

## Greetings from our 2020 HPSS Chair

Laura Hatfield [Hatfield@hcp.med.harvard.edu](mailto:Hatfield@hcp.med.harvard.edu)



Dear colleagues,

I feel grateful for the generosity, intelligence, and thoughtfulness of the health policy community as we continue to meet the challenge of this global pandemic and continue our research, teaching, and service. I have seen colleagues extend extra care to people working with children at home, swap tips for online work and teaching, and reach out with messages of care to our colleagues across the world. I have seen us on interdisciplinary teams rapidly spin up studies, build simulations, curate masses of data, and step up to referee a surge of publications. The Health Policy Statistics Section exemplifies these dual purposes-- we have both the heart to take good care of our community and the expertise to contribute to the global response. I am proud to be part of this section and to know you all.

Take good care,

Laura Hatfield

2020 Chair, HPSS

---

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Greetings from HPSS president
- 1 2020 HPSS executive committee
- 2 Greetings from incoming president
- 2 Next ICHPS update
- 3 HPSS stepping up to COVID
- 4 Meetings, dates and deadlines
- 5 ICHPS 2020 snapshots

## 2020/1 HPSS Executive Committee

Chair – Laura Hatfield  
Chair-Elect 2021– Cory Zigler  
Chair-Elect 2022 – Yuanjia Wang  
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 2021 – Hui Xie  
JSM Program Chair Elect 2021 – Mousumi Banerjee

## ICHPS 2022 is Happening – in 2023!

The Health Policy Statistics Section together with ASA are planning the [14th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics](#)! Originally planned for January 2022, this conference will now be held in January 2023 with high hopes that we will be able to meet in person somewhere sunny. Conference co-chairs are Mike Baiocchi ([mike.baiocchi@gmail.com](mailto:mike.baiocchi@gmail.com)) and Ruth Etzioni ([retzioni@fredhutch.org](mailto:retzioni@fredhutch.org)). In the coming months we will settle on a conference theme and location, and will be soliciting suggestions for keynote speakers, workshops and invited sessions. 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. We look forward to being able to gather and share science and community at ICHPS 2023! See the last page of the newsletter for some great photos from ICHPS 2020. Kudos to ICHPS 2020 chairs Kate Crespi and Ofer Harel for a fantastic conference! We did not know lucky we were at the time to be able to meet all together in San Diego. Here's to ICHPS 2023!

## Greetings from incoming 2021 HPSS Chair

Cory Zigler [Cory.Zigler@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:Cory.Zigler@austin.utexas.edu)



As many of us have been grappling with unprecedented uncertainty and stress, I appreciate the chance to turn some attention to HPSS and the professional community it fosters. Whether in the background or foreground, the personal and societal challenges that we all face are accompanied by professional challenges on how to navigate our statistical lives in world that seems as though it is changing faster than ever.

I look forward to working with the HPSS membership, both to continue fostering connections that many of us have held dear throughout our professional lives, but also to think creatively about how to navigate the new professional circumstances of much of our membership. It may still be some time before in-person meetings and conferences look to us the way they did two years ago, but HPSS still has an important role to play in maintaining a focused community of statistical researchers and practitioners working to impact policy. I'm sure that we can continue to maintain the community that we have come to know so well, and I look forward to playing my part alongside our fabulous membership.

Please take care,

Cory Zigler

2021 Chair, HPSS

## Thanks to outgoing exec members!

Thanks to Lisa Lix (JSM Program Chair 2020) for her work in both 2019 as program chair-elect and 2020 as she and other section program chairs were faced with the daunting task of moving JSM online. Thanks also to our Miguel Marino (publications chair) for his great service and help setting up our new section website, [www.asahealthpolicy.org](http://www.asahealthpolicy.org). If you are interested in either of these positions for the future, please contact our current president, Laura Hatfield [Hatfield@hcp.med.harvard.edu](mailto:Hatfield@hcp.med.harvard.edu).

***Don't forget to vote in ASA elections this coming January!***

## HPSS: Stepping up to COVID - Stories from members doing work on the coronavirus pandemic

**Yolanda Barrón**, Center for Home Care Policy & Research, Visiting Nurse Service, NY. [Yolanda.Barron@vnsny.org](mailto:Yolanda.Barron@vnsny.org)

I would like to share with the HPSS of ASA the work that my colleagues and I, at the Center for Home Care Policy & Research at Visiting Nurse Service of New York, the University of Pennsylvania, and Villanova University conducted. We studied 1,409 patients who received home health care after being discharged from a hospital. When they were discharged, 80% were short of breath, most reported anxiety or confusion, and more than 80% needed help walking, dressing, and bathing. After an average of 32 days of home health care, 94% no longer needed the service. The vast majority were not completely recovered, but most symptoms were significantly improved. The study suggests that COVID-19 survivors benefit from home health care after discharge. The [paper is in the Annals of Internal Medicine](#).

**Dario Gregori**, University of Padova. [dario.gregori@unipd.it](mailto:dario.gregori@unipd.it)

The work related to COVID-19 we did as Unit of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Public Health at Padua University (Italy) was in two directions. First we focused on organizing data and models to favor a correct communication of statistical concepts, forecasts and trend estimation to the general public. This was done via a [r-shiny website](#), where data are embedded with models in producing graphs and insights for the country. The second direction was to provide estimates and forecasts to the public bodies, focusing on the evaluation of current policies, as implemented during the epidemic while trying not to forget science (paper [here](#)). We conducted also a large survey on the effects of lockdown in Italy ([www.prestoinsieme.com](http://www.prestoinsieme.com)).

