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The members' magazine of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

IMS Bulletin

April/May 2026

CONTENTS

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IMS Prize winners

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2026 IMS Hall Early Career Prize, the IMS Tweedie New Researcher Award, and the IMS Carver Medal.

Yuting Wei, Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics and Data Science at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, has received the **2026 Peter Gavin Hall IMS Early Career Prize**. Dr. Wei receives the award *"for contributions to statistical theory and methodology in learning from high-dimensional and structured data; for advancing the statistical foundations of reinforcement learning and diffusion models; and for fostering the integration of statistics and machine learning in genomics applications."* The Peter Gavin Hall IMS Early Career Prize annually recognizes one researcher within the first eight years of completing their doctoral degree. Dr. Wei's outstanding achievements recognize potential to shape the future of statistics. Her dedication and expertise have positioned her as an emerging leader in the field, and her innovative contributions continue to push the boundaries of statistical research. Yuting Wei will receive her award in the IMS awards session at the IMS annual meeting in Salzburg, Austria, July 6–9, 2026.

Yuting Wei, 2026 IMS Hall Prize winner

Kaizheng Wang, 2026 IMS Tweedie Award winner

The **IMS Tweedie New Researcher Award** provides funds for travel to present the Tweedie New Researcher Invited Lecture at the IMS New Researchers Conference (held this year at the UMass Amherst Campus, from July 29–August 1, 2026, directly preceding the Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston; see the New Researchers Group update on page 4). The recipient of the 2026 Tweedie New Researcher Award is **Kaizheng Wang**. Dr. Wang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at Columbia University. The IMS Committee on Travel Awards selected him *"for seminal contributions to learning from heterogeneous data, particularly in developing sharp theory and efficient methods for latent variable models and in establishing principled approaches for adaptive data integration under complex distribution shifts. For broad contributions to transfer learning, clustering, and uncertainty quantification."*

We are also pleased to announce that **Ming Yuan** has been selected as the recipient of the **2026 IMS Harry C. Carver Medal**. Dr. Yuan, who is Professor of Statistics at Columbia University, is honored with this award *"for his outstanding service to the IMS in multiple capacities, including serving as Co-Editor of* The Annals of Statistics*, IMS Program Secretary, and member of numerous IMS committees, as well as for his broad and sustained professional service to the statistical community."* He will receive the Carver Medal at the 2027 JSM in Chicago.

Ming Yuan, 2026 IMS Carver Medalist

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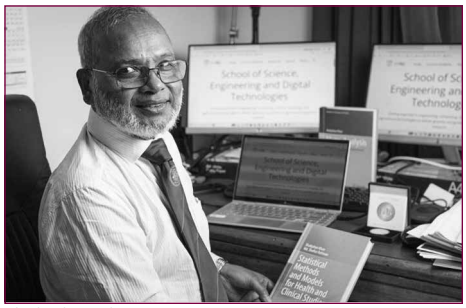
IMS Members' News

Shahjahan Khan honoured with Order of Australia Medal

Emeritus Professor Dr **Shahjahan Khan** of the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ), Australia, received Australia's most prestigious civilian award, the Order of Australia Medal, on Australia Day 2026. The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia conferred this award for Professor Khan's significant and sustained contribution to the Australian community over the last three decades, and congratulated him for this remarkable contribution to Australia.


Shahjahan Khan

The Order of Australia Medal is the highest system of civilian honour in Australia, recognising citizens for outstanding achievement and service.

In addition to making outstanding contributions to his home city of Toowoomba and the state of Queensland in different capacities, he made remarkable contribution in Australia, and beyond, through the promotion of multiculturalism as a uniting strength of diverse communities to live in peace and harmony with respect and dignity. Professor Khan has previously received the prestigious Cultural Diversity Ambassador Award of Queensland Government; the Queensland Police Service Award for community service; the Diversity and Inclusion Award of UniSQ, Australia; and the Multicultural Service Award of Queensland, Australia.

Professor Khan is an Emeritus Professor of UniSQ, Australia. He served as the Vice Chancellor of the Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, from 2022–26. He has also worked in the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh as well as universities in Canada, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. As the President of the Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS) he organised successful international conferences in Malaysia, Egypt, Qatar, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Professor Khan is an elected Fellow of the UK Royal Statistical Society and the Bangladesh Society of Private University Academics; an elected member of the International Statistical Institute; a member of the IMS and the Statistical Society of Australia Inc; and a life member of the Bangladesh Statistical Association and the Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences.

2026 is the Year of Math!

If you are based in the United States, you may already know that 2026 has been designated a year-long celebration of the beauty, relevance, and potential of mathematics.

If you haven't yet done so, check out the Year of Math website for details of events and programs across the US: see https://theyearofmath.org.

Coordinated by the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) and its member societies—including IMS—the 2026 Year of Mathematics (YoM 2026) is a national celebration and campaign designed to reignite America's appreciation for math.

IMS Members' News

2026 COPSS Award Winners

The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) has announced the winners of its Presidents' Award, Scott Award and Distinguished Achievement Award.

COPSS Presidents' Award: Weijie Su, University of Pennsylvania, "For statistical foundations of generative AI including the watermarking, alignment, and rankings of LLMs; for advances in privacy preserving data analysis applied to the 2020 US Decennial Census; for improving peer review in machine learning; for foundational work in convex optimization; for wide-ranging contributions to deep learning theory and high-dimensional inference."

Elizabeth L. Scott Award: Amy Herring, Duke University, "For her outstanding leadership in statistical societies, for supporting the careers of many early career researchers, for being a conscience in our community, for sustained and manifold contributions to Bayesian statistics, and for impactful global collaborations in maternal and child health."

COPSS Distinguished Achievement Award and Lectureship: Larry Wasserman, Carnegie Mellon University, "For original and path-breaking contributions in the theory and practice of statistics, including nonparametric, causal, and Bayesian inference; for advancing methods in machine learning, genetics and astrostatistics; as an outstanding expositor of statistical thinking; and for innovative textbooks on all of statistics."

The awards will be presented at JSM in Boston, August 1–6, 2026.

2026 IMS Meeting: early registration and childcare funds

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 lectures (Tilmann Gneiting; *see his preview in this issue*), the 2026 Blackwell lecture (Cun-Hui Zhang), three Medallion lectures (Ian McKeague, Bodhisattva Sen, Jelle Goeman), the Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Awards, and more than 60 invited and contributed sessions. The outline program is taking shape at https://ims2026.github.io/IMS2026/program.html.

The organizers (Kavita Ramanan, Genevera Allen, Remco van der Hofstad, and Arne Bathke) invite you to register for the conference via https://imstat.org/shop/2026-ims-annual-meeting. **Early registration rates apply before May 15.**

If you're bringing children to Salzburg, **IMS can help with childcare costs** to support your participation at the IMS Annual Meeting. The IMS will reimburse members 80% of the costs of privately arranged childcare, for a dependent under the age of 13, up to a maximum of US$250 per family. Priority to those presenting papers or posters at the meeting. See https://imstat.org/meetings/ims-child-care-initiative/

Salzburg is popular: we advise you to **make your hotel reservations early!**

Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH / B. Wiesauer

Bringing kids to the meeting? They might like to see the puppet version of The Sound of Music at Salzburg Marionette Theatre (it's shorter than the film!)

= access published papers online

IMS Journals and Publications

Annals of Statistics: Hans-Georg Müller, Harrison Zhou
https://imstat.org/aos
https://projecteuclid.org/aos

Annals of Applied Statistics: Lexin Li
https://imstat.org/aoas
https://projecteuclid.org/aoas

Annals of Probability: Paul Bourgade & Julien Dubedat
https://imstat.org/aop
https://projecteuclid.org/aop

Annals of Applied Probability: Jian Ding, Claudio Landim
https://imstat.org/aap
https://projecteuclid.org/aoap

Statistical Science: Moulinath Bannerjee
https://imstat.org/sts
https://projecteuclid.org/ss

IMS Collections
https://projecteuclid.org/imsc

IMS Monographs and *IMS Textbooks:* Yingying Fan
https://www.imstat.org/journals-and-publications/ims-monographs/

IMS Co-sponsored Journals and Publications

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

ICSDS 2025 in Seville another huge success

Regina Liu and Annie Qu, co-organizers of ICSDS, report from the 2025 IMS International Conference on Statistics and Data Science: We are delighted to report that the 2025 ICSDS (International Conference on Statistics and Data Science), held December 15–18 in Seville, Spain, was another huge success. It followed similarly successful ICSDS meetings in Florence in 2022, Lisbon in 2023, and Nice in 2024.

Scientific Program: There were more than 710 participants from 40+ countries, ranging from students, junior, mid-career to senior researchers and practitioners, affiliated with industry, government, and academia, and covering broad areas of statistics and data science. The scientific program had four plenary sessions, 68 invited sessions, 20 contributed sessions, three student travel award sessions, and a poster session with 60 contributed posters.

Despite the alluring touristic attractions and the festive pre-Christmas celebrations in Seville, conference attendance was strong. The session topics were diverse, including deep learning, AI, causal inference, data privacy, new machine learning methods and computing tools, medicine and genetics, high-dimensional data visualization and graphics, network data, image and text data, electronic health records data, health policies and environmental statistics, and more.

Many participants expressed positive comments and compliments on specific talks or the overall quality of the conference program, during and after the meeting.

The plenary sessions featured: **Bin Yu** (University of California at Berkeley, USA) on *"Veridical Data Science towards Trustworthy AI"*; **Francis Bach** (Ecole Normale Supérieure, France) on *"Recent advances in uncertainty quantification: anytime guarantees and multivariate predictions"*; **Daniela Witten** (University of Washington, USA) on *"Data thinning and beyond"*; **Richard Samworth** (University of Cambridge, UK) on *"Learn the Score."*

All plenary sessions were well attended, leaving the huge auditorium with standing room only [*picture below left*].

In addition to presenting numerous important advances in statistics and data science, those talks also covered wide ranging challenges and opportunities for statistics and data science. The talks are inspiring and thought-provoking, evidenced by the long list of questions and discussion, both during and outside the sessions. The abstracts of the plenary sessions can be found at https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/plenary-speakers.

