

# Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute

Data • Discoveries • Decisions

## Collaborative Research Team Projects

Letters of intent for CANSSI Collaborative Research Team Projects (CRTs) are invited. The deadline is April 30, 2017. Read more about it [online](#).



## New Collaborative Research Team Project

We're excited to announce the newest CANSSI Collaborative Research Team Project – **Statistical Analysis of Large Administrative Health Databases: Emerging Challenges and Strategies**. Congratulations to the team leaders Grace Y. Yi of the University of Waterloo, Robert Platt of McGill University and X. Joan Hu of Simon Fraser University. This project began on April 1, 2017 and will run until 2020.

Administrative health data offer us a valuable opportunity to deal with practical situations where planned studies or randomized experiments are infeasible, unethical or too costly to perform. The team's primary goals are to address emerging statistical challenges in the analysis of large-scale administrative health data and to develop original and innovative methodology in advancing foundational work and facilitating genuine application.

## Upcoming Deadlines

- Apr. 15 Call for proposals for the [Kick-Start Research Program](#)
- Apr. 30 Call for letters of intent for [Collaborative Research Team Projects](#)
- Jun. 15 [Workshop and conference proposals](#) for 2018
- Jul. 31 Call for proposals for the [Distinguished Visitor Program](#)



Photo credit: Rowan Brown



# CANSSI Health Science Collaborating Centres

Last fall, CANSSI put out a call for proposals to establish Health Science Collaborating Centres (HSCCs) across the country. We are pleased to announce the creation of 7 new HSCCs.



## The Centre for Biostatistics – University of Victoria

Led by Mary Lesperance, this group includes Farouk Nathoo, Xuekui Zhang and Laura Cohen. The Centre for Biostatistics will partner with local health science institutions to support graduate students working on research projects within their organizations. Working with the UVic Graduate Co-op Office, this group will solicit graduate co-op work term proposals leading to enhanced experiential learning for HQP in training.

## Collaborating Centre for Statistical Omics – McMaster University & University of Toronto

The steering committee for this HSCC includes Laurent Briollais, Shelley Bull, Rafal Kustra, Lisa Strug, Lei Sun and France Gagnon. Building on the STAGE Training Program in statistical genetics and genomics, this centre plans to match trainees with prospective supervisors in health science organizations.



## Manitoba Statistical and Health Sciences Collaborating Centre – University of Manitoba

Lisa Lix, Elif Acar, Pingzhao Hu, Mohammad Jafari Jozani and Mahmoud Torabi form the steering committee for this HSCC. The overall aim of the MB-SAHS Collaborating Centre is to facilitate high-quality collaborative research that engages statistical and health scientists and statistical science trainees.

## Health Statistics Training Network – McGill University

This HSCC is led by Erica Moodie, Robert Platt, Russell Steele and David Stephens. It offers MSc and PhD training with opportunities for experiential learning through partners such as CNODES, INSPQ, RECRU and the Ludmer Centre for Neuroinformatics and Mental Health.



## Collaborating Biostatistics Centre for Health Research – Queen's University

Along with Biostatistics and Health Research faculty members, Paul Y. Peng, Bingshu Chen, Wengyu Jiang and Dongsheng Tu are creating this HSCC. Working with 10 different research groups, centres, and institutes, this group will build upon existing collaborative graduate programs in biostatistics, statistics and public health sciences.

## Rocky Mountain Data Science Centre – University of Calgary & University of British Columbia - Okanagan

Rob Deardon, Karen Kopciuk, John Braun, Herman Barkema, Hua Shen and Tyler Williamson are heading up this initiative. It will be a training centre dedicated to developing the next generation of biostatisticians skilled in the knowledge and application of statistical methods that will impact biomedical and health research.



## Health Science Collaborating Centre – University of British Columbia

Participating faculty include Rollin Brant, Gabriel Cohen Freuer, Paul Gustafson, John Petkau, Hubert Wong and Lang Wu. This HSCC provides an ideal platform for enhancing the engagement of students in our existing graduate education programs with the health sciences research community.

# ASA DataFest

## Encouraging undergraduate participation

The American Statistical Association sponsors a “DataFest” competition each spring, and universities in Canada are welcome to participate. An ASA DataFest involves teams of students working for a weekend on the analysis of a set of data provided by the ASA, and presenting their work at the end of the weekend. Prizes are typically awarded in three categories: overall, visualization, and presentation. Details can be found on the ASA website at <https://www.amstat.org/education/datafest/index.cfm>.

CANSSI would like to encourage participation in this program by offering partial support (up to \$1000) of an ASA DataFest at any university that is an institutional member of CANSSI. A template application is available on our web site.

Applications to CANSSI and ASA must be made by **February 28, 2018**. The competition itself should be held from March through May.



Participants and judges from the ASA DataFest at the University of Toronto April 30 – May 1, 2016. This year, the event will take place May 5-7. [See more pictures and read more about Toronto's event online.](#)

The University of Waterloo's DataFest will take place May 5-7 as well. [Learn more about Waterloo's DataFest.](#)

## SAMSI Undergraduate Workshops

So far this year, CANSSI has supported several undergraduate students through this program. Robert Redelmeier of McMaster University attended the February 27-28 workshop on topics of current interest in statistics and applied mathematics. Kevin Multani of the University of British Columbia and Matthew Pietrosanu and Yue Wang, both of the University of Alberta, will attend the Interdisciplinary Workshop for Undergraduate Students on May 14-19. Learn more about how to apply for this exciting program on [our website](#).

## Save the Date! CANSSI AGM

The [CANSSI Annual Meeting](#) will take place at the University of Manitoba on **Saturday, June 10, 2017**.

We're seeking nominations for CANSSI's Board of Directors. [Find out more here](#).

Data • Discoveries • Decisions

