

## The 37th New England Statistics Symposium

The Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut (UConn) proudly hosted the 37th New England Statistics Symposium (<https://symposium.nestat.org>) from May 20 to May 24, 2024. This flagship annual event of the New England Statistical Society (<https://nestat.org>) has brought statisticians together from across New England and beyond since its inception at UConn in 1987. The symposium continues to be a platform for sharing research, discussing pressing issues, and fostering connections within the statistical community.

This year, the symposium was held in a hybrid format, with in-person sessions at UConn Storrs and live streaming via Cvent. The expanded program included short courses on May 20 and May 21, followed by the main conference from May 22 to May 24—marking the first time the main conference spanned three days.



NESS 2024 Conference Auditorium

### Announcements

#### ✦ Call for participation in the 38th NESS Symposium

The 2025 NESS symposium will be hosted by Yale University. Please visit <https://symposium.nestat.org> or contact [symposium@nestat.org](mailto:symposium@nestat.org) for the most up-to-date information.

#### ✦ Call for nominations of Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award

#### ✦ Call for nominations of Society Council Members

#### ✦ Call for nominations of Deputy Secretary

### At A Glance: NESS Activities in 2024

- ✦ The 37th New England Statistics Symposium
- ✦ The Inaugural PharmaDS Conference
- ✦ The 7th NERDS Workshop
- ✦ The 2024 NextGen Data Science Day
- ✦ Updates from the Conferences Committee
- ✦ Updates from the Education Committee
- ✦ Updates from the Journal and Publication Committee
- ✦ Updates from the Strategies & Development Committee
- ✦ Other NESS Sponsored Events in 2024
- ✦ Leadership & the 2024 Election

### NESS Officers

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VP for NextGen:	Zhan (Harold) Ye
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The theme of the conference, “Statistics Empowering AI”, underscored the powerful role of statistical methods in advancing artificial intelligence. The focus was on the unique ways that statistical thinking and methodology enhance AI’s capabilities, from improving data quality and algorithmic transparency to guiding model selection and evaluating robustness. Through diverse sessions and discussions, the conference highlighted how statistics enables reliable, ethical, and impactful applications of AI across multiple domains.

## Conference Highlights

- Short Courses: Seven short courses led by renowned experts covered a wide range of contemporary topics in statistics and data science, including transfer learning, large-scale spatial data analysis, network analysis, data science essentials, informative prior elicitation, causal inference, and deep learning with generative AI.

**The 37th New England Statistics Symposium**  
**SHORT COURSES**

**An Introduction to the Statistical Foundations of Transfer Learning**  
**Full day: Hybrid, May 20, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Yang Feng is a professor of Biostatistics at New York University. Ye Tian is a fifth-year PhD student in Statistics at Columbia University.  
**Outline:** This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the statistical foundations underpinning the prevalent machine learning technique: transfer learning. We delve into how transfer learning effectively transfers knowledge from one task to another in an adaptive and robust fashion, thereby enhancing model performance across both supervised and unsupervised learning frameworks.

**Large Scale Data Science**  
**Full day: Hybrid, May 20, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Marc G. Genton is a Distinguished Professor of Statistics at the Spatio-Temporal Statistics and Data Science (STSDS) research group, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia. Dr. Samah Abdullah is a research scientist at the Extreme Computing Research Center (ECRC), King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Mary Lai Salathia is an Assistant Professor in Statistics at the University of Connecticut (UConn).  
**Outline:** The course content will cover the basic concepts of large-scale spatial statistics on parallel systems through synthetic and real data examples using both exact and approximation methods. The course will also provide a comprehensive comparison between existing Geostatistics packages (fields) with the cutting-edge HPC packages (EvaGeoStatf and MPCR) to show the main contribution and benefits of using HPC techniques on leading-edge parallel hardware architectures such as GPUs and supercomputers.

**Statistical Network Analysis in R**  
**Half day - AM Session: Hybrid, May 20, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Eric Kolaczyk is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and inaugural director of the McGill Computational and Data Systems Initiative (CDSI).  
**Outline:** A gentle introduction to the statistical analysis of network data, largely through the lens of the R package graph. Topics to be covered include basic definitions and concepts in networks, manipulation and visualization of network data, and tools for describing network characteristics, as well as a brief look at select inferential topics such as node clustering (aka "community detection") and network modeling.

