

DATA IS MY JOB

To celebrate the impact of statistics, we highlight four ASA members who have used their statistics skills and imaginations to snag sweet jobs.



DIONNE PRICE

Deputy Director
Office of Biostatistics,
Office of Translational
Sciences, Center for Drug
Evaluation and Research
for the FDA

SUPERPOWER:
Mission Momentum,
defined as the ability
to put the organiza-
tion's mission into
action so everyone
involved has a
shared purpose.

**WHEN WE SAY
"DATA," YOU SAY:**
informing decisions
and driving discovery.

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Add
an internship to your
experiences and
describe the work
you accomplish.



**BONNIE
GHOSH-DASTIDAR**

Senior Statistician & Head
RAND Corporation Statistics Group

SUPERPOWER:
Focus the power
of interdisciplinary
teams on society's
multidimensional
problems.

**WHEN WE SAY
"DATA," YOU SAY:**
information (or
evidence or
evidence-based
policymaking)

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Under-
stand your data fully.
Why were those out-
comes chosen; how
were the outcomes
measured; how was the
data collected or gener-
ated; for what popula-
tion is the data relevant;
what limitations does the
data have?



JUN YAN

Professor
Department of Statistics,
University of Connecticut

SUPERPOWER: My
superpower is puzzle
matching between
applied data problems
and solutions. This is
reflected in my recent
applied work in climate
change detection and
attribution, animal
movement modeling,
and suicide risk analysis.
It takes a deep under-
standing of the domain
applications, a broad
grasp of statistical
methodologies, and an
open mind to learn
and develop new
puzzle pieces.

RÉSUMÉ HACK: Set up
a personal website and
keep it updated with your

CV and achievements
such as R packages or
project repository. Make
sure your code has good
styles if you share. Don't
list office software as
computing skills.

**WHEN WE SAY
"DATA," YOU SAY:** data
manipulation is part of
our job. We are not to
wait for someone else
to do this for us. It is our
opportunity to bond
with domain scientists,
to gain a deep under-
standing of the scientific
problems, and to discov-
er more opportunities
for data scientists.



GLEN COLOPY

Head of Data Science
Alesca Life Technologies

SUPERPOWER:
I'm the first one "into
the breach" when
turning a data science
project into a prod-
uct. In the startup
world, you can't wait
forever to get a
return on [your] data
science investment.
So, my job is to get to
a prototype product
as quickly as possible
so we can start
iterating toward
something customers
value. In health care
and the life sciences,
the prototypes have
the added challenge
of scientific rigor but
also the reward of
scientific discovery.

**WHEN WE SAY
"DATA," YOU SAY:** is
it production-ready?

Data isn't meant to sit
around getting stale, but
to be delivered how,
where, and when it's
needed. This is your top
priority. Make very good
friends with the people
who can help you do this.

RÉSUMÉ HACK: If you're
a data scientist, put the
words "product-focused"
right at the top of the page.
Then put "product-driven"
and the products you
worked on in every job
experience you list. The
data science free ride is
coming to an end, and
most savvy hiring manag-
ers know data science
initiatives fail frequently
and expensively ... so
let them know you'll
provide a return on their
investment.



HAVE GOOD ADVICE?

Share your answers by tagging **@AmstatNews** and **#DataIsMyJob** on social media.