IISA SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

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IISA 2021 Summer Conference
May 20-23, 2021
https://www.intindstat.org/summerConference2021/index

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Message from Ansu Chatterjee, President of IISA

Hello Friends.

As I compose this message to the IISA community, I am forced to reflect on the past fifteen months or so, and bring up thoughts and emotions that had been deliberately pushed back. I look back at the fantastic annual IISA conference we had at IIT-Bombay in the last days of 2019. Immediately, the planning started for the 2021 conference: on the days of the 2019 conference, on our rides from IIT-Bombay to Mumbai airport, then on the terminals and various departure gates as we made our way out of Mumbai. Meanwhile, the fabulous preparation that was going on below the radar for the 2020 conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) gathered strength and broke cover, and the frenetic pace of work that is required to the run-up to any conference was initiated by the 2020 conference committee, IISA office bearers, and some of UIC staff, students and faculty.

And then of course, Covid-19 hit.

Not just IISA or the statistical community, but human beings from every walk of life, all over the world. Humanity is still counting its dead: as I write this, the second surge of Covid-19 cases in India and some other countries is resulting in many more infections and casualties. Many of us have lost people close to us due to Covid-19, one of the latest casualties being Professor Hukum Chandra of IASRI, India, a winner of the National Award in Statistics from India, the Cochran-Hansen Award and several other awards. Many others have lost their lives due to co-morbidities, or lack of adequate treatment facilities and resources. And yet, flat earth-ism is vociferously amongst us: many are denying the existence of Covid-19, several are denying vaccines, yet other are claiming that the cause of Covid-19 is technological advancements. Politicians worldwide have competed with each other to rise to the top of the inefficiency and incompetency charts. Many of these individuals have been established their malfeasant credentials and over the decades, and their quite significant numbers of supporters admire and rejoice in such malfeasance. In my neck of the woods, an African-American gentleman by the name of George Floyd was murdered by the police in broad daylight in the presence of many onlookers. The banality of evil overrides humanity in so

many ways, and such acts of violence and hatred are not considered aberrations in many parts of the world.

Yet amongst all these, statisticians and other scientists have risen to the task of taking the fight to the virus. Vaccines against Covid-19 have been developed and deployed, and in the process, significant advancement of knowledge made on many fronts, including biosciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, public health, and data sciences. Many in the IISA community have contributed to these efforts in various capacities, as have members of other scientific organizations and disciplines. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud all the scientists, public health workers and associated staff who have been at the forefront of battling the Covid-19 crises in all parts of the world. In particular, I applaud the IISA scientists working in the pharmaceutical industries, and governmental public health organizations for leading the effort in their respective fields. Many academic statistician members of IISA also took time off their regular research agenda and worked on Covid-19 related problems, and actively mentored students and assistants throughout these trying times, I applaud them. This is also the time to congratulate the IISA members who were elected to fellowship and won awards and plaudits from various sister societies.

Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the IISA conference that was planned to be held physically at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 2020 is now organized as a virtual conference hosted by UIC, to be held on May 20-23, 2021. This is promising to be a wonderful event with multiple high-profile talks; I look forward to attending this conference and learning from the distinguished speakers, both young and old. Following the main technical conference, on the last day there is a memorial session to reminisce about Dr. Hukum Chandra, followed by a general body meeting.

We hope to resume in person events in 2022, assuming life gets back to normal in many parts of the world. But before that, we are planning to organize at least one more virtual event, with short courses, some technical sessions and the Young Statistical Scientists Awards. Preparations are already underway for these activities.

The pause in our regular activities due to Covid-19 has given us the opportunity to do some very necessary housekeeping and updating work. We have recently inaugurated a new website (please check http://intindstat.org/), and in response to demands from various members we have created a virtual platform for IISA interest groups using a Slack workspace. This Slack workspace takes advantage of modern communication and networking technologies and can be accessed with a smart phone, iPad and similar devices, or computers. Apart from discussions on technical and practical aspects of statistics and data science, we also use Slack for announcing news and events, job postings and so on. There is a also a channel in the IISA Slack workspace for discussing and debating controversial topics. If you are not yet a member of our Slack workspace, please join us at https://join.slack.com/t/international-ale1861/shared_invite/zt-mlu6xyfb-nek4crzVZFhxQj3B9K6muQ.

