

Statistics Without Borders Charter

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization is Statistics Without Borders (hereafter called the Subgroup), and the organization is designated by the American Statistical Association (hereafter called ASA) under Article XIII of its By-Laws as an *Other ASA Subgroup*.

Article II. OBJECTIVES

The Subgroup is an apolitical secular organization comprised entirely of volunteers. The vision of the Subgroup is to promote better statistical practice, including statistical analysis and design of experiments and surveys, so that projects and initiatives that deal with international health issues (defined broadly) are delivered more effectively and efficiently.

The primary objectives of the Subgroup are to:

- provide pro bono statistical consulting and assistance to organizations and agencies in support of these organizations' not-for-profit efforts to deal with international health issues;
- promote interdisciplinary and inter-organizational communication and cooperation i) among statisticians working on international health issues and ii) between statisticians working on international health issues and other scientists, physicians, and managers in finding resolutions to international health issues.
- foster the achievement of better statistical practice, including statistical analysis and design of experiments and surveys, so that international health projects and initiatives are delivered more effectively and efficiently;
- encourage statisticians to take leadership roles in research, both on substantive international health issues and on statistical problems related to international health issues; and
- advance substantive issues in areas of concern to the Subgroup and its members.

The subgroup will achieve these objectives through the establishment and maintenance of a forum in which statisticians and others can focus attention on international health issues that need research in methodological developments and practice.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Subgroup is open to anyone, including non-ASA members.

Article IV. FINANCES

The Subgroup shall not charge dues, nor shall it have a budget.

Article V. OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Subgroup shall be the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Secretary.

- The Chair is the chief officer of the Subgroup and is the Chair of its Executive Committee. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Subgroup and the Executive Committee. The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may designate committees or individuals to carry out functions of the Subgroup. The Chair shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees of the Subgroup and shall prepare an annual report, for publication in a news bulletin, on the activities of the Subgroup.
- The Vice Chair shall i) serve as a member of the Executive Committee, ii) preside over meetings of the Subgroup and the Executive Committee in the absence of the Chair, and iii) assist the Chair in the execution of the Chair's duties.
- The Past-Chair is the holder of the office of Chair in the most recent previous term and shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
- The Secretary shall i) serve as a member of the Executive Committee, ii) take and maintain a record of the minutes of all meetings of the Subgroup and the Executive Committee, iii) maintain a list of the membership that includes information on the Subdivision members' areas of interests and expertise, and iv) maintain an electronic discussion forum for the Subgroup.

In addition, the Chair shall appoint a Director of Communications who shall i) create and distribute periodic newsletters to members of the Subgroup to keep members informed of the activities of the Subgroup, ii) maintain the Subgroup's website, and iii) serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

ASA Director of Science Policy shall also serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Article VI. TERMS OF OFFICE and SUCCESSION

The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary shall serve concurrent two-year terms. By September 1 of the year immediately prior to the conclusion of the officers' terms, the Chair shall nominate at least two persons as successors to the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. A vote shall be taken by members of the Subgroup prior to the following convened meeting (at JSM) to elect the next Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary; the newly elected officers shall take office at the conclusion of that JSM.

If the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the office until the next scheduled election.

If the office of Vice-Chair or Secretary becomes vacant, the Chair shall appoint a successor who must be approved by a majority of members of the Executive Committee. Once approved by the Executive Committee, the successor shall serve until the next scheduled election.

The Director of Communications shall serve an indefinite term at the discretion of the Chair of the Subgroup.

A nominating committee, to be selected by the inaugural Executive Committee and headed by one of the two founding co-Chairs (to be selected by the inaugural Executive Committee), shall create a slate of nominees for the first election.

Article VII. COMMITTEES

- **Types:** The Committees of the Subgroup shall consist of the Executive Committee and such committees the Chair may establish as s/he deems appropriate.
- **Membership:** At the time of the creation of a committee, the term of membership and the charge, composition, reappointment, and other rules governing the committee shall be established. The Chair of the Subgroup shall designate a chair for the committee.
- **Review:** The Executive Committee shall regularly review the status of committees to determine if they should continue, change, or sunset.

Article VIII. MEETINGS

The annual business meeting of the Subgroup shall be held during the Joint Statistics Meetings. The officers may also conduct business with members of the Subgroup by email or other electronic means between meetings.

Article IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Charter may be proposed by the officers or by a petition signed by at least 10 members of the Subgroup and submitted to any current officer of the Subgroup by September 1. An amendment originating by petition shall be referred to the Convener, who shall consult with the petitioners about final wording of the proposed amendment and then announce it to the membership of the Subgroup. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the members of the Subgroup for vote prior to the next annual business meeting. If approved by a majority of the members voting, the amendment shall take effect at the conclusion of the following JSM. A copy of any amendment approved by the members of the Subgroup shall be filed with the Secretary of ASA.