



International Indian Statistical Association Newsletter



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Cover: Conference venue for IISA 2024. Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT).

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India Chapter

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The 2024 annual conference of the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) was hosted by Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin (also known as Kochi), Kerala, India from December 27-31, 2024. The recently concluded flagship event of IISA had 4 plenary talks, 6 special invited talks, two short courses, over 100 invited sessions, many contributed sessions, and a student paper and poster competition.

The plenary talks were given by Probal Chaudhuri from Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata (the R. R. Bahadur Memorial Lecture), Sudipto Banerjee from the University of California Los Angeles, Pandurang Kulkarni from Eli Lilly and Co. (Indianapolis), and Bhramar Mukherjee at the Yale School of Public Health. The five special invited talks were delivered by Bhaswar Bhattacharya (U. Pennsylvania), Jennifer Clarke (U. Nebraska-Lincoln), Madhu Mazumdar (Mount Sinai Health Systems; NY, NY), Debashis Paul (ISI Kolkata and UC Davis), and Anish Sarkar (ISI-Delhi).



Bertrand Clarke, Professor and Department Chair, Department of Statistics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Chair, Scientific Program Committee, IISA 2024.

Two short courses were led by well-known experts covering recent developments and cutting-edge topics: Omics Data Science Workshop by Himel Mallick (Cornell), and Interpretable and Interactive Machine Learning by Kris Shankaran.

The program committee, comprising 30 members from a range of institutions and companies, curated a comprehensive and rich scientific agenda. This included over 120 invited and contributed sessions highlighting innovative and cutting-edge research across diverse fields. The scientific programme committee consisted of Bertrand Clarke (Chair, U. Nebraska-Lincoln), Kshitij Khare (Co-chair, U. Florida), Pallavi Basu (Co-chair, Indian School of Business), Sayan Banerjee (UNC Chapel Hill), Piyali Basak (Merck), Sourish Das (Chennai Mathematical Inst.), Angshuman Sarkar (GlaxoSmithLine, India), Jyotishka Datta (Virginia Tech.), Soudeep Deb (IIM Bengaluru), Tanujit Dey (Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard), Yogita Gharde (ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Inst.), Asha Gopalakrishnan (Cochin UST), Kaushik Jana (Ahmedabad U.), Sayantee Jana (IIT Hyderabad), Karthik Sriram (IIT Ahmedabad), Poh-Ling Loh (Cambridge), Steve MacEachern (OSU), Ranjan Maitra (ISU), Debashis Mondal (Washington U.), Somabha Mukherjee (NUS), Parthanil Roy (ISI Bengaluru), Vivek Roy (ISU), Sandip Sinharay (ETS, USA), Praga Sur (Harvard), Suresh Chenji (Eli Lilly), Subasini Subba Rao (Texas A&M), Sandip Dasgupta (Pfizer), Christian Robert (U. Paris-Dauphine), Dipankar Bandyopadhyay (Virginia Commonwealth), and Moumanti Podder (IISER Pune).

The annual conference also attracted a substantial student presence, who contributed research paper and poster presentations, and also took part in student paper and poster award competitions. Three panels of evaluators/judges, chaired by Debashis Mondal (Washington University, St. Louis), evaluated their contributions and selected the following award recipients.

- Student paper award for probability and theory of statistics and data sciences: Anirban Chatterjee, University of Pennsylvania.
- Student paper award for application of statistics and data sciences: Archi Roy, IISER, Pune
- Student poster awards:
 1. Soham Ghosh, University of Wisconsin, Madison
 2. Madhav Sankaranarayanan, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
 3. Manisha, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai



Group photo at IISA 2024

4. Annesha Deb, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
5. Shreya Sinha Roy, University of Warwick.

The Award Ceremony and Banquet Dinner took place on December 28 at the Solitaire Lounge, Kochi Marriott Hotel. During the ceremony, the Lifetime Achievement Award, Lifetime Service Award, Early Career Awards in Statistics and Data Science will be presented, and the winners of the Student Paper and Poster Competitions were announced. Please see p.10 for more details and citations for the award recipients in various categories.

We are indebted to the Cochin University of Science and Technology for their support and collaboration in organizing this conference. Special thanks go to the many excellent student volunteers, whose coordinated and meticulous support was key in the success of the conference. Thank you! We hope IISA 2024 provided students with valuable opportunities to network, exchange ideas, and build professional skills, and we look forward to even greater student participation and volunteer involvement in various IISA activities.

