Treasurer's Report 2015

NOTE: Tables and Figures referred to in this report are attached.

Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for calendar year end 2015. The 2015 fiscal year end audit report will be published separately in the Fall of 2016 after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2015, the total number of IMS paid members decreased, but the total number of members increased. Subscriptions by institutions also decreased this past year. The financial status of the Institute continues to be stable, and actions have been taken to ensure its long-term stability. Details of the events of the past year, membership and subscription data, sales data are given below.

Publications

The following is a list of all current IMS core, co-sponsored, supported and affiliated journals:

[IMS Core Print/Electronic Publications](#)

- Annals of Applied Probability
- Annals of Probability
- Annals of Statistics
- Annals of Applied Statistics
- Statistical Science
- Current Index to Statistics
- IMS Collections
- IMS Monographs
- IMS Textbooks
- IMS Bulletin

[Co-Sponsored Print/Electronic Publications](#)

- Electronic Communications in Probability
- Electronic Journal of Probability
- Electronic Journal of Statistics
- Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics
- NSF-CBMS Series in Probability and Statistics
- Probability Surveys
- Statistics Surveys

[Supported Publications](#)

- ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Mathematical Statistics
- Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré
- Bayesian Analysis
- Bernoulli
- Bernoulli News
- Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics

- Stochastic Systems

Affiliated Publications

- Probability and Mathematical Statistics

Membership, Subscription and Sales Data

Membership Data

Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2015 decreased 1.3% from December 31, 2014. Table 1 presents the membership data back to 2008. As can be seen, the paid membership reached a high of 3156 in 2008 and has been decreasing since then. This trend is similar to that of other professional societies. Nevertheless, this is clearly an area of concern, and the IMS Executive Committee continues to look for ways to address this issue.

Geographic Distribution of Members. The IMS membership is currently distributed as follows:

- 62% United States
- 18% Europe
- 11% Asia
- 4% Canada
- 3% Australia and New Zealand
- <2% South America, Mexico and the Caribbean
- <1% Africa

Selection of Journals by Members: Print subscriptions by members continued to decrease in 2015, as expected, because members are opting to reduce their use of print while enjoying free electronic access to all journals. Members are charged actual cost for print copies of journals, so there is no net loss or gain to the bottom line from changes in print subscriptions by members. Table 2 shows the current selection of print journals by members.

The IMS offers joint membership opportunities with the following societies:

- Bernoulli Society (BS)
- International Statistical Institute/Bernoulli Society (ISI/BS)
- International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA)
- Applied Probability Society/INFORMS (APS/INFORMS).

Institutional Subscription Data

Table 3 presents comparative subscription data for institutions to each of our scientific journals for 2015 and previous years. Almost all journals experienced subscription decreases in 2015. Overall institutional subscriptions decreased by 1.6%. The decrease to IMS journals, specifically, was 2.2%. We are continuing to see increases in our bundled offerings which are discounted on the whole. Approximately 60% of the non-member subscribers to IMS journals are in USA and Canada, with the remaining subscribers distributed throughout the world.

Book Sales Data

Tables 4-7 present sales data for all IMS book series. In 2010, the IMS published its first volumes in a cooperative arrangement with Cambridge University Press to publish two series, *IMS Monographs* and *IMS Textbooks*. Sales of these volumes are going very well. The *CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series* published no new volumes in 2015. The *IMS Collections* series and the *IMS Lecture Notes-Monograph Series* have ceased publication.

Financial and Audit Report

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. The external audit of the IMS will be completed in July 2016. The full audit report will appear in the *IMS Bulletin* in the Fall.

Conclusion

The IMS Executive Committee has reviewed all data in this report. A long term financial plan is already in place and the IMS continues to be strong and stable financially. The decreases in institutional subscriptions is being felt across the market and is not unexpected. The IMS leadership began planning for these decreases over 10 years ago and has ensured that IMS resources are shored up to protect the long-term stability and growth of the society.

