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FREELANCE JOURNALIST JULIE REHMEYER PRESENTED 2015 ASA EXCELLENCE IN STATISTICAL REPORTING AWARD

SEATTLE, WA, AUGUST 10, 2015 – Freelance statistics, math and science journalist Julie Rehmeyer was honored last night as the 2015 recipient of the American Statistical Association’s (ASA) Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award (ESRA).

The award was presented to Rehmeyer during a special awards ceremony at the [2015 Joint Statistical Meetings \(JSM 2015\)](#) in Seattle.

The ASA’s ESRA Committee selected Rehmeyer, also contributing editor for *Discover* magazine, for her excellent journalistic skills, her commitment to writing articles about statistical science in a prose that the public can intuitively grasp and her numerous and clearly written articles about statistics that appear in several widely read print and online publications.

In particular, the committee pointed to two articles that stood out. Those are:

- [“Equation: Calculating Ballot Bungles Is All About the P-Value,”](#) published online by *Wired*
- [“Florence Nightingale: The Passionate Statistician,”](#) published online on ScienceNews.com by the Society for Science & the Public

“The ESRA committee was especially impressed with the number and breadth of Ms. Rehmeyer’s articles,” said award committee chair Morteza Marzjarani, retired professor of computer science at Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Mich. “Her work spans two books, recurring contributions to ScienceNews.com and *Discover* magazine and an impressive array of articles in science- and general-audience publications that help connect the public with science, such as *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Ms. Rehmeyer brings a unique quantitative perspective to her writing. She earned a master’s in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The ASA praises Ms. Rehmeyer for her outstanding journalistic contributions to statistical science.”

Previous honorees of the ASA’s Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award are Regina Nuzzo, a freelance writer who frequently contributes to *Nature*; Alan Schwarz, *The New York Times*; Felix Salmon, Reuters; Sharon Begley, *Newsweek*; Mark Buchanan, a freelance science writer; Gina Kolata, *The New York Times*; John Berry, Bloomberg News; and Amanda Cox, *The New York Times*.

The award was created to encourage and recognize members of the media who have best displayed an interest in statistical science and its role in public life. It can be presented in recognition of a single statistics-related article or a body of work. In selecting the honoree, the committee considers the following criteria:

- Correctness, clarity, fairness, brevity and professionalism of the communication
- Importance, relevance and overall effectiveness in affecting the intended audience
- Impact on the growth and national or regional exposure of statistics
- Appreciation and emphasis of the statistical aspects of a particular issue or event
- Excellent coverage of research on statistics or statistical issues

JSM 2015 is being held August 8–13 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. More than 6,000 statisticians—representing academia, business and industry, as well as national, state and local governments—from numerous countries are attending North America’s largest statistical science gathering.

About JSM 2015

JSM, which has been held annually since 1974, is being conducted jointly this year by 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. [Click here for more information about JSM 2015.](#)

About the American Statistical Association

The ASA is the world’s largest community of statisticians and the second-oldest continuously operating professional 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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