



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics

FAST FACTS

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the world's largest community of statisticians and the second oldest, continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

The ASA mission is to promote excellence in the application of statistical science across the wealth of human endeavor, specifically to:

- support excellence in statistical practice, research, journals, and meetings
- work for the improvement of statistical education at all levels
- promote the proper application of statistics
- anticipate and meet member needs
- use the discipline of statistics to enhance human welfare
- seek opportunities to advance the statistics profession

Membership

Today, ASA serves 18,000 members in the U.S., Canada, and around the world. In government, academia, and the private sector, ASA members apply their expertise to diverse and vital areas that include:

- research in medical areas such as AIDS
- environmental risk assessment
- the development of new therapeutic drugs
- the exploration of space
- quality assurance in industry
- the examination of social issues such as the homeless and the poor
- analytic research on current business problems and economic forecasting
- the setting of standards for statistics used at all levels of government
- the promotion and development of statistical education for the public and the profession, and
- the expansion of methods and the use of computers and graphics to advance the science of statistics

Organizational Structure

ASA is organized in Sections, Chapters, and Committees. Chapters are arranged geographically, representing 78 areas across the US and Canada. Sections are subject-area and industry-area interest groups covering 24 sub-disciplines. ASA has more than 60 committees coordinating meetings, publications, education, careers, and special-interest topics involving statisticians.

Key Activities

Meetings – ASA sponsors meetings and workshops around the United States, including the [Joint Statistical Meetings](#) (JSM) and many smaller, more specialized regional meetings.

Publications – ASA publishes scholarly journals, general interest magazines, statistical research guides, informational brochures, membership information, and books of interest to statisticians.

Education – ASA sponsors educational programs and meetings to enrich statistical knowledge and is an active participant in K-12 education initiatives involving statistics and mathematics.

Career Services – ASA provides assistance in all aspects of career planning, placement, and enhancement through information, salary surveys, online job ads, and career development tools.

Awards, Scholarships and other Honors – ASA acknowledges and recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to statistics or the association by sponsoring awards, honors, and fellowships.

Accreditation – Established in 2010, ASA's accreditation program is modeled after programs in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Accreditation is a portfolio-based credential that is renewable every five years. Accreditation is voluntary; applicants seek accreditation because they believe the credential is worthwhile to them, but it is not a requirement for practice.

Advocacy – ASA, through its Science Policy department, conducts a variety of activities to raise the profile of statistics in policymaking discussions and advocate on matters of interest to statisticians.

Contact Information:

732 North Washington Street
Alexandria VA 22314
Phone: 703.684.1221
Fax: 703.684.6456
URL: <http://www.amstat.org>
Email: publicaffairs@amstat.org

Key Personnel:

President: Nancy L. Geller
President-elect: Robert N. Rodriguez
Past President: Sastry Pantula
Executive Director: Ron Wasserstein
Director of Operations: Stephen Porzio
Director of Programs: Martha Aliaga
Public Affairs Specialist: Rosanne Desmone
Communications Manager: Megan Murphy

Newsroom URL:

<http://www.amstat.org/about/newsroom.cfm>



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics

LEADERSHIP BIOS

Nancy L. Geller, President, Board of Directors

Dr. Geller is director, Office of Biostatistics Research, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, at the National Institutes of Health. Her major statistical activities include design of and methodology for clinical trials with primary applications in cardiovascular diseases and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; statistical genetics. She is an ASA Fellow and member of the Data and Safety Monitoring Board for Frequent Hemodialysis Network, National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Robert N. Rodriguez, President-elect, Board of Directors

Robert N. Rodriguez is Director of Statistical Software Research & Development at SAS Institute. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He received his Ph.D. in statistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977. Prior to joining SAS in 1983, Dr. Rodriguez was a staff research scientist at General Motors Research Laboratories. Dr. Rodriguez is an adjunct professor in the Department of Statistics and Operations Research at the University of North Carolina. He has served as an elected officer of the ASA Section on Physical & Engineering Sciences, and he serves on the editorial boards of *The American Statistician* and the *Journal of Quality Technology*.

Sastry Pantula, Past President, Board of Directors

Dr. Pantula is director, Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS), National Science Foundation. He is the former head and a full professor, Department of Statistics, and Director, Institute of Statistics, North Carolina State University. He is an ASA Fellow and a member of IMS, ISI, ENAR, IISA, ICOSA, Phi Kappa Phi, SIAM, Sigma Xi, and Mu Sigma Rho. His fields of major statistical activity are time series, linear models, and quality control. Dr. Pantula has been an editorial board member of the *Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice* since 2007 and is the NISS treasurer.

