



NESS

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 2020

Briefings

With all our members' and friends' support, the New England Statistical Society (NESS) has continued to make significant progress on various fronts in 2020. It has been a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but our society has stayed active by offering or sponsoring several virtual events. As of December 15, we have close to 900 registered members, a nearly 50% increase from a year ago.

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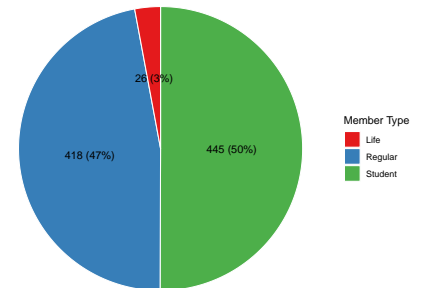
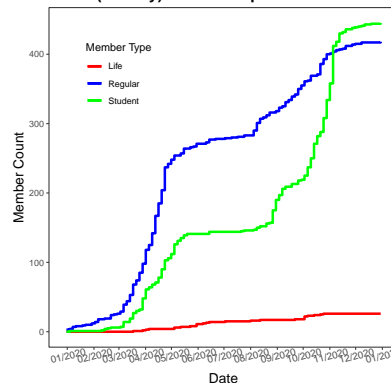
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NESS Officers

President: Joseph C. Cappelleri
 President-Elect: Eric D. Kolaczyk
 Past President: Ming-Hui Chen
 VP for Strategies & Development: James MacDougall
 VP for NextGen: Abidemi Adeniji
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NESS (Society) Membership Growth

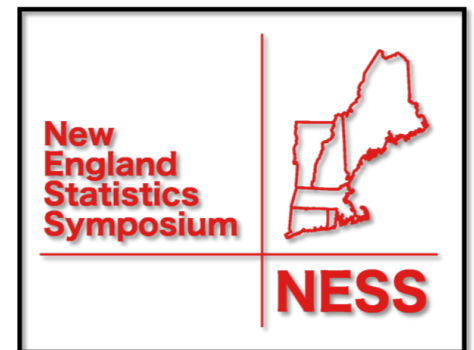


As of June 1, 2020, Dr. Joseph C. Cappelleri has become the president, Dr. Ming-Hui Chen has become the past president, and Dr. Eric Kolaczyk has become the president-elect. To learn more about NESS, please visit <https://nestat.org>.

The 34th New England Statistics Symposium

The 34th New England Statistics Symposium, originally planned to be held in May 2020 in Rhode Island, had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The event will be hosted by the Department of Computer Science and Statistics at the University of Rhode Island (URI), but the new date is yet to be determined.

Please contact Dr. Gavino Puggioni, VP for Scientific Program, for any inquiries, or please check the official event website at <https://symposium.nestat.org> for updates.



The New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science (NEJSDS)

The Journal and Publication Committee, led by Dr. Colin Wu, held bi-weekly meetings throughout 2020. Topics discussed in these meetings include aim, scope, sections and editorial boards of the journal, innovative review process, details about journal and review websites, potential initial launch dates, and fundraising activities, among others. We are pleased to announce that Professors Ming-hui Chen and Min-Ge Xie have agreed to serve as the inaugural co-editors-in-chief, eight sections of the journal have been established under the leadership of ten highly qualified sectional editors or co-editors, and more than forty highly active senior and junior researchers have agreed to join the editorial boards as associate editors for these sections.

Journal Name: The New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science (NEJSDS)

Mission: The NEJSDS is the official journal of the New England Statistical Society (NESS). The aims of the journal are

- to serve as an interface between statistics and other disciplines in data science,
- to encourage researchers to exchange innovative ideas, and
- to promote data science methods to the general scientific community.

Our mission is to harness the power of statistics and data science to contribute to society through the advancement of scientific research and the creation of long-term collaborations, which includes:

- Submitted articles will be reviewed by the perspective section editorial board. Decisions for publications will be made by the section editors.
- Data analysis - application of the proposed methods, introducing new software tools, proposing insightful and effective visualization methods, addressing computational challenges, and providing innovative solutions.
- Discussions - conclusions and refinements of the research aims or hypotheses, highlighting policy or societal implications, and critiques of the proposed methods.

