

## **Welcoming Remarks**

**Welcoming Remarks to the FCSM Seminar On The  
Funding Opportunity In Survey Research  
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Monroe G. Sirken  
National Center for Health Statistics

**Introduction**

Good morning. As chair of the Research Subcommittee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) that organized this meeting, I welcome all of you to this FCSM Seminar on the Funding Opportunity in Survey Research. Other members of the FCSM Subcommittee are Bob Fay, Alan Tupek; Nancy Kirkendall, and David Williamson.

If the venue of this Seminar could have been changed to Geneva, Switzerland, where Kathy Wallman is today attending a meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians, she would be making these welcoming remarks. I am very sorry that she is not here or we are not there. Kathy is a prime architect of today's program, and I'm sure she regrets not being with us today.

This Seminar is being sponsored by the Survey Methodology and Data Collection Sections of the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), and the D.C. Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Cynthia Clark, WSS president, is not here this morning, but will extend WSS greetings this afternoon after we return from lunch.

In 1998, the Funding Opportunity in Survey Research was established in the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, National Science Foundation (NSF). The Funding Opportunity is jointly funded by the NSF and a consortium of 13 Federal statistical agencies, with the FCSM Research Subcommittee serving as liaison between the two parties. The program awards grants to meritorious projects in statistical and survey research oriented to the needs of Federal agencies. It is vital to the program's success that findings of the research projects it supports are widely disseminated and discussed with the staffs of Federal agencies. Indeed, this

Seminar was organized to foster dialogues between the staffs of Federal agencies and the principal investigators of research projects being supported by the Funding Opportunity..

### **Agenda**

This Seminar features the reports of four research projects that are currently being supported by the Funding Opportunity. Each report will be presented by the project's principal investigator, and discussed by staff of two Federal statistical agencies. These reports and discussants' remarks will be presented in sessions 2, 3, 4, and 5.. Sessions 2, 3 and 4 involve topics on the cognitive aspects of survey methods, and session 5 deals with a statistical topic:

- Session 2. The Cognitive Basis For Seam Effects In Panel Surveys,
- Session 3. A Computer Tool To Improve Questionnaire Design,
- Session 4. Social Presence In Web Surveys, and
- Session 5. A Unified Jackknife Theory In Small Area Estimation.

Also, this Seminar features two sessions about the Funding Opportunity in Survey Research whose name, I should note, was recently changed to the Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research to more appropriately reflect the broad scope of the program.. The present status and future prospects of the Funding Opportunity are discussed in sessions 1 and 6 respectively.

- Session 1. The Funding Opportunity In Survey and Statistical Research
- Session 6. The Future of the Funding Opportunity In Survey and Statistical Research

To further the Seminar's objective of fostering dialogues between principal investigators and staffs of Federal agencies, the final 15 minutes of each session is reserved for floor discussion.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the very generous support of many parties and people in organizing this Seminar.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provided critical funding and logistical support

for traveling out-of-town speakers and preparing the Seminar Proceedings. It is no exaggeration to say that this Seminar would not have been possible without the support of Edward Sondik, the NCHS Director.

The Washington Statistical Society was enormously helpful in disseminating information about the Seminar to the Washington community.

Royalties from publication of the Wiley book “Cognition and Survey Research” contributed the funding for refreshments at this Seminar. These royalties were originally assigned to a survey methods research fund at the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by the book’s editors: Monroe Sirken, Douglas Herrmann, Susan Schechter, Norbert Schwarz, Judith Tanur and Roger Tourangeau.

Under a small contract from the NCHS, the Council of Professional Associations On Federal Statistics will collect the presentations made at this Seminar, and compile them into proceedings that will be published as a FCSM Statistical Policy Working Paper. Ed Spar is, with his usual thoroughness, overseeing this activity.

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology thanks all of these contributors. Also, the Committee thanks the chairpersons, presenters and discussants at this Seminar who willingly and graciously agreed to participate in this Seminar, and thanks Norman Bradburn for his help in the initial planning of the Seminar program.

Finally, personal thanks to Barbara Hetzler, NCHS, an invaluable administrative officer, for making the Seminar arrangements.