

---

# North Texas Chapter American Statistical Association

*Volume 18, Issue 2*

October 2016

---

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 31, 2016**

**Refreshments: 6:30 p.m.      Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Southern Methodist University Heroy Hall Room 153**

**Speaker: Rochelle E. Tractenberg, Ph.D.**

**Presentation:** A beginner's guide to reasoning with the ASA Ethical Guidelines

**Abstract:** Since data analysis is becoming important across disciplines, the ASA Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice, which were originally approved by the ASA in 1995 and were updated in 2016, can serve to introduce all students in quantitative courses to critical concepts of responsible data analysis, interpretation, and reporting. The Guidelines contain elements that are suitable, and important, components of training for undergraduates and graduates whether or not they are statistics majors, to prepare them for ethical quantitative work. To achieve this preparation, and to support responsibility in the conduct of research involving data and its analysis, the Guidelines should be incorporated into every quantitative course. The Guideline principles interact, and sometimes must be prioritized. Therefore, neither the simple distribution of –nor an encouragement to memorize– the Guidelines can promote the necessary level of awareness. This presentation will introduce ethical reasoning as a learnable, improvable skill set that can provide an entry point to working with the 2016 revised ASA Ethical Guidelines. The purpose is to describe ethical reasoning both for instructors interested in adding this feature to quantitative

courses and for students or consultants who wish to build experience, and evidence of engagement, with the ASA Ethical Guidelines.

**Biography:** Rochelle Tractenberg is a tenured Associate Professor at Georgetown University. Her primary appointment is in the department of Neurology and she has secondary appointments in Biostatistics and in Rehabilitation Medicine. She is also a Research Fellow at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, DC. She is a research methodologist, integrating perspectives and methods from diverse disciplines to do and support the best and most rigorous research. She earned a PhD in Cognitive Sciences in 1997 from the University of California, Irvine and a PhD in Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation in 2009 from the University of Maryland, College Park. In 2002, during five years as a biostatistician consulting with a national network of neurologists working in the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study at UC San Diego, she also completed an MPH program emphasizing biometry and biostatistics. She has been at Georgetown since leaving UCSD (2002). She established the Collaborative for Research on Outcomes and -Metrics (CROM) in 2008 with the specific objective of bringing measurement principles and properties to biomedical research. In 2013 she was appointed to the ASA Committee on Professional Ethics and became the Vice Chair in 2014. She chaired the working group of this Committee that completed the revisions to the 2016 ASA Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice (2014-6) and will become the Chair 1 January 2017.

---

## **Announcements:**

- Professor Alan Agresti will be the speaker of the next chapter meeting on January 26, 2017 (Thursday). Details of the talk will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter.
- The Chapter will need Volunteer Judges for the 2017 Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Science Fair (<http://dallasciencefair.org/>) on February 25, 2017 (Saturday). Please let Yahya Daoud ([YDaoud@outlook.com](mailto:YDaoud@outlook.com)) know if you have an interest in participating.
- The Conference of Texas Statisticians (COTS) will be held at the Southern Methodist University on March 24–25, 2017. More information will be provided soon.

## **Chapter Officers**

President – Min Chen

Vice-President/Program officer – Hon Keung (Tony) Ng

Secretary and Treasurer – Yahya A.H. Daoud

Chapter Representative – Linda S. Hynan

Administrative Assistant – Sheila Crain