

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING



- ESTABLISHED 2013 -

Newsletter of The Jamaica Statistical Society

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“STATISTICS IN SUPPORT OF POLICY”

Second Biennial Jamaica Statistics Symposium and Pre-Conference Workshops, October 27-30, 2015

Held on 27-30, October 2015 at the Mona Visitor's Lodge and Conference Centre UWI, the **Jamaica Statistics Symposium and Pre-Conference workshop Series (JASSYM 2015)**, organized by **The Jamaica Statistical Society** was a huge success. JASSYM 2015 was aimed at highlighting appropriate ways of handling data when preparing and using it for policy development. Representatives of key organizations were present at the opening ceremony including Dr. Cliff Riley from the Scientific Research Council, Dr. Delano Lewis from Northern Caribbean University, Prof. Ishenkamba Kahwa from the University of the West Indies and Professor Colin Gyles from the University of Technology. The Feature lecture was presented by the Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Mr. Collin Bullock.

High quality research and technical papers were presented. The presentations were divided in two categories Oral and Lightning Poster Oral. Feature Presentations included: **“Statistical Methods for Grants and Protocols: What Information Should be Conveyed?”** which was given by Dr. Jonathan D. Mahnken, Director of the Data Management and Statistics Core, The University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center. **“Meta-analysis: Planning, Implementation and Interpretation”** by Dr. Chris Barker, President and Owner, Statistical Planning and Analysis Services, Inc., USA and **“Approaches to Handling Time to Event Data”** which was done by Dr. Karan P. Singh, Prof. in the Division of Preventive Medicine (DPM) and Director of the Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Shared Facility, University of Alabama, Birmingham. Other presenters included persons from the Ministry of Finance, UWI and UTech in Jamaica; other Caribbean countries as well as persons from Central and South America.



Attendees at JASSYM 2015 Statistics Symposium

Mission:

The Mission of The Jamaica Statistical Society is to:

- ◆ Foster and encourage the growth, development and application of statistics in all areas to make reliable informed decisions
- ◆ Facilitate the use of statistical applications to provide valid explanations of relationships between variables
- ◆ Serve the interest of all persons participating in data analysis by providing myriad of continuous education opportunities through workshops and seminars
- ◆ Promote the public understanding of the importance of safeguarding the reliability of data as well as support education and training in statistics at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The Society's over-arching goal is to become a key player in upholding and advancing high standards of statistical competence by providing consultative and training services to statisticians and data analysts in the private and government sectors as well as other individuals working with data.



“STATISTICS IN SUPPORT OF POLICY”.

Second Biennial Jamaica Statistics Symposium Special Awards

Special awards were given to presenters with the Best Oral Presentation, Best Lightning Poster Oral Presentation and Best Student Presentation. The Best Oral Presentation was awarded to **Dr. Tamika Royal –Thomas** whose presentation was entitled “Multivariate Analysis of Health Data: The Use of Principal Component and Factor Analyses in Predicting Cardiovascular Risk”. The Best Lightning Poster Oral was awarded to **Dr. Victor Reyes-Ortiz** whose presentation was entitled “Criteria Evaluation of Malnutrition Screening Tool Scale Among a Sample of Puerto Rican Hospitalized Patients: Improving Health Measures in response of Patients’ Best Quality of Care.” The Best Student Presentation was awarded to **Mrs. Lorinette Wirth** based on the presentation entitled “Changes in Knowledge, Attitude and Susceptibility towards Cigarette Smoking and Secondhand Smoke Among In-School Jamaican Youths over a Ten Years Period.”



Dr. Tamika Royal –Thomas receives her award for the Best Oral Presentation from JSS President, David Findlay.



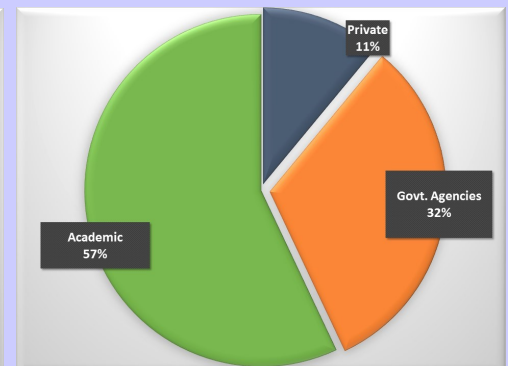
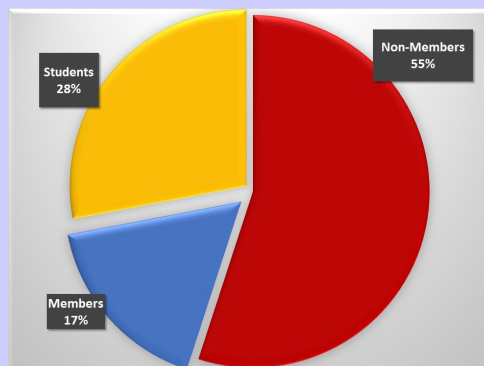
Dr. Victor Reyes-Ortiz receives his award for the Best Lightning Poster Oral Presentation from JSS Member, Paulene Gayle-Betten.



Mrs. Lorinette Wirth receives her award for the Best Student Presentation from JSS President, David Findlay.

