



LIAISON

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In Memoriam: Arak M. Mathai

Arak M. Mathai (April 28, 1935–December 20, 2025), an eminent mathematician and statistician whose work markedly shaped modern multivariate analysis, special functions, and applied probability, recently passed away after contending with a cancer that was as swift as it was unforeseen, bequeathing a legacy of enduring resonance and global influence.

Born in Kerala, India, he displayed a remarkable aptitude for mathematics from an early age. After completing his initial studies in his home country, he pursued advanced studies at the University of Toronto before joining the faculty at McGill University in Montréal, where he devoted the greater part of his distinguished academic career to teaching and research. Over more than six decades, he established himself as one of the most creative and prolific contributors to the mathematical and statistical sciences.

A. M. Mathai's research extended across numerous areas of statistics and many branches of mathematics, intersecting with geometrical probability, information theory, astrophysics, and biological modelling. The author of 37 books and more than 300 research articles, he indeed made a significant impact across a broad array of research areas. An excellent account of his varied contributions may be found at: https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ce_2020032415263705.pdf

Yet, beyond the researcher, it is the mentor whom many will remember. Professor Mathai was a generous and inspiring guide whose influence extended across several generations of scholars. He supervised numerous graduate students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers. He encouraged independent thought while offering patient support and wise counsel. I was fortunate to be among those he supervised, pursuing my doctoral studies under his guidance from 1980 to 1984. He also played a decisive role in my joining Western University's Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, where I have been professionally active for upwards of 42 years. His mentorship contributed meaningfully to my academic development. Over the years, as we collaborated on three books and numerous research papers, I was continually inspired by his



La disparition d'Arak M. Mathai (28 avril 1935 – 20 décembre 2025), mathématicien et statisticien d'une rare envergure dont l'œuvre a éminemment façonné l'analyse multivariée moderne, la théorie des fonctions spéciales et la probabilité appliquée, représente une perte d'une portée singulière. Terrassé au terme d'un combat contre un cancer aussi fulgurant qu'inattendu, il lègue un héritage intellectuel d'une richesse exceptionnelle et d'une portée véritablement mondiale.

Natif du Kerala, en Inde, il révéla dès son plus jeune âge un talent indéniable pour les mathématiques. Après avoir terminé ses premières études dans son pays natal, il a poursuivi sa formation à l'Université de Toronto, puis a rejoint le corps professoral de l'Université

McGill, à Montréal, où il a consacré l'essentiel de sa brillante carrière universitaire à l'enseignement et à la recherche.

Le corpus de ses travaux s'étend à un vaste éventail de domaines, allant de la statistique multivariée à la probabilité géométrique, en passant par la théorie de l'information, l'astrophysique et la modélisation biologique. Auteur de 37 ouvrages et de plus de 300 articles, il a, de fait, profondément influencé maints champs de recherche. Une présentation éclairante de ses diverses contributions peut être consultée à l'adresse : https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ce_2020032415263705.pdf

Mais au-delà du scientifique, c'est le formateur que beaucoup retiendront. Le professeur Mathai était un guide attentionné et particulièrement inspirant, dont l'influence a éclairé plusieurs générations de chercheurs. Il a encadré un grand nombre d'étudiants des cycles supérieurs, un contingent d'entre eux ayant par la suite mené des carrières distinguées. Il savait encourager la réflexion autonome tout en offrant un accompagnement attentif et bienveillant. J'eus le privilège de compter parmi ses étudiants doctoraux de 1980 à 1984. Il a également joué un rôle clé quant à mon intégration au sein du Département de statistique et d'actuariat de l'Université Western, où je poursuis mon parcours professionnel depuis plus de 42 ans. Son mentorat a sensiblement façonné mon développement académique. Au fil des ans, nous avons conjointement rédigé trois ou-

In Memoriam: Arak M. Mathai

rigorous work ethic. Above all, like so many others, I knew him as a caring, kind, and affable person. He had a gift for making complex ideas accessible and delighted in sharing his insights with others, speaking with clarity and purpose, asking thoughtful questions and offering constructive feedback. His passing has left a profound sense of loss among all who had the privilege of benefiting from his guidance and encouragement.



ouvrages ainsi que plusieurs articles, et j'ai constamment été impressionné par son ardeur au travail. Surtout, comme tant d'autres, je l'ai connu comme un homme d'une grande humanité : affable, généreux, animé d'un profond désir de transmettre. Il excellait à rendre limpides les idées les plus complexes, posait des questions d'une rare pertinence et offrait des commentaires toujours constructifs. Sa disparition laisse un vide considérable chez tous ceux qui ont eu la chance de bénéficier de ses conseils et encouragements.

Professor Mathai's influence extended far beyond McGill University. For instance, he was among the principal architects of the Centre for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CMSS), established in the state of Kerala, a research institute dedicated to advancing statistics and mathematics in India. Under his leadership, CMSS became a vibrant hub for research, training, and international collaboration. His commitment to fostering scientific development in his home country proved unwavering.

L'apport du professeur Mathai rayonna bien au-delà du giron de l'Université McGill. Par exemple, il fut l'un des fondateurs du Centre for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CMSS), implanté dans l'État du Kerala, un institut voué à l'avancement des mathématiques et de la statistique en Inde. Sous son égide, le CMSS devint un lieu de recherche dynamique, un espace de formation et un carrefour de collaborations internationales. Son engagement envers le développement scientifique de son pays natal s'est avéré constant et authentique.

The honours he received attest to the esteem he commanded internationally. A fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Royal Statistical Society, and the National Academy of Sciences of India, he also held the presidencies of both the Indian Mathematical Society and the Kerala State Statistical Commission. He sat on the editorial boards of leading journals while frequently being invited to deliver keynote lectures. On three occasions, he was honoured by the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs. Notably, he founded the Canadian Journal of Statistics and the Statistical Science Association of Canada—subsequently renamed the Statistical Society of Canada. Despite these distinctions and his distinguished achievements, he remained unfailingly humble throughout his career.