Co-Editors-in-Chief: Ming-hui Chen & Min-Ge Xie

The NEJSDS is partitioned into multiple sections. Each section is focused on a specific area and led by a section editor or co-editors with his/her or their own editorial board. Submitted articles will be reviewed by the perspective section editorial board. Decisions for publications will be made by the section editors. The co-editors-in-chief will lead and coordinate the activities of all the sections.

Innovated Review Process: Proud to be a pioneer to reform the traditional peer review process by introducing a two-step hybrid process:

1. An author-led online open review/revision to facilitate on-line discussions and instant dissemination of submitted work.
2. An invitation-only close-door peer review process to ensure quality of accepted articles.

The NEJSDS will initially launch with the following sections:

- Biomedical Research:

co-editors: Colin O. Wu (wuc@nhlbi.nih.gov), NHLBI, National Institutes of Health and Paul S. Albert (albertp@mail.nih.gov), NCI, National Institutes of Health

- Cancer Research

co-editors: Ying Lu (ylu1@stanford.edu), Stanford University and Yuan Ji (jiyuan@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago

- Engineering Science

editor: Feng Guo (fguo@vtti.vt.edu), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- Machine Learning and Data Mining

editor: Ali Shojaie (ashojaie@uw.edu), University of Washington

- NextGen

editor: Moinak Bhaduri (MBHADURI@bentley.edu), Bentley University

- Software

editor: Haim Bar (haim.bar@uconn.edu), University of Connecticut

- Statistical Methodology

editor: Grace Yi (gyi5@uwo.ca), Western University

- Spatial and Environmental Statistics

editor: Gavino Puggioni (gpuggioni@uri.edu), University of Rhode Island

For more information of the journal, please visit <https://journal.nestat.org/>.

Updates from Committee on NextGen

The 3rd NextGen Data Science Day Conference

The 2020 NextGen Data Science Day (DSD) was held virtually through the University of Connecticut's WebEx video conferencing platform on Saturday, November 7, 2020 (<https://nestat.org/nextgen/dsd2020/>). The Committee on NextGen, led by Dr. Abidemi Adeniji, aims to support the next generation of statisticians and data scientists. In keeping with our mission, the DSD conference provides a platform of resources to help guide students and early career professionals. Attendees gained an improved understanding of the field and its opportunities, which included meeting, discussing, and interviewing with professionals in the field and industry of data science.

Two hundred and fourteen registered for the conference, with over one hundred and fifty students registering from nearly sixty different schools from around the country and beyond. Ninety of the registrants signed up to become new members of the New England Statistical Society. Eight organizations including the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, MassMutual, eBay, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Boehringer Ingelheim, the American Statistical Association, Pfizer, and the Lotus Group sponsored our event. Five sponsors had virtual booths setup during the event to provide opportunities for attendees to learn more about their organization and discuss possible career opportunities.

The conference featured two distinguished keynote speakers. The first was by Dr. Andrew Gelman, the Higgins Professor of Statistics and Professor of Political Science from Columbia University. He gave a talk entitled "Election Forecasting: How We Succeeded Brilliantly, Failed Miserably, or Landed Somewhere in Between." The second keynote was given by Dr. Rebecca Nugent, the Stephen E. and Joyce Fienberg Professor of Statistics & Data Science from Carnegie Mellon University. She presented on "Demystifying Data Science: Starts with People, Ends with People."

Our conference had five panel discussions throughout the day on different topics. The theme of the morning panels was "Explore Your Options," it featured professionals from various fields share their job search experience. The session provided guidance on resume writing and leveraging LinkedIn to improve one's professional network. The afternoon panel session helped participants "Understand the Jobs and their Impact." Panelists from academia, government agencies, finance, start-ups, big-tech, insurance, and pharmaceuticals introduced their world and answered questions. We had twenty-two speakers from various fields in data science.

The poster and social networking sessions presented opportunities for students and potential employers to meet and interact. Sixteen students joined the poster competition and presented their work through the Virtual Poster Session platform.

The conference was organized by the Committee on NextGen, along with support from many volunteers and sponsors.



