar Mukherjee.



Natesh Pillai (Theory and Methods)



Natesh Pillai is a Professor of Statistics at Harvard University. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. He went to graduate school at Duke University and did his postdoctoral research at Warwick University. He joined Harvard University in 2010. His research interests are Monte Carlo methods, applied probability, and statistical modeling in earth and planetary sciences.

Sanjay Chaudhuri (Theory and Methods)



He received his B.Stat (Bachelor of Statistics) and M.Stat (Master of Statistics) degrees from Indian Statistical Institute in 1998 and 2000, respectively. On graduation in 2000, he joined the Department of Statistics, University of Washington, Seattle as a graduate student. He finished his Ph.D dissertation in Seattle under the supervision of Prof. Michael D. Perlman and Prof. Thomas S. Richardson in 2005. Sanjay is currently an associate professor in Department of Statistics and Applied Probability at the National University of Singapore.

Debashish Ghosh (Applications)



Debashish Ghosh, PhD, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Informatics at the Colorado SPH. Dr. Ghosh previously was at the University of Michigan and Penn State University. Dr. Ghosh has spent the last eighteen years working on the development of statistical methods for bioinformatics and biomarker evaluation, primarily with applications to biomedical research funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. More recently, he has developed recent interests in the areas of causal inference and imaging. He has published over 190 papers in a broad variety of areas of collaborative and methodological research that have appeared in high-profile journals including Biometrika, Bioinformatics, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B, Nature and the New England Journal of Medicine. In 2015, he edited Integration of 'Omics Data (Cambridge University Press) with George Tseng (Pittsburgh) and Jasmine Zhou (USC). He was previously chair of the Biostatistical Methods Research and Design (BMRD) and is currently co-editor of Biometrics, a leading methodological journal in biostatistics.

Sujata Patil (Applications)



Sujata Patil received her doctorate in biostatistics at the University of Michigan in 2004. After briefly working at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia she joined the faculty at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in early 2006. Since that time, she has worked as a collaborative biostatistician, working closely with a variety of investigative groups including surgeons and medical oncologists studying breast cancer, genito-urinary cancers and cancer survivorship. Her biostatistical research interests are in longitudinal data analysis, survival analysis, clinical trial design, analysis of incomplete data, measurement error models, and Bayesian methods. In addition, Sujata regularly lectures and teaches clinical trial design and statistical methods to fellows, junior faculty and post-doctoral laboratory scientists.

Sandeep Menon (Statistical Practice)



Dr. Sandeep Menon is currently the Vice President and the Head of Early Clinical Development at Pfizer Inc. and also holds Adjunct faculty positions at Boston University, Tufts University School of Medicine and Indian Institute of Management (IIM). He is the elected fellow of American Statistical Association. He currently reports to the President of R&D at Pfizer. He is currently leading a multi-functional global team which includes MD clinicians, Biostatisticians, Clinical Pharmacologists, Precision Medicine and Translational Scientists, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Medicine Scientists and Early Clinical Strategy and Operations. He is the co-author and co-editor of the books titled "Clinical and Statistical Considerations in Personalized Medicine", "Modern Approaches to Clinical Trials Using SAS: Classical, Adaptive, and Bayesian Methods" and "Biosimilars – Clinical Development".

Before being appointed as the Head of Early Clinical Development, he was the Vice President and Head of Statistical Research and Consulting Center (SRCC) – Center of Excellence for Statistics. Sandeep received his medical degree from Bangalore (Karnataka) University, India, and later completed his Masters and Ph.D. in Biostatistics at Boston University and research assistantship at Harvard Clinical Research Institute. He has received several awards for academic excellence.

IISA 2018 Statistics Conference – Post Event Survey



Group photo IISA 2018 Florida

- **Report prepared by the Membership committee:**

Chair: Pradeep Mohan & Isha Dewan

Members: Jaya Satagopan, Shailaja Suryawanshi, Lasitha Rathnayake, Sourish Das, Asha Gopalakrishnan

Abstract

A post conference survey was conducted for the IISA 2018 Statistics conference that was held in Gainesville, Florida from the 17th of May to the 20th of May 2018. The 9-question survey was designed to collect feedback on the conference from the attendees. The survey was mailed to all the 300+ conference attendees and 45 of them responded.

