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The members' magazine of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

IMS Bulletin

March 2026

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First IMS International New Researchers Conference

Armeen Taeb, Eardi Lila, and Alberto Torrejón report on the inaugural International New Researchers Conference, which took place in Seville in December, immediately before the ICSDS conference:

Maria Angeles Japon [center], Director of the host venue, the Institute of Mathematics of the University of Seville, introduced the International New Researchers Conference

For the first time ever, the IMS New Researchers Group (https://www.imsnrg.com) has hosted a New Researchers Conference outside North America! The first International IMS New Researchers Conference (INRC) convened at the Institute of Mathematics of the University of Seville (IMUS), in Seville, Spain, from December 11–12, 2025: see https://imus.us.es/congresos/1INRC/. The conference was attended by 50 emerging researchers, mostly from Europe, together with five senior speakers and panelists.

The conference kicked off on the Thursday with an introduction by the IMUS director, Maria Angeles Japon (see the photo, above). This was followed by a plenary talk by the IMS president-elect, Richard Samworth, pictured left. Richard's technical part of the talk was about deep learning with missing data; this was followed by some advice for new researchers. The day was further enhanced by engaging four-minute flash talks by junior attendees.

IMS President-Elect Richard Samworth talked on deep learning with missing data

Next, we had talks by Małgorzata Bogdan on analyzing the theoretical properties of the Sorted L_1 Penalized

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IMS Members' News

Hamza Ali wins best paper award


Hamza Ali

Student IMS member **Hamza Ali**'s research paper, "AI Systems Engineering: A Systematic Review of Process Models, Architectural Patterns, and Emerging Challenges (2019–2025)," co-authored with **Douglas Sales Alves Amante** (Federal University of Lavras, Brazil, and University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy), **Ubaid Ullah** (Logiciel Services LLC, USA), and **Imtiaz Husain** (Sindh Madressatul Islam University [SMIU], Pakistan) received the **Best Paper Award** at the First International Conference on Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Computing (ICAAIC-2025: https://grc.smiu.edu.pk/icaaic/), held during SMIU's Third Global Research Congress. The conference featured participants from over 10 countries, with more than 400 submissions and 228 peer-reviewed papers presented.

Hamza Ali is a Master of Data Science student at the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan. He is actively engaged in research at the intersection of AI, statistics, and systems engineering. Hamza wrote to share the news of this award, and commented, "The methodological rigor, analytical depth, and evidence-based approach emphasized in IMS publications and the broader statistical community strongly influenced my research mindset. As a member of an international society devoted to statistics and probability, I greatly value the standards and scholarly culture that IMS promotes across disciplines."

Loève Prize winner announced

Jason Peter Miller, a faculty member at the University of Cambridge Statistics Laboratory and a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, UK, has been named as the recipient of the **2025 Line and Michel Loève International Prize in Probability**. The prize is awarded every two years, recognizing outstanding contributions by researchers in mathematical probability who are under 45 years of age. It was created in 1992 in honor of Michel Loève from a bequest to the University of California at Berkeley by his widow, Line.

Jason Miller obtained his PhD from Stanford University under the supervision of Amir Dembo. Prior to taking up his positions in Cambridge, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Microsoft and then at the MIT Department of Mathematics as a Schramm Fellow and an NSF Fellow working with Scott Sheffield. His research has focused on several areas of modern probability theory, including stochastic interface models (random surfaces and Schramm–Loewner evolution), random walks, mixing times for Markov chains, and interacting particle systems.

Miller has been a recipient of the Rollo Davidson Prize, the Whitehead Prize, the Clay Research Award, the Doeblin Prize, the Leonard Eisenbud Prize for Mathematics and Physics of the AMS, and the Fermat Prize. He was an invited speaker at the 2018 International Congress of Mathematicians and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the United Kingdom.

2026 IMS Meeting: Register and submit your abstract

The IMS Annual Meeting 2026 will take place in Salzburg, Austria, from 6–9 July, 2026, at Salzburg Congress. The scientific program will feature the 2026 Wald Lecture (Tilmann Gneiting), the 2026 Blackwell Lecture (Cun-Hui Zhang) , three 2026 Medallion Lectures (Ian McKeague, Bodhisattva Sen, Jelle Goeman), the IMS Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Awards, and more than 60 invited and contributed sessions. See the outline program at https://ims2026.github.io/IMS2026/program.html.

The organizers (Kavita Ramanan, Genevera Allen, Remco van der Hofstad, and Arne Bathke) say, "Thank you for the many **invited session proposals** that we received. Session organizers have been notified, and accepted presenters may now go ahead and register for the conference. Session organizers will soon receive a link for abstract submission to share with presenters in their respective session. Please note that you can only submit your abstract after having registered for the conference. Those whose presentation was not accepted in an invited session may still **go ahead, register, and submit their presentation as a contributed talk**." The deadline to submit a contributed talk is April 1.

Please first register for the conference, and then submit the title and abstract of your talk. Register via https://imstat.org/shop/2026-ims-annual-meeting. (Early registration before May 15.)

Salzburg is a popular destination in the summer months: we advise you to **make your hotel reservations early!**

Nominations open for 2027 International Prize in Statistics

The International Prize in Statistics, one of the highest honors in statistics, is awarded every two years to an individual or team for major achievements **using statistics to advance science, technology, and human welfare**. The ultimate goal of the International Prize in Statistics is to enhance public understanding of the depth and scope of statistics.

The nomination deadline is **October 1, 2026**, for the 2027 International Prize in Statistics. Please see the points to consider for your nomination at https://www.statprize.org/nominations.cfm

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE *in* STATISTICS

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IMS Journals and Publications

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https://imstat.org/aos
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Annals of Applied Statistics: Lexin Li
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Annals of Applied Probability: Jian Ding, Claudio Landim
https://imstat.org/aap
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IMS Monographs and *IMS Textbooks:* Yingying Fan
https://www.imstat.org/journals-and-publications/ims-monographs/

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Electronic Journal of Statistics: Alexandra Carpentier & Arnak Dalalyan: https://projecteuclid.org/ejs

Electronic Journal of Probability: Cristina Toninelli
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ejp

Electronic Communications in Probability: Patrícia Gonçalves
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ecp

Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: Yuguo Chen, Laura M. Sangalli https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Publications/Journals.aspx
log into members' area at www.imstat.org

Probability Surveys: Adam Jakubowski
https://imstat.org/ps
https://projecteuclid.org/ps

Statistics Surveys: Yingying Fan
https://imstat.org/ss
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ssu

IMS-Supported Journals

ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Statistics: Víctor Rivero
http://alea.impa.br/english/index.htm

Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré (B): Giambattista Giacomin, Yueyun Hu:
https://imstat.org/aihp
https://projecteuclid.org/aihp

Bayesian Analysis: Igor Prünster
https://projecteuclid.org/ba

Bernoulli: Kengo Kato
https://projecteuclid.org/bj

Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics: Francisco José A. Cysneiros: https://imstat.org/bjps
https://projecteuclid.org/bjps

IMS-Affiliated Journals

Observational Studies: Nandita Mitra, Andrew Spieker
https://obs.pennpress.org/

Probability and Mathematical Statistics: Krzysztof Bogdan, Krzysztof Dębicki
http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pms/

Stochastic Systems: Devavrat Shah
https://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/stsy

International New Researchers Conference

Continued from cover

Estimation, and by Víctor Blanco on optimization in machine learning. We had our first of two panel sessions also that day, led by Mathias Drton, Richard Samworth, Małgorzata Bogdan, and Víctor Blanco. The panelists gave insightful tips on publishing, funding, and productive research collaborations. The evening concluded with a banquet dinner, near Seville's Plaza De España, with a fun statistics trivia quiz hosted by Armeen and Eardi (pictured left).

The banquet included a fun statistics trivia quiz

On the second day, we had talks by Mathias Drton on causal modeling of stationary processes, and by Victor Panaretos on kernel embeddings and separation of measures. We also had our second panel session on academic life, including mentoring, teaching, and service. This panel (pictured above right) included all our senior attendees.

Finally, for the first time, we held a networking session where junior researchers were divided into six groups based on their research interests, with the goal of developing interesting questions to collaborate on. After about an hour of discussion, they presented their research ideas to the conference attendees.

This INRC meeting was sponsored by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Thanks, IMS!

The second International New Researchers Conference will follow the IMS-APRM in Hong Kong in June. More soon!

Panelists discussing aspects of academic life, including mentoring, teaching and service

Organizers and invited lecturers [l–r]: Mathias Drton, Richard Samworth, Armeen Taeb, Alberto Torrejón, Eardi Lila, Małgorzata Bogdan and Victor Panaretos

Pictured here are the International New Researchers, along with conference organizers and senior speakers

IMS-NRG Plans:

New researchers panel session and mixer at **CLAPEM** (Latin American congress of probability and mathematical statistics) in Uruguay.

International New Researchers Conference right after **IMS-APRM** in Hong Kong in June.

Mixer at **IMS Annual Meeting** in Salzburg, hosted with Bernoulli Society.

More information soon: **imsnrg.com.**

Radu's Rides: **A little New Year hope**

Radu Craiu writes: A little while ago, I found myself in the middle of January *without* a new year resolution, and it hurt that I could not find a part of me which required at most a year to fix. This had nothing to do with me thinking I was perfect, but rather with the monumentality of the self-improvement tasks. Realistically, moving the needle in any direction worth tackling requires unrelenting effort and cannot be helped by the artificial discretization introduced through arbitrarily-chosen timelines. The other even more sobering suspicion is that most of the things we care about are outside our control. I could make my new year resolutions about acquiring funnier friends, better weather, longer limbs and more brilliant ideas, but those things do not work that way.

Sadly, a big part in my lack of self-improvement motivation is the carousel of bad news, alarming predictions and doomsday scenarios. All these make me spend a lot more time questioning my life decisions ("How did I get here?") and much less thinking about the possibility of improving my tomorrow. But now I remember that a while back—it seems like a couple of Armageddons ago—I wrote a *Ride* about the help statistical knowledge can offer to those who are in love. If using our much-revered concepts can help us negotiate such a treacherous minefield, then the clown show of our daily life can also be tackled using the fundamental principles that have brought joy to so few. So, as we continue to limp past the made-up temporal frontier between years with expectations of gloomy days and wakeful nights, let us put on our nerdy glasses and examine how statistics can offer a new perspective and give us hope from fresh angles.

Much is said about the negative impact that global, rampant inflation has on our daily lives. Statisticians know very well how to handle the desire to do a lot with very little. When you want to fit a rich model with little data you need to get a grip. That's why we invented sparsity as an elegant and more combative alternative to giving up. I am looking forward to bragging to my non-statistical friends about my sparse closets and fridge, not to mention doll collection.

Scenaritis is what I like to call the affliction that gets so many of my contemporaries to emit conspiracy theories and depressing inventories. Let's take them apart separately.

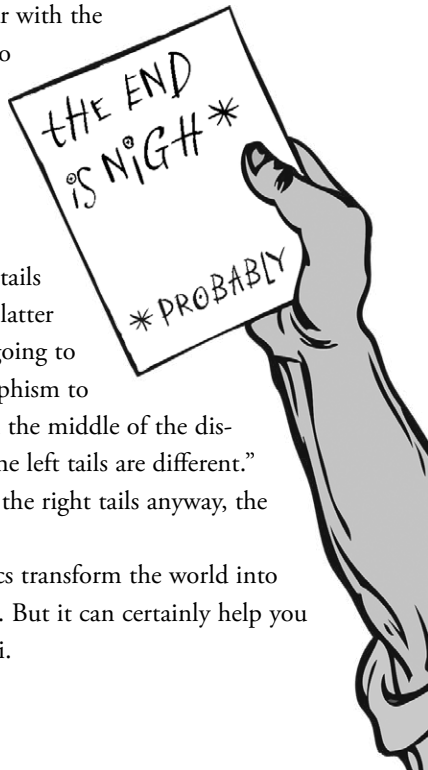
A conspiracy theory is familiar territory to a statistician who knows too well that using a low-resolution projection of a high-dimensional data set will most likely lead to a very biased view of the world. Since most of my fellow subway riders seem to believe that one social media post is not as good as two hours of them, I will suggest to them the strategy any competent Bayesian would also follow: average over all the predictions produced by those low-dimensional projections and enjoy ending your underground (or is it underworld?) voyage in the same mental state you began with.

