

## Session Speakers Biographies

### Keynote Address I (9:30AM–10:30AM)

Chair: Xiaofei (Susan) Wang (Yale University)

### **Katherine K. Wallman**, Chief Statistician of the United States (1992–2017)



Katherine Wallman served for 24 years as Chief Statistician of the United States, providing policy oversight, establishing priorities, advancing long-term improvements, and setting standards for a Federal statistical establishment that comprises more than 100 agencies spread across every cabinet department. Ms. Wallman also represented the U.S. Government in international statistical organizations, including functional bodies of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. During her tenure as the United States' Chief Statistician, Ms. Wallman increased collaboration among the agencies of the U.S. statistical system, fostered improvements in the scope and quality of the Nation's official statistics, strengthened protections for

confidential statistical information, and initiated changes that have made the products of the system more accessible to and usable by the business sector, the academic community, and the general public. Prior to 1992, Ms. Wallman served for more than a decade as Executive Director of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. She also worked in the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and the National Center for Education Statistics.

Twice honored as a Presidential Meritorious Executive, Ms. Wallman is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Founder Member of the International Association for Official Statistics. In 1992, she served as ASA President, and in 2007 was honored with the association's Founders Award. She was the 2009 recipient of the Robert G. Damus Award for significant, sustained contributions to integrity and excellence of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, the 2011 Population Association of America's Excellence in Public Service Award, and the 2017 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. At the international level, she served as Chairman of the U.N. Statistical Commission during 2004 and 2005; as Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians, U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, from 2003 to 2007; and as a Vice Chairman of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for several years..

Recognized for strengthening the independence of U.S. statistical agencies and improving the comparability of official statistics throughout the world, Ms. Wallman is a tireless advocate for making official statistics more accessible to the public, and continues to champion efforts to enhance statistical literacy at all levels, from children in school to appointed and elected policy officials.

**Keynote Address II (3:50PM–4:50PM)**

Chair: Shaun Bender (Boehringer-Ingelheim)

**Xiao-Li Meng**, Whipple V. N. Jones Professor of Statistics at Harvard University  
Founding Editor-in-Chief of Harvard Data Science Review



Xiao-Li Meng, Founding Editor-in-Chief of Harvard Data Science Review, is the Whipple V. N. Jones Professor and former chair of Statistics at Harvard, and former Dean of the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), is well known for his depth and breadth in research, his innovation and passion in pedagogy, and his vision and effectiveness in administration, as well as for his engaging and entertaining style as a speaker and writer. Meng has received numerous awards and honors for the more than 120 publications he has authored in at least a dozen theoretical and methodological areas, as well as in areas of pedagogy and professional development; he has delivered more than 400 research presentations and public speeches on these topics, and he is the author of “The XL-Files,” a regularly appearing column in the IMS (Institute of

Mathematical Statistics) Bulletin. His interests range from the theoretical foundations of statistical inferences (e.g., the interplay among Bayesian, frequentist, and fiducial perspectives; quantify ignorance via invariance principles; multi-phase and multi-resolution inferences) to statistical methods and computation (e.g., posterior predictive p-value; EM algorithm; Markov chain Monte Carlo; bridge and path sampling) to applications in natural, social, and medical sciences and engineering (e.g., complex statistical modeling in astronomy and astrophysics, assessing disparity in mental health services, and quantifying statistical information in genetic studies). Meng received his BS in mathematics from Fudan University in 1982 and his PhD in statistics from Harvard in 1990. He was on the faculty of the University of Chicago from 1991 to 2001 before returning to Harvard as Professor of Statistics, where he was appointed department chair in 2004 and the Whipple V. N. Jones Professor in 2007. He was appointed GSAS Dean on August 15, 2012.

## Session 1: Tips for finding a job in statistics/data science (10:50AM–12:20PM)

Chair: Dooti Roy (Boehringer-Ingelheim)

### Abidemi K. Adeniji (Restorbio, Inc)



Dr. Abidemi K. Adeniji is a Senior Director of Biostatistics at Restorbio, Inc, where he works collaboratively with clinicians, data managers, biostatisticians, and statistical programmers in the planning, conduct, and analysis of clinical studies. He is responsible for the entire biostatistics function. He previously worked for EMD Serono where he was the Global Lead statistician for the Multiple Sclerosis program. Prior to EMD Serono, Dr. Adeniji was at Boehringer Ingelheim, where he worked on clinical trials in Immunology and Virology. Dr. Adeniji is an

Adjunct Professor of Data Science, Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut. He conducts original research on methods for the design and analysis of studies with outcome mismeasurement or misclassification. Dr. Adeniji received a BS in Mathematics from the University of Maryland and a PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Pittsburgh.

### Forrest W. Crawford (Yale University)



Forrest W. Crawford PhD is Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Yale School of Public Health, Yale School of Management (Operations), and Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Yale University. He is affiliated with the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS, the Institute for Network Science, the Computational Biology and Bioinformatics program, and the Public Health Modeling concentration. He is the recipient of the NIH Director's New Innovator Award and a Yale Center for Clinical Investigation Scholar Award. His research interests include causal inference, networks, graphs, stochastic processes, and optimization for applications in epidemiology, public health, and social science.