Les honneurs qui lui furent décernés témoignent de l'estime dont il jouissait à l'échelle internationale. Élu Fellow de l'IMS (Institute of Mathematical Statistics), de la Royal Statistical Society et de la National Academy of Sciences of India, il exerça également la présidence de l'Indian Mathematical Society et de la Kerala State Statistical Commission. De plus, il siégea aux comités éditoriaux de revues scientifiques de haut calibre et fut fréquemment convié à prononcer des conférences d'honneur. À trois reprises, il fut honoré par le Bureau des affaires spatiales des Nations Unies. Par ailleurs, il fonda La revue canadienne de statistique et l'Association canadienne de science statistique — laquelle deviendra plus tard la Société statistique du Canada. Nonobstant ces marques de distinction et son remarquable parcours, il demeura toute sa vie d'une modestie exemplaire.

In Memoriam: Arak M. Mathai

The loss of A. M. Mathai reverberates well beyond the Canadian statistical community, echoing across scientific circles worldwide. His ideas keep inspiring new and vibrant avenues of research, and his influence endures in the students he trained, the wide circle of collaborators who worked alongside him, and all those who are carrying his insights forward. His imprint is woven into the fabric of modern mathematical statistics, and his legacy will continue to resonate for generations.

He is survived by his family, to whom his devotion never wavered. His memory will live on not only through his scientific contributions but also through the generosity, integrity, and intellectual ethos that defined him.

The life and work of Arak M. Mathai reflect a genuine passion for discovery, a steadfast dedication to mentorship, and a sustained commitment to the advancement of knowledge. He will be deeply missed.

Serge B. Provost

La disparition d'A. M. Mathai plonge la communauté statistique canadienne dans un deuil dont la portée atteint des milieux scientifiques du monde entier. Ses idées continuent d'inspirer des recherches en plein essor, et son influence se reflète chez les étudiants qu'il a formés au fil de sa carrière, les nombreux collaborateurs qui l'ont côtoyé au cours des ans, de même que les chercheurs qui s'engagent aujourd'hui dans les multiples pistes qu'il a frayées. Son empreinte s'avère désormais indissociable de l'édifice de la statistique mathématique moderne, et son héritage épistémique résonnera longtemps encore.

Il laisse dans le deuil sa famille, à laquelle il demeura fidèlement attaché. Sa mémoire perdurera non seulement dans ses contributions scientifiques, mais aussi dans la générosité, la droiture et l'esprit de curiosité qui l'ont toujours animé.

La vie et l'œuvre d'Arak M. Mathai témoignent d'une passion indéfectible pour la découverte, d'un sens affirmé du mentorat, et d'un engagement soutenu à l'approfondissement des connaissances. Son absence sera vivement ressentie.

Serge B. Provost

SSC Community Connections: Catherine Njue

Liens communautaires de la SSC : Catherine Njue

The Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) Community Connections initiative aims to foster connections across the SSC by highlighting individual members of our community. This initiative aligns with one of the SSC's strategic priorities: promoting a sense of community in the statistical sciences and related fields. Selected individuals will be featured in articles published in SSC Liaison.

We are pleased to spotlight Dr. Catherine Njue, manager of the office of biostatistics in the Biologic and Radiopharmaceutical Drugs Directorate at Health Canada. Prior to joining Health Canada, she earned a PhD in statistics from the University of Manitoba and worked as a biostatistician at CancerCare Manitoba. At Health Canada, Dr. Njue leads a team of biostatisticians who primarily evaluate the statistical methodology of clinical trials and other sources of evidence for biologics and radiopharmaceutical drugs.

Dr. Njue's first involvement with the SSC was attending an annual meeting as a PhD student. Her favourite memories from SSC annual meetings are rooted in networking and connecting with other statisticians. In fact, she credits attending an SSC annual meeting with leading her to a career in regulatory statistics. Throughout her time within the SSC community, Dr. Njue has taken on various roles in the SSC and currently serves on the board of directors as an elected representative from Ontario.

According to Dr. Njue, the highlights of her job include seeing the important applications of biostatistics in different therapeutic areas, understanding the important role statistics plays in regulatory decision-making, and her "amazing team of biostatisticians." She believes regulatory statistics is a very interesting field of statistics and encourages SSC members to learn more about it.



L'initiative Liens communautaires de la Société statistique du Canada (SSC) vise à renforcer les liens au sein de la SSC en mettant en lumière des membres de notre communauté. Cette initiative reflète l'une des priorités stratégiques de la SSC : favoriser un sentiment d'appartenance au sein des sciences statistiques et des disciplines connexes. Les membres sélectionnés seront les sujets d'articles publiés dans le bulletin d'information Liaison de la SSC.

Dans cet article, nous sommes heureux de présenter Catherine Njue, PhD. Elle est gestionnaire du bureau de la biostatistique de la Direction des médicaments biologiques et radiopharmaceutiques de Santé Canada. Avant d'entrer en fonction à Santé Canada, Mme Njue a obtenu un doctorat en statistique à l'Université du Manitoba et a travaillé comme biostatisticienne à CancerCare Manitoba. À Santé Canada, elle dirige l'équipe de biostatistique qui s'occupe principalement de l'évaluation de la méthodologie statistique des essais cliniques et d'autres sources de données probantes relatives aux médicaments biologiques et radiopharmaceutiques.

L'engagement de Mme Njue auprès de la SSC a débuté pendant son doctorat, lors d'un congrès annuel. Ses souvenirs les plus chers de ces congrès sont liés au réseautage et aux échanges avec d'autres statisticiens. Elle attribue d'ailleurs son orientation professionnelle vers les statistiques en contexte réglementaire à sa participation à un congrès annuel de la SSC. Depuis ses débuts au sein de la communauté de la SSC, Mme Njue a assumé de nombreux rôles, et siège actuellement à notre conseil d'administration en tant que représentante élue de l'Ontario.

Parmi les aspects que Mme Njue apprécie le plus dans son travail figurent le fait d'être témoin privilégiée des importantes applications de la biostatistique dans divers domaines thérapeutiques, d'avoir acquis une compréhension du rôle clé que joue la statistique dans la prise de décisions réglementaires, ainsi que la collaboration avec son « exceptionnelle équipe de biostatisticiens ». La statistique réglementaire est pour elle un domaine particulièrement intéressant, qu'elle encourage les membres de la SSC à découvrir.