Depressing inventories are what is served by people who should not be invited to parties. It does not happen often, but occasionally you may find yourself cornered by a modern-day Cassandra who would relish populating your future nightmares with their distorted enumerations. At this point, you would be well advised to whisper to yourself "biased sampling"—ideally faster and faster—until your oppressor realizes that the game is up and they retreat into the shadows.

As the bad news accumulates, the end seems nigh. I don't know what or whose end, but things cannot go on like this forever… or can they? If you've made it thus far with your unadulterated panic, remember how you have been trained to think asymptotically. The finite sample of bad news is just the start of a long and very stochastic process, so the Markovian (you wish) or the chaotic regimen (more like it) of your life still has many iterations to go before you know exactly where you will end up. Actually, you already know, but we're not here to talk about taxes.

If you are confused by social or political moves that seem unrelated to the historical trajectory predicted merely a few months ago, it is useful to remember that we often decode what is visible using latent variables. This simply means that the processes we observe are projections of a much richer class, and we must be cautious not to get intellectually, or otherwise, impoverished by them all.

Everybody fears the worst—and by that, I must assume that they mean the far tails of some life-events distribution. Most will agree that we tend to be familiar with the center of said law, which we know to represent innocuous, perhaps even rose-colored happenings. But our fears are populated by the devilish occurrences that, we think, make up its extremes. I am afraid that the middle can tell very little about the tails and, therefore, panicking about the latter while living near the former is not going to help anyone. To apply a homeomorphism to one of Tolstoy's phrases, "All lives in the middle of the distribution are the same. All lives in the left tails are different." And you don't need to worry about the right tails anyway, the way things are going.



So here you have it. Can statistics transform the world into a better one? Most definitely maybe. But it can certainly help you stay on top of the bad vibes tsunami.

Marianne's Measures: **Snatch, Clean and Calculate**

Marianne Huebner, our newest contributing editor, is Professor of Statistics and Probability, Adjunct Professor of Kinesiology, and Director of the Center for Statistical Training and Consulting (CSTAT), at Michigan State University. She is also a competitive weightlifter, lifting in national and international championships. She seized a chance to combine these passions:

By chance, a few years ago, I crossed paths with a weightlifting coach at a gym I attended. He put me through my paces to test my mobility, technical skills, muscle power—all with a plastic pipe. I wasn't good at any of this, but I was hooked.

Fast forward a couple of months and I registered for my first weightlifting competition. The registration form said that medals would be awarded according to "the formula"… which caught my attention. It turned out this formula referred to scaling the total weight lifted—the sum of the best snatch* and the best clean & jerk** (of three attempts each)—so lifters of different body mass could be compared. Since heavier lifters typically lift more weight than lighter ones, a body mass adjustment is needed to rank competitors, regardless of whether they weigh 50 kilograms (110 pounds) or 150 kilos (330 pounds). The adjustment was based on a logarithmic model fitted to world records for eight distinct body mass categories, calculated separately for men and women. The resulting body mass coefficients were then applied universally, regardless of age or level. In addition, the competition's formula also considered age. Since weightlifting performance declines with age, the resulting scaled total was then multiplied by age coefficients for older athletes ("Masters," i.e. over 35s). These age coefficients were derived from decades of World Masters Championship results—but only those achieved by men. That struck me as problematic: body mass adjustment based on world records, and age coefficients based solely on men's performances. Clearly, something needed to change.

When I raised this issue, the argument was that women's participation was growing rapidly [1] and their performances had not stabilized, so age coefficients would not be "realistic". But my analysis showed a cohort effect with less change in recent years. Using quantile regression models, we created age coefficients for women. Women weightlifters loved it. Women's age coefficients revealed a different pattern: they were similar to those of men at younger ages but showed a more rapid decline at around 45 years of age, typical in sports requiring muscle power. These age coefficients have been used in national and international competitions.

I assumed that would be my only contribution to statistics

in the sport of weightlifting. But as I continued to train, questions continued to arise. Weightlifting requires speed, power, technical and mental skills, and strength. Sadly, muscle power declines faster than muscle strength, but muscle power is often a better indicator of physical function and preventing falls [2]. This led me to wonder: how do older weightlifters—whether they are in their 30s, 50s, or 70s—train? How does balance, strength, and muscle power change with age? I learned that, compared to community-dwelling, healthy adults, weightlifters defy aging.

I had avoided investigating the question of scaling the total with respect to body mass. Historically, researchers proposed various functional forms, often restricted to subsets of athletes (limiting the body mass range, or males only) or subsets of performances (world records or podium places). Nations may use such systems to select a weightlifting team for the Olympic Games. Later, I was asked about helping to develop a new scaling method due to the shortcomings of existing models. With collaborators we worked on quantile foliation [3], fractional polynomials, and most recently generalized additive models with splines. The latter enabled us to create a unified scaling system suitable for ranking mixed teams, of men and women [4]. With this method we can compare athletes across body mass and sex. Model residuals make it possible.

Marianne Huebner at the March 2025 USA Masters National Weightlifting Championships

Nearly 10 years have passed since my first weightlifting competition. Since then, I have won several World Masters Championships, set new world records in my age group, and published multiple papers related to weightlifting. The weightlifting community is extraordinary. I am continually inspired by the grit and determination of lifters who train despite challenges. Through this journey, I have learned that it's never too late to start weightlifting and enjoy its benefits. Best of all, I can combine it with my passion for statistics in order to make meaningful contributions.

* *In the snatch, the weight is lifted from the floor to overhead in one continuous movement.*

** *The clean and jerk is a two-part movement, where the weight is first lifted to the shoulders and then thrust overhead.*

References:

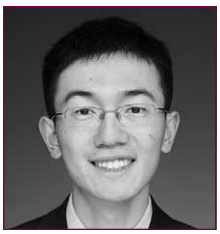
[1] Huebner, M., Meltzer, D.E., Perperoglou, A. Strength in Numbers Women in Olympic-Style Weightlifting, *Significance* 2021 Apr; 18(2).

[2] Lo, O., Kahya, M., Manor, B. Powering Through Daily Activities in Older Age—Will Power Training Replace Strength Training in Later Life? *JAMA Network Open*. 2022; 5(5): e2211631, doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.11631

[3] Perperoglou, A., and Huebner, M. Quantile foliation for modelling performance across body mass and age in Olympic weightlifting. *Statistical Modelling* 2021; 21 (6), 546–563, doi:10.1177/1471082X20940156

[4] Huebner, M., and Cole, T.J. Ranking performances of Olympic-style weightlifters adjusted for body mass on the same scale for both sexes: A novel approach. *J. Sports Sci.* 2024 Nov; 42(22):2124–2130 doi:10.1080/02640414.2024.2423138

LLMs as a Warm Start:
Statistics–AI co-evolution in the middle game



Linjun Zhang concludes with the third in our invited series of articles on LLMs and AI, and their implications for the statistics profession. He turns to the practical consideration of how we can see AI as a collaborator, instead of as either a threat or a cure-all.

In my previous two articles, I explored the role of Large Language Models (LLMs) as a "new companion" for statisticians in education and outlined the "axioms" for our foundational role in research. To conclude this series, I want to focus on a more practical question: What does it mean to live with AI in our daily academic routines?

The metaphor that best captures our current moment is the **"Warm Start."** In optimization, a warm start provides an initial guess close to the solution, drastically reducing the time to convergence. However, any researcher knows that a warm start guarantees nothing. Without a well-defined objective and carefully chosen updates, an algorithm may stall at a local optimum, or wander aimlessly.

LLMs now provide such a warm start for our field. New research problems at the intersection of statistics and AI are emerging; AI is accelerating our writing and coding and helping us analyze unstructured data in healthcare. They also reshape incentives by attracting funding, students, and institutional attention toward AI-related work. But warm starts require careful navigation. Momentum alone does not ensure meaningful progress, and we must be more cautious about how we proceed.

The Classroom Experiment: The Decay in the Middle-Game

Last semester, I conducted a small experiment in my graduate course on the statistical foundations of LLMs at Rutgers. I explicitly encouraged students to use LLMs only to write their final research papers and asked them to submit detailed reflections on their co-authorship process with AI.

Students quickly discovered that LLMs are exceptionally effective at getting started. They generated ideas, suggested problem formulations, proposed related literature, drafted outlines and plausible introductions within minutes, and presented the paper in a fun video. For many, the most difficult step in academic writing, the blank page, simply disappeared. The model provided what we might call a warm start: a structured initial direction that lowered the barrier to thinking and writing.

Yet the middle-game told a different story. As drafts evolved, students reported that models began to hallucinate references, introduce subtle logical gaps, and recycle earlier arguments in increasingly repetitive language. Rather than pushing ideas forward, the model often circled back to previously stated points. The resulting drafts appeared polished but stagnant: coherent on the surface, yet lacking genuine intellectual progression. Real progress required human intervention: decomposing questions into smaller parts, verifying each logical step, and exercising independent judgment.

The lesson was clear. Current LLMs excel at initiation but remain unreliable engines of sustained reasoning. For now, they only provide momentum, not direction.

A Warm Start for the Statistical Community

This classroom observation mirrors our broader professional landscape. The AI boom has given the statistical community its own institutional warm start.

We now see rapid advances in AI-assisted theorem proving and mathematical discovery. AI systems are beginning to solve research-level mathematical problems and assist in formal proof generation, though human verification remains essential. At the same time, "AI for science" initiatives and AI co-scientist frameworks are reshaping how research is conducted across disciplines. And in everyday academic life, generative tools dramatically improve productivity in coding, writing, exploratory analysis, and presentation.

This is our momentum. But warm starts can be deceptive. They create acceleration without guaranteeing direction. We are already witnessing a surge of low-effort AI-generated content across conferences, journals, and grant proposals. When productivity becomes frictionless, volume grows faster than depth. If we rely uncritically on the linguistic fluency of generative models, we risk drifting toward derivative research—work that appears sophisticated yet rarely moves beyond established ideas.

The appropriate response is neither rejection nor blind adoption of current AI. Instead, we should advocate for deliberate *co-evolution* between statisticians and AI systems: a partnership in which each shapes the development and responsible use of the other.

Dimension 1: Co-Evolution in Theoretical Research

AI systems are increasingly capable of assisting in mathematical reasoning. They can propose conjectures, sketch proof strategies, generate counterexamples, and search through combinatorial spaces of possibilities. In exploratory phases of theoretical research, such capabilities can be transformative.

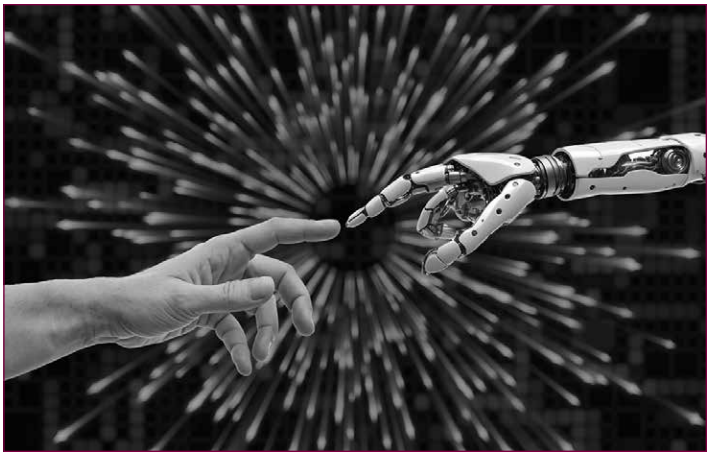
Yet the warm-start dynamic persists. AI can suggest directions, but it does not yet reliably identify which paths are structurally meaningful. According to my own experience, human efforts—such as decomposing complex statements, identifying appropriate abstractions, and simplifying problems to their essential components—dramatically improve the quality of AI-generated proofs. Effective collaboration therefore requires structured interaction. Researchers must guide models with carefully designed prompts, iteratively refine questions, and critically evaluate outputs. When treated not as an oracle but as a heuristic generator, AI becomes a powerful exploratory partner in theoretical discovery.

Dimension 2: Co-Evolution in Applied Research—The AI Co-Scientist

In applied settings, the co-evolution between AI and statistics becomes even more visible. The idea of an "AI co-scientist" is no longer speculative. LLMs and AI agents can assist with hypothesis generation, literature review, code development, experimental design suggestions, and preliminary data analysis. Multi-agent systems can coordinate tasks across complex research pipelines.