Submissions to the competition for student travel awards more than doubled this year. The ICSDS decided to increase the number of student travel awards to 21. The awardees selected are diverse in their paper topics, genders, and countries of study. Congratulations to the awardees, who are listed at: https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/travel-awards_1. Additionally, the ICSDS provided 11 Junior Researcher Travel Support awards. We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations, particularly those from Professor Joseph Gastwirth, to the ICSDS funds, which made possible the ICSDS Student Travel Awards and Junior Researcher Travel Support. [*Some winners pictured above.*]

Social Program: More than 300 participants attended the conference banquet, held at the beautiful Abades Triana restaurant, featuring refined Andalusian cuisine and a Spanish flamenco dance performance. The restaurant sits on the bank of the

Guadalquivir river, facing the Torre del Oro and the stunning night views of Seville city center. The passionate and highly rhythmic Spanish flamenco [*above*], blending dance, song and guitar with intense emotion, was certainly the high point of the banquet! The conference reception was held, concurrent with the poster session [*above right*], at the grand historic landmark Royal Tobacco Factory. In addition to viewing the posters, networking with fellow participants and tasting the Andalusian tapas, many participants also took turns to enjoy the city tours provided by ICSDS.

We are gratified to have received enthusiastic feedback from many participants: several even told us that this was the best conference ever for them. We thank all the attendees for their participation, support and contribution to this conference.

Needless to say, an international conference of this scale, with its wide-ranging subjects and broad representation of various disciplines across the world, would not have been possible without the collective efforts of many. We would like to thank the program committee (https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/committee) for organizing the rich program. The local organizing committee from Universidad de Sevilla and Universidad de Granada—M. Dolores Jimenez-Gamero (Chair), Ana M. Aguilera, Emilio Carrizosa, M. Dolores Martinez Miranda, Fatima Palacios Rodríguez, Remedios Sillero Denamiel, and their student volunteers—did a fabulous job taking care of all the on-site organizational chores with remarkable efficiency and patience.

Our thanks also go to Elyse Gustafson, IMS Executive Director, for help with the financial issues and related formalities, and to Arlene Gray, ICSDS Administrator [*below right with Regina Liu*] for her tireless dedication to the nonstop inquiries and requests from the participants and the conference organizing team. Finally, our thanks go to Min Xu for his invaluable contributions behind the scenes, from managing the conference website, overseeing IT support in the conference, and responding to endless requests for scheduling changes, to setting up the program and readying all the slides. His efforts helped make the conference program a reality for us all to enjoy.

We look forward to upholding the high standard and to further successes of future ICSDS meetings. Speaking of which…

The 2026 ICSDS will be in Split, Croatia, from December 15–18, 2026. Details coming soon. We hope to see you there!

Photos: Carlston Gray

Marianne's Measures Solid Models Need Solid Ground: The importance of Initial Data Analysis

Marianne Huebner, Michigan State University, responds to David Hand's recent "Hand Writing" column about data quality, which appeared in the January/February 2026 issue. She stresses the importance of Initial Data Analysis (IDA):

David Hand makes an excellent case for the crucial role of data quality—an aspect that too often gets sidelined in favor of "the excitement of learning about a powerful new statistical method" [1]. There are initiatives to support data quality workflows [2]. However, data quality checks are just one thread in the larger fabric required to weave a coherent and trustworthy data story.

The concept of *Initial Data Analysis* (IDA) is not new. It was discussed by Chatfield [3], who wrote: "The initial examination of data is a valuable stage of most statistical investigations, not only for scrutinizing and summarizing data, but also for model formulations." Commentaries on this paper called for a reform in statistical teaching. That was 40 years ago—yet IDA remains largely absent from most curricula.

But what exactly is IDA? Is it data cleaning? Basic summaries? Exploratory analyses?

The Topic Group "Initial Data Analysis", part of the STRATOS Initiative [https://www.stratos-initiative.org], currently has six members from five countries [4]. The aim is to improve awareness of IDA as an important part of the research process and to provide guidance on conducting IDA in a systematic and reproducible manner. We started out with developing a framework for IDA [4 and references therein]. Initial reactions were skeptical:

- *"Isn't this all common sense? Everybody does it."*
- *"You can't define it—statisticians have personal preferences."*
- *"Every dataset is different. It must be ad hoc."*

Once we presented the framework, the reactions changed to sharing numerous horror stories of analyses gone wrong because data properties had not been considered. But sharing stories does not help fix the issue. It happens to the best. One example involves two classic papers analyzing the same dataset on optical isomers and sleep: Student (1908, *Biometrika*) and Fisher (1925, *Statistical Methods for Research Workers*). Using different analytical approaches they reached the same conclusion…and both were wrong. The dataset had been mislabeled.

Today, researchers routinely fit increasingly complex models, thanks to powerful software. But have they assured themselves that the chosen methods are appropriate for the data at hand?

To understand current practice, we conducted a literature review, "Hidden Analyses" [4 and references therein]. We found that although many authors *seem* to conduct some form of IDA, it is often selective, unsystematic, and poorly documented. Reviewers and readers have no clear insight whether IDA occurred at all or the extent of what was done. This is problematic because IDA may substantially and non-transparently influence results and conclusions.

To provide practical support, we wrote "Ten Simple Rules for IDA" [5] and **developed a checklist for cross-sectional studies** ("Regression Without Regrets"), **and a checklist for longitudinal studies with worked examples** [4 and references therein]. As a minimum, the data screening aspect of IDA should be conducted *before* carrying out planned statistical modeling:

1. **Missingness** (unit and item missingness)
2. **Univariable descriptions** (may include smallest and largest values, quantiles, mean, high-resolution histograms, frequencies and proportions—for all variables)
3. **Multivariable descriptions** (may include stratified summaries, scatterplots, correlation matrices, redundancy analyses—without the outcome variables)

A core principle of IDA is to **avoid examining associations between covariates and outcome variables**. This is a key distinction

Continues on **page 7**

References:

[1] Hand, D. Hand Writing: Data quality, the missing module. https://imstat.org/2025/12/14/hand-writing-data-quality-the-missing-module/

[2] Schmidt CO, Struckmann S, Enzenbach C, Reineke A, Stausberg J, Damerow S, Huebner M, Schmidt B, Sauerbrei W, Richter A. Facilitating harmonized data quality assessments. A data quality framework for observational health research data collections with software implementations in R. *BMC Med Res Methodol.* April 2, 2021; **21**(1):63. doi: 10.1186/s12874-021-01252-7.

[3] Chatfield C. The Initial Examination of Data. *JRSS Series A*. 1985;148(3):214–31. doi: 10.2307/2981969.

[4] STRATOS Initiative Topic Group Initial Data Analysis, https://stratosida.github.io/

[5] Baillie M, le Cessie S, Schmidt CO, Lusa L, Huebner M. Ten simple rules for initial data analysis. *PLoS Comput Biol.* Feb 24, 2022; **18**(2):e1009819. doi: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1009819.

between IDA and exploratory data analysis (EDA).

Even better is to incorporate IDA elements directly into a *statistical analysis plan* [https://stratosida.github.io/activities.html]. This provides a scope of IDA activities to complete and allows for considering consequences of IDA results for the chosen main data analysis methods (MDA) or for presentation and interpretation of MDA results. "Two modelling stages" were also mentioned by David Hand [1]. In fact, sometimes the "exciting" models become unnecessary, because IDA reveals that simpler approaches may be sufficient, or may be all that the dataset supports.

IDA takes time and resources, a fact often forgotten during project planning and budgeting. Occasionally, everything proceeds smoothly, but experience shows that even the best-curated datasets may contain about 5% errors or have data properties not directly suitable for the chosen statistical models. Secondary analyses of a data set may save time but only if metadata, data properties, and code were properly documented the first time around. A systematic, pre-planned IDA process prevents repeated analyses, revised tables, model changes, and avoidable delays.

The bottom line: **IDA saves time.**

IMS New Researchers Group updates

Armeen Taeb (University of Washington), who is President of the IMS New Researchers Group, IMS-NRG, has the following announcements:

Panel session and mixer at CLAPEM in Uruguay:

For the first time, the New Researchers Group hosted a panel session and mixer event at CLAPEM. The panel session consisted of panelists Pablo Groisman (Argentina), Nancy Garcia (Brazil), Kavita Ramanan (US), Cindy Rush (US), Victor Rivero (Mexico), moderated by Daniel Remenik (Chile). The event attracted approximately 100 junior researchers. [*See the photos below.*]

New Researchers Conference in Asia:

Following the success of the first European NRC, the **1st Asian New Researchers Conference (NRC–Asia)** will be held in **Hong Kong** on **June 17–18, 2026**, following the IMS–APRM 2026, and alongside the HKU 2026 Summer Workshop on Statistics and Data Analytics. Day 1 features talks by invited senior researchers; Day 2 includes short presentations, posters, networking, and panels on publishing, grants, collaboration, and mentoring for early-career researchers. Applicants must either be current PhD students or have received their PhD after 2020. Apply: https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/inrc-asia/. Applications are due **April 15, 2026**.

New Researchers Conference in USA:

Current PhD students and recent graduates who received their PhD after 2020 are strongly encouraged to apply to participate in the **26th New Researcher's Conference (NRC–North America)** at the **University of Massachusetts Amherst** from **July 29 to August 1**! Right before the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Boston Massachusetts, the NRC offers a unique opportunity for early career researchers to build long lasting connections with each other and receive mentoring from senior researchers and leaders in the field. More information, and an application form, are available at https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/nrc2026umass. Applications are due **April 15, 2026**.

The IMS–NRG also plans to host a mixer at the **IMS Annual Meeting** in Salzburg, July 6–9, 2026. More information soon: **imsnrg.com.**

Sabatti's Sabbatical: **The Joy of Learning**

Meet our newest Contributing Editor, Chiara Sabatti. Chiara is Professor of Biomedical Data Science, and of Statistics, at Stanford University. She discovered statistics while studying economics and has spent most of her professional life working with genomics data. Her recent sabbatical brought home for her with new clarity that it is important from time to time to step back in order to see the bigger picture. She is hoping that these columns will help her continue to do that.

During the past five months, I have learned about software for automatic differentiation; deep learning models for sequence data; a bit of neuroscience; a bit of psychology; and some immunology. I had encountered these subjects through work, felt that it would be good to study them in more detail, and a sabbatical gave me the opportunity to do so. I think my research and teaching going forward will benefit from this additional knowledge, but I already know that the act of learning has given me new energy and joy.

Being on sabbatical, I had more time, but I also felt free to embrace a different mindset. I was not trying to keep up with the field, or acquire the level of familiarity I needed to accomplish some task. My aim wasn't to identify open problems in order to write a grant proposal or formulate engaging questions for a class. Like Richard Feynman, I was learning for "the pleasure of finding things out," and that made me very happy.

