



# NEWS *from* CNSTAT

— May 1, 2015 —

CNSTAT is holding an all-day event on Friday, May 8, 2015, organized jointly with the NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN, funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau) as part of CNSTAT's 127th meeting. The program will include technical sessions on work under way at the various NCRN nodes, followed by lunch and a public seminar featuring a paper by John Abowd and Stephen Fienberg, *Can Government-Academic Partnerships Help Secure the Future of the Federal Statistical System? Examples from the NSF-Census Research Network*.

## PEOPLE *News*

We note with profound sadness the recent deaths of two people—**Janet Norwood** on March 27 and **Richard Suzman** on April 16—who were giants in the fields of federal statistics and social and behavioral research, respectively, and whose wisdom, initiative, and high standards of excellence and integrity will be much missed. Both supported the mission of CNSTAT, and CNSTAT, in turn, greatly valued their service toward improved federal statistics and enhanced social and behavioral knowledge. We attach an obituary from the *New York Times* for Janet and a memorandum of appreciation of Richard from Richard Hodes, director of the National Institute on Aging. To the information contained therein, we add notes about the associations of these two outstanding people with CNSTAT and the National Academies:

- **Janet Norwood**, as commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was a core supporter of CNSTAT and commissioned a study that resulted in *Counting Injuries and Illnesses in the Workplace: Proposals for a Better System* (National Research Council, 1987). Subsequent to her retirement from BLS in 1991, she wrote *Organizing to Count: Change in the Federal Statistical System* (The Urban Institute Press, 1995) and served on CNSTAT from 1992–1999. Over a 20-year period, she chaired CNSTAT panels to review the statistical procedures for the decennial census, statistical programs and practices of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and the USDA measurement of food insecurity and hunger and, served as a member of CNSTAT panels on census requirements in the year 2000 and beyond and methods for assessing discrimination. She also served on standing units and study panels in other parts of the National Academies. She was a mentor to many CNSTAT staff and a valued colleague to members.
- **Richard Suzman**, director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Research in the National Institute on Aging, was a core supporter of CNSTAT and commissioned several dozen studies over a 25-year period from CNSTAT and its sister Committee on Population. Topics of these studies included disability statistics, aging policy statistics, disclosure limitation and data access, health policy modeling, elder abuse, accounting for health and health care, best practices for biosocial surveys, and measuring subjective well-being. Many of these topics were relevant for the broader federal statistical and research communities. Richard also supported major surveys

related to retirement, health, and aging and contributed to other important surveys, such as the American Time Use Survey.

We note with great sadness the death on April 28 of **Eva Jacobs**, retired from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and professionally active her entire life, of congestive heart failure at age 94. *[Please see the notice of funeral arrangements at the end of the newsletter.]* Eva had a 40-year career with BLS. From 1972 to 1993, she was chief of the Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE), overseeing the conversion of the CE from a decennial activity to a continuous program beginning in 1980. From 1972 to 1982, she was also responsible for the BLS Family Budget Program, which estimated the cost of an adequate standard of living for a U.S. urban working family in various cities using hypothetical family budgets. She previously held positions in BLS's Productivity Division and Economic Growth Division. Retiring in 1993 from BLS, she served as an advisor to government agencies and private sector groups on construction of price indexes, including chairing a technical panel to advise the Safe Harbor Working Group on cost-of-living adjustments for salaries of federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. She edited numerous editions, the last in 2009, of *Handbook of U.S. Labor Statistics: Employment, Earnings, Prices, Productivity, and Other Labor Data*, published by Bernan Press. She was a fellow of the American Statistical Association and served on its Board of Directors. In 1998, she received the Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics, sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, National Association of Business Economists, and ASA Business and Economics Statistics Section, "for her management of the Consumer Expenditure Survey Program, her work on the use of the Consumer Expenditure Survey data to analyze and interpret the economy, and her responsiveness to customer needs." She received her B.A. in economics from Brooklyn College and had graduate training in statistics, econometrics, and survey methodology from George Washington University. She was active in ReSET, an organization of retired scientists, engineers, and technicians, who engage elementary school students in hands-on science learning. She was also for almost 30 years a member of a small book club, which meets monthly and includes Wendy Bradburn, Connie Citro, Lynda Carlson, Marcia Field, Cynthia Thomas, and Barbara Torrey, all of whom will miss Eva's life force immensely.