Christy Chuang-Stein, Vice President

Dr. Chuang-Stein is the executive director of the Statistical Research and Consulting Center, Pfizer Inc. She formerly held the position of director of Statistics and Programming, Michigan, Pharmacia and Upjohn Company. Her fields of major statistical activity are adaptive designs, benefit-risk assessment, multiregional trials, on-the-job training of statisticians, multiple co-primary endpoints, noninferiority trials, phase III success probability, and safety evaluations. She is an ASA Fellow and was the 2005 recipient of the ASA Excellence in Continuing Education Award. Dr. Chuang-Stein is a member of special emphasis panels to review grants submitted to the National Institutes of Health.

Roderick Little, Vice President

Dr. Little is a professor, Departments of Biostatistics & Statistics, and research professor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. He also is the Richard D. Remington Collegiate Professor of Biostatistics. He specializes in methods for the analysis of complex sample survey data and data with missing values, applications of statistics to public health, medicine, government, psychology, psychiatry, and the social sciences.

Mary H. Mulry, Vice President

Mary Mulry is principal researcher, Statistical Research Division, U.S. Census Bureau; and adjunct assistant professor, Biostatistics Department, School of Public Health, University of North Texas. She has authored a number of journal articles and fields of major statistical activity include sampling, nonsampling, error modeling and measurement, variance estimation, and survey research methods.

Ronald L. Wasserstein, Executive Director

Dr. Wasserstein is the executive director of the American Statistical Association. From 1984-2007, Wasserstein served as a faculty member and administrator at Washburn University. From 2000-2007 he was the university's Vice President for Academic Affairs. Wasserstein has been active as a volunteer in the ASA for more than 20 years, and is an ASA Fellow. His fields of major statistical activity are statistical education and statistical consulting. He joined the ASA staff as executive director in 2007.



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics

HISTORY OF THE ASA

What do Florence Nightingale, Alexander Graham Bell, Herman Hollerith, Andrew Carnegie, and Martin Van Buren have in common?

These historical figures all were members of the American Statistical Association (ASA), the second oldest [170 years], continuously operating professional association in the country. Since it was founded in Boston one wintry November morning in 1839, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. The association today continues a long tradition of promoting excellence in statistics and in its application to the frontiers of science, from biological to socio-economic to the physical sciences.

The ASA was formed at a meeting in the rooms of the American Education Society in Boston and was chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Present at the organizing meeting were William Cogswell, teacher, fund-raiser for the ministry, and genealogist; Richard Fletcher, lawyer and U.S. Congressman; John Dix Fisher, physician and pioneer in medical reform; Oliver Peabody, lawyer, clergyman, poet, and editor; and Lemuel Shattuck, statistician, genealogist, publisher, and author of perhaps the most significant single document in the history of public health to that date. By 1841, ASA was already an energetic society with a roster of 109 members, including U.S. President Martin Van Buren and the others mentioned in the sub-head above.

From the ASA's inception, the association has had a close affiliation with the statistical work of the U.S. government, particularly the Bureau of the Census. As early as 1844, ASA recommended to Congress that the Sixth Census "be revised and a new and accurate copy be published." In those early years, the heads of the Census were generally ASA members or officers. John B. D. DeBow, superintendent of the Seventh Census, was an ASA member. Francis A. Walker directed the Ninth Census and initiated the Tenth Census. Carroll D. Wright worked on finishing the Eleventh Census. The first director of the permanent census office was S. N. D. North, the sixth president of ASA and the first to serve a one-year term (1910). The current census director, Robert Groves, is a long-time ASA member.

Statistical work in government and business stimulated much expansion after World War I, including the founding of the first local chapters of the association. From 1920--1943, 22 chapters were formed across the country. Generally, these chapters were located in large cities, such as Washington (DC), Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. In addition, groups were formed in state capitals such as Albany, New York, and Austin, Texas, and at universities, such as the University of Illinois. Today ASA has 78 chapters serving its members all across the country. They vary in composition and size, ranging from groups of less than 50 members to one with over 1,000 members.

In 1939, ASA celebrated its 100th anniversary, and events were held in Boston and Philadelphia. Membership reached an all-time high of more than 3,000. Some declines occurred, however, during the war years, and ASA's activities slowed, resulting in the cancellation of the 1942 and 1943 annual meetings. Following the war, the activities and membership of the association expanded rapidly in response to the many advances in science. The Business and Economic Statistics Section was established in 1950, followed by the Social Sciences Section and the Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences in 1954.

More information may be found in ***ASA: The First 160 Years***, which can be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.amstat.org/about/first160years.cfm>.



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics

SECTIONS OF THE ASA

ASA sections are groups developed to further the objectives of the association in a field of statistical methods, theory, or applications. They are subject-area and/or industry-area related, covering 24 sub-disciplines. The scope of each section is sufficiently broad to represent active professional interests of a substantial segment of the association.

