



# IISA Newsletter Summer 2013

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## Message from Cyrus Mehta President, IISA

Friends, this issue of the IISA Newsletter is overflowing with good news. Three of our members have received prestigious awards. Professor Kanti Mardia will receive the Samuel S. Wilks medal, the ASA's most prestigious award, at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Montreal. Professor Jayaram Sethuraman will receive the Gottfried Noether Award for outstanding contributions with emphasis on nonparametric methods, also at JSM. These awards recognize senior statisticians for a lifetime of outstanding achievements. But the younger generation has not been left out. Professor Debashis Ghosh has won the Mortimer Spiegelman Award of the American Public Health Association, granted to a leading biostatistician under the age of 40. The party is not over. Our two most famous Raos -- C.R. and J.N.K. -- are receiving honorary doctorates.

We shall have much to celebrate in Montreal. Please come to the General Body Meeting, the IISA Mixer and the various IISA sponsored invited and contributed sessions. The details of these activities are in this newsletter. As usual we will have an IISA Table with information about our activities and future programs such as the IISA-2014 Conference in Riverside, CA. We hope that many of you will volunteer some of your time at JSM to sit at the IISA Table, greet visitors, hand out information and provide membership details. It is an excellent way to get to know our professional colleagues, make new friends, and increase our membership. Please email Sowmya (sowmya.rao@umassmed.edu) if you wish to volunteer.

**Editors: Cyrus Mehta, Sowmya R Rao**

## Call for editorial volunteers...

For more Info Contact  
Sowmya R Rao  
Sowmya.Rao@umassmed.edu



Palais des congrès de Montréal, site of JSM 2013

As you know, 2013 has been designated the year of statistics. The IISA has participated in several ways. We kicked off the year with our International Conference on Science, Statistics and Society in Chennai. Then our own Dr. Anil Gore wrote a jingle, "Ode to Statistics", in Marathi. It was so popular that at ASA's suggestion an English version was created and posted on the home page of the International Year of Statistics website. Links to both versions are provided on the next page. IISA is supporting an important conference on the Future of Statistical Sciences, organized by the five societies that founded the International Year of Statistics. It is scheduled for mid-November in London. Attendance is by invitation only. Thanks to IISA's support, the ASA will get a statistician from India to the workshop. Details of this event are available at <http://www.statistics2013.org/introduction-to-the-future-of-statistical-sciences-workshop/>.

**Cyrus Mehta** (President, IISA)

## Honors and Awards

### The Samuel S. Wilks Medal

**Professor Kanti Mardia**



The Wilks Medal will be awarded to **Professor Kanti Mardia** by the American Statistical Association at the Joint Statistics Meetings to be held in Montreal in August 2013. The Samuel S. Wilks Award, one of the ASA's most prestigious,

was established in 1964 to honor the memory and distinguished career of Samuel S. Wilks. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to statistics that carry on in the spirit of his work. The Wilks Memorial Award is bestowed upon a distinguished individual who has made statistical contributions to the advancement of scientific or technical knowledge, ingenious application of existing knowledge, or successful activity in the fostering of cooperative scientific efforts that have been directly involved in matters of national defense or public interest.

Professor Kanti Mardia is currently Senior Research Professor at Leeds University. His wide-ranging research interests include Directional Statistics, Multivariate Analysis, Shape Analysis and Spatial Statistics with emphasis on interdisciplinary research. Currently he has been focusing on new Statistics of Structural Bioinformatics. He was recipient of the RSS Silver Medal in 2003. Professor Mardia is the founder and the current Chairman of the Leeds Annual Statistical Research (LASR)

workshops which will have the 32nd Workshop this year, 2-4 July. Various biographical details up to 2000 can be found in the full-length interview in the scientific journal "Statistical Science", entitled "A Conversation with Kanti Mardia", (2002), vol. 17, pages 113-148. The latest biographical details are on Home Page: <http://www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/~sta6kvm/index.html>

### The Noether Award

**Professor Jayaram Sethuraman**

Presented to **Professor Jayaram Sethuraman** for his pioneering theoretical and methodological research in a very broad field of statistical science with emphasis on nonparametric



Bayesian Analysis, reliability theory and Dirichlet processes, for his lifelong accomplishment in teaching and mentoring a large number of outstanding advisees in diverse fields of research.