We are also working on other ways of engaging with the membership, and facilitating their participation in various statistics and data science related activities. We would also like to reach out to statistics and data science students and college and university faculty from different parts of the world, and especially from India, to engage with them with pedagogy and training. Additionally, we would like to engage with data scientists, machine learning and artificial intelligence experts, in industry as well as in academia. I am in the process of setting up three special task forces that will work with our Membership and Outreach committee to address these challenges. Note that student membership in IISA is free, and we hope many students will avail themselves of the opportunities and resources IISA offers. We hope that by end of 2021, several of our training and engagement activities would be up and running.

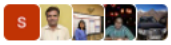
Our other important regular activities include catching up with our legal and financial responsibilities, working on a code of conduct in alignment with other professional societies, and working with other statistical societies and organizations for advancing our professor and discipline and joint planning of future activities and goals. These activities can be onerous, and I would like to thank all the office-bearers and committee members of IISA who volunteer their time and effort for these mission-critical tasks, almost always remaining behind the scenes. Organizations like IISA can function because of the voluntary and selfless service that many of you provide, I sincerely thank you for that.

Wishing you all the best!

Ansu Chatterjee,

President, International Indian Statistical Association

International_Indian_Statistical_Association-(IISA)



68 members

Please connect with the IISA community on our Slack channel for receiving regular updates, news and building your professional network: Link to join:
https://join.slack.com/t/international-ale1861/shared_invite/zt-mlu6xyfb-nek4crzVZFhxQj3B9K6muQ
IISA student membership is completely free!

Please visit our membership page: https://www.intindstat.org/membership

2021 IISA Honors and Awards

This year IISA will be giving two awards. The IISA Lifetime Achievement Award (LTA) and the IISA Young Statistical Scientist Awards. Call for nominations will be sent to the IISA community in June 2021. The awards will be announced in December 2021 and the recipients will be honored during the 2022 IISA conference.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes distinguished members of the association who represent 'models of excellence' to the IISA members. Specifically, the award recognizes outstanding contributions to the theory, methods and application of statistics including probability, data science and technology (research, innovation, and leadership) by IISA members including India Chapter members. The award also recognizes innovative contributions to the statistics profession through significant impact on matters of societal concern on health, safety, environment, economic development and welfare. The LAA is the highest professional award conferred by IISA bestowed to its members.

Young Statistical Scientist Awards (YSSA) recognize outstanding contributions made by junior members of IISA in each of the areas of Theory and Methods, Applications, and Statistical Practice. Eligible candidates must be currently engaged in research in statistics, theoretical or applied, and/or have contributed significantly to the profession of statistics through collaboration and leadership roles in an industrial or governmental forum. Nominees must either be a LIFE member or an active member of IISA for at least past two years at the time of nomination. Eligible candidates will be strictly under the age of 44 throughout the award calendar year (i.e., born on or after January 1, 1978). Candidates born in 1979 are **strongly** encouraged to apply.

Please note that the eligibility criterion is in a process of modification, as per past IISA resolutions. In 2022, candidates born after January 1, 1980 (i.e., under the age of 43 during the award calendar year) will be eligible. Our goal is to change the eligibility criterion so that candidates under the age of 41 during the award calendar year are eligible to make the YSSA consistent with similar awards given by the other associations.

For more details, please visit https://www.intindstat.org/honors-awards.
For questions please contact: awards@intindstat.org

The paper "Guan Q., Reich BJ., Laber EB., and Bandyopadhyay D. (2020). Bayesian Nonparametric Policy Search With Application to Periodontal Recall Intervals, Journal of the American Statistical Association, 115, 1066-1078" co-authored by our very own Dipankar Bandyopadhyay (Virginia Commonwealth University) is selected for the American Statistical Association's 2021 Outstanding Statistical Applications award. Award ceremony will be during the (online) 2021 JSM.

Congratulations, Dipankar Bandyopadhyay and co-authors!!

General Body Meeting

IISA is announcing a virtual general body meeting (GBM), on Sunday, May 23, 2021, on 10-12 noon Central Daylight Saving Time (11 AM-1PM Eastern daylight time, 8.30 PM-10.30 PM India time). This meeting follows right after the IISA-2021 virtual conference. All are invited to attend. Here are the details:

Topic: IISA GBM

When: May 23, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Advance registration is required. Register in advance for this webinar:

https://umn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w4TlNbtMQjWDoz9VNqp4VA

In Memoriam: Professor Hukum Chandra (1972 - 2021)

