

THEMATIC AREAS

- Climate 
- Energy 
- Environment 
- Food & Agriculture 
- Healthcare 
- ICT 
- Nano & Materials 
- Technology 
- Regional Research 
- Transport 

SEARCH

keywords



TESTIMONIALS

I am sure the report produced by Research Media will have a positive impact on improving the efficiency of our project dissemination due to its wide outreach

FP7 project Coordinator
Institute of Genetics, Poland
[View all](#)

CHOSEN CHARITY



PUJIANG INNOVATION FORUM
浦江创新论坛

26-27 OCT 2013
Shanghai, China

Hosts
Ministry of S&T of PRC
Shanghai Municipal Government

15% off
by indicating
Research Media Ltd.
when online registration

Professor Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director, American Statistical Association, and Member, Statistics2013 Steering Committee

in Healthcare by alovering — March 7, 2013 at 3:18 pm | 0 comments



Recognising the importance of statistics in all aspects of modern life, Statistics2013 promises to be a global celebration. Professor Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director of the American Statistical Association and member of the Statistics2013 Steering Committee, describes some of the highlights

Could you begin by introducing the International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013)?

The International Year of Statistics, a worldwide celebration and recognition of the contributions of statistical science, is a grassroots effort involving more than 1,300 organisations from more than 100 countries. Through the combined energies of these organisations worldwide, Statistics2013 is promoting the importance of statistics to the broader scientific community, business and government data users, the media, policy makers, employers, students and the general public.

In early 2011, Professor Sastry Pantula, then the immediate past president of the American Statistical Association (ASA), noted that 2011 was the International Year of Chemistry. "Why not an International Year of Statistics?," he asked. Why not, indeed! The ASA leadership quickly consulted with that of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and learned that the Bernoulli Society was already far along in planning a celebration in 2013 of the 300th anniversary of Jacob Bernoulli's *Ars Conjectandi*, a seminal work in probability. Bayes theorem was also first presented publicly in 1763, making 2013 the 250th anniversary of that important work. And Section U (Statistics Section) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2013. With this in mind, a committee of representatives from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), ISI, International Biometric Society (IBS) and ASA worked out a statement of goals, and the leadership of the five societies agreed to collaborate to make 2013 the International Year of Statistics.

Do you feel that statisticians are recognised enough outside of their field, and was this a motivation behind Statistics2013?

Statisticians work in a vast array of fields: advancing science; creating new methodology; providing information that shapes public policy; and making our medicines more effective, our food safer and our planet better. They come from many cultures, speak many languages and arrive at statistics careers via many paths. But at least one aspect is recognised by virtually every statistician – our discipline and profession are simply not visible enough. It is an invisible science that is having an enormous impact.

The International Year of Statistics is a major effort to increase the visibility of statistics and encourage young people to consider statistics as a career. It began with one person's vision and one society's initiative, was fanned into flame by the efforts of five statistical societies working as one, and is now spanning the globe.

What activities and events have been planned for Statistics2013 so far?

As noted, this is a grassroots activity, and the participating organisations are planning their own sets of activities. Here are some examples to give a sense of the rich variety of plans thus far:

Login

Subscribe to publications

Request a free sample edition

Register to view digital publications

OPEN ACCESS

The International Innovation series are open access publications which means that all content is freely available without charge to the user or his/her institution. Readers are allowed to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of the articles in this publication without asking prior permission from the publisher or the author.

Tweets Follow

 **Research Media** @ResearchMedia 24 Sep

Students can come and visit us at the 'Careers with a Science Degree' fair at the University of Bristol October 30th - bit.ly/15IHLul
Expand