The Noether Awards were established in 1999 as a tribute to Gottfried Emanuel Noether, who died on August 22, 1991. His wife, Emiliana Noether, and daughter, Monica Noether, presented the American Statistical Association with an endowment fund to recognize distinguished researchers and teachers and to support research in the field of nonparametric statistics. Noether was

a leading scholar in nonparametric statistics with interests in research and teaching. He was head of the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, for 14 years. Before that, he was professor of mathematics and statistics at Boston University for 15 years.

Jayaram (Sethu) Sethuraman obtained his Ph. D. from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata, India in 1962. From 1962 to 1965 he worked as a post doc at UNC, MSU and Stanford. He returned to the ISI in 1965 and joined Florida State University (FSU) in 1968 and retired in 2004. He continues with his research and publications.

Sethu's work has encompassed several areas of probability and statistics - asymptotic theory, Bayes risk efficiency, nonparametric methods, sequential analysis, large deviations, reliability theory, image analysis. He established the LDP for processes with independent increments under less restrictive conditions on the moment generating function of increments. He obtained strong LDP properties for general random variables. His papers on majorization are useful in reliability theory. His constructive definition of Dirichlet priors has found lots of applications.

He is a retired life member of the IMS, ASA and the AMS. He is an elected member of the ISI. He has received the Fulbright fellowship twice. He retired a Lawton Distinguished professor. He won the Bharghavi Award, the C. R. Rao Award and the Army Wilks Award. His hobbies include writing Sanskrit poetry.

## The Mortimer Spiegelman Award

Debashis Ghosh



The Mortimer Spiegelman Award of the American Statistical Association has been awarded to **Debashis Ghosh**, Professor of Statistics and Public Health Sciences at Penn State University. This award is given

to a leading biostatistical/public health researcher under the age of 40 who has made fundamental contributions in methodological and collaborative research. The award will be presented at the 2013 APHA meeting in November.

## Elected to Office:

- Dr. Prabhakar Rao has been elected a member of Executive Committee 2012-13 of The Econometric Society of India (TIES).
- Dr. Sounak Chakraborty has been elected as president of the ASA Mid-Missouri Chapter for the Year 2013.

The award is named in honor of demographer, actuary, and biostatistician Mortimer Spiegelman (1901-1969), who made exceptional contributions to public health statistics. His contributions have continued posthumously through the Mortimer Spiegelman Award of the APHA Statistics Section, presented annually since 1970 to an outstanding public health statistician under age 40. The award serves three purposes: to honor the outstanding achievements of both the recipient and Spiegelman, to encourage further involvement in public health of the finest young statisticians, and to increase awareness of APHA and the Statistics Section in the academic statistical community.

Debashis is currently Professor of Statistics at Penn State. He received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of Washington in 2000, was an Assistant and Associate Professor at University of Michigan from 2001 to 2007 and Associate and Full Professor at Penn State. He has published over 140 articles in leading scientific and statistical journals, including JASA, JRSS-B, Biometrics, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics. He works in a variety of research areas, including statistical methods for high-throughput data analysis, procedures for evaluation of biomarkers, multiple testing, machine learning methods and more recently, causal inference. He serves or has served as an associate editor for 13 journals in statistics and bioinformatics. He has graduated nine Ph.D. students, of whom seven have gone on to faculty positions. He also has served on the Biostatistical Methods and Research Design (BMRD) study section for the National Institutes of Health and will serve as its chair for 2013 – 2015.

## Fun Link: Statistics Jingle

Marathi

<http://www.cytel.com/pdfs/MarathiSTATISTICJINGLE-FULL.mp3>

English

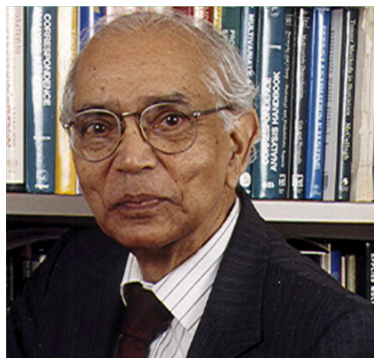
<http://www.statistics2013.org/2013/04/03/sing-along-to-the-ode-to-statistics-song/>



