



WNAR

The Western North American
Region of The International Biometric Society

Newsletter

November 2019

| Issue 1

Elected Officers:

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

President: Katerina Kechris,
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical
Campus

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

Treasurer: Mary Redman, Fred
Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Treasurer-elect: Brandie Wagner,
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical
Campus

Program Coordinator: Dongseok Choi,
Oregon Health & Science University

President Elect: Ying Lu, Stanford
University

Past President: Tomi Mori, Oregon
Health & Science University

Message from 2019 WNAR President, Katerina Kechris, Ph.D.



As President of WNAR, I am excited to announce our inaugural quarterly newsletter for WNAR of IBS! Here you will find the latest news and updates from our society. The newsletter is part of an overall effort to increase member engagement. If you have any news to share or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact our Communications Officer Jessica Minnier (minnier@ohsu.edu). We are also soliciting nominations for the WNAR 2021 President and two Representatives-at-Large. If you or someone else is interested in being nominated, please let me know by November 15.

Kind regards, Katerina Kechris, WNAR 2019 President,
Katerina.kechris@cuanschutz.edu

Communications Officer Appointed

This new position was created in June 2019 and is focused on communication, website content, and social media for the region. This position will be appointed by the Executive Board for a three-year term. The first officer is Jessica Minnier, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Oregon Health & Science University. She is managing a brand-new twitter account @WNAR_ibs and writing this very newsletter. The WNAR Communications Officer will also act as the IBS Regional Social Media Liaison and will assist IBS in developing and maintaining a vibrant and effective social media presence.

Tweet at WNAR!

WNAR is keeping up with the times by tweeting on our new social media account @WNAR_ibs. Check out our updates from the June 2019 meeting 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
- Send events that are relevant to our members and we will tweet them or include them in our newsletters.

New Initiatives

- **Addressing Sexual Harassment:** WNAR partnered with ENAR to become one of the inaugural members of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM. This year we included a Code of Conduct as part of the registration for our annual meeting. See this link for more: <http://educationcounsel.com/societiesconsortium/>
- **WNAR Member Engagement Committee:** A new ad hoc committee to help engage members throughout the year. See page 4 for more details.
- **WNAR Industry Liaison Committee:** A new ad hoc committee for strategies to engage statisticians in biopharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. More details in the next issue.
- **Future plans:** We are developing plans to provide webinars throughout the year, and to increase membership and sponsorship from industry partners. Please send us your ideas!

In This Issue

- Communications Officer appointed
- [Tweet at WNAR!](#)
[@WNAR_ibs](#)
- 2019 WNAR/IMS Conference was a success
- Four Student Paper and Oral Presentation Award Winners
- New Initiatives
- **2020 WNAR/IMS in Alaska June 14-17**
- Email
wnar.social@gmail.com with newsletter ideas.
- *Renew your membership!*

Membership update

We have 242 members, after gaining 56 new members in 2019 (30% increase!). Canada represents 8% of the total membership, while students represent 33%.

2019 JSM

WNAR supported 6 invited sessions and 1 topic contributed session at JSM in Denver, CO this year.

2020 WNAR/IMS Conference

Keep June 14-17 open for the 2020 WNAR/IMS conference to be held in Anchorage, Alaska! It is sure to be a beautiful location. We hope to promote more sessions in environmental and ecological statistics, so keep in mind possible invited session speakers in these areas.

Renew your membership! Memberships expire January 1.

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.

2019/WNAR IMS Conference

We had a highly successful annual WNAR/IMS conference in Portland, Oregon, hosted by the Oregon Health & Sciences University, from June 23-26. We had approximately 280 attendees.



Thanks to Byung Park (Local Organizer), Tomi Mori (Past President,) and Meike Niederhausen (Program Chair) of OHSU for organizing!

Highlights include:

- **Three short courses**
 - “Teaching Statistics and Data Science with R/RStudio” by Nicholas Horton (Amherst College) and Kelly McConville (Reed College),
 - “Mediation Analysis and Software with Applications to Explore Health Disparities” by Qingzhao Yu and Bin Li (Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center),
 - “A Gradual introduction to Shiny” by Ted Laderas and Jessica Minnier (Oregon Health & Science University).
- Professor Bin Yu (Department of Statistics, University of California Berkeley) gave the **Presidential Invited Address** “Three Principles of Data Science: Predictability, Computability, and Stability.”
- In addition to our yearly partnership with IMS, this year **we also partnered with the Japanese Region (JR) of IBS** to promote international collaborations. There were 29 invited sessions (24 WNAR, 3 IMS, 2 JR), two invited panels, eight student paper sessions, and five contributed sessions. We also had 20 posters during our Poster Session.

Student Paper Competition: A record breaking 38 students participated in the student paper competition at the 2019 WNAR/IMS conference. *Students shown below with the award committee members:*



We had four student award winners:

Best Paper:

- Tiffany Tang, University of California Berkeley (“Integrated Principal Components Analysis”).

Best Oral Presentations:

- Natalie Gasca, University of Washington (“Using Dimension-reduction Methods to Identify Interpretable Diet Patterns Related to Body Mass Index (BMI) in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)”)
- Evan Rosenman, Stanford University (“Propensity Score Methods for Merging Observational and Experimental Datasets”)
- Justin Williams, University of California, Los Angeles (“Maximum Likelihood Estimation of a Truncated Normal Distribution with Censored Data”).



Congratulations to our student winners! Tiffany Tang, Natalie Gasca, Evan Roseman, and Justin Williams (not shown), with Katerina Kechris (WNAR President), Jessica Minnier (Student Paper Competition Chair), and Mary Redman (WNAR Treasurer)



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.

Save the Date: June 14-17, 2020 WNAR/IMS in Anchorage, Alaska

New! WNAR Member Engagement Committee

The WNAR Executive Committee commissions an ad hoc Membership Engagement Committee to help engage members throughout the year. The Membership Engagement Committee is tasked to: (i) establish a webinar series; (ii) provide a report with suggestions for additional activities to foster member engagement; (iii) work with the Communications Officer to provide content for newsletters that foster member engagement.

The current Membership Engagement Committee consists of four members:

- Jessica Li: Associate Professor, Department of Statistics (primary), Department of Human Genetics and Department of Biomathematics (secondary), University of California, Los Angeles
- Jie Peng (Committee Chair): Professor, Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis
- John Rice: Research Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics and Informatics, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- Pratyaydipta Rudra: Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Oklahoma State University

You are welcome to reach out to the Membership Engagement Committee at wnarmemberengage@gmail.com for **potential topics of the webinar series or suggestions of activities**.

Student Internship Opportunities:

SAS Institute Inc.

Cary, North Carolina

Positions: Multiple

Type of Student: PhD or Masters students

Deadline: Starting now on a rolling basis (before January 31, 2020)

There are multiple summer intern positions in different areas, such as Statistics, Econometrics, Machine Learning, Operations Research and so on.

As an intern in the statistics area, you will contribute to research, numerical validation and testing, and documentation. The program provides an excellent opportunity to explore software development as a career choice.

Eligible candidates must have demonstrated experience in statistical computing beyond the routine classroom use of statistical packages. We are particularly interested in candidates with research experience in computational aspects of one of the following areas:

- Bayesian modeling
- Causal inference methods
- Complex survey methods
- Joint modeling
- Latent variable models
- Missing data methods
- Nonlinear mixed models
- Sparse methods for high-dimensional modeling
- Structural equations modeling
- Survival analysis

[Information and application details](#)

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