Jean Opsomer
Treasurer

Membership and Subscriber Data
Tables

TABLE 1: MEMBERSHIP, Calendar Year									
Membership Type	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012***	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**% change**
Regular	2179	2045	1970	1863	1792	1737	1616	1587	-1.79%
Life/Retired Life	402	455	477	495	498	501	516	528	2.33%
Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China	633	606	399	401	395	369	364	376	3.30%
New Graduate	122	158	149	113	112	110	87	58	-33.33%
Student	1328	1368	1160	1116	1023	1036	1187	1236	4.13%
Total	4664	4632	4155	3988	3820	3753	3770	3785	0.40%
Total not including free members (students and in 2008/2009 IMS China)	3156	3084	2995	2872	2797	2717	2583	2549	-1.32%
*Note: 2012 member figures contain some estimates.									
* Organizational Membership was reconstructed in 2007 and libraries were no longer included. This change reclassified these previous "members" to institutional subscriptions									
TABLE 2: MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year									
Print subscriptions									
Individual Members**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**% change**
AAP	428	382	280	197	126	84	100	80	-20.00%
AOP	481	416	298	218	184	99	108	97	-10.19%
AOAS	1,160	1,089	714	480	379	232	171	141	-17.54%
AOS	1,323	1,109	763	555	447	265	284	262	-7.75%
STS	1,880	1,680	1,310	1,035	869	532	534	464	-13.11%
Total Member Print	5,272	4,676	3,365	2,485	2,005	1,212	1,197	1,044	-12.78%
Electronic (free) access									
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**% change**
Members setting up individual electronic access to IMS journals	1,681	1,711	1,761	1,435	1,572	1,294	1,234	1,226	-4.64%

Membership and Subscriber Data
Tables

TABLE 3: INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year									
Paid Subscriptions									
Institutions	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**% change**
AAP	636	680	684	645	666	632	600	591	-1.50%
AOP	900	948	967	901	887	839	795	779	-2.01%
AOAS	174	247	320	331	359	342	346	368	6.36%
AOS	1,118	1,154	1,158	1,127	1,111	1008	985	948	-3.76%
STS	865	890	899	861	865	769	753	717	-4.78%
BULL	174	176	166	142	128	169	102	96	-5.88%
CIS	295	297	267	273	249	229	216	199	-7.87%
Supported Journal: Bernoulli	198	264	278	288	317	307	292	299	2.40%
Supported Journal: AIHP	228	271	286	297	312	324	297	305	2.69%
Supported Journal: BJPS		64	76	101	107	119	124	135	8.87%
Total Institutional Paid	4,588	4,991	5,101	4,966	5,001	4,738	4,510	4,437	-1.62%
Total IMS Journals Only	3,693	3,919	4,028	3,865	3,888	3,590	3,479	3,403	-2.18%
TABLE 4: Sales of IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks									
Volume	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**Total Sales**
4 Volumes IMS Monographs			660	586	789	604	1046	543	4,228
6 Volumes IMS Textbooks			639	491	326	636	1093	1254	4,439
TOTAL			1,299	1,077	1,115	1,240	2,139	1,797	8,667

Membership and Subscriber Data
Tables

TABLE 5: CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series Volumes Sales									
9 Volumes latest volume from 2013	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**Total Sales**
Total Sales	108	57	108	57	13	40	12	5	6,254

TABLE 6: Sales of IMS Collections									
10 Volumes ceased publication in 2015	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**Total Sales**
Total Sales	0	9	3	5	3	7	4	4	35

TABLE 7: Sales of Lecture Notes-Monograph Series									
58 Volumes ceased publication in 2009	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**Total Sales**
Total Sales	454	235	297	124	40	9	19	15	28,780

Editor's Report on *Annals of Applied Probability* for the period 2013.01.01 – 2016.05.31

The editorial board (on December 31, 2015):

Editor: Timo Seppäläinen
Associate editors: David Anderson, Erwin Bolthausen, Mireille Bossy, Amarjit Budhiraja, Zhen Qing Chen, Francois Delarue, Ron Doney, Randal Douc, Rick Durrett, Andreas Eberle, Patrik Ferrari, Luiz Renato Fontes, Peter Friz, Giambattista Giacomin, Carl Graham, David Hobson, Alexander Holroyd, David Levin, Vlada Limic, Eyal Lubetzky, Jean Mairesse, Jean-Francois Marckert, Ronald Meester, Elchanan Mossel, Soumik Pal, Mathew Penrose, Philip Protter, Kavita Ramanan, Brian Rider, Sebastien Roch, L. C. G. Rogers, Mete Soner, Prasad Tetali, Nizar Touzi, Benedek Valkó, Remco van der Hofstad, Ramon van Handel, Anton Wakolbinger, Jianfeng Zhang

