NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF STATISTICS
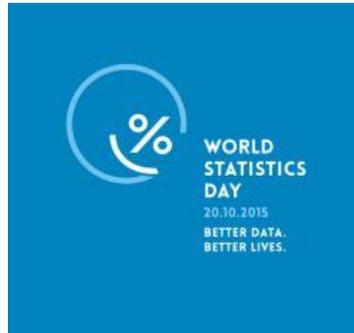
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UN FORMALLY DESIGNATES WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2015 AND FUTURE CELEBRATIONS

Earlier this month, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly formally adopted a resolution officially designating October 20 the second World Statistics Day with the general theme "Better data. Better lives". At the same time, the General Assembly elected to celebrate World Statistics Day on October 20 every five years—meaning the next celebration after this year will be in 2020.

The resolution, which was cosponsored by Hungary and 96 other member states, follows the recommendation to celebrate October 20 this year as World Statistics Day approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 46th session. Hungary's Ambassador to the UN Katalin Bogyay of delivered a statement introducing the draft resolution to the General Assembly prior to its adoption.

In the resolution, the General Assembly invites all member states, members of specialized agencies, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations as well as civil society, including nongovernmental organizations, such as research institutions, media and all producers and users of official statistics to observe World Statistics Day.

The full text of the World Statistics Day resolution is available in the six official languages of the United Nations:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English

- French
- Russian
- Spanish

To mark the 2015 observance, several countries have created custom versions of the World Statistics Day logo in their languages. The latest to do so was Portugal. With the release of the Portuguese version, the logo of World Statistics Day 2015 is now available in eight languages to include Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Slovene and Spanish.

The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) urges organizations participating in The World of Statistics to use these customized logos and become part of a truly global celebration October 20. It also urges groups that adopt the logo in their national language to share with it with them by emailing a copy to them.

Arabic version of the World Statistics Day 2015 logo

Follow this link to download the image files of the logo in all available languages.

Separately, the [Statistics Bureau of Japan](#) has [created a mug showcasing the World Statistics Day logo](#) side by side with its own logo and the mascots of Japan's Population Census, which will be conducted in October. The mugs are a great way of inviting conference participants, contributors to census and guests to the Statistics Bureau of Japan to join the celebration of World Statistics Day.

The Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications plays a central role in the official statistical system of Japan. It is responsible for the production, compilation and dissemination of official statistics that are fundamental to monitor the country's socio-economic conditions.

Japan is a cosponsor of the [United Nations General Assembly resolution](#) designating October 20 as the second World Statistics Day.

[Visit the World Statistics Day 2015 website](#) periodically to stay up to date on news and announcements from the UNSD about the global celebration of official statistics.

AAPOR DRIVING TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC OPINION & SURVEY RESEARCH

For many years, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) has advocated for transparency in the public reporting of public opinion and survey research. The growing diversity in approaches to survey sampling and data collection makes the clear disclosure of research methodology essential to ensure that both the public and other researchers have the information necessary to judge the quality of survey research.

AAPOR's Transparency Initiative formally opened for business last October 8. Since, more than 40 survey-based organizations have applied and been accepted for membership and new members continue to be admitted almost weekly.

AAPOR created the transparency initiative to encourage wider and more effective disclosure of research methods. Its goal is to promote methodological disclosure through a proactive, educational approach that assists survey organizations in developing simple and efficient means for routinely disclosing the research methods associated with their publicly released studies.

[Read more in this *Amstat News* article.](#)

