

Award-Winning Data Journalist, Renowned Statistics and Neuroscience Professor, Historical Icon Top List of JSM 2017 Speakers

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (July 5, 2017) – Only weeks away, the world’s largest annual gathering of statisticians and data scientists—the 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)—will feature some of the most highly regarded professionals in and beyond the field of statistics. They will address new research and provide thought-provoking insight into the economy, public policy, health care and other prolific issues of the day in an effort to demonstrate how statistics affects the world around us.

“Just as the practice of statistics is a foundation of all other disciplines on the vast scientific spectrum, the speakers at JSM bring dynamic perspectives and distinct expertise that, while different, showcase how statistics plays a dominant role in educating the public, advancing scientific knowledge and evaluating government programs, to name a few,” said ASA President Barry Nussbaum. “Their efforts to seek deeper meaning from data; translate data into knowledge; and explain what for many is the unexplainable are the exact tools that are critical to making discoveries and furthering research, development and understanding.”

The numbers columnist at *The Wall Street Journal*, **Jo Craven McGinty**, writes about the intersection of numbers and data with fields of broad consumer interest such as hotel reviews, animal development, credit card rewards and sports streaks. With her talent for explaining the complex and technical world of big data and applying it to the real world, McGinty has been selected as the coveted President’s Invited Speaker and will take the stage Monday, July 31.

Rob Kass, the Maurice Falk Professor of Statistics and Computational Neuroscience and co-director for the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition at Carnegie Mellon University, is considered the leading authority on statistics and neuroscience, not only for his methodological contributions, but also for several major review articles. He authored *Analysis of Neural Data*, the first book that gives a comprehensive overview of statistics in neuroscience, and led a working group detailing how statisticians are important to the federal BRAIN initiative. Often a resource for media on the popular—yet controversial—concept known as the “Bible Code,” Kass is the recipient of the COPSS Award and will give the Fisher Lecture, titled “The Importance of Statistics: Lessons from the Brain Sciences,” Wednesday, August 2.

From resolving issues with Indian Trust Fund accounts at the U.S. Department of the Interior, to working on the Survey of Consumer Finances at the Federal Reserve, to advising on numerous impact evaluations in Armenia, Georgia, Lesotho and Vanuatu, **Fritz Scheuren**, senior fellow and vice president of the Center for Excellence in Survey Research at NORC at the University of

Chicago, has built an unparalleled legacy in the areas of sampling and data analysis. Scheuren is the recipient of the 2017 Deming Lecture Award and will present “A Rake’s Progress Revisited” Tuesday, August 1.

To see the full lineup of JSM speakers, visit the [conference website](#). Media can attend JSM for FREE, but must pre-register by emailing Jill Talley, ASA public relations manager, at jill@amstat.org.

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About JSM 2017

JSM 2017 is the largest gathering of statisticians and data scientists in the world, taking place July 29–August 3, 2017, in Baltimore. Occurring annually since 1974, JSM is a joint effort of the American Statistical Association, International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Statistical Society of Canada, International Chinese Statistical Association, International Indian Statistical Association, Korean International Statistical Society, International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Royal Statistical Society, and International Statistical Institute. JSM activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, professional development courses, an exhibit hall, a career service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities and networking opportunities.

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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