SSC Community Connections: Catherine Njue

Liens communautaires de la SSC : Catherine Njue

Dr. Njue's most important career milestones involve being recognized as a leader. Her dedication to leadership extends to the SSC community. For instance, she served as a career panelist at the 2021 Canadian Statistics Student Conference, sharing her expertise with junior members of our community. She encourages early-career researchers in the field to think outside the box. Outside of work, she enjoys music.

We sincerely thank Dr. Njue for sharing her insights and for participating in our SSC Community Connections initiative.

Would you like to be featured in a future SSC Liaison article, or do you know an SSC member we should spotlight? If so, please submit a nomination via our Google form. You must log in to mySSC to submit a nomination.



Les plus grandes réussites professionnelles de Mme Njue sont liées à la reconnaissance de son leadership, qu'elle met également au service de la communauté de la SSC. Par exemple, elle a participé à titre de paneliste à une discussion sur les carrières lors du Congrès canadien des étudiants en statistique de 2021, où elle a partagé son expérience avec les jeunes membres de notre communauté. Aux stagiaires et chercheurs en début de carrière, elle conseille de s'aventurer hors des sentiers battus. À l'extérieur du travail, elle aime la musique.

Nous remercions sincèrement Mme Njue d'avoir partagé ses idées et d'avoir participé à l'initiative Liens communautaires de la SSC.

Souhaitez-vous figurer dans un futur article de Liaison de la SSC ou connaissez-vous un membre du SSC que nous devrions mettre en avant? Si c'est le cas, veuillez soumettre une nomination via notre formulaire Google. Vous devez vous connecter à mySSC pour soumettre une nomination.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Teaching Stream Faculty Position in Statistics and Actuarial Science

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science in the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo invites applications for one permanence-track, teaching-stream Assistant Professor position in Statistics and Actuarial Science. Candidates must hold a doctoral degree in statistics, actuarial science, or a related area and have a proven record of teaching undergraduate courses in statistics and actuarial science. Experience of teaching at the graduate level is considered an asset. The expected start date for the position is July 1, 2026, although the actual start date is flexible. The annual salary range for the position is \$100,000 to \$140,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience.



**UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO**

The University of Waterloo is one of Canada's leading universities with over 40,000 full and part-time students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science is one of the top academic units for the statistical and actuarial sciences in the world and is home to 70 full-time faculty, more than 200 graduate students, and near 2,000 undergraduate students in programs including Actuarial Science, Financial Analysis and Risk Management, Quantitative Finance, Data Science, Statistics, and Biostatistics. The department offers a vibrant research and teaching environment over a wide range of areas.

Interested individuals should apply using <https://www.mathjobs.org/jobs/list/27991>. Applications should include a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, teaching statement, and teaching evaluation summaries (if available). In addition, applicants should arrange to have at least two reference letters submitted through MathJobs on their behalf. The application deadline is February 28, 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the position, the application process, assessment process, or eligibility, please contact

Professor Changbao Wu, Chair
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
University of Waterloo
Waterloo ON N2L 3G1, CANADA
cbwu@uwaterloo.ca

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.
Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within our Indigenous Initiatives Office.

(<https://uwaterloo.ca/human-rights-equity-inclusion/indigenousinitiatives>).

The University values the diverse and intersectional identities of its students, faculty, and staff. The University regards equity and diversity as an integral part of academic excellence and is committed to accessibility for all employees. The University of Waterloo seeks applicants who embrace our values of equity, anti-racism and inclusion. As such, we encourage applications from candidates who have been historically disadvantaged and marginalized, including applicants who identify as Indigenous peoples (e.g., First Nations, Métis, Inuit/Inuk), Black, racialized, people with disabilities, women and/or 2SLGBTQ+.

The University of Waterloo is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. If you have any application, interview or workplace accommodation requests, please contact Professor Changbao Wu (cbwu@uwaterloo.ca).

Three additional reasons to apply: <https://uwaterloo.ca/faculty-association/why-waterloo>

SSC elections candidates 2026

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Sunday, February 15, 2026 - 12:00

Liaison Newsletter [Liaison Vol. 40.1 February 2026](#)

The election committee hereby publishes a list of candidates for positions on the executive and board of directors that will become vacant on July 1, 2026. In addition, candidates for positions on the executives of the sections and on accreditation committees are also provided.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Three-Year Terms) PRESIDENT-ELECT [President, 2027–2028; Past President, 2028–2029]

Lisa Lix, University of Manitoba

Dr. Lisa Lix is a Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Methods for Electronic Health Data Quality in the College of Community and Global Health at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Lix is also director of data science in the George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation where she leads a team of biostatisticians, bioinformaticians, and clinical data experts. Dr. Lix's research expertise lies in developing and applying statistical and machine-learning models to complex electronic health data for chronic disease research and population surveillance. The excellence of Dr. Lix's scientific contributions have been recognized through such awards and recognitions as: Long-term Career Award, Health Policy Statistics Section, American Statistical

