Newsletter

February 2020 | **Issue 2**

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

As I begin my term as president, I thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve our organization. I have two goals for this year: to increase both the number and diversity of our WNAR membership, and to enhance member services.

WNAR will be stronger with diversified members in gender, age, geographic regions, and scientific disciplines. WNAR should be home for quantitative biomedical sciences which includes biostatisticians, biomathematicians, bioinformaticians, ecological/environmental statisticians, and data scientists. The industry liaison committee is promoting WNAR membership among industry biostatisticians. We expect to see increasing participation by industry biostatisticians during our Annual Meeting in Anchorage. To better serve our members, our member engagement committee will launch the WNAR Webinar Series in March to provide high quality talks for our members. I plan to explore the establishment of WNAR Awards as a new service. I welcome volunteers to serve on the ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of and the strategy for WNAR Awards. I look forward to your help to advance these goals in 2020.

New Officers Elected

Congratulations to newly elected president-elect, Laura Cowen (U Victoria)! Dr. Cowen will be acting president in 2021. We also have new elected Representatives-at-Large: Lisa Brown (Seattle Genetics) and Karen Messer (UC San Diego). Congratulations also to Brandie Wagner (CU Anschutz) who has moved into the treasurer position from treasurer-elect, and to Megan Othus (Fred Hutch) who has been re-elected as secretary/correspondent. Thank you to everyone for volunteering your time and energy to WNAR!

Thank you to our departing officers!

Thank you to Katerina Kechris (CU Anschutz) for leading us as president last year and for a successful 2019 meeting in Portland led by Byung Park (Local Organizer) and Meike Niederhausen (Program Chair). Thanks also to Tomi Mori (formerly OHSU, currently St. Jude) who is our outgoing past president and also has served in many positions in WNAR throughout the years but has recently moved to St. Jude where ENAR will greatly benefit from her membership. Thanks also to outgoing Regional Committee Representatives Marco Carone and Miguel Marino for their efforts and dedication to WNAR. Lastly but most heartily, we are grateful to Mary Redman (Fred Hutch) who dedicated *11 years* of service as our treasurer and now has much more free time!

WNAR/IMS/KISS/JR 2020 in Anchorage, Alaska, June 14-17

Contributed and student award abstract submission, registration, and hotel reservations are open! See more details on pg. 3 and at the website: http://wnar.org/WNAR2020

First WNAR Webinar March 6, 2020 by Prof Brad Efron

It is a great pleasure to announce the inaugural lecture of the new WNAR webinar series, by our distinguished colleague Professor Brad Efron from Stanford University.

"Prediction, Estimation, and Attribution"
Friday, March 6, 2020, 9:30am – 10:30am PST,
Registration is required (password: WNAR2020):
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wnar-inaugural-webinar-tickets-93841304869
Zoom Dial-In information and webinar link will be sent 24 hours before the event.
This is a **free event** and only 285 slots are available. *Priority registration of WNAR members ends on Monday Feb. 17*. After that, registration will be open to the public.

Tweet at WNAR!

WNAR is keeping up with the times by tweeting on our new social media account @WNAR_ibs. Check out our updates from the June 2019 meeting and other exciting news. How do you interact with us?

- For WNAR related twitter posts, please include the hashtag #WNAR or tag @WNAR_ibs and visit https://twitter.com/wnar_ibs
- Send events that are relevant to our members and we will tweet them or include them in our newsletters.

Renew your membership if you haven't already! Memberships expired January 1.

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

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

New! WNAR Industry Liaison Committee

The WNAR Executive Committee commissions an ad hoc Industry Liaison Committee to engage statisticians in biopharmaceutical, life sciences, ecological, environmental, and biotechnology industry. To date, WNAR has been very active mainly in academic and government biostatistics community but has not yet actively engaged with biostatisticians in industry. Given the growth of biotech and biopharma in region, we would like to engage with and better serve biostatisticians in industry too. We want to have more members from biopharma and biotech industry and our activities more relevant to them.

The Industry Liaison Committee is tasked to: (i) create a contact list of members from industry; (ii) provide research topics and facilitate job opportunities for students; (iii) increase collaboration between academia, industry and regulatory authorities; and (iv) deliver a report with strategies for additional activities to foster industry engagement.

The current Membership Engagement Committee consists of nine members:

- Lisa Brown (Committee Chair): Principal Statistician, Zymeworks, Seattle, WA
- Fang Chen: Director, Advanced Statistical Methods, SAS, Raleigh-Durham, NC
- Ruixiao Lu: Director, Clinical Biostatistics at Exact Sciences, Redwood City, CA
- Joe Paulson: Principal Statistical Scientist, Genentech, South San Francisco, CA
- Liang Fang: Head of Biostatistics, Executive Director, MyoKardia, South San Francisco, CA
- Jennifer Tom: Principal Statistical Scientist, Genentech, South San Francisco, CA
- Bill Coar: Director, Statistical Consulting at Axio Research, Denver, CO
- Xiang Yin: Director of Statistics at Medidata Solutions, Denver, CO
- Darcy Vavrek: Staff Biostatistician, Illumina, San Diego, CA

You are welcome to reach out to Lisa Brown at lisaannebr@gmail.com for additional member suggestions or ideas to increase industry engagement.