We express our heartfelt condolences at the sad and untimely demise of **Dr. Hukum Chandra,** ICAR-National Fellow & Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi, India who succumbed to Covid 19 and left for heavenly abode on 26 April morning at a very young age of 48 years. With his passing away, we have lost a good human being, a distinguished statistician and a dynamic mentor for many students. He did M.Sc. in Statistics from Delhi University in India and, a Ph.D. in Social Statistics from the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. He also conducted a post-doctoral research at the University of Wollongong in Australia. He worked on diverse areas of methodological and applied problems in statistics, including survey design and estimation methods; small area estimation; spatial models for survey data; statistical methodology for improvement in agricultural and livestock statistics. He was the elected member of International Statistical Institute, The Netherlands, Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), India, and Fellow of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics. He worked as Council Member of International Association of Survey Statisticians and as Consultant of FAO of the United Nations in Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and Myanmar. He published more than 110 research papers and four books, several technical bulletins, project reports, book chapter and working papers. He was the active member of the IISA and contributed a lot for the betterment of the society through his significant research contribution. The scientific fraternity and the students taught by him shall be immensely missing him. We pray that his noble soul may rest in eternal peace and give inner strength to the members of bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

~ Dr. Yogita Gharde

Scientist (Agricultural Statistics), ICAR-DWR, Maharajpur, Adhartal, Jabalpur

On behalf of the International Indian Statistical Association

Professor Hukum Chandra Memorial Session

IISA is organizing a virtual memorial session to celebrate his life and many contributions on May 23, 2021 at 11 AM Eastern US time (10 AM Central time, 8 AM Pacific time, 8.30 PM India time, 4 PM UK time).

In order to attend the virtual memorial session please register using the following link: https://umn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w4TlNbtMQjWDoz9VNqp4VA

The Registration is free, but required in advance. A system generated mail with more detailed instructions will be forwarded to the e-mail address used for registration.

This virtual memorial session will be followed by the general body meeting (GBM) of IISA, also accessible from the same link above. Attendees of the memorial session are welcome to stay on for the general body meeting as well, even if they are not members of the IISA. This memorial session and general body meeting is a part of IISA 2021 Conference (details: https://www.intindstat.org/summerConference2021/index), which requires a separate registration.

IISA Condemns Racism

The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Executive Committee strongly condemns the recent violent events that are deep-rooted in racism and hate directed towards Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the United States. We stand in support of AAPI, African-American, Native American, Indian-American, Latinx and other communities that have been victims of acts of violence and hatred in recent times. We acknowledge, support, and endorse the recent related statements from the American Statistical Association (https://t.ly/DmQN), the International Chinese Statistical Association (https://t.ly/pSiP), and the office of the President of the United States (https://t.ly/hrzQ).

We believe we speak for the entire IISA membership community and the broader community of Statistics and Data Science professionals in condemning racism and acts of violence in all forms in all parts of the world, regardless of the caste, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and political, religious or other persuasions of the perpetrators or of the victims. We value all human beings, and recognize the contributions of individuals from all communities that have benefitted all of humanity.

IISA Series on Statistics and Data Science

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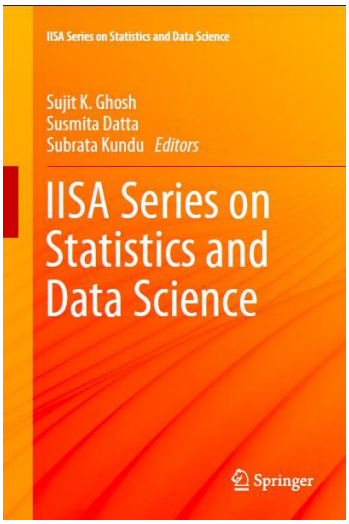

- Dr. Sujit K. Ghosh
  Department of Statistics, NC State University, Raleigh, USA
- Dr. Susmita Datta
  Department of Biostatistics, College of Public Health & Health Professions, College of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
- Dr. Subrata Kundu
  Department of Statistics, George Washington University, Washington D.C., USA

Aims and Scope

Aims and Scope: The book series is aimed at promoting the emerging research and case studies in the discipline of statistical science and cutting-edge computational data analytics by publishing books on theoretical foundations, computational techniques, methods, models and their applications. In addition to methodological research, the series will also include volumes on case studies that illustrate novel methods with applications to allied sciences including but not limited to biological, biomedical, epidemiological, engineering, finance, statistical learning and artificial intelligence. The books published within this series will be of interest not only to statisticians and researchers in academia but also to practitioners in industries and government institutions.