**The 37th New England Statistics Symposium**  
**SHORT COURSES**

**Essentials of Data Science: Project Management, Reproducibility, Communication, and Ethics**  
**Half day - PM Session: Hybrid, May 20, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Jun Yen is a Professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut and a Research Fellow at the Center for Population Health at UConn Health.  
**Outline:** This course is designed to arm participants with the fundamental skills essential for success in the data science field. Integrating theoretical insights with practical exercises, the course covers key areas including efficient project management using Git, creating reproducible analytics with Quarto, and the nuances of ethical considerations in data science.

**Informative Prior Elicitation Using Historical Data, Expert Opinion, and Other Sources**  
**Full day: Hybrid, May 21, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Joseph G. Ibrahim, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Ibrahim's areas of research focus are Bayesian inference, missing data problems, cancer, and clinical trials.  
**Outline:** This full-day short course is designed to give biostatisticians and data scientists a comprehensive overview of informative prior elicitation from historical data, expert opinion, and other data sources, such as real-world data prior predictions, estimates, and summary statistics.

**Introduction to Causal Inference: From Theory to Practice**  
**Full day: Hybrid, May 21, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Limbo Wang is an assistant professor in the Department of Statistical Sciences and the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Toronto.  
**Outline:** This course offers a quick overview of causal inference concepts and methods, designed for those new to the field but familiar with basic statistical tools such as regression models and R programming proficiency. It covers the mathematical underpinnings and cutting-edge methods of causal analysis, aiming to squeeze as much evidence as possible from imperfect studies about the causal effects of interest.

**Tutorial on Deep Learning and Generative AI**  
**Full Day, Hybrid, May 21, 2024**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Haoda Fu is an Associate Vice President and an Enterprise Lead for Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Connected Care from Eli Lilly and Company.  
**Outline:** Designed specifically for individuals possessing a strong foundation in statistics and biostatistics, this course seeks to bridge the gap into the realm of deep learning and generative AI. Beginning with fundamental knowledge of deep learning, participants will be guided through hands-on implementations using the PyTorch framework.

Website: <https://symposium.nestat.org/short-courses.html>

NESS 2024 Flyer for Short Courses

- Keynote Sessions: The conference featured three keynote talks by distinguished speakers—Dr. Jianqing Fan from Princeton University, Dr. Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen from the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee from the University of Florida. A Keynote Panel Session on “Statistics Empowering AI” included Dr. Jianqing Fan, Dr. Dan Nettleton from Iowa State University, Dr. Kavita Ramanan from Brown University, Dr. Faris Sbahi from Normal Computing, and Dr. Jeremy Teitelbaum from UConn, moderated by UConn alumna Dr. Yuchen Fama from Normal Computing. Additionally, NESS President Dr. Eric Kolaczyk from McGill University delivered a banquet talk.



NESS 2024 Keynote Speakers



NESS 2024 Keynote Panel

- ✦ Program Committee and Sessions: With over 40 members from various institutions and companies, the program committee curated a rich scientific program featuring more than 60 invited sessions, showcasing innovative and cutting-edge research across diverse fields.
- ✦ Student Engagement: Many students took part in research and poster competitions, sponsored by MassMutual and Munich Re, as well as a Statathon data challenge sponsored by Travelers. This engagement provided invaluable opportunities for students to showcase their research, gain feedback, and build professional connections.



NESS 2024 Student Awards

- ✦ Student Awards: Ten students received [NESS Student Research Awards](#), sponsored by MassMutual, and eight students received [NESS Student Poster Awards](#), sponsored by Munich Re. In addition, three teams excelled in the NESS Stat-a-thon Challenge, sponsored by Travelers, emerging from more than 20 competing teams. The awards committees, chaired by Dr.

Neil Spencer (student research), Dr. Yao Zheng (student poster), and Dr. Shane Sacco (Stat-a-thon), played a pivotal role in recognizing and celebrating student achievements.