Click the name of a section below to read a brief description of it. You also can link to the section's web site from the description.

[Bayesian Statistical Science](#)

[Biometrics](#)

[Biopharmaceutical](#)

[Business and Economic Statistics](#)

[Government Statistics](#)

[Health Policy Statistics](#)

[Nonparametric](#)

[Physical and Engineering Sciences](#)

[Quality and Productivity](#)

[Risk Analysis](#)

[Social Statistics](#)

[Statistical Computing](#)

[Statistical Consulting](#)

[Statistical Education](#)

[Statistical Graphics](#)

[Statistical Learning and Data Mining](#)

[Statistical Programmers and Analysts](#)

[Statistics and the Environment](#)

[Statistics in Defense and National Security](#)

[Statistics in Epidemiology](#)

[Statistics in Marketing](#)

[Statistics in Sports](#)

[Survey Research Methods](#)

[Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences](#)



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics

Publications of the American Statistical Association

Journals

Journal of the American Statistical Association (JASA)

Established in 1888 and published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, the *Journal of the American Statistical Association (JASA)* has long been considered the premier journal of statistical science. Articles focus on statistical applications, theory, and methods in economic, social, physical, engineering, and health sciences and on new methods of statistical education. Important books contributing to statistical advancement are reviewed in *JASA*.

<http://pubs.amstat.org/loi/jasa>

The American Statistician (TAS)

Published quarterly by the American Statistical Association, *The American Statistician* contains timely, general-interest articles about current national and international statistical problems and programs, organized into the following sections: Statistical Practice, General Topics, Teacher's Corner, History Corner, Interdisciplinary, Statistical Computing and Graphics, Reviews of Books and Teaching Materials, and Letters to the Editor.

<http://pubs.amstat.org/loi/tas>

Journal of Business and Economic Statistics (JBES)

JBES publishes a range of articles, primarily applied statistical analyses of microeconomic, macroeconomic, forecasting, business, and finance related topics. More general papers in statistics, econometrics, computation, simulation, or graphics are also appropriate if immediately applicable to the journal's general topics of interest. Articles published in *JBES* contain significant results, high-quality methodological content, excellent exposition, and usually include a substantive empirical application.

<http://pubs.amstat.org/loi/jbes>

Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research

Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research (SBR) publishes articles that focus on the needs of researchers and applied statisticians in biopharmaceutical industries; academic biostatisticians from schools of medicine, veterinary medicine, public health, and pharmacy; statisticians and quantitative analysts working in regulatory agencies (e.g., U.S. Food and Drug Administration and its counterpart in other countries); statisticians with an interest in adopting methodology presented in this journal to their own fields; and non-statisticians with an interest in applying statistical methods to biopharmaceutical problems.

<http://pubs.amstat.org/loi/sbr>

Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics (JCGS)

The purpose of *JCGS* is to improve and extend the use of computational and graphical methods in statistics and data analysis. Established in 1992, this journal contains cutting-edge research, data, surveys, and more on numerical graphical displays and methods, and perception. Articles are written for readers who have a strong background in statistics but are not necessarily experts in computing. Published quarterly, *JCGS* is jointly published by the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the Interface Foundation of North America.

<http://pubs.amstat.org/loi/jcgs>

Journal of Statistics Education (JSE)

The *Journal of Statistics Education* is an online-only journal that includes articles focusing on improving statistics education at all levels, including elementary, secondary, post-secondary, post-graduate, continuing, and workplace. *JSE* is for anyone who teaches statistics, as well as those interested in research on statistical and probabilistic reasoning.

Freely available online at <http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/>

Joint Publications

Significance – Statistics Making Sense

The American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) published their first joint issue of *Significance*, a magazine about statistics and data in the real world, with the September 2010 issue. *Significance* is a high quality, highly respected and well circulated publication that is directed not only to statisticians but also to the general public interested in statistics and the analysis and use of data. The quarterly magazine, which the RSS established in and has published since 2004, uses non-statistical language to communicate and demonstrate, in an entertaining and thought-provoking way, the practical use of statistics in all walks of life and to show how statistics benefit society.

<http://www.significancemagazine.org/sig/holding/index.html>

Chance

Jointly published by the American Statistical Association and Springer-Verlag, *Chance* is a magazine about statistics and the use of statistics in society. It is intended for everyone who has an interest in the analysis of data. *Chance* features articles that showcase the use of statistical methods and ideas in the social, biological, physical, and medical sciences. It also presents material about statistical computing and graphical presentation of data. Through its regular departments and columns, *Chance* keeps its readers informed about developments and ideas in a variety of areas including government statistics and sports.