Yet successful application requires careful human scaffolding. Benchmarks must be curated. Evaluation pipelines must be rigorously designed. Domain knowledge must guide interpretation. Without such structure, AI-generated analyses risk reinforcing spurious correlations or optimizing for superficial metrics.

Statisticians are uniquely positioned to provide this scaffolding. Our discipline emphasizes experimental design, uncertainty quantification, and causal inference. In areas such as biostatistics and public health, where decisions affect patient outcomes and policy, these principles are indispensable. The statistician's role evolves from sole analyst to architect of reliable AI-assisted scientific workflows.



Dimension 3: Co-Evolution in Academic Practice

The influence of AI extends beyond research into the infrastructure of academia itself. Peer review, authorship, and scholarly communication are already being reshaped. Authors are increasingly utilizing LLMs for drafting and editing, while reviewers experiment with AI-assisted summaries and critiques. Simultaneously, editors confront urgent questions regarding disclosure, originality, and the delegation of responsibility.

Moving forward, transparency must be the cornerstone of our practice. The reproducibility of AI-assisted analyses and explicit human accountability for every claim must become standard requirements. Yet, this evolution is not purely defensive; properly integrated, AI can actually strengthen scholarly evaluation. These tools excel at detecting statistical errors, identifying incomplete reporting, or spotting internal inconsistencies across large manuscripts that might elude a tired human eye.

Statisticians, again, are uniquely positioned to lead this institutional shift. Our expertise in evaluation, rigorous testing, and the quantification of uncertainty equips us to distinguish genuine scientific insight from the "superficial fluency" of a generative model. By designing frameworks for responsible, AI-assisted scholarship, we ensure that while the tools of our trade change, the integrity of the record remains uncompromised.

Beyond the Warm Start

Warm starts reduce friction and open new directions, but they also create the illusion that progress is inevitable. A favorable initialization improves convergence only when guided by well-defined objectives and disciplined updates. Otherwise, the process may stall or drift toward suboptimal outcomes.

The AI era offers statistics a powerful initialization: unprecedented attention, resources, and opportunity. Realizing this potential requires deliberate navigation. We must resist viewing AI as either a threat or a cure-all and instead treat it as a collaborator whose strengths and limitations must be continuously calibrated.

LLMs help us begin. They do not complete the journey.

AI gives us a warm start. What follows depends on how we play the middle-game—carefully, critically, and collaboratively—toward a future in which statistical thinking and artificial intelligence evolve together.

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Student Puzzle 60

Guest Student Puzzle editor Stanislav Volkov sets another problem.

Let ξ be a non-negative random variable with finite expectation, and $c > 0$ be a constant. Alice plays the following game. She draws a value from the distribution ξ and then she can either stop or draw again, paying a cost of c. She can play as many rounds as she wants, paying c every time, and her payoff will be the last drawn value when she decides to stop, minus the costs she paid. Alice's goal is to maximise the expected net payoff of the game.

(a) Assuming the optimal strategy by Alice, what is her expected payoff? Solve the problem when ξ has a continuous distribution (you *can* make additional assumptions if needed).

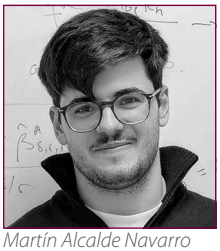
(b) Find the explicit formula when $\xi \sim U[0, 1]$.

(c) Find the explicit formula when ξ has a uniform *discrete* distribution with atoms on $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$.

Student members of IMS are invited to submit solutions to bulletin@imstat.org (subject "Student Puzzle Corner"). If correct, we'll publish your name (and photo, if there's space), and the answer, in the next issue.

The Puzzle Editor is Anirban DasGupta. His decision is final.

Solution to Puzzle 59


Martín Alcalde Navarro


Samprit Chakraborty


Kavya Sharma


Priyansh Pratap Singh

Hats off to student members **Martín Alcalde Navarro** (University of Zaragoza, Spain) and **Samprit Chakraborty** (Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata), who both sent perfect solutions to all three of the Puzzle 59 problems. Well done, too, to **Kavya Sharma** (Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra) and **Priyansh Pratap Singh** (Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra) who sent correct solutions to two and one of the problems, respectively.

Puzzle 59 was first published in the December 2025 issue.

Anirban DasGupta explains:

Puzzle 59.1 Suppose X, Y, Z are i.i.d. standard normal. Find, without doing any calculations, the distribution of $\frac{X+YZ}{\sqrt{1+Z^2}}$.

By conditioning on Z, one has that the conditional distribution of $\frac{X+YZ}{\sqrt{1+Z^2}}$ given $Z = z$ is $N(0, 1)$, and thus free of z. So, that is also the unconditional distribution.

Puzzle 59.2 Suppose $X_1, X_2, \ldots$ are i.i.d. $U[0, 1]$. For $n \geq 2$, let $X_{n-1:n}$ be the second-largest observation among $X_1, \ldots, X_n$. Find sequences a_n, b_n and a nondegenerate distribution G such that $\frac{X_{n-1:n}-a_n}{b_n}$ converges in distribution to a random variable with distribution G.

$1-X_{n-1:n}$ has the same distribution as $\frac{Z_1+Z_2}{Z_1+Z_2+\ldots+Z_{n+1}}$, where the Z_i are i.i.d. standard exponential.

By the Weak Law of Large Numbers, $\frac{Z_1+Z_2+\ldots+Z_{n+1}}{n}$ converges in probability to 1.

So, by Slutsky's theorem, $n(1-X_{n-1:n})$ converges in distribution to the sum of two i.i.d. standard exponentials, which has the density xe^{-x} with support $(0,\infty)$.

Puzzle 59.3 Consider the standard linear model $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}+\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$.
Find an element u in the column space of X, such that $\|u-\mathbf{Y}\|^2 < \|v-\mathbf{Y}\|^2$ for all v different from u in the column space of X.

The unique u minimizing $\|u-\mathbf{Y}\|^2$ over the column space of X is by definition $\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$, where $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is the unique LSE of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ when the LSE is unique.

The unique u is $\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}$ when $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}$ is nonsingular.

Obituary: Richard Johnson

1937–2026

Richard "Rich" Johnson

Dr. Richard Arnold 'Rich" Johnson, age 88 of Madison, died on February 2, 2026.

Rich lived a rich life of service and countless contributions to the field and profession of statistics.

Rich was born on July 10, 1937, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He obtained three degrees from the University of Minnesota: a BEE, MS in Mathematics and PhD in Statistics. He joined the University of Wisconsin–Madison Statistics faculty in 1966, where he remained as a tenured professor until his retirement in 2008.

During his 42 years on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin, he served for three years as the Statistics Department Chair.

Rich published over 125 technical papers in such internationally acclaimed journals as the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, the *Annals of Statistics*, the *Journal of the American Statistical Society* and *Technometrics*.

His papers span a wide range of topics marked by contributions to asymptotic theory, rank tests, circular statistics, multivariate statistics and reliability. His work on applications of statistics in forestry was invaluable. He especially enjoyed his creative collaborations with Gouri Bhattacharyya, and those with George Roussas.

Rich co-authored six textbooks. The best known is the highly cited *Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis*, with Dean Wichern. This book is now in its sixth edition and is used throughout the world. His other highly circulated timely published text on *Statistics: Principles and Methods*, with G. K. Bhattacharyya, is in the eighth edition. He was the sole revisor of *Probability and Statistics for Engineers*, by I. Miller and J. Freund, for the fourth through seventh editions.

Rich was a recipient of several honors and awards. He was an Elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Statistics Institute and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). He was awarded the IMS Carver Medal in 2008 for "exemplary service and patient wisdom in the creative administration and guidance of IMS programs in different roles over two decades," and the Don Owen award for his service to the ASA in 2009. At his retirement conference, Rich was presented an award by James Evans, United States Forest Products Laboratory, which read, "For 30 years of collaborative research leading to advances in statistical methodology that significantly enhanced the Forest Products Laboratory's research effort." His paper with Chris Morrell on "Random truncation and neutrinos" was awarded the Frank Wilcoxon Award for the best applications paper in *Technometrics*, 1991.

His service to profession included his having been an IMS Associate Program Secretary, Program Secretary and member of the Executive Committee. He was also on the editorial board of the *Journal of American Statistical Association* and was a member of the ASA Council.

One of his major contributions to the statistical profession was the very timely creation of the international journal *Statistics and Probability Letters*. He was the founding editor of this journal and served as its Editor-in-Chief for 25 years, from 1982–2007. This journal is well regarded worldwide and has been credited by some for helping change the culture of statistics journals towards faster response times. It is now in its 44th year and still going strong. I had an opportunity of being Co-editor-in-Chief of this journal for six years, 2007–13.

Professor Richard Johnson was an unofficial ambassador for statistics, giving technical talks in 23 foreign countries and meeting with statisticians worldwide. He and his wife Bobbie enjoyed these journeys together, building lifelong friendships from the Far East to Europe to Africa. In retirement they traveled widely as tourists.

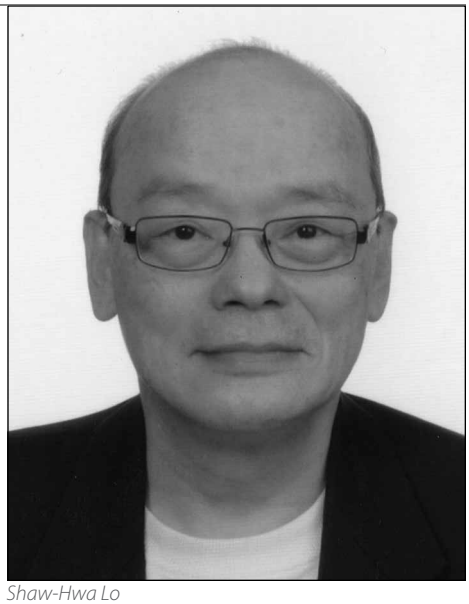
He was also especially proud of the 25 PhD students he advised during his tenure from all over the globe. During his professional career he mentored numerous national and international scholars with an impact. I was fortunate to befriend him in June 1968 and benefit in all these years from his friendship, mentorship and scholarly advice. He will be missed immensely.

Written by Hira L Koul, Michigan State University

Rich Johnson was the subject of a profile, written by Kjell Doksum and Kam Tsui, on the occasion of his selection to receive the IMS Harry C. Carver Award in 2008. You can read it on page 4 of the August/September 2008 issue of the *IMS Bulletin*, download from https://imstat.org/wp-content/uploads/Bulletin37_7.pdf

Obituary: Shaw-Hwa Lo

1951–2025



Shaw-Hwa Lo

The Department of Statistics at Columbia University mourns the passing of Professor Shaw-Hwa Lo, who passed away on October 25, 2025, at the age of 74. Professor Lo was a distinguished statistician, teacher, and collaborator whose work transformed both theoretical and applied statistics. His research in asymptotic theory, survival analysis, resampling methods, and statistical genetics expanded the reach of the field of Statistics into domains as diverse as molecular biology, public health, and transportation. He became a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1995 and a fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1997.

Born and raised in Taiwan, Lo earned his BS in Mathematics from National Taiwan University in 1975. A scholarship brought him to the United States, where he completed his MA in Mathematics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1978, and his PhD in Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1981, under the guidance of Lucien Le Cam. After faculty appointments at Rutgers and Harvard Universities, he joined Columbia University in 1990, where he remained for the rest of his career.

At Columbia, Lo played a pivotal role in revitalizing the Department of Statistics. As Co-Chair (1995–1998) and Chair (1998–2004), he worked closely with Paul Meier to rebuild the department's programs, recruit new faculty, and establish a strong PhD program, as well as two master's programs. Under their leadership, the department grew from four faculty members in 1990 to a thriving community of over 25. His vision for an interdisciplinary, application-driven department through faculty hiring and graduate education anticipated the rise of data science and helped establish Columbia as a leading institution in the field.

Lo's early work focused on survival analysis and resampling methods, where he made elegant and influential contributions. His probabilistic representations of the Kaplan–Meier estimator provided new insights into its tail behavior, leading to simplified analyses of censored and truncated data. His decomposition of the bootstrap statistic into interpretable stochastic components provided a unified framework for understanding bootstrap convergence, resolving questions that had remained open for years.