A sabbatical is a great opportunity, but not open to all of us, and even when it is, not all that frequently. Mine is almost over. As I get ready to re-enter the usual routine, I am planning to reserve a regular chunk of time to learn. It will take some self-discipline and some negotiations, but it is clear to me now that it is a very low-cost way to increase my gratification and my ability to carry out my job well. If we are to be creative innovators, we do need to nurture curiosity. The tensions in the funding environment make it easier to fall into the trap of looking for accountability of each hour—yet, to win in the long game, we need time to expand our horizons. I think it is important that we remind ourselves of this and that we continue to articulate it for the institutions in which we work.

Joy in learning should also be a spark for our trainees. To be sure, the students we encounter have a variety of motivations, and the educational programs we work with have diverse goals. Experiencing the joy of learning, however, is always helpful. It gives an extra, powerful gear. How do we kindle this joy? The catalyst might be different for each student, but one tool we have as educators is to communicate our own love for the subject and for learning. I am grateful to the multiple teachers who modeled this joy, inviting me to experience it myself.

My undergraduate advisor, Eugenio Regazzini, was especially effective in showing that probability, statistics, and learning were meaningful to him, and a source of joy, aside from his professional obligations. This transpired, for example, from the intelligent creativity of his syllabi, his handwritten course notes, the serious elegance of his attire, and his attentive composure during lectures.

An anecdote is perhaps useful to paint a picture for those who do not know Eugenio personally. The first class I took with him, in fall 1989, was an unregistered seminar: he would lecture for a couple of hours a week, to an open audience, to make sure we had the "right basis" for the "real" class he would teach in the second semester. There were no exams, no grades, no course completion certificate, and no instructor evaluations. The circumstances were privileged: our school had a room to spare; his professional and personal situation were such that he could afford to teach an extra class for free; and we could afford to attend—being full-time students unencumbered by other responsibilities. But this does not detract from the joyful gratuity that those lectures were motivated by and that they inspired.

There is some research that suggests that joy might not be a casual side effect of learning, but a built-in biological incentive that evolved to drive exploration and adaptation: knowledge is power, and our body alerts us to it. And the arts are full of references that underscore the pleasures of acquiring knowledge. In *The Sword in the Stone*, for example, Merlin suggests:

> "The best thing for being sad [...] is to learn something. [...] That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting."

I think it is important for us all to remember this as we adapt to a world where artificial intelligence is increasingly competent.

The number of things/skills we *need to* learn to carry out our functions might decrease (although to which extent is open for debate). However, the *pleasure* we get from learning isn't likely to diminish. And since AI tools can be very effective and accessible learning resources, it becomes easier and less costly for us to pursue this source of gratification. So, let's all reserve time to learn—and let us proclaim that it is fun!

IMS Wald Memorial Lecture preview: **Tilmann Gneiting**

Tilmann Gneiting serves as head of the Computational Statistics group at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS) and Professor of Computational Statistics at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany. Until 2024, he was a member of the KIT Institute of Stochastics, where he continues to teach; at the beginning of 2025 he moved to the newly established KIT Institute of Statistics. At HITS he held the position of Scientific Director in 2023 and 2024. Previously, he held academic positions at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA, and at Heidelberg University, Germany. From 2016 to 2018 Tilmann served as Editor-In-Chief for the *Annals of Applied Statistics*. In 2011, he received an ERC Advanced Grant in support of his research on probabilistic forecasts, and in 2024 he was awarded the Ulf Grenander Prize in Stochastic Theory and Modeling by the American Mathematical Society. Tilmann's research has focused on two main areas: spatial and spatio-temporal statistics, and theory and methodology for forecasting, along with applications, such as in weather prediction.

These two Wald Memorial Lectures will be delivered at the IMS 2026 meeting, in Salzburg, July 6–9, 2026.

The 2026 Wald Memorial Lectures

The first talk concerns the classical topic of quantifying monotone association between random variables. The second talk is on calibration: the statistical consistency between probabilistic forecasts and the respective outcomes.

Wald Lecture I:
Assessing Monotone Dependence: Area Under the Curve Meets Rank Correlation

The assessment of monotone dependence between two random variables is a classical problem in statistics and a gamut of application domains. Consequently, researchers have sought measures of association that are invariant under strictly increasing transformations of the margins, with the extant literature being splintered. Rank correlation coefficients, such as Spearman's Rho and Kendall's Tau, have been studied in the statistical literature, mostly under the assumption of continuous margins. In the case of a dichotomous outcome, receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis and the asymmetric area under the ROC curve (AUC) measure are used to assess monotone dependence of a binary outcome on a covariate. The talk aims to unify and extend the two thus far disconnected strands of literature, by developing common population level theory, common estimators, and common tests that bridge the continuous and dichotomous settings and apply to all types of linearly ordered outcomes. In particular, we introduce the asymmetric grade correlation (AGC) and coefficient of monotone association (CMA) measures, which correspond to Spearman's Rho in the continuous case and to AUC for a dichotomous outcome. We establish central limit theorems for their sample versions and develop associated tests. In case studies, we assess progress in data-driven weather prediction and evaluate methods of uncertainty quantification for large language models. Joint work with Eva-Maria Walz and Andreas Eberl.

Wald Lecture II:
Hierarchies of Calibration: Classification and Regression

Concepts of calibration formalize the compatibility between probabilistic predictions and the respective outcomes. In a nutshell, the outcomes ought to be indistinguishable from random draws from the predictive distributions. The talk strives to review and extend notions of calibration that have been proposed for classification and regression tasks. Particular emphasis is given to hierarchical relations between the various notions, as they apply to general real-valued, continuous, nominal, and binary outcomes, respectively. Furthermore, we discuss concepts of calibration that are expressed in terms of properties or functionals of the predictive distribution, such as means, quantiles, or event probabilities. To illustrate the applied and methodological relevance of these notions, we revisit associated decompositions of proper scoring rules and consistent scoring functions into measures of mis-calibration, discrimination, and uncertainty. While calibration checks apply to (out-of-sample) assessments of predictive performance, they relate closely to (in-sample) model diagnostics, and we elucidate these connections in classification and regression settings. Joint work with Johannes Resin and Lu Yang.

IMS Grace Wahba Lecture preview: **Jane-Ling Wang**

Jane-Ling Wang is Distinguished Research Professor in Statistics at the University of California, Davis. She obtained her PhD in Statistics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1982 under the guidance of Jack Kiefer and Lucien Le Cam, and joined the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Iowa as an Assistant Professor in 1982. From there she moved to Davis in 1984 as an Assistant Professor. Except for a one-year appointment in 1987–88 at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, she has been a faculty member at Davis ever since.

Her research interests include survival analysis, functional data analysis and machine learning, where her emphasis is nonparametric and semiparametric approaches. She also enjoys collaborations with domain scientists and has long-term collaborations with biologists working to study aging and longevity, and with neuroscientists on brain imaging. Recently, she became interested in research on child development and, being an avid hiker (though not a climber) herself, in the analysis of climbing data for Mount Everest.

Jane-Ling is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (since 2011) and was elected an Academician of Academia Sinica in 2022. In 2016, she received the Noether Senior Research Award and in 2020 the Humboldt Research Award. She has served as the co-editor of *Statistica Sinica* (2002–05) and the *Journal of American Statistical Association, Theory and Methods* (2020–22), and since 2015, serves as a statistics editor for *Science*.

This 2026 IMS Grace Wahba Award Lecture will be given at the Joint Statistical Meetings (in Boston, August 1–6, 2026).

Statistical Learning for Complex Data

Contemporary statistical research is increasingly influenced by developments in AI. Many statisticians are integrating AI-driven methodologies into their research. In this lecture, Jane-Ling will briefly relate her own journey from more traditional nonparametrics to AI-influenced statistical research in the areas of functional data analysis and survival analysis and will reflect on challenges and opportunities.

A key feature of functional data is their infinite-dimensional nature, which presents challenges when harnessing neural networks and incorporating functional covariates in statistical models. A key question is how to effectively encode functional data inputs for deep neural networks (DNNs). Established methods implement dimension reduction via pre-selected basis expansions, which may be suboptimal. In recent work, Jane-Ling and co-authors proposed an adaptive architecture incorporating a basis-layer, in which hidden units act as data-driven basis functions constructed via micro neural networks. This end-to-end approach enables targeted representation of relevant features information, improving dimension reduction and outperforming other DNNs in classification and regression tasks.

A limitation of this approach is that it requires either fully or intensively observed functional data on a common time grid that is the same across all subjects. Consequently, it cannot accommodate traditional longitudinal data that are characterized by sparse and irregular observations. Such data are the subject of an active research area under the rubric of "Sparse Functional Data". A major challenge is the irregular nature of such data, which means that they cannot be represented as vectors. It turns out that transformers, originally developed for sequence modeling in large language models, provide a natural solution for this challenge due to their ability to accommodate sequences of varying length. Jane-Ling will discuss her previous and current work on how transformers can be employed for effective imputation of irregularly and sparsely observed functional data and nonparametric regression for such sparse functional data.

Survival data present a different set of challenges, primarily due to censoring and other forms of incompleteness, which complicate both theoretical analysis and algorithmic implementation.

Jane-Ling will discuss how these challenges can be addressed, enabling procedures such as conformal prediction and hypothesis testing for complex black-box models.

Other IMS speakers at JSM 2026

IMS Medallion Award & Lecture I: Genevera Allen, *Inference for Interpretable and Unsupervised Machine Learning* (Monday, August 3, 2:00 p.m.)

IMS Medallion Award & Lecture II: David Blei, *A Fresh Look at Empirical Bayes* [see next page] (Tuesday, August 4, 2:00 p.m.)

IMS Medallion Award & Lecture III: Lester Mackey, *title TBD* (Wednesday, August 5, 2:00 p.m.)

IMS Medallion Lecture preview: **David Blei**

David Blei is the William B. Ransford Professor of Statistics and Computer Science at Columbia University, USA. He studies probabilistic machine learning and Bayesian statistics, including theory, algorithms, and application. David has received several awards, including the 2013 ACM Prize in Computing, a 2017 Guggenheim fellowship, 2019 Simons Investigator Award, and the 2024 ACM/AAAI Allan Newell Award. He was the co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Machine Learning Research* from 2019–24. He is a fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the IMS. This lecture will be delivered at JSM 2026 in Boston, August 1–6, 2026.

A Fresh Look at Empirical Bayes

Empirical Bayes (EB) improves the accuracy of simultaneous inference "by learning from the experience of others" (Efron, 2012). This idea reflects a blend of Bayesian and frequentist thinking, which goes back to Robbins (1956). For decades, it has been an active area of productive statistical research. See Efron (2019) and Ignatiadis and Sen (2025) for modern reviews.

