

## Greetings from HPSS Chair

Ruth Etzioni [retzioni@fredhutch.org](mailto:retzioni@fredhutch.org)



I am so gratified to have had the opportunity to serve as Chair of HPSS this year. It has been immensely fulfilling to work with our amazing exec committee, learn who they are as individuals and professionals, and strategize about ways to help our section grow and thrive.

My involvement with HPSS began when I volunteered to be program chair for JSM a few years ago. It was a whole new experience, and I am so glad I stepped up. In this newsletter we celebrate two HPSS volunteers extraordinaire, Ofer Harel, ICHPS 2020 Co-Chair, and Kelly Zou, 2019 HPSS Chair. Both Ofer and Kelly have been engaged with HPSS for years in various capacities. Each is, in their own way, a model and an inspiration for me.

Our section is a community within the ASA, a haven where our members can feel that they belong. I have for a long time reflected on humans' universal need for community, and have observed how different types of communities are created or arise spontaneously to serve this need. In my experience, the feeling of belonging to a community is strengthened greatly by investment in that community. In other words, the more you give the more you benefit!

I encourage you to consider volunteering or becoming more involved in HPSS, not only because our section will benefit from your energy and investment, but because I can guarantee that it will enhance your experience as part of the HPSS community. There are many different roles. Please feel free to contact me or our new chair Laura Hatfield, if you think you might be interested and we would be happy to tell you more. You can also approach any of our exec committee members at ICHPS. We will have ribbons that identify us and would love to hear from you.

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## 2020 HPSS Executive Committee

Chair – Laura Hatfield  
Chair-Elect 2021 – Cory Zigler  
Past Chair 2019 – Ruth Etzioni

Secretary – Lane Burgette  
Treasurer – Jason Brinkley  
Publications – Miguel Marino  
Council of Sections Rep – Frank Yoon

JSM Program Chair 2020 – Lisa Lix  
JSM Program Chair Elect 2020 – Hui Xie  
JSM Program Chair Elect 2021 – Mousumi  
Banerjee

ICHPS 2022 co-chairs  
Ruth Etzion and Mike Baiocchi

## ICHPS 2020 is Almost Here!

The Health Policy Statistics Section together with ASA are planning the [13th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics](#) (ICHPS 2020), to be held January 6-8, 2020 in San Diego, California. ICHPS is a leading forum for discussing research needs and solutions to the methodological challenges in the design of studies and analysis of data for health policy research. T

The theme of ICHPS 2020 is “**Leveraging Data to Shape the Future.**” The conference will provide a unique forum for the advancement and dissemination of statistical methods focused on health policy, health care and health services, broadly defined. The dynamic conference program includes cutting-edge workshops and talks as well as lively town halls and roundtables. The keynote speakers are **Dr. Susan Murphy**, Harvard University, and **Dr. Daniel Polsky**, the University of Pennsylvania.

ICHPS is a smaller meeting (typically 300-350 attendees) that provides an excellent opportunity to get to know a community of statisticians and other professionals working in the health policy and health services arena.

In addition to the fantastic keynote speakers, ICHPS will feature 14 workshops (including 3 free ones), 10 invited sessions, 15 contributed sessions, town halls, roundtables, two poster sessions with refreshments, and more!

Just check out these great sessions!

- Emerging Lessons on Opioid Policy Evaluation Methods
- Recent Advances in Bayesian Methods for Cost and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
- Innovations in Missing Data and Record Linkage
- Statistical Learning Methods for Health Care Innovation
- Patient-Centered Outcomes
- Leveraging Existing Data on the Opioid Epidemic to Quantify Risk and Inform Policy
- Leveraging Real-World Data Using Novel Statistical Approaches for Regulatory Decision-making
- Causal Inference: Matching and Beyond
- Epidemiologic Modeling
- Health Policy Methods for Medicare and Medicaid
- Who’s There? Missing codes, records, and people in administrative data
- New Avenues for Network Analysis in Health Policy Research
- Health Disparities and Geography
- Advances in Health Economics
- Novel Methods in Causal Inference
- Public Health Challenges and Statistical Solutions for Today and Tomorrow
- Statistical Methods to Inform Evaluations of Gun Policies: Challenges and Opportunities for Statisticians
- Linked Data for Evidence-Based Policymaking
- Measuring and Improving Health Care Quality
- Comparative Effectiveness in the Real World
- Causal Inference Methods for Health Policy Research
- Methods for Quantifying Value of Information in Health Care Policy
- Subgroups and Heterogeneity
- Quasi-Experimental Methods in Health Policy
- Measuring Health Inequities to Inform Policy

For more information, check out our interview on the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section podcast [here](#).