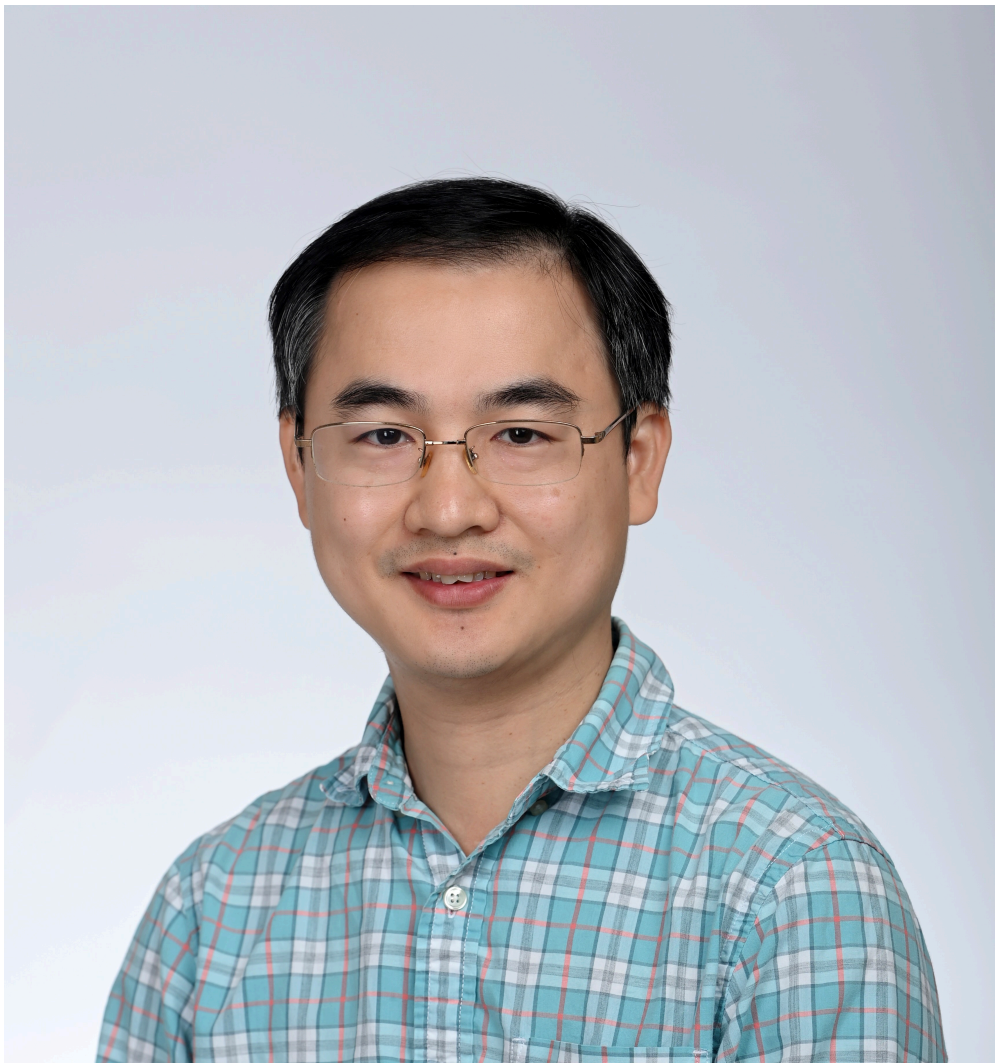
Association (2025); Fellow, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (2024); Lifetime Achievement Award, Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (2023); Fellow, American Statistical Association (2020).



TREASURER

Lam Ho, Dalhousie University

Lam Ho is a professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Stochastic Modelling in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Dalhousie University. He earned his PhD in statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2014 and subsequently held a postdoctoral research position at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on statistical theory and methodology, with diverse applications in evolutionary biology, infectious disease modelling, and machine learning. Dr. Ho has actively contributed to the SSC, serving on several committees, including the new investigators committee (2018–2021), the treasurers' committee (2023–2026), and the financial committee (2025–2026).



MEETINGS COORDINATOR

Mireille Schnitzer, Université de Montréal

Mireille Schnitzer is a professor of biostatistics in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Université de Montréal, and Canada Research Chair in Causal Inference and Machine Learning in Health Science. Dr. Schnitzer received her PhD in biostatistics at McGill University in 2012, with additional training at U.C. Berkeley and University of Pennsylvania, and postdoctoral work at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her research primarily involves statistical methodological development for causal inference with a focus on nonparametric methods and complex epidemiological designs. Dr. Schnitzer was the chair of the organizing committee of the first two SSC student conferences (2013 and 2014), the chair of the organizing committee of the Atlantic Causal Inference Conference in 2019, and the cochair of the inaugural Colloque francophone interfacultaire de la recherche biostatistique in 2024. She has also chaired the SSC membership committee (2015–2017) and the women in statistics committee (2018–2020) and was a Quebec representative on the SSC board from 2022 to 2024.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Two-Year Terms)

ATLANTIC PROVINCES (One to be elected)

Edward Susko

Edward Susko is a full professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Dalhousie University where he has been since 1998. He has served two separate terms as Atlantic regional representative to the SSC board, on a number of awards committees for the SSC, and has acted as program chair and local arrangements chair for annual meetings. He is interested, generally, in statistical inference and applications. His main research focus has been on statistical issues in molecular evolution, but he is also currently involved in projects in epidemiology and spatial modelling.



Orla Murphy

Orla Murphy is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. She completed a PhD at McGill University in statistics before moving to McMaster University for a postdoctoral fellowship. Her research interests revolve around multivariate statistics, including clustering and mixture models, discrete and mixed-type data modelling, and extreme value analysis.



QUÉBEC (Two to be Elected)

Juliana Schulz

Juliana Schulz is an associate professor in the Department of Decision Sciences at HEC Montréal. She completed her PhD in statistics at McGill University, after which she held a postdoctoral position in biostatistics, also at McGill University. Dr. Schulz's research primarily focuses on dependence modelling and multivariate statistical models, with topics touching both actuarial science and biostatistics. In the field of actuarial science, she is interested in developing methods for modelling complex dependence structures stemming from multi-peril claims in nonlife insurance. In biostatistics, her interests are in causal inference and developing robust statistical methods for estimating treatment effects and individualized treatment rules.



Éric Marchand

Éric Marchand has been a professor in the Department of Mathematics at the Université de Sherbrooke since 2004. Previously, he worked at the University of New

Brunswick and completed his PhD at the Université de Montréal. He is currently department chair, having previously served in this capacity from 2004 to 2010 and from 2020 to 2023. From 2015 to 2019, he was director of the Statistics Laboratory of the CRM. From 2020 to 2023, he was a member of the executive of the Probability Section of the SSC, acting as president in 2021 and 2022. His other responsibilities include serving on the NSERC selection committee for mathematics and statistics (2013–2015) and being a member of the Université de Sherbrooke's board of governors. Over the years, he has played an active role within

the SSC, serving on the board as a regional representative and as a member of the CJS Award, Lise Manchester Award, Pierre Robillard Award, Bilingualism, Research, and Awards committees. Continuously funded by NSERC for almost 35 years, his research interests include Bayesian statistical analysis, multivariate analysis, and statistical inference in general, as well as multivariate discrete probability models. He is currently serving as associate editor for the *Journal of Multivariate Analysis* and the *American Statistician*.



ONTARIO (Two to be Elected)

Pengfei Li

Dr. Pengfei Li received his PhD in statistics from the University of Waterloo in 2007 under the supervision of professors **Jiahua Chen** and **Paul Marriott**, and completed postdoctoral training at the University of British Columbia in 2008. He began his academic career at

the University of Alberta (2008–2011) before returning to Waterloo in 2012, where he has been a professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science since 2019. His research focuses on finite mixture models, biased and nonprobability sampling, empirical likelihood, and capture-recapture methods.

