



# WSS NEWS

February 2007

WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

## NEW NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2007 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP APRIL 15, 2007 DEADLINE

Nominations are now being sought for the 2007 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship. The award is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence and encourage them to consider a future in government statistics. The 2006 recipient of the scholarship will be chosen by a committee of representatives of GSS and SSS. Applicants are not required to be members of GSS, SSS or ASA. Dr. Smith was strongly supportive of these organizations during his career and actively mentored younger statisticians. The scholarship of \$1,000.00 can be used for activities like the following:

- Attendance at a conference, short course, or long course
- Travel to a conference
- Purchase of government data
- Costs associated with research

Please note the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Participation in the advancement of government statistics, whether as a government employee, researcher under government contract or using government statistics, or student involved with government statistics

To apply, you will need to complete and submit the following:

- The original copy of an application (available in MS Word format:  
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp07.doc> and Adobe pdf format:  
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp07.pdf>)
- Original transcripts, performance reviews, or alternate proof of superior job
- Project proposal
- Two reference letters

For more information, contact Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2007 Chair of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee, 301.763.3127 or [juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov). The other committee members are Michael P. Cohen and Bob Kominski. All necessary materials must be submitted by April 15, 2007. Electronic submissions are permissible.

All materials should be mailed before April 15, 2007, to:

Juanita Tamayo Lott  
Human Resources Division  
U.s. Census Bureau  
Washington, D.C. 20233-1400

# 2007 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference, November 5-7, 2007

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2007 FCSM Research Conference will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia, on November 5-7, 2007. The conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to Federal government statistical programs. Each day of the conference will offer papers on a wide range of topics. The conference will feature mostly contributed papers with formal discussion and software demonstrations on topics related to a variety of statistical research issues. Papers and demonstrations should address methodology, empirical studies, relevant issues, or needs for statistical research. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated.

Overall Topic Areas Include:

Survey Design and Data Collection  
Statistical Analysis  
Evaluation  
Cross-Cutting Topics

To submit a paper or demonstration for consideration, submit the abstract online by **March 8, 2007**.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION INCLUDING A FULL LIST OF POSSIBLE TOPICS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FCSM SITE: [www.fcsm.gov/events](http://www.fcsm.gov/events)

## THE JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

On receiving the Roger Herriot Award in June 2001, Jeanne E. Griffith said:

**One of the most rewarding aspects (of Federal statistics) for me was the opportunity to promote creative activities and energies among my staff...When I have had the blessing to mentor young people in their careers, I have tried to emphasize.....(that) only they, themselves, can make the most of (the)....chances that life presents.**

Dr. Griffith died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's *highest* priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of younger staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually, beginning in 2003, to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The award is co-sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics.

Nominations for 2007 will be accepted beginning in February 2007. The last date for submission of nominations is March 30, 2007, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 4, 2007. The award will consist of a \$1000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2007.

The winning mentor will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the

careers of younger staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

For further information on the award, contact Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-836-0406; or by e-mail at [copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com). The nomination cover sheet and guidelines form-or a photocopy of it-should be attached to a nomination memorandum or letter. Forms can be obtained by contacting Ed Spar, or by downloading from the COPAFS website at <http://www.copafs.org>. All nominations should be returned to the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee, c/o COPAFS, 2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 no later than March 30, 2007.

## **Nominations Sought for 2007 Julius Shiskin Award**

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The 2006 award recipient was J. Steven (Steve) Landefeld, Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, for his leadership in improving the U.S. economic accounts and related statistics through effective management, collaboration with domestic and international users, and scholarly research.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, it is little wonder that statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery*, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a *Social Indicators* report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2007 award are now being accepted. Individuals or groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at <[www.amstat.org/sections/bus\\_econ/shiskin.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html)> or by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, Attn: Monica Clark, American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943.

Completed nominations must be received by April 1, 2007. For further information contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, at [paben.steven@bls.gov](mailto:paben.steven@bls.gov).

## **Happy 50th Birthday, NHIS**

### **Commemoration of the National Health Interview Survey's 50th Anniversary**

**and**

### **Poster Competition**

**Monday, June 25, 2007**

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in 2007; the NHIS has been fielded continuously since 1957. To mark the occasion, NCHS is holding a one-day conference on June 25, 2007 at its home site in Hyattsville, Maryland (in Metropolitan Washington, D.C.). Watch our Web site for further information on registering for the anniversary celebration: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.

