

Syracuse, April 28, 2020.

Dr. Ronald Wasserstein
Executive Director
American Statistical Association

Re: Proposal regarding helping in the fight against Covid-19

Dear Dr. Wasserstein:

I am a 40-year member of the ASA. With this communication, I am submitting to ASA a Formal Proposal regarding how our Senior Members can Actively Help in the fight against Covid-19.

The current Pandemic has created a national emergency characterized by some as a War. In such case, we as a Nation should adopt a War-like social and economic structure. I propose that of the UK in 1940. During WWII, UK adopted a national model of defense that allowed it to successfully survive the Battle of Britain. It consisted in phasing in all the national resources (material and human) to cover all its bases. Children from large cities that were bombed every night were sent to the countryside. Women took jobs so the men could go fight in the front lines. Seniors, who had fought in the Great War, were used in the border and surveillance duties. Everything and everybody was incorporated to such national effort.

The ASA (and all other American professional societies) has an army of retired members who encompass two basic characteristics: we are highly qualified and experienced, having worked in our professions for decades and, as retired persons, we receive one or more checks every month (social security, TIAA and government retirement, 401-Ks etc). The latter allows us to give up, if so desired, additional income. Finally, our retired members are located nation-wide, accessible to state and local entities. And, as high risk cohort (aged 65 and older), we can safely work out of our homes, using stats SW via Internet.

This said, **I am proposing that the ASA organizes a national group of volunteers that is willing to support, pro-bono, the statistical activities of local, state and national healthcare and government entities that are engaged in the Covid-19 battle.** This would allow the government to dedicate their resources to pay for first line responders and necessary but expensive PPE equipment.

Such volunteers could provide additional statistical support to enhance and lighten government health statistics work. As a nationally recognized Institution, ASA could vet said volunteers thus ensuring the interested entities that they are actually getting seasoned statisticians and ethical persons.

I could extend this proposal further, but the main idea is here. It is up to the ASA to carry it to fruition. I am ready and able to cooperate in this task in any way ASA feels it may be useful.

Respectfully and sincerely/Jorge.

Jorge Luis Romeu, Ph.D.
Statistician/Operations Research
Emeritus SUNY Faculty
<https://web.cortland.edu/romeu/>
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jorge_Romeu
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jorge-luis-romeu/26/566/104>

APPENDIX: SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

They say that a tree is known by its fruit. So I am including below some of my Pro-Bono work:

Juarez Lincoln Marti Int'l Ed Project

<https://web.cortland.edu/matresearch/>

Quality, Reliability and Continuous Improvement Institute

<https://web.cortland.edu/romeu/QR&CII.htm>

Some related work done with my SU graduate Quality Engineering course:

Student Final Project to help fight the spread of [Ebola](#) epidemic.

Student Final Project to help fight the spread of the epidemic of [Zika](#).

Student PPTs, to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus: [COPQ, Assessment, FTA](#).

Using Reliability in the design and evaluation of ICUs for patients of [Coronavirus](#).

Numerical Example:

<https://web.cortland.edu/matresearch/CoronavirusExample.pdf>

Corresponding Post Standard video:

<https://www.syracuse.com/coronavirus/2020/03/how-fast-can-coronavirus-spread-statistics-professor-explains-why-we-need-to-act-now-video.html>

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From: Wasserstein, Ronald L.

Tue 4/28/2020 6:54 AM

- Jorge Romeu;
- Martinez, Wendy L. <wendyasa2020@gmail.com>;
- Santos, Robert L. <rsantos@urban.org>;
- Mat Research

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Many thanks, Jorge! We will discuss your idea soon. Much appreciated!

Ron

Sent from my iPhone

Ronald L. Wasserstein

Executive Director

American Statistical Association

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