

BIOST 505
Katie McFarlane
Homework #1
1/19/22

1. Watch the following presentation by Professor Regina Nuzzo of Gallaudet University. In a short paragraph (no more than 200 words), state what the overall message of this presentation is, and describe any element of the presentation that you found particularly interesting.

Professor Regina Nuzzo's presentation emphasized the difficulties of writing about statistics: writers must explain relevant statistics to a degree that is comprehensible to their expected audience but also in a way that does not misrepresent the greater claims of the original study. This can be done in many ways, but it is imperative to note that there can be negative repercussions if statistics are explained poorly, and without context, claims can be misinterpreted easily.

Personally, I enjoyed hearing the opinions of the audience (both statisticians and non-statisticians), because the speaker posited that there is no right way to talk about statistics, and this was evidenced by the fact that participants had differing opinions about the best way to phrase certain pieces of information. I also appreciated her brief explanation of the different types of uncertainties. While I have thought about these differences before, I did not know how to linguistically differentiate between them, and I believe this understanding will help me in future statistics classes.

2. Using his curriculum vitae (posted in Canvas > Files > Additional resources), write an academic bio (of no more than 150 words) for Professor Russell Shinohara of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Russell Shinohara is the Director of Penn Statistics in Imaging and Visualization Center and an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Shinohara specializes in the development of mental imagery techniques, with a focus on neurological disorders. He is dedicated to improving our understanding of brain health, supporting improvements in mental health, and ensuring ethical standards in randomized trials. Dr. Shinohara has served as a statistical reviewer of the JAMA Network Open since 2018; he has also been published in many scientific journals, including *BioMetrics*, *American Journal of Neuroradiology*, and *NeuroImage*. He was the recipient of the Distinguish Faculty Award from the University of Pennsylvania in 2017 and was the American Statistical Association Fellow and Penn Fellow of 2021. Dr. Shinohara completed his PhD in biostatistics at Johns Hopkins University in 2012.

3. Write a professional bio (of no more than 150 words) for yourself as you would see yourself in about five years. (This task not only requires you to use your imagination but also to do some introspection about what your medium-term professional objectives are.)

Katie McFarlane is a Biostatistician II at Veristat, where she works as part of a global team to determine the efficacy of oncological clinical trials. She is driven by a belief in equitable and inclusive public health measures, as well as her desire to ensure clinical trials are ethical. She has been published in *JAMA Oncology* and *Clinical Trials* and was an honorable mention for the Gertrude M. Cox scholarship in 2025. Katie holds two bachelor's degrees in mathematics and English from Lewis & Clark College, as well as a master's degree in biostatistics from University of Washington. In her free time, Katie volunteers to help local families at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, in addition to reading, baking, and playing sudoku.