The symposium attracted a substantial turnout, with 409 conference registrants and 122 participants in the short courses. The banquet was attended by more than 100 guests. Sponsorship and support came from companies and institutions such as Boehringer Ingelheim, MassMutual, Munich Re, Upstart, Regeneron, Travelers, Plymouth Rock, Servier, Vertex, The Lotus Group, ASA CT Chapter, and DahShu, whose contributions were vital to the event's success.

Special thanks go to NESS leadership, UConn Department of Statistics, UConn Event & Conference Services, and more than 25 UConn student volunteers, whose dedicated support ensured the success of the symposium. The event offered students valuable opportunities to network, share ideas, and develop professional skills, and we hope even more students will participate and volunteer in future events.

Next year's symposium will be hosted by Yale University. For updates, please visit <https://symposium.nestat.org> or contact us at [symposium@nestat.org](mailto:symposium@nestat.org). We look forward to your participation at the next symposium!

— Contributed by Kun Chen (Professor of Statistics at UConn) and Ming-Hui Chen (Professor and Chair of Statistics at UConn). Edited by Yuwen Gu.

## The Inaugural Pharmaceutical Data Science (PharmaDS) Conference

The pharmaceutical industry is experiencing a remarkable transformation powered by data-driven innovation and the rise of Large Language Models (LLMs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). This new frontier of data science has brought about changes that are reshaping the industry at an unprecedented pace. To address this transformation, the New England Statistical Society (NESS), together with the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut (UConn), and data science leaders in the industry and academia, created the **Pharmaceutical Data Science (PharmaDS) Conference**—a unique forum designed to bring together the breadth of expertise driving this shift. Data scientists, statisticians, pharmaceutical professionals, clinical scientists, and students convened on March 18–19, 2024, for this inaugural event hosted by UConn's Department of Statistics.

Themed “Innovate, Illuminate, Lead: Pioneering the Crossroads of AI, Pharma Development, and Data Science,” the conference explored the transformative power of emerging technologies across the pharmaceutical spectrum. From research and development to digital health, pharmacovigilance, patient safety, clinical operations, regulatory affairs, and commercialization, the conference highlighted the undeniable impact of technology throughout the pharmaceutical lifecycle. Attendees engaged in discussions that pushed the boundaries of data science applications, showcasing the profound ways in which innovation and cross-disciplinary collaboration can address critical challenges in the industry.

One unique aspect of PharmaDS is its comprehensive focus across the data science lifecycle. While emphasizing the enduring importance of clinical trials and inferential statistics, PharmaDS also explored data science's expanding influence across all pharmaceutical functions: from pharmacovigilance and regulatory affairs to marketing, discovery, digital health, and medical devices. Data scientists, statisticians, and industry leaders shared their insights, discussed strategies, and presented the latest innovations in pharma data science. The detailed conference program can be viewed at <https://archive.nestat.org/phds2024/html/program.html>.

PharmaDS 2024 also underscored the importance of student engagement. Students from the Department of Statistics, UConn's MS in Data Science Program, and the UConn Data Science Club participated actively, with recruitment efforts from the FDA and various companies offering valuable networking and career-building experiences. The conference featured about 20 poster presentations by students and industry representatives, with awards sponsored by the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section.

PharmaDS 2024 was co-chaired by Jingjing Ye from BeiGene and Kun Chen from UConn. It was generously supported by many sponsors including AbbVie, AMGEN, ASA Biopharma Section, BeiGene, ZS, BMS, ICON, Moderna, PROMETRIKA, UConn's MS in Data Science Program, the ASA CT Chapter, and DahShu. The conference was made possible thanks to the dedicated support of NESS Leadership, UConn Department of Statistics, UConn Event & Conference Services, and numerous student volunteers at UConn.

The next PharmaDS conference is scheduled for April 7–9, 2025 in New Jersey, co-chaired by Rebecca Taha from waterworksAI and Philip He from Daiichi Sankyo. The theme of the conference is “*Re-imagining the Future of Pharma: AI-Powered Value Creation.*”





PharmaDS 2024 Conference Auditorium

For those interested in participating or seeking further information, please feel free to email [PharmaDS@nestat.org](mailto:PharmaDS@nestat.org) or visit [www.phds.nestat.org](http://www.phds.nestat.org).

— Contributed by Kun Chen (Professor of Statistics at UConn). Edited by Yuwen Gu.