LISA 2020 IS CREATING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL, SEEKING INTERESTED CANDIDATES

The LISA 2020 program is establishing an advisory council to assist with the creation and sustenance of a global network of statistical collaboration labs (stat labs) in developing countries. Organizers are specifically seeking contributors who can apply their passion and expertise in the following areas:
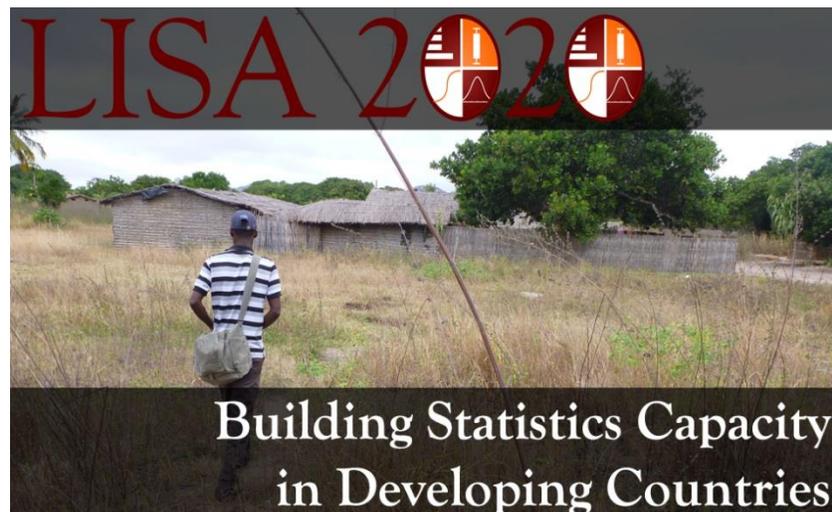
- communication and publicity
- organization of the mentoring network
- securing funding
- organization of non-university stat labs
- regional coordinators
- organization of stat labs in North America
- statistics capacity building
- development or delivery of training content

They also are open to new ideas on how contributors can support the LISA 2020 program. If you are interested in being a member of this council, click here to apply.

There will be an in-person meeting of council members February 18, 2016 in San Diego, California to coincide with the American Statistical Association's 2016 Conference on Statistical Practice.

What is LISA 2020?

The LISA 2020 program was created by Virginia Tech's Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA) to train statistical professionals in developing countries to become collaborative statisticians. The program also supports these statisticians in creating stat labs at their home universities or institutions that will train the next generation of collaborative statisticians and help researchers, government officials and local industries and nongovernmental organizations apply statistical thinking to make better decisions. Its goal is to create a network of 20 such stat labs in developing countries by 2020.

Each of these new stat labs will foster education in collaborative statistics and will promote the proper application of statistics to solve real-world problems. With a strong mentoring network, just one statistician trained to communicate and collaborate with nonstatisticians can enable and accelerate 50 or more research projects each year. Each project can impact hundreds or thousands of people.

LISA 2020 will unlock the collaborative potential of technically trained statisticians, who in turn will unlock the research potential of their collaborators and teach other statisticians to do the same. These collaborations—now with the power of statistical thinking open to them—will be critical to improving human welfare worldwide.

Program Update

LISA has hosted and trained seven fellows, four new stat labs have been created, and two LISA ambassadors currently are working at two of these newly created laboratories.

LISA 2020 fellows work in LISA for varying periods of time and are trained in the laboratory to communicate and collaborate with nonstatisticians. After the training phase, the goal is for the new fellows to return to their home university or institution to create a statistical collaboration laboratory that will work under local conditions based on their experience with LISA. LISA works with the newly created lab to send to the lab graduate students who have experience as LISA lead collaborators to help build and sustain it as needed. These students are referred to as LISA ambassadors.

LISA has hosted seven fellows: Olawale Awe (Nigeria), Dr. Benedicto Kazuzuru (Tanzania), Emanuel Msemo (Tanzania), Richard Ngaya (Tanzania), Jingli Xing (China), Dr. Mohamed Djedour (Algeria), and Dr. Ayele Taye Goshu (Ethiopia). In addition, BECCA (a stat lab at UPenn) helped train Olawale Awe.

The LISA 2020 Network has grown to include four labs: LISAC (Laboratory for Statistical Analysis and Collaboration) at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in Nigeria, SUALISA at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Tanzania, UI-LISA at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, and the HwU Statistical Collaboration Center at Hawassa University in Ethiopia.

Current LISA ambassadors Ian Crandell is finishing up his six month stay at LISAC in Nigeria and Adam Edwards has just arrived at SUALISA in Tanzania for a six-month capacity building visit.

For more information about LISA 2020, visit its website.

CELEBRATE ASTEROID DAY WITH *SIGNIFICANCE* MAGAZINE

Believe it or not, today is Asteroid Day! In observance, *Significance* magazine has made its December 2014 cover story about the risks of an asteroid impact free to read for the next 30 days. Also, Editor Brian Tarran has posted a short article on the magazine's website about the last time a major asteroid struck our planet:

On June 30, 1908, a meteor with a diameter of up to 180 metres exploded in the atmosphere above Tunguska, Russia. The blast levelled trees and killed all animals within 1,200km. More than a century

later, a group of scientists, astronauts and others have come together to launch [Asteroid Day](#)—a global awareness movement that seeks to protect the Earth from future impacts.