A total of 87 persons attended and participated in the four day event, which was brought together: Researchers, Data Analysts, Statisticians, Managers, Educators, Students and persons involved in technical fields from around the world. The participants came from organisations such as Government agencies and Ministries, Academic Institutions, the Private sectors and other organizations and all were involved in some aspects of Statistics and Data Analysis.

Breakdown of Symposium Participants



JSS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Pre-Conference Workshop Series (JASSYM 2015)

Data Analysis using Microsoft Excel and R Statistical Workshop was held on October 27, 2015. This workshop was facilitated by Mrs. Natalie Guthrie-Dixon from the University of Technology and Mr. Richard Plummer from the University of the West Indies. This workshop featured descriptive and inferential data analysis methods and compared how these were implemented in both statistical programmes. A total of thirty-two persons were in attendance. These participants were from government agencies & ministries, academic institutions and private sector agencies.



Participants of the Data Analysis using Microsoft Excel and R Statistical Workshop

Leveraging Data for Evidence Based Decision Making Workshop was held on October 28, 2015. This workshop was facilitated by Dr. Madhu Mazumdar, Professor of Biostatistics and Director of the Institute of Health Care Delivery Science at Mount-Sinai Health System in New York, USA. This course provided an understanding of the analytical methods needed by the decision makers in organizations to critically interpret the findings of comparative effectiveness studies and quality improvement. Thirty-one persons from government agencies & ministries, academic institutions and the private sector attended this workshop.



Participants of the Leveraging Data for Evidence Based Decision Making Workshop.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Advancing into 2016

Looking back over our shoulders at 2015 a few things may have a prominent place in our memory, The Advanced Excel workshops held for the Office of Utilities Regulation of Jamaica and the Symposium stand out. These were grand occasions.

During this year along with seeking to elect a new executive for our Society we may embark upon this new year with great anticipation. We welcome greater input in terms of participation as well as suggestions for more activities. As the membership continues to grow we hope that there will be greater variety.

The proposed theme for 2016 is "Statistics empowering research and development".

Research should not be the practice of academia only. It is the prerogative of Government and private industry to engage in research in order to enhance policy for best practices and effective performance. Universities and companies should work together to create national excellence and opportunity for individual prosperity.

Science, whether it is socio-economic, natural, engineering or otherwise is the basis for decision making and as a result statistics is at its foundation. Socio-economic problems including criminology are dependent on statistical methods such as categorical data analysis, functional data analysis and various branches of multivariate data analysis. Engineering and pure science fields such as chemistry, geology and the earth sciences employ methods including geostatistics, quality control methods and response surface methodology. Health and medical fields are popular and vast areas for the application of statistical methodology. Every area that requires decision making or optimization welcomes the service of statistical science and applied methodology.

Although research has a qualitative segment, these areas may be enhanced by employing the quantitative methods which include statistical methods. Educational institutions, government agencies and the private sector are encouraged to embrace quantitative data analytic methods in order to improve Jamaica and the region at large.

*David Finlay, President
The Jamaica Statistical Society*

MEMBERS CORNER

JSS Annual General Meeting 2016

The Jamaica Statistical Society's Nomination Process

All ordinary members shall be eligible to vote for positions of **President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary**. At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), voting shall take place either by a show of hands (ordinary open ballot) or by secret ballot. Online voting will be made available up to two days prior to the AGM.

Important Dates

June 30 - Candidate Booklet to be circulated
September 22 - Annual General Meeting

Elections will be held at this upcoming 2016 AGM.

Paper ballots will be made available at the AGM for persons who did not utilize the online voting. Voting by proxy using paper ballot will also be made available at the AGM. Persons voting by proxy should give notice of same at least 24 hours before the start of the AGM.

Marcia Creary Ford, Secretary

OF INTEREST TO YOU!

Participate in the 61st Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference, which will be hosted in the Turks and Caicos Islands on June 23-25, 2016. The theme is *Family Health* and includes reproductive and sexual health; the health of adolescents and children; the elderly; men's health etc. Please visit the CARPHA website for more information: <http://conference.carpha.org/Portals/2016/CallforPapers.pdf>.

Save the Date! International Biometric Conference (IBC) 2016 will be held in 10-16 July, Victoria, BC Canada. <http://biometricconference.org/>

2016 Joint Statistical Meetings. July 30 - August 4, 2016
Chicago, Illinois, McCormick Place (<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm.cfm>)

World of Statistics Activities - <http://www.worldofstatistics.org/>

Contact Us

THE JAMAICA STATISTICAL SOCIETY
c/o Office 6, Epidemiology Research Unit, 7 Ring Road, UWI,
Mona, Kingston 7. Email: jamaica.statistical.soc@gmail.com
Tel: 977 0746 Ext. 227 (N. Younger-Coleman); 833 0603

The Interim Officers of
The Jamaica Statistical
Society are as follows:



President
David Finlay, MSc



1st Vice-President
Novie Younger-Coleman, PhD



2nd Vice-President
Natalie Guthrie-Dixon, MSc.



Treasurer
Shelly McFarlane, MPhil



Secretary
Marcia Creary Ford, MPhil