In the late 1990s, Lo turned his attention to genetics and biomedical data, at a time when the Human Genome Project was beginning to reshape the sciences. He recognized that these new types of data would require fundamentally new approaches to variable selection and prediction. This led him to develop the Partition Retention (PR) framework and the I-Score, a measure of predictive power that assesses how well a set of variables jointly predicts a response. These ideas helped shift statistical practice away from significance-based modeling toward a prediction-driven framework. The I-Score approach dramatically improved prediction accuracy in applications such as breast cancer classification, reducing error rates from 30% to 8%. Through this line of research, he also became a long-time collaborator of Herman Chernoff, with whom he co-authored seminal papers on predictivity and influential variables, including publications in *PNAS* and the *Annals of Applied Statistics*. More recently, these advanced methodologies have been integrated with statistical learning and deep learning, helping to bridge the gap between prediction and causal reasoning and informing the "explainable" component of explainable AI.

In 2019, the New England Statistical Society recognized Lo's lifetime of innovation by awarding him the inaugural Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award, the society's highest honor. The award citation noted not only his theoretical contributions but also his ability to connect statistical innovation with real-world impact, embodying the spirit of data science before the term became ubiquitous.

Beyond his research, Professor Lo was an inspiring mentor and educator who guided generations of statisticians and data scientists. His former students and colleagues recall his enthusiasm and ability to spark curiosity. At Columbia, the PhD students supervised and co-supervised include Kani Chen, Xin Liu, Tian Zheng, Iuliana Ionita, Hui Wang, Xin Yan, Chien-Hsun Hwang, Michael Agne, Ruixue (Rachel) Fan, Jonathan Auerbach, and Lydia Hsu, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in academia and industry. As Tian Zheng, former student and current faculty member of Columbia's Department of Statistics, has reflected, "He taught us not to work on problems limited by today's technology, but on challenges that push knowledge forward." He demonstrated this clearly with his continuous efforts to immerse himself with the recent

Shaw-Hwa Lo, 1951–2025

Continued from previous page

developments of genetics, machine learning and AI.

He inspired generations of students through both his intellectual depth and his humanity. Many of his students have gone on to become leaders in academia and industry. His impact is also felt through the programs he helped build at Columbia, including highly successful master's and doctoral programs that continue to attract students from around the world.

Lo's personal warmth and humor complemented his academic rigor. He was known for his love of Chinese tea, his Thanksgiving parties, his long morning runs along Riverside Park, and his lively curiosity about every new idea that crossed his desk. He is survived by his wife, Vicky Chao, his daughter, Adeline Lo, and his son, Alexander Lo.

Professor Shaw-Hwa Lo's passing leaves a deep void in the Columbia community and in the international world of statistics. His intellectual legacy—marked by creativity, vision, and mentorship—will continue to shape the field for decades to come.

Written by Bodhisattva Sen, Columbia University

You can read a profile of Shaw-Hwa Lo, written when he received the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award in 2019 from the New England Statistical Society, at https://datascience.columbia.edu/news/2019/columbia-professor-shaw-hwa-lo-honored-for-using-statistics-to-solve-societal-problems/

Election2026 Candidate Profiles

Meet the people standing in the 2026 IMS Council elections. **Xihong Lin** is the candidate for President-Elect, and we have 10 candidates for the five places on IMS Council: **Shankar Bhamidi, Jelena Bradic, Susanne Ditlevsen, Pablo Groisman, Jialiang Li, Runze Li, Lester Mackey, Debashis Paul, Nancy Ruonan Zhang** and **Hongtu Zhu**. The deadline for your vote is **May 22, 2026**. See **https://www.imstat.org/elections/**

President-Elect candidate:

Xihong Lin

Professor and Chair of the Department of Statistics and Professor of the Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University

w hsph.harvard.edu/profile/xihong-lin/

Education

BS in Applied Mathematics, Tsinghua University (1989); PhD in Biostatistics, University of Washington (1994)

Research Interests

Integrative statistical, machine learning and generative AI methods; Statistical genetics and genomics; Analysis of massive Whole Genome Sequencing and biobank data; Integrative analysis of different types of data; Causal inference, causal mediation analysis and Mendelian Randomization; Statistical methods for correlated and complex population and experimental data; Nonparametric and semiparametric regression methods; Measurement errors and missing data; Random effects models and estimating equations

Previous Service to the Profession

Service to IMS:

Chair, IMS AI committee, 2024–25

Member, IMS Fellow Selection Committee, 2019–22

IMS Council Member, 2018–21

Member, Joint Committee on Women in Mathematics, IMS and American Mathematical Society, 2008–10

Member, Program Committee, IMS Asia–Pacific Rim Conference

Editors and Associate Editors:

Co-editor, *Journal of the American Statistical Association* Special AI Issue, 2024–

Editor, *Computational Biology Series*, Taylor and Francis, 2012–18

Founding Co-Editor, *Statistics in Biosciences,* 2009–15

Coordinating Editor, *Biometrics*, 2003–05

Associate Editor, *JASA Applications and Case Studies*, 1999–2002, 2013–19

Associate Editor, *Biometrika,* 2008–11

Associate Editor, *Biometrics,* 1997–2002

Associate Editor, *Biostatistics,* 2000–02

Other National and International Committee appointments:

Committee Member, Study on Frontiers of Statistics in Science and Engineering: 2035 and Beyond, US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 2025–26

Committee Member, Study on International Talent Programs in the Changing Global Environment, US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 2023–24

Chair, Organizing Committee of the International Prize in Statistics, ASA, 2022

Member, Organizing Committee, ASA Chair Workshop, 2017, 2018

Founder, US Biostatistics Chair Group and annual meeting, 2016
Chair, ASA Statistical Genetics and Genomics Section, 2016
Member, Noether Award Committee, American Statistical Association, 2014–16
Member, Regional Advisory Committee, ENAR, 2015–17
Member, Committee of Theoretical and Applied Statistics, US National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 2010–15
Chair, Committee of the Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS), 2010–12
Member, Board of Directors, National Institute of Statistical Sciences, 2010–12
Council member (2009–14) and Editorial Representative, Executive Committee (2004–07), International Biometric Society
Member, Board of Directors, International Chinese Statistical Association, 2004–06
Chair and member, Spiegelman Award Selection Committee, American Public Health Association (APHA)(Member, 2003–04, Chair, 2005)
Member, Nomination Committee, ENAR, 2001–03

Scientific Advisory Committee Appointments:

Member, Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, World Health Organization and United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2021–present
Member, State of MA COVID-19 Task Force, 2020
Member, Australia Research Council Centre of Excellence for Mathematical & Statistical Frontiers, 2015–23
Member, Advisory Committee, National Children Study, 2011–15
Member, Advisory Committee, National Institute of Statistical Science, 2009–12

National and International Conference Appointments:

Program Committee, Joint Biostatistics Symposium, 2018
Member, Program Committee, International Biometric Conference, 2012
Member, Program Committee, 2006 IBC, Toronto
Program Chair, 2000 ENAR Meetings, Chicago

Brief Statement

I am greatly honored to be nominated as President-Elect of the IMS, a society I greatly admire and care about. The IMS plays a vital role in advancing foundational theory, methodology, and applications in statistics and data science, while navigating the transformative opportunities and responsibilities posed by AI in research, education and practice. I would like to work with the IMS community to foster innovation and strengthen the impact of statistical science in the age of AI; support early-career researchers; advance education and research opportunities; and reinforce the IMS as a vibrant and inclusive global society through enhanced collaboration and communication.

Council candidates: 10 standing for five places

Shankar Bhamidi

Professor, Statistics and Operations Research, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

w https://shankarbhamidi.web.unc.edu/

Education

PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2008

Research Interests

Probability on networks and random graphs, including structure and dynamics of random graph models and universality phenomena in critical regimes. Interacting stochastic processes on complex networks, such as epidemics, flows, and first/last passage percolation on sparse random graphs. Random trees, coalescent processes, and scaling limits, with emphasis on continuum limits and multiplicative coalescents. Statistical network analysis, including community detection, network tomography, and modeling of weighted and multilayer networks. Algorithmic aspects of stochastic models, including Markov chain Monte Carlo on network models and stochastic approximation methods for dynamic networks.

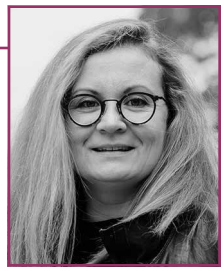
Previous Service to the Profession

Associate editors for multiple journals including *Statistical Science, Bernoulli* and *Annals of Applied Probability*.

Brief Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the IMS Council. Throughout my career, I have benefited deeply from the IMS community: its journals, meetings, and the steady volunteer work that sustains our field, from thoughtful refereeing and editorial service to mentoring and advocacy for colleagues. I feel it is my turn to contribute in return. This is a turning point for our profession as new technologies reshape how quantitative work is produced and used, and I would welcome the chance to help IMS respond with rigor, openness, and care.

Jelena Bradic



Professor of Statistics & Data Science at Cornell University, and Fellow at Cornell's Center for Data Science for Enterprise and Society, Cornell University

w https://www.jelenabradic.net/

Education

2011, PhD, Princeton University, Operations Research & Financial Engineering; 2007, MS, University of Belgrade, Department of Mathematics

Research Interests

Theory-driven methods for causal inference and robust high-dimensional learning under realistic assumptions. Causal inference: ATE estimation under weak identification; dynamic/time-varying treatments; individualized policy learning with treatment heterogeneity. Robustness: Methods resilient to misspecification, sparsity violations, and distribution shift; minimax/adaptively robust estimators and theory-guided ML. Incomplete data & AI: Principled inference with missing/censored/semi-supervised data; foundations for reliable AI in high-stakes settings.

Previous Service to the Profession

Editorial leadership

Co-Editor-in-Chief, ACM/IMS *Journal of Data Science* (joint ACM–IMS journal), with Stratos Idreos and John Lafferty, 2022–26

Editorial service

Associate Editor, JASA (Theory & Methods), 2019–present
Associate Editor, Journal of Nonparametric Statistics, 2019–present
Associate Editor, Scandinavian Journal of Statistics, 2019–present
Associate Editor, JRSS-B, 2020–21

Conference and society leadership

Program Chair (elected), ASA Section on Statistical Learning & Data Science (SLDS), 2021
Program Co-Chair, Statistical Learning and Data Science Conference, 2020
Program Chair, ASA SLDS at JSM (year not recalled)
Multiple session organizer and speaker, IMS/SLDS/ASA/ISNPS and related meetings

Institutional and committee service

Committee member, development of the Data Science undergraduate minor, UC San Diego, 2017
Founding faculty member (one of the first 15), Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute (HDSI), UC San Diego, 2018
Committee member, ISNPS; Chair, Student Paper Awards, 2026–
Committee member, Student Paper Awards, ASA SLDS (JSM), 2020
Treasurer, ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section, 2020
NSF DMS Panelist (Statistics section) (2016, 2017, 2019)
NSF DMS Career award Panelist (Statistics section) (2024, 2026)

Brief Statement

Thank you for considering my nomination to the IMS Council. I offer a perspective grounded in robust causal inference, double robustness, and high-dimensional statistics. If elected, I shall work to ensure that IMS remains the professional home for foundational probability and statistics, whilst engaging thoughtfully with rapidly evolving data science and artificial intelligence. My priorities include supporting members with guidance and fora on reliable inference in modern data science and AI, strengthening mentoring and visibility for early-career researchers, and fostering inclusive, globally connected programmes.

Susanne Ditlevsen

Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

w https://web.math.ku.dk/~susanne/

Education

PhD, 2005, Biostatistics Department, University of Copenhagen; MSc Statistics, 2000, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Copenhagen; MSc Mathematics, 1999, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain

Research Interests

Statistical inference for stochastic processes. Nonlinear dynamics. Biostatistics. Statistical ecology, in particular marine mammals in the Arctic. Climate changes and tipping points. Mathematical modeling of physiological systems. Neuronal modelling.

Previous Service to the Profession

President of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters (2024–28)
Vice-president, Presidium of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters (2021–24)
Associate Editor *Biometrika* (2018–24); Associate Editor *Scandinavian Journal of Statistics* (2010–16); Associate Editor *Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering* (2007–20)

Chair of scientific committee for ECMTB-SMB conference in Nottingham (2016)
Chair of ICMNS conference in Copenhagen (2019)
Council member of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability (2021–25)
Member of the European Math Society, Applied Math Committee (2018–21)
Member of the board of European Society of Mathematics and Theoretical Biology (2015–20)
Member Nasjonal bedømmelseskomite for opprykk til professor, Statistikk, Norge (2020–23)
Member "faglig referencegruppe for varslingssystemet, COVID-19", Sundhedsministeriet (2020–22)

Brief Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the IMS council. I believe we are at a time when statistics are more important than ever due to the rapidly increasing volume and complexity of data. To make sound decisions and draw reliable conclusions, a full understanding of algorithms in data science and strong control over the properties of estimators are essential, which is why the IMS journals, conferences and our community are pivotal in this new era of data science. Moreover, interdisciplinary collaboration plays a crucial role, as statistical thinking and tools are most powerful when they are integrated across different fields and applied to complex, real-world problems. I hope to contribute to the continued development of our community, and to foster appropriate analysis and responsible use of data in other fields.

