Korean International Statistical Society

Volume 20, Issue 1

April 11th, 2025

KISS Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear KISS Members,

Mi-Ok Kim
President
Miok.Kim@ucsf.edu

I am deeply honored and excited to begin my term as President of the Korean International Statistical Society. Being part of KISS has been a journey of learning, growth, and collaboration, and I am eager to continue building upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessors.

Over the years, KISS has made significant strides in supporting early- and mid-career professionals, fostering networking opportunities, and expanding collaborations with other organizations and institutions. As we embark on this new chapter together, my vision is to further these initiatives, ensuring that our society remains a beacon of excellence, inclusivity, and innovation.

One of my primary goals is to enhance member engagement. In addition to webinars and professional development workshops, we plan to introduce in-person member meet-ups at conferences and workshops to provide valuable networking opportunities for both seasoned professionals and emerging talents. Furthermore, we will continue strengthening our collaborations with other organizations and institutions, broadening our reach and impact in the field of statistics and data science. Several of our members hold prominent leadership positions, such as Ji-Hyun Lee, the 2025 American Statistical Association (ASA) President, and Dong-Yun Kim, the 2023 Caucus for Women in Statistics & Data Science (CWS) President. Additionally, under the leadership of outgoing President Jae-Kwang Kim, KISS has built a strong relationship with the Korean Statistical Society, and we will continue our efforts to cultivate this partnership.

Another key focus will be increasing our society's visibility and accessibility in the industry and government sectors. We aim to expand our outreach efforts to grow our membership base. I encourage each of you to take an active role in these initiatives—whether by contributing ideas, volunteering, or simply participating in our events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all my predecessors, especially outgoing President Jae-Kwang Kim, for their unwavering dedication and contributions to KISS. Their leadership has been instrumental in shaping our society into what it is today. I also extend my appreciation to our board members, officers, volunteers, and all who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support our mission.

As we move forward, I invite you all to share your thoughts, aspirations, and feedback. Together, we can make KISS an even stronger and more vibrant community. Please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas or suggestions.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. I look forward to an inspiring and productive year ahead with all of you.

With warm regards,

Mi-Ok

President, Korean International Statistical Society

KISS Newsletter

Current Officers

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2025-2026

KISEOP LEE

President-elect
2027-2028

JAE-KWANG KIM

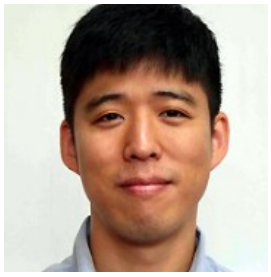
President-past
2023-2024

SUMMER HAN

Executive Dir.
2023-2026

HANG-JOON KIM

Finance Co-Dir.
2023-2026



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Finance Co-Dir.
2025-2026

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Comms Co-Dir.
2023-2026

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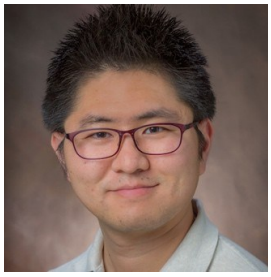
Comms Co-Dir.
2025-2026

YOUJIN LEE

Program Chair
2024-2025

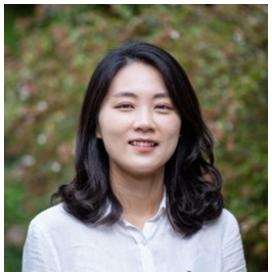
HYEBIN SONG

Program Chair-elect
2025-2026



SEONJIN KIM

Membership Dir.
2025-2026



MIYEON YEON

Student Rep.
2025-2026

We are seeking members interested in serving as KISS officers, who are passionate about enhancing our community.

KISS Officers' Reports

Financial Report

As of Dec 31, 2024, KISS's balance is $16,353.31 with the net increase of $2,429.10 during Year 2024. The total income of $9,676.60 includes donation of $6,083.00, new lifetime membership fee of $2400, regular/joint membership fee of $1,193, and interest income of $0.60. The total expense of $7,247.50 includes JSM annual meeting relating cost of $4,950.94, web-maintenance and communication cost of $811.06, career development awards of $1,000, and miscellaneous fee of $485.5.

Membership Director Report

Membership Overview

Total membership: 209

- Lifetime members: 87
- Annual members: 23
- Student members: 23
- KSS co-members: 76

Journal Paper Reading Club

KISS has launched a Journal Paper Reading Club to enhance member engagement and research collaboration. The initiative has gained significant popularity, successfully forming 10 groups with three members each.
Each group meets monthly for informal discussions on important and interesting papers in statistics and related fields based on their interests.

In-Person Gatherings at Conferences

KISS is also planning to host more in-person gatherings at major conferences, including:

- ENAR (New Orleans, March)
- Spring Research Conference (New York, June)
- KSS Conference (Gyeongju, Korea, June)
- JSM (Nashville, August)

These gatherings aim to foster networking and deeper engagement among members.

Upcoming Event: Graduate Studies in the U.S. (통계 대학원 유학 설명회)

In the spring, KISS will host a special session for students considering graduate studies in statistics in the U.S. The session will cover key topics such as:

- Why pursue a graduate degree in statistics in the U.S.?
- Possible career paths after graduation
- Challenges faced while studying in the U.S.
- Most helpful and encouraging experiences
- How to prepare for graduate school applications
- Key aspects of a strong application from an admissions committee member's perspective

Communications Director Report

New KISS Website

I am pleased to announce that the new KISS website has been released! The updated site features a more moden design and improved navigation, making it easier to follow and more user-friendly. I encourage everyone to explore the new website and take advantage of its enhanced features.