The results showed that 42 respondents rated the conference good or better and 39 respondents rated the organization arrangements good or better. 42 respondents were happy with the quality of material circulated by the organizers rating them good or better. Of the attendees who responded to the survey 29 of them were first time attendees and 16 were repeat attendees. Overall, 39 respondents were likely to recommend the conference to a friend or a colleague providing a response of 7 or more on a scale of 10.

Introduction

To improve the organization of its future Statistics conferences, the IISA Executive Committee and the IISA 2018 Statistics conference organizing committee decided to organize a post conference survey to receive participant feedback after the IISA 2018 Statistics conference in Gainesville, Florida. The Post-conference survey was designed and finalized by the Membership and Outreach committee with feedback from both the IISA Executing Committee and the IISA 2018 Statistics Conference organizing committee. The survey was opened and a link to the survey was emailed to all the conference attendees.

Method

In May 2018, the survey was implemented at surveymonkey.com by the committee. The survey invitation and follow up messages were sent to all IISA Members via e-mail. Each member received a hyper link to the online survey hosted by surveymonkey.com. At the survey close, Surveymonkey provided summary statistics for each question, and the survey results were downloaded for subsequent analysis. Additional analyses were performed to summarize the responders' comments from the text field part of the questionnaire. Recommendations are communicated to the IISA Executive Committee and the conference organizing committee for improving IISA's future conferences.

Results

There were 45 responses to the post-conference feedback survey. Of the 45 respondents, 29 were first time attendees and 16 were repeat attendees. Overall, 42 respondents rated the conference good or better with 19 rating it as very good. Of the 42 respondents, 39 of them were most likely to recommend the conference to a friend or colleague and provided a rating of 7 or higher on a scale of 10. The results obtained from the post-conference feedback survey are organized into three broad categories, namely, (a) Technical Quality; (b) Organizational Quality and (c) Overall quality.

Technical Quality of the Conference

To obtain feedback about the technical content of the IISA 2018 Statistics conference, we requested respondents to rate the technical content of the sessions and the content of the workshops. Of the 45 respondents, 42 rated the technical content of the sessions Good or better and 26 respondents rated the content of the workshops Good or better. 41 respondents rated the availability of professional networking opportunities as Good or better.

In an open-ended question posed in the survey we asked respondents to name the single most valuable thing they learned at the conference. The responses related to the technical content of the conference are listed here.

1. *"The advances made in making inference for the big data where the number of parameters is much larger than the number of observations."*
2. *"Confounder removal in multivariate analysis. Concomitant regression"*
3. *"Good sessions covering not just classical statistics, but also modern problems related to machine learning."*
4. *"I got a chance to meet with several potential collaborators as well as see the current trends in research---both in Theory and Methods, and in applied field. "*

Organization Quality of the Conference

Feedback about the organizational quality of IISA organized events helps us determine issues that we can address in future IISA organized events. To obtain feedback about the organization of the IISA 2018 Statistics conference, we requested respondents to rate the quality of material circulated by organizers, dates of the conference, organizational arrangements for and during the conference and other aspects like quality of social events and the location and schedule of sessions.

Organizational arrangements made for and during the conference were rated Good or better by 39 respondents. Also, 42 respondents rated the quality of the organizational material circulated by the organizers Good or better. The conference venue and facilities were rated Good or better by 42 respondents. The session location and schedule of individual sessions was rated Good or better by 39 respondents. Respondents did give some feedback in the open-ended questions we posed about the aspects of the conference they liked or disliked. Some responses are listed below:

1. *"I thought the sessions took place too many at the same time relative to the total number of participants."*
2. *"Some logistics about direction to location and prearranged parking options could have been managed better."*

3. *"I liked everything. Initially I didn't like the conference venue being a little far from the conference hotels. But later I thought it was a good idea to keep the participants at the conference venue. Otherwise there is a tendency to skip sessions. :-) I thought the sessions were much better attended than some other years."*