## Honorary Doctorate

**Calyampudi R. Rao**

A SUNY honorary doctorate has been presented to Professor **Calyampudi R. Rao**, a National Medal of



Science winner and professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University. [http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/campus/campus-host-page.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/simpson\\_norton\\_medal.detail.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/campus/campus-host-page.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/simpson_norton_medal.detail.html)

## Honorary Doctorate

**J. N .K. Rao**

An Honorary Doctorate (Laurea Honoris Causa) by the Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Piacenza, Italy was awarded to Professor J. N .K. Rao, Distinguished Research Professor at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada at a special ceremony on March 20, 2013. Professor Rao delivered a lecture entitled "Impact of sample surveys on social sciences" after receiving the award.



## Featured Programs



**2013 Joint  
Statistical  
Meetings**  
August 3-8, 2013  
**Montréal, Québec,  
Canada,**

Palais des congrès de Montréal

Montréal, Québec, Canada,

Conference website:

<http://amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2013/index.cfm>

Contact e-mail address: [meetings@amstat.org](mailto:meetings@amstat.org)

### IISA Events at JSM in Montreal

#### Meetings

**Executive Committee Meeting** (closed).

6 PM - 7 PM. August 5, 2013.

**General Body Meeting and Mixer** (open to all).

7 PM - 8:30 PM August 5, 2013

Room 510c at Palais des congrès de Montréal

### Program

IISA is the main sponsor of 2 Invited sessions, 2 Topics-contributed sessions and 1 Regular contributed session at the JSM. IISA is also co-sponsoring several sessions, including a memorial session in honor of Kesar Singh. We encourage IISA members and friends to attend these sessions. Details may be seen by clicking on "Search by Sponsor" on this website: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2013/onlineprogram/>

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

# 2014 International Indian Statistical Association

July 11-13, 2013

Riverside, California



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

Friday, July 11- Sunday, July 13, 2014

Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, California,

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

Planning on about 40 invited sessions is underway and soon will be posted on the conference website: <http://2014iisa.intindstat.org>. If you wish to present your work at 2014-IISA, please contact the program committee chair Dr. Nilanjan Chatterjee at [chattern@mail.nih.gov](mailto:chattern@mail.nih.gov).

Hotel rooms at special rates. Please contact your preferred hotel from the information on conference website. Two hotels are adjacent to the convention center.

Riverside is the home of UCR: University of California, Riverside and its Department of Statistics, <http://www.ucr.edu> and <http://statistics.ucr.edu>.

Riverside Convention Center is located in downtown Riverside and is about 4.5 miles from UCR.

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

**ALL SHORT COURSE PROPOSALS ARE  
WELCOME AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED  
TO DR. NILANJAN CHATTERJEE BY  
JUNE 30, 2013.**

## Future Programs

### International conference on "Role of Statistics in the advancement of Science and Technology"

organized by the Department of Statistics, University of Pune on the occasion of "Diamond Jubilee Year of the Department of Statistics" & "The International Year of Statistics".

Pune, Maharashtra, India

**December 16-18, 2013**

<http://stats.unipune.ac.in/brochure.pdf>

Contact e-mail address: [stats.unipune@gmail.com](mailto:stats.unipune@gmail.com)

### Statistics 2013 International Conference: Socio- Economic Challenges and Sustainable Solutions

CR RAO Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, University of Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad, India

**December 28-31, 2013**

[statistics2013-conference.org.in](http://statistics2013-conference.org.in)

### Ordered Data Analysis, Models and health Research Methods: An International Conference in Honor of H. N. Nagaraja for His 60th Birthday will be held at The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX, USA

**March 7th - 9th, 2014.**

<http://faculty.smu.edu/ngh/hnnconf.html>.

### 11th International Conference on Ordered Statistical Data

Bedlewo, Poland

**June 2nd to June 6, 2014.**

<http://bcc.impan.pl/14OrderStat/>

### The third IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meetings

Howard International House

Taipei, Taiwan

**June 30 (Monday) - July 3 (Thursday), 2014.**

<http://www.ims-aprm2014.tw/>

For more information, contact the program chairs: Byeong U. Park ([bupark@stats.snu.ac.kr](mailto:bupark@stats.snu.ac.kr)) and Feifang Hu ([fh6e@virginia.edu](mailto:fh6e@virginia.edu)).