Diversity, Inclusion, & Outreach (DIO)

The NextGen Diversity, Inclusion, & Outreach (DIO) subcommittee in conjunction with the Education Committee has drafted a NESS scholarship proposal for populations underrepresented in the field of data science. The initiative, NESS Scholarships for Underrepresented Minorities will advance the representation of underrepresented groups in statistics and data science by supporting graduating high school seniors and undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in statistics or data science. The scholarships will support efforts of NESS to improve the diversity and inclusivity of its community, as well as in the fields of statistics and data science. The goal of DIO is to open and announce the first round of scholarship applications during Data Science Day 2021, with winners announced in May or June of 2022.

On Friday, December 4, 2020, the D.I.O. committee implemented a trial extension of relevant New England university offerings to the general NESS membership via the UConn monthly paper discussion. This initiative doubled the registration of the event and seems to be a promising, informal, and more frequent option for professional & student NESS members. It serves to complement the larger “productions” such as the NESS’s symposium and NextGen’s Data Science Day. We also hope it increases the visibility of the workshops and advances our efforts in fostering community outreach and inclusion.

Fundraising

The NextGen committee did substantial work making connections with industry and professional partners as well as raising funds to support activities such as Data Science Day and the NESS scholarship. NextGen’s primary fundraising is through Data Science Day Sponsorship and registration fees. The event was sponsored by eight organizations raising \$11,000 from sponsorships, and an additional \$3,665 was raised from a combination of registration fees, NESS membership fees, and donations.

Consulting

NextGen has drafted a five-page proposal for the NESS consulting program. The aim is that NESS will collaborate with enterprises in the fields of statistics and data science to provide expert consultation. These enterprises or entities span from private companies to specific departments within colleges/universities. NESS will serve as the coordinating center, where the need (consultation on a project or research question) and the pupils (students in need of real-world problem solving) work closely with the supervisor (subject-matter expert).

The goal of the consulting program is to bridge the gap between the students’ curricula and the skills desired for the first professional job while the student is still in school. The consulting projects will provide students the opportunity to apply and expand their knowledge and skills in a professional setting. It will offer a carefully planned and monitored work experience. The project or research question could originate from any field of study where appropriate analysis of data is required. Efforts to finalize the proposal are ongoing; as such, NextGen has teamed up with the Education committee. We expect to begin NESS consulting by 2021.

NextGen Section in NEJSDS

Moinak Bhaduri (Bentley University) has assumed the role of NextGen’s primary column editor. Our “Aims and Scopes” were formulated.

“The newly formed NextGen strives to attract and engage young enthusiasts on problems confronting modern data science. Our section of the journal serves as a platform to further that goal. Articles may describe novel methodologies, applied aspects, and may take the form of expository data analysis or writing, highlighting key facets of conducting and teaching statistics and data science. Case studies, data sets, historical perspectives, review articles, short videos, and statistical art projects are equally encouraged. Contributions from early-career statisticians, graduate/undergraduate students, K-12 kids and their teachers, and those new to data science are especially welcome. The honest value of our section is in creating a climate for young writing to flourish and thrive alongside those from seasoned practitioners, nurturing a spirit of hope and encouragement, and fostering the sense that no matter how deep you have ventured into data science, no matter how different your take on a problem is from established wisdom, if you have an intriguing tale to tell, you would be heard, and if you can write strong, you would be celebrated.”

A search for associate editors (AEs) was launched subsequently, with an aim towards a prudent mix of youth and experience. Currently, the NextGen column has the following members on its AE board: Kaushik Ghosh, University of Nevada Las Vegas; Davit Khachatryan, Babson College; Shaoyang Ning, Williams College; Anna Plantinga, Williams College; Ray Stefani, California State University; Elizabeth Upton, Williams College; Justin Zhan, University of Arkansas; and Qingyang Zhang, University of Arkansas. NextGen is excited about its role in contributing to the overall success of The New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science.

Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award

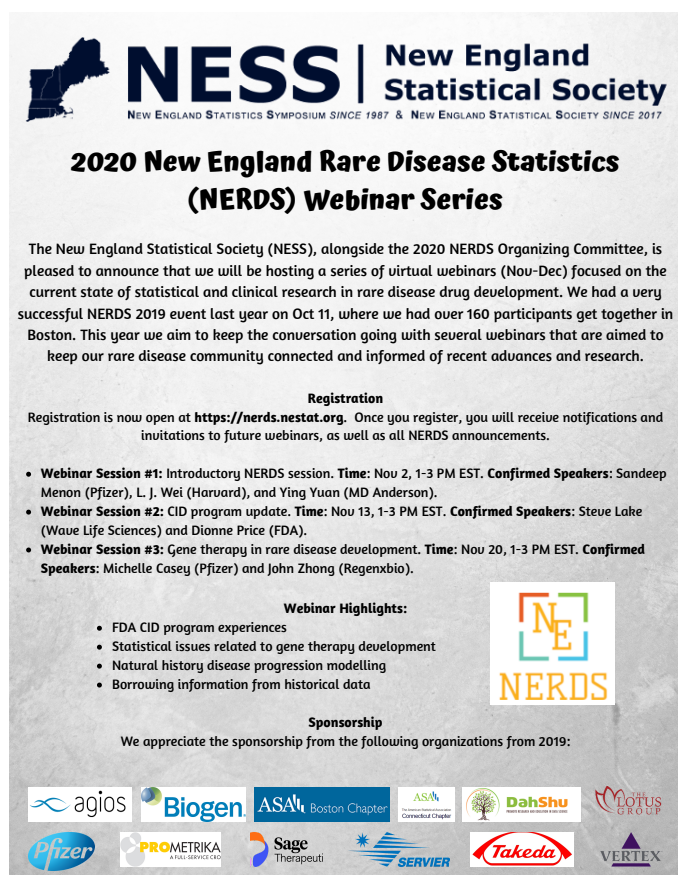
NESS has created the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award to honor Herman Chernoff and his outstanding, long-term contributions to the field of statistics. These contributions include work on large sample theory, experimental design, sequential analysis, methods of presenting statistical data in visual 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. Last year's inaugural winner of the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award was Professor Shaw-Hwa Lo from Columbia University.

Because the 2020 Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award has not yet been announced (there was no NESS 2020 symposium due to the COVID-19 pandemic), the 2020 award winner will be carried forward and will be officially awarded at the next NESS symposium (2021).

For more details on this award and for making nominations and donations, please visit <https://nestat.org/hcaward/> or contact Dr. James MacDougall, NESS VP for Strategies & Development, at jamesmacdougall@comcast.net.

New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop

The last 10-15 years have seen great emergence of drug development efforts in the rare disease space. Contributing factors include increased public awareness, encouraging drug regulation changes, scientific advancement in cellular/molecular biology and genetics, development of innovative trial designs, large influx of capital investment, availability of scientific talent through decades of cultivation, etc. As a result, a great number of regulators, academicians, and industry statisticians now work to bring these orphan drugs to patients, facing unique technical issues and challenges. However, at least in the US, there is no statistical conference dedicated to such unique issues and challenges. Given the large unmet need, NESS started this unique conference so that statisticians across the entire rare disease drug development spectrum have a common "home" to exchange ideas and share experiences, and also to network. NERDS Workshop aims to be an annual one-day workshop with detailed presentations and discussions. Speakers from industry, academia, and government are invited. Topics will cover technical issues, regulation interpretation, industry trends, and case studies of both success and failure stories.



NESS | New England Statistical Society
NEW ENGLAND STATISTICS SYMPOSIUM SINCE 1987 & NEW ENGLAND STATISTICAL SOCIETY SINCE 2017

2020 New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Webinar Series

The New England Statistical Society (NESS), alongside the 2020 NERDS Organizing Committee, is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a series of virtual webinars (Nov-Dec) focused on the current state of statistical and clinical research in rare disease drug development. We had a very successful NERDS 2019 event last year on Oct 11, where we had over 160 participants get together in Boston. This year we aim to keep the conversation going with several webinars that are aimed to keep our rare disease community connected and informed of recent advances and research.

Registration
Registration is now open at <https://nerds.nestat.org>. Once you register, you will receive notifications and invitations to future webinars, as well as all NERDS announcements.

