WSS NEWS

A Commemorative in Honor of Joe Waksberg

On Monday, June 26, at 3:30 pm, WSS and Westat will sponsor a commemorative on the life of Joseph Waksberg, who died in January. The event will be held at the Keck Center of the National Academies, 500-Fifth Street, N.W., Room 100, Washington, DC (close to Judiciary Square Metro Station). A reception will follow. The program will be announced in the June Newsletter. All are invited.

2006 Annual Dinner

The WSS Annual Dinner will be held Thursday, June 22, at Maggiano's in Washington, DC. Further details appear later in this issue. Vance Berger of the National Cancer Institute and winner of the Gertrude M. Cox Statistics Award, will be our guest speaker.

As always, this event provides a great opportunity to spend time with friends and make new acquaintances. We look forward to seeing you there!

WSS and Other Seminars		
(All events are open to any interested persons)		
May		
3	Wed.	**Exploiting Sparsity and Within-array Replications in Analysis of Microarray Data**
4	Thurs.	**Self-employment and Entrepreneurship: Reconciling Household and Administrative Measures**
9	Tues.	**Herriot Award** **Encouraging Innovation in Government Statistical Agencies: Roger Herriot's Legacy**
16	Tues.	**A Multiscale Method for Disease Mapping in Spatial Epidemiology**
June		
1	Thurs.	**Estimating Drug Use Prevalence Using Latent Class Models with Item Count Response as One of the Indicators**
7	Wed.	**Independence**
20	Tues.	**An Update on the NIST Statistical Reference Datasets for MCMC: Ranking the Sources of Numerical Error in MCMC Computations**

Also available on the Web at the following URL: http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss

Announcements

2006 Science Fair Winners

WSS presented awards to 48 Washington area students at five regional science fairs this spring, in the District of Columbia, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Northern Virginia, and Prince George's County. Since 1986, WSS has been recognizing students whose science fair projects demonstrate excellence in the application of statistical methods. Since 1996, The Gallup Organization has made an annual donation of $1000 for prizes. This year, a total of $600 was divided among 5 first place winners (prizes ranged between $75 and $150) and the balance used to purchase ASA school memberships for the winners' schools. There were 9 second place winners and each received a copy of Statistics: A Guide to the Unknown, Fourth Edition, by Peck, et al. Every first and second place winner also receives a one-year subscription to STATS magazine. Another 34 students received certificates of honorable mention. The judging was coordinated by Bob Clickner. Sincere thanks to all 23 WSS members who served as judges. They are: Lee Abramson, Dwight Brock*, Gene Burns, Jo Amato Burns, Bill Cleveland*, Bob Clickner*, Michael Cohen*, Mike Fay, Ghanshyam Gupta, Gene Heyman, Don Jang, Jessica Kim, Jurate Landwehr, Ruey-Ping Lu, Michael Messner, Mark Otto, Arnold Reznek, John Rogers, Wendy Rotz, Stuart Scott, Mike Stoto, Glenn White* and Lorie Wijntjes. (* Chief Judge).

Education Announcements JPSM / One-week courses at the University of Maryland's campus in College Park, Maryland

This summer, in conjunction with the University of Michigan's Summer Institute, JPSM is happy to offer the following one-week courses at the University of Maryland's campus in College Park, Maryland. If you are interested in receiving registration materials, please email JPSM at jpsm@survey.umd.edu. These courses are different from the two-day short courses - there is a slightly more involved application process. All forms and instructions will be mailed to you upon request. Cost of the courses is $597 for Maryland residents or federal employees and $812 for out of state, non-federal students. All courses can carry 1 credit of graduate level credit. The title and dates of the courses are"Introduction to Questionnaire Design" (6/ 26 - 6/30)," Introduction to Survey Quality" (6/12 - 6/16), "Introduction to Survey Sampling" (6/19-6/23), "Psychology of Survey Response" (6/19 - 6/23), "Introduction to Survey Nonresponse" (6/5 - 6/9), and "Surveys Across Countries and Populations" (7/17 - 7/28)

SIGSTAT Topics for May 2006

May 17, 2006: Univariate Detrending Using SAS: Some Examples and Applications (http://www.sas.com)

Detrending or filtering is an important tool for the macroeconomist studying business cycle fluctuations. Business cycles can be thought of as deviations of output from its trend. As such, detrending or filtering allows us to focus on the 'cyclical' properties of output. Four methods of detrending using SAS will presented: Beveridge-Nelson decomposition, Hodrick-Prescott filter, Baxter-King filter, and Unobserved Components. Two applications of univariate detrending are also presented. The first is to use SAS to generate 'stylized facts' of the business cycle and the second is to examine the consequences of detrending on the effects of monetary policy on output. Ban Cheah, Westat, will be the speaker.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG**, the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from **12:00 to 1:00** (**note new time**). Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, **http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/**.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the June issue of the WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than May 2, 2006. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

Title: **Exploiting Sparsity and Within-array Replications in Analysis of Microarray Data**

Speaker: Professor Jianqing Fan
           Department of Operation Research and Financial Engineering
           Princeton University

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 3, 2006 / 11:00 a.m. -12:00 noon

Location: Lectures are held at NIH's Executive Plaza complex (Executive Plaza North, Conference Room G), 6130 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland. Pay parking is available.