Status of papers submitted between 2013.01.01-2013.12.31, on May 31, 2016:

\\\	Number of submissions
Submitted:	332
In review:	1
Assigned to AEs:	0
Awaiting revision:	1
Accepted	85
Rejected:	215
Rejected with resubmission:	22
Withdrawn:	9

Acceptance rate: 26%

Status of papers submitted between 2014.01.01-2014.12.31, on May 31, 2016:

\\\	Number of submissions
Submitted:	330
In review:	3
Assigned to AEs:	0
Awaiting revision:	3
Accepted	77
Rejected:	216
Rejected with resubmission:	26
Withdrawn:	8

Acceptance rate: 23%-24% (depending on the final decision about the 3 papers still under revision)

Status of papers submitted between 2015.01.01-2015.12.31, on May 31, 2016:

\\ \\ \\	Number of submissions
Submitted:	365
In review:	63
Assigned to AEs:	43
Awaiting revision:	20
Accepted	47
Rejected:	233
Rejected with resubmission:	18
Withdrawn:	4

Acceptance rate: not settled yet.

The editorial board (on May 31, 2016):

Status of papers submitted between 2016.01. 01 –2016.05.31, on May 31, 2016:

\\	Number of submissions	Total length in number of pages
Submitted:	140	3979
In review:	67	2071
Assigned to AEs:	64	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Awaiting revision:	3	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Accepted	0	0
Rejected:	63	1582
Rejected with resubmission:	6	203
Withdrawn:	4	123

Length of submissions (in number of pages, rounded to closest integer):

Average:	28
Standard deviation:	12

Acceptance rate: too early to say.

May 31, 2016   Timo Seppäläinen   and   Bálint Tóth
                      (AAP editor 2013-2015)   (AAP editor 2016-2018)

ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

Tilmann Gneiting, Editor-In-Chief

May 29, 2016

2015 marked the ninth full year of operation for the *Annals of Applied Statistics* (AOAS). The current Editorial Board is composed as follows:

Tilmann Gneiting	Editor-In-Chief
Edoardo Airoldi	Editor for Computational Biology and Machine Learning
Beth Ann Griffin	Editor for Social Sciences, Biostatistics and Policy
Karen Kafadar	Editor for Biology, Medicine, and Genomics
Brendan Murphy	Editor for Social Sciences and Government
Nicoleta Serban	Editor for Physical Science, Engineering, and the Environment

In January 2016, I started a three-year term as Editor-In-Chief, succeeding Stephen Fienberg, who had served in this role since January 2013. I am grateful indeed to Steve for recruiting a superb team of Area Editors, who have all remained in office, and for facilitating an exceptionally smooth transition. The IMS is greatly in Steve's debt for his superior leadership over the past three years. The Area Editors continue to oversee the bulk of the manuscript review, aided by an outstanding board of Asociate Editors, and they are responsible for the continued high quality of the papers we publish.

In late 2015, Steve and I worked with the Areas Editors to polish and clarify our criteria for publication, and the new language has been posted at the IMS website. In a nutshell, applications and data need to take the center stage in AOAS papers, and AOAS is *not* a methodology journal where papers may include data solely for numerical illustration.

This past year the annual number of submissions reached a record of 497, of which 44 have been accepted for publication thus far, and 56 remain active, awaiting either a revision or an editorial decision. The acceptance rate has now stabilized at about 20%. The yearly totals since 2007 are as follows:

Table 1: AOAS Submissions and Impact Factor by Year

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. Submissions	286	274	352	418	468	472	494	462	497
No. Accepted	96	98	121	108	96	90	108	91	44
	34%	36%	34%	26%	21%	19%	22%	20%	9%
No. Active				1		2	7	15	56
				0%		0%	1%	3%	11%
Impact Factor		2.45	2.57	1.75	1.58	2.24	1.68	1.46	

While the recent decrease in the volatile Thomson Reuters impact factor should not be overinterpreted, we will continue to consider measures in order to raise the journal's visibility. For example, we will be publishing at least two discussion papers in 2016.