We also note with sadness the death on April 3 of **Norman Nie**, research professor in the Stanford Department of Political Science and director of the Stanford Institute for the Quantitative Study of Society, of cancer at age 72. He co-founded SPSS in 1975, having co-developed the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences while studying for his Ph.D. at Stanford, and in 1998 co-founded Knowledge Networks. Among his many honors, he received the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) award for exceptionally distinguished achievement in public opinion research, received a lifetime achievement award from AAPOR for his contributions to survey analytics as well as his work in political behavior, and was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He served on the CNSTAT panel that produced *Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion: Measuring Dimensions of Social Capital to Inform Policy* (National Research Council, 2013).

We congratulate **Rebecca Blank**, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, on receiving the **2015 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize** from the **American Academy of Political and Social Science**. Named after the late senator, the Moynihan Prize honors individuals who use sound analysis and social science research to inform public policy while also contributing to the public discourse on society's most pressing issues. Becky became chancellor at UW-Madison in 2013. From 2009 to 2013, she served as under secretary for economic affairs and then was named deputy secretary and acting secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. She was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers from 1997 to 1999 and a fellow at the Brookings Institution before joining Commerce. From 1999 to 2008, she served as dean and professor of public policy and economics in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and she has held faculty positions at Northwestern University and Princeton University. She has a B.A. in economics (summa cum laude) from the University of Minnesota and a

Ph.D. in economics from MIT. For CNSTAT, she chaired the panel on methods for assessing discrimination and served as a member of the panel that produced the 1995 report, *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*. When at Commerce, she was instrumental in the implementation of a new Supplemental Poverty Measure based on the 1995 report. For the National Academies, she also served on the Division of Behavioral and Social Science and Education's committee on the fiscal future of the United States and the DBASSE division advisory committee. She will deliver a lecture as part of the Moynihan prize ceremony (see Events below).

We congratulate **David Friedman** on his appointment as associate commissioner for the Office of Prices and Living Conditions at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, effective April 19, 2015. David has worked at the Bureau since 1978. The first 24 years of his career were spent in various positions within the Division of International Prices in OPLC. In 2003, he became the first chief of the new Program Standards Group (PSG) within the Office of Compensation and Working Conditions, in support of both the National Compensation Survey (NCS) and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics. From January through August 2008, he served as chief of the Division of Compensation Data Estimation, leading staff in the production, compilation, and validation of NCS estimates. Since September 2008, David has served as assistant commissioner for industrial prices and price indexes, leading the PPI program through several significant accomplishments including development and implementation of the new Final Demand-Intermediate Demand aggregation indexes. He also initiated closer collaboration efforts between IPP and PPI, including the start of the innovative joint Industrial Price Systems investment. He received an MBA from the University of Maryland, and a B.A. from George Washington University and an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, both in International Affairs

We congratulate the following members of the CNSTAT community who were elected to membership in the *National Academy of Sciences* at its annual meeting, April 28, 2015:

- **Angus Deaton**, Dwight D. Eisenhower professor of economics and international affairs, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and Department of Economics, Princeton University. He served on CNSTAT from 1989 to 1992 and as a member of the CNSTAT panels on measuring poverty and cost-of-living indexes.
- **Catherine Kling**, Charles F. Curtiss distinguished professor of agriculture and life sciences, professor of economics, and director, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University. She served on the CNSTAT panel to review the USDA Agricultural Resource Management Survey.
- **James Poterba**, Mitsui professor of economics, Department of Economics, MIT. He contributed to the CNSTAT panel on modeling retirement income and served on the National Academies Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy and Committee on the Long-Run Economic Effects of the Aging U.S. Population.
- **Bruce Western**, professor of sociology and Daniel and Florence Guggenheim professor of criminal justice, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He served on the CNSTAT panel to review programs of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

