FDA's LaVange Elected President, ASA

ALEXANDRIA, VA (June 6, 2016) – Lisa LaVange, director of the Office of Biostatistics in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has been elected the 113th president of the American Statistical Association (ASA). LaVange will serve a one-year term as president-elect beginning January 1, 2017. Her term as president becomes effective January 1, 2018.

The ASA membership also elected G. David Williamson, senior science adviser at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as an ASA vice president.

"Statistics is experiencing great strides these days, from the expansion of undergraduate degree programs across the country to the surge in employment opportunities associated with the data revolution. And yet, with that energy and growth, come challenges," said LaVange. "Our attention to attracting and training students and to increasing the understanding of statistical concepts by 'big data' practitioners and consumers has never been more important. My work in government, academia and private industry has allowed me to grasp the big picture and relate to the experiences of statisticians everywhere. I look forward to working with the ASA Board, staff and members to expand the value and understanding of our profession and the critical role statistics plays in all aspects of life."

At FDA, LaVange is responsible for developing policies and procedures to guide statistical review of regulatory submissions in addition to coordinating biometric research to evaluate drugs and therapeutic biologics and providing comprehensive statistical services to CDER scientific and regulatory programs. In doing so, she oversees the work of more than 190 statistical reviewers.

Prior to joining the FDA, LaVange was a professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and director of the Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center. She worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 10 years as vice president of biostatistics and data management for Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and vice president of statistics for North American Clinical Development at Quintiles, Inc. She also spent 15 years at the Research Triangle Institute.

Elected as an ASA Fellow in 2004, LaVange has held numerous leadership positions, including program chair for the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), general methodology program chair and section program chair. She also served as president of the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society (IBS-ENAR). She was editor-in-chief of the ASA-SIAM book

series, co-editor of the journal *Pharmaceutical Statistics* and associate editor of *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research*.

LaVange earned her PhD in biostatistics from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983, her master's in mathematics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1976 and her undegraduate degree in mathematics from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1974.

G. David Williamson is senior science adviser and executive director of the Statistical Advisory Group at the CDC and an adjunct professor in the department of biostatistics and bioinformatics in the school of public health at Emory University and at Georgia Southern University. Prior to that, he was the associate director of science at the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; chief science officer in the Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services; and director of the Division of Health Studies.

Williamson earned his PhD in biostatistics from Emory University in 1987; two master's degrees in statistics and biology from Virginia Tech and Georgia Southern, respectively; and an undergraduate degree in biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1973.

Among his appointments with the ASA, Williamson became a fellow in 2004 and was Joint Program Committee chair of JSM in 2000. Active in ASA awards and committees, he also served as vice chair of the Committee on Meetings from 1999–2002; chair (and member) of the Karl Peace Award from 2012–2015; member of the Strategic Initiative on Visibility and Impact in Policy Task Force in 2009–2010; and program chair of the Statistics in Epidemiology Section in 1997.

The ASA membership also elected the following:
- Jim Lepkowski, professor in the department of biostatistics at the University of Michigan, as Council of Sections Representative to the ASA Board
- Julia Sharp, associate professor in mathematical sciences at Clemson University, as Council of Chapters Representative to the ASA Board
- Cynthia Bocci of Statistics Canada as the International Representative to the ASA Board
- Teri Utlaut, principal engineer and statistician at Intel Corp., as chair-elect of the Council of Sections Governing Board
- Alex Hanlon, research professor of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, as chair-elect of the Council of Chapters Governing Board

The entire slate of election results, including officers for each of the ASA's 27 sections, is accessible here.

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About the American Statistical Association
The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the oldest continuously operating professional science society in the United States. 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, please visit the ASA website at www.amstat.org.

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