## The 7th New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop

The landscape of drug development in the rare disease space has significantly expanded and evolved over the past few decades. This progress has been driven by numerous factors, including increased public awareness, favorable changes in drug regulation, advancements in cellular and molecular biology, genetics, innovative clinical trial designs, influx of capital investment, and the availability of highly skilled scientific talent.

As a result, a growing number of regulators, academicians, and industry statisticians are dedicated to bringing orphan drugs to patients, addressing the unique technical challenges inherent to rare diseases. The New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop was established as a platform where statisticians involved in all stages of rare disease drug development can exchange ideas, share experiences, and network.

The 2024 NERDS Workshop was a fully in-person, two-day event held on October 10–11, 2024, at the Boston Marriott Newton. This year's theme was "Leaping Forward: Innovative Statistical Approaches in Rare Disease Drug Development". The workshop attracted 105 attendees from 35 companies, 10 academic institutions, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Large represented organizations of participation include Vertex, Moderna, Sanofi, Dyne, and UConn.

### Key Highlights of NERDS 2024

- ✦ A pre-workshop dinner for speakers and committee members to network.
- ✦ Two plenary sessions each day to offer a more focused and impactful program.
- ✦ Sponsor tables were introduced, where companies could showcase their products and services.
- ✦ A call for papers for a special issue on "Rare Disease Statistics" in the New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science (NEJSDS).

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**The 7th Annual New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop 2024**  
October 10-11, 2024, Boston Marriott Newton  
*Leaping Forward: Innovative Statistical Approaches in Rare Disease Drug Development*

**Keynote Session #1**

**John Scott, PhD**  
Division Director of Biostatistics, CBER, FDA

**Kelley Kidwell, PhD**  
Professor of Biostatistics  
Associate Chair for Academic Affairs, University of Michigan

**Miganush Stepanians, PhD**  
President and CEO, PROMETRIKA

Registration Link

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**NESS** | New England Statistical Society  
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**The 7th Annual New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop 2024**  
October 10-11, 2024, Boston Marriott Newton  
*Leaping Forward: Innovative Statistical Approaches in Rare Disease Drug Development*

**Keynote Session #2**

**Douglas Kerr, MD/PhD/MBA**  
Chief Medical Officer, Dyne Therapeutics

**Stephen Lake, PhD**  
VP of Quantitative Sciences, Alexion, the Rare Disease Unit of AstraZeneca

**Lee-Jen Wei, PhD**  
Professor of Biostatistics, Harvard University

Registration Link

### NERDS 2024 Keynote Speakers

For more details about the conference, please visit <https://nerds.nestat.org/index.html>.

— Contributed by HaiYing Wang (Associate Professor of Statistics at UConn). Edited by Yuwen Gu.

## The 2024 NextGen Data Science Day Conference

Our recent Data Science Day 2024 was a tremendous success, bringing together young talents, aspiring data scientists, and students eager to explore careers in data science. With around 100 participants attending in person, the event was filled with energy, insight, and invaluable learning opportunities.

The day featured knowledge-rich sessions led by exceptional panelists and a keynote speaker Professor Tom Davenport who shared his extensive expertise and practical experiences in the field of gen AI applications in business and beyond. Panel discussions focused on diverse topics such as data science applications in pharmaceutical industries, business intelligence and innovations as well as transition from academic institutions to industrial positions, tips for how to survive as a quantitative data scientists fresh out of school or being an entrepreneur after graduation, exciting opportunities in data journalism.

We're immensely grateful to our speakers and panelists for generously sharing their knowledge and perspectives, creating a meaningful experience for all attendees. Six posters presented with high quality data and analyses, illustrated by authors in person, resulting in three winners from undergraduate and graduate levels, each with a \$150 cash prize!

The day concluded with a highly anticipated networking session, where participants connected directly with professionals, asked questions, and sought career advice. This interactive session offered students valuable insights into industry trends, practical advice for career building, and highlighted the importance of continuous learning in a rapidly evolving field.

New England Statistical Society NextGen presents  
**Data Science Day 2024**  
Saturday, November 9th, 2024 | 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST at Babson

**THE POWER OF DATA**

Featuring:

- Keynote speaker
- Student poster awards
- Panel sessions
  - What do data scientists do?
  - Careers in data science
- Networking session

Dr. Tom Davenport  
Professor, Babson College  
Title: All In on All Types of AI

Register Now: [link](#)

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As we look forward to next year's Data Science Day, we're excited to continue this tradition of fostering growth, collaboration, and inspiration among the next generation of data scientists.



