

President's Message – February 2020

International Year of Women in Statistics and Data Science (IYWS+DS)

May 12, 1820 – A birthday that changed health care, nursing and statistics. Happy 200th birthday, Florence Nightingale. ISI has a work group, led by Council member Jessica Utts preparing for the launch of an International Year of Women in Statistics and Data Science. Activities associated with this year, actually 14 months, will launch on Florence's birthday in 2020 and conclude at the World Statistics Congress in 2021. ISI is in partnership with colleagues from the American Statistical Association, the International Biometric Society, the Royal Statistical Society and the Caucus for Women in Statistics.



This year-long celebration will recognize and publicize Florence Nightingale's contributions to statistics, recognize and publicize the contributions of women in statistics and data science, and most importantly, promote opportunities for the participation of women in statistics and data science. While activities are still being formalized, some ideas that are being discussed include:

- proposing special sessions at the WSC 2021 and other venues
- organizing regional DataFest / hack-a-thons with a health area focused data source, such as a UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) data set
- partnering with National Statistical Offices, Central Banks, LISA 2020 or other organizations to promote regional workshops and activities for Women in Statistics and Data Science
- inviting articles on Florence Nightingale and Women in Statistics and Data Science in the *International Statistical Review*
- featuring a monthly guest on the Stats+Stories podcast focused on Florence Nightingale and women in statistics and data science (I know that the panellists on this podcast would be friendly to this suggestion!)

Many groups are being inspired to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale including the RSS with the new Florence Nightingale Award for Excellence in Healthcare Data Analytics and Derby with promotion of the summer home where Florence spent her summers. The ASA promotes Florence Nightingale Day in collaboration with the Caucus for Women in Statistics to encourage careers in statistics and data science (Florence was a member of ASA).

ISI is excited to be launching and promoting this special year, and we are excited to be working with our partners in other professional societies. If you have other great ideas to feature during this year or if you are interested in sponsoring special events in your region or country or you are interested in getting more involved in some other way, please email Jessica Utts (jutts@uci.edu) with your suggestions.

John Bailer (@john_bailer), ISI President
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