Dr. Li is the recipient of the CRM-SSC Prize in Statistics (2022) and was elected a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in the same year. He has also been recognized with the Faculty of Mathematics Golden Jubilee Research Excellence Award (2020) and several outstanding performance awards at the University of Waterloo.



Liqun Diao

Liqun Diao is an associate professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo and has been a member

of the SSC since 2010. Her research focuses on developing and applying statistical methods and machine learning algorithms to solve problems and advance knowledge in medicine, public health, and insurance. Dr. Diao is passionate about building a connected scientific community. She has a strong record of organizing and chairing numerous research seminars and scientific sessions. Within the university, she is an active member of the women in mathematics committee, supporting activities including the Directed Reading Program and the annual Navigating Your Career conference.



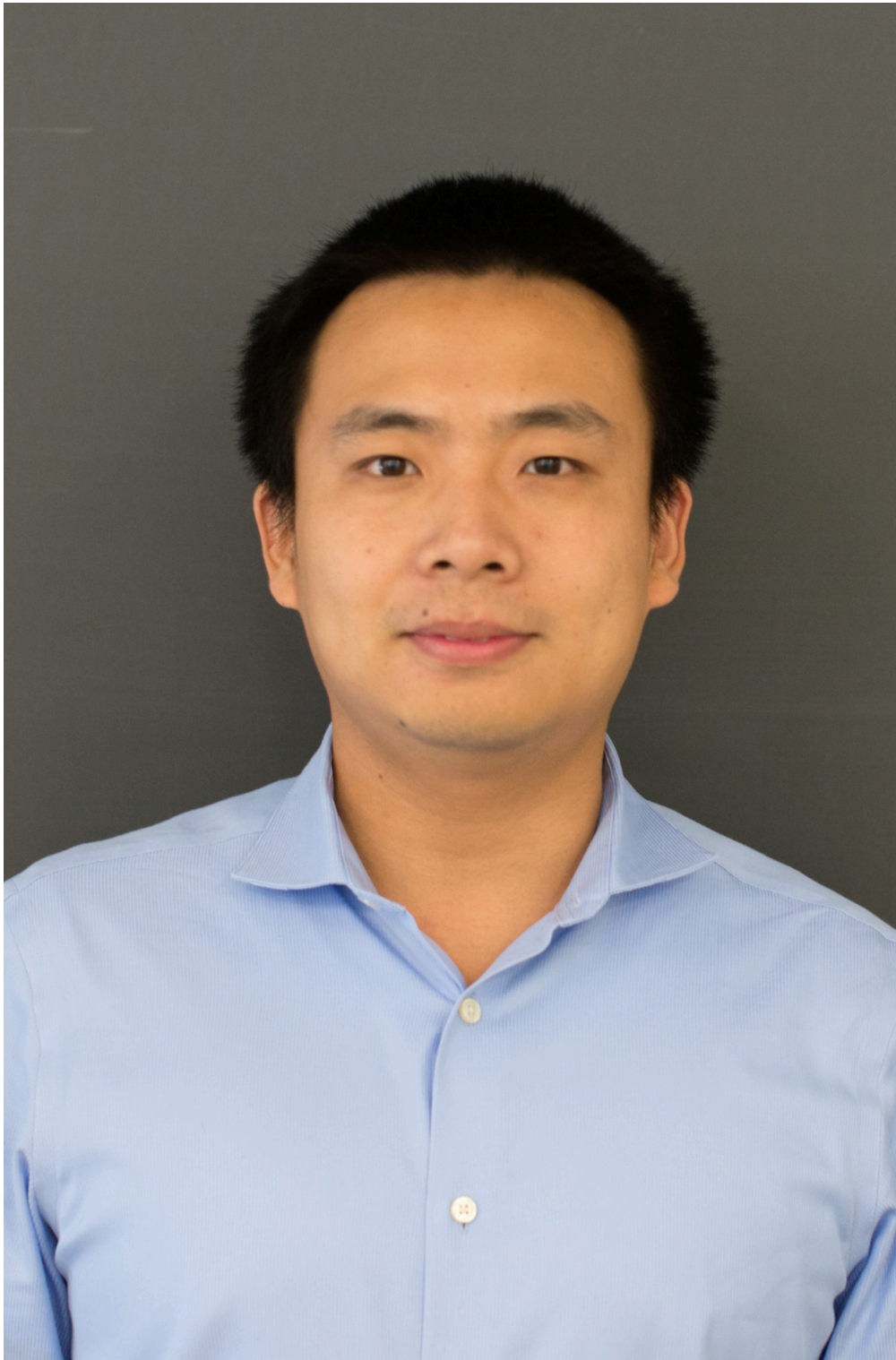
Guowen Huang

Dr. Guowen Huang is an assistant professor in statistics at Western University. He earned his PhD in statistics from the University of Glasgow and previously held postdoctoral research positions at National Tsing Hua University and the University of Toronto. Before joining Western, Dr. Huang was an associate professor at Shantou University. His research specializes in spatial statistics, particularly the statistical modelling of air pollution data and its effects on human health.



Dehan Kong

Dehan Kong is an associate professor of statistics at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on developing advanced data science methodologies for analyzing large, complex, and multi-scale real-world data. He is a recipient of the NSERC Discovery Accelerator Supplement Award (2017). He currently serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* and *Data Science in Science*, and previously served as an associate editor for the *Canadian Journal of Statistics*. He also serves on the NSERC Discovery Grant Mathematics and Statistics Evaluation Group (2024–2027) and the ICSA board of directors (2026–2028). His professional service includes leadership roles as program chair for the ASA Statistics in Imaging Section (2025), program chair for the 5th ICSA Canada Chapter Symposium (2022), chair of the ASA Student Paper Awards committee for the Section on Statistics in Imaging (2024), and co-organizer of the 23rd IMS New Researchers Conference (2023).