Our planet has been battered by space rocks throughout its history, but the organisers of Asteroid Day are hoping to muster support for efforts to prevent impacts that pose a risk to life. "Employing available technology to detect, track and defend our Earth from dangerous asteroid impacts is something we know how to do," the group explains on its website. "We have the knowledge as well as the technology to prevent these future catastrophic events."

Asteroids have set off mass extinctions at least twice in Earth's history. But should we be worried that another strike is imminent? In the [December 2014 issue](#) of *Significance*, Joseph M. Hilbe and Jamie Riggs assessed the risks of a devastating meteor impact occurring this century. To mark Asteroid Day, we have made that article—along with the entirety of our Astrostatistics section—free to read for the next 30 days.

[Click here to read and download the articles in PDF format.](#)

THE WORLD OF STATISTICS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Following are The World of Statistics participating organization-sponsored events and activities around the world scheduled for July. [Click here](#) to see the complete 2015 calendar. Remember to submit your organization's events for the calendar by [using this convenient form](#).

- **June 29-July 1, 2015** — [Fourth International Symposium on Biopharmaceutical Statistics](#), International Society for Biopharmaceutical Statistics and Drug Information Association China, Beijing, China
- **July 6-7, 2015** — [2015 ICSA China Statistics Conference](#), International Chinese Statistical Association, Shanghai, China
- **July 6-8, 2015** — [International Symposium in Statistics 2015](#); Memorial University, Statistical Society of Canada, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Statistical Institute,

Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute, Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences; St. John's, Canada
- **July 12-16, 2015** — 2015 Annual Meeting of the Psychometric Society, Psychometric Society and Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
- **July 13-17, 2015** — ESRA 2015 Conference, European Survey Research Association, Reykjavik, Iceland
- **July 13-17, 2015** — 38th Conference on Stochastic Processes and Their Applications; Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance, University of Oxford Mathematical Institute and Department of Statistics, and Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability; Oxford, United Kingdom
- **July 14-15, 2015** — Teaching the Process of Statistical Investigations with a Randomization-Based Curriculum (Registration), Mathematical Association of America, Roanoke, Virginia, USA
- **July 19-21, 2015** — 2015 International Conference on Statistics and its Applications (ICSA 2015), Scientific Research Publishing, Shanghai, China
- **July 26–31, 2015** — 60th ISI World Statistics Congress, International Statistical Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

Cuba—The 12th International Conference on Operations Research will be held next year in Havana. The plenary session themes for the March 8-11, 2016 event will be optimization, probability and statistics, mathematical economics, differential equations, algorithms, and teaching on operations research. Organized by the University of Havana and Pantheon-Sorbonne University (Paris 1), the conference is dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the journal *Investigación Operacional* and the memory of Monique Florenzano. It is cosponsored by the Latin American Association of Operations Research and Cuban Society of Mathematics and Computer Science.

"The scope of the conference is intentionally broad. It is devoted to aspects of modeling, computational handling, and applications of the listed topics. Original contributions and interesting applications are welcome. We foster papers that provide cross-fertilization between these topics. We invite researchers to organize stream sessions not only dedicated to a certain topic but to different approaches to the same problem as well," note the organizers.

Click here for more information.

International—*Statistica Sinica*—a journal cosponsored by the Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica and the International Chinese Statistical Association—seeks original papers for a special issue on computer experiments and uncertainty quantification (UQ).

Computer experiments and uncertainty quantification is a fast-growing area at the interface between statistics and applied mathematics. Its development encompasses theory, methodology, computations and applications in a broad range of physical sciences and engineering. This special issue will provide a platform for disseminating new research and stimulating further progress in this important area.

The submission deadline is January 31, 2016. All articles will be peer-reviewed based on the high standard of *Statistica Sinica* and its editors will ensure a fair and speedy review process.