DSD 2024 Event Photo Gallery

## Data Science Day 2024 Highlights

- ✦ Successful Turnout: Hosted around 100 in-person participants, well mixed with industry experts, academics and students from all over New England.
- ✦ Engaging Keynote: Featured Professor Tom Davenport, who shared his expertise on generative AI applications in business and beyond, offering insights into AI's impact on industry, the less-obvious benefits and subtle perils that go with its deployment.
- ✦ Knowledge Sharing and Generosity: Speakers and panelists provided valuable perspectives and real-world insights, creating a meaningful experience for attendees, with topics in data science in pharma industry, business intelligence and innovation strategies, transitioning from academics to industry roles, how to leverage the quantitative mind as a problem solver, exciting opportunities in data journalism and pathways to entrepreneurship after graduation
- ✦ Spotless Students Poster Session: Six posters presented with high-quality data and analyses, illustrated by authors in person, resulting in three winners from undergraduate and graduate levels, each with a \$150 cash prize!
- ✦ Networking Opportunities: Concluded with a highly anticipated networking session, allowing participants to connect with professionals, ask questions, and receive career advice.
- ✦ Looking Forward to 2025: Excited to continue fostering growth, collaboration, and inspiration for the next generation of data scientists at next year's Data Science Day.

— Contributed by Zhan (Harold) Ye (Director at Pfizer); Edited by Yuwen Gu.

## Updates from the Committee on Conferences

The newly formed NESS Conferences Committee recently held its inaugural meeting. Key highlights included the introduction of the new VP for Conferences, who will serve as a liaison to enhance coordination among different NESS-supported conferences. The committee reviewed upcoming events, including the NESS Symposium, NextGen, NERDS, and Pharma Data Science, emphasizing the importance of avoiding overlapping fundraising efforts and improving collaboration with sponsors. Strategies for joint branding and streamlined processes for budgeting and sponsorship were discussed. The committee also decided to schedule regular check-ins with organizing committee chairs to gather feedback and address challenges. Additionally, suggestions were made to create dedicated emails for each conference to facilitate better communication and knowledge transfer.

— Contributed by Shariq Mohammed (Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Boston University).

## Updates from the Committee on Education

The education committee wants to thank everyone who supported the NESS scholarship this year. We were able to support 6 students this year!

- ✦ Selam Maher (currently: Smith College)
- ✦ Daisy Contreras Martinez (currently: University of California, Santa Barbara)
- ✦ Surafel Geleta (currently: University of Texas at Austin)
- ✦ Savannah Clyburn (currently: University of Maryland)
- ✦ Samuel Sanchez (currently: University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
- ✦ Emiliano Rocha Beardall (currently: Cornell University)

As we turn to 2025, the Education committee would like to welcome volunteers to support our new outreach initiative to support student groups focused on data science and statistics. We are seeking expertise in web development, fundraising, and advertising.

— Contributed by Alex Young (Undergraduate Advisor and Lecturer at Harvard Statistics); Edited by Yuwen Gu.

## Updates from the Committee on Journal & Publication

Major activities of the Journal and Publication Committee have been focused on the publications and manuscript reviews of the New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science (NEJSDS), the NESS flagship journal. We have published 26 articles in all three issues of Volume 2 in 2024. In addition, nine articles have been officially accepted and listed as “to appear” in the journal website <https://journal.nestat.org>. Main topics of these articles include “Novel Statistical Methods and Designs for Clinical Trials,” “Game-Theoretic Statistics and Safe Anytime-Valid Inference,” “Design for Dose-Finding Trials in Oncology,” “Bayesian Inference in Risk Assessment” and “Meta-analysis of Censored Adverse Events,” among others. These articles are the result of a number of special issue calls as well as regular submissions to the journal. Currently, the journal has four outstanding special issue calls with deadlines on December 31, 2024 and June 1, 2025. Topics of these outstanding special issues are “Pushing the Boundary of Data Science through Statistical Modeling and Inference,” “Clinical Trial Designs Involving Multiple Stages and Re-Randomization Beyond Traditional Randomization,” “Data Science and AI in Pharma” and “Rare Disease Statistics.” These topics cover a wide range of research interests of the NESS members.