In this lecture, I will discuss three new ideas in empirical Bayes.

1 **Empirical Bayes via probabilistic symmetries**

Classical EB theory focuses on latent variables that are i.i.d. draws from a fitted prior. Many modern statistics problems, however, feature complex structure, like arrays, spatial processes, or covariates. How can we apply EB ideas to these settings?

In the first part of the talk, we describe a generalized approach to empirical Bayes based on the notion of *probabilistic symmetry*. Our method pairs a simultaneous inference problem—with an unknown prior—to a symmetry assumption on the joint distribution of the latent variables. Each symmetry implies an ergodic decomposition, which we use to derive a corresponding empirical Bayes method. We call this method *Bayesian empirical Bayes* (BEB). We show how to use this approach to extend EB with several probabilistic symmetries: (i) EB matrix recovery for arrays and graphs; (ii) covariate-assisted EB for conditional data; (iii) EB spatial regression under shift invariance. To solve the resulting computational problem, we present scalable algorithms based on variational inference and neural networks.

2 **Empirical Bayes and simulation-based inference**

Classical EB assumes that the likelihood is tractable, i.e., that we can calculate the conditional distribution of the data given the latent variable $p(x|z)$. In many scientific applications, however, the likelihood is available only through a simulator.

In the second part of the talk, we discuss an EB approach for such *implicit likelihoods*. Our approach uses the idea of *simulation-based inference* (SBI) (Cranmer et al., 2020). Specifically, we show how to calculate EB estimates without an explicit density by using the observed data, simulator samples, and an amortized inference network. The idea is that the result of simulation-based inference provides a natural mechanism to approximate the "population posterior," one form of the optimal EB prior. We demonstrate our method with several scientific simulators.

3 **Empirical Bayes for combining experimental and observational data**

Finally, as an application of EB thinking, we present a new method for simultaneously analyzing randomized trials and observational studies. Randomized experiments have long been the gold standard for scientists seeking to estimate a causal effect. When randomized experiments are limited, however, scientists often resort to observational studies for causal inference. Observational studies often come in large samples, but they rely on untestable assumptions and can be systematically biased. This leads to what Gerber et al. (2004) calls the *illusion of learning from observational research:* absent prior information about bias, observational results cannot meaningfully improve the quality of causal inference.

To shatter this illusion, we take an empirical Bayes perspective. We show that the distribution of observational biases can be learned from *calibration studies*–carefully designed studies in which the causal effect is known a priori to be zero. Calibration identifies the distribution of observational bias and allows observational studies to share meaningful information about the causal effect. We show that with an increasing number of calibration and observation studies, both the bias distribution and the causal effect can be consistently recovered. These ideas are joint work with Sebastian Salazar, Diana Cai, Don Green, Xinwei Shen, Sebastian Wagner-Carena, Bohan Wu, and Cheng Zhang.

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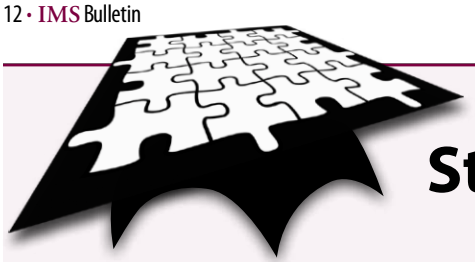


Student Puzzle 60: The Solution

A reminder: guest Student Puzzle editor Stanislav Volkov set this problem in the previous issue.

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 $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$.

The solution

Well done to student members, pictured right, **Samprit Chakraborty** (Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata) and **Aniv Mazumder** (Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi), who both sent full solutions to Puzzle 60, above; and a good attempt was made by **Rahul Vishwakarma** (also from Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi) to solve the problems.

Stanislav Volkov explains…

It is clear that if Alice decides to stop when the drawn value is x, she should stop if it is some $x' > x$. Let L be the smallest threshold when Alice decides to stop playing, and let $\mu = \mu(L)$ be her expected payoff. Because there is no time discount, it is clear that at each draw she should use the same strategy. Hence, the number of times she plays η has the geometric distribution,

$$\mathbb{P}(\eta = k) = \mathbb{P}(\xi < L)^{k-1}\, \mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L),\ k = 1, 2, \ldots,$$

and her expected payoff is

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}(\xi \mid \xi \ge L) - c\,\mathbb{E}(\eta - 1) = c + \frac{\mathbb{E}(\xi 1_{\xi \ge L}) - c}{\mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L)}. \qquad (1)$$

This immediately implies that if $c \ge \mathbb{E}\xi$ then for any $L > 0$, we have $\mu(L) < \mathbb{E}\xi$ and hence it's not worth drawing again, so the optimal strategy is just to take the result of the first draw with $\mu_{\text{opt}} = \mathbb{E}\xi$. Hence, from now on, we assume that $\boxed{\mathbb{E}\xi > c}$.

In case ξ has a continuous distribution with density f, $\mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L) = \int_L^\infty f(x)dx$ and

$$\mu = c + \frac{\int_L^\infty x f(x)dx - c}{\int_L^\infty f(x)dx} = \frac{\int_L^\infty x f(x)dx - c\int_0^L f(x)dx}{\int_L^\infty f(x)dx},$$

yielding

$$\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial L} = \frac{-Lf(L)\int_L^\infty f(x)dx + f(L)\left(\int_L^\infty x f(x)dx - c\right)}{\mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L)^2}$$

$$= \frac{f(L)}{\mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L)^2}\left[\int_L^\infty (x - L)\, f(x)dx - c\right] = \frac{f(L)}{\mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L)^2}\,[\mathbb{E}\max(\xi - L, 0) - c].$$

The expression in square brackets is positive when $L = 0$ and is monotonically decreasing to $-c$ as $L \to \infty$. Hence, there is an L^* such that $\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial L}$ is non-negative for $L < L^*$ and non-positive for $L > L^*$. Then, her expected payoff will be:

$$\frac{\int_{L^*}^\infty x f(x)dx - c\mathbb{P}(\xi < L^*)}{\mathbb{P}(\xi \ge L^*)}.$$

If ξ is Uniform[0, 1], then the expression in the square brackets equals $\frac{(1-L)^2}{2} - c$, hence the optimal strategy is to play until she gets $1 - \sqrt{2c}$ or more (this formally also covers the case when $c \ge \frac{1}{2}$). Under the optimal strategy, Alice's expected payoff equals

$$\mu_{\text{opt}} = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{2c}}{2} - c\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2c}} - 1\right) = 1 + c - \sqrt{2c}$$

when $c < \frac{1}{2}$, and $\mu_{\text{opt}} = \frac{1}{2}$ otherwise.

If ξ has a uniform discrete distribution in $\{1, \ldots, n\}$, assume that Alice stops when the result of a draw is at least $L = n - \ell + 1$; as before, we assume that $c < \mathbb{E}\xi = (n+1)/2$. Equation (1) becomes

$$\mu = n + c + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{2cn}{\ell} + \ell\right].$$

Since $\frac{a}{\ell} + \ell$ (where $a > 0$) is a convex function minimized at $\ell = \sqrt{a}$, μ is maximized when ℓ is one of the two integers closest to $\sqrt{2cn}$, i.e., $\lfloor\sqrt{2cn}\rfloor$ or $\lceil\sqrt{2cn}\rceil$ (for example, if $n = 6$ and $c = 1$, corresponding to a usual rolling of a die, then the best strategy for Alice is to stop whenever $L = L^*$ where we can take both $L^* = 3$ and $L^* = 4$).

Samprit Chakraborty

Aniv Mazumder

Rahul Vishwakarma

Student Puzzle #61 coming in the next Bulletin

Obituary: Klaus Krickeberg

1929–2025

Klaus Krickeberg at a meeting of the Oberwolfach Committees in 2016. Photo: Gerd Fischer/MFO

On November 27, 2025, the distinguished mathematician and outstanding teacher Klaus Krickeberg passed away at the age of 96. His broad scientific interests concerned the fields of analysis, martingales, stochastic geometry and point processes, and moreover, epidemiology and public health. To him, mathematics was a reflection of reality, in which he developed gradually from the abstract to the concrete. Geometrical insight is visible in all his work.

Born in 1929 in Ludwigslust, Germany, Krickeberg grew up in a medically oriented family. His father was a radiologist and his mother a medical technical assistant. His intelligence became evident early on. After only three years of primary school, he entered the Collège Français in Berlin, a secondary school founded in 1689 for children of Huguenot refugees, among them his maternal ancestors.

Krickeberg completed his secondary education in 1946 and began university studies in autumn. The lectures of Erhard Schmidt impressed him deeply; later he described them as "the most wonderful lectures I ever heard, delivered entirely from memory." Completing his studies in 1951, he earned his doctorate at 23, and 1954 he completed his Habilitation in Würzburg. By the age of 29, he had become one of the youngest professors of his time: from 1958–71 at Heidelberg; 1971–75 at Bielefeld; and 1975–98 at Paris Descartes (Paris V) University.

His scientific work comprises, in this first mathematical period, the following fundamental contributions: convergence of martingales with a directed index set; distributions in the sense of Laurent Schwartz; functions of bounded variation and Lebesgue surface measure of a non-parametric surface; strong mixing properties of Markov chains with infinite invariant measure; invariance properties of the correlation measure of line processes; and moments of point processes.

Krickeberg's mathematical teaching reached a wide audience by means of three books, but also by locally published surveys and notes, written for his lectures in Chile, Cuba, Poland or Vietnam—and always in the local language. These have been particularly influential, each of them recasting complicated and unarranged material in an accessible and elegant form, thereby setting clear lines for future research.

From 1971 to 1985 he was chief editor of the *Journal of Probability and Related Fields*. In 1992 he initiated the book series *Statistics for Biology and Health*.

In 1974 he travelled by train to Vietnam to teach mathematics in Hanoi. After that, Klaus returned year after year to support Vietnamese scientists. Over time, his commitment expanded beyond mathematics. In the final decades of his life, improving healthcare and health education in Vietnam became a central focus. He worked to strengthen epidemiological teaching, co-authored books with Vietnamese colleagues, gave lectures, and organized workshops.

Klaus Krickeberg became a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1968. He was elected into the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1971, was a member of its Council from 1985–89, and chaired its committee for the development of statistics in developing countries from 1987–91. He was President of the Bernoulli Society in 1977–79. He initiated the establishment of the Latin America Regional Committee (LARC), and the East Asian and Pacific Regional Committee (EAPRC), and chaired the program committee of the first Bernoulli World Congress in Tashkent in 1986. (In *Bernoulli News*, **29**(2), pp9–10, he tells anecdotes about this congress.)