Program Chair Report

The 2024 Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) was held between August 3-8 in Portland, Oregon. KISS sponsored the following sessions.

3 Topic-Contributed Paper Sessions

Session 1: Statistics Innovation Program in the Statistics Korea (Organizer/Chair: Jae-Kwang Kim, Iowa State University)

- A Study on the Introduction of Statistical "territorial typology" in Korea (Chalie Kwon, Statistics Korea)
- Evaluating the Mobile Questionnaire Experience for the 2025 Population and Housing Census of Korea (Jong Moon Choi, Statistics Korea)
- National Time Transfer Accounts in South Korea (Jung-Wha Oh, Statistics Korea)
- Statistical Innovation at Statitics Korea (Hae Ryun Kim, Statistics Korea)
- Discussant: Hang Joon Kim

Session 2: Statistical Models for Spatial and Single-Cell Multi-Modal Genomic Data Analysis and Integration (Organizer: Dongjun Chung, The Ohio State University, Chair: Ima Placeholder, ASA-Placeholder Record)

- A novel subclone clustering method with single cell spatial transcriptomic data (Feifei Xiao, University of Florida)
- A statistical framework for single-cell and spatial T cell receptor data analysis (Dongjun Chung, The Ohio State University)
- Graph representation learning of single-cell omics data (Qin Ma, The Ohio State University)
- High dimensional tensor methods for multi-modal single cell genomics data (Kwangmoon Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- Robust integration of CITE-seq Datasets for Clinical Association Study (Ye Zheng, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center)

Session 3: Assumption-Lean Inference (Organizer: Byol Kim, Chair: Ali Shojaie, University of Washington)

- Election modeling in 2024: a conformal inference approach (John Cherian)
- Finite sample confidence intervals for mode (Manit Paul, University of Pennsylvania)
- Distribution-free inference with hierarchical data (Yonghoon Lee, University of Pennsylvania)
- Covariate-Assisted Inference on Partially Identified Causal Effects (Asher Spector, Stanford University)
- Online Estimation with Rolling Validation: Adaptive Nonparametric Estimation with Stream Data (Tianyu Zhang, Carnegie Mellon University)

Contributed Papers

Recent Advances in Statistical Methods for Complex Data (Organizer/Chair: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- Interpretable Dimension Reduction for Compositional Data (Junyoung Park, KAIST)
- Decomposition of the Longitudinal Disparities: an Application to the Fetal Growth-Singletons Study (Sang Kyu Lee)
- Functional Hierarchical Clustering Using Shape Distance (Kyungmin Ahn, Keimyung University)
- Bayesian Analysis of Multivariate Joint Model with a Flexible Covariance Structure (Seongho Song, University of Cincinnati)
- Hypothesis Testing in Gaussian Graphical Models: Goodness-of-Fit and Conditional Randomization Tests (Xiaotong Lin)
- Symmetry in Nonparametric Regression (Louis Goldwater Christie, University of Cambridge)
- Developing a Predictive Model from Subjective Data Collected from Multiple Radiologists (Samantha Thomas, Duke University)

Contributed Posters

Contributed Poster Presentations: Korean International Statistical Society (Chair: Ryan Peterson, University of Colorado - Anschutz Medical Campus)

- Network Harmonization of Spatial Interval-Valued Data (by Emmanuel Sarfo Fosu)

Co-sponsored sessions by KISS

I*nvited Paper Session: Data Driven Methods in Financial Markets (Organizer: Jiwon Jung and Kiseop Lee, Purdue University, Chair: Kiseop Lee, Purdue University, Main sponsor: Business and Economic Statistics Section)*

- Attention-Based Reading, Highlighting, and Forecasting of the Limit Order Book (Jiwon Jung, Purdue University)
- Heterogeneous Variational Auto-Encoder (Yongdai Kim, Seoul National University)
- Implicit Generative Prior for Bayesian Neural Networks (Xiao Wang, Purdue University)
- James-Stein Estimator of leading eigenvectors of large volatility matrix and its effect on portfolio optimization resentation (Sungkyu Jung, Seoul National University)
- Multiscale Volatility Analysis for Noisy High-Frequency Prices (Tim Leung, University of Washington)
- Trading in a Hawkes Flocking LOB Model (Hyoeun Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

Invited Paper Session (August 5, 10:30a-12:20p): Remembering Professor Dalho Kim : A Memorial session (Organizer: Danhyang Lee, Chair: Yeongjin Gwon, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Main sponsor: Memorial)

- Bayesian Predictive Inference for Small Areas Supplementing a Non-probability Sample with Limited Information from a Probability Sample (Balgobin Nandram, Worcester Polytechnic Institute)
- Data Integration with Nonprobability Sample: Semiparametric Model-assisted Approach (Danhyang Lee)
- Debiased Calibration Estimation Using Generalized Entropy in Survey Sampling (Jae-Kwang Kim, Iowa State University)
- Detecting Robust Topological Structures in Complex Networks Using Topological Noise (Hyunnam Ryu, Veracyte Inc.)

The 2024 Korean Statistical Society (KSS) Summer Conference was held between July 4 – July 6 at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea. KISS organized five sessions.

