



New England Statistical Society (NESS)

*To promote the growth and expansion of
statistical science in New England and
beyond.*

<http://nestat.org>

NESS Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018

With the support from all our members and friends, the New England Statistical Society (NESS) has made significant progress on various fronts in 2018. We are glad to report to you the major activities and updates of NESS in 2018.

In Brief

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Announcement: The 33rd New England Statistics Symposium

The Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut (UConn) is proud to host the 33rd New England Statistics Symposium in May 2019. For details, please check the official website at <https://symposium.nestat.org>.

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At A Glance: NESS Activities in 2018

- The 32nd New England Statistics Symposium
- A Symposium Honoring the 95th Birthday of Herman Chernoff
- Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award
- Data Science Day
- Mentoring Program
- NESS Colloquium Series & Short Courses
- Several Sponsored Events

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NESS Officers

Past President: Xiao-Li Meng
President: Ming-Hui Chen
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VP for NextGen: Jessi Cisewski-Kehe
VP for Scientific Program: Gavino Puggioni
VP for Education: Nalini Ravishanker
VP for Journal & Publication: Min-ge Xie
Secretary: Kun Chen
Treasurer: Lynn Kuo
Newsletter Editor: Kun Chen

New England Statistics Symposium



The 32nd New England Statistics Symposium was successfully held on April 13–14, 2018 at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The event attracted more than 250 participants. The theme of the symposium was “Data–Science–Society”, reflecting the growing role that data and statistical sciences are playing in shaping and improving the society. The purpose of the symposium, as usual, was to bring together statisticians from all over New England to a central location to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field, and network with colleagues.



Keynote speech by Dr. Montse Fuentes from VCU at 2018 New England Statistics Symposium.

The organizing committee consisted of Dr. Anna Liu (co-Chair), Dr. Nicholas Reich (co-Chair, NESS VP for Scientific Program), Dr. Raji Balasubramanian, and Dr. Patrick Flaherty from the University of Massachusetts, and Dr. Jianan Hui and Dr. Yihua Zhao from Boehringer Ingelheim. More details about the symposiums can be found at <https://nestat.org/events/symposium/>.

The Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut (UConn) is proud to host the 33rd New England Statistics Symposium on May 16–18, 2019. For more details, please check <https://symposium.nestat.org>. The 34th symposium in 2020 will be hosted by the Department of Computer Science and Statistics, University of Rhode Island. Please contact us if your institution is interested in hosting a future symposium.

The symposium featured four short courses, two plenary talks, ten invited sessions, and a contributed poster session. Additionally, MassMutual sponsored a student poster competition and IBM sponsored a student paper competition. The symposium was co-hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

The organizing committee consisted of Dr. Anna Liu (co-Chair), Dr. Nicholas Reich (co-Chair, NESS VP for Scientific Program), Dr. Raji Balasubramanian, and Dr. Patrick Flaherty from the University of Massachusetts, and Dr. Jianan Hui and Dr. Yihua Zhao from Boehringer Ingelheim. More details about the symposiums can be found at <https://nestat.org/events/symposium/>.



Keynote speech by Dr. Dawn Woodard from Uber at 2018 New England Statistics Symposium.



Student awards at 2018 New England Statistics Symposium.

Student award winners:

- IBM Student Paper Award:
 - Thibaut Horel, Harvard University.
 - Aya Mitani, Boston University.
- MassMutual Student Poster Award:
 - The 1st place: Ayako Miura, University of Rhode Island.
 - The 2nd place: Xiaoxuan Cai, Yale University.
 - The 3rd place: Angelica Estrada, Smith College.

A Symposium Honoring the 95th Birthday of Herman Chernoff

NESS and the American Statistical Association (ASA) Boston Chapter co-organized the symposium Celebrating the Foundations and Impact of Statistics: A Symposium Honoring the 95th Birthday of Herman Chernoff on April 27, 2018 at the Harvard University.

This symposium featured speakers who are former students and former collaborators of Professor Chernoff, and researchers influenced by Professor Chernoff's work. There were three technical sessions, followed by panel discussion on Chernoff's distinguished career. Miriam Chernoff served as the moderator, and the panelists were Carl Morris (Harvard), Joseph Gastwirth (GWU), Roy Welsch (MIT), and Mark Vangel (MGH).

More details can be found at <https://statistics.fas.harvard.edu/event/celebrating-foundations-and-impact-statistics-symposium-honoring-95th-birthday>.



At Herman Chernoff Symposium.

