

William G. Cochran's Contributions to the Design, Analysis, and Evaluation of Observational Studies

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Bill Cochran was not only a wonderfully creative and insightful statistician, with major written contributions to many areas, including to the field of nonrandomized, observational studies, but personally was a fabulous teacher and PhD adviser, whose influence on many is still strongly felt. This brief presentation will describe some of the major themes of his work in this area, and how these permeate modern thinking on the design, analysis, and evaluation of observational studies.

Brief Bio

Professor Donald B. Rubin is John L. Loeb Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics, Harvard University, where he has served as chairman for 13 of his over 25 years there. He has over 350 publications (including several books) on a variety of topics, including computational methods, causal inference in experiments and observational studies, survey methods, techniques for handling missing data, Bayesian methods, multiple imputation, matched sampling, and applications in many areas of social and biomedical science. Professor Rubin is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute for Mathematical Statistics, the International Statistical Institute, the Woodrow Wilson Society, the John Simon Guggenheim Society, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He is also the recipient of four of the most prestigious awards available to statisticians: the Samuel S. Wilks Medal of the American Statistical Association, the Parzen Prize for Statistical Innovation, the Fisher Lectureship, and George W. Snedecor Award of the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies. Professor Rubin has lectured extensively throughout The Americas, Europe and Asia. For many years, he has been one of the most highly cited writers in mathematics in the world, according to ISI Science Watch.