Session 1: Recent advances in statistical methods for inference (Organizer: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair: Seonjin Kim, Miami University)

- Supervised network classification (Li-Chun Zhang, University of Southampton and Statistics Norway)
- Improved semiparametric estimation of the proportional rate model with recurrent event data (Chiung-Yu Huang, University of California-San Francisco)
- Semiparametric estimation in unsupervised domain adaptation (Jiwei Zhao, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- Integrated Meta-Analysis of Individual Participant and Aggregate Data Under Data Availability Bias (Mi-Ok Kim, University of California-San Francisco)

Session 2: Recent advances in robust statistical methods for missing data and data integration (Organizer: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair: Jong-Min Kim, University of Minnesota Morris)

- Multiple imputation of more than one environmental exposure with nondifferential measurement error (Qixuan Chen, Columbia University)
- Using callback data to correct nonresponse bias in the estimation of turnout in US presidential election (Wang Miao, Peking University)
- Combining Probability and Non-probability Samples Using Semi-parametric Quantile Regression and a Non-parametric Estimator of the Participation Probability (Cincy Yu, Iowa State University)
- Enhanced Statistical Inference with Semiparametric Models for Nonignorable Nonresponse and Data Integration Applications (Danhyang Lee, University of Alabama)

Program Chair Report

Session 3: Novel statistical methods and application for biomedical study (Organizer: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair: MinJae Lee, Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, University of Texas Southwestern)

- A Branching Process for Accurate Digital Quantification in *-Seq Assays (Karin Dorman, Iowa State University)
- A Statistical Framework for the Design of Spatial Transcriptomics Experiments (Dongjun Chung, Ohio State University)
- Multilevel functional principal component analysis in application to four-level EEG data (Hyunkeun Cho, University of Iowa)
- Causal Random Forest Decomposition Analysis for Survival Disparity (Fan Xia, University of California-San Francisco)

Session 4: Recent advances in multivariate analysis (Organizer/Chair: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- Existence of MLEs for the parameters of an adjusted linear preferential attachment model of random graphs with covariates (Arka Ghosh, Iowa State University)
- Envelope-based partial least square (Zhihua Su, University of Florida)
- Fourier-structured tensor-variate distributions for high-resolution imaging applications (Ranjan Maitra, Iowa State University)
- Enhancing Prediction with a Novel Kernel Estimation Method (Seonjin Kim, Miami University)

Session 5: Innovative statistical methods for covariance estimation (Organizer: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair: Hyunkeun Cho, University of Iowa)

- Weighted shape-constrained estimation with applications to Markov chain autocovariance function estimation (Hyebin Song, Penn State University)
- Joint Estimation of Precision Matrices for Long-memory Time Series (Jongik Chung, University of Central Florida)
- Spatial-extent inference in neuroimaging studies (Jun Young Park, University of Toronto)
- Physics Driven Dynamic Imputation with Application to Pollution Satellite Images (Won Chang, University of Cincinnati)

The 2024 ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium was held between June 16-19 in Nashville, Tennessee. KISS organized two sessions.

Session 1: Recent advances in the design and analysis of clinical trials (Organizer: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair: Leena Choi, Vanderbilt University)

- Bayesian adaptive design for covariate-adaptive historical control information borrowing (Mi-Ok Kim, University of California-San Francisco)
- Power calculation for detecting interaction effect in cross-sectional stepped-wedge cluster randomized trials: an important tool for disparity research (Deukwoo Kwon, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston)
- Mixed-Effects Contextual Bandits (Kyungbok Lee, Seoul National University)
- Data-driven monitoring for phase II clinical trial designs based on percentile event time test (Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Session 2: Recent advances in statistical methods for complex data (Organizer/Chair: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- Novel framework for systematically detecting alternative transcript initiation by integrating ATAC-seq and RNA-seq (Hyo Young Choi, University of Tennessee Health Science Center)
- Bayesian Variable Selection for Interval-censored outcomes in Genome-wide Association Studies (Jaihee Choi, Rice University)
- Generative Quantile Regression with Variability Penalty (Ray Bai, University of South Carolina Department of Statistics)

- Integrated Meta-Analysis of Individual Participant and Aggregate Data Under Data Availability Bias (Yunxiang Huang, University of California-San Francisco)

International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science (IDWSDS) was held virtually for 24 hours on October 10. KISS organized one session (i.e., Session 1) and sponsored two invited sessions.

Session 1: Recent Developments in Multivariate Regression (Organizer: Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair: Jessica Kohlschmidt, The Ohio State University)

- Recent Developments in Multivariate Regression (Yeonhee Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Session 2: Research at NIH from Women Statisticians (Organizer/Chair: Heejong Sung, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Health)

- Whole exome sequencing association study of familial Bipolar Disorder and related conditions in Anabaptist founder populations (Heejong Sung, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Health)
- A novel methylation-based stress score and epigenetic age acceleration in Alcohol Use Disorder (Jeesun Jung, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)
- Integrative Modeling of Associations between Accelerometry-Derived Sleep, Physical Activity and Circadian Rhythms Domains and Current or Remitted Major Depression in a Community Sample (Sun Kang, National Institute of Mental Health)
- A hidden Markov model approach for joinpoint trend analysis (Hyoyoung Choo-Wosoba, National Cancer Institute)

KISS Webinar Series (2024)

