

American Statistical Association Statement on Personal Attacks against Scientists,
7/30/11

The American Statistical Association Board of Directors shares the concerns cited by the AAAS Board of Directors in its June 28 Statement, “Regarding Personal Attacks on Climate Scientists.” Disagreements about conclusions, methodology, or the data are an inherent part of scientific process. Indeed, it is through dialogue on such disagreements that science advances. Personal attacks however are not part of this process and interfere with it. Science operates at its best when scientists—no matter their viewpoint—have the freedom to state their scientific views.

Given the important role statisticians play in climate change research, the American Statistical Association Board of Directors endorses the AAAS June 28, 2011 statement “Regarding Personal Attacks on Climate Scientists.” The personal attacks have become most concerning for scientists working on climate science but this statement pertains to researchers in all scientific disciplines.