Abstract: Normalization of microarray data is essential for coping with experimental variations and revealing meaningful biological results. We have developed a normalization procedure based on Semi-Linear In-slide Model (SLIM), which adjusts objectively experimental variations and are applicable to both cDNA microarrays and Affymetrix oligonucleotide arrays. We then present methods for validating the effectiveness of different methods of normalization, using within-array replications. We exploit the sparsity in differently expressed genes for normalization and analysis of gene expressions. The significant analysis of gene expressions is based on a variation t-statistic. The P-values are estimated based on a sieved permutation, which explores the sparsity of differently expressed genes. The use of the newly developed techniques is illustrated in a comparison of the expression profiles of neuroblastoma cells that were suppressed by a growth factor, macrophage migration inhibitory factor.

Program Announcement

Title: **Self-employment and Entrepreneurship: Reconciling Household and Administrative Measures**

Speakers: Melissa Bjelland, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Cornell University and LEHD (Bureau of the Census)
John Haltiwanger, University of Maryland, NBER and LEHD
Kristin Sandusky, LEHD
James Spletzer, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Discussant: Katharine Abraham, University of Maryland and NBER

Chair: Linda Atkinson, Economic Research Service, USDA

Date/time: Thursday, May 4, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 8. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Economics Section

Abstract: Have changes in the economy blurred the boundaries of the population of self-employed, a large and historically difficult segment of the workforce to quantify? To date, household-based surveys such as the Current Population Survey (CPS) have provided the leading sources of information on the self-employed, a substantial group accounting for about 11% of the workforce that operate over 16 million businesses. Yet it is unknown how well respondent reports of self-employment align with information from administrative sources and how disagreements may have changed over time. The increase in outsourcing and hobby businesses has made the standard survey question, "Are you self-employed?" less straightforward to answer. In this paper, we use micro data from the 1995-2001 Annual Social and Economic (March) Supplements of the CPS linked with administrative (tax-based) data from the Social Security Administration's Detailed Earnings Records (DER) and the Census Bureau's Business Register (containing both employer and non-employer businesses). While levels of entrepreneurship are fairly similar in the CPS, DER and Business Register, our initial findings suggest that the datasets do not consistently agree on which workers are self-employed. We find striking levels of misclassification; for example, less than half of the workers who are self-employed in the survey data are also self-employed in the administrative data. To better understand this disparity and to help identify respondent types likely to provide misleading or incorrect information, we characterize these differences over time by worker and job traits that include age, education, and industry. Lastly, we examine possible connections between this mismatch and gaps between household and business-based measures of employment and earnings at various stages of the business cycle.

Program Announcement

Title: **Encouraging Innovation in Government Statistical Agencies: Roger Herriot's Legacy**

Speaker: Robert E. Fay, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Lawrence H. Cox, National Center for Health Statistics

Date/time: Tuesday, May 9, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Roger Herriot Award Committee

Abstract: When he died unexpectedly in 1994, Roger Herriot left behind numerous colleagues in the Federal statistical community who knew both him and his work closely. At that time, it was self-evident that Roger had been a remarkable innovator.

In a 1995 paper, William Butz fondly recollected many of Roger's personal characteristics possibly contributing to his creativity. I wish to revisit Roger's creativity and to reflect on possible lessons for the statistical system. Although creativity is not yet thoroughly understood, findings from cognitive psychology and related disciplines suggest ways in which many of Roger's attributes served him well. At the same time, he benefited from the institutional environments in which he worked. I will argue that the future of innovation in government statistical agencies may in part depend on preserving niches where people like Roger can be both creative and influential.

Program Announcement

Title: **A Multiscale Method for Disease Mapping in Spatial Epidemiology**

Chair: Linda Williams Pickle, National Cancer Institute, NIH

Speaker: Mary M. Louie, National Center for Health Statistics

Discussant: Myron J. Katzoff, National Center for Health Statistics

Date:/Time: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in G440. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract: The effects of spatial scale in disease mapping are well-recognized, in that the information conveyed by such maps varies with scale. Here we provide an inferential framework, in the context of tract count data, for describing the distribution of relative risk simultaneously across a hierarchy of multiple scales. In particular, we offer a multiscale extension of the canonical standardized mortality ratio (SMR), consisting of Bayesian posterior-based strategies for both estimation and characterization of uncertainty. As a result, a hierarchy of informative disease and confidence maps can be produced, without the need to first try to identify a single appropriate scale of analysis. We explore the behavior of the proposed methodology in a small simulation study, and we illustrate its usage through an application to data on gastric cancer in Tuscany. By way of comparison, we also present results from a hierarchical Bayesian model. Throughout, we discuss broader issues associated with the task of disease mapping such as over-dispersion and estimating relative risks for small areas.