Speaker	Title
Dr. Byol Kim *University of Washington*	Black-box tests for algorithmic stability
Dr. Hoseung Song *Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*	Generalized kernel two-sample tests
Dr. Chi Hyun Lee *University of Massachusetts Amherst*	A mixture model for estimating the risk of prostate cancer progression and the fraction of indolent cancer in active surveillance
Dr. Jakwang Kim *University of British Columbia*	Inference of convex order dominance by Wasserstein projection
Dr. Juhee Lee *University of California Santa Cruz*	Sparse Bayesian Group Factor Model for Feature Interactions in Multiple Count Tables Data
Dr. Jakwang Kim *University of British Columbia*	Optimal allocation in single-cell RNA sequencing: balancing between quality and quantity
Dr. Younggeun Kim *Michigan State University*	Reliable Statistical Reasoning with Conditional Generative Models
Dr. Yeongjin Gwon *University of Nebraska Medical Center*	Bayesian Regression for Aggregate Ordinal Outcomes with Imprecise categories

KISS Events in 2024

KISS Annual Meeting at JSM and Conferences

The 2024 KISS Annual Meeting was held on August 5 at H-Willamette 1 in Hyatt Regency Portland, Portland, Oregon.

- Prof. Dongseok Choi (Oregon Health & Science University) and Prof. Yongdai Kim (Seoul National University) were our invited speakers.
- Four recipients of Mid-Career Award and Career Development Award were announced.
- The KISS mixer provided networking and socializing opportunities to attendees with good refreshments sponsored by Statistics Korea.

The 2024 Korean Statistical Society Summer Conference was held on July 4-6 at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea. KISS sponsored five invited paper sessions.

The 2024 International Chinese Statistical Association Applied Statistics Symposium was held on June 16-19 at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. KISS sponsored two sessions.

KISS Christmas Party

The KISS Christmas Party was held virtually on December 12th. We had a great time playing *Find Me!*, the dice race, and enjoying casual conversations in random breakout rooms.

Special thanks to Seonjin Kim for doing a fantastic job as MC, and to President Jae-Kwang Kim for his generous gift donation. Many thanks as well to the party planners—Seonjin, Mi-Ok, and Sangkyu—for organizing a wonderful event!

Members' News

Distinguished Service and Leadership in Statistics: Celebrating Dr. Jong-Min Kim and Dr. Dong-Yun Kim

Dr. Jong-Min Kim (University of Minnesota-Morris) will work as the Communications for Statistical Applications and Method (CSAM) Journal Co-Editor 2025-2026 after Dr. Jong-Hyeon Jeong. Dr. Kim will serve as Co-Editor for the Jornal of Statistical Computation and Simulation (JSCS) as well for the journals' continued growth. Recently, he accepted an invitation to serve on the ASA Outstanding Statistical Application Award Committee through 2027.

Over the past year, Dr. Dong-Yun Kim, co-chaired the International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science (IDWSDS), successfully leading the event and contributing an article about it in the December 2024 issue of AMSTAT News (https://magazine.amstat.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Dec2024_final.pdf). She also founded the Michael Woodroofe Award to recognize mid-career statisticians and data scientists who apply novel statistical methodologies to solve real-world problems.

Additionally, Dr. Kim chaired multiple committees, including the Cox Scholarship Award (ASA), Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award (ASA), Michael Woodroofe Award (CWS), and Societal Impact Award (CWS). As a Co-Guest Editor, she contributed to the Statistics in Medicine special volume for the NHLBI Biostatistics Workshop on Clinical Trial Designs: Innovative Endpoints and Futility Monitoring. Since Spring 2024, she has been teaching as an adjunct professor at the Department of Statistics, George Mason University, FairFax, Virginia.

Upcoming Meetings

2025 Eastern North American Region (ENAR) Spring Meeting

The 2025 ENAR will be held on March 23-26 at Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

*2025 International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Conference**

The 2025 IISA will be held on June 12-15 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

*2025 International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) Applied Statistical Symposium**

The 2025 ICSA will be held on June 15-18 at University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

*2025 Korean Statistical Society (KSS) Summer Conference**

The 2025 KSS will be held on June 19-21 at The-K Hotel Gyeongju, Gyeongju, South Korea.

*2025 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)**

The 2025 JSM will be held on August 2-7 at the Music City Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

2025 KISS Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Meeting

During JSM, they will be held on Aug 3 (Sun) and Aug 4 (Mon), respectively.

* denotes KISS sponsored sessions included in the meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you in the upcoming meetings and in-person gatherings in the *Membership Directors' Report* section.

Navigating Career Paths

Sehwan Kim, Young Statistician in *Academic*

Can you briefly introduce yourself?

Hi everyone, my name is Sehwan Kim. I received my B.S. in Statistics and Mathematics from Seoul National University and got my Ph.D. in Statistics at Purdue University under the supervision of Dr. Faming Liang. And I joined the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute as a postdoctoral researcher, mentored by Dr. Rui Wang and Dr. Wenbin Lu.
My current research interests include foundation of statistics and computational statistics with deep learning, particularly focusing on conducting valid and robust statistical inference using deep learning methodologies. Additionally, I'm also interested in differential privacy and topological data analysis to address modern data science problems.

Can you briefly describe your current role and responsibilities?

Currently, I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics at Ewha Womans University in Korea, starting in March 2025. My responsibilities include conducting research, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, mentoring students, and participating in academic service and administrative activities within the department.

How did your Ph.D. training prepare you for your current position?