- Webinar Session #1:** Introductory NERDS session. **Time:** Nov 2, 1-3 PM EST. **Confirmed Speakers:** Sandeep Menon (Pfizer), L.J. Wei (Harvard), and Ying Yuan (MD Anderson).
- Webinar Session #2:** CID program update. **Time:** Nov 13, 1-3 PM EST. **Confirmed Speakers:** Steve Lake (Wave Life Sciences) and Dionne Price (FDA).
- Webinar Session #3:** Gene therapy in rare disease development. **Time:** Nov 20, 1-3 PM EST. **Confirmed Speakers:** Michelle Casey (Pfizer) and John Zhong (Regenxbio).

Webinar Highlights:

- FDA CID program experiences
- Statistical issues related to gene therapy development
- Natural history disease progression modelling
- Borrowing information from historical data

Sponsorship
We appreciate the sponsorship from the following organizations from 2019:

Logos for sponsors: agios, Biogen, ASA Boston Chapter, ASA Connecticut Chapter, DahShu, Boston Biotech, Pfizer, PROMETRIKA, Sage Therapeutics, SERVIER, Takeda, VERTEX.

We had a very successful NERDS 2019 workshop last year on Oct 11, where more than 160 participants got together in Downtown Boston. This year, we hoped to keep the conversation going with virtual webinars that help our rare disease community stay connected and be informed of recent advances in statistical and clinical research in rare disease drug development. Along with the 2020 New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop organizing committee, NESS hosted a series of virtual webinar sessions throughout November and December.

Webinar topics included updates from Complex Innovative Trail Designs (CID) program, gene therapy in rare disease development, and case studies in rare disease drug development. We were honored to have had a list of distinguished speakers, including Sandeep Menon from Pfizer, L.J. Wei from Harvard, Ying Yuan from MD Anderson, Steve Lake from Wave Life Sciences, Dionne Price from FDA, Michelle Casey from Pfizer, Marie-Laure Névolet, and John Zhong from REGENXBIO, Margaret Gamalo from Pfizer, Glen Laird from Vertex, and Cindy Lu from Biogen. Joe Cappelleri, our NESS President, gave welcoming remarks from the society. There were 299 registered participants, and all the webinars were well attended.

The 2020 NERDS organizing committee is co-chaired by Jeffrey Palmer and Daniel Meyer from Pfizer, and the members include Kun Chen from UConn, Charlie Cao from Biogen, Roe Gutman from Brown, Mike Hale from Takeda, Yang Song from Vertex, Sammi Tang from Servier, and John Zhong from REGENXBIO. More details and talk slides/video recordings can be found at <https://nerds.nestat.org>.

Education & Outreach

In June of this year Nathan Lally (HSB) began his tenure as the VP for Education, taking the reins from Dr. Nalini Ravishanker under whose guidance the committee was established and developed. In 2020 the committee began holding formal bi-weekly meetings and added twelve new active volunteers and several other part-time contributors. Given the growth in participation and building on the momentum and experience from the past two years, the committee has decided to continue and expand both our youth outreach and short course offerings while adding two new programs. As a result, the education committee is now organized into four subcommittees: 1) short courses and professional education, 2) youth outreach, 3) scholarship fund for underrepresented students in statistics and data science, and 4) ethics in data science and data science education.

Short Courses & Professional Education

Prior to the covid-19 outbreak NESS had planned to host a sequence of short courses in data science starting in early 2020 at a central location in New England. We were in discussion with several venues in downtown Hartford and were planning on offering courses on data science applications in insurance, manufacturing, and tech/fintech. However, the pandemic threw a wrench in the works and these plans were put on hold. Given the rapid adoption of virtual conference services, the committee realized that we could reach a potentially much larger audience by offering courses on a digital platform. To gain perspective on the populations our courses should serve and to assess demand for content, volunteers Wei Zhong (Pfizer), Yaohua Zhang (Vertex), Yao Zheng (UConn), and Yuchen Fama (Clarifai) all contributed to a survey ([link](#)) that was recently sent to NESS members. The survey is still active, but results so far indicate a preference for courses catered to high school or early undergraduate students as well as professionals in other fields wishing to gain basic proficiency in statistics and data science. The preferred content areas are broad introductory courses to data science (mathematical/statistical and coding fundamentals), data visualization, and presenting and communicating the results of data analysis. We plan to identify instructors for 2-3 courses resulting from this survey in late 2020 to early 2021 and to begin delivering courses as soon as Q1 2021.

