

Candidate Statement to ASA Members

Dipak K. Dey, Candidate for the Board Directors President-Elect 2024; President 2025

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It is most exciting time for me to be a statistical scientist, and I am honored to be a candidate for president of the ASA. I have been learning Statistics since my undergraduate years but I never felt this much excitement. I have seen in my own eyes over the time that we are becoming more and more valuable in our community in terms of our need. As we move into a new era where demand for data scientists are exceeding the supply; our profession's skills, talents, intellect, knowledge about various domain of science and technology and analytics become increasingly important.

We are now able to capitalize fully on our strong foundations of Statistics in the age of data and extensive computational resources. We live and breathe this excitement in our daily lives, passing this enthusiasm along to the next generation of statisticians and data scientists in all domains of biological, physical, behavioral and social science.

Working at University of Connecticut, one of the forward-looking University, more than thirty years and leading our department as Head for three terms and Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for one term, I strongly believe in the collective strength of diverse people and perspectives. In addition, serving various committees and chapters of ASA my experiences have taught me how to advocate for statisticians to take on roles on leaders on teams and in organizations.

Data Science:

My priority as ASA President is to take more initiatives in Data Science: Our field has seen an explosion of new methods in statistics and data science, integrating the best of statistical thinking and practice. Forward looking universities rely heavily on, and invest in, their statistics departments to build top data science programs. The ASA has an opportunity to work with university leaders and government agencies to articulate the value statisticians bring to the data science leadership on the table. Social science Data Analytics and Data Privacy: Urban analytics requires new statistical paradigms and a willingness to engage local, state, and federal governments; NGOs; and communities. Central to this focus are growing issues of data privacy and the changing landscape of availability and use of data. As ASA President. I want to take a leadership role to understand the changes and expertly address their impact. This area opens an opportunity for the ASA to foster greater involvement of local government and chapters.

We will continue to find our place in the world of data science. We have been working on making ASA more welcoming to data scientists. ASA is already arranging each year two

conferences, publishing two journals and has two sections with “data science” in their names and mission. But there is no doubt that more needs to be done. In this perspective, I will propose to create a new section on machine learning in statistical science and create joint partnership with other societies, so that the members will be able to join meetings and mutually share the publications at a reduced rate.

Appropriate partnerships of analytics relating to Health Solutions and Business and Economic Development will also be sought through various established ASA sections.

Mentoring:

Over the years of experience in mentoring, I am convinced that it plays a major role in professional development of students, faculty and staffs at every level. ASA currently has a good mentoring program but I look forward to expanding our mission even further. Our leadership should reflect our demographics, and we need more statisticians to volunteer for mentorship. Our students should also be exposed to ethical guidelines and teamwork, including professional ethics.

Professional development:

If elected, I will suggest that ASA to continue developing periodic webinars for professional developments of our members. I think ASA can develop multiple strategies for professional developments, first to get more involvement in memberships of committees and sub committees of National Academies, which will eventually help in membership of **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine**. I will also encourage ASA members to get involved in American Association for the Advancement of Science and American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Leadership Development:

I noticed that areas for the ASA’s immediate attention are leadership, advancing the ASA’s data science role, and engaging in the new frontier of social analytics. Currently, members of our profession hold strategic leadership positions across various types of industry, government, and academia. Past presidents of ASA have already done some initiatives to achieve these goals. If elected, I will continue to strengthen all those goals through mentoring interested statistical scientists by using Webinar to achieve higher leadership positions. Training in statistics naturally develops a foundation for leadership in large part due to the interdisciplinary nature of our profession. In 2018, the ASA founded the Leadership Institute, and it needs to be moving forward further, by developing strategic initiatives. Again, through webinars, we will invite department heads to participate in the programs of Leadership Institute. Few selective topics will include, how to communicate the theory and practice to statisticians who are becoming leaders in their work by promoting statistics, analytics, and logical thinking as key contributors to decision-making.

Membership

It has been observed that Membership has been declining for several years. My effort towards increase in membership is based on more inclusiveness. Many members in other statistical societies in other countries, can be invited to become a shared member of ASA through a cost reduction approach, following guidelines <https://www.isi-web.org/resources/developing->

countries. Consequently, they can also subscribe ASA journals at a reduced rate following world bank guidelines <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>.

Meetings:

We need to meet the needs of our members, of course, and we also need to recognize that meetings are an important source of revenue for ASA. If that revenue source dries up, either it must be replaced, or we must cut somewhere else. Further, meeting location has become an increasingly complex and problematic issue. How we move forward, and how we communicate about this, are keys to our success. My proposal is to have JSM in a hybrid fashion with multiple hub system, where each hub will be located at each ASA chapter location to be selected by officials of individual chapters as mirror sights. This will be challenging in some instances in terms of coordination but it will undoubtedly reduce the transportation and accommodation costs as well as travel restriction rules.

Publications:

Publications are fundamental to any professional society. In my perception, most journals will eventually be online, where members or subscribers, both individuals and organizations will receive pdf files after the papers are accepted. I think ASA will follow that path and consequently it will be more attractive to subscribers and members around the world.

Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusiveness (JEDI):

We should be more serious about implementation of JEDI. I will be working with the ASA antiracism task force group to evaluate the need for change within the organization. The JEDI outreach group is functioning well and is an excellent addition to the ASA.

In summary, as strategic plan, I will pursue three major themes, Enhancing the Diversity and Breadth of Our Association, Increasing the visibility of our profession and Ensuring the future of our profession. I am excited about where our profession is heading and will be honored to have the opportunity to help achieve these goals as ASA president.