The previous year's report had noted a worrisome shift towards prolonged review times. We have made a concerted effort to reduce the time in the review process across the board, which appears to have yielded first successes:

Table 2: Review Time to Initial Decision

Days to First Decision	≤ 7	8–30	31–90	91–180	≥ 181	Total
2014	163	30	102	107	60	462
	35%	6%	22%	23%	13%	
2015	196	30	95	141	35	497
	39%	6%	19%	28%	7%	

In 2016, we have received 189 submissions through April already, whence we expect to be handling well over 500 new manuscripts this year. The recent increase in the number of submissions offers a challenge, in that the review process needs to be ever more efficient, and the workload needs to be balanced carefully across the editorial board. Simultaneously, we view it as an opportunity in support of our continued commitment to attract and publish the best in applied statistics.

Personally, I wish to thank Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their consistently outstanding support of our daily operations, extending even to New Year's Eve and New Year during the transition in the Editor-In-Chief office.

The Annals of Probability
Prepared by Maria Eulalia Vares

Period of the report: January 1, 2015 to June 2, 2016.

- **2015.** During the year of 2015, the Annals of Probability received 323 submissions. Of these, 42 papers were accepted, 193 rejected, 17 withdrawn, and 71 are still under review (at various stages of the review process).
- **2016.** Up to June 2: 137 submissions; 2 accepted; 54 rejected; 4 withdrawn; 77 under review.

During this period, papers submitted before January 1, 2015, and therefore handled by the previous editor Krzysztof Burdzy, have also been processed. The total number of papers accepted since January 1, 2015 (by both editors) is 130.

The memorial issue in honor of Donald Burkholder is at the final stage of preparation (handled by Krzysztof Burdzy and Rodrigo Bañuelos) and will appear later this year. To deal with the backlog problem and to fit the memorial issue, the number of approved pages for 2016 (volume 44) has been substantially increased. Volume 44 will have approximately 4200 pages.

Sincerely,
Maria Eulalia Vares

The Annals of Statistics, 2015 Annual Report

Ed George and Tailen Hsing, Editors

SUBMISSIONS: We received 678 submissions in 2015, close to the record high relative to the historical norm (in comparison to 323, 343, 397, 479, 490, 505, 532, 502, 555, 607, 697 submissions in 2004–2014, respectively). Our editorial policy continues to emphasize that The Annals of Statistics aims at publishing research papers of highest quality, reflecting the many facets of contemporary statistics, including all mathematical, methodological, computational and interdisciplinary work. An overview of the data is given in Figure 1.
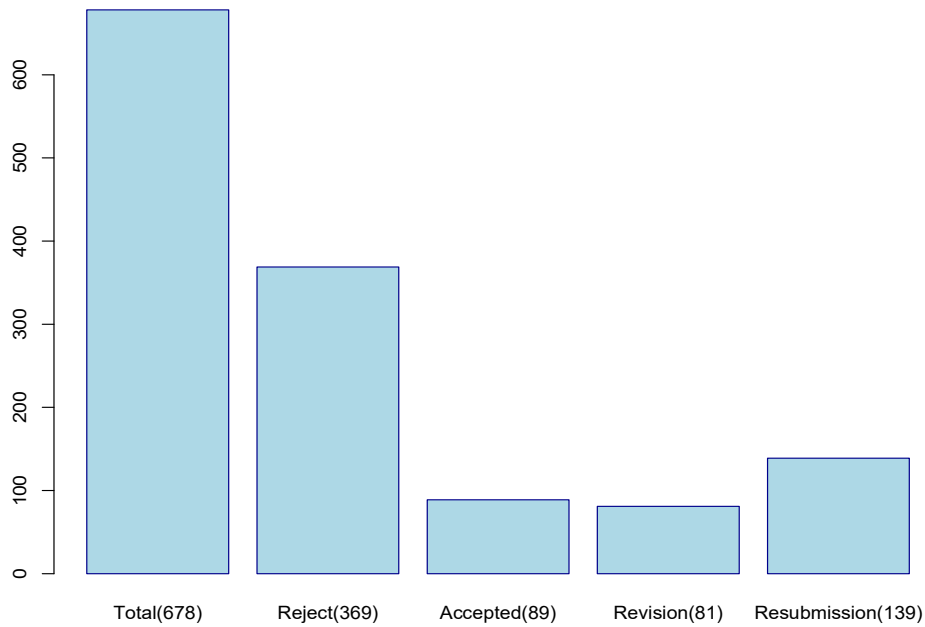
Figure 1*: Submissions in 2015*

