

American Statistical Association Announces 2009 Award Recipients; Presentation Ceremony at JSM August 4 in Washington DC

ALEXANDRIA, VA (Media-NewsWire) July 17, 2008 – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's largest professional statistical society, today announced the winners of its prestigious annual awards. The winners will be honored on Tuesday evening, August 4 at the President's Address session of ASA's 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, DC. The list of awards and recipients follows.

Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award

The Wilks Memorial Award was established in 1964 to honor the memory and distinguished career of Sam Wilks by recognizing outstanding contributions to statistics that carry on the spirit of his work. The 2009 Wilks Award will be presented to Lee-Jen Wei of Harvard University who is being honored for statistical methods used in clinical trials. The Wilks Award is made possible in part by a generous donation from Dr. Alexander Mood, a student of Dr. Wilks.

Gottfried E. Noether Awards

The Noether Awards were established in 1999 by the wife and daughter of the late Professor Gottfried Emanuel Noether of the University of Connecticut as a tribute to his memory. It recognizes distinguished researchers and teachers and supports research in nonparametric statistics. There are two Noether Awards given:

- The Gottfried E. Noether Young Scholar Award winner for 2009 is Harrison Zhou of Yale University.
- The Gottfried E. Noether Senior Scholar Award for 2009 winner is Grace Wahba of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Outstanding Statistical Application Award

Each year, the ASA recognizes a paper that is an outstanding application of statistics in the physical, biological, or medical sciences. The 2009 winner of this award is Robert D. Gibbons, University of Illinois, for the development of new and innovative statistical approaches to drug safety, and for clarifying the relationship between antidepressant pharmacotherapy and suicide.

W. J. Youden Award in Interlaboratory Testing

The W. J. Youden Award was established in 1985 to recognize publications that make outstanding contributions to the design and/or analysis of interlaboratory tests or that describe ingenious approaches to the planning and evaluation of data from such tests. This year's award will be presented to Blaza Toman of the Statistical Engineering Division of NIST in recognition of her paper "Bayesian Approaches to Calculating a Reference Value in Key Comparison Experiments," published in *Technometrics*, Vol. 49, No.1.

Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund Award

The Bryant scholarship trust is a permanent scholarship fund endowed by Westat to honor its co-founder and long-time leader, Edward C. Bryant. The award honors an outstanding graduate student who is studying survey statistics. The 2009 scholarship recipient is Qixuan Chen of the University of Michigan for her outstanding graduate work in survey statistics.

W. J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting

Established through a gift from the family of William Dixon, this award recognizes outstanding contributions to the practice of statistical consulting. The 2009 award will be presented to Doug Zahn of Zahn & Associates for his outstanding contributions to advancing the science and art of statistical consulting.

Waller Education Award

Retired ASA Executive Director Ray Waller and his wife Carolyn established the Waller Education Award in 2002 to recognize a statistics teacher early in his/her career for excellence and innovation in teaching introductory statistics at the undergraduate level. The 2009 Waller Award winner is Nicholas J. Horton of Smith College for his outstanding contributions to and innovation in the teaching of elementary statistics.

The SPAIG Award

The ASA established the SPAIG Award in 2002 to recognize outstanding partnerships established between academe and business, industry, and government organizations and to promote new partnerships. It is the only ASA award that recognizes organizations. The 2009 SPAIG award will be given to the following organizations: Iowa State University and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, for their partnership since 2000.

About JSM

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. More than 5,000 statisticians from government, industry and academia are expected to attend the 2009 JSM, which features a range of activities, including more than 2,500 presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentations, and continuing education courses. There also is an exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities); a career placement service; and social and networking opportunities. Complete program and registration information for the 2009 JSM is available at the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/>.

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 170 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.

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