Program Announcement

Title:	**Estimating Drug Use Prevalence Using Latent Class Models with Item Count Response as One of the Indicators**
Chair:	John Bushery, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Speaker:	Paul Biemer, RTI International WebPage: http://www.rti.org/experts.cfm?objectid=6E703887-343D-4D32-8DDA0F933AA1A886
Discussant:	Douglas Wright, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Date/Time:	Thursday, June 1, 2006 / 12:30 - 2 p.m.
Location:	Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in G440. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
Sponsor	Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract: The item count (IC) method for estimating the prevalence of sensitive behaviors was applied to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) to estimate the prevalence of past year cocaine use. Despite considerable effort and research to refine and adapt the IC method to this survey, the method failed to produce estimates that were any larger than the estimates based on self-reports. Further analysis indicated the problem to be measurement error in the IC responses. To address the problem, a new model-based estimator was proposed to correct the IC estimates for measurement error and produce less biased prevalence estimates. The model combines the IC data, replicated measurements of the IC items, and responses to the cocaine use question to obtain estimates of the classification error in the observed data. The data were treated as fallible indicators of (latent) true values and traditional latent class analysis assumptions were made to obtain an identifiable model . The resulting estimates of the cocaine use prevalence were approximately 43 percent larger than the self-report only estimates and the estimated underreporting rates were consistent with those estimated from other studies of drug use underreporting.

Program Announcement

Topic: **Independence**

Speaker: Cynthia Clark, Director of Methodology, Office of National Statistics, UK

Chair: Connie Citro, Committee on National Statistics, the National Academies

Discussant: Fritz Scheuren, NORC

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 7, 2006 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Social and Demographic Statistics Section

Abstract: The U.K. Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced in November 2005 that he planned to introduce legislation to make the U.K. Office of National Statistics (ONS) independent of Government. His proposal is to make the governance and publication of official statistics the responsibility of a wholly separate body at arms length from Government and fully independent of it.   The legislation would create an independent Governing Board for the ONS with external members of the Board including leading experts in statistics. The Board has responsibility for meeting an overall objectivefor the statistical system's integrity.   The ONS would be accountable to Parliament through reporting of the Board. The Board would be questioned by the Treasury Select Committee on their performance. The overall goal is for the legislation and the change in organizational arrangements to improve public trust in official statistics.   This presentation will discuss the current governmental structure for ONS and the decentralized U.K. Government Statistical Service, covering the issues that have arisen in developing proposed legislation. Comparisons will be made with issues faced in the U.S. with similar proposals.

Program Announcement

Title: **An Update on the NIST Statistical Reference Datasets for MCMC: Ranking the Sources of Numerical Error in MCMC Computations**

Chair: Charles Hallahan, USDA/ERS

Speakers: Hung-kung Liu and William F. Guthrie, NIST

Discussant: TBD

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 20, 2006 / 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in G440. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar.   BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Statistical Computing Section, WSS

Abstract: In the Statistical Reference Datasets (StRD) project, NIST provided datasets on the web (www.itl.nist.gov/div898/strd/index.html) with certified values for assessing the accuracy of software for univariate statistics, linear regression, nonlinear regression, and analysis of variance. Another important new area in statistical computing, not addressed in the original STRD project, is the Bayesian analysis using Markov chain Monte Carlo. Despite its importance, the numerical accuracy of software for MCMC is largely unknown. We have recently updated the StRD web site with the six new datasets for Bayesian model fitting using MCMC algorithms. We will discuss some results obtained using these datasets that challenge the conventional wisdom that longer simulations lead to improved approximation of posterior distribution parameters. The sources of numerical error that arise in the computations associated with a simple Bayesian model for data sets from the StRD web site will be studied. The different sources of numerical error will be compared and ranked with respect to their impact on the total numerical error.

Announcements

Committee on National Statistics Celebrates Its 100th Meeting

The Committee on National Statistics, or CNSTAT, was established in 1972 as a standing committee of The National Academies at the recommendation of the President's Commission on Federal Statistics. Its mandate was to provide an independent, objective resource for evaluating and contributing to continuous improvement by the agencies that constitute the U.S. statistical system. Thirty-four years later, CNSTAT continues to serve that mandate and, in addition, undertakes studies for a broad range of research and program agencies of the federal government.

CNSTAT will celebrate its 100th meeting, Thursday, May 11, 2006, with a special seminar at 3:15 pm in the Auditorium of the Main NAS Building, 2100 C St., NW. (Coffee and cookies in the Great Hall at 2:45 pm.) All are invited (see below).

CNSTAT in Brief

CNSTAT is housed in the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, one of six operating divisions in The National Academies structure, which includes the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council (the operating arm of the Academies). Among the six divisions are almost 100 standing committees and boards that direct programs to assist the federal government in specific subject areas. Of the boards currently in existence, CNSTAT is the eleventh oldest--the oldest being the Food and Nutrition Board, established on January 1, 1940.