### Yuchen Fama (Munich Re - Hartford Steam Boiler)



Yuchen Fama is the analytic director of Munich Re - Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company (HSB). She manages HSB's data science team solving insurance risk related problems using modern machine learning methods, distributed computing framework (Hadoop/Spark) as well as DevOps processes for ML workflows. Yuchen has over 10 years of experience applying machine learning models in insurance industry from customer life time value models to digital advertising targeting models on billions of impression data. Prior to joining HSB she was analytic manager at Travelers Insurance.

Yuchen has a Ph.D. in Statistics from University of Connecticut and a Bachelor's degree in Mathematical Statistics from Shanghai University of Finance & Economics.

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**Naitee Ting** (Boehringer Ingelheim)



Naitee Ting is a Fellow of American Statistical Association (ASA). He is currently a Director in the Department of Biostatistics and Data Sciences at Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. (BI). He joined BI in September of 2009, and before joining BI, he was at Pfizer Inc. for 22 years (1987-2009). Naitee received his Ph.D. in 1987 from Colorado State University (major in Statistics). He has an M.S. degree from Mississippi State University (1979, Statistics) and a B.S. degree from College of Chinese Culture (1976, Forestry) at Taipei, Taiwan.

Naitee published articles in *Technometrics*, *Statistics in Medicine*, *Drug Information Journal*, *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*, *Biometrical Journal*, *Statistics and Probability Letters*, and *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation*. His book “Dose Finding in Drug Development” was published in 2006 by Springer, and is considered as the leading reference in the field of dose response clinical trials. The book “Fundamental Concepts for New Clinical Trialists”, co-authored with Scott Evans, was published by CRC in 2015. Another book “Phase II Clinical Development of New Drugs”, co-authored with Chen, Ho, and Cappelleri was published in 2017 (Springer). Naitee is an adjunct professor of Columbia University and University of Connecticut. Naitee has been an active member of both the ASA and the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA).

**Session 2: Recent developments and future trends in machine learning/deep learning  
(10:50AM–12:20PM)**

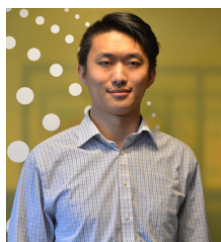
Chair: Marco Alvarez (University of Rhode Island)

**J. Elisenda Grigsby** (Boston College)



J. Elisenda Grigsby is a Deputy Director at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research Mathematics (ICERM) at Brown and a Professor in the mathematics department at Boston College. Her background is in low-dimensional topology, and in 2016 she was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) by President Obama. She has recently developed an interest in the mathematics of neural networks, which she blogs about as often as she can (that is, as often as her kids—ages four and seven—allow) at [iamalearningcomputer.blogspot.com](http://iamalearningcomputer.blogspot.com).

**Shujian Liu** (Liberty Mutual)



My name is Shujian Liu. I came to the United States in 2012 to pursue my doctoral degree in mechanical engineering at UMass Amherst (with a focus of aerodynamics and wind energy). I joined Solaria Labs/Liberty Mutual in March 2018 after graduate school and now I am working on deep learning and natural language processing. I am also investigating the usage of reinforcement learning, generative adversarial network and neural network architecture search into my daily work. I am a Kaggle competition master and actively helping plenty of new Kagglers to grow.

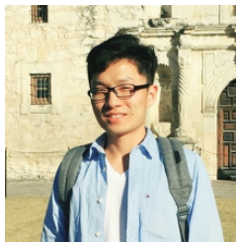
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**Don Sheehy (University of Connecticut)**



Don Sheehy received his B.S.E. from Princeton University and his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University. He spent two years as a postdoc at Inria Saclay in France. He is now Assistant Professor of Computer Science at The University of Connecticut. His research is in algorithms and data structures in computational geometry and topological data analysis.

**Mu Tian (Facebook)**



Mu Tian is a Machine Learning Research Scientist working at Facebook since September, 2017. He got his Ph.D. degree in Applied Math and Statistics from Stony Brook University in August, 2017. His expertise lies in machine learning, statistics and deep learning and has been working on multiple AI projects including video understanding, medical image processing, and sentiment analysis at Facebook and Stony Brook University.

**Marynel Vázquez (Yale University)**



Marynel Vázquez is a computer scientist and roboticist at Yale University. Her research focuses on understanding how to build interactive computing technologies that are meaningful, intuitive, and appropriate for users, especially in complex social environments. In particular, her research agenda centers on enabling social interactions between robots and multiple people. She creates systems that support these interactions and studies the intricacies of these encounters to understand how we can make robots better social actors. Marynel's research crosses the boundaries between Human-Robot and Human-Computer Interaction, and often combines elements from robot perception, computer vision, machine learning, social science, and design.