IISA 2025, Lincoln, Nebraska
Save the date: June 12-15, 2025

by NEWSLETTER TEAM



The next IISA conference will be hosted by the **University of Nebraska, Lincoln** from **June 12-15, 2025**. The scientific program committee will be led by Bodhisattva (Bodhi) Sen (Columbia University), Po-Ling Loh (Cambridge), and Margaret (Meg) Gemalo (Pfizer). The conference website and call for papers will be published soon. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation and support for the next annual conference. For all enquiries, please email IISA2025@intindstat.org.



Conference website (coming soon!)

by MEMBERS OF THE IISA COMMUNITY

Shalabh, Professor, Sanjay Mittal Chair Professor, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Indian Institute of Technology

1. Received the Prof. K. Srinivasa Rao ISPS Best Researcher Award from Indian Society for Probability and Statistics (ISPS), India in 2023 for the significant contribution in the field of Statistics.
2. Series Editor and Editor-in-Chief of textbook series, "University Texts in Mathematical Sciences", from Springer Nature since 2023. Textbooks in this series cover a wide variety of courses in mathematics, statistics and computational methods.

Manas Ranjan Tripathy, Professor Department of Mathematics, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela received the "PROF. C R RAO GOLD MEDAL AWARD" for 2023, on 8th February 2024 by the Indian Society for Probability and Statistics.



Moulinath Banerjee, Professor of Statistics, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, delivered the prestigious Medalion Lecture: Estimation and Inference for the Average Treatment Effect in a Score-Explained Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Model .



Jagathnath Krishna K.M., Associate Professor in Biostatistics, Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvannanthapura, Kerala, India.

1. Received International Travel Grant from International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) under Conference Funding for Developing Country (CFDC) Award for presenting paper in the 45th Annual Conference of ISCB 2024 at Thessaloniki, Greece, from 21st to 25th of July, 2024.
2. Received Best paper presentation award 2023 during the 41st Annual conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics during 2-4, November, 2023, organised by MG University, Kottayam, Kerala.

Sat Gupta, Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics. UNC Greensboro, received the UNC Greensboro Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award from UNCG Provost Debbie Storrs and Chancellor Frank Gilliam on April 16, 2024.

Abhirup Dutta Majumdar, Senior Statistician (HEOR & RWE), PharmaQuant, India received the best paper award from HTAi Developing Countries Interest Group titled - Digital Health Technology Assessment in India: A framework for action" with an award of 500 CAD.

Abhi Datta, Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Bloomberg School of Public Health Johns Hopkins University is one of the recipients of the COPSS Emerging Leaders Award for 2024. The award will be given at JSM 2024. Please find the information below.

<https://community.amstat.org/copss/awards/leadership-academy>

Nairanjana (Jan) Dasgupta, Boeing Distinguished Professor, Department of Math and Stat., Director of Data Analytics, Data Science Fellow, Washington State University, Pullman, WA was,

1. Inducted as fellow to the Washington State Academy of Sciences Sept 2023
2. Promoted to University Regents professor April 2024
3. Distinguished Professor award for the College of Arts and Sciences, May 2024
4. Book "Ordinal data" came out June 2024.
5. Department Chair of Mathematics and Statistics starting July 15, 2024.

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Professor in the Department of Biostatistics, School of Population Health, the Virginia Commonwealth University, was selected as the 2024 Lowell Reed Lecturer by the Applied Public Health Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association and delivered the lecture at the 2024 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo, Minneapolis, MN, October 27-30.

The Lowell Reed Lecture is given every year by a statistician, who has contributed significantly to public health through research, teaching, and services, to remember the accomplishments of Dr. Lowell Reed (previous Chair of Biostatistics and Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, ex-president of Johns Hopkins University, proposed the ED-50 - an important tool in toxicology), and honor the accomplishments of the lecturer.

Arup Bose, Professor of Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, was

1. Appointed C.R. Rao Chair Professor School of Mathematics and Statistics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India, September 2024–August 2026.
2. Awarded J C Bose Fellowship, January 01, 2024–March 31, 2026.

Subhashis Ghoshal. Distinguished Rothschild Visiting Fellowship at the Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge, UK, to participate in the program Representing, calibrating and leveraging prediction uncertainty from statistics to machine learning, May 6th-August 29th, 2025. The fellowship will provide funds for housing and give a stipend for stay in Cambridge. The awardee will deliver a public lecture to a general mathematical audience.