We welcome four new staff members to CNSTAT:

- **Brian Harris-Kojetin** is joining CNSTAT on May 4, 2015, as deputy director and study director for the new panel on improving federal statistics for policy and social science research using multiple data sources and state-of-the-art estimation methods. He comes from OMB where he served as senior statistician in the Statistical and Science Policy Office. He chaired the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and was the lead at OMB on issues related to standards for statistical surveys, survey nonresponse, survey respondent incentives, and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). He also served as the

desk officer for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the demographic programs of the U.S. Census Bureau. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and an adjunct faculty member at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. Prior to joining OMB in 2001, he was senior project leader, Research Standards and Practices, the Arbitron Company; and research psychologist in the Office of Survey Methods Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics. He has a B.A. from the University of Denver and a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Minnesota. Brian can be reached at [bkojetin@nas.edu](mailto:bkojetin@nas.edu).

- **Seth Hauser** joined CNSTAT on February 23, 2015, working temporarily as a senior program officer for the panel on modernizing U.S. crime statistics. He previously worked at CNSTAT in 2002–2003, contributing to two reports: *Measuring Racial Discrimination* (2004) and *The 2000 Census: Counting Under Adversity* (2004). Since then, he spent more than a decade as an analyst and manager of analysts in the U.S. intelligence community, focused largely on security dynamics in East Asia. Seth received his Ph.D. in sociology and M.A. in statistics from the University of Michigan and his B.A. in social policy from Carleton College. Seth can be reached at [shauser@nas.edu](mailto:shauser@nas.edu).
- **Eileen LeFurgy** joined CNSTAT February 2, 2015, as program coordinator working directly for Connie Citro and the CNSTAT members. She previously worked as a project coordinator on grants from the Department of Justice at the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Alexandria, VA; project coordinator/research assistant for Development Services Group, Inc., in Bethesda, MD; research specialist for National Corporate Research, Ltd., in Washington, DC; and archives technician with the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD. She has a B.A. in criminology and criminal justice and sociology from the University of Maryland–College Park and an M.S. in justice, law, and society from American University. Eileen can be reached at [elefurgy@nas.edu](mailto:elefurgy@nas.edu).
- **Glenn White** joined CNSTAT on April 27, 2015, as senior program officer directing the new study on reengineering the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys. In 2014 he retired from Ernst & Young LLP after 16 years where he was the survey practice leader for the Quantitative Economics and Statistics group located in Washington, DC. Previously, he was a mathematical statistician with the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Census Bureau. Glenn has been an adjunct faculty member of George Washington University, teaching a graduate course in survey management. He has held elected and appointed offices in the American Statistical Association and Washington Statistical Society. He received his M.S. in biostatistics from the University of Vermont and his B.A. in mathematics/biology from the University of San Diego. Glenn can be reached at [gdwhite@nas.edu](mailto:gdwhite@nas.edu).

## EVENT & OTHER *News*

### ***2015 Moynihan Lecture: What Drives American Competitiveness?***

Rebecca Blank, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and former acting U.S. Secretary of Commerce, who was recently named the 2015 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize Winner (see above), will give a public lecture on May 7, 2015, in Washington, DC, in which she will identify the critical levers for economic competitiveness. The lecture will take place at 2:30 p.m., at the National Press Club. If you plan to attend the lecture, please register [here](#). If you cannot join in person but would like to participate, visit the [AAPSS website](#) on May 7 to watch the lecture live.