All past and present users of the NHIS are invited to enter a poster competition. The winners will each receive up to \$1,500 to cover travel expenses to attend the anniversary celebration. To enter the competition, send a description of how you have used NHIS data or analyses successfully<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>to solve a research problem, to evaluate a policy, to teach a class, to write a report, etc. We want to hear how the NHIS has been used, directly or indirectly, to improve public health. We want to hear about projects involving NHIS data or analyses that you have already completed, not projects that you are planning. Any productive use of the NHIS over its 50-year lifespan is appropriate.

Your submission should be in text form (not in poster form), no more than three pages long. You may include supporting documents (e.g., reprints of journal articles) without counting them toward the three-page limit. Each competition winner will work with the NCHS Publications staff to develop and produce a poster, at no cost to the competition winner. The 10 posters will be presented by the competition winners at the anniversary celebration.

Please send your competition entries to Brenda LaRochelle (contact information below) by post or e-mail. Please feel free to contact Brenda if you have any questions. Entries must be received by March 15, 2007, and winners will be announced on April 1, 2007.

Brenda LaRochelle  
3311 Toledo Road, room 2210  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782  
Phone: 301-458-4686

E-mail: [BLaRochelle@cdc.gov](mailto:BLaRochelle@cdc.gov)

## **WSS and Other Seminars**

(All events are open to any interested persons)

February

6 Tues. Mortality in Iraq

March

8 Thur. Measurement and Statistical Analysis of Human Rights: A Model

27 Tues. President's Invited Panel Discussion on Finite Population Correction Factors

28 Wed. Applications of the Johnson SB Distribution to Environmental Data

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

## **Announcement**

### **SIGSTAT Topics for February 2007**

#### **February 21, 2007: Demo of SPSS Complex Samples**

SPSS Complex Samples, an add-on module for SPSS for Windows®, provides the specialized planning tools and statistics you need when working with sample survey data. It enables you to make more statistically valid inferences for a population by incorporating the sample design into survey analysis. You can more accurately work with numerical and categorical outcomes in complex sample designs using two new algorithms for analysis and prediction. This presentation will demo the software and analysis wizards using tutorials and sample data sets provided with the module.

See [http://www.spss.com/complex\\_samples/](http://www.spss.com/complex_samples/) for more information. Linda Atkinson 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**. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto: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/>.

## **DCSUG Evening Special Interest Group**

The DCSUG Evening Special Interest Group (formerly and still perhaps occasionally known as the Desktop SIG) will have its next meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2007, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at the [SAS regional office](#) in Rosslyn (1530 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 800, Arlington VA).

The program will begin at 6, and will comprise two presentations:

SQL Basics Using Proc SQL (Chris Zogby)

Shuffling, Shifting, Structuring - Using the Program Editor (Gary Schlegelmilch)

The meeting location is close to the Metrorail Rosslyn Station. For Metro and driving directions, dial 571-227-7000 and press 4.

### **Note from the WSS NEWS Editor**

Items for publication in the April issue of the WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than February 27, 2007. E-mail items to Michael Feil at [michael.feil@usda.gov](mailto:michael.feil@usda.gov).

## Program Announcement

- Title:** Mortality in Iraq
- Chair:** Dr. Graham Kalton, Westat
- Speakers:** Dr. Gilbert Burnham, Center for Refugee and Disaster Response, Bloomberg School of Public Health, JHU  
Ms. Shannon Doocy, Center for Refugee and Disaster Response, Bloomberg School of Public Health, JHU  
Dr. Scott Zeger, Dept of Biostatistics, Bloomberg School of Public Health, JHU
- Discussants:** Jana Asher, AAAS and Dr. David Marker, Westat
- Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2007
- Time:** **2:00 pm to 4:30 pm (please note the atypical start time, light refreshments will follow the seminar)**
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in Room 1 & 2  
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](mailto: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 and Human Rights sections of the WSS, Science and Human Rights Program of AAAS, DC-AAPOR, and CASPA
- Abstract:** In unstable situations, population based data are the most reliable method of estimating mortality and other health indicators. In many conflicts and fragile state settings, however, collecting such data is difficult to do. Aside from the physical dangers, there is often an incomplete understanding of population numbers, population locations, migration patterns, and health status of the population. That lack of understanding contributes to many methodological challenges. However, population based data are increasingly important in planning protection of and assistance to affected populations, as well as for reconstruction policy.
- In Iraq we have undertaken two population-based national surveys of mortality related to conflict using a cluster survey approach. The first covered the period from January 2002 until July 2004, using 33 clusters with 988 households and 7,868 persons. That survey estimated an excess mortality of over 100,000 persons following the March 2003 invasion. The second survey covered the period from January 2002 until July 2006. That survey included 47 clusters containing 1,849 households and 12,801 persons. From that survey an excess mortality of 654,965 (CI 392 797-942 636) was estimated, with 601,027 deaths attributed to violent causes.
- The presentations will discuss the methodological and ethical issues involved in conducting our research in Iraq.