ACCEPTANCE RATE: During 2015, we accepted 89 papers, rejected 369, handled 81 requests for revision (major and minor) and rejected 139 papers with encouragement to resubmit. The acceptance rate among these 678 papers is 13.12% (10.33% in 2014, 11.70% in 2013, 17.76% in 2012). Note that this is not the acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2015.

BACKLOG: During 2015, we printed 2794 pages (2585 pages in 2014, 3110 pages in 2013, 3175 pages in 2012). In 2016 we expect to use at most an allotment of 3600 pages. Currently, there is no backlog.

PAGE REQUEST: We request an allotment of 3600 pages for 2016.

REVIEW TIMES: The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2015 are 4 days, 71 days and 136 days. The corresponding quartiles from 2014 were 1 day, 55 days and 115 days. The details of the review times are summarized in Figure 2,

which provides an estimated survival curve of initial decision time for submissions in 2015. Figure 3 provided an estimated survival function of the second decision time for submission in 2015.
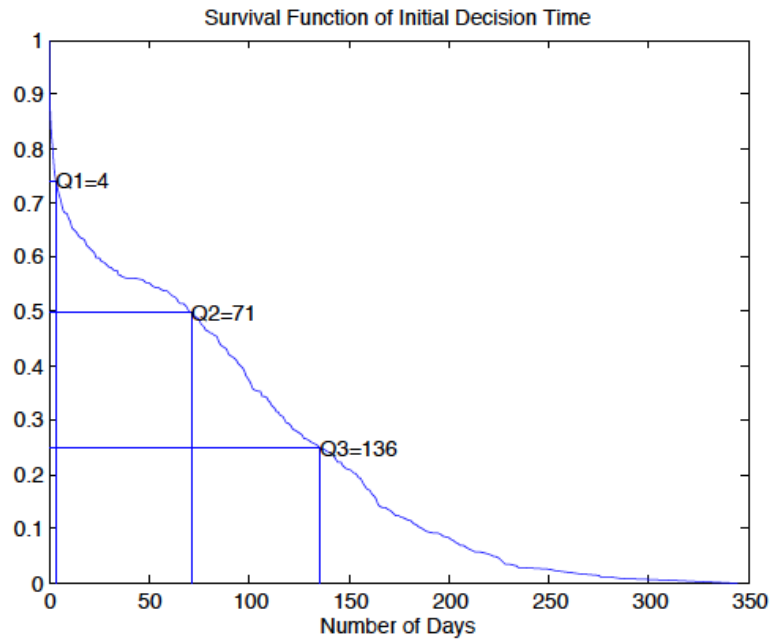
Figure 2: *Survival Function of Initial Decision Time*
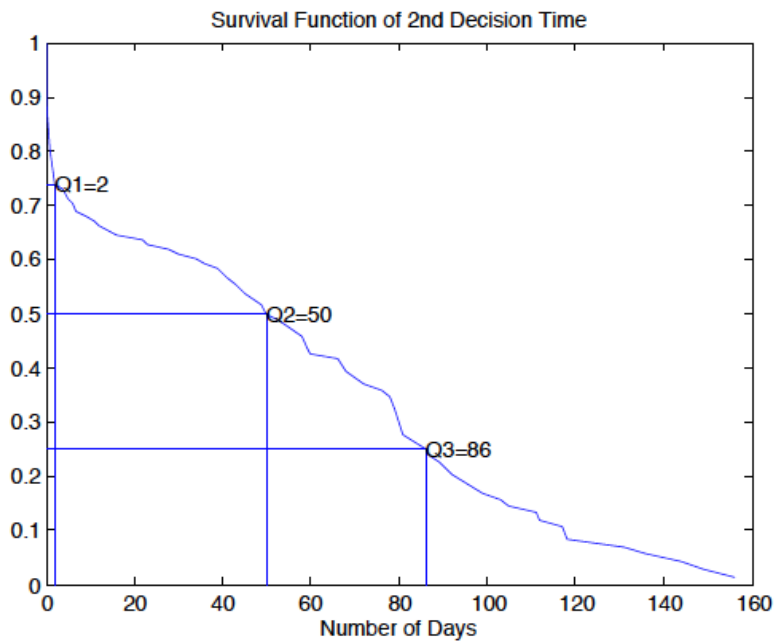
Figure 3: *Survival Function of 2nd Decision Time*