The work of CNSTAT is guided by an interdisciplinary committee of 14 experts in applied statistics, biostatistics, economics, demography, sociology, survey research, statistical agency management, and operations research. The members are volunteers who serve staggered 3-year terms, with an opportunity for a second term. CNSTAT meets as a board 3 times a year. Under the current arrangement, the fall and spring meetings include a public seminar and a working lunch with the heads of major statistical agencies. The winter meeting is a retreat that is held in Washington, DC, or Irvine, CA.

Eight people have chaired the Committee since its inception:

1972-1978	William Kruskal	University of Chicago (deceased)
1978-1981	Conrad Taeuber	Georgetown University (deceased)
1981-1984	Stephen Fienberg	Carnegie-Mellon University
1984-1985	Lincoln Moses	Stanford University
1985-1987	Stephen Fienberg	Carnegie-Mellon University
1987-1993	Burton Singer	Princeton University
1993-1998	Norman Bradburn	University of Chicago
1998-2004	John Rolph	University of Southern California
2004-	William Eddy	Carnegie-Mellon University

The Committee has had five Directors: Margaret Martin (retired), 1972–1978; Edwin Goldfield (deceased), 1978–1987; Miron Straf (currently, DBASSE deputy director), 1987–1999; Andrew White (currently, deputy director for science, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education), 2000–2003; and Constance Citro (20-year CNSTAT senior study director), 2004–present. James Hinchman, NAS General Counsel, was Acting Director from December 2003–May 2004. All of the CNSTAT directors have been active in the American Statistical Association and its sections and chapters: Martin and Straf served terms as ASA president.

CNSTAT Studies

The Committee carries out its mission by convening panels of volunteer experts to conduct studies on data and methods needed to improve our understanding of topics in such areas as the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, terrorism, and other public policy issues. Each study involves a series of meetings in which panel members gather information and deliberate. The panel produces a report that contains findings and recommendations for further action, usually directed toward specific government agencies. To study some topics, the Committee organizes workshops, in which the invited participants are not only experts from academia and the private sector, but also relevant staff members of federal agencies. The Committee itself periodically publishes *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, now in its third edition (2005).

Current projects for statistical agencies cover such topics as: coverage evaluation and residence rules for the 2010 census, functionality and usability of estimates from the American Community Survey, benefits of sharing business data among statistical agencies, and reviews of the Census Bureau's state and local government statistics program and the USDA Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Studies for research and policy agencies include the feasibility, accuracy, and technical capability of a national ballistics imaging database, technical and privacy dimensions of information for terrorism prevention and other national goals, the design of a national account for health status, and data needs to understand business formation, dynamics, and performance.

As of early 2006, the efforts of panel members, workshop participants, and CNSTAT's own members and staff have resulted in over 170 publications (see the Publications page of CNSTAT's web site, www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat, for links to reports available from the National Academies Press).

Recent publications, which indicate the breadth of the Committee's portfolio, include:

Analyzing Information on Women-Owned Small Businesses in Federal Contracting

Beyond the Market: Designing Nonmarket Accounts for the United States

Expanding Access to Research Data: Reconciling Risks and Opportunities

Experimental Poverty Measures: Summary of a Workshop

Food Insecurity and Hunger in the United States: An Assessment of the Measure

Improving Data to Analyze Food and Nutrition Policies

Measuring International Trade on U.S. Highways

Testing of Defense Systems in an Evolutionary Acquisition Environment

CNSTAT Support

A large group of statistical, policy, and research agencies contribute core funding to CNSTAT. This support is critically important in enabling CNSTAT to address issues that cannot be resolved by one-time efforts, to conduct studies of interest to more than one agency, and to hold public seminars and other activities of the Committee. Panels and workshops are separately funded. Most agencies contribute core funding through a multi-year grant that is administered by the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program of the National Science Foundation.

Current core contributors include: Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA); Bureau of Economic Analysis and Census Bureau (Department of Commerce); National Center for Education Statistics; Energy Information Administration; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, National Center for Health Statistics, and National Institute on Aging (Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Research and Evaluation Division; Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (HUD); Bureau of Justice Statistics; Bureau of Labor Statistics;

Bureau of Transportation Statistics; Statistics of Income Division (IRS); Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF); Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (SSA).

CNSTAT's 100th Meeting

CNSTAT will celebrate its 100th meeting with a special seminar, followed by a reception. The seminar program includes:

Katherine Wallman, *U.S. Chief Statistician*,
"Recent Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office"

TIM HOLT, *President, Royal Statistical Society*,
Former Director, UK Office for National Statistics,
"The Official Statistics Olympic Challenge: Wider, Deeper, Quicker, Better, Cheaper"

Janet Norwood, *Former Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, **Discussant**

Discussion from the floor

Place: National Academy of Sciences Main Building, 2100 C St, NW – Auditorium
Time: 3:15 pm (coffee and cookies available in Great Hall beginning at 2:45 pm)
Please RSVP to Bridget Edmonds by May 8, 2006: 202-334-3096, or cnstat@nas.edu.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 373-6645.