Pablo Groisman

Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Buenos Aires (UBA)

w https://mate.dm.uba.ar/~pgroisma/

Education

PhD in Mathematics, University of Buenos Aires, 2003

Research Interests

Interacting Particle Systems. Quasi-stationary Distributions. Branching-selection Particle Systems. Stochastic Models for Synchronization Phenomena. Geometric and Topological Statistics. Random Growth Processes. Stochastic Differential Equations. Reconstruction in Dynamical Systems.

Previous Service to the Profession

Associate Editor, *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals*
Advisory Board, Bunge & Born Award, 2018
Head, Undergraduate Data Science Program, University of Buenos Aires
Review Panelist for Latin American Science Agencies (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay)

Brief Statement

I am honored by this nomination. The IMS's mission thrives on both scientific rigor and a vibrant, global community. I bring the necessary perspective of a Latin American researcher and a practice that bridges probability with mathematical statistics and data science. On Council, I will be a steadfast advocate for the exceptional standards that define IMS publications and activities, ensuring this quality continues to unite and elevate our diverse membership worldwide and across disciplines.

Jialiang Li

Professor, Department of Statistics and Data Science, National University of Singapore

w https://blog.nus.edu.sg/jialiang/

Education

BS Statistics, University of Science and Technology of China 2001; MS Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison 2005; PhD Statistics, University of Wisconsin–Madison 2006

Research Interests

Change point. Diagnostic medicine. Instrumental variable. Network. Personalized medicine. Statistical learning. Survival analysis.

Previous Service to the Profession

AE or Editorial Board Member for statistical journals: *Annals of Applied Statistics, Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application, Biometrics* (2010–18), *Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Lifetime Data Analysis, Statistical Methods in Medical Research*
Statistical Editor or Statistical Advisor for medical journals: *Biomarkers, British Journal of Psychiatry, PLOS One, Research Methods in Medicine & Health Sciences*
International Biometric Society (IBS), Budget and Finance Committee: 2016–19, 2020–23

International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), Board of Directors, 2024–26
Program Committee of IMS Asian Pacific Rim Meeting (APRM), 2024
Program Committee of IMS International Conference of Statistics and Data Science (ICSDS), 2022–24
Co-chair of Organizing Committee for five Institute of Mathematical Sciences workshops in Singapore

Brief Statement

I am truly honored to be nominated for the IMS Council election. The IMS has played a vital role in my professional journey, and I deeply value its commitment to advancing probability and statistics as pillars of modern data science. I have collaborated extensively with statistical and medical researchers worldwide, which has strengthened my appreciation for a global and inclusive scientific community. If elected, I will actively contribute to IMS's mission, promote international and interdisciplinary partnerships, expand engagement with developing regions, and support early-career researchers. It would be a privilege to serve the IMS during this transformative era for our field.

Runze Li
Eberly Family Chair Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics, The Pennsylvania State University at University Park

w https://runzelipsu.github.io/

Education

PhD in Statistics, 2000, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; MS in Statistics, 1993, Institute of Applied Math, Chinese Academy of Sciences; BS in Mathematics, 1990, Beijing Normal University

Research Interests

Variable selection and feature screening for high-dimensional data. Nonparametric and semiparametric regression modeling. Statistical genetics and bioinformatics. Statistical applications to engineering, meteorological research, neural science research & social behavioral science research.

Previous Service to the Profession

Service to the IMS

Co-Editor of *Annals of Statistics,* 2013–15
Associate Editor of *Annals of Statistics,* 2007–12
Associate Editor of *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, 2022–present
Chair of scientific program committee for 4th IMS China meeting, July 1–4, 2013, Chengdu, China
Co-chair of scientific program committee for the second IMS Asia–Pacific Rim meeting in 2012, Tokyo, Japan
Co-chair of scientific program committee for the first IMS Asia–Pacific Rim meeting in 2009, Seoul, Korea
IMS program chair for ENAR 2005, Austin, Texas
Member of IMS Committee to Select Editors, 2020
Member of IMS publication committee, 2013–15
Member of IMS committee on special lectures, 2012–14
Co-chair of Committee on IMS Asia–Pacific Rim Meeting, 2007–12

Service to the Profession beyond the IMS

Co-editor-elect and Co-editor of *Journal of American Statistical Association* (2026–29)
Co-editor of *Statistical Learning and Data Science*, 2025-present
Associate Editor of *Journal of American Statistical Association* (2006–26)
Associate Editor of *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, 2019–
Editorial board member of Science China Mathematics, 2018–
Associate Editor of *Statistica Sinica*, 2005–12
Chair of Scientific Program Committee of Statistical Foundations of Data Science and Their Application, 2023, Princeton, USA
Associate Chair for Machine Learning and AI, Scientific Program Committee for the 2nd China Joint Statistical and Data Science Meetings (CJSM), 2024, Kunming, China
ASA Biometrics Section program chair for JSM 2007, Salt Lake City, Utah
Chair-elect, Chair and Past-Chair of ASA Nonparametric Statistics Section, 2019–21.
Chair of Publication Committee, International Chinese Statistical Association, 2023, 2024, 2025
Director of International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) Board, 2007–09

Brief Statement

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the IMS Council. Throughout my academic career, IMS has played an important role in supporting my professional growth. As an IMS Council member, I would be dedicated to advancing the mission of IMS, strengthening its leadership in the statistical communities, and shaping its influence on the development of AI, data science, and modern statistical learning, through conferences and publications, mentorship of junior researchers, and the training of graduate students.

Lester Mackey

Senior Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research New England

w https://lmackey.github.io/

Education

University of California, Berkeley, PhD, Computer Science, 2012: Designated Emphasis in Communication, Computation, and Statistics; University of California, Berkeley, MA, Statistics, 2011; Princeton University, BSE, Computer Science *summa cum laude*, 2007

Research Interests

Statistical machine learning. Scalable algorithms. Approximate inference. Distribution compression. High-dimensional statistics. Probability. Sub-seasonal forecasting. Social good.

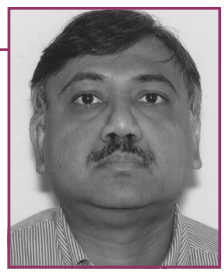
Previous Service to the Profession

Neural Information Processing Systems Foundation Board, 2024–
Chair, ASA Section on Bayesian Statistical Science, 2025
General Chair, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2024
COPSS Emerging Leader Award Committee, 2023–24
IMS Committee on Nominations, 2023–24
Ethics Review Chair, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023
Census Scientific Advisory Committee, United States Census Bureau, 2021–22
Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020, 2021
Science Advisory Board, Institute for Pure & Applied Mathematics (IPAM), 2021
Treasurer, International Society of Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) Section on Bayesian Computation (BayesComp), 2019–20
Scientific Committee, International Conference on Monte Carlo & Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods in Scientific Computing (MCQMC), 2025–27
Organizer, Workshop on Sampling Methods for Problems in Machine Learning and Data Sciences, Institute for Mathematical Sciences, 2025
Organizer, Workshop on Sampling Methods for Problems Involving Differential Equations and Physical Sciences, Institute for Mathematical Sciences, 2025
Organizer, Invited Session on Statistical Machine Learning, IMS Annual Meeting, 2022
Organizer, Stein's Method—The Golden Anniversary, Institute for Mathematical Sciences, 2022
Organizer, Advances in Stein's Method and Its Applications in Machine Learning and Optimization, BIRS, 2022
Organizer, Workshop on Stein's Method in Machine Learning and Statistics, ICML, 2019
Organizer, Workshop on AI for Social Good, ICML, 2019
Organizer, Session on Probabilistic Methods in Machine Learning, SPA, 2018
Chair, Session on Convex Modeling for High-Dimensional Data Analysis, ASC–IMS, 2014
Organizer, Workshop on Sparse Representation and Low-rank Approximation, NeurIPS, 2011
Senior Area Chair / Senior Meta-Reviewer for International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2022–
Area Chair / Meta-Reviewer for ICML, 2019–21
Reviewer for ICML, 2013–18
Senior Area Chair for Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021–23, 2025–
Area Chair for NeurIPS, 2017–20
Reviewer for NeurIPS, 2010–16
Editor for *Environmental Data Science*, 2021–23
Associate Editor for *SIAM Mathematics of Data Science* (SIMODS), 2023–25
Associate Editor for *Annals of Statistics*, 2019–22, 2026–
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Statistical and Methodological Review Committee, 2024–26

Brief Statement

I am honored that the IMS community is considering me for this position and excited to give back to a community that has already given me so much. I am a bridge builder and if elected will do my best to build and reinforce bridges between theory and application, between industry and academia, and between statistics and the world.

Debashis Paul



Professor, Applied Statistics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

w https://ecsu.isical.ac.in/debashis-paul

Education

B.Stat., Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, 1997; M.Stat., Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, 1999; MA, Statistics, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2000; PhD, Statistics, Stanford University, 2005

Research Interests

High-dimensional statistics. Random matrix theory. Random dynamical systems. Neuroimaging. Spatial statistics.

Previous Service to the Profession

Associate Editor of *Journal of the American Statistical Association* (2024–), *The Annals of Statistics* (2013–21), *Bernoulli* (2016–18), *Electronic Journal of Statistics* (2016–24), *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* (2012–23), *Series A* (2012–), *Statistica Sinica* (2009–14); Guest editor of *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis* (2020–21).

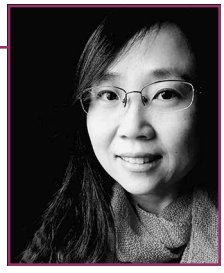
Member: Committee on IMS New Researchers' Conference (2011–13)

Conferences: Program/organizing committee member of at least eight symposia and workshops (including two BIRS workshops and one MATRIX workshop)

Brief Statement

It is a great honour to be nominated for election to the IMS Council. IMS has been playing an exemplary role in providing high-quality outlets for dissemination of statistical and mathematical research and creating open and equitable platforms for scholastic activities. If elected to the IMS council, I hope to be able to contribute by focusing especially on the following aspects: supporting young statisticians in building professional careers, improving participation of students and scholars from developing countries in IMS sponsored events, and increasing access to quality statistical education among a wider group of students, especially those from economically disadvantaged background.

Nancy Ruonan Zhang



Ge Li and Ning Zhao Professor of Statistics and Data Science, Department of Statistics and Data Science, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

w https://statistics.wharton.upenn.edu/profile/nzh/

Education

PhD in Statistics, Stanford University, 2005; MS in Computer Science, Stanford University, 2001; BS in Mathematics, Stanford University, 2001

Research Interests

Statistical foundations for single-cell and spatial genomics. Data integration, denoising, and variance decomposition. Statistical methods for studying cellular evolution, cancer, and aging. High-dimensional inference and structured change-point detection. Translational statistics at the interface of statistics, biology, and medicine.

Previous Service to the Profession

Chair, ASA Section on Statistical Genetics and Genomics (2023–24)

Editorial service including *Annals of Applied Statistics* (2015–18), *Briefings in Bioinformatics* (2017–21), and *Genome Research* (2020–21)

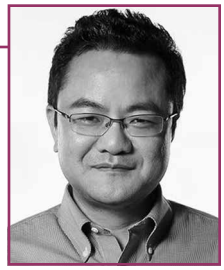
Extensive service on NIH and NSF study sections since 2011

Taught and organized introductory overview lectures and workshops for ASA (2018, 2020, 2025).

Brief Statement

I am truly honored to be nominated for the IMS Council, and it will be my privilege to serve. I am committed to strengthening the role of statistics as a foundational discipline across the sciences, while ensuring that our core principles continue to shape emerging data-driven fields. Through my work bridging statistics with biology and medicine, I have seen both the growing opportunities for statistics to shape modern scientific discovery and the importance of statisticians to remain visible, engaged, and well represented. As an IMS Council member, I would work to broaden participation, amplify diverse voices, and help position statistics as an integrative and forward-looking discipline.