<http://www.amstat.org/publications/chance/>

Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES)

Published jointly with the International Biometrics Society, the purpose of *JABES* is to contribute to the development and use of statistical methods in the agricultural sciences, biological sciences (including biotechnology), and environmental sciences (including those dealing with natural resources). Articles are of immediate and practical value to applied researchers and statistical consultants in these fields.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/121716/?p=1769be402e8849a79fb1c1667a5665ff&pi=30>

Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics (JEBS)

The *JEBS* is an outlet for papers that develop original statistical methods useful for the applied statistician working in educational or behavioral research. In addition, critical reviews of current practice, tutorial presentations of less well-known methods, and novel applications of already known methods are published. Published quarterly, *JEBS* is a joint publication of the American Educational Research Association and the American Statistical Association.

<http://ojs.era.net/journals/index.php/jebs>

Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports (JQAS)

A partnership between ASA and Berkely Electronic Press (bepress) has resulted in the joint publication of *JQAS*, to which each organization brings their unique expertise. Since 2005, *JQAS* has been a forum for scholars on the cutting edge of research in quantitative sports analysis. ASA members will have free online access to the publication.

<http://www.bepress.com/jqas/>

Journal of Nonparametric Statistics (JNPS)

JNPS provides a medium for the publication of research and survey work in nonparametric statistics and related areas.

Both the theory and applications of nonparametric statistics are covered in *JNPS*.

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/gnst>

Statistics Surveys

Statistics Surveys is a unique, online-only journal, which is available to everyone at no cost, is a partnership between the ASA, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Bernoulli Society, and the Statistical Society of Canada. The journal publishes survey articles in theoretical, computational, and applied statistics. The style of articles may range from reviews of recent research to graduate textbook exposition.

<http://www.i-journals.org/ss/>

Statistical Analysis and Data Mining (SAM)

Statistical Analysis and Data Mining addresses the broad area of data analysis, including data mining algorithms, statistical approaches, and practical applications. Topics include problems involving massive and complex datasets, solutions utilizing innovative data mining algorithms and/or novel statistical approaches, and the objective evaluation of

analyses and solutions. SAM is a useful resource to those solving practical problems, at the same time enabling them to benefit from ideas developed in other domains.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291932-1872>

Journal of Statistical Software (JSS)

Established in 1996, the *Journal of Statistical Software* publishes articles, book reviews, code snippets, and software reviews. The contents are freely available online at <http://www.jstatsoft.org/>. For both articles and code snippets, the source code is published along with the paper.

<http://www.amstat.org/publications/jss.cfm>

Technometrics

Published jointly with the American Society for Quality, the mission of *Technometrics* is to contribute to the development and use of statistical methods in the physical, chemical, and engineering sciences, as well as quality control and industrial systems. *Technometrics* publishes papers that describe new statistical techniques, illustrate innovative application of known statistical methods, or review methods, issues, or philosophy in a particular area of statistics or science, when such papers are consistent with the journal's objective.

<http://pubs.amstat.org/loi/tech>

Other Publications

Amstat News

Amstat News is the monthly membership magazine of American Statistical Association, containing news and notices of the ASA, its chapters, its sections, and its members. Other features include announcements, calendars of upcoming meetings, and notices of employment opportunities in statistics.

<http://www.amstat.org/publications/amsn/index.cfm?fuseaction=main>



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics

The American Statistical Association Media Experts List

The Public Affairs Department of the American Statistical Association (ASA) maintains a database of members with expertise and experience in fields of statistical application who have volunteered to serve as sources of information for the media. *The individuals on the list speak as experts in their fields, not as ASA spokespersons.*

We have provided a topic list to help you find individuals easily; you can link to the individuals' bios and contact information from the topic list. Please note that these members are not subject experts, but have expertise in the statistical aspects of the topics listed. Many of the individuals on the list have experience working with media and can be relied on as resources for quotes, interviews, and background information. To date, media experts have been interviewed by and quoted in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and many science publications, as well as broadcast news stations.

Please note that the topic categories are fairly broad (and evolving), and we would recommend that you consult the expert bios in the document to determine if an individual expert meets your particular requirements. The list continues to grow and we will issue updates as they become available.

If you have need of a resource in an area not reflected here, we will be happy to try to locate someone for you. Please feel free to contact Rosanne Desmone at rosanne@amstat.org, 703.360.1861 (direct), 703.684.1221 (main), or 703.946.3820 (mobile). The list of experts by topic is followed by an alphabetical list with bios and contact information. You may view or download the experts list on the ASA web site at this link:

<http://www.amstat.org/about/pdfs/ASAMediaExperts.pdf>