WESTAT

AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,800 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.
We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/6001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to:

Job Code is REQUIRED to apply.
Westat ● Attn: Resume System ● 1650 Research Boulevard ● Rockville, MD 20850-3195
Email: resume@westat.com ● FAX: (888) 201-1452
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www.westat.com

The George Washington University
School of Public Health & Health Services

Faculty Member in Biostatistics

The Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics is recruiting for a full time faculty member at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with expertise in biostatistics.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to join a growing Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the nation's capital that has a highly respected and energetic teaching and research faculty and the opportunity to conduct clinical trials research at The Biostatistics Center.

Under the leadership of its new Chairman, Alan E. Greenberg, MD, MPH, the Department has expertise in HIV/AIDS, cancer, behavioral, and aging epidemiology, geographical health information systems, and biostatistical methods. In addition, the Department has established collaborative opportunities with other Departments in the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services, the GWU Medical Center, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Children's National Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense, and the DC Department of Health.

The Biostatistics Center is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institute of Health. The center is renowned for its leadership in multi-center trials in diabetes, cardiovascular disease, maternal/fetal clinical medicine, osteoporosis, and urology, and the genetic basis for a series of diseases.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is involved in the MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology, among other graduate degree programs. The MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology admitted its first class in 1995. There are currently 15 doctoral students matriculated in the PhD degree in biostatistics and 10 students matriculated in the MS degree in biostatistics. More than half of the doctoral students in biostatistics are working on their dissertation research.

Responsibilities of the position will include teaching upper level courses in theoretical and applied biostatistics, mentoring masters and doctoral students in biostatistics, participating in clinical trials research at the GWU Biostatistics Center (http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu), and developing an externally-funded research program.

Faculty rank and compensation will be commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, CV, and a list of 3 references, preferably electronically, to:

Dr. Dante A. Verme
Chair, Search Committee, Biostatitsics
E-mail: sphdav@gwumc.edu (electronic submissions strongly preferred)
Vice Chair for Educational Activities
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
The George Washington University
School of Public Health & Health Services
2300 Eye St., NW, Ross Hall 125
Washington, DC 20037

GWU SPHHS Webpage: http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs
The Biostatistics Center Webpage: http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu

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The Biostatistics Center

CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS
M.S. and Ph.D. Level Positions

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We enjoy over $45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of over 100 with 27 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 10 faculty. We are recruiting M.S. and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

Master's Level Research Positions: These positions require a Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required. Send CV to address below.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions are available immediately to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

Minimum Position Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience.

Application Procedures: Applicants must send a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: Sarah Fowler, Research Professor and Director, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852. HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU

Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may be apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment. Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer

VISITING FACULTY POSITION

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC 20052

The Department of Statistics at The George Washington University invites applications for a Visiting Assistant Professor position for one year to start in fall 2006. The primary responsibility is teaching 3 courses in Fall 2006 and 3 courses in Spring 2007.

The Department is the first department of statistics in a college of arts and sciences in USA, and is well recognized for its teaching and research accomplishments. The Department provides a stimulating academic environment and great opportunities for research collaboration. The Department has a strong research program and has received research grants from most of the major research funding organizations, NSF, DoD, NIH, EPA, etc.

The Department has 13 full-time faculty members, and offers the B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Statistics; M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Biostatistics and in Epidemiology, in collaboration with the School of Public Health and Health Services; and a Graduate Certificate in Survey Design and Data Analysis. The Department also teaches statistics to about one thousand students from other departments every semester. Applicants are encouraged to visit the Department's website (www.gwu.edu/~stat) for information on current research interests and activities of the faculty.

The Department's location in the nation's capital offers unique cultural and professional opportunities. Many major Government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, and companies located in Washington, DC offer excellent opportunities for applied research collaboration and professional development. The Department faculty has engaged in collaborative research efforts with several statistical branches of government agencies. Statisticians with collaborative research interest should find our location and the position attractive.

Applicants should have a doctoral degree in Statistics or related field, and demonstrated excellence in teaching. Review of applications will begin on April 17, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Please send application, CV, and 3 recommendation letters to:

> Search Committee
> Department of Statistics
> George Washington University
> Washington, DC 20052.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Statistical Analyst

Mathematica is seeking a statistical analyst to support its survey sampling and statistical analysis activities. This position involves sample design, frame construction, sample selection, weight calculation, missing data imputation, and methodological and statistical analyses. We are one of the foremost public policy research organizations in theUnited States, and we attract clients from federal and state government agencies, foundations, universities, professional associations, and businesses. Our contributions to public policy formation crisscross the nation's social policy agenda-from child care to elder care, from job training to retirement. Our projects use interdisciplinary teams made up of subject matter specialists, statisticians, data collectors, and systems analysts. We offer our employees a stimulating, team-oriented work environment, competitive salaries, and a comprehensive <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/employment/benefits.asp> benefits package, as well as the advantages of employee ownership. We provide generous paid time off and an on-site fitness center.