A special session in honor of J. N. K. Rao was held at the International Conference "Modern Methods in Survey Sampling", University of Ottawa, Canada, July 8 - 10, 2024. Another special session was also held in his honour at the 2024 International Methodology Symposium of Statistics Canada, October 29, 30 and Nov 1, 2024. Theme of the Symposium was "The Future of Official Statistics". Professor Rao is Distinguished Research Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. He is a Life Member of IISA and served as a Member of Board of Trustees of IISA.

Kanti Mardia Launched of the First in the Mardia Lecture series to be held triennially in honour of Professor Kanti Mardia OBE, By University of Leeds. 7th November 2024.

Lecture "Seeing patterns that aren't there – and other statistical problems in investigating medical misconduct" by Professor Green FRS. This launching lecture focuses on the importance of mathematical aptitude in legal proceedings. Hosted by the School of Mathematics, this talk was aimed at a general audience and many joined in celebrating Kanti's huge contribution to both Statistics and the University of Leeds. The detail presentation can be found on the link (Lucy Letby and Statistics and indicates power of Interdisciplinary Research) <https://www.leeds.ac.uk/news/2024/11/07/kanti-mardia-lecture>



Peter Green was presented with a copy of “Multivariate Analysis” 2024 Second Edition Wiley.

[//mymedia.leeds.ac.uk/mediasite/Showcase/default/Presentation/515436190ed24fe190c9536b7479a5721d/Channel/9c79174564594325b984dab0edb5493b5f](https://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk/mediasite/Showcase/default/Presentation/515436190ed24fe190c9536b7479a5721d/Channel/9c79174564594325b984dab0edb5493b5f)

There were many young staff and Ph D students (about 200 attended) at the Event and feel they would be inspired to pursue Statistical Science and Interdisciplinary focus with total dedication. It is the University of Leeds which has created this exceptional series at their own initiative as a perpetual tribute etc. in his lifetime. It was a surprise to Professor Mardia ; having completed 51 years at Leeds as an active Full Professor and still being kindly supported – the only case so far in the Annals of the University of Leeds.

Professor Mardia has been associated with IISA in various roles over the years, including as the Founder Vice-Chair of IISA, a Lifetime Member, and a recipient of the IISA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

IISA Webinar Series - 2024

The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) launched a newly formatted webinar series in June 2024, aimed at showcasing diverse statistical concepts across various fields. This monthly, one-hour webinar series is spearheaded by the webinar committee comprising Himel Mallick (Cornell University), Kaushik Jana (University of Ahmedabad), Piyali Basak (Merck), and Jyotishka Datta (Virginia Tech).

Past and Upcoming Webinars:

- **June 13, 2024** – *"Is Inadequate Risk Stratification Diluting Hazard Ratio Estimates in Randomized Clinical Trials?"*. Dr. Devan Mehrotra (Merck).
- **July 26, 2024** – *"Health Technology Assessments and the Role of Statisticians."* Joint webinar with Health Technology Assessment (HTAi) Society. Speakers: Debjani B. Mueller, Antonio Remiro-Azócar, and Abhirup Dutta Majumdar.
- **August 26, 2024** – *"MCMC Importance Sampling via Moreau-Yosida Envelopes."* Dr. Dootika Vats (IIT Kanpur).
- **October 23, 2024** – *"Empowering Early-career Women in Statistics and Data Science: Breaking Barriers and Building Futures."* Organized by Arinjita Bhattacharyya. Speakers: Broti Garai, Trinetri Ghosh, Shrabanti Chowdhury.
- **November 21, 2024** – *"Key Ingredients of the Transformer Revolution."* Dr. Ambuj Tewari (Univ. of Michigan).

The webinar series has already garnered significant interest, drawing around 150 participants for each session. Recordings of the talks are available on the IISA YouTube channel: [Watch the webinar playlist here](#).



QR code to access IISA webinar playlist

We invite proposals for future topics—please send your ideas and feedback to webinar@intindstat.org.