Hongtu Zhu



Kenan Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics, Statistics and Operational Research, Computer Science, Genetics, and Radiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

w https://sph.unc.edu/adv_profile/hongtu-zhu-phd/

Education

Ph.D, 2000, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Research Interests

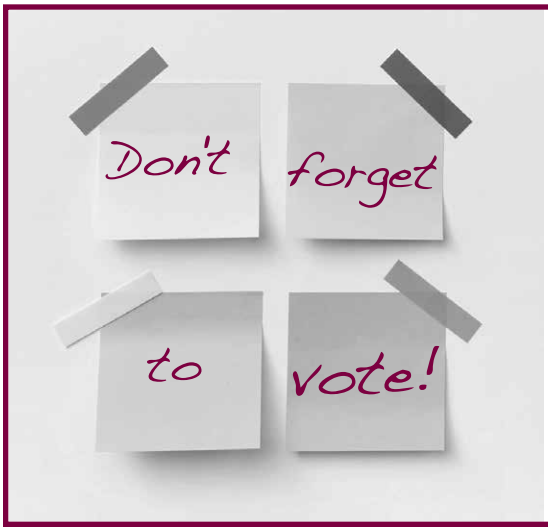
Medical Imaging Analysis. Functional Data Analysis. Imaging Genetics. Deep Learning. Reinforcement Learning. Big Data Integration. Causal Inference. E-commerce

Previous Service to the Profession

Editor for *Journal of American Statistical Association: Application & Case Studies*, and Coordinating Editor, 2025-2027
Associate Editor for:
Biometrics, 2009–11
Statistics and its Interface, 2007–18
Neurosurgery, 2011–17
Statistica Sinica, 2011–
Journal of American Statistical Association, A&CS, 2012–18
Annals of Statistics, 2013–18
Journal of American Statistical Association, T&M, 2014–18
Statistics in Biosciences, 2015–20
Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, 2015–21
Journal of Royal Statistical Society, Series B, 2019–23
Statistical Consultant and Reviewer, *New England Journal of Medicine–AI*, 2024–
Steering Committee Member, ASA Statistics up AI group, 2024–
NIH and NSF panel reviewer, 2008–
Student Award Committee, ICSA 2006 Applied Statistics Symposium
International Chinese Statistical Association Board of Directors, 2012–14
ICSA Mentor–Mentee Program, 2024–
Acting Chair 2012–13 of Section on Statistics in Imaging in ASA
ENAR Education advisory committee, 2011
ENAR Student Award Committee, 2010–13
IMS Committee for the Hall Prize, 2023–26
Co-chair:
Neuroimaging Data Analysis workshop at Banff, 2016
Tsinghua–Sanya Mathematics and Statistics Workshop, 2016
Information Processing in Medical Imaging (IPMI), 2017
Workshop on Applications-Driven Geometric Functional Data Analysis, 2017
Recent Advances in Statistical Analysis of Imaging Data, 2020
Statistical Learning Methods for Modern AI, 2021
Reinforcement Learning for Intelligent Transportation Systems Workshop, IJCAI, 2021
KDD Workshop on Decision Intelligence and Analytics for Online Marketplaces, 2022–23
Reinforcement Learning Methods and Applications, 2022
IMSI Workshop: Challenges in Neuroimaging Data Analysis, 2024
NeuroConnect 2024: Advancing Brain Network Research Workshop, 2024
MBZUAI Workshop on Statistics for the Future of AI, 2024
Foundation Models and Their Biomedical Applications: Bridging the Gap, August 17-22, 2025
One of four Program Leaders and Program Chair, SAMSI summer workshop on Neuroimaging Data Analysis (NDA), 2013
Program Leader for SAMSI full-year program on Challenges in Computational Neuroscience (CCNS) with five workshops, one short course, and two regular courses, 2015–16

Brief Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the IMS Council. If elected, I will work to strengthen IMS's leadership in mathematical statistics and AI. With expertise in imaging genetics, medical imaging analysis, deep reinforcement learning, and big data integration, I have led efforts to combine diverse data sources in biomedical science, promoted statistics in e-commerce and organized panel discussions at ASA and JSM. There are many challenges ahead, from ensuring that statistical methods remain at the forefront of AI advancements to fostering cross-disciplinary engagement. I am committed to working with the Council to address these challenges and to position IMS as a leader in the evolving landscape of mathematical statistics, machine learning, and AI.



The IMS Council elections are open until

May 22, 2026.

https://www.imstat.org/elections

Recent papers: two IMS co-sponsored journals

Statistics Surveys

Statistics Surveys publishes survey articles in theoretical, computational, and applied statistics. The style of articles may range from reviews of recent research to graduate textbook exposition. Articles may be broad or narrow in scope. The essential requirements are a well specified topic and target audience, together with clear exposition. This journal is a free access official journal, sponsored by the American Statistical Association, the Bernoulli Society, the IMS, and the Statistical Society of Canada. The Coordinating Editor is Wendy L. Martinez, and the Editor for IMS is Yingying Fan. The other editors are Bertrand Clarke (ASA), Bodhisattva Sen (Bernoulli), and Richard A. Lockhart (SSC). Read more at https://imstat.org/journals-and-publications/statistics-surveys/

Author or publication fees are not required. Voluntary fees or donations to the Open Access Fund are accepted (see https://www.imstat.org/shop/donation/). Expenses not covered by voluntary payments are paid for by the co-sponsoring societies as a service to the community. Access papers at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/statistics-surveys**

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Electronic Journal of Statistics

The *Electronic Journal of Statistics* (*EJS*) publishes research articles and short notes on theoretical, computational and applied statistics. The journal is open access. Articles are refereed and are held to the same standard as articles in other IMS journals. Articles become publicly available shortly after they are accepted. This journal is a free access official journal of the IMS and the Bernoulli Society. The Co-Editors are Alexandra Carpentier and Arnak Dalalyan. Read more at https://imstat.org/journals-and-publications/electronic-journal-of-statistics/

Author or publication fees are not required. Voluntary fees or donations to the Open Access Fund are accepted (see https://www.imstat.org/shop/donation/). Expenses not covered by voluntary payments are paid for by the co-sponsoring societies as a service to the community. Access papers at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/electronic-journal-of-statistics**

Volume 20, Number 1 | 2026

IMS meetings around the world

Joint Statistical Meetings

2026 Joint Statistical Meetings UPDATED
August 1–6, 2026, Boston, USA
w https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

The theme for JSM 2026 is "Communities in Action: Advancing Society." The program committee has finalized the invited program, choosing 181 of the top proposals out of more than 350 submitted. Contributed abstract submissions have now closed, but there's time to submit a ***Late-Breaking Session proposal***. A late-breaking session covers one or more technical, scientific, or policy-related topics that has arisen in the one-year period before the JSM in which the session is proposed to appear. Daniell Toth, JSM 2026 program chair, will accept proposals via https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/latebreaking.cfm until April 15, 2026. Check the link for requirements. Registration & housing reservations open May 1, 2026.

JSM dates for 2026–2030

JSM 2026	IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM 2027	JSM 2028	IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM 2029	JSM 2030
August 1–6, 2026	August 7–12, 2027	August 5–10, 2028	August 4–9, 2029	August 4–8, 2030
Boston, USA	Chicago, USA	Philadelphia, USA	Seattle, USA	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
[see above]				

Photo: Wikimedia / Heribert Pohl CC-by-SA2.0

Organizers: Kavita Ramanan, IMS President; Genevera Allen, Program Chair for Statistics; Remco van der Hofstad, Program Chair for Probability; and Arne Bathke, Local Chair

2026 IMS Annual Meeting UPDATED
July 6–9, 2026, Salzburg, Austria
w imstat.org/2026AnnualMeeting/

The 2026 IMS Annual Meeting will be held in Salzburg, July 6–9, at Salzburg Congress (salzburgcongress.at/en).

The conference will cover a broad range of topics from statistics and probability, as well as the IMS Wald lectures by **Tilmann Gneiting**, the Blackwell lecture by **Cun-Hui Zhang**, and three Medallion award lectures, by **Ian McKeague**, **Bodhisattva Sen**, and **Jelle Goeman**. There's also the IMS Presidential Address by **Kavita Ramanan** and the Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award lectures (**Jin-Hong Du, Yu Gui, Subhodh Kotekal, Reese Pathak**), in addition to plenary, invited, and contributed presentations. Conference participants will also be treated to a classical chamber concert.

Registration and contributed abstract submission are open. The deadline to submit a contributed talk is April 1. Please *first* register for the conference, via https://imstat.org/shop/2026-ims-annual-meeting (early registration before May 15) and, having registered, submit the title and abstract of your talk.

Salzburg is a popular destination in the summer months: we advise you to **make your hotel reservations early!**

At a glance:

forthcoming IMS Annual Meeting and JSM dates

2026

IMS Annual Meeting: Salzburg, Austria, **July 6–9**

JSM: Boston, USA, **August 1–6, 2026**

2027

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Chicago, USA **August 7–12, 2027**

2028

IMS Annual Meeting/ 12th World Congress: Singapore, **July 24–28, 2028**

JSM: Philadelphia, USA, **August 5–10, 2028**

2029

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Seattle, USA, **August 4–9, 2029**

SAVE THE DATE for ICSDS2026:

2026 International Conference on Statistics and Data Science
December 15–18, 2026
Split, Croatia

w TBC

The 2026 IMS–ICSDS will be held December 15–18, 2026, in Split, Croatia. More information soon!

15th High-Dimensional Data Analysis (HDDA) conference

NEW

August 12–14, 2026
Istanbul Medipol Medical University, Turkey

w https://hdda2026.medipol.edu.tr/

High-Dimensional Data Analysis (HDDA) emerged in response to modern scientific and technological advances that generate data with a very large number of variables relative to sample size. Breakthroughs in genomics, bioinformatics, finance, image processing, and machine learning highlighted limitations of classical methods and motivated new theory, models, and computation for high-dimensional settings, including sparsity-based methods, regularization, dimension reduction, and modern regression and inference theory.

2026 IMS Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM)

UPDATED

June 13–16, 2026
Hong Kong, China

w https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/

The seventh meeting of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM) will take place in Hong Kong from June 13 to June 16, 2026, and will be hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

This event will serve as an exceptional global forum for scientific communication and collaboration among researchers from Asia and the Pacific Rim. It aims to foster connections and partnerships between researchers in this region and colleagues from around the world. Building upon the successes of previous meetings, the seventh meeting will enhance our ongoing efforts to fulfil our shared mission within the statistical profession.

Participants can look forward to a diverse program featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops led by prominent experts in the field of statistics. The conference will cover a wide range of topics, including theoretical advancements, innovative methodologies, and practical applications in various domains. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations.

Plenary speakers: **Andrea Montanari**, Stanford University, and **Hans-Georg Müller**, University of California, Davis. A further list of 21 distinguished lecturers, as well as 72 invited sessions, can be found on the conference website above.

Contributed talks and posters are now being called with deadline on March 30, 2026. Abstracts of all talks and posters can be submitted at https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/submission/login. Registration is open (early-bird registration until March 31, 2026).

The vibrant city of Hong Kong, known for its rich cultural heritage and modern infrastructure, will provide an inspiring backdrop for the event, offering numerous opportunities for networking and professional growth.

The conference is organized by (CUHK) in collaboration with IMS. By bringing together a diverse group of participants, the organizers aim to facilitate meaningful interactions and collaborations that will drive the advancement of statistical science in the Asia Pacific-Rim and beyond.

The 11th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

May 8–10, 2026. Atlanta, GA, USA

w https://math.gsu.edu/yichuan/2026Workshop/

Biostatistics and Bioinformatics have been playing very important roles in scientific research fields in recent years. The goal of the 11th workshop is to stimulate research and to foster the interaction of researchers in the research areas. The workshop will provide the opportunity for faculty and graduate students to meet the top researchers, identify important directions for future research, and facilitate research collaborations. See website for call for papers.

SPA 2026: 45th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications

UPDATED

June 14–20, 2026. Ithaca, NY, USA

w https://events.ces.scl.cornell.edu/event/spa2026/summary

Registration is open for the 2026 conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications (SPA 2026) in June at Cornell. The keynote speakers are: 2026 BS/IMS Schramm lecturer **Roland Bauerschmidt**; 2026 IMS Medallion lecturers **Philip Ernst** & **Marcel Nutz**, as well as Lévy lecturer **Nathanaël Berestycki** and Doob lecturer **Timo Seppäläinen**.