Original research in any area of computer experiments and uncertainty quantification is welcome. Interdisciplinary research with novel methodology development also is encouraged. Each article is expected to be no more than 20 print pages in length under the journal template. The editors encourage the use of online supplementary material to include computer code, data and additional technical details.
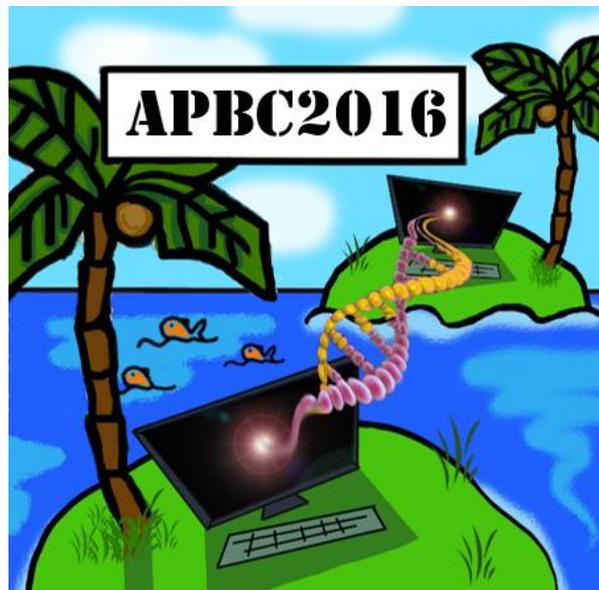
Click here to access the submission website. Upon logging in as author, please choose the option for new submission with the special theme topic of "Computer experiments and uncertainty quantification".

For questions regarding the suitability of your submission to this special issue, contact one of the guest editors Robert Gramacy, Ying Hung or Jeff Wu.

For other issues regarding submission, contact the *Statistica Sinica* office.

International—The 14th Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC 2016) will be held January 11-13, 2016 in San Francisco, California. The Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Conference series is an annual forum for exploring research, development and novel applications of bioinformatics and biostatistics. This meeting is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the American Statistical Association and the Peking University Alumni Association of Northern California.

APBC2016 organizers invite high-quality, original full papers on any topic related to bioinformatics and computational biology. Submitted papers must have not been published or are being considered for publication in any journal or conference with formal proceedings.

Accepted papers must be presented at the conference by one of the authors. Accepted papers will be invited to be published in *IEEE/ACM TCCB*, *BMC Bioinformatics*, *BMC Genomics*, *BMC Systems Biology*, *Computational Biology* and *Chemistry* following each journal's publication policy.

Papers are solicited on, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Sequence analysis, especially high-throughput sequencing applications
- Biostatistics
- Genomics, Epigenetics, Metagenomics, Transcriptomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics
- RNA structure and function
- Comparative genomics, Population genetics
- Evolution and phylogeny
- Protein structure analysis
- Systems biology, Synthetic biology, Quantitative biology

Click here to access the conference's submission site.

Canada—The 2015 International Chinese Statistical Association-Canada Chapter Statistics and Data Science Symposium will be held August 4-6 at the University of Calgary. For more information contact Professor Xuewen Lu. More information is available at the symposium website. Online registration is open.

United States—The American Statistical Association, through its This is Statistics public awareness campaign, has prepared a promotional toolkit that organizations and individuals can use to introduce students at the college and high-school levels to careers in statistics.

The toolkit resources can be used at high school or college career days, department open houses, employer information sessions or other events where students gather to learn about fields of study and careers. It consists of the following items:

- **Fact Sheets about careers in statistics.** These one-page and two-page fact sheets feature some of the most important information about careers in statistics. Post the one-page fact sheet on a bulletin board and hand out the two-page fact sheet at events.

- **PowerPoint presentation.** Speakers can deliver this presentation to show how exciting and important the field of statistics is and how it has grown in recent years.
- **Talking Points** for each of the PowerPoint slides. This can be used as an aid in delivering the PowerPoint presentation. The talking points also can be used as a standalone speech if the speaker does not wish or is not able to use a PowerPoint.
- **Video Library of This is Statistics campaign videos.** These also can be streamed on-demand at www.YouTube.com/ThisisStats.

For more information on how to use these materials, you can download the **Promotional Toolkit Guidance** document.

The entire toolkit is available for download from the This is Statistics website. Click here to view the Promotional Toolkit.

