

American Statistical Association Announces 2011 Award Recipients

Awards ceremony to be held at Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami Beach, FL

MIAMI BEACH, FL (PRWEB) AUGUST 1, 2011 – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's preeminent professional statistical society, today announced the winners of its prestigious annual awards. The winners will be honored on Tuesday evening, August 2, at the President's Address session of the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Miami Beach, Florida. 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 2011 Wilks Award will be presented to **Nan M. Laird**, Harvard University School of Public Health, for her pioneering work on the EM algorithm which set the foundation for many subsequent advances in computational statistics and biology. 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 2011 is **Ying Wei**, Columbia University, for outstanding early career contributions to nonparametric statistics.
- The Gottfried E. Noether Senior Scholar Award for 2011 winner is **Jon A. Wellner**, University of Washington, for outstanding contributions to the theory, applications, and teaching of nonparametric statistics.

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 2011 winners of this award are **Adrian E. Raftery**, University of Washington; **Miroslav Kárný**, Institute of Information Theory and Automation, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic; and **Pavel Ettler**, COMPUREG Plzen, s.r.o., for extending Bayesian methods for model uncertainty to temporally evolving systems, and showing how these ideas can be successfully applied to solve a challenging problem in a continuous manufacturing system.

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, the late Edward C. Bryant. The award honors an outstanding graduate student who is studying survey statistics. The 2011 scholarship recipient is **Anne-Sophie Charest**, Carnegie Mellon University, for outstanding academic achievement 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 2011 award will be presented to

Michael H. Kutner, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, for outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of statistical consulting and collaboration.

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 2011 Waller Award winner is **Michelle Everson**, University of Minnesota, in recognition for 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 2011 SPAIG award will be given to the following organizations: **The Ohio State University** and **Nationwide Insurance Company** in recognition of the vision and support provided by the Nationwide Insurance Company to the Ohio State University in the creation of the Nationwide Center for Advanced Customer Insights, a partnership for the enhancement of marketing and consumer behavior research.

W.J. Youden Award

The W. J. Youden Award in Interlaboratory Testing was established in 1985. It recognizes the authors of publications/papers that make outstanding contributions to the design and/or analysis of interlaboratory tests or describe ingenious approaches to the planning and evaluation of data from such tests. The 2011 W.J. Youden Award winners are **Ryan Browne** of the University of Guelph, and **Jock MacKay and Stefan Steiner** of the University of Waterloo in recognition of their paper, "Leveraged Gauge R&R Studies," published in *Technometrics* August 2010, Vol. 52, No. 3.

Statistics in Chemistry Award

The Statistics in Chemistry Award was established in 1990 to recognize outstanding collaborative endeavors between statisticians and chemists. It is bestowed upon a distinguished individual or individuals for their innovative use of statistics to solve a problem in chemistry and the impact of the solution on the problem. The award is sponsored by the Chemometrics Committee of the ASA Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences. The award is presented, in odd-numbered years, for a paper published in refereed statistics, chemistry, or chemometrics journals during the previous two years. In even-numbered years, the award is presented for work between a statistician and chemist in an industrial/manufacturing company performed during the previous two years. The 2011 Statistics in Chemistry Award winner is **Thomas Brendan Murphy** of the University College Dublin, Ireland; **Nema Dean** of the University of Glasgow, Scotland; and **Adrian E. Raftery** of the University of Washington for their outstanding collaborative endeavors between statisticians and chemists for their innovative use of statistics to solve a problem in chemistry. Their paper, "Variable Selection and Updating In Model-Based Discriminant Analysis for High Dimensional Data with Food Authenticity Applications", published in the *Annals of Applied Statistics*, clearly identified a real-world problem in food chemistry and developed a statistical methodology that provides a practical solution.

About the Joint Statistical Meetings

JSM, which has been held annually since 1974, is conducted jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), the

International Chinese Statistical Association, and the International Indian Statistical Association. JSM activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, continuing education courses, exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities), career placement service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities, and networking opportunities. JSM is open to members of ASA, SSC, ENAR/WNAR, and IMS, as well as non-members and has special pricing for students, seniors, K-12 teachers, and also offers one-day registrations. Complete JSM program information is available at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/index.cfm>.

About the American Statistical Association

Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the American Statistical Association 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. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the ASA web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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