Contributed session proposals are welcome: please submit by April 15 via https://events.ces.scl.cornell.edu/event/spa2026/program. See the website for **housing and travel** information.

2026 WNAR/IMS Annual Meeting

NEW

June 14–17, 2026. Pullman, Washington, USA

w https://wnar.org/wnar2026

Washington State University in Pullman offers a beautiful summer setting for a conference, combining the energy of a vibrant campus with the charm of the surrounding Palouse region. Warm, sunny days highlight the rolling hills of wheat fields that create one of the most picturesque landscapes in the Pacific Northwest.

There will be short courses, a plenary lecture, invited and contributed sessions, young investigator events, and a Student Paper Award with oral sessions. Email programchair@wnar.org or wnar@wnar.org with questions.

International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies

June 1–4, 2026

American University, Washington DC, USA

w https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/

Now an IMS co-sponsored meeting.

Registration is open for the ninth International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM). This biannual conference will bring together researchers and practitioners to explore advances in sequential statistics, related areas of statistics and applied probability, and their many applications.

The technical program consists of theoretical and applied presentations in the areas of sequential testing, change-point detection, sequential estimation, selection and ranking, machine learning, artificial intelligence, clinical trials, adaptive design, stochastic quality and process control, optimal stopping, stochastic approximation, applied probability, mathematical finance, and related fields of probability, statistics, and applications.

The program features plenary lectures by leading experts in sequential statistics, including **Moshe Pollak** (Hebrew University), **Alexander Tartakovsky** (AGT StatConsult), **Dong-Yun Kim** (NIH), **Jay Bartroff** (University of Texas), and **Peihua Qiu** (University of Florida).

The regularly updated site has registration information, as well as on- and off-campus lodging reservations. **Early registration** ends on April 1, 2026.

Any questions? Innovative ideas, requests, or opportunities? Please contact the IWSM 2026 Organizing Committee: Michael Baron, American University (baron@american.edu), and Yaakov Malinovsky, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (yaakovm@umbc.edu).

SSP 2026: Seminar on Stochastic Processes

UPDATED

March 25–28, 2026. Union College, Schenectady, NY, USA

w https://www.math.union.edu/~marianop/SSP2026/

SSP 2026 will be held March 26–28, 2026, with tutorial lectures delivered on March 25 by Timo Seppäläinen. The invited speakers will be **Saraí Hernández-Torres, Davar Khoshnevisan** (The Founders Lecturer), **Mateusz Kwaśnicki, Miklos Z. Racz,** and **Simon Tavaré**. **Registration is open** now, via the website above.

International Symposium on Nonparametric Statistics (ISNPS 2026)

June 22–26, 2026, Thessaloniki, Greece

w https://easyconferences.eu/isnps2026/

The International Symposium on Nonparametric Statistics (ISNPS 2026) will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, June 22–26, 2026. This global forum will bring together researchers from around the world to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and advance the fields of nonparametric statistics, data science and machine learning.

Building on the success of previous meetings, the 2026 symposium will feature plenary lectures, special invited sessions, contributed talks, and a dedicated student poster session. A student paper competition will be held within the poster session, with travel support awarded to the winners. Professor **Jianqing Fan** (Princeton University) will deliver the **Peter Hall Lecture**.

The 4th Joint Conference on Statistics and Data Science (JCSDS 2026)

NEW

July 11–13, 2026. Guiyang, Guizhou China

w https://jcsds2026.scimeeting.cn/en/web/index/31392

Jointly organized by the Chinese Association for Applied Statistics, Probability and Statistics Society of China, Association for Industrial Statistics Teaching, Business Statistics Society of China, the China Medical Association's Biostatistics Division and IMS–China. Since its inaugural meeting in 2023, JCSDS has become one of the world's largest gatherings in statistics and data science. The previous three meetings attracted 1800–2100 participants from 20+ countries. JCSDS typically has 6 keynote addresses, 100 invited sessions, and more than 50 contributed and poster sessions. **The 4th JCSDS will be staged together with the IMS–China biannual meeting**, with special sessions dedicated to the late Peter Hall, to mark his 10-year passing from us. In additional to the usual scholarly talks, it will have forums for Developing Statistics and Data Science in the era of AI, industry exhibitions, and extensive networking opportunities.

Important dates: Early-bird registration deadline May 16, 2026. Contributed talk & poster submission April 30, 2026. Accommodation booking deadline July 3, 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful "Forest City" of Guiyang in July 2026 for another unforgettable JCSDS!

More IMS meetings

18th World Meeting of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis
June 28–July 3, 2026
Nagoya, Japan
w https://isba2026.github.io

ISBA2026 will be the 18th conference in the series of biennial ISBA World Meetings. It will bring together the international community of researchers and practitioners who develop and use Bayesian statistical methods to share recent findings, exchange ideas, and discuss new challenges.

ISBA World Meetings attract both established and early-career researchers and for place special emphasis on promoting the work of early-career researchers, resulting in a conference that brings together the world's best Bayesian researchers, building and strengthening ties between them, and fostering new collaborative relationships. We expect between 600 and 700 researchers will attend the conference, which will feature several plenary speakers, invited and contributed talks, and multiple poster sessions.

ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting
March 15–18, 2026, Indianapolis, USA
w https://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2026/index.cfm

The theme of ENAR2026 is "The Role of Statistics in an AI-augmented World," reflecting the crossroads that we are at in our discipline. Highlights include the 2026 Presidential Invited Debate. Dr. **Tianxi Cai** from Harvard University and Dr. **Marylyn Ritchie** from the University of Pennsylvania are going to debate for and against the motion: *AI Alone Is Not Enough: Advancing EHR Research Demands Statistical Rigor.*

One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI) Seminar (Ongoing, online)
w https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar

After five seasons of the One World Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) Seminar (https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar/owabc/), launched in April 2020 to gather members and disseminate results and innovation during those weeks and months under lockdown, we have now decided to launch a "new" seminar series, the One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI), to better reflect the broader interest and scope of this series, which goes beyond ABC. In particular, simulation-based inference and ML related techniques will have a particular role. Feel free to contact any of the organisers if you want to suggest yourself or someone else for a talk.

All webinars are held on Zoom/Teams, with a link shared on the email sent via the mailing list. So if you are interested in the OWABI seminar and would like to hear from us, monthly, about the announced speaker, title and abstract and, most importantly, be able to join the talk, please register at https://listserv.csv.warwick.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/abc_world_seminar.

A "One World ABI" playlist on the ISBA YouTube channel, with all past OWABC and current OWABI talks is available at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUaj_wLsosMTjqTN8kmn6nNo7YtLV6-1Z

This webinar is part of the larger One World seminar initiative [*see right*].

Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability & Statistics
July 24–28, 2028
Singapore
w TBC

The 2028 Institute of Mathematical Statistics annual meeting will be held at the 12th Bernoulli–IMS World Congress in Probability and Statistics, in Singapore. Details to follow in due course.

Please keep the date!

Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics
Ongoing and online
w https://sites.google.com/view/apsps/home

The Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics (APSPS) is a monthly online seminar, broadcast on a mid-month Wednesday via Zoom. The seminar series was created as a permanent forum for good research in the field.

Topics include: probabilistic models for natural phenomena, stochastic processes and statistical inference, statistical problems in high-dimensional spaces, asymptotic methods, statistical theory of diversity.

The organizers—see the list of Board members on the website, chaired by Ajay Jasra (Chinese University of Hong-Kong, Shenzhen)—seek an emphasis on novelty, beauty, and clarity. Presentations are intended to be accessible to good postgraduate students in probability and mathematical statistics.

If you would like to receive email announcements about the next speakers, send an email to any of the APSPS Board members, who are listed on the website above.

One World Probability Seminar (OWPS): Ongoing and online
w https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar/

Thursdays, 14:00 UTC/GMT. Please subscribe to the mailing list for updates: https://www.owprobability.org/mailing-list

Other meetings and events

Statlearn

NEW

April 1–3, 2026. Grenoble, France

w https://statlearn.sciencesconf.org/

This workshop is an event of the French Statistical Society (SFdS), and will focus on recent developments in statistical machine learning. The program is built around a tutorial and four plenary sessions featuring invited speakers. Registration (free but mandatory) must be completed before February 27.

4th International Mathematics and Statistics Student Research Symposium

NEW

April 11, 2026. Online

w https://sites.google.com/view/imssrs/home

The 4th International Mathematics and Statistics Student Research Symposium (IMSSRS) will be held virtually on Saturday, April 11, 2026. IMSSRS is a free conference welcoming high school, community college, undergraduate, and graduate students to present research in the mathematical sciences, explore current research topics, and connect with peers worldwide. This year's program features a plenary by Dr. Katherine B. Ensor (Rice University) titled "The Critical Role of Statistical Thinking, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." The program also includes a panel discussion, "Life After College," on career paths for mathematical science graduates, with audience Q&A. The abstract submission deadline is March 27, 2026. While presenters must be students, all are welcome to attend.

2026 International Conference on Contemporary Statistics and Data Science: A Conference in honour of Professor Peter Hall

NEW

May 9–10, 2026. Chengdu, Sichuan, China

w https://dsbi.swufe.edu.cn/info/1291/4471.htm

The conference will be held at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China. It will feature distinguished invited speakers from leading institutions across the world, covering a broad range of topics in contemporary statistics and data science. The conference will also memorialize the late Professor Peter Hall's extraordinary life and scholarly achievements. We invite collaborators, colleagues and friends of Peter to gather in the conference to celebrate the vibrant research fields he pioneered and inspired for generations of statisticians and data scientists. The scientific committee consists of Song Xi Chen, Jianqing Fan, Jiashun Jin and Qiwei Yao.

Causal Aspects of Lifetime and Functional Data Analysis

NEW

May 26–27, 2026

KU Leuven, Belgium

w https://feb.kuleuven.be/research/Francqui-ws

This 1.5-day workshop will bring together experts at the interface of causal inference, survival analysis and functional data analysis. Registration is free but required. Please see the website for more information. Support provided by the Francqui Foundation and KU Leuven.

Entropy 2026: Exploring Complexity and Information in Science

NEW

July 1–3, 2026. Barcelona, Spain

w https://sciforum.net/event/entropy2026

This conference will bring together researchers working in entropy research, statistical physics, quantum information and quantum computing, complex systems, and related fields. We particularly welcome interdisciplinary contributions from both theoretical and applied perspectives. Submissions may also address conceptual and methodological advances, as well as innovative applications of entropy and information theory across a broad range of domains.

International Conference on Robust Statistics 2026 (ICORS2026)

NEW

July 20–24, 2026. Istanbul, Turkey

w https://icors2026.ankara.edu.tr/

ICORS aims to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in the interplay of robust statistics, data analysis, computer science, and visualization, and to build bridges between these fields for interdisciplinary research. This includes theoretical and applied statisticians, data analysts from other fields, leading experts, as well as junior researchers and graduate students. This conference shall serve as a forum to discuss recent progress and emerging ideas across disciplines and to encourage informal contacts and discussions among all participants. They also play an important role in maintaining a cohesive group of international researchers interested in robust statistics and related topics, whose interactions transcend the meetings and endure year-round. The conference welcomes contributions to applied and theoretical statistics, particularly new problems in robust statistics, machine learning, statistical learning, outlier detection, data visualization, data verbalization, data analysis, and related areas. ICORS 2026 encourages contributions on the interplay between robustness issues in these new fields.