**MANITOBA–SASKATCHEWAN–NORTHWEST TERRITORIES–
NUNAVUT (One to be Elected)**

Sumeet Kalia

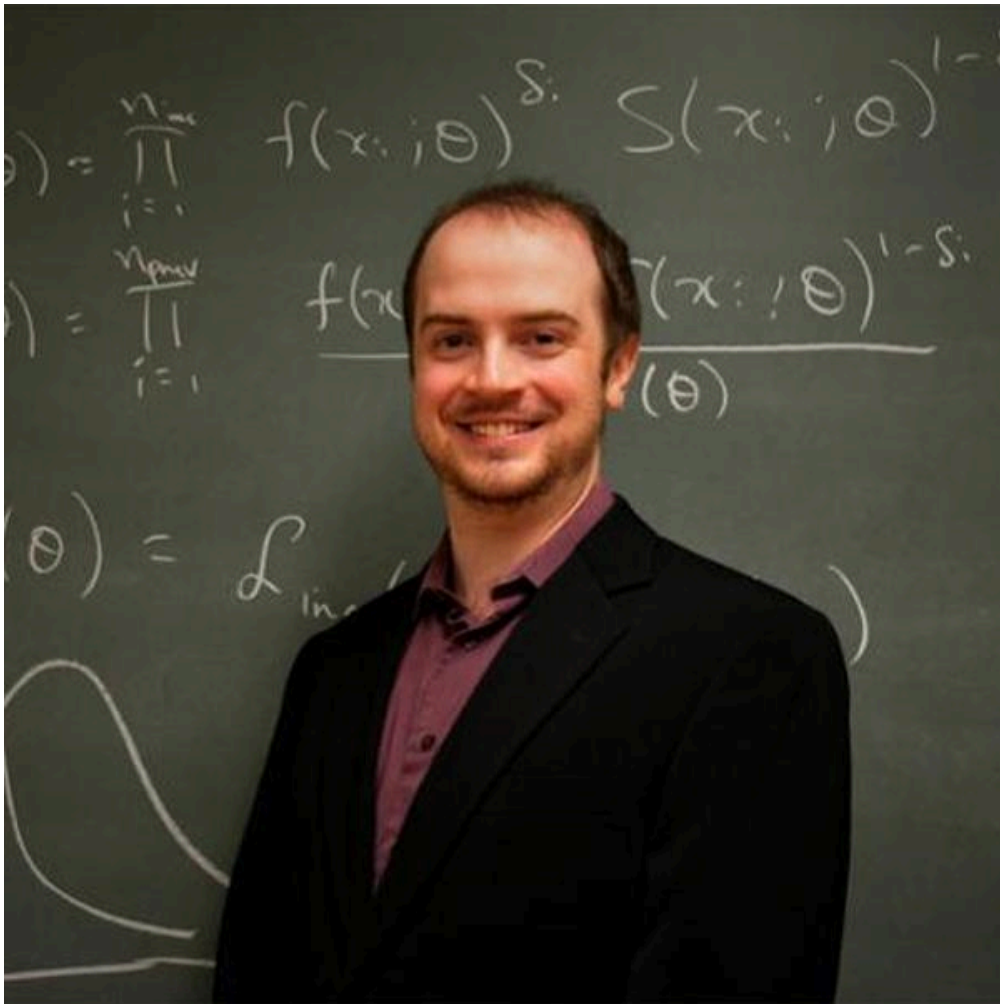
Dr. Sumeet Kalia is an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Manitoba. He earned his PhD in biostatistics from the University of Toronto under the supervision of **Prof. Saarela**, with a dissertation titled "Causal Inference Using Electronic Health Records in Primary Care." Dr. Kalia also holds a MSc in biostatistics from Western University, where he worked under the joint supervision of **Prof. Donner** and **Prof. Klar** on his thesis, "On the Estimation of Intraclass

Correlation for Time-to-Event Outcomes in Cluster Randomized Trials." Previously, Dr. Kalia conducted applied and methodological research using primary care electronic health records while working as a research analyst (biostatistician) at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto.



James McVittie

Dr. James McVittie is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Regina. He completed his undergraduate degree in mathematics and statistics at the University of Toronto and his graduate degrees (MSc and PhD) from McGill University. His research interests include the development of survival analysis modelling techniques for combined cohort data and measurement error problems in partially observed time to event data. He currently serves as the chair of the University of Regina statistical consulting service and as chair of the SSC committee on new investigators.



Kevin McGregor

Kevin McGregor is an assistant professor at the University of Manitoba. His research focuses on statistical genetics, compositional data, and Bayesian statistics. He has been in the SSC community for 12 years. In 2018, he was the local arrangements chair of the SSC's Canadian Statistics Student Conference at McGill University. In 2021, he joined the committee on new investigators for the SSC. In 2022, he became the chair of that committee, and was responsible for organizing year-round events for new investigators and the annual presentation award for new investigators. He is very much looking forward to the prospect of further serving the SSC community and representing the interests of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut on the board.



ALBERTA–BRITISH COLUMBIA–YUKON (One to be Elected)

Ehsan Karim

M. Ehsan Karim is an associate professor of health data science in the School of Population and Public Health at UBC, an associate member of UBC Statistics, and a scientist at St. Paul's Hospital. His research develops and applies advanced biostatistical and data science methods to address pressing questions in health, with a strong focus on causal inference and real-world data. He has been an active member of the SSC since his graduate years. Following his faculty appointment, he contributed as a judge for student presentations and case studies, and served on the SSC's Award for Case Studies in Data Analysis committee (2018–2021). He has organized workshops (including the 2025 SSC Biostatistics Workshop), designed case studies, chaired invited sessions, and judged abstracts and posters at multiple Canadian Statistical Student Conferences (CSSC). In 2020, he delivered a national webinar for the Canadian Statistics Student Society that attracted over 300 participants across the country. As BC regional representative, Dr. Karim aims to strengthen collaboration across institutions, support students and early-career statisticians through mentorship and training, and advance equity, diversity, and inclusion within the profession. He brings both deep disciplinary expertise and a strong record of community service to the SSC.

**Jiguo Cao**

Dr. Jiguo Cao is a professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada. His research covers a broad range of topics, including machine learning, functional data analysis (FDA), and sports analytics, with applications in neuroscience, public health, genetics, environmental science, and image analysis. Dr. Cao has actively served the SSC in various roles, including as chair of the CRM-SSC prize committee (2023–2025), chair of the student travel grants committee (2023–2026), and member of both committees in earlier terms. He also served on the SSC financial committee (2018–2021) and as a local representative (2013–2016). Beyond the SSC, he was a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI) from 2015 to 2017 and served on the executive committee of the Canada Chapter of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) from 2016 to 2017.