In 1983 he was elected to the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina. Klaus Krickeberg received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at the University of Vienna in 1990. He was elected as a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for the advancement of science in developing countries in 1994.

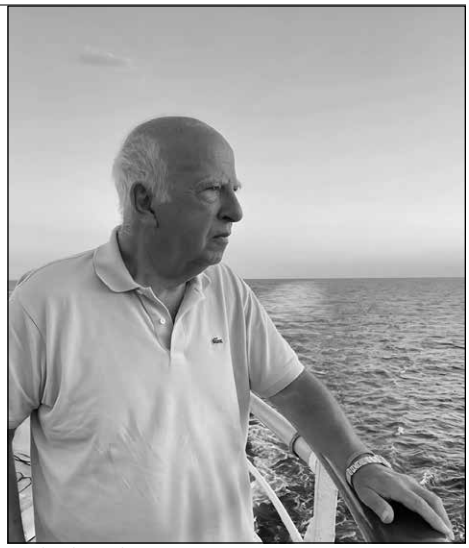
He received several distinctions for his activities in Vietnam. In 2009, it was the Medal of the Ministry of Health for Contributions to the Health of the Population. Then, in 2011 the National University of Science of Ho Chi Minh City bestowed on him its Honorary Doctorate for his work in mathematics, and in 2015 the Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy made him an Honorary Professor.

For his 90th birthday in 2019, he received the Friendship Order, the highest order bestowed by the Vietnamese government on foreign individuals by the President of Vietnam for "many positive essential contributions to the development of the Vietnamese health sector" (*Bernoulli News*, **26**(1), p5).

Written by Klaus Dietz (University of Tübingen, Germany) and Hans Zessin (University of Bielefeld, Germany)

Obituary: Paul Deheuvels

1948–2026


Paul Deheuvels

Having retired from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (now Sorbonne Université) in 2013, after spending his entire academic career there, Paul Deheuvels sadly passed away last January. Son of the French mathematician René Deheuvels, Paul was born in Istanbul, where his father was teaching at the French Lycée. He spent his younger years in Princeton and New Haven, where his father was visiting the Institute for Advanced Study and Yale University, respectively. The family then returned to Bourg-la-Reine, in suburban Paris, where Paul Deheuvels spent the rest of his life, apart from academic visits and mountaineering trips.

Paul Deheuvels was a precocious and exceptional student, entering the prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) at age 19, becoming the youngest graduate of the mathematics *agrégation* (an elite teaching qualification) at age 21, and being hired as the youngest full professor at Université Pierre et Marie Curie at age 26.

His contributions to mathematical statistics and probability theory are numerous and impactful. He worked on extreme values, empirical processes, iterated logarithm refinements, copulas, and nonparametric statistics. For instance, he extended extreme value theory to multivariate settings with deep convergence results. He made considerable progress on kernel density estimators, especially for the challenging problem of tail estimation. He further contributed to the construction and understanding of nonparametric tests based on order statistics. His scientific papers and conferences were written with absolute mathematical rigour and conciseness, as well as beautiful calligraphy on the blackboards he always used for his presentations.

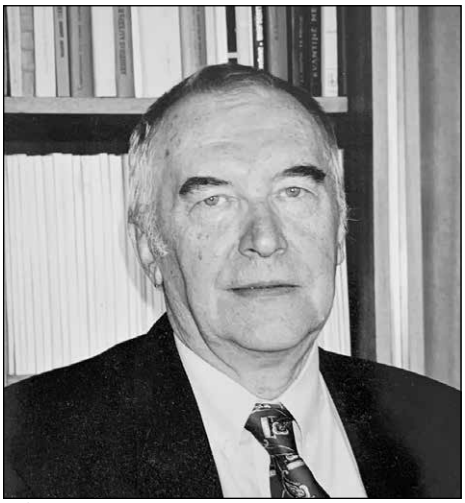
He was able to combine this strong mathematical inclination with an enthusiasm for applied statistics, as demonstrated by his creating in 1980 the (first) statistics lab at Université Pierre et Marie Curie, the Laboratory of Theoretical and Applied Statistics (LSTA), which he directed until 2013. He also acted as a consultant for TotalEnergies and the pharmaceutical company Sanofi for several decades.

Paul Deheuvels was also recognised for his mentoring qualities. He advised more than a hundred PhD students, including Michel Broniatowski, Adrian Raftery, Zhan Shi and Jean-David Fermanian. His mentorship and support often extended way beyond the PhD years and included junior colleagues at Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

He became an IMS Fellow in 1986 and was elected to the French Academy of Sciences (as the first statistician) in 2000, after receiving the Prix Gegner from this academy. He was also the first recipient of the Prix Pierre-Simon de Laplace from the French Statistical Society (SfDS), jointly with Pascal Massart (Orsay).

Paul Deheuvels is survived by his mother, his wife, four daughters and twelve grandchildren.

By Christian Robert & Adrian Raftery


Valentin Petrov

Obituary: Valentin V. Petrov

1931–2025

Professor Valentin Vladimirovich Petrov passed away on 31 May, 2025. He was born on 10 February, 1931, into the family of a physician in Kholomky in the Pskov region of Russia. In 1952 he finished his studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics of the University of Leningrad (St. Petersburg). He started his PhD studies supervised by Yuri Linnik and defended his thesis three years later. Linnik also inspired him to conduct research on limit theorems for sums of independent random variables, and Petrov devoted his scientific life to this topic. It was also the title of his Habilitation thesis (Doctor of Science) defended at the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union in Moscow in 1961. Shortly after, in 1963, he became Professor at the University of

Obituary: Valentin Petrov continued

Leningrad. From 1961–95 he chaired the Department of Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics at the University of Leningrad.

Petrov was one of the world experts for limit theorems in probability theory and probability inequalities. His mathematical work went into the depth of existing results by Lyapunov, Cramér, Esseen, Gnedenko, and Linnik. He refined their findings in elegant ways and turned them into seminal statements. Petrov's name is closely related to fundamental results in the theory of large deviations, improving upon results by Cramér and Linnik. He was a master in developing the necessary tools for deriving these results, including numerous generalizations of Borel–Cantelli lemmas and the inequalities by Lyapunov, Kolmogorov, Bernstein, and Lévy. These tools were successfully applied in the context of a.s. limit theory: he found necessary and sufficient conditions for generalized strong laws of large numbers and laws of the iterated logarithm.

Professor Petrov was an outstanding teacher at the University of Leningrad/St. Petersburg. In his lectures he presented the beauty and elegance of probability theory. He also lectured at numerous universities, including in USA, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil, Denmark. He loved teaching limit theory for sums of independent random variables and devoted his first monograph, *Sums of Independent Random Variables,* to this topic. First published in Russian in 1972 (Nauka, Moscow), the 1975 English translation became a global success (Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg). It served generations of probabilists and statisticians as an encyclopedic source of probability inequalities, rates of convergence, moment estimates, local and central limit theorems, a.s. limit theory, and so on. The monograph *Limit Theorems of Probability Theory* (Oxford University Press, 1995) was another publishing success. Petrov used this text for teaching graduate courses in many countries.

Valentin Petrov was a person with a subtle humor. For example, when his third monograph (1987, Nauka) was printed on beautiful white paper he explained this with the fact that the paper was actually reserved for Leonid Brezhnev's last book; the Soviet leader had died in 1985, and nobody would read his books afterwards.

Petrov liked to talk about inspiring meetings with William Feller, Jerzy Neyman, Lucien Le Cam, C.R. Rao, Harald Cramér, Peter G. Hall, Allan Gut, and many others. He loved the arts and literature, and wrote poems himself.

For his achievements as a teacher, department chair and his world-wide reputation as a scientist and author, Petrov received various national and international awards and honors. He had 21 PhD students of whom eight chose a scientific career.

Written by Sergey Ananjevskii, Allan Gut, Ildar Ibragimov, Mikhail Lifshits, Thomas Mikosch, and Valery Nevzorov

Obituary: Arak M. Mathai

1935–2025

A.M. Mathai

Arak M. Mathai, an eminent mathematician and statistician whose work markedly shaped modern multivariate analysis, special functions, and applied probability, passed away on December 20, 2025, after contending with a cancer that was as swift as it was unforeseen, bequeathing a legacy of enduring resonance and global influence.

Born in Kerala, India, on April 28, 1935, he displayed a remarkable aptitude for mathematics from an early age. After completing his initial studies in his home country, he pursued advanced studies at the University of Toronto before joining the faculty at McGill University in Montreal, where he devoted the greater part of his distinguished academic career to teaching and research. Over more than six decades, he established himself as one of the most creative and prolific contributors to the mathematical and statistical sciences.

A.M. Mathai's research extended across numerous areas of statistics and many branches of mathematics, intersecting with geometrical probability, information theory, astrophysics, and biological modeling. The author of 37 books and more than 300 research articles, he made a significant impact across a broad array of research areas. An excellent account of his varied contributions may be found at: https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ce_2020032415263705.pdf

Yet, beyond the researcher, it is the mentor whom many will remember. Professor Mathai was a generous and inspiring guide whose influence extended across several generations of scholars. He supervised numerous graduate students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers. He encouraged independent thought while offering patient support and wise counsel. I was fortunate to be among those he supervised, pursuing my doctoral studies under his guidance from 1980 to 1984. He also played a decisive role in my joining Western University's Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, where I have been professionally active for upwards of 42 years. His mentorship contributed meaningfully to my academic development. Over the years, as we collaborated on three books and numerous research papers, I was continually inspired by his rigorous work ethic. Above all, like so many others, I knew him as a caring, kind, and affable person. He had a gift for making complex ideas accessible and delighted in sharing his insights with others, speaking with clarity and purpose, asking thoughtful questions and offering constructive feedback. His passing has left a profound sense of loss among all who had the privilege of benefiting from his guidance and encouragement.

Professor Mathai's influence extended far beyond McGill University. For instance, he was among the principal architects of the Centre for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CMSS), established in the state of Kerala, a research institute dedicated to advancing statistics and mathematics in India. Under his leadership, CMSS became a vibrant hub for research, training, and international collaboration. His commitment to fostering scientific development in his home country proved unwavering.

The honours he received attest to the esteem he commanded internationally. A Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Royal Statistical Society, and the National Academy of Sciences of India, he also held the presidencies of both the Indian Mathematical Society and the Kerala State Statistical Commission. He sat on the editorial boards of leading journals while frequently being invited to deliver keynote lectures. On three occasions, he was honored by the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs. Notably, he founded the *Canadian Journal of Statistics* and the Statistical Science Association of Canada—subsequently renamed the Statistical Society of Canada. Despite these distinctions, and his eminent achievements, he remained unfailingly humble throughout his career.