Qualifications for the Position:
Master's degree in statistics or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Strong communication skills, familiarity with statistical software, and knowledge of sampling methodologies are desirable, as well as additional experience and programming skills. Position available in Washington, DC and Princeton, NJ.

To apply please visit our website http://www.mathematica-<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/employment/statanalyst.asp> mpr.com/employment/statanalyst.asp . Please submit a cover letter, resume, transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable), and contact information for three references via our online application process.

P.O. Box 752
Suitland, MD 20752

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Society**

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WSS Annual Dinner

Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner

Thursday June 22, 2006, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Maggiano's, 5333 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, DC
(Metro: Friendship Heights on the Red line)

Speaker:

Vance Berger, National Cancer Institute
Recipient of the Gertrude Cox Award

-Made Possible by Funding from RTI International -

Cash Bar

Appetizers

And

Choice of two salads (Maggiano's or Caesar)

And

Choice of two pasta dishes (Marsala or Vegetarian)

And

Oven Roasted Pork Loin,

Or Whole Roast Chicken w. Rosemary & Garlic

-Vegetarian Dish Available Upon Advance Request-

And

Chocolate Zuccotto Cake, Fresh Fruit Plate

Price:………………………………. $48.00 per person…………Check Payable to WSS

Name(s) / Affiliation: _____

Please mail check by June 12 to: Yves Thibaudeau, 1037 17th St S, Arlington, VA 22202

Or email yves.thibaudeau@census.gov   or call (301) 763 1706

FFC/2006

The 15th
Federal Forecasters Conference

September 28, 2006

Aging: Implications for Forecasting

As the population of the United States and other major countries continues to age, policy makers at every level face major challenges in providing needed services while maintaining economic prosperity. A graying society has major effects on the dynamics of our economic and societal activities including the composition of the labor force, the nature of jobs to be filled, and the demands for goods and services including health care, pension benefits, and other public services. The implications of this aging phenomenon on forecasting in the public sector are equally profound affecting both the input side and the output side of many projection models. The 2006 Federal Forecasters Conference seeks to highlight key aspects of how forecasting must account for the aging trend which demographers have long seen coming.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Conference and Training Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC

June 14, 2006	**Abstract Submission & Contest Entry Deadlines**
September 7, 2006	**Conference Registration Deadline**

~SPONSORING AGENCIES ~

Bureau of Health Professions ● Bureau of Labor Statistics ● Bureau of Transportation Statistics ● Department of Veterans Affairs ● Economic Research Service ● Internal Revenue Service ● International Trade Administration ● National Center for Education Statistics ● U.S. Census Bureau ● U.S. Geological Survey ● U.S. Postal Service

~ PARTNERING ORGANIZATION ~

Center for Economic Research, The George Washington University

FFC/2006

- ## *The 15th Federal Forecasters Conference*

CALL FOR PAPERS

The FFC/2006 Organizing Committee invites you to present a paper at one of the afternoon concurrent sessions. Please note papers are not restricted to the official conference theme and may cover any subject relating to forecasting or estimation. In a break from previous conferences, individual agencies are not expected to organize entire sessions. Instead, related papers will be grouped by the Organizing Committee. However, it is still critical that individual agencies encourage and generate a number of submissions. The papers are to be a maximum of 12 pages long, including references, tables, charts, and appendices. Individual presentations of the papers will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in length. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: Lawhorn.William @bls.gov by June 14, 2006.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a WORD file by September 28, 2006 to ensure their paper's inclusion in the conference proceedings. See below for the required format. All papers presented in the afternoon concurrent sessions and provided in accordance with the guidelines will be published as Papers and Proceedings of the 2006 Federal Forecasters Conference. A panel of judges will determine the best paper presented during the concurrent sessions and recognition will be awarded at the next subsequent Federal Forecasters Conference.

Title Centered in 12-Point Bold Times Roman Type
Author & organization centered in normal 10-point Times Roman

Please compose, format, and spell check your document in MS Word software. All text should be presented in a double-column format in normal 10-point Times New Roman type, and columns should be square. Left and right margins must be 1" and the spacing between the two columns must be 0.2".

Text should be single-spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs. Small tables and figures may be included in the column text but all larger tables and figures should be placed at the end of the document in single column format.

Please remember that the maximum length of your paper is 12 pages. You may refer to the FFC/2005 Proceedings volume for examples of the acceptable paper format (available at www.federalforecasters.org).

All presenters must provide an electronic draft of their papers in a WORD file by September 28, 2006. Final versions of the papers must be submitted by October 27, 2006. Please e-mail all papers to Bill Lawhorn at Lawhorn.William @bls.gov. We will translate your final paper into an Adobe Acrobat PDF file for final publication.

Failure to conform to these simple guidelines may result in your paper being omitted from the FFC/2006 Proceedings volume.

Announcing

The 15th Federal Forecasters Conference
September 28, 2006
BLS Conference & Training Center
Registration Form -- Due by September 7, 2006

There is no charge for participation. Please share this form with your colleagues.

