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# Celebrating 10 years of the Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society

November 3, 2020

The Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society celebrates its first 10 years by recognizing the outstanding group of winners. Skilled as academics in biostatistics, they are also individuals who have shaped society for the better. Karl E. Peace, Ph.D, is a professor of biostatistics and research scientist at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University.

The award is bestowed upon distinguished individuals who have made substantial contributions to the statistical profession and have improved the human condition. Recipients demonstrated their commitment to service for the greater good through their accomplishments.

“The winners of the award over the first 10 years are truly outstanding,” said Peace. “Their accomplishments not only represent the best in applications of statistics but have led to the betterment of society in many ways.”

Winners are selected by a committee. Each nominated candidate is scored on aspects of their body of contributions throughout the candidate’s career, including impact and service to society. However, those scores are augmented with the committee’s discussion to ensure the most outstanding candidate is selected.

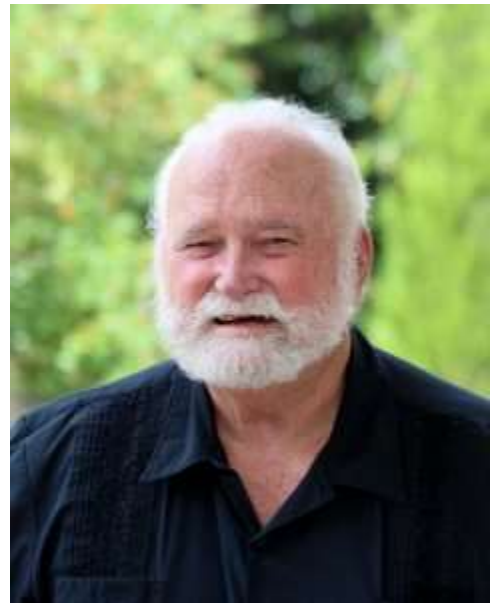
Winners include:

**2011: Marvin Zelen**, Ph.D, is considered the godfather of biostatistics. Zelen, now deceased, held positions at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He was known for outstanding statistical contributions and his dedication to collaborative partnerships between biostatistical and clinical sciences, particularly in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials and cancer screenings, and for visionary international professional leadership. Zelen also donated to the JPHCOPH.

**2012: Fritz Scheuren**, Ph.D, senior fellow and vice president at the independent research organization NORC at the University of Chicago in its Center for Excellence in Survey Research. Scheuren’s exemplary career translated impressive statistical contributions into the support of humankind, particularly through extensive international human rights work, and for effective leadership and advocacy in the promotion of volunteerism among ASA members.

**2013: Richard Macey Simon**, D.Sc., retired chief of biostatistics at the NCI. Simon published over 500 articles. His work included establishing a multidisciplinary group of statistical, computational and biological scientists to develop and apply methods for the application of high-dimensional genomic data to cancer research.

**2014: Gary Grove Koch**, Ph.D, professor of biostatistics at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. His principal research interest is developing statistical methodology for the analysis of categorical data and its corresponding applications to a wide range of settings in the health sciences.



*Karl E. Peace, PhD*

**2015: James J. Cochran**, Ph.D, professor of applied statistics, Rogers-Spivey Faculty Fellow, and associate dean for research in the Culverhouse College of Business at the University of Alabama. Cochran was a founding member of the Statistics Without Borders organization.

**2016: Ronald Brookmeyer**, Ph.D, dean, University of California, Los Angeles, Fielding School of Public Health, and Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics. Brookmeyer has earned worldwide recognition for his work on predicting the magnitude of HIV/AIDS and has called attention to the Alzheimer's disease epidemic. His work on global public health problems also includes biosecurity, disease surveillance and aging populations' health challenges.

**2016: Gary M. Shapiro**, retired Westat statistician. Shapiro was a founding member of Statistics Without Borders and devoted pro bono work to develop a sampling scheme of police archives for evaluating police involvement in the disappearances and killing of Guatemalans.

**2017: Dr. Mitchell H. Gail**, senior investigator for the National Cancer Institute. Gail's work has focused on risk prediction, HIV incidence estimation, genetic epidemiology and the design, execution, and analysis of cancer treatment and prevention trials. Notable is his work to develop the landmark Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool, also known as the Gail Model, which is widely used in counseling women on their risk of breast cancer.

**2017: Mary Gray**, Ph.D, J.D., distinguished professor of mathematics and statistics at American University. Gray, trained as both a statistician and a lawyer, made important contributions in the application of statistics in human rights, economic equality, legal issues and education. Gray was a founding member of the Association for Women in Mathematics.

**2018: Patrick Ball**, Ph.D, director of research for the Human Rights Data Analysis Group. Ball has spent more than 25 years conducting quantitative analysis for truth commissions, non-governmental organizations, international criminal tribunals and United Nations' missions worldwide.

**2019: Joseph Gastwirth**, Ph.D, professor of statistics at The George Washington University. Gastwirth is a leading authority in the area of legal statistics. He has developed novel methodological and theoretical statistical approaches to address economic and health inequalities, combat discrimination, and advance civil rights and social justice.

**2020: Francesca Dominici**, Ph.D, Clarence James Gamble Professor of Biostatistics, Population and Data Science and co-director of the Harvard Data Science Initiative at the T.H Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University. Dominici was selected for her high-quality, innovative and policy-relevant science, her commitment to transparency and reproducibility in science, and her work in developing statistical methods for evaluating the health effects of exposure to air pollution.

The Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society was established by Christopher K. Peace, son of Karl E. Peace, on behalf of the Peace family to honor his father's life work, under the auspices of the American Statistical Association. Award recipients receive a certificate and \$1,000 divided evenly among the winners should more than one be selected. The award is presented annually if, in the opinion of the award committee, there is a nominee worthy of the award.

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