IMS Managing Editor's Report

Probability and Statistics

T. N. Sriram

May 2016

The printed pages for the 2015 issues of the five IMS journals are given in Tables 1 to 5 below: 3,511 for the *Annals of Probability*, 3.680 for the *Annals of Applied Probability*, 2,792 for the *Annals of Statistics*, 2,265 for the *Annals of Applied Statistics*, and 597 for the *Statistical Science*. The tables also give all the available information for the 2016 issues of each of the five journals. Note that the total printed pages in Volume 43 of the *Annals of Probability* was 868 pages more than that in Volume 42. Likewise, the total printed pages in Volume 25 of the *Annals of Applied Probability* was 1,039 pages more than that in Volume 24. Whereas, the total printed pages for the 2015 volumes of the rest of the three journals were similar to those of the 2014 volumes.

Table 1: Annals of Probability

Volume 43	2015 Printed Pages	Volume 44	2016 Printed Pages
No. 1	434	No. 1	805
No. 2	499	No. 2	793
No. 3	642	No. 3	826
No. 4	627	No. 4	–
No. 5	654	No. 5	–
No. 6	655	No. 6	–
TOTAL	3,511	TOTAL	2,424

Table 2: Annals of Applied Probability

Volume 25	2015 Printed Pages	Volume 26	2016 Printed Pages
No. 1	428	No. 1	641
No. 2	649	No. 2	653
No. 3	649	No. 3	–
No. 4	653	No. 4	–
No. 5	650	No. 5	–
No. 6	651	No. 6	–
TOTAL	3,680	TOTAL	1,294

Table 3: Annals of Statistics

Volume 43	2015 Printed Pages	Volume 44	2016 Printed Pages
No. 1	466	No. 1	453
No. 2	469	No. 2	451
No. 3	454	No. 3	455
No. 4	474	No. 4	–
No. 5	465	No. 5	–
No. 6	464	No. 6	–
TOTAL	2,792	TOTAL	1,359

Table 4: Annals of Applied Statistics

Volume 9	2015 Printed Pages	Volume 10	2016 Printed Pages
No. 1	546	No. 1	548
No. 2	555	No. 2	–
No. 3	605	No. 3	–
No. 4	559	No. 4	–
TOTAL	2,265	TOTAL	548

Table 5: Statistical Science

Volume 30	2015 Printed Pages	Volume 31	2016 Printed Pages
No. 1	146	No. 1	139
No. 2	149	No. 2	164
No. 3	146	No. 3	
No. 4	156	No. 4	–
TOTAL	597	TOTAL	303

Annual Report - *Statistical Science*

Peter Green, Editor

June 2016

As of 2 June 2016, 49 manuscripts were at various stages of review (32) or revision (17) for *Statistical Science* (6 of these have been back with authors for over 18 months, and could probably be discounted). From 1 June 2015 – 31 May 2016, 204 manuscripts were submitted; of these, 129 have been rejected, 42 are still in various stages of review or revision, and 33 have been accepted. The following table shows this information broken down by month of submission.

Month	Received	Rejected	In review or revision	Accepted
June 2015	12	12	0	0
July	19	12	3	4
August	27	13	2	12
September	26	21	3	2
October	17	14	2	1
November	18	12	4	2
December	13	5	5	3
January 2016	14	12	2	0
February	13	6	4	3
March	14	4	8	2
April	15	7	4	4
May	16	11	5	0
Total	**204**	**129**	**42**	**33**

Compared to the previous year, these figures show a large increase (~44%) in rate of submission and a somewhat higher acceptance rate. Concern about lack-of-backlog was expressed a year ago, and it is pleasing that this has been alleviated (without, I believe, drop in quality).

