

# Conference History

The U.S. Army Conference on Applied Statistics (ACAS) is the successor to the Conference on the Design of Experiments in Army Research, Development, and Testing (DOE). Professor Samuel S. Wilks, of Princeton University, proposed the formation of a conference focusing on the design of experiments in Army research, development, and testing after a survey by the Army Mathematics Steering Committee found that Army scientists in over 30 Army facilities perceived a need in this area. Wilks, a member of that committee, proposed the idea to COL Leslie E. Simon (later to become Major General), who was Assistant Chief of Ordnance for Research and Development, U.S. Army, and a personal friend of Wilks. Months later, on 19-21 October, 1955, the first conference was held at the Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories (now part of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory) and the National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute for Standards and Technology) with organization responsibility falling to the Office of Ordnance Research (now the U.S. Army Research Office). Wilks chaired the conference each year until his death in 1964. The conference formally concluded in 1994.

ACAS is an attempt to continue the traditions of the Design of Experiments Conference while broadening the statistical scope with a more aggressive pursuit of emerging methodologies. Today's Army faces challenges that are far ranging and encompass many topics, in addition to experimental design, in which probability and statistics have a contribution to make.

The conference chairmen and program chairmen over the 50 years of the DOE/ACAS series of conferences have been:

## Conference Chairman

Samuel S. Wilks, 1955 – 1963

Frank Grubbs, 1964 – 1974

Herbert Solomon, 1975 – 1977

Douglas B. Tang, 1978 – 1990

Barry A. Bodt, 1991 – 2004

## Program Chairman

Samuel S. Wilks, 1955 – 1956

Frank Grubbs, 1957 – 1980

Douglas B. Tang, 1978 – 1990

Barry A. Bodt, 1991 – 2004.

The editors of the proceedings in the 47 proceedings published in the DOE/ACAS series of conferences (there was no proceedings published in 1994 due to lack of funding and the proceedings for 2003 or 2004 have not yet published):

Francis G. Dressel, 1955 – 1993

Barry A. Bodt, 1995 – 2002

Edward J. Wegman, 2000 – 2002.

Beyond, that there were many other people who did much work or assumed responsibility in some way for the conference. An incomplete list follows with their role. Note especially that ARO (Launer, Dressel, and Anderson for a few years) received papers, put together agendas, etc., essentially executing the conference according to the wishes of the program committee on which they served as well.