

News of fellows April-June 2017

Robert Cuffe new Head of Statistics at BBC News



We are delighted at the news that one of our statistical ambassadors, Robert Cuffe, is to take up the position of head of statistics at BBC News.

The post was created to help the Corporation 'to better tell stories that contain numbers and data'. In his new role, which starts in September 2017, Robert will act as a consultant to BBC journalists across the News division, and will work closely with the data team within Visual Journalism on stories where complex statistical analysis is needed.

Robert is a chartered statistician working at GSK. He was until recently the head of statistics at ViiV Healthcare, where he worked on HIV prevention and making clinical trial data available to researchers. Robert also chaired the UK pharmaceutical statisticians' industry body, PSI, where he helped set up the Science Media Centre's '[Before the headlines](#)' project (also supported by the RSS).

See our [News item for further details](#).

Alastair Scott 1939-2017

We are sad to learn of the death of one of our most long-term and distinguished fellows, Alastair Scott, Emeritus Professor of Statistics at the University of Auckland.

Alastair spent most of his working life in New Zealand at the University of Auckland, which he joined in 1972, after graduating with a PhD in statistics at the University of Chicago and lecturing at the London School of Economics for a number of years previously. He retired in 2005 but remained active in his department.

As stated on the [University of Auckland website](#), Alastair 'was acknowledged, in particular, as a world leader in survey sampling theory and the development of methods to efficiently obtain and analyse data from medical studies. His methods are applied in a wide range of areas, notably in public health'.

As well as being a fellow of the RSS since 1966, he was a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Royal Society of New Zealand and an Honorary Life Member of the NZ Statistical Association.

An obituary of Alastair will be published in the RSS Series A Journal in due course.

Geoffrey Mallin Clarke, 1928-2017



We are very sad to report the death of one of our most long-serving and distinguished fellows, Geoff Clarke. Geoff was a highly respected statistician who made a major contribution to the training of applied statisticians in the United Kingdom, East Africa and elsewhere.

Geoff began his career at Long Ashton Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station and in 1966 moved to the University of Sussex and became reader in applied statistics in 1973. In 1983 he was appointed as a consultant in applied statistics at the University of Kent and became director of external courses. He had numerous papers published during his long career and six books including *A Basic Course in Statistics* co-authored with D Cooke.

Geoff had a longstanding relationship with the RSS; he was elected a fellow of the Institute of Statisticians in 1976 and held several roles including vice chair 1990-92, a crucial period in the negotiations that led to the merger of IoS and RSS. He was joint honorary secretary of the Society 1992-98 and was a member of the Professional Affairs Committee. A CStat and CSci, he was awarded the RSS Chambers Medal in 2001.

Geoff advised on and validated training courses run in Tanzania and Zimbabwe and played a key role in the development of English-speaking Centres in the UN Statistical Training Programme for Africa. He also lectured on University of Kent external statistics courses in Nigeria, Tanzania and Malawi.

Geoff was also a member of the Mathematical Sciences Panel, Council for National Academic Awards and an assessor for new courses and course reviews in statistics at ten different institutions. Colleagues describe him as a highly talented, dedicated and hardworking statistician who contributed greatly to the training of applied statisticians.

Sheila Bird elected FMedSci



Congratulations to former RSS vice president for external affairs, Professor Sheila Bird, who has been elected fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Sheila is a visiting senior fellow at the MRC Biostatistics Unit at the University of Cambridge and visiting professor at Strathclyde University's Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

She is a recipient of many of the Society's honours, including the Guy Medal in Bronze, the Bradford Hill Medal for medical statistics, the Howard Medal for social statistics and Chambers Medal for services to the RSS. In 2011, she was appointed OBE for services to social science and, in 2012, was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

A list of recently elected FMedSci is published [here](#).

Ruth King elected FLSW



Congratulations to RSS fellow Professor Ruth King, who has been made a [new fellow of the Learned Society of Wales](#).

Ruth is the current Thomas Bayes Chair of Statistics in the College of Science & Engineering at the University of Edinburgh and is originally from Pontypridd in south Wales. Her research is in the development of novel statistical methodology and their application, primarily within the fields of ecology and epidemiology. Her particular areas of interest include Bayesian statistics, the analysis of capture-recapture and associated data, integrated models, efficient model-fitting techniques and missing data.

Ruth has been an active member of the RSS and is currently on the committee of the Society's Research Section. She is also a faculty fellow and programme committee member of the Alan Turing Institute, and in 2015 she was a lecturer in the London Mathematical Society's 'Popular Lectures' which present exciting topics in mathematics and its applications to a wide audience.

David Sweeney to chair new research council



Congratulations to RSS fellow David Sweeney on his new appointment as executive chair designate of Research England, a new research council overseeing research and knowledge exchange in England. It will be housed under UKRI, a new funding body for UK research and innovation that is planned to launch in April 2018 (subject to parliamentary approval).

During the transition to UKRI, David will continue in his current role as director of research, education and knowledge exchange within HEFCE, alongside working as part of the shadow UKRI executive team to set up the new organisation.

Announcing the appointment, Science Minister Jo Johnson said: 'David's contribution to the UK's world renowned science and innovation sector will ensure he will establish a strong, strategic vision for Research England'.

David himself said he was 'delighted to be taking on this role'.