## REPORT *News*

***Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums—Report 1***, the first report of the Water Science and Technology Board, Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications, and CNSTAT

Committee on the Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums, was released in prepublication form on March 26, 2015. It is available in [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly. The committee is chaired by Leonard Shabman, Resources for the Future, for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**The Report in Brief—**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is housed within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and offers insurance policies that are marketed and sold through private insurers, but with the risks borne by the U.S. government. NFIP's primary goals are to ensure affordable insurance premiums, secure widespread community participation in the program, and earn premium and fee income that covers claims paid and program expenses over time. In July 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act (Biggert-Waters 2012), designed to move toward an insurance program with NFIP risk-based premiums that better reflected expected losses from floods at insured properties. This eliminated policies priced at what the NFIP called "pre-FIRM subsidized" and "grandfathered." As Biggert-Waters 2012 went into effect, constituents from multiple communities expressed concerns about the elimination of lower rate classes, arguing that it created a financial burden on policy holders. In response to these concerns Congress passed The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA 2014). The 2014 legislation changed the process by which pre-FIRM subsidized premiums for primary residences would be removed and reinstated grandfathering. As part of that legislation, FEMA must report back to Congress with a draft affordability framework. *Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums: Report 1* is the first part of a two-part study to provide input as FEMA prepares their draft affordability framework. This report discusses the underlying definitions and methods for an affordability framework and the affordability concept and applications. It gives an overview of the demand for insurance and the history of the NFIP premium setting. The report then describes alternatives for determining when the premium increases resulting from Biggert-Waters 2012 would make flood insurance unaffordable.

***Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector: Conceptual and Design Issues, Summary of a Workshop*** was released in prepublication form on January 5, 2015. It is available in [PDF](#) and in print. The workshop steering committee was chaired by Lester Salamon, Johns Hopkins University, for the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

**The Report in Brief—**

NCSES of the National Science Foundation is responsible for national reporting of the research and development (R&D) activities that occur in all sectors of the U.S. economy. For most sectors, including the business and higher education sectors, NCSES collects data on these activities on a regular basis. However, data on R&D within the entire nonprofit sector have not been collected in 18 years, a time period that has seen dynamic and rapid growth of the sector. NCSES decided to design and implement a new survey of nonprofits and commissioned this workshop to provide a forum to discuss conceptual and design issues and methods. This report summarizes the discussions on the workshop about concepts and issues for the design of a survey of R&D expenditures made by nonprofit organizations, considering the goals, content, statistical methodology, data quality, and data products associated with this data collection. The report also considers the broader usefulness of the data for understanding the nature of the nonprofit sector and their R&D activities. The report will help readers understand the role of nonprofit sector, given its enormous size and scope as well as its contribution to identifying new forms of R&D beyond production processes and new technology.

**Reminder:** PDF versions of CNSTAT and NAS reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. NOTE: The download site asks for your e-mail and a password. If you don't have an NAP account and don't want to have one, then provide your e-mail and click "I don't have an account;" on the next page click "accept NAP policies" and "log in as guest".

**Reminder:** Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the CNSTAT [public seminars and symposia](#) page; slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website. Presentations from the July 31-August 1, 2014 CNSTAT *International Conference on Census Methods* are available [here](#).

## CNSTAT Meetings

CNSTAT holds three regular meetings each year, with its spring and fall meeting dates following a set formula; our May meetings are always the Thursday–Friday preceding Mother’s Day and our October meetings are always the second-to-last Thursday–Friday of the month. Here are the next three meetings:

**CNSTAT’s 127<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 7–8, 2015**, in the **NAS main building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On **May 8<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a special program organized by CNSTAT and the **NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN)**, including technical workshops, lunch, seminar, and reception. For more information about the NCRN and what the various nodes have been up to, see <http://www.ncrn.info/>.

**CNSTAT’s 128<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 22–23, 2015**, in the **NAS main building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads, followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 2 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

**CNSTAT’s 129<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 11–12, 2016**, at the **Keck Center of the National Academies** at 500 Fifth Street NW, in Washington, DC. It will be a retreat meeting; there will be no agency head luncheon or public seminar.