The loss of A. M. Mathai reverberates well beyond the Canadian statistical community, echoing across scientific circles worldwide. His ideas keep inspiring new and vibrant avenues of research, and his influence endures in the students he trained, the wide circle of collaborators who worked alongside him, and all those who are carrying his insights forward. His imprint is woven into the fabric of modern mathematical statistics, and his legacy will continue to resonate for generations.

He is survived by his family, to whom his devotion never wavered. His memory will live on not only through his scientific contributions but also through the generosity, integrity, and intellectual ethos that defined him.

The life and work of Arak M. Mathai reflect a genuine passion for discovery, a steadfast dedication to mentorship, and a sustained commitment to the advancement of knowledge. He will be deeply missed.

By Serge B. Provost

The Empty Seat: A Paradox at Africa's Statistical Gatherings

Saralees Nadarajah (University of Manchester UK) and Samuel Manda (University of Pretoria, South Africa) have suggestions to increase participation of Black African statisticians at conferences:

The itinerary of the **African International Conferences on Statistics** from 2014 to 2025 reads like a cartography of hope. From the vibrant streets of Dakar to the highlands of Addis Ababa, the savannas of Limpopo, and the medinas of Marrakesh, the intention was clear: to build a pan-African platform for statistical discourse. The themes evolved with the times, mirroring global intellectual shifts from *Recent Developments in Applied Statistics* to *Big Data*, *Artificial Intelligence*, and *Sustainable Development*. See https://aic2026.strathmore.edu/

Yet beneath this promising journey lies a persistent and uncomfortable silence. It is a gap not in the program, but in the room itself: the conspicuous absence of Black African statisticians.

This is not a critique of the organizers, whose efforts kept the flame alive through a pandemic. It is an observation of a deeper paradox. Conferences held on African soil, ostensibly for African development, are often not populated by the very data scientists and statisticians who are the children of that soil. The word "African" in the title risks becoming a mere geographical descriptor rather than a reflection of the demographic.

The Numbers That Don't Add Up: A simple demographic survey of attendees at these gatherings would reveal a stark picture. The room typically includes a significant contingent of international experts from Europe, North America, and Asia, alongside a diaspora of African academics based at Western institutions. The missing variable is the locally-based Black African statistician—the lecturer from the University of Yaoundé I, the government analyst in Addis Ababa, or the PhD student at the University of Botswana.

The locations themselves highlight the barrier. A conference in Jimma or Arsi, Ethiopia, requires a level of financial and logistical commitment that is prohibitive for a Cameroonian or Senegalese academic. The costs—visa fees, flights, accommodation, registration—can easily exceed several months' salary. While the organizers of the 2025 Nairobi satellite conference are to be commended for focusing on "Development in Africa," the fundamental economic equation remains unsolved.

Beyond the Cost Barrier: However, to frame this solely as a financial issue is to miss the deeper structural crisis. The low attendance is a symptom of a weakened academic ecosystem. The statistician who is *not* in Gaborone or Hammamet is likely at their home institution, overwhelmed by teaching loads, starved of research funding, and without the high-speed internet needed to even learn about opportunities. Their absence is not a choice, but a consequence of systemic underinvestment in higher education across much of the continent.

There is also an unspoken issue of intellectual confidence. When keynote addresses are consistently delivered by non-African experts, and academic currency is defined by journals and indices based elsewhere, a local researcher can feel like a perpetual student rather than a peer. The conference becomes a place to listen, not to challenge or collaborate. This dynamic signals that "advanced statistics" are generated elsewhere and merely "applied" in Africa, rather than being innovated from within.

The Post-COVID Moment: The pandemic hiatus from 2020 to 2023 offered a moment for reflection. When conferences resumed in Marrakesh and Tunis, the world had adopted virtual and hybrid models that could have been great equalizers. Yet the return to in-person, high-fee events risks re-entrenching old inequalities. Logging onto Zoom does not grant a young Malian data scientist the same networking opportunities as a coffee break in Hammamet.

The Way Forward: For these conferences to truly live up to their name, a radical shift is needed. They must transition from being events held in Africa to gatherings that are fundamentally *of and by* Africa. This requires intentional action:

First, conference budgets must prioritize large-scale, accessible travel grants for African-based statisticians as a primary line item, not an afterthought. Second, the Nairobi model of satellite events should be expanded into a network of lower-cost regional hubs feeding into a central gathering. Third, keynotes must be intentionally populated with leading Black African statisticians working within African institutions, showcasing home-grown research. Finally, the conference must be woven into year-round programs of virtual journal clubs, grant writing, and mentorship.

The conferences from 2014 to 2025 provide a record of intent. The 2025 Nairobi gathering stands at a crossroads. It has the opportunity to be the moment when the conversation finally shifted. The alternative is a future where these events continue to mirror the global North's image of African statistics, while the vibrant community of Black African statisticians remains in the shadows. The empty seat is not just an absence; it is a lost opportunity for the continent to solve its own complex problems.

The organizers of the African International Conference on Statistics are actively working to expand broader African engagement in future conferences. They will respond more fully in the next issue: stay tuned.

Saralees Nadarajah and Samuel Manda, with Queensley Chukwudum, write more about ethical and equitable research partnerships in Africa on the following pages.

Beyond the Rhetoric: Systemic Inequities in African Research Partnerships

Saralees Nadarajah (University of Manchester UK), Samuel Manda (Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa), and Queensley C. Chukwudum (Univ. of Uyo, Nigeria) write:

International research collaborations are widely heralded as essential mechanisms for addressing global challenges in health, agriculture, and development. Funding schemes from major agencies in Europe and North America routinely mandate partnerships between institutions in high-income countries and those in low- and middle-income countries, with Africa featuring prominently in these frameworks. The stated goals are noble: to combine diverse expertise, build local capacity, and ensure that research addresses the needs of populations most affected by the problems under study.

Yet beneath this rhetoric of partnership lies a reality that many African researchers know but rarely voice publicly. The structure and implementation of these collaborations frequently perpetuate the very inequities they claim to address. This commentary synthesizes firsthand testimonies from researchers across Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and other nations, alongside observations from international partners based in Europe, North America and Australia. These accounts reveal patterns of intellectual marginalization, financial exploitation, and data extraction that undermine local capacity, scientific integrity, and sustainable development in Africa.

The Leadership Paradox: A leading researcher in Cameroon describes a scenario that has become distressingly familiar. An African scientist conceives a study based on local epidemiological data and community needs, designs the methodology, and drafts the proposal. However, because European institutions often hold "fiduciary responsibility" or maintain existing relationships with funders, a European researcher is named the Principal Investigator. The African originator of the project is relegated to Co-Investigator or, worse, Field Coordinator.

This structural demotion has tangible consequences. Academic standing, career progression, and future funding prospects all depend on holding primary investigator status. In one instance, the researcher recalls applying through the French Agency for HIV Research, only to discover that the online portal automatically designated the French partner as lead. All communication and reporting flowed through that partner, despite the researcher having developed the concept and written the proposal. Such systemic bias facilitates intellectual appropriation and systematically disenfranchises African innovators before a single data point is collected.

Data Extraction and Epistemic Injustice: A researcher from South Africa highlights another dimension of the problem: the fate of data collected on African soil. Valuable health system data gathered in countries like Malawi is often owned and controlled by foreign institutions, frequently in the United States. Personnel from organizations such as USAID, based in Africa but accountable to headquarters abroad, manage data collection and transfer it to US institutions. This is justified by perceived limitations in local analytical capacity—real, or manufactured by years of underinvestment.

Once the data leaves the continent, so does control over its interpretation. African contributors are frequently excluded from authorship and intellectual outcomes. The data generated by African communities, collected by African field staff, and describing African populations is analyzed in, for example, Boston or Seattle, and published in journals that African institutions cannot afford to access. This cycle produces what scholars have termed epistemic injustice: the systematic exclusion of African perspectives from the production of knowledge about Africa itself.

The Financial Architecture of Inequality: A researcher from Zimbabwe draws attention to the financial asymmetries embedded in grant structures. On a typical USAID grant of one million dollars, twenty-five percent may automatically remain with the US partner institution before any project activities begin. This overhead covers administrative costs, but it also represents resources that never reach the communities the research is meant to benefit.

Beyond institutional overhead, the pattern of travel by Northern partners further depletes project funds. Repeated visits by teams from Europe or North America to African partner countries, often involving luxury accommodations and *per diem*s calculated at international rates, consume budgets that could otherwise support local salaries, equipment, or infrastructure. These expenditures are justified as essential for "monitoring" and "capacity building," yet they rarely result in sustained transfer of skills or resources.

Compounding this is the structure of salary allocations. When funding is calculated as a percentage of full-time equivalent (FTE) salary, African researchers receive far less than their Northern counterparts due to lower base salaries, despite often undertaking the majority of fieldwork and community engagement. A senior African researcher may receive a fraction of the salary supplement allocated to a junior European colleague, simply because their home institution's pay scales reflect local economic realities. The result is a system where those doing the most labor-intensive work are compensated least, while those who visit occasionally draw the largest salaries.

Breaches of Trust and Accountability Failures: An African researcher now based in the UK recounts the experience of a junior colleague who entered a partnership with a UK professor on a grant requiring collaboration between low- and middle-income country and high-income country researchers. The agreement was straightforward: samples would be sent to the UK for processing, and the data would be returned for analysis by the African colleague, who would be first author on the resulting publications. But the data was never shared. When the African colleague inquired, the professor claimed to be too busy to process the request. Months passed; eventually the professor unilaterally assigned the data to a UK-based student for analysis. Later, the professor secured additional funding based on this same data without informing or including the African partner. Such breaches of trust are not isolated incidents. They are cited repeatedly by African researchers as reasons for growing restrictions on sample sharing and deepening mistrust in international partnerships. When agreements are disregarded without consequence, the foundation of collaboration erodes.

Tokenism and Superficial Engagement: A researcher from South Africa identifies a pattern of tokenism that pervades many collaborative proposals. African researchers are included to satisfy funder requirements for "local presence" or "demonstration of African partnership." Their names and institutional affiliations lend credibility to applications, yet they may be unaware of the full proposal details, the budget breakdown, or even the grant's approval status.

Once funding is secured, this superficial engagement becomes apparent. African partners may be excluded from decision-making meetings, denied access to project data, or informed of activities after they have already been planned. Meanwhile, Northern partners use the resources to conduct activities in Africa that primarily benefit their own careers or, in some cases, include what can only be described as holiday-like visits dressed in the language of research. This dynamic transforms genuine partnership into exploitation of African credentials without granting African voice.