Additional New WNAR Initiatives

- **Addressing Sexual Harassment:** WNAR partnered with ENAR to become one of the inaugural members of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM. We now include a Code of Conduct as part of the registration for our annual meeting. Brandie Wagner (WNAR Treasurer) attended the first meeting in September 2019 as WNAR's consortium representative. See this link for more: http://educationcounsel.com/societiesconsortium/

- **WNAR Member Engagement Committee:** The WNAR Member Engagement Committee has organized the inaugural webinar (see pg. 1), hopefully the first of a successful series of quality talks. The WNAR Executive Committee commissions an ad hoc Membership Engagement Committee to help engage members throughout the year. The Membership Engagement Committee is tasked to: (i) establish a webinar series; (ii) provide a report with suggestions for additional activities to foster member engagement; (iii) work with the Communications Officer to provide content for newsletters that foster member engagement. See November's newsletter for details and member list. You are welcome to reach out to the Membership Engagement Committee at wnarmemberengage@gmail.com for **potential topics of the webinar series or suggestions of activities**.

WNAR/IMS/KISS/JR Annual Meeting

June 14-17, 2020

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, USA

The 2020 WNAR/IMS meeting will be in Anchorage, Alaska from June 14-17. Join us during the season of the midnight sun in Alaska's largest city, nestled between the Chugach Mountains and Cook Inlet. Anchorage is a place rich in culture, history, natural wonders, and wildlife. The conference will be held at Hilton Anchorage in downtown Anchorage. Registration is open at the conference website: http://www.wnar.org/WNAR2020
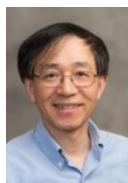

Photo courtesy of Visit Anchorage

Important Dates:

- Early Bird Registration ends 3/31
- Contributed paper abstract and student award abstract submission ends 3/31
- Student papers for award submission are due 5/15
- Online registration ends 6/7

Hotel information with discount group code at Hilton Anchorage and suggestions of alternative lodging can be found at the conference website. Book early as lodging in Anchorage is in high demand in the summer.

We encourage abstract submissions in varied topics of interest such as ecological and environmental sciences, applications in industry, and biological data science. Thank you to all who submitted invited session proposals.

Highlights include:

Professor Xuming He will give the **Presidential Invited Address:**
"Statistics in the Wild West Era (with biostatisticians as pioneers)?"
Xuming He is H.C. Carver Collegiate Professor and Chair of Statistics at the University of Michigan.

- **Three short courses on Sunday June 14**
  - o "An Introduction to Deep Learning with Biometric Applications" by Christopher K. Wikle (Statistics, U. Missouri), Dan Pagendam (CSIRO Data61, Australia), J. Jay Barber (Informatics, Computing, Cybersystems, Northern Arizona U.)
  - o "Bayesian Adaptive Methods for Clinical Trials in the 21st Century" by Ben Saville (Berry Consultants, Vanderbilt U.), Anna McGlothlin (Berry Consultants)
  - o "RMST-based survival analysis methods for non-proportional hazards" by Lu Tian (Biomedical Data Science, Stanford U.)
- **Student Award Competition**: Students will submit a manuscript and present their work in the student oral sessions. Please submit an abstract under the student award submission [upload link during registration] by March 31, and submit your papers to the Student Award Committee by May 15. See details and requirements here: http://www.wnar.org/Student-Competition

Thank you to the local organizer Jiaqi Huang (jiaqi.huang@alaska.gov) and program chair Yingqi Zhao (yqzhao@fredhutch.org) for their hard work in organizing this conference.

When tweeting about the conference, use the hashtag #WNAR2020

The Western North American Region of The International Biometric Society

Meetings and conferences:

41st International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) conference in Krakow, Poland, Aug 23-27, 2020

Join biostatisticians and health researchers from across the world at the 41st Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB), which will be held on August 23-27, 2020, in the medieval city of Krakow, Poland (www.iscb2020.info). The submission of Abstracts for oral or poster presentations will be open from January 15 to February 29, 2020.

ISCB conferences inform participants about cutting-edge methodological developments in a broad range of areas of statistics and data sciences relevant for medical research, and their innovative applications in clinical, population health, epidemiology and biomedical science studies. The conferences are typically attended by 600-800 researchers in (bio-)statistics and health sciences from universities, hospitals, public health or government agencies, and pharmaceutical industry in more than 50 countries. We encourage the submission of abstracts describing the development, critical examination and/or validation/comparison of new statistical methods, or innovative applications of modern biostatistics in research on human health.

Four full-day pre-conference Short Courses on Absolute Risks, High-dimensional Data, Measurement Errors, and Statistical Modelling will be given by internationally renowned experts. Five Mini-Symposia on data science, guidance for analyses of observational data, statistical methods for pharmaco-epidemiology/-economics, high-dimensional data, and meta-analyses will complete the program. The Early Career Researchers' Day will provide a unique opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and biostatisticians at the beginning of their career to share experiences and advice, discuss opportunities and challenges, and practise their presentation skills in a less formal environment.

Visit our conference website www.iscb2020.info for Abstract submission, registration and details of the conference program, including all 36 invited speakers and the titles of their talks, and the four short courses. Follow us on twitter @iscb41 to keep up to date with the information about the conference.

Michal Abrahamowicz (McGill, Montreal, Canada) Chair of the Scientific Program Committee; and Krystyna Szafraniec (Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland), Chair of the Local Organizing Committee