Overall Feedback

To assess the overall satisfaction with the conference, we posed questions that requested the respondent's overall assessment of the conference. 42 Respondents rated the conference as Good or better. We also posed a question about the length of the conference to which 39 respondents called it as about right. We also requested the attendees as to how likely they were to recommend the conference to a friend or a colleague to which 39 respondents gave a rating of 7 or higher on a scale of 10. Based on the open-ended questions we posed, the following are some actual feedback we received from the respondents:

1. *"Thanks to the organizers and all the staff and students that did a great job during all the sessions and events."*
2. *"I really enjoyed attending this conference. Talks and speakers were of high quality, and sessions ran extremely smoothly. It was a great idea to have student volunteers in all rooms at all times. Many thanks to the students and the organizing committee! This conference had one of the best programs among the last few IISA conferences in the US. I think the idea to let external members (not part of the program committee) organize sessions is a very good idea. That brings diversity and enhances the quality of talks. This was not the case for previous IISA conferences. If there are too many proposed sessions by external organizers, one can always vote and narrow it down via screening. Overall, I had a very good experience. Thank you!"*

Suggestions for Future Events

In addition to the other questions, we did seek suggestions from the survey responders for themes or topics for future workshops. The following are some suggestions that were obtained:

1. *"One or two sessions on measurement error models, and a session on inference for the data from heavy tail distributions."*
2. *"Non-proportional hazards model or late separation, Weighted log rank test Analysis of Quality adjusted Time Without Symptom and Toxicity (qTWiST) in the context of benefit-risk analysis."*
3. *"more sessions on non-technical skills, including leadership, mentoring/coaching, professional development, communicating statistics to non-statisticians, collaboration, etc."*

Other topic suggestions included Survival Analysis, Imaging, Statistical Learning, Genetics and Genomics, Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning, Time to Event analysis, Spatial Statistics etc.

Note for the Members

The main objective of the IISA Membership and Outreach Committee is to identify members' needs and identify areas to improve IISA Events and Services. Important announcements, messages, reports and surveys of IISA are communicated to members through e-mail. Therefore, members are urged to update their account information with active e-mail addresses, so that we can reach our members and provide best services.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the IISA 2018 Conference participants who completed this survey. We also want to acknowledge IISA EC members and the IISA 2018 Conference organizing Committee for their support to conduct this survey.



Donate to the Bahadur Lecture Series

Hira Koul appeals to you on behalf of the IISA Fundraising Committee to donate for establishing a series of Bahadur Lectures at every IISA meeting, in the spirit of the Wald Lectures at IMS conferences. The invited person would give 1-3 lectures on a current topic.

This year, Alexandre Belloni delivered the 2nd Bahadur Lecture during IISA 2018 in Florida. We appeal to you to help the IISA to keep this series running by donating to the cause. Any amount helps!

Donations to IISA are U.S. federal tax deductible. You can send your check made out to IISA (please mention the purpose) to:

Prof. Subrata Kundu, Treasurer, IISA
Department of Statistics
George Washington University
Washington, DC 20052

Alternately, you can also make an online donation by going to <https://www.intindstat.org> and clicking on the link on the left in the “Donate” box.

Member News

1. **Dipankar Bandopadhyay**, Virginia Commonwealth University and **Moulinath Banerjee**, University of Michigan, have been elected a Fellow of the ASA for 2018. The awards ceremony will be held at the 2018 JSM.
2. **K. B. Kulasekara**, Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics at University of Louisville Kentucky, has been appointed as an assistant dean for academic affairs in addition to his role as the department chair.
3. **Dipak K. Dey**, member of the Board of Trustees of IISA was presented with the honor of Distinguished Science Alumnus at the Purdue University, College of Science Alumni awards program on Friday, April 13th, 2018.
4. The 2018 Don Owen Award, given by the San Antonio chapter of the American Statistical Association was presented to **Dipak K. Dey** of University of Connecticut during the 38th annual Conference of Texas Statisticians.
5. **Shubhabrata Mukherjee**, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, received a Quantitative Research Career Development award (K25) from NIH (National Institute on Aging) titled "Molecular Mechanisms of Alzheimer's Disease Neuropathological Endophenotypes ". It is a 5-year (~652K) award which has training and research components.
6. **Donna Spiegelman**, who was the inaugural keynote speaker of the IISA-2017 conference in Hyderabad, has recently changed jobs and is now the Director of the new Center for Methods in Implementation and Prevention Science (Y-CMIPS) and the Susan D. Bliss Professor of Biostatistics at Yale University.
7. **J. N. K. Rao**, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada gave a plenary talk at SAE 2018, an international conference on small area estimation and related topics held in Shanghai, China, June 16 - 18, 2018.
8. **Arup Bose**, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata published two books: (a) Arup Bose: Patterned Random Matrices, CRC Press, and (b) Arup Bose and Snigdhasu Chatterjee: U-Statistics, M_m-Estimates and Resampling, TRIM series of Hindustan Book Agency.
9. **Anindya Goswami** was recently promoted to the rank of an Associate Professor of Mathematics in IISER-Pune on 26th March 2018.