Additionally, NESS is in the early stages of discussion with engineers and data scientists at IBM on potential partnerships and short course offerings on topics ranging from AI fairness and data ethics to data science project lifecycles and modern engineering/DevOps practices.

Overall, our goal is to offer 4-5 short courses on digital platforms available to the general public in 2021. The committee will also seek to continue offering custom built short courses for industry partners and is in early discussions to design a course on the statistical foundations of reliability engineering for HSB. Improved marketing of NESS's short courses will be crucial for these program's success. If any NESS members have experience with creating and disseminating marketing materials for educational or similar services, and would like to help the education committee, please contact Nathan Lally (nathan.lally@hey.com).

Youth Outreach

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, career talks and other in-person youth outreach engagements have been postponed. Further, with online and hybrid learning models and the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, few educators have found time to partner with us this year, but hope to be more involved in the near future. In the meantime, our committee's volunteers, led by Sue Meng (Munich Re) and Brien Aronov (Travelers) have taken time to regroup and reassess our youth outreach strategy. Instead of a focus on career talks, our team has decided to prioritize reaching students from underserved communities with learning modules and activities designed to teach quantitative reasoning, decision making under uncertainty, the scientific method, and statistical fundamentals with the hope it fosters interest in statistics, data science and STEM more broadly. Work has begun designing two prototype learning modules, one aimed at high school students and the other targeting slightly younger students (middle school aged). We are actively seeking partnerships with youth educators to help refine our curricula and eventually help us trial the programs. Please reach out to Sue (Sue.Meng@munichre.com) or Brien (baronov@travelers.com) if you are interested or know anyone who may be.

Scholarship Fund for Underrepresented Students in Statistics and Data Science

In partnership with NESS's NextGen committee's volunteers, Tanesia Beverly (Law School Admissions Council) and Adam Shetler (HSB) helped develop a proposal for a scholarship fund to support underrepresented minority students in statistics and data science. The scholarship will advance the representation of underrepresented groups in statistics and data science by supporting graduating high school seniors and first or second year undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in statistics or data science. The scholarships will support the efforts of NESS to improve the diversity and inclusivity of its community, as well as in the fields of statistics and data science.

Ethics in Data Science and Data Science Education

The NESS Education Committee Subcommittee on Ethics in Data Science and Data Science Education's mission is to help establish ethics as a first-class area of investigation within the field of data science, to contribute to the construction and adoption of ethical frameworks for data scientists, and to promote the study of ethics in data science curricula. Towards these ends, the subcommittee plans on creating forums for the discussion of ethics in data science (e.g., speaker series, colloquia, workshops, conferences), delivering data ethics and artificial intelligence (AI) fairness training courses (both theoretical and applied), and researching and advocating for the inclusion of ethics in data science curricula. It is our hope that by promoting ethics in data science and data science education, NESS will contribute to a more fair, just, truthful and peaceful society.

As an inaugural event for the subcommittee in 2021, we propose hosting a short speaker series (3-5 lectures to be held virtually) on broad topics in ethics in data science and ethics in data science education. Potential topics include:

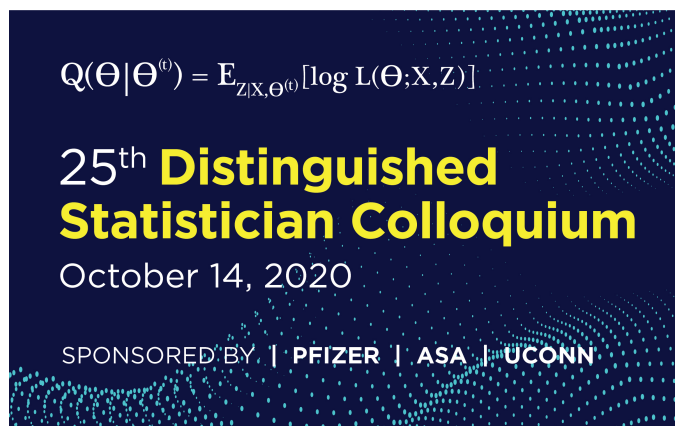
- Philosophical Foundations of Ethics as they Relate to Data Science
- Establishing an Ethical Framework for Data Science
- Data Ethics Policies, Regulation and Law
- Data Collection Methods
- Data Privacy
- Data Ethics and Social, Economic, Environmental and Political Justice (Human Rights)
- Machine Bias & Algorithmic Fairness
- Ethics in Data Science Curricula
- Teaching Ethics in Data Science