Overarching Patterns: These testimonies, drawn from diverse countries and research contexts, reveal interconnected structural issues. Funding portals and fiduciary arrangements systematically place Northern partners in lead roles, eroding African leadership before projects begin. Data extracted from Africa is controlled and analyzed abroad, limiting local access and undermining capacity building. Grant funds are disproportionately absorbed by Northern administrative costs, salaries, and travel, limiting resources for local implementation. Agreements on authorship, data sharing, and roles are frequently disregarded without accountability. And African researchers are used instrumentally to fulfill grant criteria without meaningful engagement or decision-making power.

The consequences extend beyond individual grievances. These practices impede the development of robust African research ecosystems, perpetuating dependency and reinforcing neocolonial dynamics in global science. Talented researchers, seeing limited prospects for fair recognition and advancement, may leave the continent entirely, contributing to brain drain. Those who remain may become cynical about international collaboration, viewing it as an extractive enterprise rather than a genuine partnership.

A Path Toward Equity: Addressing these systemic inequities requires fundamental changes at multiple levels. Funding agencies must revise their application and management systems to require and enforce equitable leadership. Principal Investigator status should be based on intellectual contribution, not institutional location. Portals must not auto-assign lead roles based on Northern headquarters, and all partners should have transparent access to full proposals, budgets, and communications.

Robust data governance agreements must become mandatory in all collaborative grants. These should guarantee that data collected in Africa remains accessible to African partners, that analysis plans are jointly developed, and that authorship policies are agreed in writing before projects begin. Funders must monitor compliance and impose consequences for violations. Grant budgeting must be restructured to ensure equitable distribution. This includes capping administrative overheads for Northern institutions, allocating funds based on real costs rather than FTE percentages that entrench salary disparities, and prioritizing budget lines that build local infrastructure and capacity. Travel expenses should be justified and minimized.

Ethical training and accountability mechanisms require strengthening. All grant participants should complete training on equitable partnership and anti-colonial research practices. Clear, independent channels for reporting grievances must exist, with meaningful consequences for unethical behavior, including eligibility restrictions for future funding. Finally, funders must actively support African-led research agendas, creating grant schemes exclusive to African institutions, increasing African representation on review panels, and investing in local research management capacity to enable African institutions to lead consortia effectively.

In Conclusion: The patterns described here are widespread and damaging. They represent not the failures of individual researchers or institutions, but the logical outcomes of systems designed without equity as a primary consideration. Addressing them requires more than rhetorical commitments to decolonization or partnership. It requires fundamental restructuring of how research is funded, governed, and evaluated. Only then can global research transform from an extractive enterprise into a genuinely collaborative endeavor that respects African intellectual contributions, promotes local capacity, and serves the priorities and peoples of Africa.

Recent papers: Two open-access journals

Probability Surveys

Probability Surveys is a peer-reviewed electronic journal which publishes survey articles in theoretical and applied probability. 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. The journal is sponsored by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and by the Bernoulli Society.

Probability Surveys is an Open Access journal. The full text of each article published is freely available to all readers. Author or publication fees are not required; voluntary fees (https://imstat.org/shop/publication-charge-funding-form/) or donations to the Open Access Fund (https://www.imstat.org/shop/donation/) are welcomed. Expenses not covered by voluntary payments are paid for by the co-sponsoring societies as a service to the community.

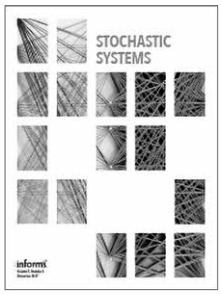
The Editor-in-Chief is Adam Jakubowski.

Read it online at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/probability-surveys/current**

Volume 22, 2025

Volume 23, 2026 (to date)

Stochastic Systems



As the flagship journal of the INFORMS Applied Probability Society, *Stochastic Systems* seeks to publish high-quality research in applied probability and at its interfaces with operations research, optimization, data science, and statistics. As of 2026, the journal introduces a **new submission category, Short Correspondences, intended for concise, high-quality contributions.** The journal publishes high-quality papers that substantively contribute to the modeling, analysis, and control of stochastic systems. A paper's contribution may lie in the formulation of new mathematical models, the development of new mathematical or computational methods, the innovative application of existing methods, or in the opening of new application domains. Relative to application-focused journals, *Stochastic Systems* concentrates on on how applied probability plays a significant, and not just supporting, role in this field. Relative to other applied probability outlets, *Stochastic Systems* focuses exclusively on operations research content.

Stochastic Systems provides open access to all of its content. Articles are published under the Creative Commons CC-BY: Attribution license. The Editor-in-Chief is Rami Atah.

Read it at **https://pubsonline.informs.org/toc/stsy/current**

Volume 16, Issue 1, March 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 still time [*depending when you're reading this!*] 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. 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 UPDATED
August 1–6, 2026	August 8–12, 2027	August 6–10, 2028	August 5–9, 2029	August 4–8, 2030
Boston, USA	Chicago, USA	Philadelphia, USA	Seattle, USA	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
[see above]				

PAKDD 2026 Workshop on AI and Data Science for Digital Finance NEW
9 June, 2026. Hong Kong, China
w https://sites.google.com/view/ai4dfpakdd/

This workshop will be an in-person event at PAKDD 2026 (the 30th Pacific–Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, https://www.pakdd2026.org/). The theme is *AI and Data Science for Digital Finance: Transforming Markets, Assets, and Inclusion*. The workshop aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, industry experts, and policymakers interested in the development and application of AI and data science in digital finance.

Keynote speakers: **Yilei Shao**, East China Normal University; **Simon Trimborn**, University of Amsterdam; **Rita Yi Man Li**, Hong Kong Shue Yan University.

Abstract submission deadline: April 15, 2026. See website for details.

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 is open. Early rates apply before May 15: https://imstat.org/shop/2026-ims-annual-meeting. If you're bringing children to Salzburg, **IMS can help with childcare costs** to support your participation: https://imstat.org/meetings/ims-child-care-initiative/ … and don't forget to **book your hotel early!**

Immediately after this meeting, the **10th BFF (Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist Statistics) Conference will take place, July 10–11, 2026**: https://bffconference.github.io/bff-salzburg-2026/index.html [*see page 26*].

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
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)
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).

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.

Registration is open.

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.

APPLY TO ATTEND THE FIRST **IMS Asian New Researchers Conference: NRC–Asia Pacific Rim** NEW
June 17–18, 2026 [*right after the IMS-APRM 2026, see above*], **Hong Kong, China**
w https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/inrc-asia/home
NRC–Asia Pacific Rim will be held in conjunction with the HKU 2026 Summer Workshop on Statistics and Data Analytics. Day 1 will consist of talks by senior speakers invited for the HKU 2026 Summer Workshop on Statistics and Data Analytics. (This workshop aims to bring together leading researchers in statistics and data science from around the world and offers an open platform for participants to share insights in a collaborative environment.) Day 2 will provide participants with the opportunity to present their research through brief expository talks and posters, and to meet other early-career researchers. There will be panels and presentations by senior researchers on topics including publishing, grant applications, collaboration, and mentoring. *APPLY TO ATTEND BEFORE APRIL 15: see website for application link!*

IMS New Researchers Conference: NRC–North America NEW
APPLY TO ATTEND by April 15
July 29–August 1, 2026 [*right before JSM*]
UMass Amherst Campus, Amherst, MA
w https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/nrc2026umass/
NRC–US gathers around 50 early-career researchers in the fields of statistics, probability, optimization, biostatistics, and data science. The program has panels and plenaries by leading scholars, poster and oral presentations by participants, and structured mentoring. *APPLY TO ATTEND by April 15: see website for link!*

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
Early registration ends April 30 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

UPDATED

June 1–4, 2026

American Univ., Washington DC, USA

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

Registration and abstract submission are open. This biennial 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 includes approximately 140 presentations covering theoretical, methodological, and applied areas of sequential inference, change-point detection, sequential estimation, ranking and selection, machine learning and artificial intelligence, clinical trials and adaptive design, statistical process control, optimal stopping, stochastic approximation, applied probability, mathematical finance, and related areas.

The program features these plenary lectures:

- *Recent Advances in Statistical Process Control for Dynamic Disease Screening and Spatio-Temporal Disease Surveillance*, by Peihua Qiu (University of Florida)
- *From Theory to Decision: A Journey with Sequential Methods in Clinical Trials*, by Dong-Yun Kim (NIH)
- *Nearly Optimal Sequential Multihypothesis Tests for General Stochastic Models with Dependent and Nonidentically Distributed Observations*, by Alexander Tartakovsky (AGT StatConsult)
- *Shortest Fixed-Width Confidence Intervals for a Bounded Parameter: The Push Algorithm* by Jay Bartroff (University of Texas)

The regularly updated site has registration, abstract submission, and lodging links, as well as other information. **Early registration** ends on April 1, 2026. Any questions? Please contact the organizers (see website).

9th African International Conference on Statistics (AIC 2026)

NEW

June 29–July 3, 2026. Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya

w https://aic2026.strathmore.edu/

The 9th AIC, jointly hosted by Strathmore University (SU), Kenya, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), USA, will be held under the theme: "Leveraging big data, artificial intelligence, and emerging analytical tools in mathematical sciences for development in Africa."

Abstract submission by April 15; register by May 15.

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)

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.

2027 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting
NEW
March 14–17, 2027, Boston, USA
w https://www.enar.org/meetings/

Next year's ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting will be held at Boston Marriott Copley Place, in Boston, USA. Please note these deadlines:
June 5, 2026: Invited Session & Education Program Proposals
October 1, 2026: Distinguished Student Paper Award Submissions
October 15, 2026: Abstract Submissions

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

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NEW

2026 BOCCONI-StatML SUMMER SCHOOL in Advanced Statistics and Probability

Causality and Graphical Models

bss2026.lakecomoschool.org

The 2026 edition is organized and offered by **Bocconi University** within its PhD program in Statistics and Computer Science, in collaboration with the **University of Oxford** and **Imperial College London** within the EPSRC CDT (Centre for Doctoral Training) in Modern Statistics and Statistical Machine Learning.

The Summer School is co-sponsored by the Institute on Mathematical Statistics (IMS).

The aim of the school is to establish a track of high-level courses on cutting-edge topics in Statistics and Probability. The summer school is open to all interested scholars, but is especially addressed to PhD students.