Academic positions generally require contributions in three areas: research, teaching, and service. During my Ph.D., I concentrated on developing and advancing statistical methodologies utilizing neural networks, bridging statistics with deep learning. Regarding teaching, I served as a teaching assistant for various courses, which improved my communication skills with students. Although I did not have the opportunity to teach as an instructor during my Ph.D., I later worked as an adjunct instructor at UMass Amherst during my postdoctoral period. Additionally, my experiences as a Data Scientist Intern at Intel Corporation, a graduate researcher at Purdue's Data Mine, and a statistical consultant at Purdue's Statistical Consulting Service equipped me with communication skills and the ability to collaborate effectively across other disciplines.

What were the biggest challenges you faced when transitioning from Ph.D. studies to your job? And how did you address them?

One of the biggest challenges I faced was managing stress related to the uncertainty inherent in finding academic positions. Navigating this uncertainty can be quite stressful since outcomes are not guaranteed until positions are secured. To address this, I communicated frequently with my advisors and mentors. Thankfully, my advisor generously devoted considerable time to helping me resolve research problems, and my mentors provided invaluable resources and constructive feedback, which helped me prepare for my subsequent career.

How do you see career growth and advancement in your field?

I see career growth and advancement as cultivating an ecosystem for Statistics. To achieve this, we can consider different approahces such as impactful research, dedicated teaching, and meaningful real-world participation.
Conducting impactful research requires the ability to propose important research questions and pursue work that contributes both theoretically and practically. Equally important is mentoring the next generation, passing on the wisdom and insights we have inherited and providing students with opportunities to grow.

Additionally, I believe statisticians have a fundamental responsibility to engage with real-world problems. Statistics should not exist in isolation but should actively address challenges in society. By working on applied problems, we can ensure that our research remains meaningful, relevant, and beneficial to society. In other words, depending on individual priorities, one might focus on research, teaching (such as writing books), or contributing to the development of the academic community.

What advice do you have for current Ph.D. students considering a career in your sector?

In my opinion, research is one of the most critical factors for finding job in academia. To succeed, don't hesitate to communicate and discuss challenges with your advisor. However, I strongly recommend doing your best before meeting with your advisor. For example, when you get stuck at a certain point, try different approaches first and summarize your attempts clearly. This will help you receive more precise feedbacks and make discussions more efficient.
That said, the academic job market depends on many unknown factors, and a strong publication record does not guarantee success. However, working hard and doing your best remain essential.

Why did you choose an academic career over government or industry?

I chose an academic career because of the warm memories I had with Prof. Woochul Kim at Seoul National University. When I was uncertain about my career path, I took course Mathematical Statistics from him, and I was deeply struck by the beauty of statistics. Later, through the guidance of Prof. Jaeyong Lee and Prof. Yongdai Kim while working as an undergraduate intern, I developed a growing sense of responsibility to pass on this intellectual heritage to the next generation. Moreover, the invaluable guidance I received from Prof. Kiseop Lee at Purdue, along with countless enjoyable conversations and discussions with my advisor and mentors, further solidified my decision to pursue an academic career.
Of course, the industry also has a welcoming and supportive atmosphere (at least in my experience). However, the mentorship and inspiration I received from previous generations ultimately led me to choose academia.

What are the main challenges of being a junior faculty member?

One of the biggest challenges at the moment is preparing lectures. Even when we have sufficient content, a significant amount of time is required to refine and structure it for delivery to students.

How did you navigate the job application process, and what factors influenced your decision on where to work?

I started navigating the job market through https://kss.or.kr/. Unlike the U.S. job market, where applications are typically submitted once a year, the job market in Korea opens twice a year, with positions starting in the Spring and Fall semesters. For Spring semester positions, job postings usually appear around August. Positions can also be found on the KISS website. (For the U.S. job market, postings are available at https://forms.stat.ufl.edu/statistics-jobs/.)
Typically, applicants need to prepare research and teaching statements as part of the process. And fortunately, many schools allow candidates to give job talks remotely, when they are in the U.S. or abroad, though policies may vary by institution.
The key factors that influenced my decision were location and the overall atmosphere of the school.

What has surprised you the most about being a professor?

I was pleasantly surprised by the warm and supportive atmosphere of the statistics community in Korea.

What advice do you have for Ph.D. students considering academia?

My advice is to stay dedicated, find good mentors, and connect with colleagues. Academia can be challenging, but you'll find many supportive people who are willing to help and happy to chat.

Soyun Park, Young Statistician in *Industry*

Can you briefly introduce yourself?

Hi, my name is Soyun Park. I am a Senior Manager in Biostatistics at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), where I have been working since January 2023.

Can you briefly describe your current role and responsibilities?

At BMS, I initially worked in Cell Therapy, supporting Phase 1 to 3 clinical studies, primarily focusing on the clinical studies for US and EU approval of our investigational product for Multiple Myeloma patients. As a statistician, I collaborated with cross-functional teams to prepare Clinical Study Reports for ongoing and completed studies. Currently, I support submission packages in Hematology for another drug for the same indication.

How did your Ph.D. training prepare you for your current position?

My Ph.D. training in the Department of Biostatistics at the State University of New York at Buffalo provided me with the flexibility to explore different career paths. My research focused on brain imaging data utilizing neural networks and nonparametric methods, which strengthened my problem-solving skills and critical thinking “outside the box” from statistical perspectives, which I think are the key attributes for an industry biostatistician. One of the most memorable pieces of encouragement I received from my hiring manger was that a Ph.D. program teaches you “how to learn”. This mindset has been invaluable in adapting to new challenges and continuously growing in my role.

What were the biggest challenges you faced when transitioning from Ph.D. studies to your job? And how did you address them?