## Active PANELS & WORKSHOPS

*[Listed by sponsor agency, beginning with federal departments. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are in Washington, DC, and include open sessions. For further information, contact the person listed as the study director or project assistant (e-mail addresses follow the formula of first initial plus last name as oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]*

### Department of Agriculture

#### **Panel on Methods for Integrating Multiple Data Sources to Improve Crop Estimates**

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2017

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Teleconference, July 7, 2015

#### **Workshop on Model-Based Methods for Producing Estimates of Livestock with Appropriate Measures of Uncertainty**

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service



Duration: September 2014– September 2016  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper  
Chair: TBD  
Report planned: Workshop summary  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Workshop on Rationalizing Rural Area Classifications for ERS/USDA**

Sponsor: Economic Research Service  
Duration: September 2014–September 2015  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; co-study director: Gooloo Wunderlich; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper  
Chair: David Brown (Cornell University)  
Report planned: Workshop summary is being prepared  
Meeting: Workshop held April 16-17, 2015 at the NAS Keck Center in Washington, DC

**Department of Commerce**

**Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: May 2015–May 2018  
Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper  
Chair: TBD  
Report planned: Final report  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: September 2013–November 2016  
Study director: Carol House; project assistant, Agnes Gaskin; research assistant: Adrienne Bradford  
Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)  
Report planned: Final report  
Upcoming meetings: Third meeting held November 20-21, 2014, in Washington, DC; fourth meeting TBD (after data analysis completed)

**Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: September 2014–September 2019  
Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)  
Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also stand up workshops or consensus panels; this committee will stand up workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning; it has just stood up a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys. A website for the committee is maintained at this [link](#).  
Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for June 29-30, 2015, in Washington, DC

## **Department of Education**

### **Committee on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Achievement Levels Evaluation** (joint with the DBASSE Board on Testing and Assessment, which has the lead)

Sponsor: National Center for Education Statistics

Duration: September 2014–March 2016

Study director: Judith Koenig (BOTA); program officer: Jordyn White (CNSTAT); project assistant: Kelly Arrington (BOTA)

Chair: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Second meeting scheduled for May 27-28, 2015, in Washington, DC

## **Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Standing Committee on Integrating New Behavioral Health Measures into SAMHSA's Data Collection Programs** (joint with the DBASSE Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences and the IOM Board on Health Sciences Policy)

Sponsors: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Duration: August 2014–July 2016

Study director: Krisztina Marton; senior program officer, Jeanne Rivard (BBCSS); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (IOM); project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair: James Jackson (University of Michigan)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also stand up workshops or consensus panels; this committee will stand up workshops on the topics of serious emotional disturbance in children, trauma and recovery, and specific mental illness diagnoses with any functional impairment. A website is maintained for the committee at this [link](#).

Upcoming meetings: Workshop/second meeting on Serious Emotional Disturbance in Children scheduled for June 11-12, 2015, in Washington, DC; workshop/third meeting on Specific Mental Illness Diagnoses with Functional Impairment scheduled for September 24-25, 2015

## **Department of Homeland Security**

### **Committee on Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums** (joint with the Water Science and Technology Board, which has the lead, and the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications)

Sponsor: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Duration: September 2013–September 2015

Study director: Jeffrey Jacobs (WSTB); CNSTAT director: Constance Citro; BMSA director: Scott Weidman

Chair: Leonard Shabman (Resources for the Future)

Reports planned: *Affordability of National Flood Insurance Premiums—Report 1* released in prepublication format, March 26, 2015; available in [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly; second report being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for May 6-7, 2015, in Irvine CA



## **Department of Justice**

### **Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics** (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice)

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Duration: September 2013–March 2016

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Seth Hauser; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Reports planned: Interim report is being drafted; final report

Upcoming meetings: Eighth meeting scheduled for May 11-12, 2015, in Washington, DC

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Panel on Research Methodologies and Statistical Approaches to Understanding Driver Fatigue Factors in Motor Carrier Safety and Driver Health** (joint with the Board on Human-Systems Integration and Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: September 2013–September 2015

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; Board on Human-Systems Integration director: Poornima Madhavan; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Co-chairs: Hal Stern (University of California, Irvine); Matthew Rizzo (University of Nebraska Medical Center)

Report planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting (closed) scheduled for May 5-6, 2015, in Washington, DC

