2017 ENBIS AWARDS

ENBIS has established three awards to honour individuals who have helped to broaden the use of statistics in business and industry.
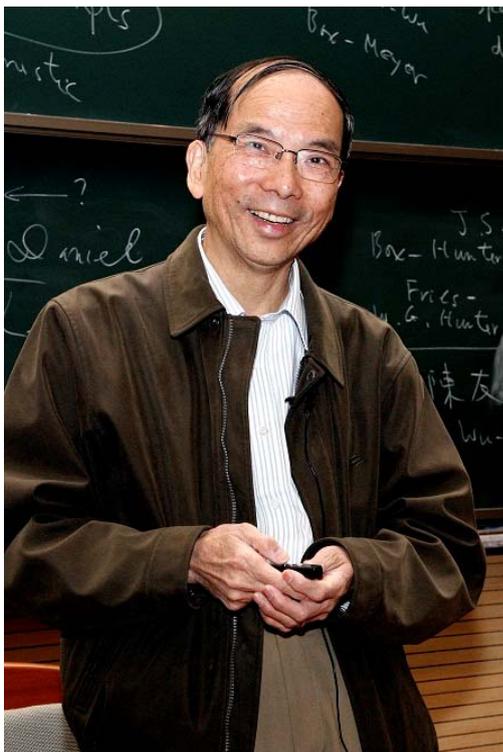
The **Box Medal** is awarded for outstanding contributions to business and industrial statistics. It is named after George Box who was the first recipient of the medal.

The **Best Manager Award** is meant to recognize managers who gave a significant contribution to the success of their companies by advancing the width and the practice of business and industrial statistics.

The **Young Statistician Award** aims to honour the work of young people in introducing innovative methods, promoting the use of statistics and/or successfully using it in the daily practice.

Who are the 2017 Award Recipients?

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The 2017 Box Medal Goes to C. F. Jeff Wu.

C. F. Jeff Wu is Professor and Coca-Cola Chair in Engineering Statistics at the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology (USA).

His numerous contributions to statistics range from theory to application. His work on statistical theory includes the proof of convergence of the EM algorithm and resampling methods for complex surveys, the latter of which found widespread use in actual surveys. He is widely known for his work on design of experiments, where he developed methods for an efficient use of information in industrial problems where processes are complex, runs are expensive and time is short. A distinctive feature of his activity is the attention to substantial problems that can be solved with the help of sound statistical theory. In his own words, commenting on his reception of the Sacks award in 2005: "I sincerely hope that the establishment of the Jerry Sacks Award will encourage young researchers to devote their best efforts to cross-disciplinary research. My advice is to choose to work on problems that interest you and can make a potential impact. Remember that fashion and fads may lead to short-term gains but are only temporal. Substance is permanent."

ENBIS choose Professor Wu as this year's Box medalist for the reasons stated above but also for his ability to clearly explain complex concepts, as the enormous success of his book "Experiments: Planning, Analysis, and Optimization" shows. Last but not least, he is also honoured for systematically passing on his knowledge: in the course of his career he supervised 44 PhD students! Related to passing on one's knowledge, it is appropriate to quote his comment when he was informed about being the chosen recipient of the 2017 Box Medal: "George Box was a great mentor during my formative years, in 1977-78, at the University of Wisconsin, from Assistant to Full Professor". With the medal, the link between two great statisticians is strengthened even further.

The impressive list of other prestigious awards won by Jeff Wu and his detailed professional biography can be found on his personal web page at Georgia Tech and on Wikipedia.

The 2017 Best Manager Award goes to Alberto Pasanisi.

Alberto Pasanisi holds a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Naples "Federico II" and a PhD in Water Science (specialty: Statistics) from the French National School of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Engineering (ENGREF). In 2014, he obtained the "Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches" (HDR) from the Technology University of Compiègne (UTC).

He first worked as an independent consulting engineer in Italy and as a project engineer at the Compagnie Générale des Eaux in Paris. Since 2004 he had held different positions in the R&D Unit of EDF (Electricité de France), in particular, he was a project manager in the framework of uncertainty and sensitivity analysis in numerical simulation (leading internal and multi-partners funded projects).

