

For more information:

Rosanne Desmone
American Statistical Association
703.302.1861 (direct)
703.946.3820 (mobile)
Rosanne@amstat.org

2007 Joint Statistical Meetings Convene in Salt Lake City July 29 to August 2

More than 5,000 conference participants will participate in the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians

ALEXANDRIA VA (PRWEB) APRIL 23, 2007 – The 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians, will convene this summer at Salt Lake City's Salt Palace Convention Center July 29 to August 2. JSM is held jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada. The theme for this year's conference is *Statistics: Harnessing the Power of Information*.

More than 5,000 statisticians from government, industry and academia are expected to attend the 2007 JSM, which features a range of activities, including more than 2,500 presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentations, continuing education courses, exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities), career placement service, society, section and committee meetings, and social and networking opportunities.

"JSM not only brings energy to our discipline and profession, it also provides challenging examples of the ubiquity of statistics in modern society," said William Smith, ASA's executive director. "The conference will address issues of national and international concern, such as global warming and medical advances, as well as activities that address political processes, physical and social sciences, and manufacturing processes and quality. In our data-driven society, the statistics discipline has a proud heritage of helping make sensible decisions in the face of uncertainty."

A brief history of the ASA annual meetings follows:

- The inaugural annual meeting of the newly formed American Statistical Society (as it was briefly called at its establishment in 1839) was held in Boston Feb. 5, 1840. Attendance at the meeting was 10. No presentations had been made at the first annual meeting in February, but one was made at a meeting held in April 1840. Meetings continued to be held in Boston through the early 1900s.
- Scheduling meetings outside Boston and in conjunction with other societies was part of an attempt to make the association more national. The 71st annual meeting in 1909 in New York was held in conjunction with nine other associations and featured four presentations over several days.
- For two decades afterward, the ASA annual meeting, with one exception, was held annually in December for 2-4 days. The 90th meeting in 1928 had 17 sessions with multiple competing time slots each day. From 1929 through 1948, ASA held 18 meetings. By 1937, there were 38 presentations.

- In 1935, ASA combined with several associations, with which it often met, to form the Allied Social Sciences Association. This association's first sponsored meeting, called the Allied Meetings, was held in 1936 in Chicago, and the ASA held its annual meeting with this group once every three years until 1974. With the formation of the IMS in 1935 and the International Biometrics Society in 1948, meetings with only statistical societies, called "Joint Meetings," were initiated, and the ASA held its annual meetings with these groups in the years it did not meet with the Allied group. Since 1974, when the Joint Statistical Meetings were formally organized, the ASA has continually held its annual meeting with this group.

The next several Joint Statistical Meetings are scheduled as follows: 2008, Denver; 2009, Washington DC; 2010, Vancouver, British Columbia; 2011, Miami Beach; 2012, San Diego; 2013, TBD; and, in 2014, the meeting returns to Boston, where it all began.

Complete program and registration information for the 2007 JSM is available at the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/JSM/2007/>.

About the American Statistical Association

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

#####