9. New Lifetime IISA Members

- h. **Michael P. Cohen**, Survey and Data Science, American Institutes for Research
- i. **Subharup Guha**, Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics, University of Florida.
- j. **Rupel Nargunam**, Research Scholar, Department of Mathematics and Actuarial Science B.S.A. Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamilnadu
- k. **Hina Gokhale**, Director General (HR), DRDO, IIT Bombay, Mumbai.
- l. Your name here...

To become a lifetime member, please go to <http://www.intindstat.org/membership>

11. Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

- a. 2019 IISA Conference
INDSTATS 2019: Innovations in Data and Statistical Sciences
December 26-30, 2019
Venue: IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India
<http://www.intindstat.org/IISA2019>
Email: IISA2019@intindstat.org
- b. ASA Biopharmaceutical Section Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop
Marriott Wardman Park, Washington DC, USA
September 12-14, 2018
<http://www2.amstat.org/meetings/biopharmworkshop/2018/>
- c. Emerging Innovations in Statistics & Operations Research (EISOR-2018).
Department of Statistics, M.D. University, Rohtak- 124001 Haryana (India).
December 27-30, 2018.
In conjunction with 38th annual convention of Indian Society for Probability and Statistics (ISPS)" and 3rd convention of "Indian Association for Reliability and Statistics (IARS)".

(The conference to be held, is focused to disseminate knowledge as well as to share basic ideas about the use and applications of the subjects Statistics and Operations Research for solving real life day to day and management problems.)
- d. Tenth International Triennial Calcutta Symposium on Probability and Statistics
Department of Statistics, University of Calcutta,
35 Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata 700019, India.
December 27-30, 2018
Web: triennial.calcuttastatisticalassociation.org
*Note: The deadline for submission of abstracts of papers for presentation in the 10th International Calcutta Triennial Symposium
(<http://triennial.calcuttastatisticalassociation.org/sympBrochure>) to be held in the University of Calcutta during December 27-30, 2018 has been extended to July 21, 2018.*

Interviewing Skills Workshop

Monday, 30th July
10:00-11:30 am;
F-Mackenzie II



A collaborative endeavor of

American Statistical Association

International Chinese Statistical Association

International Indian Statistical Association

Korean International Statistical Association

Join us at JSM2018!

This workshop is primarily for junior statisticians and graduate to meet, interact, and network with leaders and members of the statistics community while honing interviewing and resume writing skills to be more competitive in the statistics job market.

Highlights

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Amarjot Kaur, 2016 IISA President

Barry Nussbaum, 2017 ASA President

2. Speakers will share their hiring experiences, provide advice on searching for a job and the do's and don'ts of interviewing.

Amit Bhattacharyya, IISA President-elect

Moonjung Choo, KISS Board of Directors

Aiyi Liu, ICSA President

David Morganstein, 2015 ASA President

3. Deep dive into the topics during the breakout session with session leaders:

Amit Bhattacharyya (ACI Clinical)

Moonjung Cho (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Amarjot Kaur (Merck Research Labs)

SeonJin Kim (Miami University)

Mimi Kim (Albert Einstein Institute)

Subrata Kundu (George Washington University)

Mei-Ling Ting Lee (University of Maryland)

Aiyi Liu (NIH/NICHD)

David Morganstein (Westat)

Heping Zhang (Yale University)

For more information and free registration visit

<https://sites.google.com/nonlinearlearning.org/jsm2018asianinitiative/home>