Name:

_____

Agency/Department:

_____

 Address:

_____

City/State/Zip:

_____

Phone Number:

_____

Fax Number:

_____

(E-Mail) Address:

_____

Return this information by **September 7, 2006** to Terry Manzi, FFC/2006 Registrar.
E-mail registration is preferred and can be sent to: Terry.Manzi@IRS.GOV.
Fax registration with cover page is also possible at 202-874-0613.

I _____ **do** _____ **do not** wish my name to appear in the FFC Directory.

For more information, call FFC Committee Chair Mitra Toossi at   202- 691-5721.

FFC/2006

Federal Forecasters Forecasting Contest

Deadline: June 14, 2006

Name_____

Agency/Department_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Email Address_____

Please submit forecasts of the following 5 items in the same format as the examples. Submission instructions below. The forecasts will be judged by the ranking method (analysis of variance by ranks).

The unemployment rate for the month of August 2006.

(**Example:** For February 2006, the national unemployment rate was 4.8%)

The production of low-fat soft ice cream in the US in May 2006, thousand gallons.

(**Example:** In November 2005, the amount produced was 18,150 thousand gallons)

 The average temperature at Reagan National Airport for August 27, 2006.

(**Example:** On November 18, 2004, the low temperature 48°F and the high temperature was 63°F, so the average was 55.5 °F.)

The box office gross for the film making the most money for the weekend of September 1-4, 2006.

(**Example**: The box office gross of Madea's Family Reunion was $30,030,661 for the February 24 through February 26, 2006 weekend. Madea's Family Reunion was the lead money maker for that weekend.)

The closing price/barrel of crude oil on August 27, 2006.

 (**Example:** Price closed at 63.38/barrel on Thursday March 16, 2006)

The winner will be announced at the FFC Conference on September 28, 2006. All entries must be e-mailed by June 14, 2006 to Brian Sloboda at brian.sloboda@dot.gov. For more information, e-mail Brian or call him at (202) 366-5342. Each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission upon receipt. Only one entry per person. All contest entries are confidential. FFC Organizing Committee members are not eligible.

For registration forms and other information: *www.federalforecasters.org*

Announcements

JPSM SHORT COURSE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO CATEGORICAL DATA ANALYSIS: DISCRETE AND LIMITED DEPENDENPT VARIABLES

 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 29, 2006

INFORMATION:
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2006-0613.html

LISTS, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm
JPSM (301) 314-7911 EMAIL: course@survey.umd.edu

A Practical Introduction to Categorical Data Analysis: Discrete and Limited Dependent Variables

A two-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

June 13-14, 2006

Presented at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA

William N. Evans, Department of Economics, University of Maryland

TOPICS AND APPROACH
Multivariate statistical analyses of discrete outcomes are commonplace in behavioral and health sciences and this course is a two-day introduction to these models. The course will provide an intuitive understanding of how discrete data models differ from the more standard
multivariate regression model and when it is appropriate to use them, show how the models can be implemented using standard statistical packages, and explain how to interpret the resulting coefficient estimates. The course will begin with a brief review of the multivariate regression model, then outline the different types of discrete and limited dependent variable models. Discrete data models to be discussed include logistic regressions and probits, ordered probits, count data models, multi-choice models such as the multinomial logistic regression, and hazard models. For each model, participants will be provided with sample programs in STATA and SAS and a web address where data sets and programs can be downloaded for later use. The course will have a heavy emphasis on practical examples from published research.

Prerequisite: A basic undergraduate course in multivariate methods such as regression analysis.

INSTRUCTOR
William N. Evans is a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Maryland, a member of the Maryland Population Research Center and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His principal research interest is in applied microeconomics and he has worked on topics in public finance, industrial organization, and health economics.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006
8:00 - 9:00 Check In
9:00 - 10:15 Introduction, discrete data models and maximum likelihood estimation
10:15 - 10:30 Break
10:30 - 12:00 Logistic regressions and probit models

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 Ordered probit and qualitative data models
2:30 - 2:45 Break
2:45 - 4:30 Multi-choice models such as multinomial logistic regression

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2006
8:30 - 9:00 Check In
9:00 - 10:15 Count data models: The poisson and negative binomial models
10:15 - 10:30 Break
10:30 - 12:00 Introduction to hazard models
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 3:30 Continue with hazard models

LOCATION
The course will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center, at Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, Maryland. The hotel is in the heart of Maryland's high-tech corridor, just 6 miles from downtown Washington, D.C., with convenient access to the Capital Beltway and the Metro subway system. The Hyatt is accessible via the Metro Red Line at the Bethesda Metro stop. A map will be sent with your registration confirmation. For overnight room reservations, call the Hyatt Regency Bethesda at 301-657-1234. There is a parking garage located directly underneath the Hotel which offers both valet and self-parking. The garage is not owned or operated by the Hyatt Regency. http://www.hyatt.com/usa/bethesda/hotels/map_bethe.html

FEES & COURSE MATERIALS
The registration fee is $730. Full-time university students (with a supervising faculty advisor's signature) and employees of JPSM sponsor/affiliate organizations are eligible for a reduced fee of $550. Lunch and refreshments are included in the fee. Participants will be provided with a notebook containing detailed course notes. The class notes will be available about two weeks before the start of the class.