The series will encompass theoretical aspects of statistical methods, as well as innovative applications and their properties in the context of big data analytics, and data science, in general. The scope of the series will be broad based such that it can be used as a reference book of various topics of statistical instructions and advanced research monographs. A few volumes of this series will include articles presented by eminent researchers and practitioners at the annual conferences of the International Indian Statistical Association and will also include articles that provides comprehensive overview of some of the emerging and changing foci of statistical sciences and data analytics.

Submit your proposal for a new monograph or contributed volume in this series

Contact Your Publishing Team:

- **Nupoor Singh:** nupoor.singh@springer.com

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- Your name here …

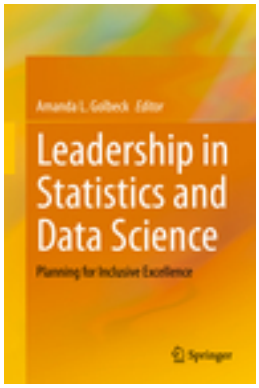
To become a lifetime member, please go to: https://www.intindstat.org/register

Member News

- The University of Michigan recently published Where Science Meets Humanity: A Story of Suffering and Love in India by Mousumi Banerjee (Anant M. Kshirsagar Collegiate Research Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan School of Public Health).

- Dr. R. Gangai Selvi, Assistant Professor (Statistics),Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India received a Reviewer Award Certificate from ISA Transactions, Elsevier.

- *Leadership in Statistics and Data Science: Planning for Inclusive Excellence*, edited by Dr. **Amanda L. Golbeck**, statistician, social scientist, and academic leader, explores the perspectives of academic thought leaders on diversity, equity and inclusion in Statistics and data science. The full press release is here: Leadership in Statistics and Data Science: Planning for Inclusive Excellence (springer.com)



Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

1. The Operational Research Society of India, Bangalore Chapter (ORSI-BC), Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and the Analytic Society of India (ASI), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore are organizing the 8th International Conference on Business Analytics and Intelligence (8th ICBAI) during December 20-22, 2021 at J.N. Tata Auditorium, IISc, Bangalore, INDIA.
   Important Note:
   (a) Subject to COVID condition around Nov./Dec. 2021, the 8th ICBAI will be conducted virtually (instead of offline) with a 40% reduction in registration fee.
   (b) Based on our earlier experiences in organizing the series of ICBAI, the 8th ICBAI event would have a minimum of12 invited talks (by analytics professionals from industry and academia) and about 350+ paper presentations (by analytics professionals from industry and academia)!

Update your contact information

Our membership portal is active now (https://www.intindstat.org/login). Members can login using their registered email addresses and update their profiles.

Statistics in the Era of Evidence Based Inference

International Indian Statistical Association

University of Illinois, Chicago

20 - 23 May, 2021

Virtual Conference

IISA 2021

WELCOME ADDRESS

Snigdhansu Chatterjee

On behalf of the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA), we are writing to welcome you to the IISA 2021 conference. This is the official meeting of IISA and provides IISA members and conference participants a unique opportunity to meet and exchange ideas. IISA membership is open to all. The IISA is a non-profit organization, with objectives:

(i) to promote education, research and application of statistics, probability and data science throughout the world with a special emphasis on the Indian subcontinent;

(ii) to foster the exchange of information and scholarly activities between various countries as well as among other national/international organizations for the development of Statistical Science;

(iii) to serve the needs of young statisticians and data scientists;

(iv) to encourage cooperative efforts among members in education, research, industry and business.

In the tradition of past IISA conferences, IISA 2021 is providing a forum for young researchers and leading experts to discuss recent progress in statistical theory, methodology and applications and integration with data science for *Statistics in The Era of Evidence based Inference*.

The conference is hosting two vibrant student paper competitions. Two groups of judges reviewed 35 student paper submissions and 10 selected students will present their research works in two oral competition sessions. The conference is also featuring a session organized by the Caucus for Women in Statistics.

IISA 2021 is featuring three Plenary Lectures, eight Special Invited Lectures and sixty-six invited sessions with close to 220 scientific presentations. The conference speakers and registered participants encompass at least three continents! It is a huge endeavor and we acknowledge the work and efforts of the session organizers, speakers, and faculty, staff and student volunteers at the local host University of Illinois, School of Public Health. The scientific program committee, the student paper committee and other IISA committees have been working tirelessly for the conference since planning began in August 2019.