Employment Opportunities

Germany: Munich

Technical University of Munich

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Mathematics of Machine Learning

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82114350

Switzerland: Lausanne

EPFL

Postdoctoral Position

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82210006

Switzerland: Zurich

ETH Zurich

Professor or Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) of Statistics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//81730631

United States: San Diego, CA

University of California San Diego

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor (Ladder Rank): Artificial Intelligence & Public Policy

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//81807011

United States: New Haven, CT

Yale School of Public Health

Assistant or Associate Professor in Health Informatics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//81846922

United States: Urbana, IL

Quantitative Cell Biology Center

Post Doctoral Fellowship

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//81671542

United States: College Park, MD

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) in Biostatistics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82259029

United States: Philadelphia, PA

University of Pennsylvania, Center for Causal Inference

Causal Inference Postdoctoral Researcher Network Science

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82062933

United States: Philadelphia, PA

University of Pennsylvania, Center for Causal Inference

Causal Inference Postdoctoral Researcher

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82062666

United States: Houston, TX

Rice University: Brown School of Engineering and Computing: Electrical and Computer Engineering

Open Rank Teaching Track Faculty Position

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82313405

United States: Seattle, WA

University of Washington, Department of Statistics

Lecturer Part-Time in Statistics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//81734056

International Calendar of Statistical Events

IMS meetings are highlighted in maroon with the ims logo, and new or updated entries have the NEW or UPDATED symbol.
Please submit your meeting details and any corrections to Elyse Gustafson: ims@imstat.org

Online and Ongoing series

ONLINE ims **Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics** w https://sites.google.com/view/apsps/home

ONLINE ims **One World ABI (Approximate Bayesian Inference,** formerly ABC, Approximate Bayesian Computation) **Seminar** w https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar

ONLINE ims **One World Probability Seminar** w https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar

ONLINE ims **One World YoungStatS Webinar series** w https://youngstats.github.io/categories/webinars/

ONLINE **Video series:** *The Philosophy of Data Science* w https://www.podofasclepius.com/philosophy-of-data-science

March 2026

March 2–3: Bruges, Belgium. **Foresight Practitioner Conference** w https://forecasters.org/events/foresight-practitioner-conference/

March 2–6: Montevideo, Uruguay. **CLAPEM 2026: Latin American Congress of Probability and Mathematical Statistics** w https://clapem17.cmat.edu.uy/

ims March 15–18: Indianapolis, IN, USA. **ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting** w https://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2026/index.cfm

March 18–20: Würzburg, Germany. **16th Workshop on Stochastic Models, Statistics and Their Applications (SMSA)** w https://www.smsa2026.de

ims March 25–28: Schenectady, NY, USA. **SSP 2026: Seminar on Stochastic Processes** w https://www.math.union.edu/~marianop/SSP2026/

April 2026

NEW April 1–3: Grenoble, France. **Statlearn** w https://statlearn.sciencesconf.org/

NEW April 11: Online. **4th International Mathematics and Statistics Student Research Symposium** w https://sites.google.com/view/imssrs/home

April 17–18: Syracuse, NY, USA. **Finger Lakes Probability Seminar 2026** w https://sites.google.com/g.syr.edu/fingerlakes2026

April 24–25: College Station, TX, USA. **Best of Statistical Science Workshop (BOSS 2026)** w https://tx.ag/boss2026

May 2026

May 2–5: Tangiers, Morocco. **AISTATS 2026: Journal to Conference Track** w https://virtual.aistats.org/Conferences/2026/CallForJournalTrack

ims May 8–10: Atlanta, USA. **11th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics** w https://math.gsu.edu/yichuan/2026Workshop/

NEW May 9–10: Chengdu, Sichuan, China. **2026 International Conference on Contemporary Statistics and Data Science: A Conference in honour of Professor Peter Hall** w https://dsbi.swufe.edu.cn/info/1291/4471.htm

NEW May 26–27: KU Leuven, Belgium. **Causal Aspects of Lifetime and Functional Data Analysis** w https://feb.kuleuven.be/research/Francqui-ws

Meeting organizers: to get a FREE LISTING in this calendar, please submit the details (as early as possible) at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/ Or you can email details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org We'll list them in the Bulletin, and on the IMS website too, at imstat.org/meetings-calendar/

June 2026

IMS June 1–4: Washington DC, USA. **9th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies** (now an IMS co-sponsored meeting) **w** https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/

June 8–11: Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece (and online) **SMTDA 2026 (the 9th Stochastic Modeling Techniques and Data Analysis conference)** and **Demographics 2026 Workshop w** www.smtda.net

June 11–13: Jiangsu Normal University, Xuzhou, China. **International Conference on Frontiers in Probability and Statistics:** Celebrating the distinguished contributions of N. Balakrishnan on his 70th Birthday **w** http://statreliab.jsnu.edu.cn/

June 12–15: Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece (and online). **CHAOS 2026 (the 19th Chaotic Modeling & Simulation conference) w** http://cmsim.org/

IMS June 13–16: CUHK, Hong Kong, China. **IMS–APRM2026: 7th IMS Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting w** https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/

NEW IMS June 14–17: Pullman, WA, USA. **2026 WNAR/IMS Annual Meeting w** https://wnar.org/wnar2026

UPDATED IMS June 14–20: Ithaca, NY, USA. **45th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications w** https://events.ces.scl.cornell.edu/event/spa2026/summary

June 15–19: Rome, Italy. **21st International Conference on Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems (IPMU2026) w** https://www.sbai.uniroma1.it/conferenze/ipmu2026/index.php

June 15–19: Chicago, USA. **Stochastic Networks Conference w** https://www.chicagobooth.edu/events/stochastic-networks-conference

June 16–18: Halifax, NS, Canada. **The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting w** https://www.theclassificationsociety.org/annual-meeting/

IMS June 22–26: Thessaloniki, Greece. **ISNPS2026: International Symposium on Nonparametric Statistics w** https://easyconferences.eu/isnps2026/

June 28–July 1: Montreal, Canada. **46th International Symposium on Forecasting w** https://isf.forecasters.org/

IMS June 28–July 3: Nagoya, Japan. **ISBA2026: 18th ISBA World Meeting w** https://isba2026.github.io

July 2026

NEW July 1–3: Barcelona, Spain. **Entropy 2026: Exploring Complexity and Information in Science w** https://sciforum.net/event/entropy2026

IMS July 6–9: Salzburg, Austria [*pictured below*]. **2026 IMS Annual Meeting w** https://imstat.org/2026AnnualMeeting/

NEW IMS July 11–13: Guiyang, Guizhou China. **The 4th Joint Conference on Statistics and Data Science (JCSDS 2026) w** https://jcsds2026.scimeeting.cn/en/web/index/31392

July 12–17: Brisbane, Australia. **ICOTS 2026: 12th International Conference on Teaching Statistics w** https://icots12.oa-event.com/

NEW July 20–24: Istanbul, Turkey. International Conference on Robust Statistics 2026 (ICORS2026) **w** https://icors2026.ankara.edu.tr/

July 23–30: Philadelphia, USA. **International Congress of Mathematicians 2026 w** https://www.icm2026.org/

August 2026

IMS August 1–6: Boston, MA, USA. **JSM 2026 w** https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

NEW IMS August 12–14: Istanbul, Turkey. **15th High-Dimensional Data Analysis (HDDA) conference w** https://hdda2026.medipol.edu.tr/

August 24–28: Lugano, Switzerland. **2026 European Meeting of Statisticians w** https://www.bernoullisociety.org/organization/erc/ems

September 2026

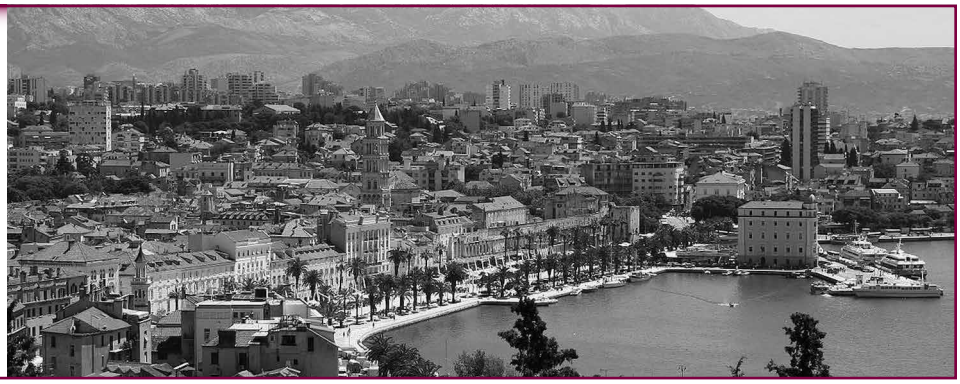
September 7–10: Bournemouth, UK. **RSS International Conference 2026 w** https://rss.org.uk/training-events/conference2026/

Continues on **page 30**

International Calendar *continued*

SAVE THE DATE for ICSDS2026: NEW

2026 International Conference on Statistics and Data Science
December 15–18, 2026
Split, Croatia
w TBC
The 2026 IMS–ICSDS will be held December 15–18, 2026, in Split, Croatia. More information coming soon!



Tatyana Peshkova CC-by-SA4.0

November 2026

November 1–3: New York City, USA. **SLDS 2026: Inference and Intelligence w** https://asa-slds.github.io/slds2026/index.html

December 2026

ims December 15–18: Split, Croatia. **2026 IMS International Conference on Statistics and Data Science (ICSDS)** [*see above*] **w** TBC

July 2027

July 5–9: Montreal, Canada. **Extreme Value Analysis conference 2027 w** https://hecsciencesdecision.github.io/eva2027/

ims July 12–15 [**NOTE CONFIRMED DATES**]: Durham, UK. **Informs Applied Probability Society Conference 2027 w** http://informs-aps.webspace.durham.ac.uk

August 2027

ims August 7–12: Chicago, USA. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2027 w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

July 2028

ims July 24–28: Singapore. **Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability and Statistics** (incl. 2028 IMS Annual Meeting). **w** TBC

August 2028

ims August 5–10: Philadelphia, USA. **JSM 2028 w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

August 2029

ims August 4–9: Seattle, USA. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2029 w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

August 2030

NEW ims August 4–8: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. **JSM 2030 w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

Are we missing something? If you know of any statistics or probability meetings which aren't listed here, please let us know. You can email the details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org, or you can submit the details yourself at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/ We'll list them here in the Bulletin, and on the IMS website too, at imstat.org/meetings-calendar/

Membership and Subscription Information: 2026

Journals

The scientific journals of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics are *The Annals of Statistics*, *The Annals of Probability*, *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, *The Annals of Applied Probability*, and *Statistical Science*. The *IMS Bulletin* is the news organ of the Institute.

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Each individual member receives the *IMS Bulletin* (print and/or electronic) and may elect to receive one or more of the five scientific journals. Members pay annual dues of $105. An additional $158 is added to the dues of members for each scientific printed journal selected ($105 for *Stat Sci*). **Reduced membership dues** are available to full-time students, new graduates, permanent residents of countries designated by the IMS Council, and retired members.

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Subscriptions are available on a calendar-year basis. **Individual subscriptions** are for the personal use of the subscriber and must be in the name of, paid directly by, and mailed to an individual. Individual subscriptions for 2026 are available to the *Annals of Applied Probability*, *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Annals of Probability*, *Annals of Statistics* ($273 for each title), *Statistical Science* ($220), and *IMS Bulletin* ($115). **General subscriptions** are for libraries, institutions, and any multiple-readership use. Institutional subscriptions for 2026 are available to *The Annals of Applied Probability, The Annals of Applied Statistics, The Annals of Probability,* and *The Annals of Statistics* (each title $632 online only / $881 print+online), *Statistical Science* ($364/$487), and *IMS Bulletin* ($212 print). Airmail delivery is no longer offered.

IMS Bulletin

The *IMS Bulletin* publishes articles and news of interest to IMS members and to statisticians and probabilists in general, as well as details of IMS meetings and an international calendar of statistical events. Views and opinions in editorials and articles are not to be understood as official expressions of the Institute's policy unless so stated; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement in any way of the opinions expressed therein, and the *IMS Bulletin* and its publisher do not accept any responsibility for them. The *IMS Bulletin* is copyrighted and authors of individual articles may be asked to sign a copyright transfer to the IMS before publication.

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Advertising job vacancies: A single 60-day online job posting costs just $410.00. We will also include the basic information about your job ad (position title, location, company name, job function and a link to the full ad) in the *IMS Bulletin* at no extra charge. See https://jobs.imstat.org

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Issue	Deadline	Online by	Mailed
1: January/February	**December 1**	December 15	January 1
2: March	**February 1**	February 15	March 1
3: April/May	**March 15**	April 1	April 15
4: June/July	**May 1**	May 15	June 1
5: August	**June 15***	July 1	July 15
6: September	**August 15**	September 1	September 15
7: Oct/Nov	**September 15**	October 1	October 15
8: December	**November 1**	November 15	December 1

* *Note early deadline for August issue*

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The purpose of the Institute is to foster the development and dissemination of the theory and applications of statistics and probability

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1798 (print)
24X (online)

Ann. Probab. Jan 2026
https://projecteuclid.org/aop

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Articles

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