



WNAR

The Western North American  
Region of The International Biometric Society

# Newsletter

November 2020 | Issue 4

## Elected Officers:

For a full list of appointments and representatives see the [website](#).

**President:** Ying Lu, Stanford University, [ylul@stanford.edu](mailto:ylul@stanford.edu)

**Secretary/Correspondent:** Megan Othus, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Treasurer:** Brandie Wagner, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**Program Coordinator:** Dongseok Choi, Oregon Health & Science University

**President Elect:** Laura Cowen, University of Victoria

**Past President:** Katerina Kechris, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

## In This Issue

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- WNAR Webinar Series – Forecasting climate impacts – Dr. James Thorson (NOAA)
- WNAR Student Paper Award Winners
- *Renew your membership for 2021! Automatic renewal option now available.*

Past newsletters can be found at the WNAR website: <http://www.wnar.org/Newsletters>

## Message from 2020 WNAR President, Ying Lu, Ph.D.



As the year 2020 approaches to its end, I want to thank WNAR members for your dedicated support during this unprecedented and challenging year. Together, we have made progress in member engagement, diversity, equity and inclusion, and communications. We will continue to look for ways to improve the value of WNAR membership. I hope that you will renew your 2021 membership early, and more importantly, to reach out to your colleagues, friends, and students encouraging them to join us. WNAR is operated by volunteers, and we are looking for candidates to serve as 2021 officers. You can self-nominate or nominate your colleagues for these positions (see WNAR Election Section below).

On Dec. 4, 2020, WNAR will have its first online annual business meeting. An annual business meeting is required by our by-laws. It usually occurs during our annual conference; however, because of the cancellation of this year's annual conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will meet virtually. We will discuss and vote on many important topics, including a revision of our by-laws. I hope the final meeting agenda will also incorporate member suggested topics. If you would like to add topics beyond those listed below, please e-mail them to [wnar@wnar.org](mailto:wnar@wnar.org) before November 27, 2020.

## WNAR Annual Business Meeting, Dec 4, Open to all members

The annual in-person business meeting will be virtual this year, everyone is welcome to join! *December 4, 11:00am – 12:00pm PST*. Topics will include:

- Discussion of proposed by-law changes and vote on changes
- WNAR update from the President
- Ad hoc committee reports (member engagement, industry liaison, WNAR awards)
- 2021 annual meeting information
- Nominations for election

Please register to attend at <http://www.wnar.org/event-4044039>

## Early Investigator Mentoring Session, Dec 4

For recent graduates, we will be hosting a virtual early investigator mentoring session. *December 4, 12:00pm – 1:00pm PST*. The session will be moderated by senior WNAR members to discuss professional development and topics such as:

- Promotion in Academia, Industry, and Government
- Work-Life balance
- Networking
- Value of professional societies in career development

We welcome all professionals who have completed their graduate degree (MSc, MD, PhD or equivalent graduate degrees) in the last three years, and who are no longer students and working part/full time (e.g., not MSc students continuing for PhD studies). We hope you can join us! Please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wnar-early-investigator-mentoring-session-tickets-127041032147>

## WNAR Webinar, Nov 20, Dr. James Thorson, NOAA

Please join us for the next WNAR webinar presented by our distinguished colleague Dr. Thorson of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries).

**“Forecasting nonlocal climate impacts for mobile species using multivariate spatio-temporal extensions to empirical orthogonal function analysis”**

*Friday, November 20, 2020, 12:00pm – 1:00pm PST,*

For abstract and details, please see <http://www.wnar.org/webinar>

Please register for this free event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wnar-webinar-forecasting-climate-impacts-tickets-125183835221>

## Tweet at WNAR!

WNAR is keeping up with the times by tweeting on our new social media account @WNAR\_ibs and a Facebook account. Check out our updates and other exciting news. How do you interact with us?

- For WNAR related twitter posts, please include the hashtag #WNAR or tag @WNAR\_ibs and visit [https://twitter.com/wnar\\_ibs](https://twitter.com/wnar_ibs)
- Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WNAR-of-IBS-107449280965553/>
- Send events that are relevant to our members and we will tweet them or include them in our newsletters.

**Renew your membership if you haven't already! Memberships will expire January 1, 2021.**

**Please encourage others to join WNAR.** To renew or update your membership, log in to your profile at <http://wnar.org/Sys/Profile>



**Have updates or news?** *We will be sending this newsletter quarterly with news and updates about the society. If you have updates you would like to submit for consideration to be included in future newsletters or on the WNAR twitter account, please email [wnar.social@gmail.com](mailto:wnar.social@gmail.com)*

## WNAR Elections

WNAR is soliciting nominations for President Elect, Secretary, Program Coordinator, and Representative-at-Large. You may self-nominate or nominate your colleagues by emailing [wnar@wnar.org](mailto:wnar@wnar.org) or during the Annual Business Meeting (see page 1, December 4). Stay tuned for ballots by email to vote for these positions in December.