In addition to the published articles in NEJSDS, the editorial office also organized two major events to promote the papers published or to be published in NEJSDS: (1) “The 2024 NESS Webinar on Selected Papers by NEJSDS,” which was held on March 1, 2024, and (2) an invited session at The 37th New England Statistics Symposium, which was held on May 20-24, 2024. Presentations of the 2024 NESS webinar were given by Professors Peter Chien, Nathaniel T. Stevens and John Stufken on topics of design and analysis experiments for data science and chaired by Professor Chunfang Devon Lin. Recordings of this webinar was available at the NESS website (<https://nestat.org/pastevents/2024/01/webinar/>). The NEJSDS session at the 37th NESS symposium was organized by Professor Minge Xie. This session had three interesting presentations given by Professors Colin Wu, Zhenyu Wang and Linjun Zhang with an insightful discussion delivered by Professor Min-ge Xie.

Overall, we have had many proud accomplishments in 2024. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the tremendous time and efforts of all the contributing authors, reviewers, associate editors, section editors, special issue guest editors, Editor-in-Chiefs and members of the Office of Editor-in-Chief. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and support. We hope to continue this upward momentum and expand the influence of NEJSDS in 2025. To do so, we would welcome any comments and suggestions from NESS members and friends to further highlight and promote NEJSDS. We would be delighted to see your cutting edge research published in NEJSDS.

— Contributed by Colin Wu (Mathematical Statistician at the National Institutes of Health and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University); Edited by Yuwen Gu.

## Updates from the Committee on Strategies & Development

As part of the Strategies & Development Committee’s mission to “... identify, evaluate, and execute strategies and initiatives to fulfill the vision, mission, and organizational intent of NESS”, efforts this year focused on identifying new avenues to further the core vision of NESS. Through a series of brainstorming sessions with NESS leadership and society council members, a new initiative focused on student outreach was identified as a next step for NESS to continue to grow. This new student outreach initiative, led by the Education Committee, aims to foster connections between NESS and student groups at colleges and universities by providing support and networking connections for student events. In the coming year, the Strategies &



Development Committee plans to review and update our membership management system. If you have any ideas or suggestions for other things NESS can do to improve, you can email the committee at [gvaughan@bentley.edu](mailto:gvaughan@bentley.edu). Happy New Year!

— Contributed by Gregory Vaughan (Associate Professor and Chair of Mathematical Sciences at Bentley University).

## Announcements

### Call for Nominations of the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award

The New England Statistical Society (NESS, <https://nestat.org/>) welcomes nominations for the 2025 Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award. NESS created this award to commemorate 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 Awards 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 the theory, methodology, or novel applications to statistics, biostatistics and/or data science. The award will be awarded to one recipient every year at the New England Statistics Symposium, with travel expenses covered plus a minimum \$500 honorarium. The 2023 award recipient was Professor Nan Laird, Harvard University.

Nominees who previously did not win will be carried forward for future consideration and, if they choose to do so, may update their submission.

Please submit nominations for the award by **January 15, 2025**. To nominate an individual for the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award:

- ✧ Download the one-page [nomination form](#) and complete it;
- ✧ Supply the candidate's CV;
- ✧ Email these documents to [nestat.hcaward@gmail.com](mailto:nestat.hcaward@gmail.com).

Please share this call for nominations widely. We welcome nominations for contributions from careers that span government, non-profit organizations, industry, as well as academia.

Learn more about the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award and past recipients at <https://nestat.org/hcaward/>.

## Other Sponsored Events

### The 7th Annual Wesleyan QAC DataFest

The DataFest 2024 that ran April 19–21 was the biggest DataFest event yet with 85 registered participants. [DataFest](#) is a data analysis competition held at Wesleyan University where students are presented with a large, complex, surprise data set and work over the weekend to explore, analyze, and present their findings. Teams of 3-5 students work together and compete against other teams. This year, teams from Wesleyan University, Yale University, Connecticut College, Trinity College, UConn, and Bentley University were invited. The event is part of a set of initiatives to strengthen quantitative reasoning and facilitate computational and data analysis work across the curriculum. It is designed to bring together current students, alumni and data analysis professionals as they work together in addressing real world problems that involve computational data work. The event also provides an opportunity for recruiters to connect with students interested and skilled in data analysis that may be candidates for internships and job openings. NESS is a proud sponsor of this year's DataFest event.