The ASA is very excited about its This is Statistics campaign and the progress it is making in building awareness of the growth of and exciting career opportunities in statistics. By adding your voice to the campaign, together we'll carry its messages to more students and build a brighter future for our profession.

Contact the ASA's Jeff Myers (jeffrey@amstat.org) with questions.

Australia—The School of Agricultural, Computational and Environmental Sciences and the Division of Research and Innovation of the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) hosted a workshop titled "Statistical Meta-Analysis with Applications" in collaboration with the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. (SSAI). The event was held June 16-17 at USQ's new Ipswich campus. Professor Bimal Sinha of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the United States and Professor Suhail Doi of the Australian National University, Canberra were the invited presenters.

Workshop participants and presenters gather for a photo.

The workshop organiser, USQ Professor Shahjahan Khan, opened the event with a brief introduction of meta-analysis within the systematic review and evidence-based decisionmaking process and the role of statistical methods in synthesising data from independent studies. He also highlighted applications of meta-analysis in many fields of medicine, agriculture, education and business, and discussed several issues related to methods of allocation of weights under various models in the estimation of the common effect size of meta-analysis.

Professor Sinha started with motivating real-life examples of data leading to the definition of measures of various effect sizes for continuous and binary outcome variables. He covered all commonly used estimators of common effect size and discussed their variance estimators and confidence intervals. He also discussed inference about the common mean of univariate normal distribution, publication bias, vote-counting procedures, and heterogeneity issue along with the random effects (RE) model and meta-regression.

Professor Doi highlighted the main purpose of meta-analysis and focused on problems inherent with conventional statistical meta-analysis, especially the issue of unfair redistribution of more weights to smaller studies under the random effects model. Under the title "Recent advances in the methodology of statistical meta-analysis", he presented the inverse variance heterogeneity (IVhet) estimator as an alternative to the RE model estimator and introduced quality effect (QE) model estimator based on his recent publications. Through extensive simulation examples he demonstrated the advantages and appropriateness of the new estimators.

Twelve participants from government departments, industry and academia from Queensland and other parts of Australia attended the workshop. They were very happy with the presentations and thanked USQ and SSAI for organising the event.

United States—The [59th annual Fall Technical Conference](#) will be held in Houston October 8-9. Its program includes an outstanding group of sessions in design of experiments, reliability, statistical process control, modeling and simulation and an American Statistical Association Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences special session titled "Success and the Statistician." The opening plenary session will be presented by William Q. Meeker.

A series of preconference short courses will be offered October 7. Those are:

- "Data Visualization" by Jim Wisnowski, Adsurgo LLC
- "Definitive Screening Designs: What, Why, and How" by Bradley Jones, SAS Institute, and Christopher Nachtsheim, University of Minnesota
- "Peering into the Future: Introduction to Time Series Methods for Forecasting" by David A. Dickey, North Carolina State University
- "Split-Plot Design and Analysis" by Peter Goos, University of Antwerp and Erasmus University Rotterdam

The early registration period ends September 15; [visit the conference website to register](#). There are options are to register as a customer or to log in with your American Society for Quality login info.

Also, there is a limited block of rooms reserved at the Westin Oaks Hotel at the special conference rate. Be sure to reserve your room as soon as possible to ensure the special discount. Book your hotel room by visiting the hotel website or conference website.

International—The International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) 2016 World Meeting will be held at the Forte Village Resort, Sardinia, Italy, June 13-17, 2016. Short courses will be held June 12, 2016 at the nearby University of Cagliari. See details at the official conference website.

The ISBA 2016 Program Committee invites submissions of proposals for special topic sessions. Each special topic session may typically consist of three talks with a common theme. A discussant may be considered in addition to the talks. Other session formats—for example, round tables, panel sessions and multiple speakers—may be considered but must be properly justified. Each session will be 90 minutes in duration, including questions and organized/floor discussions.

Proposals should be submitted online by August 15 at this link. Please note proposal submission does not require ISBA membership. However, nonmembers must create an account on the ISBA website to submit a proposal.