## Updates to By-laws

This year, WNAR solicited feedback from WNAR members on updates to the WNAR by-laws. Planned changes include the addition of secretary-elect and treasurer-elect positions to ease transitions for newly elected officials, updates to term limits, processes for the creation of ad-hoc committees, and new appointed positions. Thanks to everyone who provided edits and feedback. The new version of the by-laws will be emailed to WNAR members for comments in the coming weeks, and the vote to approve the changes will be conducted at the Annual Business Meeting (see page 1, December 4).

## WNAR Regional Advisory Committee

The WNAR Regional Advisory Committee met on June 16, 2020. Members reviewed the report from the executive committee, reaffirmed WNAR's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and recommended future directions and activities.

## ASA/JSM Involvement

WNAR continued to provide financial support for the 2020 NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers at JSM. WNAR supported the Committee of Presidents of Statistics Societies (COPSS) vote to change the name of the Fisher Lectureship to the COPSS 2020 Distinguished Achievement Award and Lectureship. WNAR will continue to engage in COPSS equity, diversity and inclusion discussions and efforts.

## 2021 WNAR/IMS Conference

The 2021 WNAR/IMS Conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, during June 13-16, 2021. Jiaqi Huang (Alaska Dept of Fish & Games) is the Local Organizer, Yingqi Zhao (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center) is the Program Chair and Laura Saba (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus) is the Student Competition Chair. Because of the postponement of the 2020 annual conference, the approved invited sessions from 2020 will be prioritized for the coming year. We will also expand the program to include newly proposed sessions.

The WNAR 2022 annual meeting is scheduled for June 22 at UC Davis, CA.

## Webinars - WNAR Member Engagement Committee

In Nov. 2019, the WNAR Executive Committee commissioned an ad hoc Member Engagement Committee to help engage members throughout the year. A major initiative of this committee has been to organize a webinar series open to all members and the general public. Visit [www.wnar.org/webinar](http://www.wnar.org/webinar) to see **past materials from the highly successful webinars:**

- March 5, 2020 by Professor Brad Efron, Stanford University on prediction algorithms
- May 14, 2020 by Professor Xihong Lin, Harvard University (initiated by WNAR and jointly hosted by COPSS and NISS) on COVID-19 topics
- July 31, 2020 by Professors Trefor Bazett (U Victoria), Xiao-Li Meng (Harvard) and Kristin Lynn Sainani (Stanford) on online teaching
- October 8, 2020 by Daniel Fink from Cornell Lab of Ornithology on climate change and community ecology

The Member Engagement Committee is working on future webinars and announcements will be made through the WNAR member email list and social media channels including twitter @wnar\_ibs. You are welcome to reach out to the Membership Engagement Committee at [wnarmemberengage@gmail.com](mailto:wnarmemberengage@gmail.com) for **potential topics of the webinar series or suggestions of activities.**

## WNAR 2020 Student Paper Award Winners

WNAR 2020 was unfortunately canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Student Paper Competition lived on! Congratulations to all of our student participants for their strong papers and virtual presentations. A total of 6 sessions of 24 student papers were presented virtually through Zoom on June 15, 2020. Three students won awards and received \$500 each:

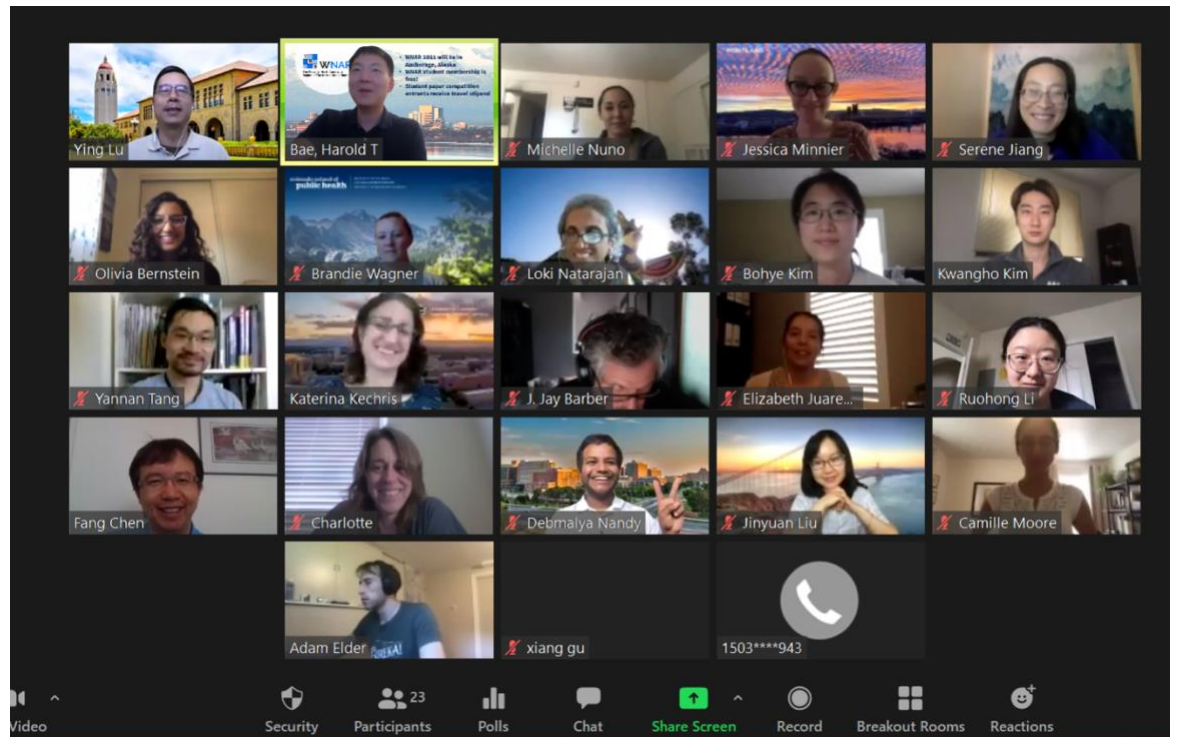
The two winners in the written category were:

- Lingling Jian, University of California, San Diego (“Regression Models for Within-Subject Responses with Between-Subject Explanatory Variables: Applications to Microbiome Data”)
- Kwangho Kim, Carnegie Mellon University (“Causal Clustering”).

The winner in the oral category was:

- Jingyuan Liu, University of California, San Diego (“Assessing Reproducibility of Selected Features with Big Data”).

A virtual award ceremony was held to announce the winners and celebrate all of our students. A screenshot of participants is shown below:



We give special thanks to the Chair of the student paper competition, Harold Bae (Oregon State University) and to all judges: Jay Barber (Northern Arizona University), Fang Chen (SAS), Charlotte Gard (New Mexico State University), Tusharkanti Ghosh (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus), Jessica Minnier (Oregon Health & Sciences University), Camille Moore (National Jewish Hospital), Debmalya Nandy (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus), and Laura Saba (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus). Thank you also to the volunteers who moderated and chaired the 6 virtual sessions! Please encourage your students to submit to the 2021 competition.



***Have announcements or opportunities?*** *If you have internships or positions you would like to submit for consideration to be included in future newsletters or on the WNAR twitter account, please email [wnar.social@gmail.com](mailto:wnar.social@gmail.com)*

## Outstanding Contribution to the Development of the IBS Award

We would like to congratulate Professor Tomi Mori, President of WNAR in 2018, who has received the prestigious Award for Outstanding Development of the IBS. Professor Mori is the Chair and Member of the Department of Biostatistics at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Prior to January 2020, she was the Walter & Clara Brownfield Professor of Cancer Biostatistics at Oregon Health & Science University and Portland State University School of Public Health.



She has been a member of IBS since 1998 and has a long record of leadership in WNAR and IBS, including serving as WNAR President-Elect, President, and Past-President between 2017-2019.

Among her many accomplishments, she has forged ongoing relationships between WNAR and the IBS Japanese and Argentinian Regions, and with the Korean International Statistical Society. Due to her role as the ASA representative to the AAAS Medical Science Section she was a liaison between WNAR and AAAS and was instrumental in helping WNAR become a founding member of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM. She has made many contributions to making meetings more accessible and promoting participation in IBS.

Congratulations to Professor Mori!

## Visit WNAR on Facebook

The WNAR of IBS Facebook page is now live. Visit this link to join and stay updated on news and events, and to interact with fellow members: <https://www.facebook.com/WNAR-of-IBS-107449280965553/>

## **Renew your WNAR membership!**

***Renew your membership if you haven't already! Memberships will expire January 1, 2021.***

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### ***New this year – Automatic Renewals***

If you prefer to have your regular or senior retired membership *renew automatically every year*, we have set-up a new membership level. To enroll, change your membership level once you login to renew your membership, and your credit card will be charged every year in early December. You can switch back to manual renewal at any time by changing your membership level.