One of the biggest challenges was learning to collaborate effectively in a cross-functional environment. Unlike academia, where research is often independent, industry work requires continuous communication with clinicians, regulatory teams, and other stakeholders. To address this, I focused on active listening, adapting my communication style to different audiences, and seeking mentorship from experienced colleagues.

How do you see career growth and advancement in your field?

I believe my early-career submission experience will be instrumental in broadening my perspective and advancing my career in the pharmaceutical industry. Gaining exposure to regulatory submissions, clinical trial design, and decision-making processes will open doors to leadership roles in the future.

What advice do you have for current Ph.D. students considering a career in your sector?

This may sounds like a cliché, but I highly recommend setting clear career goals early and actively exploring internship or full-time opportunities. Networking is crucial by attending industry conferences, workshops, and social events to connect with professions and learn about different career paths. Personally, I did not have any internship before transitioning to industry and later realized that the actual work of an intern and a full-time biostatistician can be quite different because each role has a distinct purpose.

However, actively seeking interview opportunities to understand what industry values in fresh Ph.D. graduates and leveraging your network can significantly ease the job search process and help you achieve your career goals.

What led you to choose an industry position over academia or government?

The dynamic nature of the pharmaceutical industry aligns well with my personality. I enjoy the fast-paced environment, the opportunity to work on impactful projects, and the ability to see direct applications of statistical work in improving patients' lives.

How does your work in industry compare to research in academia?

In academia, statistical research often focuses on developing new methodologies and expanding theoretical knowledge through applied research. This means spending a significant amount of time deeply immersed in statistical concepts and problem-solving to derive the optimal solutions. In contrast, industry statisticians work in a more application-driven environment where statistics serve practical needs, such as defining patient populations, study durations, designing clinical trials, and ensuring regulatory compliance. While both fields require a strong statistical understanding, industry statisticians must also consider operational challenges, including patient enrollment, data quality, safety monitoring, event tracking, study timelines while aligning company priorities.

How is teamwork structured in your company? Do you collaborate with other statisticians, clinicians, or regulatory teams?

Collaboration with cross-functional teams is essential in my role. Biostatisticians play a huge role in connecting all those teams. I work closely with: (1) statistical programming and data management teams to ensure high-quality data and analysis outputs, (2) clinicians, clinical scientists including PK, biomarker scientists to align statistical analysis plan with study protocols, (3) regulatory, medical writers, global trial managers, etc to support submission and ensure compliance, (4) external partners including vendors for Data Monitoring Committee (DMC) meetings, Independent Review Committee (IRC) adjudication, etc.

What are the biggest challenges of working in industry?

One major challenge is unpredictability – decisions from various functions can significantly impact study progress, sometimes even leading to study termination. Flexibility and problem-solving skills are essential to adapt to evolving study needs and regulatory requirements. However, rather than seeing these changes as obstacles, it's important to embrace them as part of the dynamic nature of the industry. The ability to navigate and respond to these challenges is what makes working in industry both exciting and rewarding.

How important is programming/software development in your job compared to theoretical statistical knowledge?

Finding the right balance is key. A strong theoretical foundation is crucial for designing studies and choosing appropriate methodologies, while programming skills are essential for implementing and validating analyses. While statistical programmers handle much of the coding, biostatisticians must understand the entire data pipeline, from raw data to Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM), Analysis Data Model (ADaM), and final outputs, to provide insights and ensure quality control.

Member's Profile

Seohyeon Park, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee

Please introduce yourself to KISSers.

Above all, I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to introduce myself to KISSers. My name is Seohyeon Park, and I am currently a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Statistics at Korea University, working under the supervision of Drs. Arlene (Kyoung Hee) Kim and Sangbum Choi. I recently received Ph.D. in Statistics from Korea University in February 2025, under the guidance of my advisor, Dr. Sangbum Choi. Before that, I obtained my B.A.in Statistics from Sungkyunkwan University.

What is your current research area/problem?

My research focuses on developing and applying advanced statistical methodologies to address complex real-world challenges in biomedical research. Specifically, I have worked extensively on survival analysis under complex censoring mechanisms within a quantile regression framework. Recently, I have begun extending censored quantile regression to account for dependent censoring using copula models, as dependency between survival times and censoring times frequently arises in clinical trials.

Why did you join the statistics profession?

My journey into the field of statistics began during my undergraduate years, internship, and data competition experiences. Through these experiences, I became fascinated by the vast potential of statistics to expand across diverse domains after I applied what I learned in class to real-world problems, constantly exploring various methodologies.

What is your favorite part of being a statistician?

The opportunity to contribute to meaningful real-world applications, particularly in biostatistics, is quite attractive. I find it incredibly rewarding to develop and apply statistical methodologies that can directly impact patient outcomes and inform healthcare decisions. Knowing that our research can play a role in solving or improving diverse problems and advancing them makes being a statistician fulfilling and inspiring.

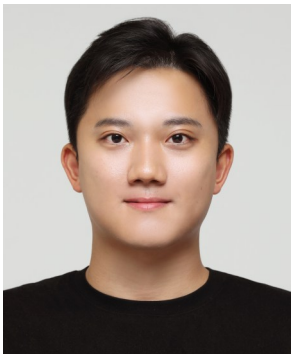
How did you become a KISS member?

When I first attended the KISS Annual Meeting at JSM 2023, I had the opportunity to connect with many researchers. Engaging in discussions with researchers from various institutions was an incredibly valuable experience, as it allowed me to gain insightful advice and exchange ideas on both methodological advancements and career development.

