

The Lancaster Lecture of the New South Wales Branch will be held on

**Monday, 23 March 2009**

6pm for refreshments & 6.30pm for talk

at

Conference Rooms 1 & 2, Darlington Centre, The University of Sydney  
City Road

## **Louise Ryan**

**Chief, CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences**

### **STATISTICAL SCIENCES IN THE 21st CENTURY – PERSPECTIVES FROM A RETURNING EX-PAT**

This talk will focus on some of the broad trends that I see emerging in terms of the role of statistical sciences in the 21st century, particularly in relation to the biosciences. While some of these trends are very worrisome for our profession, they also hold out opportunity if we can be bold enough to grab them. My perspectives are drawn from my experience as a faculty member in the Biostatistics Department for the past 23 years and my very recent move to take up the role as Chief of CSIRO Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. While the presentation will be quite broad and philosophical in scope, I will try to identify some of what I see as the particularly interesting technical opportunities at the present time.

After many 23 years as Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard University (the last 2.5 years as Chair), Louise Ryan took up her post as Chief of CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences in February 2009. She is leading a group of 150 people in mathematical and statistical research areas as diverse as financial risk, climate change and cell biology. Dr Ryan is a distinguished biostatistician and is internationally recognized for her contributions to statistical methods for cancer and environmental health research.

Dr Ryan has authored or co-authored over 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals and her own statistical research focuses on developing computationally efficient approaches to the spatio-temporal analysis of large health databases.

Dr Ryan is currently a council member for the International Biometric Society. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and a Fellow of the International Statistics Institute. She was awarded the Spiegelman Award by the American Public Health Association and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Environmetrics Section of the American Statistical Association.

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