



WNAR

The Western North American  
Region of The International Biometric Society

# Newsletter

May 2020 | Issue 3

## 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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- 2020 WNAR/IMS Conference canceled, 2021 conference to be held in Alaska
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- Email [wnar.social@gmail.com](mailto:wnar.social@gmail.com) with newsletter ideas.
- *Renew your membership!*

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

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



This letter comes at a difficult time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that you, your family and friends are safe and healthy. We understand the pandemic has not only had an effect on population health globally and nationally, it has also changed our day-to-day way of work and life. As a part of your professional community, WNAR wants to unite our members to address these difficulties together. While both IBC and WNAR have cancelled annual meetings this year, WNAR will maintain our commitment to the student paper competition and WNAR webinars. The WNAR Executive Committee is working on the 2021 annual conference, and some long-term priorities, including an amendment of the By-laws and several initiatives detailed in this letter. The WNAR Regional Advisory Board (RAB) will meet in June to advise the Executive Committee on short and long term priorities. We encourage you to voice your concerns and ideas about what WNAR can do for our members. Please share your ideas on WNAR's twitter's account, Facebook discussion page, or by email to [wnar@wnar.org](mailto:wnar@wnar.org).

## WNAR/COPSS/NISS Webinar, May 14, Prof. Xihong Lin

It is our great pleasure to announce the second WNAR webinar, jointly sponsored by COPSS and NISS. It will be a discussion of a timely topic by our distinguished colleague Professor Xihong Lin, of the Departments of Biostatistics and Statistics at Harvard University. Dr. Lin has been in the forefront of COVID-19 research and will provide several take home messages and discuss priorities related to this pandemic:

### “Learning from COVID-19 Data in Wuhan, USA and Europe on Intervention Strategies”

Thursday, March 14, 2020, 9:00am – 10:30am PDT,

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

Registration is required:

[https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rEn8fBwRRGO83JbHW1j\\_Ng](https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rEn8fBwRRGO83JbHW1j_Ng)

Zoom Dial-In information and webinar link will be upon registration. This is a free event.

## WNAR/IMS/KISS/JR 2020 Canceled Due to COVID

The WNAR leadership came to the difficult decision to cancel this year's annual meeting due to uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, the annual Student Paper Award competition has not been canceled (see below) and we welcome everyone to join in celebrating our student members and their accomplishments. Stay tuned for details on the WNAR 2021 meeting which will now be held in Anchorage, Alaska in mid-June 2021. Accepted invited session proposals from 2020 will be invited to participate in the 2021 conference program. We look forward to seeing everyone in Anchorage next year! See more details on the website: <http://wnar.org/WNAR2020>

## WNAR Student Paper Awards: Online Presentations June 15

The spirit of WNAR 2020 is continuing in the form of the annual Student Oral and Written Paper Awards! The competition is proceeding as usual with the exception that **presentations will be virtual on June 15, 2020**. We welcome everyone to watch the presentations and learn about the hard work of our next generation. Presentation information and links will be emailed soon. Thank you to the WNAR Student Paper Committee Chair, Dr. Harold Bae from Oregon State University, and the additional members of the committee who will judge the awards. Over 30 students have submitted abstracts and will be submitting their completed papers this month. Winners will be announced to the WNAR community shortly after the virtual presentations.

## 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 expired 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](mailto:wnar.social@gmail.com)

## Updates from WNAR Initiative, Addressing Sexual Harassment

- WNAR partnered with ENAR to become one of the inaugural members of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM. As of January 2020, the Consortium is made up of 123 member societies making a statement about the commitment of STEMM fields to effect change. As part of this Consortium, WNAR has access to standard policies, experts and practical implementation tools to establish expectations for the professional and ethical conduct of all participants at our meetings and events. We now include a Code of Conduct as part of the registration for our annual meeting. See this link for more: <http://educationcounsel.com/societiesconsortium/>
- The Consortium has been busy the first quarter of 2020 drafting and revising resources for its members. Resources include:
  - Ethics/Conduct- Harassment Policy Guide
  - Investigation, Resolution and Consequences Policy Guide
  - Meetings Policy Guide
  - Honors and Awards Policy

These policies provide valuable content that WNAR can adapt and refine for our needs. If you are interested in being involved in these discussions, we are especially looking for insight from students, please contact us.
- The Leadership Council hosted a Members' Hot Topics Web Discussion in February in which Societies shared policy development, implementation strategies as well as challenges and solutions. The next web discussion is planned for May.

## Additional New WNAR Initiatives

- **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. The first task of the Member Engagement Committee is to establish a WNAR webinar series. The inaugural webinar took place on March 6, 2020 where Prof. Brad Efron from Stanford University gave a lecture on "PREDICTION, ESTIMATION, AND ATTRIBUTION" via zoom. The inaugural webinar was well received with over 200 attendees. A dedicated web page [www.wnar.org/webinar](http://www.wnar.org/webinar) was created to host webinar materials. The inaugural webinar video has been viewed over 150 times within one week of its release on YouTube. The Member Engagement Committee is working on future webinars and announcements will be made through WNAR member email list and social media channels including twitter @wnar\_ibs. See [November's newsletter](#) for details and member list. 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.**
- **Industry Liaison Committee:** The WNAR Executive Committee commissions an ad hoc Industry Liaison Committee to engage statisticians in biopharmaceutical, life sciences, ecological, environmental, and biotechnology industry. The Industry Liaison Committee is tasked to: (i) create a contact list of members from industry; (ii) provide research topics and facilitate job opportunities for students; (iii) increase collaboration between academia, industry and regulatory authorities; and (iv) deliver a report with strategies for additional activities to foster industry engagement. See [February's newsletter](#) for details and member list.

**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)

## **Congratulations to the 2020 ASA Fellows**

We'd like to honor our WNAR members who were recently named Fellows of the American Statistical Association for their professional contributions, leadership, and commitment to the field of statistical science. What an honor, and congratulations!

- Jennifer Clark Nelson - Kaiser Permanente Health Research Institute
- Fang Chen - SAS Institute, Inc

## **2020 NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers at JSM**

WNAR has the opportunity to designate two members to attend the NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers within 6 years of their PhD. The workshop will proceed virtually on August 2&4, 2020. Applicants submitting your pre-registration information should select WNAR as one of the organizations. Deadline for the Writing Workshop application submission is June 1, with notification of acceptances on a rolling basis no later than June 20. We encourage members who are interested in this opportunity to send their application as early as possible to secure WNAR slots. See the workshop website for details and registration form:

<https://www.niss.org/events/2020-niss-writing-workshop-junior-researchers-jsm>

## **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/>

## **New ASA Sponsored Podcast “Pod of Asclepius”**

The American Statistical Association is sponsoring a new podcast on data science and engineering in healthcare technology called “Pod of Asclepius.” Learn about new episodes by following the twitter account @PAsclepius or visiting the website

<https://podofasclepius.podbean.com/>