

THE STATISTICAL CONSULTANT



Section on Statistical Consulting
Tzu-Cheg Kao, Editor

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Call for Nominations: Section Officers

As chair of the Section's Nominating Committee, I am soliciting names of people who are willing to serve the Section as officers. The slate of officers will require two nominees for each position, with the election to take place in 2005 and the terms of office to begin on January 1, 2006.

There are four positions on the Executive Committee to be filled. The Chair-elect will serve a one-year term followed by a one-year term as Chair and a one-year term as Past Chair. The remaining positions, all two-year terms, are Representative to the Council of Sections, At-large member of the Executive Board, and Publications Officer.

Job descriptions of all these positions can be found in the Section Charter on the Section's Web site (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl/index.html>). Self-nominations are welcome. If you know of someone who would be a good person to fill one of these positions, please contact:

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Rahway, NJ 07065
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Announcement of Travel Awards Competition for 2005

The Section on Statistical Consulting invites proposals for Topic (Special) Contributed Paper Sessions for the Joint Statistical Meetings to be held August 7-11, 2005, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Proposals submitted will compete for up to three travel awards. Each award consists of \$500 *and* a registration fee waiver for the organizer. Each organizer will be responsible for lining up speakers for the session and for coordinating submission of abstracts in the fall of 2004.

A proposal should consist of a one-page description of the session, including a description of the session theme, the types of papers or discussions to be included, and the intended audience. A list of possible speakers would be helpful.

The proposal submission deadline is September 1, 2004.

Send your proposal to: **Susan P. McGorray**
Department of Statistics, College of Medicine, Box 100212
Gainesville, FL 32610-0212
Phone: (352) 294-0019
Fax: (352) 292-4168
spmcg@biostat.ufl.edu

Travel Awards for 2004 JSM

The Section on Statistical Consulting has supported up to three \$500 JSM travel awards with a registration fee waiver for the past few years as rewards for the best proposals for Topic (Special) Contributed Paper Sessions. We have allocated funds to continue this competition in 2005, and details can be found in the announcement included in this newsletter (see above).

Normally at this time of year, we would also be announcing the winners of the current year's awards in this newsletter. However, because no proposals were submitted, there are no winners to announce.

Perhaps we were unsuccessful in getting the word out to our members. Perhaps the

guidelines for submissions were not sufficiently clear or too burdensome. Perhaps the travel award or amount is an insufficient incentive.

Whatever the reason, we will be discussing this at our Business Meeting and are asking for your input. Meanwhile, we are stepping up our efforts to get the word out this year.

In these days of limited funding, please consider submitting a proposal. If an idea for a special topic session sounds interesting to you, chances are that others will also be interested.

The deadlines for the JSM come around very quickly, so even though the meeting is over a year away, now is the time to plan the invited and topic contributed sessions.

Activities at the JSM 2004

The 2004 JSM runs August 8-12 in Toronto. The theme is “Statistics as a Unified Discipline.” Information about the meetings and on-line registration are available via the web at:

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2004/index.cfm>.

Our Section’s program chair for the 2004 JSM is N. Shirlene Pearson, Center for Statistical Consulting and Research, Southern Methodist University, pearson@mail.smu.edu.

Business Meeting

The Statistical Consulting Section will hold its annual Business Meeting and Member Reception on Tuesday, August 10, 2004, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments are planned and we will continue our tradition of a lively drawing for door prizes. Activities will include small-group brainstorming about current and future Section projects and plans. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Please join us for food and drink and to meet fellow consultants and applied statisticians with similar interests.

JSM 2004 Schedule: Sessions Organized by the Section on Statistical Consulting

Session 200133: “Statistics in the Court Room”

Time: Sunday, August 8, 4:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.

Session Type: Invited Session

Organizer: Charles R. Mann, Mann and Associates

Chair: Charles R. Mann, Mann and Associates

Speakers:

1. Joseph L. Gastwirth, The George Washington University, “A Difficult Case History”
2. Joseph B. Kadane, Carnegie-Mellon University, “Responsibilities of the Statistician”
3. TBD

This session will focus on the statistical consultant’s role in litigation support and expert testimony as well as the interface between client and consultant that are customarily expected in this arena.

Session: “Topics in Statistical Consulting”

Time: Monday, August 9, 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Session Type: Contributed Papers Session

Organizer: N. Shirlene Pearson, Southern Methodist University

Chair: N. Shirlene Pearson, Southern Methodist University

- 10:35** A Matrix-Based Genetic Algorithm for Computing the Minimum Volume Ellipsoid – Eric B. Howington and J. Brian Gray, The University of Alabama
- 10:50** The Onset, Cessation, and Rate of Growth of Loblolly Pines in the FACE Experiment – Susanne Aref, Virginia Tech; David Moore and Evan H. DeLucia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 11:05** Conservative Confidence Intervals for Duan et al’s Two-Step Expenditure Estimation Method in the Presence of Weighted Observations – Anna T. R. Legedza and Christina Wee, Division of General Medicine and Primary Care; Roger B. Davis, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- 11:20** Evaluation of the Use of Molecular Markers to Identify and Select Genotypes – Ted B. Bailey, Iowa State University
- 11:35** Comparing Treatment in In-Vivo Drug Screening Experiments – Leah Martell, Novartis
- 11:50** Propose of CT Texture Factor Analysis with Validation of -950Hu Density Mask – Hyun Jung Kim, University of California, Los Angeles; David Gjertson and James Sayre, biostatistics, Public Health at UCLA; Jonathan Goldin, radiology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- 12:05** Practical Considerations for the Independent Statistical Consultant – Nestor Rohowsky, IDCS, Inc.