In July 2014, he joined the Institute EIFER (European Institute for Energy Research), a joint research Lab of EDF R&D and KIT in Karlsruhe (Germany), as a project manager in the field of smart & sustainable cities simulation. Since October 2015, he has been managing the EIFER research group "Urban Systems", a multi-disciplinary team working in the fields of sustainable cities and territories and environmental economics. He joined ENBIS in 2012 and has been in charge of the cooperation between the French Statistical Society (SFdS) – of which he is currently Vice-President - and ENBIS ever since.

Alberto is author or co-author of 14 peer-reviewed articles, two books chapters, as well as more than 50 communications to national and international conferences. Furthermore, he also co-edited three special issues of international peer-reviewed journals and he is regularly solicited as referee for several international revues, as well as project funding boards.

In his career Alberto, starting from the modelling of uncertainty mainly in energy-related applications, demonstrated his talent in bringing statistical modelling into very complex systems (such as urban systems) as well as managing large group of researchers across a wide spectrum of disciplines.

The 2017 Young Statistician Award goes to Antonio Canale.

Antonio Canale holds a Master's Degree in Statistics and Computer Science (2008) and a PhD degree in Statistics (2001) from the University of Padua. During his master studies he was already working as a statistical consultant for small and medium enterprises, a background that gave him a strong problem solving ability, excellent communication skills and leadership attitude. During his PhD studies he developed sound and effective nonparametric Bayesian methodologies for telecommunications customer base data modelling. Afterwards he collaborated with the MOX group at the Department of Mathematics of the Polytechnic of Milan, where he worked as a statistical research consultant for several big companies in Italy, participating

in projects on forecasting in energy markets, data mining, and machine learning. In 2012 he became Assistant Professor at the University of Turin, where he also joined, as a Research Affiliate, the "de Castro Statistics Initiative", a joint scientific initiative between the University and Collegio Carlo Alberto.

In 2013 he won two national awards, one sponsored by the municipality of Milan on the use of open data, and the other sponsored by the Polytechnic of Milan on envisaging the future of statistics and its relations with future technological challenges. In the same year he was one of the finalists of the L.J. Savage Award (applied section). He is author of 16 peer-review articles (some of which were published in high profile journals), several articles in journal special issues, book chapters, and conference proceedings.

In 2015 he participated in the development of the Turin's Master's Degree programme in Stochastics and Data Science. In the framework of this programme he taught Bayesian Statistics and Statistical Machine Learning. The latter course, in particular, is one of the central courses of the programme and had been, according to the students' evaluations, recognised as one of the most important courses for their training to face real-world business and industrial problems.

In March 2017 Antonio joined the University of Padua in the capacity of a Senior Assistant Professor.

Antonio Canale's contributions to Statistical modelling are substantial both from the methodological and applied point of view. He is one of those rare people who can speak both the language of Research and Innovation as well as Business.

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The 2017 Award Recipients were selected by the 2015-2017 ENBIS Awards Committee chaired by the President-Elect **Antonio Pievatolo** (CNR-IMATI, Italy). Other committee members are **Shirley Coleman** (Newcastle University, United Kingdom), **Bart De Ketelaere** (University of Leuven, Belgium), **Rainer Göb** (University of Würzburg, Germany) and **Jean-Michel Poggi** (Paris-Descartes University, France).

The award ceremonies for all three recipients, followed by their keynote addresses, will take place during ENBIS-17 in Naples in September 2017.

You can still submit an abstract for ENBIS-17 (maximum of 250 words) by May 10th, 2017, at the latest. To submit your abstract go to www.enbis.org, log in and search for ENBIS-17 under *Upcoming Events*. If you are not already a member of ENBIS, please join first (note there is no membership fee for individual members of ENBIS).

Notifications of the acceptance of submissions will be sent out no later than **June 1st, 2017**. The **early bird registration fee will be available up until June 19th, 2017.**

Please note that due to a large number of tourists expected in Naples in September you should make your travel and accommodation arrangements earlier than usual so as not to face unexpected logistical and/or organisational constraints.

ENBIS Permanent Office

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