

**Workshop on statistics and granular materials at the
Statistics and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
April 16–17, 2004**

This workshop is intended to prepare for a possible semester of concentration in statistical issues arising in granular materials. This would take place at SAMSI, possibly in the academic year 2006-7. The workshop will be quite small—approximately 10 visitors plus a similar number of locals. Our main task will be:

To compile a list of open questions and/or problem areas that would be addressed by participants during the semester.

To help identify good problems, we are inviting each visitor to give a 30-minute lecture summarizing open questions from his/her area that might benefit from a statistics approach. These lectures will be open to SAMSI fellows and to interested locals.

During the meeting, our time will be divided between lectures and planning sessions. Strictly speaking, before planning, we must address a preliminary question:

Does the potential benefit from developing statistical principles to describe granular materials justify support of a semester of concentration by a statistics institute?

Assuming the answer to this question is *yes*, the visitors, together with selected locals and SAMSI folks, will meet as a committee to formulate more specific plans, including making a list of appropriate participants.

Bob Behringer
Eric Clement
Sue Coppersmith
Michael Rotter
Dave Schaeffer