

# 2026 Virtual NISS New Researchers Conference

Event page link: [2026 NISS Virtual New Researchers Conference | National Institute of Statistical Sciences](#)

June 5, 2026 | 1:00 – 5:00 PM ET

21 talks | 10 minutes each

## 1:00 – 1:05 | Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chaired By: **Sharmistha Guha, PhD**, Chair of the 2026 NISS Virtual New Researchers Conference; Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University

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## 1:05 – 2:05 PM | Session 1: Machine Learning & High-Dimensional Statistics

Chaired By: **Jianghu (James) Dong, PhD**, Assistant Professor, UNMC Department of Biostatistics and Assistant Professor, UNMC Internal Medicine Division of Nephrology

1. **Pengfei Lyu** — *Bias-Corrected Data Synthesis for Imbalanced Learning*
  2. **Jiayi Xin** — *Conformal Prediction with Paraphrase-Aware Scoring for LLM Uncertainty Quantification*
  3. **Tomoki Okuno** — *Debiased Machine Learning for Partially Linear Accelerated Failure Time Models*
  4. **Hengwei Xing** — *Projected CUSUM Control Chart for High-Dimensional Data*
  5. **Adeeba Tak** — *Multi-Tier Inference Strategy for High-Dimensional Omics Studies with Small Samples*
  6. **Dyani Peterson** — *Machine Learning for Predicting Autism Spectrum Disorder*
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## 2:05 – 2:15 | Questions/Feedback Discussion & Break

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## 2:15 – 3:05 PM | Session 2: Biostatistics & Biomedical Applications

Chaired By: **Georgia Smits, PhD**, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Washington

1. **Shubhadeep Chakraborty** — *A Two-Stage Dose Optimization Framework for Oncology Drug Development*
2. **Jennifer Antwi** — *Dual-Route Wells–Riley Extensions for Norovirus Infection Risk in Ghanaian Pediatric Wards*
3. **Oladimeji Adewuyi** — *Bayesian Hierarchical Spatiotemporal Prediction of Multi-pathogen Outbreaks*
4. **Taiwo Ayeni** — *Quadratic Functional Variable Transformation of the Exponential-Gamma Distribution*

5. **Henghua Xing** — *Conditional Multivariable Mendelian Randomization for Reducing LD-Induced Pleiotropy*

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## 3:05 – 3:15 | Questions/Feedback Discussion & Break

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## 3:15 – 4:05 PM ET | Session 3: Nonparametric Methods, Statistical Computing & Causal Studies

Chaired By: **Jason Byung Jae Cho**, PhD Student, Department of Statistics, Cornell University

1. **Saksham Jain** — *Conditional Distributional Treatment Effects: Doubly Robust Estimation and Testing*
2. **Duoduo Ying** — *Efficient Representation and Construction of Space-Filling Designs*
3. **Stephen Agyeah** — *Distribution Function Estimation for Sensitive Quantitative Variables*
4. **Hwanwoo Kim** — *Enhancing Gaussian Process Surrogates for Blackbox Optimization*
5. **Abhinandan Dalal** — *Partial Identification of Causal Effects for Endogenous Continuous Treatments*

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## 4:05 – 4:55 PM | Session 4: Spatial, Social, & Applied Statistics

Chaired By: **Hannah Waddel, PhD**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

1. **Manushi Siriwardana** — *Mixture-Based Nonparametric Estimation of Spatial Covariance Functions with Applications to HIV*
2. **Jacob Ornelas** — *When Is Volume a Sufficient Statistic? A Latent State Approach to Joint Extreme Events*
3. **Alex Tapia** — *The Case for Reversing the Ban on AI Rent Pricing in San Francisco*
4. **James Braverman** — *Linear Regression and Analysis of Inline Acceleration of the Saturn V Vehicle*
5. **Justice Effah** — *Optimizing Targeted Prostate Cancer Therapy via Deep Reinforcement Learning*

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## 4:55 – 5:00 | Awards & Closing Remarks

Chaired By: **Sharmistha Guha, PhD**, Chair of the 2026 NISS Virtual New Researchers Conference; Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University

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