## **National Science Foundation**

### **Forum on Open Science**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: October 2013–October 2016

Study director: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: David Ward (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Reports: Forums do not issue reports; they meet for discussion among a wide range of stakeholders; they can also stand up workshops or consensus panels

Upcoming meetings: Fourth and last meeting held March 27, 2015, in Washington, DC; follow-on activities to be scheduled

### **Standing Committee on the Future of Major NSF-Funded Social Science Surveys**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2015 – March June 2016

Study director: TBD; project assistant: Eileen LeFurgy

Chair: TBD

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they may also stand up workshops or consensus panels

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Workshop on Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector: Conceptual and Design Issues**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2013–April 2015

Study director: Carol House; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Lester Salamon (Johns Hopkins University)

Report: Workshop summary, *Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector: Conceptual and Design Issues, Summary of a Workshop*, released in prepublication form, January 5, 2015; available in [PDF](#) and in print

Meeting: Workshop held June 30–July 1, 2014, in Washington, DC

### **The Carnegie Corporation of New York**

#### **Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase**

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair-designate: Michael Hout (NYU)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also stand up workshops or consensus panels; this committee will stand up workshops on the design and research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Census Bureau's Research Data Center network. The First Phase AOS is intended to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short- and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A website will be maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

#### **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–September 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair-designate: Robert Groves (Georgetown U)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

#### **Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration**

Sponsor: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Duration: May 2013–October 2015

Study director: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Sixth meeting scheduled for May 8–9, 2015, in New York City

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT** •

Committee on National Statistics  
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education  
The National Academies  
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001  
Fax (202) 334-3751  
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>

Dr. Constance F. Citro, *Director*  
[ccitro@nas.edu](mailto:ccitro@nas.edu)  
(202) 334-3009 or 3096  
Eileen LeFurgy, *Coordinator*  
[elefurgy@nas.edu](mailto:elefurgy@nas.edu)  
(202) 334-1616 or 3096

– See our website for previous issues of *News from CNSTAT*, under “CNSTAT News” –

The Committee on National Statistics was established in 1972 at the National Academies to improve the statistical methods and information on which public policy decisions are based. The committee carries out studies, workshops, and other activities to foster better measures and fuller understanding of the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, and other public policy issues. It also evaluates ongoing statistical programs and tracks the statistical policy and coordinating activities of the federal government, serving a unique role at the intersection of statistics and public policy. The committee's work is supported by a consortium of federal agencies through a National Science Foundation grant.

Janet Norwood Dies at 91; Led Labor Statistics Bureau

**By DANIEL E. SLOTNIK**

MARCH 31, 2015, *The New York Times*



Janet L. Norwood in 1991.

Credit Jose R. Lopez/*The New York Times*

Janet L. Norwood, who ran the Bureau of Labor Statistics throughout the 1980s and maintained objectivity when politicians wanted her to interpret jobs data in a way that furthered their parties' agendas, died on March 27 in Austin, Tex. She was 91.

The cause was Alzheimer's disease, her son Stephen said.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is part of the Labor Department, is the federal agency charged with measuring and disseminating information on the state of America's economy, including the unemployment rate and the Consumer Price Index.

Dr. Norwood ascended through the bureau and was appointed commissioner by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. She was the first woman to hold the position, which she retained until 1991.

"Objective, methodical, unflappable under sometimes hostile congressional questioning, Norwood measures our prosperity and tells the man on the street whether the next line he stands in is likely to be at the bank-teller window or the unemployment office," a 1983 profile in *The Washington Post Magazine* said.

As commissioner, Dr. Norwood explained the bureau's findings in a report to Congress every month, striving to present her data in a nonpartisan fashion.

"I find it a stimulating challenge," Dr. Norwood said in an article in *The New York Times* in 1982. "There are always a variety of innovative senators and representatives who raise questions that I have to be very careful to answer in a completely objective framework."