SECTION EXECUTIVES (Three-Year Terms with the Exception of Survey Methods Section Treasurer which is a Two-Year Term; All President-Elect Positions Follow with Section President 2027–2028 and Past President 2028–2029)

Actuarial Science Section

President-Elect: Hong Li

Dr. Hong Li is a professor in the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of Guelph. He is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and an associate of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. His research spans insurance data analytics, actuarial science, insurance economics, and demography, with a focus on climate risk, longevity risk, and the application of AI in insurance. He has published widely in leading

journals such as *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, *Insurance: Mathematics and Economics*, and *Demography*.



Biostatistics Section

President-Elect: Tolulope Sajobi

Dr. Tolulope Sajobi is a professor of biostatistics and head of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. He earned his PhD in biostatistics from the University of Saskatchewan in 2012 and joined the University of Calgary the following year. His research program focuses on measurement and analysis of patient-reported outcomes, design and analysis of clinical trials, and statistical methods for clinical risk prediction.

A member of the SSC since 2009, Dr. Sajobi served as chair of the SSC Award for Impact of Applied and Collaborative committee from 2020 to 2023. He currently contributes to the statistical community as an associate editor for the SSC "Community Connections" column of the *Liaison* newsletter.



Business and Industrial Statistics Section

President-Elect: Abbas Khalili

Abbas Khalili obtained his PhD in statistics under the supervision of **Professor Jiahua Chen** in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo. He is currently a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McGill University. His research focuses on mixture models, high-dimensional statistical inference, and sparse learning methods, and more recently on the theory and applications of deep learning methods for semiparametric mixture-of-experts models.



Data Science and Analytics

President-Elect: Pingzhao Hu

Dr. Pingzhao Hu is a tenured associate professor in the Departments of Biochemistry, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, and Computer Science at Western University, and an associate professor (status-only) of biostatistics at the University of Toronto. He holds the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Computational Approaches to Health Research. Dr. Hu's research integrates artificial intelligence (AI) and statistical modelling to analyze multimodal health data, including omics, medical imaging, and electronic health records, to advance precision medicine. He has published over 190 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals (e.g., *Nature Communications*) and AI conferences (e.g., NeurIPS, ICLR), with more than 9,100 citations and an H-index of 48. As principal investigator, co-PI, or coinvestigator, he has secured over \$16 million in research funding from national and international agencies, including CIHR, NSERC, and CFI. Within the SSC, Dr. Hu currently serves

as chair of the Student Research Presentation Award committee (2023–present) and member of the Pierre Robillard Award committee and previously chaired the Award for Case Studies in Data Analysis committee (2018–2020). Beyond the SSC, he serves as cochair of the education committee of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES), leading global training and mentoring initiatives that bridge statistics, data science, and genomics. He is also academic editor for *PLOS Computational Biology* and associate editor for the *Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal*, promoting rigorous, data-driven research across disciplines. Beyond his research and service, Dr. Hu is a dedicated mentor who has supervised more than 60 graduate students, many of whom have pursued successful academic careers or data science roles at leading technology companies such as Google, Microsoft, and Amazon. More information about Dr. Hu's research and activities can be found at <https://phulab.org>.



Treasurer: Ricardo Baptista

Ricardo Baptista is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Department of Statistical Sciences and faculty affiliate at the Vector Institute. His research focuses on establishing the mathematical foundations and theoretical guarantees of probabilistic machine learning models, with broad applications in science and engineering. Prior to the University of Toronto, he served as an instructor in computing and mathematical sciences at Caltech and as a postdoctoral scientist at Amazon. He holds a PhD in computational science and engineering from MIT, where he specialized in uncertainty quantification, as well as a BASc in engineering science from the University of Toronto.



Secretary: Mehdi Dagdoug

Mehdi Dagdoug is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McGill University. He obtained his PhD in mathematics in 2022 from the Laboratoire de Mathématiques de Besançon at the Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté in France. His research interests lie at the intersection of survey sampling theory, missing data, statistical learning, and high-dimensional statistics.



Treasurer: Andrei Volodin

Dr. Andrei Volodin graduated with bachelor's degree in mathematics from Kazan Federal University in 1983. In 1991, he obtained his first Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mathematics from Vilnius University, Lithuania. Dr. Volodin obtained his second Doctor of Philosophy degree in statistics from the University of Regina, Canada, in 2002. Currently, Dr. Volodin is a professor of statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Regina, Canada. Before migrating to Canada in 1999, he was working as an associate professor (docent) at Kazan Federal University. Also, Dr. Volodin was working as a professor of statistics at the University of Western Australia in 2009–2011. He is an adjunct professor at Thammasat, Kasatsart, and Mahasarakham universities in Thailand.



Statistical Education Section

President-Elect: Nathalie Moon

Nathalie Moon is an assistant professor, teaching stream in the Department of Statistical Sciences at the University of Toronto. She completed her PhD and MMath in biostatistics at the University of Waterloo and BSCh in statistics at Queen's University. She has taught a range of statistics courses from first year to fourth year, with class sizes from small seminars (20–30 students) to large lectures (700+), and has experience in online, in-person, and hybrid delivery formats. She has served on the SSC's Student Presentation Awards committee since 2024. Her research interests focus on statistics education, and she is passionate about making statistics accessible to diverse learners through innovative and inclusive teaching approaches.



Survey Methods Section

President-Elect: François Verret

François Verret is a senior methodologist at Statistics Canada. He joined the agency in 2003 after completing a master's degree in statistics at Université Laval. He notably led the team responsible for the estimation methodology of the census long form in 2011 and 2016. He also led the teams responsible for time series methods of monthly economic surveys and of labour statistics programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

François Verret teaches courses, workshops, and seminars on survey data analysis. His research interests focus on small area estimation, survey data analysis and variance estimation. He currently leads the team responsible for small area estimation and data quality of the Labour Force Survey, where he participated in the latest decennial redesign.



