LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis)  
Department of Statistics, Virginia Tech  
www.lisa.stat.vt.edu

LISA 2020 is a program started by LISA (Virginia Tech's Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis) to educate and train statisticians and data scientists from developing countries to communicate and collaborate with non-statisticians and become collaborative statisticians. Our plan includes supporting these newly trained collaborative statisticians to create and run a statistical collaboration laboratory at their home university or institution to build a network of 20 statistical collaboration laboratories in developing countries by 2020.

Steps in the LISA 2020 plan:

1. Interested individuals submit an application to become a LISA Fellow at Virginia Tech.  
   - Fellows are selected based on their qualifications, passions, and the extent of support from their home country for the initial training and for the subsequent creation and sustaining of a statistical collaboration laboratory.

2. The selected fellows work in LISA for 3-12 months learning how to communicate and collaborate with non-statisticians and using statistics and data science to help solve real-world problems.

3. The LISA Fellows return to their home countries and create statistical collaboration laboratories in the LISA 2020 network to help local researchers use data and statistics to answer research questions.

4. A member of the LISA 2020 mentoring network visits the newly created lab for a short or longer visit (up to 6 months) to help strengthen and sustain it.

LISA Fellows will be trained in the skills necessary to be effective statistical collaborators:

- Helping scientists discover useful answers to their research questions;
- Listening and asking good questions;
- Explaining statistics to non-statisticians;
- Using self-reflection and feedback from peers and video to improve their communication and collaboration skills;
- Collaborating effectively with statisticians and non-statisticians;
- Managing effective statistical collaboration meetings with clients;
- Creating plots of data that tell the story of the research.

People trained to apply and develop statistical methods (“statisticians”) AND to communicate and collaborate with researchers in other fields (“collaborative statisticians”) can use statistical thinking to enable and accelerate research, good government, and finding local solutions to local problems.

Each of the newly created laboratories in the LISA 2020 network will foster education in statistics and will promote the proper application of statistics to solve real-world problems. With a strong support network, just one statistician trained to communicate and collaborate with non-statisticians can enable and accelerate 50 or more research projects per year. Each research project can impact hundreds or thousands of people.

LISA 2020 will unlock the collaborative potential of technically trained statisticians, who in turn will unlock the research potential of their collaborators and open doors for other statisticians to do the same. These research collaborations, now with the power of statistical thinking open to them, will be key to demonstrating the global impact of statistics and improving human welfare worldwide.

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www.lisa.stat.vt.edu/LISA2020
Help Support LISA 2020

- Become a LISA 2020 mentor to provide technical advice to statisticians on collaboration projects
- Provide or identify funding to support a LISA Fellow
- Share information with potential LISA Fellows
- Review LISA Fellow applications
- Host a LISA Fellow at your university
- Visit a new statistical laboratory to help sustain it
- Create a statistical collaboration lab at your university or enhance the existing consulting center
- Encourage a student to pursue a statistics Ph.D. at Virginia Tech
- Have other ideas? Let us know!

Keep in Touch

- Join our mailing list by emailing LISA2020@vt.edu with “Mailing List” in your subject line.
- If you have ideas for supporting or improving LISA 2020, please contact Eric Vance (ervance@vt.edu).
- Individuals interested in becoming LISA Fellows are welcome to contact us at LISA2020@vt.edu.

“Ever since I became a faculty member at Obafemi Awolowo University, I have been nursing the great idea, desire and ambition of collaborating with non-statisticians to improve research across the university environment, and for the benefit of the society. Thus, my goals are in tandem with that of LISA. I am sure my visit to Virginia Tech and training in LISA will prepare me to be a collaborative statistician who will be able to impact knowledge and communicate better with non-statisticians. Thanks to you, I am getting closer to my goals and aspirations.”

- Olawale Awe from Nigeria, selected in May 2013 as the first LISA Fellow

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