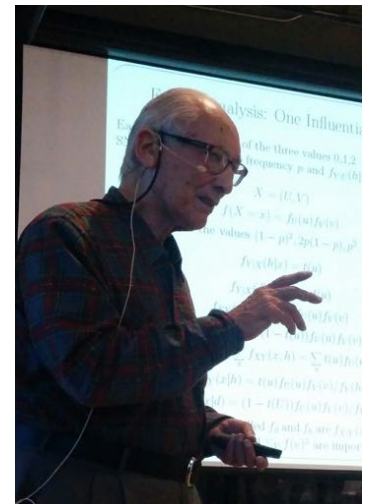
Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award

The Society has created the *Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award* to celebrate Herman Chernoff's outstanding, long-term contributions to the field of statistics. These contributions include work on large sample theory, experimental design, sequential analysis, methods of presenting statistical data in visual form, and statistical decision making. The Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award is the most prestigious award bestowed by the NESS, given to an individual who, in the tradition of Herman Chernoff's work, has made exceptional contributions to theory, methodology, or novel applications to statistics or data science.

The award will be given to one recipient every year at the New England Statistics Symposium, with travel expenses covered plus a minimum of \$500 honorarium. The award recipient will be asked to deliver a lecture at the symposium. The first award is targeted for 2019, and nominations for the award were to be submitted by December 15, 2018.

The Award Committee consists of Drs. Joseph C. Cappelleri (Pfizer Inc, NESS President-Elect and former VP for Strategies & Development), James MacDougall (statistical consultant for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies), Mark Vangel (Massachusetts General Hospital), and Bushi Wang (Boehringer-Ingelheim Inc).

For more details on this award and for making donations, please visit <https://nestat.org/hcaward/>.



A picture of Dr. Herman Chernoff.

Data Science Day

On October 27, 2018, NESS-NextGen hosted our inaugural Data Science Day (DSD) event at Yale University (<https://nestat.org/nextgen/dsd/>). The event was organized by our NextGen Committee chaired by NESS VP Dr. Jessi Cisewski-Kehe. The NextGen Committee seeks to support the next generation of statisticians and data scientists. The two DSD keynote speakers were Ms. Katherine Wallman, former Chief Statistician of the United States (1992–2017), and Dr. Xiao-Li Meng, Founding President of NESS and Whipple V. N. Jones Professor of Statistics at Harvard. There were over 200 registrants for the DSD! It featured a poster session and four panel sessions. The panel sessions covered topics on career development in statistics and data science, what data scientist do, recent development and future trends in machine/deep learning, and modern statistical development in big data. We look forward to the second DSD sometime in the fall of 2019!



2018 NESS-NextGen Data Science Day at Yale University.

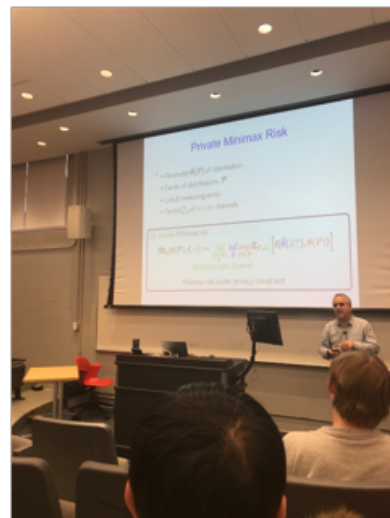
Mentoring Program

The NESS-NextGen Committee held their first event for their Mentoring Program at the 2018 New England Statistics Symposium on April 14. The Mentoring Program was led by NextGen committee members Maria Gargiulo, Katy McKeough, and David Keller. For information about the program, please visit <https://nestat.org/nextgen/mentoring/>. The program for 2019 will be open soon; stay tuned!

Colloquium Series & Short Courses

We have established the NESS Colloquium Series that started with three exceptional talks given by Yann LeCun from Facebook, Michael Jordan from the University of California at Berkeley and Renee Moore from Emory (<https://nestat.org/nesscolloquium/>). Please contact us if your institution is interested in sponsoring a future talk!

NESS has reached out to several local companies, including GP Strategies Corporation and Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, to coordinate and offer NESS short courses on statistics and data science topics to address genuine business needs. Under the leadership of Dr. Nalini Ravishanker, NESS VP for Education, the NESS offered two one-day short courses in the fall 2018. The first course entitled “An Introduction to Time Series Analysis” was held on October 19, 2018 at The Hartford



Dr. Michael Jordan giving a NESS Colloquium talk at UConn.

Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company (HSB). The instructors for this short course were Dr. Nalini Ravishanker of University of Connecticut and Dr. Jian Zou of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The second short course entitled “Survival Analysis” was held on November 2, 2018 at Pratt & Whitney and the instructors were Dr. Gregory Vaughan of Bentley University and Drs Jun Yan and Ming-Hui Chen of University of Connecticut, who delivered Part I: Introduction to Survival Analysis: Basic Models and Model Assessment (Greg); Part II: Models and Methods for Recurrent Event Data (Jun); and Part III: Joint Modeling of Survival and Longitudinal Data (Ming). We seek support from our members and friends to identify other short course opportunities; please contact Nalini Ravishanker at nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu.

In addition, we have made progress towards establishing our own journal with an innovative publishing model for promoting the role of statistics in data science.

Outreach to High Schools

To promote K-12 education of statistics, the NESS Education Committee has made effort to reach out to high school teachers. In particular, committee member Nathan Lally (HSB) visited New Britain High School in October and spoke to an AP statistics class. It was a successful event with lots of questions about statistics and data science from students, and the school is willing to continue hosting such event to benefit larger group of students in the future. NESS would like to expand this outreach effort to other places in New England and appeal to our members/friends to offer such visits. Please contact Nalini Ravishanker at nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu.

Sponsored Events

NESS cosponsored several events throughout the year, including the International Chinese Statisticians Association (ICSA) Applied Statistics Symposium at Rutgers in June, the R/Medicine Conference at Yale in September, and the Pfizer Distinguished Statistician Colloquium Series featuring Professor Grace Wahba (University of Wisconsin-Madison) at the University of Connecticut in September.



At Grace Wahba's interview during 2018 Pfizer Colloquium.



NESS student volunteers at the 2018 R/Medicine Conference.

Leadership & Election

As of June 1, 2018, [Xiao-Li Meng](#) has become the Past President and [Ming-Hui Chen](#) has become the President. [Nick Reich](#) from the University of Massachusetts has stepped down from the position of VP for Scientific Program, and [Gavino Puggioni](#) from the University of Rhode Island has been appointed as the new VP with a two-year term. Besides, [James MacDougall](#) is our newly appointed VP for Strategies & Development.

NESS launched its first election in November 2018. We are pleased to announce the results.

- President-Elect for 2018–2020:
 - [Joseph C. Cappelleri](#), Pfizer Inc.
- Council Member for 2018–2020:

- [Yasuo Amemiya](#), IBM Thomas. J. Watson Research Center
- [Jason P. Estes](#), Pratt & Whitney
- [Roe Gutman](#), Brown University
- [Priya Kohli](#), Connecticut College
- [Eric Kolaczyk](#), Boston University
- [Ambar Sengupta](#), University of Connecticut
- [John Zhong](#), Biogen Inc.

Congratulations!

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge past officers and council members for their great service to NESS and to statistical and scientific communities.

- [Nicholas Reich](#) (VP, 2017–2018),
- [Jennifer McGinniss](#) (Council member, 2017–2018),
- [Gavino Puggioni](#) (Council member, 2017–2018),
- [Shannon Stock](#) (Council member, 2017–2018).

Without the support from devoted members like them, the establishment and the rapid growth of our young society would not have been possible.

NESS Membership

NESS has decided to offer 50% discount for K-12 educators to join NESS. The updated membership fee structure is as follows:

- Student Membership is free.
- Regular membership: \$30 per year.
- Life membership: \$600.
- K-12 educator enjoys 50% discounted on regular membership (\$15 per year) and life membership (\$300).
- Joint membership with Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS): \$109 per year.

To become a NESS member, please register through our website at <https://nestat.org/php/member/#login0> or mail in the attached registration form.

Call for Contribution to the Newsletter

Members are invited to submit contributions to the NESS Newsletter which will be published subject to the approval of the editor. Contributions can be of any form relevant to the interests of the society. Please contact Kun Chen at kun.chen@uconn.edu.



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NEW ENGLAND STATISTICS SYMPOSIUM SINCE 1987 & NEW ENGLAND STATISTICAL SOCIETY SINCE 2017

Membership Registration Form

Last Name:	
First Name:	
Middle Name:	
Membership Type:	Student <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Life <input type="checkbox"/> NESS/IMS <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Educator <input type="checkbox"/>
If Student Members, Expected Graduation Year:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Employer:	
Address Line 1:	
Address Line 2:	
County/City:	
State/Province:	
Zip Code:	
Country:	
Signature & Date	

- *Student Membership is free.*
- *Regular membership: \$30 per year.*
- *Life membership: \$600.*
- *K-12 educator enjoys 50% discounted on regular membership (\$15 per year) and life membership (\$300).*
- *Joint membership with Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) is \$109 per year.*

Please send the form and a check to:

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