*Editor's note: Padova is very close to Bergamo, the early epicenter of the pandemic in Italy*

**David M. Kline**, The Ohio State University. [David.Kline@osumc.edu](mailto:David.Kline@osumc.edu)

I am a member of the OSU-ODH Comprehensive Monitoring Team that built a process, analytical workflow, and visualization application for conducting statewide surveillance. We have continued to advise the Department of Health and the Governor's Office on matters related to pandemic response. I also worked on the analysis of the state's seroprevalence survey during the summer.

**Elizabeth Stuart**, Johns Hopkins University. [estuart@jhu.edu](mailto:estuart@jhu.edu)

Some things I have been doing: (1) Trying to educate broad audiences about how to do rigorous policy evaluations ([paper1](#), [paper2](#)); also, [this interview](#). (2) Getting the [Novel Coronavirus Research Compendium](#) up and running, which similarly tries to help people understand the key points, strengths, and weaknesses of research papers, including policy evaluations; and (3) Lots of [work studying mental health](#) during the pandemic.

**Ruth Etzioni**, Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center and University of Washington. [retzioni@fredhutch.org](mailto:retzioni@fredhutch.org)

I have served as a member of a coronavirus modeling group for our Washington State Department of Health, meeting weekly with modelers and with our governor and state health officers. My role has been to help tailor and select models to address the evolving policy questions, and to fill in the gaps with data and analyses as needed. In the summer I conducted a census of all of the Safeway stores in Washington state to learn about mask-wearing patterns ahead of a statewide mask mandate. I also oversaw the creation of an r-shiny app to project hospital beds needed given hospital data and projected incidence of new cases in the coming month. Our dire projections based on transmission rates in early November informed the reinstatement of statewide restrictions on gathering that we believe helped our state to avoid the post-Thanksgiving surge.

**Yuanjia Wang**, Columbia University [yw2016@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:yw2016@cumc.columbia.edu)

We developed a survival convolution model to help the *COVID-19 Forecast Hub* and US Center of Disease Control (CDC). The model is now part of the COVID-19 Forecast Hub which provides weekly forecasts to the CDC. SurvCon uniquely combines nonparametric statistical curve fitting with underlying mechanisms of infectious disease transmissions known from research in epidemiology. It is inspired by the SEIR model and leverages natural experiment designs to study the effects of government non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) such as social distancing, stay-at-home orders, and mask mandates. The [methodology](#) has been reported in *Frontiers in Public Health*. The open source software is available at the Github web-site [COVID19BIOSTAT](#). See also our Columbia Biostatistics [newsletter article](#).



Statistics, Data, and  
the Stories They Tell  
Washington State Convention Center  
August 7-12, 2021

## JSM 2021: August 7-12, Seattle, Washington

Program Chair: Hui Xie [huixie@uic.edu](mailto:huixie@uic.edu)

Program Chair-Elect: Mousumi Banerjee [mousumib@umich.edu](mailto:mousumib@umich.edu)

At this time, although we hope this will be a post-pandemic JSM, we are still not completely sure if JSM will be on-site or virtual. But we are still planning a full slate of activities, including invited sessions (see below), our famous HPSS mixer, student paper competition winners, contributed sessions, round tables and our speaker with lunch. Our four HPSS-sponsored invited sessions are:

1. *Statistical Research in Rapid Response to COVID-19 Pandemic: Forecasts, Risk Factors, Therapeutics and Vaccine Trials*
2. *Machine Learning Methods for Better-Informed Decision-Making in Health Care*
3. *Population Diversity Considerations in Clinical Trials*
4. *Using EHRs to Run Pragmatic Trials: Opportunities and Challenges*

In the coming months be on the lookout for announcements and deadlines, and please start thinking about potential round tables which are fantastic opportunities for sharing your expertise and experience in a small group setting. Please email Hui and Mousumi with your ideas. Thank you!

### Events! Meetings! Dates! Deadlines!

**ENAR 2021: VIRTUAL EVENT** March 14-17

<https://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2021/>

**SDSS - Symposium on Data Science and Statistics: St Louis**, June 2-5.

<https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2021/>

**Academy Health ARM** June 12-15. Abstract deadline January 14

<https://academyhealth.org/events/site/2021-annual-research-meeting>

**SER – Society for Epidemiologic Research: San Diego** June 22-25. Abstracts due January 14

<https://epiresearch.org/annual-meeting/2021-meeting/>

**WSDS – Women in Statistics and Data Science: Pittsburgh** October 7-9

<https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Meetings/Women-in-Statistics-and-Data-Science.aspx>

**SMDM – Society for Medical Decision Making: Toronto** October 17-20

<https://smdm.org/meeting/43rd-annual-north-american-meeting>

#### JSM 2021 Dates and Deadlines

<https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2021/>

February 2: Round table submissions due

April 14: Contributed abstracts due

May 3: Housing opens

# ICHPS 2020 – Scholarship, connection, community!