PROGRAM

The purpose of the course is to give an introduction to methods for causal inference from observational data. Under what conditions and by which methods can we go beyond correlations?
The subject of causal inference is at the intersection of statistics, econometrics, social science and computer science, and is currently a popular research topic in these fields. This course will be given from a (mathematical) statistical point of view. We introduce statistical notation and formulate mathematically precise aims, leading to novel statistical inference problems. For at least some of them we develop the estimation theory, which is often of asymptotic type and includes some semiparametric and some high-dimensional methods.We assume excellent knowledge of probability and statistics, but develop the idea of causality from the start up. We start with a definition of causal quantities in terms of potential outcomes, and discuss some of the statistical theory for estimating an average causal effect. Next, after a very quick introduction to probabilistic graphical models, we define potential outcomes through causal graphs. We spend some time on instrumental variables and the related proximal inference. We end the course with methods of causal discovery, i.e. constructing a causal graphical model from data.

MAIN INSTRUCTOR

AAD VAN DER VAART
Delft Institute of Applied Mathematics, TU Delf

TUTORIALS

FRANCESCO GILI TU Delft
FRANCESCO DI GIUSEPPE TU Delft

APPLICATIONS

In order to foster active interaction among students and instructors, the school is targeted for a class of at most 35 qualified and selected participants.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

14 APRIL 2026

CONTACT

bss.statistics@unibocconi.it

Other meetings and events

METMA XII: Conference on Spatio-Temporal Modelling NEW
June 8–10, 2026. Zaragoza, Spain
w https://metma12.unizar.es/
METMA XII international conference will be held in Zaragoza University. This conference aims to promote the development and application of spatial, temporal, and spatio-temporal statistical methods in the context of health and environmental research. The scientific program features sessions covering topics on the latest advancements in theory, methods and applications. Abstract submission deadline: April 15, 2026, at 23:59 (Madrid time) - Early registration deadline: April 30, 2026. Accepted and registered abstracts will be published in the METMA12 website.

DYNSTOCH 2026 NEW
June 15–17, 2026. Gothenburg, Sweden
w https://dynstoch2026.pages.dev
The aim of the DYNSTOCH series is to advance statistical inference and simulation for stochastic processes by combining modern probability tools with computationally intensive methods. Registration closes May 15; abstract submission April 15.

Linnaeus Workshop: Stochastic Analysis and Applications 2026 NEW
June 15–18, 2026. Växjö, Sweden
w https://lnu.se/en/lsaa2026
The Linnaeus Workshop on Stochastic Analysis and Applications (LSAA 2026), is a meeting point for researchers on stochastic processes, differential equations, and applications, with a focus on fostering collaboration across stochastics, numerics, analysis, and complex systems. We welcome contributed talks, and PhD students and early-stage researchers are especially encouraged to participate. The workshop is held in conjunction with the **3rd Young Summer School on Stochastic Analysis** at Linnaeus University.

New Horizons on Model Transportability and Data Integration NEW
June 22–26, 2026. Chicago, USA
w https://www.imsi.institute/activities/new-horizons-on-model-transportability-and-data-integration/
There has been an explosive evolution in statistical methodologies for model transportability, generalizability, data exploitation, integration, and fusion. Concurrently, the machine learning community has also forged ahead with the creation of algorithms and approaches for transfer learning, out-of-distribution prediction, semi-supervised learning, and federated learning. The aim of this workshop is to showcase recent advancements; and secondly, to cast a visionary gaze towards new horizons that lie ahead.

10th BFF (Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist Statistics) Conference NEW
July 10–11, 2026 [*immediately after the IMS Annual Meeting***]**
Salzburg, Austria
w https://bffconference.github.io/bff-salzburg-2026/index.html
The BFF Conference brings together researchers working in Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist statistics. The 10th edition will take place in beautiful Salzburg, ***directly after the IMS Annual Meeting in Salzburg***, so you can easily combine both meetings. Keynote lectures by Richard Samworth and Peter Grünwald, as well as several invited talks on Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist approaches. All in one room, no parallel sessions. **Poster submissions** are welcome on topics related to statistics, data science, machine learning, and AI, particularly those connected to uncertainty quantification and statistical foundations. Poster submission deadline: May 30, 2026

XXIX Brazilian School of Probability: Celebrating Maria Eulália Vares NEW
August 3–7, 2026. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
w https://sites.google.com/im.ufrj.br/ebp2026/home
The XXIX Brazilian School of Probability, held at Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas (CBPF), Rio de Janeiro, features lectures and presentations by some of the most prominent figures in the field of probability. In accordance with tradition, this edition of the EBP will span five days of academic activities, including two minicourses, eight plenary lectures, several contributed talks, and poster sessions.

This edition of the EBP will honor Professor Maria Eulália Vares and celebrate her career spanning more than 40 years, during which she has stood out as one of the leaders of our community and has made invaluable and essential contributions to the development of probability in Brazil and internationally.

Soft Methods in Probability and Statistics NEW
September 15–18, 2026
Lecce, Italy
w http://smps2026.unisalento.it
The 12th International Conference on Soft Methods in Probability and Statistics (SMPS2026) is a biennial gathering of experts exploring established and emerging approaches in soft probability and statistics. First held in Warsaw in 2002, it has become a recurring forum for exchanging ideas and discussing new trends that expand the traditions of probabilistic, statistical, and uncertainty modeling, with a focus on flexible and nuanced handling of incomplete or subjective information.

5th IMA Conference on
Inverse Problems from Theory to Application NEW
September 8–10, 2026. London, UK
w https://ima.org.uk/28046/5th-ima-conference-on-inverse-problems-from-theory-to-application/
Including, this year, a dedicated Big Data Session. See website for call for papers (deadline 31 May).

2nd IMA Congress NEW
AI Unlocked: Innovation, Insight and Impact
September 17–18, 2026
Birmingham, UK
w https://ima.org.uk/26690/ai-unlocked-innovation-insight-and-impact/
AI Unlocked 2026 celebrates the remarkable advances in Artificial Intelligence while recognising that mathematics remains its true foundation. From learning algorithms to predictive models, mathematics provides the structure and clarity that underpin intelligent systems. This two-day congress will bring together the brightest minds from academia, industry, and government to explore the power, promise and purpose of artificial intelligence.

International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science (IDWSDS) NEW
October 6, 2026. Online, 24 hours.
w https://www.idwsds.org/
Join a global audience for the fifth year of this conference: it's a 24-hour event with sessions for all types of interests in statistics and data science, from technical talks to career and leadership sessions. Abstract submission is open (deadline June 30). There are three types of submissions. Plenary Talks will be 30-minute, technical talks. Invited Sessions will be one hour sessions with up to 4 speakers. Individual 15-minute talk? That will be a Contributed Talk, which will be combined with other 15-minute talks into their own sessions.

Bayesian Biostatistics Conference (Bayes2026) NEW
October 21–23, 2026. Leiden, The Netherlands
w https://www.bayes-pharma.org/
This meeting gathers biostatisticians interested in using Bayesian methods in life science and public health settings. A particular focus is biopharmaceutical development, with discussion of methods acceptable in regulatory science. The meeting begins with a free half-day short course, then 8 plenary speakers and a large number of contributed talks. Features invited speakers from FDA & EMA, and a panel discussion focused on the various Bayesian guidance documents currently emerging from these agencies.

Employment Opportunities

China: Hangzhou
Westlake University
Tenure-Track and Teaching-Track Faculty Positions
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//81308519

Switzerland: Lausanne
EPFL
Postdoctoral Position
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82210006

Switzerland: Lausanne
EPFL Institute of Mathematics
Postdoctoral Researcher
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//80667742

United States: Englewood, CO
Englewood Schools
Math Teacher
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82849517

United States: Chicago, IL
University of Chicago
Clinical Professor Open rank MS in Applied Data Science
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82750136

United States: Cambridge, MA
Harvard University, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Postdoctoral Fellow in Statistics, Harvard FAS
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82798648

United States: College Park, MD
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) in Biostatistics
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82259029

United States: Houston, TX
Rice University
Open Rank Teaching Track Faculty Position
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//82313405

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

April 2026

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

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/

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

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

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 (9th Stochastic Modeling Techniques and Data Analysis conference)** and **Demographics 2026 Workshop** w www.smtda.net

NEW ims June 9: Hong Kong, China. **PAKDD 2026 Workshop on AI and Data Science for Digital Finance** w https://sites.google.com/view/ai4dfpakdd/

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/

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 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/

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

ims June 14–20: Ithaca, NY, USA. **SPA2026: 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/

NEW ims June 17–18: Hong Kong, China. **IMS Asian New Researchers Conference** [right after the IMS-APRM 2026, see above] **w** https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/inrc-asia/home

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

NEW ims June 29–July 3: Nairobi, Kenya. **9th African International Conference on Statistics (AIC 2026)** **w** https://aic2026.strathmore.edu/

July 2026

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 8–17: Lake Como, Italy. **Bocconi–StatML Summer School in Statistics and Probability** (2026 Edition: Causality and Graphical Models) **w** https://bss2026.lakecomoschool.org/

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/

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/

NEW ims July 29–August 1: Amherst, MA, USA. **IMS New Researchers Conference** [right before JSM 2026 in Boston] **w** https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/nrc2026umass/

August 2026

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

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, United Kingdom. **RSS International Conference 2026** **w** https://rss.org.uk/training-events/conference2026/

Continues on **page 30**

International Calendar *continued*

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 in Split, Croatia. More information 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

March 2027

NEW IMS March 14–17: Boston, USA. **2027 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting** **w** https://www.enar.org/meetings/

July 2027

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

NEW July 11–15: Lusaka, Zambia. **66th ISI World Statistics Congress** **w** https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2027/

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

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.

Individual and General Subscriptions

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.

The *IMS Bulletin* (ISSN 1544-1881) is published eight times per year, in January/February, March, April/May, June/July, August, September, October/November and December, by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 9760 Smith Rd, Waite Hill, Ohio 44094, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to 9760 Smith Rd, Waite Hill, Ohio 44094, USA or dues.subs@imstat.org. Printed by The Sheridan Press, 450 Fame Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331, USA.

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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

Advertising meetings, workshops and conferences: Meeting announcements here and on the IMS website at https://imstat.org/meetings-calendar/ are free. Submit your meeting details at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/

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Deadlines and mailing dates for *IMS Bulletin*

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 next issue is June/July 2026

Read IMS Bulletin articles online at https://imstat.org/news

DEADLINES for submissions

May 1, then **June 15** [early deadline]

Please see inside the back cover for subscription details and information for advertisers, including all our deadlines and requirements

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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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6157 (print)
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An Official Journal of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

Articles

Continued on back cover

Vol. 20, No. 1—March 2026