How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

To stay active and manage stress, I usually exercise, particularly by playing tennis. I also enjoy watching baseball and sometimes going to the stadium to watch the game with friends.

Young Joo Lee, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee



Please introduce yourself to KISSers.

I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). I am fortunate to be advised by Dr. Sihai Dave Zhao. Before joining UIUC, I earned a master's degree in statistics from Yonsei University in 2021, where Dr. Yongho Jeon was my academic advisor. I also hold a bachelor's degree in economics and statistics from Yonsei University.

What is your current research area/problem?

My research focuses on developing statistical methods to extract meaningful insights from genomic data, including multi-omics and imaging. A key challenge in this field is making sense of raw data, as experiments generate vast amounts of biological measurements while introducing various sources of noise. To address this, I primarily draw upon large-scale inference and high-dimensional statistics. Specifically, I work on problems related to multiple testing procedures, robust sparse recovery, and errors-in-variables models, with applications in microbiome, single-cell, and spatial transcriptomics.

Why did you join the statistics profession?

My initial interest in statistics stemmed from my undergraduate studies in economics. Since both departments were part of the same college, I was naturally exposed to statistics courses. After taking several advanced classes, I became increasingly fascinated by the subject, which led me to pursue graduate studies in statistics.

What is your favorite part of being a statistician?

What I enjoy most about being a statistician is the broad applicability of statistics. Although I began my journey in statistics with an economics background, I am now a trainee researcher at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at UIUC. As a statistician, I appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with scientists from diverse disciplines and develop statistical methods to solve real-world problems.

What advice would you give to people pursuing a graduate degree?

I would like to share a piece of advice my mentor often gave me: "Don't be frustrated." Throughout the journey, there will inevitably be challenging moments, both personally and academically. I believe resilience is key to overcoming them.

Where is your favorite place in town?

H-Mart! I'm so glad we have an H-Mart here before I graduate. My wife and I enjoy cooking, and having it nearby has significantly improved our quality of life.

Please tell us about mentors who made an impact on you.

I am deeply grateful to my doctoral advisor for his unwavering support and guidance. His mentorship has been instrumental in shaping my research and academic growth. I also appreciate my master's advisor for his thoughtful guidance during my first research experience, which not only deepened my understanding of statistics but also introduced me to research thinking. Additionally, I am grateful to the professors whose passion for teaching and research inspired me to pursue graduate studies and to my collaborators for their invaluable scientific insights.

Seunghyun Lee, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee

Please introduce yourself to KISSers.

Hello everyone! This is Seunghyun (Sky) Lee, a 4th year PhD student at Columbia Statistics. I am co-advised by Profs. Sumit Mukherjee and Yuqi Gu. Previously, I received my bachelor's degree in Statistics and Mathematics from Seoul National University.

What is your current research area/problem?

Broadly, I am interested in inference for parametric models with intractable likelihoods. This includes latent variable models, graphical models, and posterior distributions. The work that I will present at the KISS Session at JSM is on identifiable and interpretable deep generative models with intractable likelihoods. In a more applied direction, I am interested in proposing new models and methods for analyzing educational assessment data.

Why did you join the statistics profession?

I feel lucky to have chosen statistics as my undergraduate major, which I am still enjoying. I wanted to study more practical, real-world problems but still maintain mathematical rigor, and statistics suited me perfectly.

What is your favorite part of being a statistician?

I like that I can use common fundamental statistical tools to solve diverse problems that range from probability theory to educational psychology and unsupervised learning. While these are very different domains, I have managed to find interesting and related statistical problems therein and enjoy solving them.

How do you live a productive life?

Personally, I find optimizing my time helpful as opposed to working more. I tend to work very flexibly, by working long hours when I am motivated and making progress. On less-productive days, I cool down my brain by doing other activities.

What are the perks of being a statistician?

Compared to other related but much broader domains such as math and computer science, I find that it is much easier to communicate with fellow statisticians. For example, we all share the same jargon and use similar notations (such as n and p).

Jin Hyung Lee, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee

Please introduce yourself to KISSers.

My name is Jin Hyung Lee, and I am a Ph.D. candidate in Statistics at George Mason University, expecting to graduate in August 2025. I am advised by Dr. Ben Seiyon Lee, and my dissertation research focuses on Bayesian statistics, machine learning, variational inference, and spatial statistics.

What is your current research area/problem?

My research primarily focuses on variational Inference in Spatial Statistics. In my recent work, I developed a scalable Variational Bayes approach for high-dimensional spatial generalized linear mixed models, significantly improving computational efficiency while maintaining predictive accuracy. Additionally, I am extending this methodology by integrating deep learning techniques to further enhance flexibility and scalability.

What is your future research plan?

I plan to continue developing Bayesian inference and machine learning techniques for spatial and spatio-temporal data, with applications in biostatistics and the environmental sciences. Additionally, I am interested in exploring Bayesian deep learning frameworks to efficiently handle high-dimensional, complex-structured data.

Why did you join the statistics profession?

Initially, I was drawn to economics and data-driven decision-making, but I soon realized that statistics is the foundation for understanding uncertainty and making robust inferences. The ability to apply statistical methodologies across diverse fields, from pharmaceutical research to environmental science, motivated me to pursue a career in statistics and data science.

What is your favorite part of being a statistician?

