

ISI Karl Pearson Prize for 2019



Prof. Yoav Benjamini,
the Nathan and Lily Silver Professor of Applied Statistics at
Tel Aviv University

2019 Pearson Prize awarded to Benjamini-Hochberg 1995 paper

The ISI Pearson Prize is again celebrating and honouring a research contribution that has had profound influence on statistical theory, methodology, practice, or applications. Many congratulations to Yoav Benjamini, the Nathan and Lily Silver Professor of Applied Statistics at Tel Aviv University, who is awarded the 2019 Pearson Prize with his colleague Yosi Hochberg (deceased in 2013) for their 1995 paper in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* entitled: “Controlling the false discovery rate: a practical and powerful approach to multiple testing” (*J. Roy. Statist. Soc. Ser. B* 57, 1995, no. 1, 289–300).

This paper, cited more than 50,000 times, introduced the false discovery rate or FDR that is widely used in diverse sciences to make simultaneous inference about a large number of hypotheses. FDR liberalizes the threshold for identifying hypotheses worth further investigation while at the same time controlling the rate of false discoveries. It has become an essential part of the analysis pipeline of complex data around the world. In addition to its wide applicability, the FDR paper includes elegant mathematical statistics.

The contribution recognized by the [Karl Pearson Prize](#) must be a research article or book published within the last three decades. Each Pearson Award selection committee comprises renowned statisticians from across the world. The prize is given biennially, at the ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC), starting with the WSC in Hong Kong in August 2013. ISI is grateful to Elsevier Publishers for their ongoing sponsorship of the Prize.

We have an outstanding winner of the 2019 Pearson Prize. On behalf of ISI, I send our best congratulations for this remarkable work and achievement.

About the Karl Pearson Prize

The Karl Pearson Prize was established in 2013 in collaboration with Elsevier Publishers to recognize a contemporary research contribution that has had a profound influence in statistical theory, methodology, practice or applications. The contribution is a research article or book published within the last three decades. The prize is given biennially at the ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC). It comprises a cash prize of 5,000 euros and travelling expenses to the WSC for the winner to present the Karl Pearson Lecture.



The 2019 Karl Pearson Prize Committee members were:

Scott Zeger– Chair, Antar Bandyopadhyay, Marc Hallin, Kerrie Mengersen, Christien Thiart and Sara van de Geer. Ada van Krimpen (ISI Director) and Iain Johnstone as past Chair were ex officio members.

The ISI appreciates the excellent work and support of these members.

Helen MacGillivray, ISI President

Fabrizio Ruggeri, Chair ISI Awards Committee