Treasurer: François (Frank) Marshall

Frank Marshall is a term methodologist at Statistics Canada in the National Capital Region, who works on projects for the census of Canada and other social datasets. He has a PhD in applied mathematics (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, 2020; supervisors **profs. David J.**

Thomson and **Glen Takahara**) with a thesis on time series analysis that includes novel applications of central limit theorems for periodic time series. He has been an active member of the SSC since 2015. He has previously been part of the CSSC 2018 organizing committee (secretary), the SARGC (secretary), and the Probability Section executive committee (secretary), and he is currently a member of the EDI committee having previously presented for its EDI webinar series about geographic diversity in SSC decision-making processes.

**ACCREDITATION PROGRAM COMMITTEES**

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE (Five to be Elected; Three-Year Terms; 2026–2029)

Elmabrok Masaoud

Dr. Elmabrok Masaoud earned his PhD in statistics from the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island, where his doctoral research focused on developing statistical models for binary repeated measures and hierarchical data in veterinary science.

He has served as a senior statistician at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and currently works as a health information specialist at Health PEI, Prince Edward Island. From 2019 to 2022, Dr. Masaoud contributed to the SSC as a member of its accreditation committee.

In his consulting work, Dr. Masaoud advises data users, analysts, and evaluators on study design, sampling strategies, statistical analysis, and reporting. He critically evaluates the robustness and validity of statistical models, sampling and laboratory protocols, and data-driven claims. His research primarily focuses on statistical modelling of observational data, particularly those derived from routine health records across human, animal, and food.



Sunita Ghosh

Dr. Sunita Ghosh works as a senior scientist at the Department of Public Health, Henry Ford Health, Detroit, USA. She also holds academic appointment as a professor of research at Michigan State University–College of Human Medicine, Michigan, and associate clinical professor at the Department of Medical Oncology, University of Alberta.

She obtained her PhD in biostatistics from the University of Saskatchewan, where her research topic was to study the complex longitudinal survey design and application of statistical methods for such data. Her major interests are in longitudinal studies, missing data analysis, predictive and survival analysis, with a major focus in cancer.

Prior to joining Henry Ford Health, she was working as a research scientist at Alberta Health Services–Cancer Care where she was actively involved at the Cross Cancer Institute in conducting research related to cancer.

Apart from working as a statistician, Dr. Ghosh is also a member of Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta (HREBA), scientific review committee at Henry Ford Health and serves as an elected member of accreditation committee of SSC.



Mina Aminghafari

Dr. Mina Aminghafari, associate professor of machine learning at the University of Calgary, earned her PhD at Université Paris d'Orsay. She has more than 15 years of academic experience, plus 5 years in industry. She specializes in unsupervised learning for functional data and co-clustering, with interests in time-series forecasting. She has been an accredited SSC member since 2019.



Mahmoud Zarepour

Mahmoud Zarepour is a full professor (2014), and completed his PhD at the University of Toronto in 1997 (PSTAT). He has been at the University of Ottawa since 1997. His research interests are mainly in nonparametric Bayesian inference, time series, infinite variance random variables and resampling.





Fritz Pierre

Fritz Pierre is a distinguished statistician with about 25 years of experience in Canada's federal public service. He currently leads the Coverage Measurement Section at Statistics Canada, where he oversees vital projects that evaluate and correct coverage errors in the Census of Population. His work—including the Dwelling Classification Survey and studies on undercoverage and overcoverage—plays a key role in ensuring the accuracy of census counts and demographic estimates, which directly impact federal transfer payments and policy decisions. Previously, Fritz Pierre served as chief of the Resource Center for Economic Statistical Tools and Innovation, where he guided the modernization of core economic generalized systems (G-SAM, BANFF, G-EST). He championed the transition from SAS to open-source platforms like R and Python, and led methodological acceleration initiatives—strategic efforts to fast-track the adoption of innovative statistical methods across statistical programs.

He also headed the Statistical Consultation and Analysis Methods group, providing expert services in survey design, data analysis, and methodological development to federal, provincial, and international clients. His earlier career includes more than a decade at Elections Canada as assistant director of analyses and data quality, and foundational work at Statistics Canada as a survey methodologist on major health surveys such as the Canadian Community Health Survey and the National Population Health Survey. He holds a master's in statistics and a bachelor's in mathematics (actuarial science) from the Université de Montréal. His research interests focus on complex survey data analysis and variance estimation.



ACCREDITATION APPEALS COMMITTEE

(Three to be Elected; Three-Year Terms; 2026–2029)

Johanna Nešlehová

Johanna G. Nešlehová is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McGill University. She holds a PhD from the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg (2004) and received the P.Stat. designation in 2015. Before coming to Canada, she was a postdoctoral fellow at ETH Zürich and at the Harvard Medical School, and later a Heinz Hopf Lecturer at ETH Zürich (2006–2009). Her research interests lie in extreme-value analysis and dependence modelling with applications in biostatistics, hydrology and risk management. She is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the recipient of the CRM-SSC Prize and of the CMS Krieger-Nelson Award. Dr. Nešlehová has served the SSC in various roles, notably as Québec representative on the board of directors (2021–2023), editor-in-chief of *The Canadian Journal of Statistics* (2022–2024), as a member of the Pierre Robillard Award, CJS Award, accreditation, and accreditation appeals committees, as well as the SSC representative on the JSM program and the COPSS Snedecor Award committees. She is currently the program chair of the 2026 annual meeting.



Ye (Lennon) Li

Lennon Li is a biostatistical specialist at Public Health Ontario (PHO) and an adjunct professor in the division of biostatistics, University of Toronto. He received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of Toronto. His work focuses on statistical methods for public health, with particular emphasis on spatial and temporal disease surveillance and the translation of quantitative evidence to inform decision-making. He has been accredited as a P.Stat. with the SSC since 2012. He also has a scholarly interest in statistical thinking and education, and in the view that the universe is a complex system governed by underlying models that we seek to understand from limited, lower-dimensional perspectives.



Natasha Wiebe

Natasha Wiebe holds professional accreditation from the SSC and is a research associate with the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta. She earned both her master's and bachelor's degrees in mathematical statistics from the University of Waterloo. With over 25 years of experience as a professional statistician and consultant, she has served as a mentor, regularly peer-reviewed for scientific journals, and authored or coauthored close to 200 papers in clinical research.



THE SSC ELECTION COMMITTEE 2025–2026

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