I enjoy solving real-world problems through statistical modeling. During my internship at a pharmaceutical company, I had the opportunity to collaborate not only with statisticians but also with scientists from other disciplines. This experience reinforced the value of statistics beyond academia and within industry, making a tangible impact. The ability to bridge theoretical research with practical applications is what I enjoy most about being a statistician.

What was the best career advice you received?

The best advice I received was from my father: "Do what you truly want, not just what you can do." While this principle is sometimes difficult to follow, as choosing what I truly want to do is not always straightforward, I always keep it in mind when making important decisions.

What advice would you give to people pursuing a graduate degree?

Graduate school is not just about coursework—actively engaging in research, networking, and presenting your work are equally important. This is why I served as a student representative for KISS, as I saw the value in building connections within the statistical community. Additionally, I strongly believe in the "just do it" principle—sometimes, simply starting something for 10 minutes can provide the motivation needed to push through challenging tasks and stay productive.

Jin Hyung Lee, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee - Continued

How did you become a KISS member?

I became a KISS member after meeting peers at JSM 2023, who introduced me to the community. It has been a great honor to serve as a student representative, where I have learned a great deal from senior statisticians. KISS has provided me with invaluable networking opportunities and professional development, and I am truly grateful for the experience.

How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

I enjoy playing tennis, though I haven't been able to play as much recently since I have a three-year-old daughter who keeps me busy. However, spending time with my family is the best way for me to recharge—family is everything to me.

What is your favorite place in town?

My favorite place is Washington, D.C. Since I live close to the city, I enjoy exploring its many attractions. My favorite landmark is the Washington Monument. Before coming to the U.S. as a Ph.D. student, I visited D.C. on a business trip, and seeing the monument made a lasting impression on me. It reminds me of the moment I decided to pursue a career in statistics. Coincidentally, it is also my daughter's favorite place to visit.

What are the perks of being a statistician?

The versatility of statistics allows me to work across various industries, including pharmaceutical research, environmental science, and academia. Additionally, this field is constantly evolving, providing endless opportunities for learning and growth. The challenge of staying at the forefront of new developments keeps me motivated and disciplined, and I find great satisfaction in continually expanding my knowledge.

Kyusoon Kim, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee

Please introduce yourself to KISSers.

Hi, my name is Kyusoon Kim, and I am a PhD candidate in Statistics at Seoul National University under the supervision of Prof. Hee-Seok Oh. My dissertation focuses on the statistical analysis of graph-valued data, covering various methods for analyzing data associated with vertices on graphs.

What is your current research area/problem?

My current research focuses on developing statistical methods tailored to data residing on the vertices of graphs. The discrete, finite, and irregular structure of the underlying graphs presents challenges in applying classical statistical methods designed for data in Euclidean space. I am particularly interested in exploring various topics such as data fitting, spectral analysis, dimension reduction, and statistical modeling on graphs.

What was the best career advice you had?

During the early years of my PhD, I struggled to find research topics because I felt I had to come up with something entirely "new" that had never been studied before. However, my advisor advised me that there is no such thing as completely new ideas—research is re-search, meaning that every novel discovery and method builds on previous work. This advice helped me feel freer from the pressure of having to create something unprecedented and allowed me to focus on identifying meaningful research topics.

How did you become a KISS member?

When I attended JSM 2023 in Toronto, I learned about the KISS organization through a KISS member meeting. Meeting Koreans studying statistics from around the world and sharing research ideas motivated me to become a member of KISS.

How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

I love to take walks while talking with my wife, which helps me forget worries related to my research. In my free time, I enjoy playing basketball with my friends in the basketball club.

Dohyeoung Ki, Outstanding Student Paper Awardee

Please introduce yourself to KISSers.

Hi, I'm Dohyeong Ki, a fifth-year PhD student in the Statistics Department at UC Berkeley. I have the privilege of being advised by Adityanand Guntuboyina. Before coming to Berkeley, I studied mathematics at Seoul National University.

What is your current research area/problem?

One of my research interests is shape-constrained estimation, a nonparametric function estimation method that leverages prior knowledge about the shape of an underlying function. Examples of shape constraints include monotonicity, convexity, log-concavity, and many others. Unlike other nonparametric estimation methods such as kernel smoothing, shape-constrained estimation does not require tuning parameters like smoothing bandwidths. This eliminates the need for parameter selection, which is often crucial to the performance of nonparametric methods.

What is your future research plan?

I am interested in understanding modern machine learning tools through the lens of nonparametric estimation. My previous research also studied MARS (Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines) through its connection to nonparametric regression with derivative constraints. In the future, I aspire to better understand neural networks and their high performance using ideas and insights from nonparametric estimation theory.

Why did you join the statistics profession? / What is your favorite part of being a statistician?

I like the balance that statistics strikes between mathematical rigor and practical application. While rigorous mathematical arguments are central to statistical analysis, the field also focuses on developing practical methods to solve real-world problems. This balance is what drew me to statistics and remains my favorite aspect of the field.

How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

I usually spend my free time reading books or watching TV shows. I consider myself an omnivorous reader. Sometimes, I choose books that deepen my knowledge, while other times, I am drawn to novels. I also enjoy watching TV dramas.

Where is your favorite place in town?

My favorite place in Berkeley is the Redwood Grove Amphitheatre. It is located across the street from the UC Botanical Garden—another iconic spot in the city. The towering redwoods create a natural barrier that separates it from the outside world. Sitting on a bench and gazing into the trees, I feel a sense of tranquility, as if, just for a moment, I can leave behind the worries of daily life.

Call for Papers

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