Sanjib Basu

It is a somber moment in time when all of us, but especially some parts of the world including our colleagues in India, continue to greatly suffer from the COVID pandemic. IISA 2021 is dedicating a session to our colleague Dr. Chandra who passed away in April 2021 suffering from COVID-19 and to pay respect to the sufferings from COVID pandemic in the world.

We gratefully acknowledge support of the United States National Science foundation which helped us partially support conference registrations of United States participants. We also gratefully acknowledge support from Merck Sharp & Dohme, Kenilworth, NJ, USA and local organization support from University of Illinois, School of Public Health.

We welcome you again to this exciting and stimulating IISA 2021 conference

Snigdhansu Chatterjee
President, International Indian Statistical Association
Professor, School of Statistics, University of Minnesota

Sanjib Basu
Past President (2020), International Indian Statistical Association
Paul Levy and Virginia F. Tomasek Professor of Biostatistics
School of Public Health, University of Illinois Chicago

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Bodhisattva SEN, Columbia University
Shanthi SETHURAMAN, Eli Lilly and Co
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Robin SYLVESTER
and all members of UIC SPH

International Indian Statsitical Association:
Sanjib BASU, University of Illinois at Chicago
Snigdhansu CHATTERJEE, University of Minnesota
Jyotishka DATTA, Virginia Tech
Subrata KUNDU, George Washington University

UIC Biostatistics Student Volunteers:
Cecilia CHANG, Ruizhe CHEN, Yu-Che CHUNG, Avisek DATTA, Yan GAO, Shanta GHOSH, Sasha KRAVETS, Hesen LI, Jun LU, Xiaohan MEI, Debarghya NANDI, Hai NGUYEN, Soumya SAHU, Jieqi TU, Tong ZHANG.

Sponsorships and Endorsements:
National Science Foundation, USA and Merck Sharp & Dohme, Kenilworth, NJ, USA.

Cover Design: Jyotishka DATTA, Virginia Tech.

IISA Student Paper Competition 2021

Each year IISA conducts a student paper competition in the Probability/Theory/Methodology and Applied categories. This competition is focused on the students enrolled in an MS/PhD (or equivalent) program in Statistics or related fields. The winners are decided based on the submitted article where the student is the lead author and an oral presentation by the shortlisted students during the IISA conference.

For 2021 IISA student paper competition in the area of Probability/Theory/Methodology, we received eighteen very strong submissions. The topics of the submissions encompassed varied and diverse fields such as Bayesian statistics, network analysis, probability theory, high dimensional statistics and machine learning.

There were seventeen papers in the Applied category submitted by students from a myriad of institutions. Statistics was applied to various areas such as HIV/AIDS, air pollution, COVID-19, and gold futures markets. Novel study designs and analysis methods were both represented in the seventeen papers.

The judges recommended in total ten submissions, five from each categories for oral presentations. These presentations will be held on May 21, 2021.

Acknowledgement:

IISA would like to thank the following judges and the chairs of committees for their time and help in conducting the student paper competition:

- Soutir BANDYOPADHYAY, Colorado School of Mines
- Samprit BANERJEE, Cornell University in NYC, New York
- Sushama BENDRE, Indian Statistical Institute, Chennai
- Sharmodeep BHATTACHARYA, Department of Statistics, Oregon State University
- Shrabanti CHOWDHURY, Mount Sinai in NYC, New York
- Sumit MUKHERJEE, Department of Statistics, Columbia University
- Bhuvanesh PAREEK, Indian Institute of Management, Indore
- Debdeep PATI, Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University
- Sujata PATIL, Cleveland Clinic
- Bodhisattva SEN, Department of Statistics, Columbia University

Programme Overview

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IS 2 Recent advances in adaptive design clinical trials . . . 3
IS 3 Big Data and Modern Designs . . . 4
IS 4 Statistical methods and applications to problems related to management . . . 4
IS 5 On Some Recent Advances in Nonparametric Statistics . . . 4
IS 6 Advancements in spatio-temporal modeling under big-data framework . . . 5

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IS 8 Data Visualization . . . 5
IS 9 Advances in high-dimensional inference . . . 6
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14:45 - 16:00 CDT
IS 13 New developments in Statistics . . . 8
IS 14 Recent Advancement in Statistical and Computational Methods for Precision Medicine . . . 8
IS 15 Bayesian Machine Learning . . . 8
IS 16 Empirical Bayes Methodology . . . 9
IS 17 Recent Advances in Estimation theory . . . 9
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IS 33 Design and analysis in early-stage clinical trials 16
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