Please contact Mitch Taylor at (mitchelltaylor@gmail.com) if you are interested in speaking in this series or volunteering for this subcommittee.

Sponsored Events

The 26th Pfizer Colloquium

The department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut was honored to hold the 25th Distinguished Statistician Colloquium. The Pfizer colloquium series ran from 1978 until 2012 and was renewed in 2018. The colloquium series featured C. R. Rao, Bradley Efron, D.R. Cox, Grace Wahba and many more. For a complete list, see <https://stat.uconn.edu/pfizer-colloquium/>. The purpose of the Colloquium is to provide a forum for a distinguished statistician to share and disseminate their unique perspective and work in the theory and/or application of statistics. Starting from 2018, the series has been co-sponsored by Pfizer, the American Statistical Association, and the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut.



Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this year we celebrated the Distinguished Statistician Colloquium Series through Webinar. With generous funding from Pfizer, the American Statistical Association, and the Department of Statistics at UConn, the 25th colloquium in the series was held on October 14, 2020 from 3:00-5:00pmEST and featured Nan Laird, Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of Public Health, Emerita, from T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University.

Prof. Laird is renowned for her work in statistical theory and the development of efficient numerical and statistical methods for large data sets, and has developed methods with applications in biostatistics, weather prediction, machine learning, climate science, and more.

She was interviewed by Christoph Lange, Professor of Biostatistics (T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University) and Joseph Hogan, Carole and Lawrence Sirovich Professor of Public Health, Professor of Biostatistics, and Deputy Director of Data Science from Brown University.

The emcee of the program was Dr. Dipak Dey, UConn Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Statistics, and brief remarks were made by Dr. Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director, ASA; Dr. Kannan Natarajan, Head of Global Biometrics and Data Management at Pfizer. Dr. Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Professor of Statistics at UConn.

The videos are added to the ASA YouTube channel.

- First video for the colloquium: <https://youtu.be/9pJcuZLGMuQ>;
- Second video for the interview: <https://youtu.be/zIq2oIuQbhI>.

We thank Pfizer and the ASA for their generous financial support. We also thank the members of the selection committee – Dan Meyer and Demissie Alemayehu from Pfizer, Ron Wasserstein and Nancy Flournoy from the ASA, and Joseph Glaz and Ming-Hui Chen from UConn. Professor Chen also represents the New England Statistical Society (NESS). We also thank the project manager Juliet Kapsis from UConn. This event was attended by 227 registered participants from 8 different countries.

This year's committee consists of Dr. Haim Bar, Dr. Dipak Dey (Chair), Dr. Yuping Zhang, and Dr. Yao Zheng. Thank you all for your effort!

ASA-BI-NESS Webinar Series

NESS continues to sponsor the ASA-BI-NESS Webinar series in 2020. This webinar series focuses on innovative statistical methodologies and other related topics. The webinar series is open to the broad statistics community and general external audiences.

- Webinar #21 (February 6): Beyond Curve Fitting: Transfer Learning and Causal Reasoning. Dr. Xu Shi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics at University of Michigan.
- Webinar #22 (March 10): Group Sequential Analysis based on RMST. Dr. Lu Tian, Professor, Department of Biomedical Data Science, Stanford University.
- Webinar #23 (May 26): Statistical Methodologies for Analyzing Microbiome Data. Dr. Ni Zhao, Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Webinar #24 (November 3): Causal Inference for Real-World Evidence. Dr. Hana Lee, US Food and Drug Administration.

