The applied statistical (data) scientist in a high-profile and societal environment: Past, present, and future

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A perspective will be offered on the profession of the biometrician, the biostatistician, and more generally the applied statistical scientist, in a continually and rapidly changing environment. The specifics of working in a multidisciplinary environment will be discussed, referring to collaboration with agronomists, biologists, epidemiologists, medical professionals, etc. At the same time, interactions with other semi- or fully quantitative fields will be touched upon, such as computational biologists, computer scientists, engineers, etc. The current-day (r)evolution towards data science will be placed against a historical timeline of our field, which saw, over a relatively brief period of just one century, the coming of epidemiology and observational studies, (statistical) genetics, bioinformatics, the omics, big data, data science, data analytics, artificial intelligence, etc. Historical notes related to the international evolution of our field, with particular emphasis on the Hispanic world, will be offered.

Keywords: Applied Statistics; Biometry; Biostatistics; Data Science.