**Session 3: What I do as a data scientist (2:00PM– 3:30PM)**

Chair: Gregory Vaughn (Bentley University)

**Ved Deshpande (eBay)**

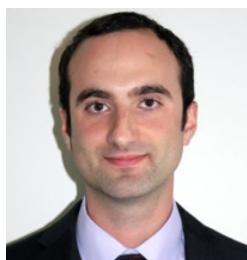


Ved Deshpande is a research engineer at eBay. He works on eBay's recommendation systems, using both traditional collaborative filtering-based approaches as well as neural network based approaches to solve eBay's unique recommendation problems. Prior to joining eBay, he obtained a Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Connecticut, where he did research on building robust regression models for mixed outcomes. He has also worked at Deutsche (pronounced "doy-cha") Bank as an analyst for their Australian credit trading desk.



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**Nathan Lally** (Munich Re Group - Hartford Steam Boiler)



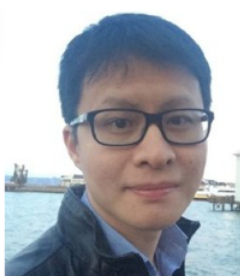
Nathan Lally is currently a Sr. Machine Learning Modeler at Hartford Steam Boiler (Munich Re Group). His work involves the construction of pricing and other insurance risk related models, researching and implementing modern machine learning methods for other initiatives, advising HSB's engineering team on statistical/ML methods, and coordinating educational programs in statistics/ML for HSB employees. Nathan holds a BA and an MS in Mathematics as well as a BA in Political Science with expertise in Bayesian inference and decision theory, Bayesian machine learning, model selection, stochastic processes, spatial modeling, engineering reliability/survival modeling, functional data analysis, R programming, Stan programming, and financial mathematics. Prior to HSB, Nathan worked at General Dynamics Electric Boat as a process engineer, The Hartford as a data scientist, and more recently as an engineering statistician at Pratt and Whitney. In his spare time Nathan works on statistical/actuarial publications, volunteers as a council member of the New England Statistical Society (NESS), skateboards, fishes, lifts weights, and enjoys Chinese food and fine spirits with his wife Xiaoran.

**Jiaju Yan** (McKinsey)



Jiaju Yan is a data scientist in McKinsey QuantumBlack team. He helped clients from multiple industries with advanced analytics and modeling skills, including helping a heavy manufacturing client to do a targeted recall campaign and a telematics provider to build driver risk score. Prior to joining McKinsey QuantumBlack, Jiaju got his Ph.D. in statistics and worked as a data scientist in insurance, commercial bank, and tech industry.

**Haimao Zhan** (MassMutual)



Haimao Zhan is currently a senior data scientist at MassMutual Financial Group. He has previously worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Pfizer and data scientist at XPO Logistics. He holds a Ph.D. in Statistical Genomics and Master in Statistics from University of California Riverside.

## Session 4: Modern statistical developments in big data (2:00PM–3:30PM)

Chair: Jing Wu (University of Rhode Island)

### Ray Liu (Takeda)



Dr. Ray Liu is the Senior Director and Head of Advanced Analytics and Statistical Consultation department at Takeda Pharmaceutical Company. His group is responsible for developing novel statistical methodology and providing statistical consultation and project support to various functional areas in R&D, including Discovery, CMC, Translational Research, Outcome Research, Digital Medicine and Real World Data. Ray received his bachelor and master degrees from National Taiwan University and PhD degree from Columbia University. He published more than 30 statistical and scientific manuscripts and book chapters. He also edited two

Springer books titled “Statistical Applications from Clinical Trials and Personalized Medicine to Finance and Business Analytics” and “Recent Trends in Pharmaceutical Statistics”. His current research interests are big data, text mining and joint analysis of hi-dimensional data.

### Xi Luo (Brown University)



Dr Xi Luo is Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Center for Statistical Sciences at Brown University. He is also affiliated faculty members of Brown Data Science Initiative, Brown Institute for Brain Sciences, and Brown Initiative on Computation in Brain and Mind. He obtained PhD in Statistics from Yale University, and he was a visiting lecturer at University of Pennsylvania, before becoming a faculty member at Brown. Dr Luo's research focuses on statistical methods for big data inference, machine learning, causal inference, network/pathway inference, and large-scale statistical computing, with applications to neuroimaging and genetics. He has served as PIs and co-Is on research grants from NIH, NSF, and

private foundations. He has also trained students winning best paper awards at several scientific meetings, including ENAR and JSM.

### DeDe Paul (AT&T Labs)



DeDe Paul directs the Statistics Research Department, part of the Data Science and AI Research organization in AT&T Labs. Her department applies advanced statistical methods to solve challenging business problems, motivated by opportunities to improve the customer experience, develop and optimally deliver innovative products and services, and contribute to the research community. Modeling consumer behavior and capitalizing on AT&T's tremendous data assets are her long time research passions; more recently DeDe also enjoys finding new talent for the Research Lab. Prior to joining AT&T, DeDe completed her PhD in mathematics from UC Berkeley, and taught college math for 2 years. During her 30+ year career at AT&T she has managed to regularly achieve her annual goal to “Find Joy!” in her work.

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**HaiYing Wang** (University of Connecticut)



HaiYing Wang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut. He was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Hampshire from 2013 to 2017. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Department of Statistics at the University of Missouri in 2013, and his M.S. from the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2006. His research interests include informative subdata selection for big data, model selection, model averaging, measurement error models, and semi-parametric regression.