Session proposers will be required to submit the following information:

- **Meeting:** ISBA 2016
- **Meeting Program Chair:** ISBA 2016 Program Chair
- **Session Type:** Special Topic Session
- **Session Title:** Enter your session name
- **Session Organizer:** Enter your name, email and affiliation.
- **Session Proposal:** The proposal should include an abstract with the description of the session, the list of speakers with their affiliations and contact information, and the tentative titles of the talks. The abstracts of the talks may be included in your proposal but are not required by the August 15 deadline. Please indicate if the proposed session is sponsored by one or more ISBA section and in such case provide a brief statement to that effect at the end of the proposal. The Scientific Committee will confirm the sponsorship from the Program Chairs of the section(s).
- **Session Chair:** Enter session chair name, email and affiliation

Please correctly fill the form with the information outlined above in order to avoid routing the application to the wrong ISBA officers.

All proposals will be reviewed by the ISBA 2016 Program and Scientific Committees. Notification of acceptance of the proposals will be sent by September 15. The abstracts for the talks of the approved

sessions are due November 1 and should be uploaded here. Please direct all inquiries to the Program Council of ISBA or Michele Guindani.

Joint Statistical Meetings—A retuned mentoring program will be unveiled at the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Seattle. JSM 2015 will be held August 8-13 at the Washington Convention & Trade Center.

The JSM Mentoring Program matches experienced statisticians (mentors) with junior statisticians (students, new ASA members and first-time JSM attendees). Please consider serving in this important role. Your participation will entail:

- Sending an email to your assigned mentee about a week before JSM to decide on a time and place to meet during JSM. You might choose to meet at the "mentoring table" during the Opening Mixer on Sunday night.
- Meeting at least once with your mentee at JSM. We hope you will continue your mentoring relationship by meeting with your mentee again by telephone, Google Hangouts or some other means. You and your mentee will determine the frequency of future meetings.

Online mentor sign-up is at www.amstat.org/jsmmentoring.

You will need your JSM conference registration number to submit your mentoring registration information. The JSM mentoring program leadership will pair mentors with mentees in mid-July. Participants should expect to hear from and receive additional materials from the program leadership by July 31.

Thank you for supporting this important initiative. We would also appreciate it if you would share this with your experienced colleagues. Email Eric Vance or Donna LaLonde if you need more information.

United States—To increase visibility of applied statistics and encourage student participation in scientific conferences, the American Statistical Association's Biopharmaceutical Section and the Deming Conference jointly have established the Biopharm-Deming Student Scholar Award. This award will provide travel support for two to three students—currently enrolled in a doctorate degree program in statistics or biostatistics in the United States—to attend the three-day tutorial sessions at the Deming Conference and deliver a poster presentation.

The 2015 Deming Conference will be held December 7-11 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The first three days of the conference are devoted to 12 half-day tutorials while the last two days are devoted to two short courses. Click here for more details about the conference.

Following is a summary of the Biopharm-Deming Student Scholar Award criteria and application process:

Award Eligibility Criteria:

Ph.D. students in a biostatistics or statistics program in the United States

Application Materials:

1. Personal statement (<500 words)
2. Abstract for the potential poster presentation
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. Resume

Timeline:

1. Application deadline: August 31
2. Decision notification: September 15
3. Deming Conference: December 7-11, Atlantic City, New Jersey

How to Apply:

The application form is available on the Deming Conference website. Email the complete application to the chair of the Biopharm-Deming Student Award Committee:

Ivan S.F. Chan, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Late Development Statistics
Merck Research Laboratories

International—The next conference sponsored by the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) will take place in Abu Dhabi in December 2016. Its theme is "The Spirit of Official Statistics: Partnership and Continuous Innovation".

IAOS members are people around the world who are interested in official statistics—both users of those statistics and producers of them. The IAOS, an association of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), sponsors an international conference every other year and organizes invited paper sessions at the ISI's World Statistics Conference on alternate years.

It also publishes a quarterly journal—the *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*—which includes articles, interviews and commentary. Fritz Sheuren, a past president of the American Statistical Association, currently edits the journal. Kirsten West of the U.S. Census Bureau has been selected the next editor-in-chief; she will assume the editorship in early 2016.

In other news, the *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* earlier this month published a special issue focused on Big Data. "The often mentioned characterization of Big Data by three—or more—V's (volume, velocity, variety as well as veracity and value), does not capture the enormous scope of the corresponding data sets and the extensive potentials of making use of these data. A highly relevant aspect is that Big Data are so large and complex that traditional database management tools and data processing applications are not feasible and efficient means," states the issue's opening editorial. You can view this special issue by clicking here.