# Obituary

## **Dr. Dayanand N. Naik:** (1952-2012)

Dayanand N. Naik, who was a Professor of Statistics at Old Dominion University in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, passed away on Friday, October 26, 2012, after a three-year battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sujatha, and his two sons, Naveen, 16, and Rishi, 10, in Virginia Beach, VA.



Dayanand was born on January 1, 1952 in Hillur, a small village in the state of Karnataka, India, to a family of hard-working farmers who owned a small plot of land. His parents were very particular about the education of their children, and since Dayanand was an exceptional student, they were determined to send him to college. Upon completing his MS in Statistics at Karnataka University, he served as a lecturer at Karnataka College for a year and then moved to the Indian Statistical Institute to work on his PhD. At the suggestion of Prof. S. Rao Jammalamadaka, he transferred to the University of Pittsburgh to obtain his PhD under Prof. C. R. Rao, completing it in 1985. Afterward, he joined Old Dominion University as a faculty member and remained there throughout his academic career.

Dayanand was an active researcher working in the areas of linear models, multivariate analysis, and statistical inference. He comfortably switched back and forth between the theoretical and applied research of these areas. He wrote many influential articles on detection of outliers, random effect models, growth curve models, repeated measures and longitudinal data, familial correlations, and graphical methods -- especially those related to correspondence analysis. Many of these articles have been widely referred to in many published textbooks. Two applied textbooks on multivariate analysis, which he coauthored with R. Khattree and were published in 1995 and 2000, are still regarded as important references for applied researchers. In addition, in 2008, he co-edited a book volume titled "Computational Methods for Biomedical Research" with R. Khattree that contains the novel research work useful for biomedical researchers. At Old Dominion University, he had advised more than ten students on their PhD dissertations on a variety of topics.

Dayanand was a fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He was a life member of the International Indian Statistical Association, and served the association as the Treasurer and on various committees. He was also a very active member of the Virginia Academy of Sciences.

We will miss his outstanding research efforts, his valuable mentorship, and his incredibly caring and kind soul. As we mourn his loss, we are reminded of what Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 6, Verse 30):

Yo maam pashyati sarvatra, sarvam ch mayi pashyati.  
Tasyaaham na pranashyaami, sa ch me na pranashyati.

Which translates to "He who sees Me in everything and everything in Me, to him, I am never lost, nor is he ever lost to Me."

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in memory of Dr. Naik, please contact Ms. Michele Catalano, Development Officer for the College of Sciences at Old Dominion University, at [mcatalano@odu.edu](mailto:mcatalano@odu.edu) or (757) 683-5552.

N. Rao Chaganty and Ravi Khattree





# Statistics 2013 International Conference

December 28-31, 2013



## CR RAO Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science

Prof. CR Rao Road, University of Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad, AP 500046, India

### CONFERENCE THEME

## Socio-Economic Challenges and Sustainable Solutions

### CONFERENCE TOPICS

#### Statistical Methods for Risk Analysis in Economics and Finance

- Economic Development
- Econometrics
- Big Data Analytics and Data Mining

#### Bioinformatics and Biostatistics

- Advances in Bioinformatics
- Biometrics and Biosecurity
- Clinical Statistics
- Epidemiology and Public Health

#### Advances in Statistics and Probability and Applications

- Advances in Statistics and Probability
- Quality Control and Reliability
- Sampling and Design
- Game theory

#### Applications of Statistics for Social Issues

- Applications in Fraud Detection
- Data Security
- Public Education of Statistics
- History of Statistics and Official Statistics

#### Statistical methods in management of Energy, Water and Food

- Renewable Energy
- Water Management
- Food Processing
- Soil Pollution

#### Applications of Statistics in Environmental Issues

- Monsoon Prediction
- Climate Change
- Global Warming
- Waste Management
- Spatial and Temporal Data Analysis

### CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**Conference homepage:** [statistics2013-conference.org.in](http://statistics2013-conference.org.in)

**Conference mail:** [stat2013@cr Raoaimscs.res.in](mailto:stat2013@cr Raoaimscs.res.in)

**Institute homepage:** [cr Raoaimscs.org](http://cr Raoaimscs.org)

**The International Year of Statistics:** [statistics2013.org](http://statistics2013.org)