### Interdisciplinary Seminars on Statistical Methodology for Social and Behavioral Research

The Interdisciplinary Seminars on Statistical Methodology for Social and Behavioral Research continued to be supported by the Department of Statistics and the Department of Education Psychology at the University of Connecticut (UConn), the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) and the New England Statistical Society (NESS). In 2024, the seminar was held in hybrid mode with people joining both in person and online from around the world and is scheduled on a Friday. The aims of the seminar are to promote the connection between the statistical, social and behavioral science communities and to encourage more graduate students to participate in interdisciplinary research.

The seminars in 2024 are listed below:

Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Title
03/29/2024	Zhiliang Ying	Columbia University	Some Recent Developments in Educational and Psychological Measurement
04/12/2024	Dale Zimmerman	University Of Iowa	In Defense Of Unrestricted Spatial Regression
09/27/2024	Kenneth Bollen	University of North Carolina	An Overview of Latent Growth Curve Models in Longitudinal Studies of Aging
10/11/2024	Sandip Sinharay	Educational Testing Services	Assessment of Fit of Item Response Theory Models: Full-Information And Limited-Information Methods, Item And Person Fit Aanalysis, And Beyond
11/15/2024	Pascal R. Deboeck	University of Utah	Effects across time to modeling states of a system: a dynamical systems perspective on modeling social science data
12/06/2024	Kristen Olson	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Recent Lessons on Mixing Mail and Web Data Collection Modes in Household Surveys

For announcements and WebEx live streaming links, please visit <https://statistics.uconn.edu/events/interdisciplinary-seminars/> or contact Tracy Burke ([tracy.burke@uconn.edu](mailto:tracy.burke@uconn.edu)).

## Leadership & The 2024 Election

Changes to the executive appointments since January 1, 2024 are listed as follows.

- ✦ Rebecca A. Betensky from the New York University has been appointed as the President.
- ✦ Shuangge (Steven) Ma from Yale University has been appointed as the President-Elect.
- ✦ Eric D. Kolaczyk from McGill University has been appointed as the Past President.
- ✦ Shariq Mohammed from Boston University has been appointed as the Vice President for Conferences.
- ✦ Zhan (Harold) Ye from Pfizer has been appointed as the Vice President for NextGen.
- ✦ Yuwen Gu from the University of Connecticut has been appointed as the Secretary.
- ✦ Ying Zhou from the University of Connecticut has been appointed as the Deputy Secretary.

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 the statistical and scientific communities:

- ✦ Joseph C. Cappelleri from Pfizer
- ✦ Wei Zhong from BioNTech SE
- ✦ Daniel L. Sussman from Boston University
- ✦ Jianan Hui from Servier Pharmaceuticals
- ✦ Yuchen Fama from Exostellar Inc.
- ✦ Daniel Meyer from RDM Statistical Consulting LLC
- ✦ Anna Plantinga from Williams College

## NESS Membership

NESS is offering 50% discount to K-12 educators. The current membership fee structure is as follows:

- ✦ Student membership: free
- ✦ Regular membership: \$30 per year
- ✦ Life membership: \$600
- ✦ K-12 educator: 50% discount on regular membership (\$15 per year) and life membership (\$300)
- ✦ Joint membership with the 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 NESS. Without the support from 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 Yuwen Gu at [yuwen.gu@uconn.edu](mailto:yuwen.gu@uconn.edu).



# 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:* free
- *Regular membership:* \$30 per year
- *Life membership:* \$600
- *K-12 educator:* 50% discount on regular membership (\$15 per year) and life membership (\$300)
- *Joint membership with the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS):* \$109 per year

Please send the form and a check to:  
 New England Statistical Society (Attn: Xiaojing Wang)  
 Room 323, Philip E. Austin Building  
 215 Glenbrook Rd. U-4120  
 Storrs, CT 06269-4120