United States—The Penn State Department of Statistics held the 2015 Rao Prize Conference May 14 to honor three recipients:

- 2015 C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize Recipient Sir David R. Cox, Professor Emeritus of Statistics and Honorary Fellow of Nuffield College at University of Oxford
- 2015 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer Nancy M. Reid, the University Professor of Statistical Sciences at University of Toronto
- 2015 C. G. Khatri Lecturer Vijay V. Raghavan, the Alfred and Helen Lamson Endowed Professor in Computer Science at University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Approximately 100 researchers attended the conference, which consisted of three plenary speakers, four invited speakers and poster presentations by postdoc and graduate students. The plenary speakers were the award honorees—Cox, Reid, and Raghavan. The invited speakers were Professor of Statistics Aurore Delaigle of the University of Melbourne, Professor of Statistics Bing Li of Penn State, Verne M. Willaman Professor of Statistics Runze Li of Penn State, and Senator William McMaster Chair in Econometrics and Professor of Statistics Jeffrey Racine of McMaster University.

The C.R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize was established to honor and recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership in directing statistics research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics. The C. G. Khatri Memorial Lectureship and P. R. Krishnaiah Memorial Lectureship honor the memory of the award's namesakes by inviting outstanding researchers in statistics to deliver lectures at Penn State. More information about the awards and the event is available online.

United States—A new National Science Foundation (NSF) report, titled "The Future of Survey Research: Challenges and Opportunities," examines the future of survey research. It offers recommendations the agency can implement to promote data collection and distribution standardization in its major surveys.

The study's many recommendations also will be helpful to the survey profession by addressing cutting-edge issues in how best to collect, analyze and disseminate survey data and identifying opportunities for future research into practices with which to further enhance survey methods. Read the report.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION: NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from national statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics and other national statistical agencies:

The Philippines—The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) together with the Negros Oriental Provincial Census Coordinating Board (PCCB) is appealing to the public for its full participation in this year's population census when the survey kicks off August 1.

PSA statistician Felida Generoso says the census aims to make an inventory of the present population of Negros Oriental province, which previously rose from 1,286,700 residents in 2000 to 1,130,100 people in 2010. This translates to an average annual population growth rate of 1.31 percent.

This mid-decade census will provide various government leaders, policy and decision makers and planners accurate population data that will serve as a basis of evaluation for funding development plans, policies and programs in all barangays in the country.

Enumerators will gather the data through house-to-house visits and personal interviews of household heads or any responsible member of the household. Generoso also called for all households with dogs to secure or leash them so they will not pose a risk to the interviewers.

The census officer assured the public that any information gathered during the enumeration is held strictly confidential as guaranteed under national law. Generoso added the same law proscribes penalties for any person who unreasonably refuses to provide answers to the census questionnaire or to anybody who knowingly gives false or wrong information.

She said one additional item that was not included in previous censuses but will be in this one is the registration of deaths. Enumerators will be collecting names of household members who died within the past two years as well as the individual's gender, age at death, and whether the death was registered with local authorities.

The last census determined Dumaguete City—the provincial capital—had the biggest population, comprising 9.4 percent of the province's total population. In the entire province, the median age of the population was 23.23 years, meaning half the population was younger than 23 years. Males outnumbered females in the age groups zero to 64 years. On the other hand, there were more females than males in the older age groups (65 years and over).

JOIN THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

If your organization or an organization you know of isn't yet participating in The World of Statistics, encourage them to join today. Joining is easy; just ask a representative of the group to go to www.worldofstatistics.org and click on the "Join" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official participating organization in The World of Statistics. Participation is valuable and is absolutely free!

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER & FACEBOOK

Get the latest news and updates about The World of Statistics by following us on Twitter at @astatworld. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about The World of Statistics, be sure to use the hashtag "#TWOS". You also can follow developments in The World of Statistics on our Facebook page. Become our friend today!

GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD OF STATISTICS AVAILABLE

Click here to access the "Guide to Contributing to The World of Statistics and Downloading Logos and Other Resources."