Session 200134: “Statistical Consulting in an Academic Environment”

Time: Wednesday, August 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 a.m.

Session Type: Invited Session

Organizer: Linda J. Young, University of Florida

Chair: Linda J. Young, University of Florida

Speakers:

1. Marcia Gumpertz, North Carolina State University, “Statistical Consulting with Agriculture”
2. George McCabe, Purdue University, “Statistical Consulting within Arts and Sciences”
3. Michael Kutner, Emory University, “Statistical Consulting within the Medical Sciences”

Demand for statistical consulting is usually high within an academic environment. Statistics and biostatistics departments have found a variety of ways to address this need and to enhance the educational experiences of other statisticians. In this session, the speakers will discuss a variety of issues relating to statistical research, establishing a clientele, and how it is factored into faculty evaluations. Each speaker will give a brief presentation of about 20 minutes followed by extended discussion.

Beyond Statistics Expertise: Tips on Building a Successful Statistical Consulting Business

Statistical expertise is necessary but not sufficient to guarantee a successful consulting practice. Join us from the comfort of your own desk to gain advice and share tips on the management side of consulting.

In the kick-off of the Statistical Consulting Sections new discussion group series, we reviewed key components for building a statistical consulting business, such as:

- Choosing the right entity: Partnership vs. LLC vs. Corporation
 - Using a business plan to maintain focus
 - Marketing and selling your capabilities
 - Staying afloat financially: bookkeeping and insurance tips
 - Finding resources to stay current
- Positioning statistical results as business decision support

Susan J. Devlin, the moderator for this first conference call, brought a wealth of experiences to share during the discussion. In the 1980s she built a measurement consulting product line within a large corporation while at Bellcore (now Telecordia Technologies) and more recently she founded The Artemis Group.

Please check our website often to sign up for a discussion group session in which you may be interested. Help us determine the direction of future conference calls, whether it's digging into one of the above topics more deeply or discussing statistical topics critical to consultants. (Go to www.amstat.org and follow the "Sections" link to the Section on Statistical Consulting.)

Membership of the Executive Committee of the ASA Section on Statistical Consulting

Chair: Jane F. Pendergast, jane-pendergast@uiowa.edu

Chair-Elect: Susan J. Devlin, sdevlin@theartemisgroup.com

Past Chair: M. Matilde Sanchez, matilde.sanchez@merck.com

Program Chair (for 2004 JSM): N. Shirlene Pearson, pearson@mail.smu.edu

Program Chair-Elect (for 2005 JSM): Susan P. McGorray, spmccg@biostat.ufl.edu

Secretary / Treasurer: I. Elaine Allen, allenie@babson.edu

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Section Council Representatives: Keith E. Muller, Keith.Muller@unc.edu

Brenda L. Gaydos, blg@lilly.com

Comments from the Chair

Jane Pendergast, University of Iowa

The weather has turned nicer here in the Midwest and the days are longer - but never long enough, it seems!

Plans are being made for the 2004 Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, where we hope to see you at our sponsored sessions and the Business Meeting and Member Reception on Tuesday, August 10th from 5:30 to 7:00. (The part of the program sponsored by our Section can be found in this newsletter as well as on the ASA website, www.amstat.org). Many thanks to our Section Program Chair, N. Shirlene Pearson, for her efforts in putting our program together.

Some of you may have attended the Luncheon Roundtables held at the JSM, or are planning to do so this year. Many of us who attended these in the past were appreciative of the wonderful opportunity to participate in a small group (of about ten people) with a noted leader in our field as moderator, discussing a topic of mutual interest. We know that not all of our Section members are able to come to the JSM, so we are working to bring the opportunity of a "Luncheon Roundtable" to you!

We are in the process of setting up a series of one-hour conference calls that will operate in much the same manner as a JSM roundtable. We will provide an expert to moderate or lead the discussion and the call-in conference telephone number.

You could participate from the comfort of your home or office – as long as you are among

the first to sign up via our page on the ASA website.

We were fortunate to have Susan Devlin, founder of The Artemis Group and a well-established and respected statistical consultant (not to mention Chair-Elect of our section), share her wealth of experience on the business side of consulting with us. The session was titled "Beyond Statistics Expertise: Tips on Building a Successful Statistical Consulting Business" and was held on May 24, 2004.

The schedule and moderators of future conference call roundtables will be posted on our website, along with additional information. (Go to www.amstat.org, and follow the link for the Section on Statistical Consulting.) This is a new initiative for the Section, and we would be very interested in any suggestions you might have for speakers or topics, as well as any feedback on the roundtables themselves.

One of the goals of the Section on Statistical Consulting is to provide opportunities for our members to share experiences, expertise, and questions of other members related to statistical consulting. We are always looking for new ideas and avenues to do so in a cost-effective manner. If you have any ideas to share or specific needs that you think could be addressed by the Section, please let us know.

Have a great summer, and I hope to see you in Toronto!

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Notes from the Editor

Tzu-Cheng Kao, Editor

Again, I would like to thank Karla Genter for her time and effort in typesetting our newsletter.

If you would like to submit an article or announcement for the next newsletter, please

send it to me as soon as possible. The deadline for the coming Fall issue is October 1, 2004.

A note to officers: please keep me informed of any changes in your contact information.

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Remember to check the Section website often!

www.amstat.org/sections/cns1/

You'll find all information relating to the Section on Statistical Consulting, such as our charter, officer list, Section activities, past issues of *The Statistical Consultant*, minutes of past meetings, and more.

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