We sincerely thank Sheng Qiu, Wansuk Choi, and Songqiao Huang from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Biostatistics and Data Sciences Department) for organizing the events. For inquiries, please contact us at MEDecc.US@boehringer-ingelheim.com.

If you would like to serve as a NESS representative for this webinar series, please contact Kun Chen at kun.chen@uconn.edu.

Online Interdisciplinary Seminars on Statistical Methodology for Social and Behavioral Research

The online interdisciplinary seminars on statistical methodology for social and behavioral research is supported by the department of statistics and the department of education psychology in the University of Connecticut (UConn), the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) and the New England Statistical Society (NESS). The seminar is held online via WebEx and anyone in the world can join and it is scheduled monthly on Friday noon. The aims of the seminar are to promote the connection between the statistics and social/behavioral science communities and to encourage more graduate students to participate in the interdisciplinary research.

The current upcoming confirmed speakers are below:

Data	Time	Speaker	Affiliation
12/18/2020	12:00-1:15pm EST	Paul De Boeck	The Ohio State University
1/29/2021	12:00-1:15pm EST	P. Richard Hahn	Arizona State University
2/26/2021	12:00-1:15pm EST	Edward Ip	Wake Forest University
3/26/2021	12:00-1:15pm EST	David Dunson	Duke University
4/9/2021	12:00-1:15pm EST	Susan Paddock	NORC at the University of Chicago
4/23/2021	2:00-3:15pm EST	Jean-Paul Fox	University of Twente
9/10/2021	12:00-1:00pm EST	Susan Murphy	Harvard University

We sincerely thank Dr. Xiaojing Wang for initiating the NESS sponsorship of this great seminar series. For announcements and WebEx live streaming links, please contact Tracy Burke (tracy.burke@uconn.edu).

Leadership & Election

The 2020 NESS Election took place in June. Dr. Eric Kolaczyk has become the president-elect. Yuchen Fama from HSB, Daniel Meyer from Pfizer, and Natesh Pillai from Harvard have been elected as members of the Society Council. Roe Gutman from Brown, Priya Kohli from Connecticut College, Ambar Sengupta from UConn, and John Zhong from Regeneron have been elected to continue as members of the Society Council.

Executive appointments and continued service are listed as follows.

- Abidemi K. Adeniji from M-Estimator LLC has been appointed to continue serving as VP for NextGen.
- Kun Chen from UConn will continue serving as Secretary.
- Jianan Hui from BI has been appointed to serve as Deputy Secretary.
- Lynn Kuo from UConn will continue serving as Treasurer.
- Nathan Lally from HSB has been appointed to serve as VP for Education, succeeding Nalini Ravishanker from UConn.
- James MacDougall has been appointed to continue serving as VP for Strategies & Development.
- Gavino Puggioni from URI has been appointed to continue serving as VP for Scientific Program.
- Dooti Roy has been appointed to serve as Social Media Coordinator.
- Xiaojing Wang from UConn has been appointed to serve as Deputy Treasurer.
- Colin Wu from NIH has been appointed to serve as VP for Journal & Publication, succeeding Min-Ge Xie from Rutgers.

Congratulations!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank executives and council members who have concluded their terms for their great service to NESS and to statistical and scientific communities:

- Yasuo Amemiya from IBM Watson
- Jason Estes from P&W
- Xiao-Li Meng from Harvard
- Nalini Ravishanker from UConn
- Min-Ge Xie from Rutgers

The profiles of NESS Council members can be found at <https://nestat.org/about/council/>.

Membership

The current 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/#signup> or mail in the attached registration form.

To make a donation, please visit <https://nestat.org/donation/>. Your donation will help to promote the growth and expansion of statistical science in the New England area and beyond.

We sincerely invite you to join us. Without the support from our devoted members, the establishment and the rapid growth of our young society would not have been possible.

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 Jianan Hui or Kun Chen at ness@nestat.org.



NESS | New England Statistical Society

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.*
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- *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:

New England Statistical Society (Attn: Lynn Kuo)
Room 306, Philip E. Austin Building
215 Glenbrook Rd. U-4120
Storrs, CT 06269-4120