 **Research Media** @ResearchMedia 19 Sep

International Innovation subscribers get an
Tweet to @ResearchMedia

FEATURED INSTITUTES

- Statistics Lithuania (the government agency responsible for official statistics in Lithuania) is organising a conference about statistics and youth. They have launched a photography competition related to statistics and developed wall and pocket calendars themed around the International Year of Statistics
- At Donetsk National University in the Ukraine, a 'school of the young' will allow students to connect to data in a way that reveals the use of statistics in various aspects of their lives. A research competition for students is also planned
- The Department of Statistics at Shahrood University of Technology in Iran is hosting a special competition for undergraduate students. Nine students will be selected to present their statistical research
- The Uganda Statistical Society has scheduled monthly seminars for Statistics2013 and a special symposium to kick off the year
- The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is creating an area on its website dedicated to the celebration and is developing a series of profiles on women in statistics it will highlight there. AWIS is also developing a webinar on careers in statistics for women
- A cluster of universities from Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico are organising an applied statistics congress to emphasise its importance in addressing social, economic, health and environmental problems
- A group of young statisticians from around the world has agreed to blog about careers in statistics during 2013
- SAS Institute in the US has festooned its Cary, North Carolina campus with banners proclaiming 2013 as the International Year of Statistics and developed a video about statistics. A number of other videos are being developed internationally

At the time of writing, many organisations are still finalising their plans, but these examples provide a taste from several continents. In addition to the grassroots effort, the Statistics2013 Steering Committee is offering the following activities:

- A website has been created with information about statistics and careers in statistics, with regularly updated news features, an interactive quiz, informative cartoons and more
- A video about statistics and its relevance to most aspects of our lives has been produced (<http://youtu.be/nTBZuQR7dRc>) and subtitled in many languages. The video is being used by organisations around the world to explain what statistics is and why it matters
- A second video, featuring interesting careers in statistics, is planned for mid-2013
- A video contest will be devised regarding statistics that is open to everyone
- A poster highlighting the contributions of statistics will be designed
- A research conference will be organised in London in November that will feature many of the top statisticians in the world, along with scientists with whom they collaborate to advance knowledge and improve human welfare

One of the main goals of Statistics2013 is to raise awareness of the importance of statistics to the advancement of science and the human condition. By what means do you intend to do this?

The activities and events are a major means by which Statistics2013 will raise awareness, but members of the Steering Committee have planned some direct outreach to the media and public as well. Here are a few examples:

- A promotional toolkit will be given to all participating organisations, providing information and strategies that can be used for outreach
- The website will be a powerful tool for raising awareness of statistics
- Major outreach to media worldwide is planned
- The Census at School project (www.amstat.org/censusatschool and www.censusatschool.org.uk/international-projects) will reach children around the world in a way that helps them understand statistics as relevant, and even fun!
- CAUSEWEB.org is planning to produce cartoons on various statistical concepts and write brief descriptions of those concepts

Which organisations are taking part in Statistics2013? How can people get involved?

Professional societies, colleges and universities, secondary schools, government entities, businesses and others are among the vast network of organisations joining in the celebration of the International Year of Statistics. Any organisation is welcome and individuals can get involved, too. Via the website, they can read about activities around the world and consider how they can be part of promoting the goals of Statistics2013.

To what extent will Statistics2013 highlight the importance of statistics to healthcare? Are there particular healthcare organisations participating or healthcare-orientated activities planned?

There are many healthcare-related examples. These include contributions of statistics to new drug development, drug approval processes, study of the spread and prevention of diseases, integration of medical records for comprehensive treatments and fraud detection in health insurance claims. In addition, a large number of medical facilities,

You are not currently logged in.

Username:

Password:

Remember Me

Login

[» Lost your Password?](#)

pharmaceutical companies, federal agencies and biostatistics departments are among the organisations taking part. Several branches of the UN that are concerned with health and population-related issues are also participating.

After the International Year of Statistics has run its course, what are your hopes in terms of its legacy?

We hope the resources being developed and the connections being made live well beyond the end of 2013. These resources will be very helpful for educators, scientists, policy makers and others around the globe, and they will also help in capacity building in statistics. We hope the public is more aware of the impact of statistics. The more statistically literate people are, the better it will be for advancing frontiers of science and helping set policies guided by data and observation. We also hope activities that make statistics come alive for people continue well past 2013.

www.statistics2013.org

Tags: American Statistical Association ASA Professor Ron Wasserstein Statistics2013 Steering Committee

-->

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Legal Disclaimer](#) | [Cookie Policy](#)

Research Media Ltd | VAT no: GB 665 359 306 | Tel: +44 117 911 3470

Trading address: 111 Gloucester Road, Bishopston, Bristol, BS7 8AT
Registered office: Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley, BD16 1WA

COPYRIGHT © 2009 RESEARCH MEDIA – EUROPE RESEARCH & SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.