Dr. Norwood also asserted the bureau's independence from the rest of the Labor Department, pressing for autonomy on personnel issues and on the scientific contents of the bureau's news releases. She arranged for the bureau to take over the National Longitudinal Survey when the Employment and Training Administration planned to discontinue it, updated the bureau's data-gathering process and helped develop the Employment Cost Index, a quarterly measure of the changes in labor costs for businesses in the United States.

"Simply put, all U.S. policy makers, businesses and families can make better decisions every day because of Janet Norwood's work at B.L.S.," Erica L. Groshen, the bureau's current commissioner, wrote in a statement.

Janet Sonya Lippe was born on Dec. 11, 1923, in Newark and grew up in Irvington, N.J. She received a bachelor's degree in government from the New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College, part of Rutgers University) in 1945. She received her master's degree in 1946 and her doctorate in 1949 from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

She married Bernard Norwood in 1943. He survives her, as do her son Stephen; another son, Peter; and three grandchildren.

Dr. Norwood taught economics at Wellesley College while her husband completed his doctorate, then left the work force when he got a job with the foreign service in Belgium. She did not start working for the Bureau of Labor Statistics until her 40s.

After retiring, Dr. Norwood joined the Urban Institute, where she published papers and testified before Congress on political issues. She was also the president of the American Statistical Association. The School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham named an annual award for outstanding achievement by a woman in statistical sciences after her.

**From:** Hodes, Richard (NIH/NIA) [E]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:09 AM  
**To:** NIA Staff  
**Subject:** Richard Suzman

Dear NIA colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that Dr. Richard Suzman, director of NIA's Division of Behavioral and Social Research, passed away last night. He was 72. As some of you may know, Richard had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Richard was one of the most creative and innovative scientists I know, who with an unrivaled energy and determination helped transform the behavioral and social sciences. He modernized the science of demography and developed new fields, including the bio-demography of aging. In his 30 years of distinguished federal service, Richard brought us several new transdisciplinary fields of study, including neuro-economics, social neuroscience, and behavioral genetics. His

career changed our understanding of longevity and aging, integrating economic and social behavior with biological and clinical aspects of advancing age.

At NIH, his vision contributed to important trans-NIH initiatives. The Common Fund's interest in the Science of Behavior Change and Health Economics are already making a difference, through studies of new ways to intervene in health behaviors, including tobacco use, diabetes management, and the dissemination of and adherence to medical regimens. His understanding of how economics can affect health and aging has already changed trajectories for participation in pension savings in the U.S., for the benefit of today's older Americans and generations to come.

Perhaps his key achievement is the U.S. Health and Retirement Study, which has grown to encompass a group of connected international surveys that cover more than half the world's population. These related surveys allow researchers to compare data on aging cross-nationally, demonstrating how both common and unique biological, cultural, institutional, and policy features can impact health and well-being with age. The loss of Richard will not only be felt here, but internationally.

Richard was a tireless advocate for the best in science and for the health of older people and their families. In the coming weeks and months, we will be talking a lot about Richard Suzman, both the scientist and the irascible character, whom we will remember with admiration and affection. At a personal level, Richard was for me a constant example of what can be accomplished through vision, energy, and intellect. If I was ever tempted to lapse into complacency, Richard made it clear that this would not be tolerated. I will follow up with you all soon, as we plan and join tributes and remembrances for our colleague and friend.

## Obituary Notice for Eva Jacobs

*The Washington Post*, May 1, 2015

Eva Eisenberg Jacobs, internationally respected statistician, force of nature, loving wife and mother, fabulous and generous friend, died surrounded by her family on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. She was 94. She is survived by her son, Jonathan, of Atlantic Beach, FL (Elizabeth Sams), and her daughters, Alice, of Chevy Chase, MD (George Roman), and Abby, of Boston, MA (Hugo Carozza). She was predeceased in 1995 by her beloved husband, Leon.

A memorial service will be held at Danzansky-Goldberg Memorial Chapel, 1170 Rockville Pike, on Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. Interment will be Monday, May 4, at Quantico National Cemetery at 2 p.m. The family will be receiving visitors at her residence in Bethesda, Sunday and Monday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to Brooklyn College, ReSET, or the charity of your choice.