Biography

Jon A. Wellner was born in Portland, Oregon on August 17, 1945. After living in Missoula, Montana, Spokane, Washington, and Ogden, Utah, he completed high school at Ogden High School, Ogden Utah in 1963. He attended the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho from 1963 to 1968 and completed a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Mathematics and Physics. After a start at graduate school at Yale University in 1969 - 1970 followed by service in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1969 - 1971, he began graduate study at the University of Washington in 1971.

Jon completed his Ph.D. in Statistics (with a degree from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine via the Biomathematics Program) with Galen Shorack at the University of Washington in 1975. He worked as Assistant Professor and Associate Professor of Statistics at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, from 1975 until 1983, in which year he accepted a position as Professor of Statistics at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, where he has remained ever since. Sabbatical leaves from the UW have taken him to the University of Munich (Germany), the University of Leiden (The Netherlands), the VU University Amsterdam and Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands) and the University of Heidelberg (Germany) in 1980-1981, 1987-1988, 2003-2004 and 2011-2012 respectively. Jon has had 27 Ph.D students and is currently advising one more.

Jon has served the Institute of Mathematical Statistics as an Associate Editor of the Annals of Statistics (1983-1988 and 1992-1994), Program Secretary (1996-1998), Co-Editor of the Annals of Statistics (2001-2003), IMS Executive Editor for Statistics Surveys (2007-2009), and as member of the IMS Council (2007-2010). He has also served as an Associate Editor for Probability Theory and Related Fields (2007-2010), and Associate Editor for Bernoulli (2010). He is currently serving as Executive Editor of Statistical Science.

Jon Wellner's research interests include empirical process theory, large sample theory in statistics, semiparametric models, statistical inference under shape constraints, and inequalities. He has published four books on empirical processes, semiparametric models, and maximum likelihood estimation in inverse problems with Galen Shorack, Aad van der Vaart, Peter J. Bickel, Chris Klaassen, Ya'acov Ritov, and Piet Groeneboom, and over 100 papers (written with over 50 co-authors).