## Program Announcement

- Title:** Measurement and Statistical Analysis of Human Rights: A Model
- Speaker:** Brian J. Grim, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Fellow, Religion and World Affairs  
Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life  
1615 L Street, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
bgrim@pewforum.org
- Date/Time:** Thursday, March 8, 2007/ 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in Room 9. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsors:** WSS Human Right's, AAAS, and DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** The study of human rights violations and the development of statistical models that can offer explanations are severely handicapped by a lack of adequate data. Most information on human rights is embedded in qualitative reports. Quantitative data that do exist tend to be limited to rough counts of violations or numeric indexes with little if any methodological transparency. This presentation will describe an extensive and rigorous coding project which uses the annual U.S. State Department's *International Religious Freedom Reports* as the primary information source and the procedures developed to check the coded data against alternative sources. The usefulness of these coded data will be demonstrated by testing an explanatory theory of religious persecution using structural equation modeling. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of how this research could be extended to the measurement and statistical analysis of other human rights.

## **Program Announcement**

**Title:** President's Invited Panel Discussion on Finite Population Correction Factors

**Chair:** Gary Shapiro, Westat

**Panel Members:** Keith Rust, Westat and Joint Program on Survey Methodology  
Barry Graubard, National Cancer Institute  
Phillip S. Kott, National Agricultural Statistics Institute  
John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007/2:00 pm to 3:30 pm (please note the atypical start time)

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in Room 9. 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](mailto: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 Program, WSS

**Abstract:** It is common practice to use finite population correction factors (fpc) in estimating variances when sampling from a finite population. Various approximate fpcs are used with more complex designs sometimes. When the interest is in a wider population than the specific finite sampling frame, many argue that it suffices to drop the fpc from the variance estimates, but others maintain this is appropriate only in a limited number of contexts.

# Program Announcement

- Title:** Applications of the Johnson SB Distribution to Environmental Data
- Speaker:** David T. Mage, (Retired), Institute for Survey Research, Temple University
- Chair:** Mel Kollander
- Date/time:** Wednesday, March 28, 2007 / 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Room 1. 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](mailto: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:** WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources Section
- Abstract:** In analyzing environmental data, it is common practice to assume that such data are from a 2-parameter lognormal if right skew and from a normal distribution if symmetrical. It is not generally recognized that the Johnson SB Distribution provides a continuum of distributions between the normal and lognormal distributions that constitute SB asymptotes. The Johnson SB transforms experimental data bounded by a minimum value ( $X_{min}$ ) and a maximum value ( $X_{max}$ ) into a normally distributed variable  $Y = \ln [(x - X_{min}) / (X_{max} - x)]$  which is bounded as  $-\infty < Y < +\infty$ . As  $X_{max}$  goes to  $+\infty$  and  $X_{min}$  goes to 0, the distribution is asymptotically 2-parameter lognormal. As  $X_{max}$  goes to  $+\infty$  and  $X_{min}$  goes to  $-\infty$  the distribution is asymptotically normal.
- Methods of objectively determining 4 optimal parameters for the SB distribution ( $X_{min}$ ,  $X_{max}$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma$ ) by the maximum likelihood estimation procedures are reviewed. Bruce Hill (1963) showed that the maximum likelihood solution for the three parameter lognormal yields degenerate and absurd solutions as  $X_{min}$  goes in the limit to the minimum observation; the likelihood of the minimum observation tends to infinity, as the likelihood of all other observations tend to zero. Although somewhat surprising, Hill's result conforms with known general problems with likelihood methods when the support points of the probability distribution are a function of the parameters of the distribution, in this case the parameters  $X_{min}$  and  $X_{max}$ . Several modifications of the maximum likelihood methods are proposed. It is also shown that for the standard likelihood function a local maximum occurs within natural parameter space.
- Different methods of resolving this problem are discussed along with other methods of obtaining the SB parameters, by fitting to 4 percentiles, by method of moments, and by a graphical technique that plots the data and minimizes the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic.