REGISTRATION
Online registration is required. Confirmation of registration and further instructions will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive a confirmation letter. Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be made online following receipt of the confirmation letter using the student's confirmation number. Please note your confirmation number. The registration deadline is May 29, 2006. Payment is required by May 29, 2006 or the registration will be cancelled. Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. You will receive a full reimbursement if you cancel on or before May 29, 2006. If you cancel during the period May 30 - June 5, you will be charged a $100 administrative fee; the remainder of your course fee will be reimbursed. No reimbursements will be made for cancellations received on or after June 6, 2006. Minority Fellowship essays and letters of recommendation are due May 12, 2006 and should be faxed or mailed to the address below. Fellowship winners will be notified May 19, 2006. Questions about this course should be directed to (301) 314-7911, Fax: (301) 314-7912, JPSM, University of Maryland, 1218 LeFrak Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS
The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians to attend JPSM short courses. Applicants should submit:
(1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
(2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
(3) The course registration form.
If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before May 12, 2006. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by May 19, 2006. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, including the cost of materials to be distributed during the course and lunch.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS
The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at http://www.jpsm.org or call 301-314-7911.

INQUIRIES
For information on JPSM short courses contact JPSM at 301-314-7911; fax 301-314-7912; or e-mail jpsm@survey.umd.edu or visit the JPSM website at http://www.jpsm.org.
Primary funding for JPSM is provided by agencies of the Federal Statistical System

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 29, 2006
INFORMATION: https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2006-0613.html
LISTS, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION: htttps://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/
SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm
JPSM (301) 314-7911 EMAIL: course@survey.umd.edu

Committee on National Statistics

of The National Academies

Invitation to a Special Seminar

in Celebration of the Committee's 100th Meeting

The Official Statistics
Olympic Challenge:
Wider, Deeper, Quicker, Better, Cheaper

Thursday, May 11, 2006 • 3:15 PM

Auditorium of the Main Building of the
National Academy of Sciences

2100 C Street NW
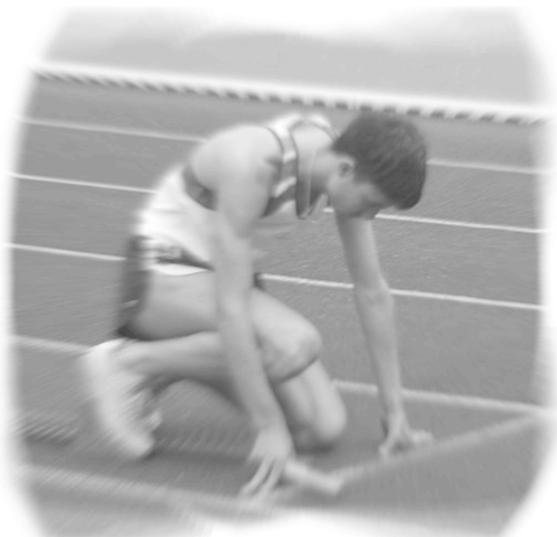
Speaker **Tim Holt** • Discussant **Janet Norwood**, *former commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*
Introductory remarks on federal statistics by **Katherine Wallman**, *U.S. Office of Management and Budget*

Like Olympic athletes, national statistical systems face unrelenting pressure for greater achievement. However, unlike the Olympic motto—*Citius, Altius, Fortius*—the statistical challenge has rather more dimensions. The range of statistics needed grows ever wider, the level of geographical and other detail ever deeper, the timeliness ever quicker, and the demand for higher quality ever stronger. All this, of course, and—with the relentless demand for greater efficiency—ever cheaper.

The reason for this relentless pressure is positive. Official Statistics are at the heart of public policy. They are involved in a range of uses including policy development and monitoring, and administrative uses including resource allocation and public service delivery. They also underpin the democratic process by allowing citizens to monitor the performance of government and people and businesses to make informed decisions. The range of uses is growing rapidly, and these uses have a profound effect on the lives of every citizen. This talk sets out this context and highlights some of the existing and perhaps future challenges that the statistical system must meet.

About the Speaker

Tim Holt is president of the Royal Statistical Society (2005 – 2007) and former director of the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics and head of the Government Statistical Service from 1995 to 2000. Formerly a professor of social statistics at the University of Southampton, he has been a vice president of the International Statistical Institute and vice-chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission. He was the 2003 recipient of the Waksberg Prize in survey methodology.

Coffee, tea, and cookies available in Great Hall at 2:45 PM
Reception following the seminar in the Auditorium Gallery

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by May 8 to
Bridget Edmonds at (202) 334-3096 or cnstat@nas.edu.