IISA Webinar playlist

The Early Career Awards in Statistics and Data Sciences

The Early Career Award in Statistics and Data Sciences in Theory

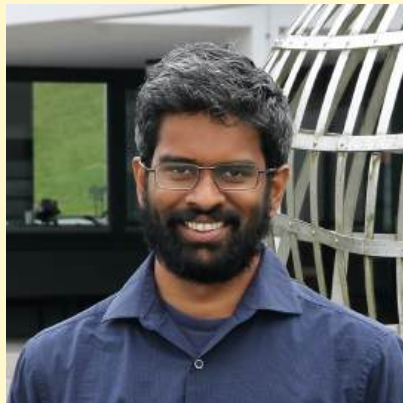
Dr. Sayan Banerjee



Dr. Sayan Banerjee

Dr. Sayan Banerjee is an Associate Professor at the Department of Statistics and Operations Research, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Banerjee is being recognized for his outstanding contribution to the theoretical developments in the fields of ergodicity of diffusion processes, dynamic random networks, and probabilistic couplings with geometric applications as well as his works on large deviations, random walks in random environments, and random matrices.

Dr. Sivaraman Balakrishnan



Dr. Sivaraman Balakrishnan

Dr. Sivaraman Balakrishnan is an Associate Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Statistics and Data Science and in the Machine Learning Department at Carnegie Mellon. Dr. Balakrishnan is being recognized for his outstanding contribution to the theoretical developments in the fields of minimax theory, causal inference, and topological data analysis, as well as his pioneering work in elucidating the theoretical behavior of the EM algorithm.

The Early Career Award in Statistics and Data Sciences in Applications

Dr. Debashree Ray



Dr. Debashree Ray

Dr. Debashree Ray, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, is being recognized for her outstanding contribution to the cutting-edge research on methods for genetic epidemiological studies and their applications to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease risk, and orofacial clefts.

Dr. Weining Shen



Dr. Weining Shen

Dr. Weining Shen, an associate professor of Statistics at UC Irvine, is being recognized for his outstanding contribution to the development of statistical methodologies and algorithms for modeling complex data across diverse

fields, including neuroscience, precision medicine, sports analytics, and social networks as well as interdisciplinary collaborative research, particularly in cell biology, cardiac disease, and immunology.

The Early Career Award in Statistics and Data Sciences in Practice

Dr. Subhabrata Majumdar



Dr. Subhabrata Majumdar

Dr. Subhabrata Majumdar, co-founder and head of AI, Vigil, is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to statistics, machine learning, and data science, particularly in developing trustworthy, robust, ethical, and fair techniques that underpin AI applications across industries as well as his community initiatives, advanced awareness on ethical AI, and penning a best-selling book on these topics.

Lifetime Service Award

Dr. Sanjeev Sabnis



Dr. Sanjeev Sabnis

Professor Sanjeev Sabnis is recognized with the IISA Service Award for his outstanding leadership, dedication, and exceptional service to the International Indian Statistical Association. As Treasurer since 2015, he has significantly contributed to the success of major IISA initiatives, including the 2017 and 2019 conferences, through his meticulous management and organizational skills. His tireless efforts in securing funding, managing logistics, and fostering community engagement have left a lasting impact on IISA and its members.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Hira Koul



Dr. Hira Koul

Dr. Hira Koul, Professor Emeritus, Department of Statistics and Probability, Michigan State University, is recognized with the IISA Lifetime Achievement Award in view of his outstanding research record and his contributions to the growth and development of the IISA and to the Statistics profession. His prolific research, including over 150 papers, 3 books and mentoring of 35 Ph.D. students at the Michigan State University, reflects his lasting impact on the field and the statistical community. As a past President and lifetime member of IISA, Professor Koul has significantly advanced the association's mission, provided dedicated service on various committees and initiatives of the IISA, contributing substantially to the development of the IISA as a leader at the national and international levels.

Aren't you a member of IISA yet?



Join Us!

Become a Member of our Exclusive Community

Are you ready to be a part of something extraordinary?

We are thrilled to announce that membership is now open for IISA! As a member, you'll have access to a wide range of benefits and opportunities. Join us and be a part of the extraordinary Statistics community!

Student membership is FREE!

Whether you are a professional looking for networking opportunities, an enthusiast passionate about Statistics, or someone seeking personal growth and development, our community welcomes you with open arms.

Don't miss out on this incredible chance to make a difference!

Visit our website at www.intindstat.org to learn more about our organization, the membership benefits, and how to join. Together, let's create a brighter future!

Join now and be part of something extraordinary!

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