# Announcement

## SHORT COURSES PRESENTED BY THE JOINT PROGRAM IN SURVEY METHODOLOGY

JPSM HOME PAGE: [www.jpsm.org](http://www.jpsm.org) Click on "Short Courses"

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

COURSE LISTS, INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

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March 15-16, 2007 (Forthcoming)

Introduction to Survey Sampling

Colm O'Muircheartaigh and Roger Tourangeau

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2007

Information:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2007-0315.html>

March 27, 2007 (Forthcoming)

Introduction to National Accounts

Barbara Fraumeni

Information: Forthcoming

April 12-13, 2007 (Open for Registration) Questions for Standardized Measurement in Surveys Nora

Cate Schaeffer Registration Deadline: March 29, 2007

Information:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2007-0412.html>

May 15-16, 2007 (Forthcoming)

Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data Katharine G. Abraham and Deborah P. Klein

Information: Forthcoming

May 22-23, 2007 (Forthcoming)

Applied Structural Equation Modeling

Patrick Sturgis

Information: Forthcoming

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JPSM HOME PAGE: [www.jpsm.org](http://www.jpsm.org) Click on "Short Courses"

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

COURSE LISTS, INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

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## Washington Statistical Society - Short Course Announcement

R and analysis of complex surveys  
March 15-16, 2007  
**Registration Due By March 5, 2007**

R is an open-source extension of the S statistical and graphical system. Along with the add-on "survey" package, the software provides a fairly advanced repertoire of survey analysis methods including multistage designs, two-phase designs, calibration and generalized raking, and regression modeling. Advantages of the R survey package include the cost, the visibility of all the code for verification purposes, and the integration with a powerful programming language and graphics system. The course will be taught in the form of a lecture; however, participants may bring their own laptop computers with the software already installed. (The software may be obtained at <http://cran.r-project.org/>.)

*Day 1: An introduction to R.*

Reading in data; simple calculations; graphics; merging and reshaping data; simple programming; using objects; using packages.

*Day 2: The R survey package.*

Specifying design information; computing summary statistics; using and creating replicate weights; domain estimations; graphics; ratio and regression estimators; post-stratification, raking, calibration; two-phase designs; simple simulations.

**About the instructor:** Thomas Lumley is Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington, Seattle. He developed and maintains the R "survey" package and is one of the core developers of R itself.

**Who Should Attend:** The course does not require any prior knowledge of R or S-PLUS, but some experience with statistical analysis and data management and knowledge of survey techniques is assumed.

**Schedule for Course:** The course will be held over two days March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and the class will run from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. There will be coffee and Danish in the morning before class both days and at the morning break, with beverages and cookies in the afternoon. Lunch will also be provided both days.

**Location:**

BLS Conference Center (near Union Station Metro stop)  
Postal Square Building  
2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20212-0001

**Registration Fee: (Please send fee and registration form to Brenda Boateng by March 5).  
*Class size will be limited, so please register early.***

Full-time students (Provide copy of student ID with registration—only 5 student slots available)  
\$ 50

WSS members	\$ 200
All other registrants	\$ 210

**For more information on this course,** please contact the WSS short-course co-chairs:  
Sylvia Dohrmann – [SylviaDohrmann@westat.com](mailto:SylviaDohrmann@westat.com)  
Trena M. Ezzati-Rice – [trena.ezzati-rice@ahrq.gov](mailto:trena.ezzati-rice@ahrq.gov)

**WSS Short Course**  
**R and analysis of complex surveys**  
**March 15-16, 2007**

Name:		
Firm/Agency:		
Job Title:		
E-mail:		
Mailing Address:		
Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		
Registration Fee:	? \$50 (student)	
	? \$200 (WSS members only)	
	? \$210 (Non-WSS members)	
	Non-members may join WSS by applying a portion of the course fee to membership. Would you like to join WSS? ? Yes ? No <i>By selecting "Yes" you will be enrolled automatically. For more information on membership, see <a href="http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/">http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/</a>.</i>	
Please check your payment method:		
? A check in the amount of \$      is enclosed.		
? A credit card payment in the amount of \$      is enclosed		
Type of Credit Card (please circle one) Visa Master Card American Express		
Credit Card Number:		
Expiration Date:		
Name on the Card:		

Please make check payable to Washington Statistical Society. **Mail, FAX, or e-mail this registration form and send payment by March 5, 2007 to:**

Brenda Boateng  
 AHRQ  
 540 Gaither Road  
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

E-mail: [Brenda.boateng@ahrq.gov](mailto:Brenda.boateng@ahrq.gov)  
 Phone Number: 301-427-1803  
 Fax Number: 301-427-1276

# 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](mailto:apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com) or (703) 373-6645.

## **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](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 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](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu).

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### **Statistician/Research Scientist**

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