## A Note From HPSS Past-President Kelly Zou

Yesterday marked my last session as a Section Officer of the Health Policy Statistics Section (HPSS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) after being elected as its Chair-Elect, Chair, and immediate Past-Chair for three years, as well as being prior Secretary and health policy conference ICHPS Co-Chair. There have been many moments of joy through our community with those who have volunteered tirelessly to advance knowledge and impact, as well as professional networking and mentoring.

Through the dedicated and tireless volunteering work for both existing and future HPSS Members, such as the ICHPS, Diversity & StatFest co-sponsorship, AcademyHealth affiliated organization, JSM Lunch with Speaker talks and Round Tables, Student Paper Contests, Achievement Awards, and JSM mixer events, we have brought statistics, data science, and health policy much closer.

Thanks to the ASA, our HPSS Executive Committee Members, and active Members for another stellar year! Wishing for all of the successes in upcoming years! Happy to share the positive experience with those who are interested in both the ASA and the HPSS.

### Thanks to all 2019 exec members who are rotating off HPSS exec

Kelly Zou ,2019 past chair  
Claude Setodji, secretary  
Ro'ee Gutman, 2019 JSM program chair  
Don Hedeker, COS rep  
Ofer Harel, 2020 ICHPS co-chair  
Kate Crespi, 2020 ICHPS co-chair

**You made HPSS better! Thank you!**

### HPSS Website Update

Earlier this year we announced the launch of our new website: [www.asahealthpolicy.org](http://www.asahealthpolicy.org)

We hope that you will find the new website easier to interact with and easier to share with others who do not know about the work we do in the HPSS section. For any questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, please email Miguel Marino ([marinom@ohsu.edu](mailto:marinom@ohsu.edu)).

### JSM 2020 – Planning Underway

Breaking news: Our 2020 **HPSS Speaker with Lunch** (Wednesday) is Greg Ridgeway! Greg is Chair, Department of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania. His research involves the development of statistical, computational, and analytical methods to improve our understanding of crime and the functioning of the justice system He will be speaking about how the design of public spaces affects crime, officer-involved shootings and the identification of problem officers.

We have a full slate of outstanding invited sessions and are now soliciting round tables. A round table is a wonderful way to connect with a small group of people with like interests. It is a way to leverage your experience and learn from others about theirs. It does not have to be technical or academic. Please consider doing a round table at JSM 2020 You can email your ideas to our 2020 JSM chair elect, Hui Xie at [huixie@uic.edu](mailto:huixie@uic.edu)

## **Interview with Ofer Harel, ASA volunteer extraordinaire, ICHPS 2020 co-chair, and Council of Sections Governing Board Chair Elect for 2020**

### **When did you first start volunteering for ASA and why?**

I don't remember, I think I started in the chapters, it was quite a while ago. Bonnie brought me to HPSS, we graduated with the same advisor and I still look up to her. When I came to my first JSM in NY I was still a student and I didn't know anyone, she brought me to HPSS and told me I would meet some nice people. And that's how it started.

### **What roles have you had with ASA?**

For the CT chapter, I was chair elect, chair, past chair, and stayed connected for many years. In the section I was program chair, COS rep, and ICHPS organizing committee since 2011 and ultimately ICHPS 2020 co-chair, Council of Chapters, on the Committee for Career Development and now COS chair elect.

### **What has been the high point?**

Making changes. I like to have control of things that I think I can improve. In the Chapter, I worked on increasing the student involvement, similarly for ICHPS. ICHPS is my favorite conference so helping to make it the best it can be has been a lot of fun. Small changes. If you don't volunteer and you don't sit on those committees you don't have the option to make changes

### **How would you summarize what the experience with co-chairing ICHPS has been like?**

Two things we tried to push for this conference were more student involvement and international representation. It has had the word international in its title since its inception but usually this has been limited to Canada. This time we had a committee focused on international participation to bring more of an international flavor. And we expect to have people coming from Japan, Europe, Israel, Korea, Australia and Mexico.

### **Can you say a few words about your current position as COS chair elect?**

The Council of Sections is a body that brings more than 20 sections and close to 10 interest groups together. The idea of the COS governing board is to help the sections with everything they need to make their work better. Every year COS takes several themes to work on (I have to come up with the theme for next year) – this year we worked a lot on leadership and diversity. The idea is strengthen the sections, make them more useful for their members and increase the fraction of AS members who belong to sections. It has been shown that those who are members of sections or chapters are more involved and tend to retain their membership.

### **Do you have any words for HPSS members who might be thinking of volunteering?**

The section was very good to me as I met a lot of good friends and very interesting people that I now call good friends. It gave me the opportunity to talk about interesting research problems – some of my work even stems from conversations I had with HPSS. When I became a fellow I am sure some of the letters came from HPSS members. If one wants to have any input in the direction of the society, you have to put yourself up there and volunteer. That is the way to have a voice. SO people who have an interest in making change, this is the place to be. HPSS is always looking for people to get involved, so if you see folks doing something that you would love to be doing, just ask!