RSS fellow Nick Fieller sadly dies aged 70

We are very sorry to learn of the death of Nick Fieller, a former RSS Council member and editor of our journal *The Statistician*. Nick was a statistician at Sheffield University, where he was a lecturer in statistics (later senior lecturer) from 1974 until he retired in 2012. He was a president of the British Classification Society and wrote *Basics of Matrix Algebra for Statistics with R* in 2015. Nick's son, Daniel, has written an [obituary in The Guardian](#) which details his work and interests.

RSS fellow graduates in Master of Science in Applied Labour Economics for Development (MALED)



Congratulations to RSS fellow Jalal Naser, who has successfully completed all requirements for Master of Science in Applied Labour Economics for Development (MALED).

The MALED Scientific Committee awarded the degree to Mr Naser in March 2017 and he will attend the graduation ceremony in Sciences Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies) in December 2017.

Professional awards April 2017 to June 2017

The following professional awards have been made:

CStat

Sandra Alba
Edith Cheng
Adetayo Kasim
Caroline Wallbank
Lu Zou

CSci

Caroline Wallbank

GradStat

Saiam Ahmed
Olalekan Joseph Akintande
Usama Ali
Waleed Backler
Violeta Balinskaite
Thomas Brown
Emily Dennis
Maria Dunbar
Linda Lapp
Alex Leung
Johnathan Love
Uday Mohur
Hidemasa Oda
Olivia Reed
Esben Revsbech
Muhammed Semakula
Katie Shires
Nathan Thompson

The following have been elected as fellows of the Society (April-June 2017)

Jean Abi Rizk
Oyekunle Kazeem Adekunle
Tina Akosua Agyapong
Ikhlaaq Ahmed
Olalekan Joseph Akintande
Abdulmajeed Albarrak

Amirah Saeed Alharthi
Abbas Raza Ali
Amani Mohammed Almohaimed
Timothy Andrews
Andrew George Bates
Holly Bathgate

Asokore Hussien Rahmon Beckles
Nick Edward Beckley
Andrei Bejan
Fabiola Bene Tchaleu
Milica Blagojevic-Bucknall
Ian Boreham
Lyuba Bozhilova
Giuseppe Brandi
Jethro Browell
Thomas M. Brown
Jamie Ivo Foster Burnett
Rachel Jean Carrington
Zhibin Chen
Ben Clapperton
Gemma Lee Clayton
Paul Robert Cleary
James Coburn
Gareth Cochrane
Scott R Colwell
Andreas Conradi
Robin Cook
Jamie Crawford
Thomas Crossley
Maeve Ann Daly
Nicola Dawes
Lou Janvier Delacoste
Emily B Dennis
Elvira Doghem-Rashid
Ran Dong
Jackie Marcel Feenstra
Michelle Jane Foster
Angela Garrod
Laura Gray
Giles Greene
Angelina Hammon
Christian Holm Hansen
Andrew Haynes
Ernest Ireneusz Hennig
Sanjeevakumar C Hiremath
Heribert Hofer
Nicolas Steven Holliman
Alexander James Homer
Chuen Yen Hong
Donald Hunt
Laura Illingworth
Joseph Terry Irwin
Anthony Peter James
Muhammad Jan
Taghreed Mohammed Jawa
Gavin Jordan
Elizabeth King

Tsun Ming Lai
Xiuyang Li
Min Liang Liew
Sarah Liley
Suang Lim
Louise Linsell
Anton Lord
Yi Lu
Michael Johnson Mahande
Marcus Markland-Montgomery
Catherine Martin
Maria Cristina Martin
Anne-Laure Mathy
Emily Matthews
James Victor Matthews
Sasha Colette McAulay
Ralph Peter McDevitt
Alana McGuire
Rowan McLaughlin
Victor Meirinhos
Lucy Harriet Mills
Aziz Mirza
Michael Moffat
Uday Kumar Mohur
Alan Montgomery
Tanja Mueller
Semakula Muhammed
Hira Naveed
Colin Nicholas Neve
Atanaska Nikolova
David Norgrove
Angel Novikov-Jank
John O'Connor
Hidemasa Oda
Oyeleke Ridwan Olaoye
Adebisi Agnes Olayiwola
Nefeli Pamballi
Jaideep Jagdeesh Pandit
Muhammad Noman Paracha
Branko Pecar
Michael Phillips
Magda Piatkowska
Sarah Lee Pirikahu
Chanchal Pramanik
Kate Pyper
Olivia Reed
Charles Reynolds
Helen Jane Richards
Graham John Roberts
Rob Robson
Kartik Sahni

Lina Shulman
Thomas Smith
George Soulellis
Jenifer Southcott
Stuart Spencer
Cedric Spire
Camille Szmaraagd
Shiu Cheung Tam
Kiang Meng Tay
Måns Thulin
Sory Traore

Ivan Andrei Uemlianin
Flavie Vial
Yuyan Wang
Helen Karen West
Christopher White
Celyth Wyn Williams
Manoj Kumar Yadav
Melody Akosua Yeboah
Yinkang Zhao
Xingwu Zhou

Deaths (April-June 2017)

It is with regret that we have to report the deaths of:

David Patrick Arnot
Donald Stansfield Bulcock
Geoffrey Mallin Clarke
Geoffrey Harry Freeman
Alastair John Scott