Here is a Kaplan-Meier plot of the times from submission to first decision, by year of submission – 50% of responses made within 2 weeks, 80% within 4-5 months:

First response times by year of submission
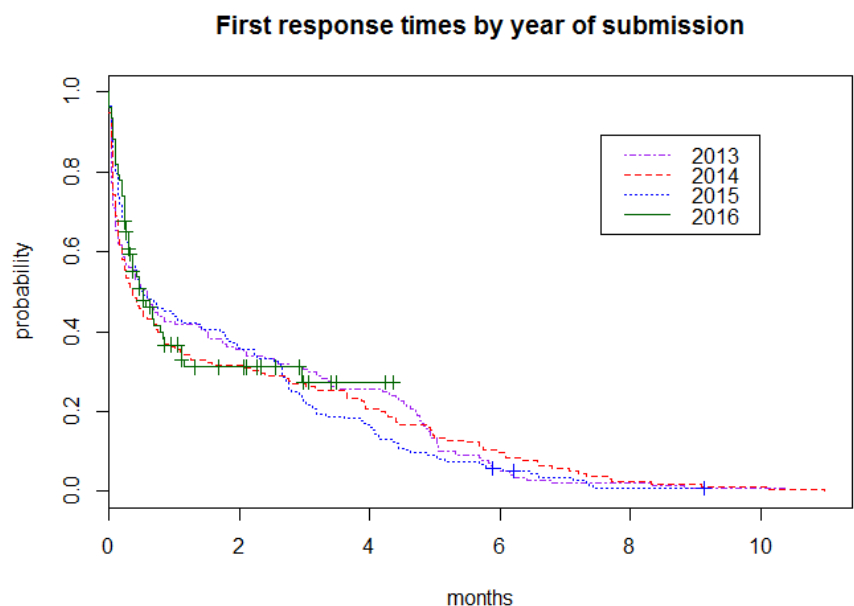
Statistical Science makes a feature of special projects of various kinds, including coordinated publication of articles on a common theme, and discussion (with rejoinder) of selected articles where the likely breadth of interest in the topic, and the diversity of opinion about it, seems to justify it. The first issue of 2016 included a discussion on Ewens' Sampling Formula and its multiple connections in statistics and probability, based on a paper by Harry Crane. The second issue of the year is largely devoted to a package of papers on Mark–Recapture, including interviews with the authors of two path-breaking papers on this topic from 50 years ago. Special issues on Modelling Infectious Disease and on Complex Sample Surveys are currently in development, and some other ideas are in the pipeline.

Volume 30 (2015) of *Statistical Science* was on target at 600 pages, and I am aiming at the same number of pages for 2016 and 2017.

IMS Bulletin Report to Council 2016

The *IMS Bulletin*, published 8 times per year, is the news organ of the institute. Our aim is to bring IMS members (and other readers) news about IMS activities and members, and items of interest to statisticians and probabilists around the world. Anirban DasGupta (Purdue University, USA) is in his third year as Editor (his term is January 2014–December 2016). Tati Howell (London, UK) is Assistant Editor. We have an international team of Contributing Editors: Robert Adler, Peter Bickel, Stéphane Boucheron, David Hand, Vlada Limic, Xiao-Li Meng, Dimitris Politis, Terry Speed and Hadley Wickham. We are grateful to them for contributing stimulating, thoughtful articles — 13 in the past year — and ideas.

In January the IMS reinstated the sending of hardcopy printed Bulletins to all members who had not opted for the electronic (PDF/html) version only. We received some positive feedback from members when they received their print copies (*"I am happy to have it again. Somehow it is a window to the world for me, a retired professor, now aged 75." "I was overjoyed to find the* IMS Bulletin *in my postbox today after a very long time of having it only on-line. Thank you!"*). Few people have opted to read the Bulletin online only.

The Bulletin's website, http://bulletin.imstat.org, is maintained by Tati, who uploads the news items and articles from the front section of each issue, just after the issue has gone to the printers (hence a couple of weeks before the print copies are mailed out). At the time of writing there are 527 articles posted, which collectively have received 182 comments. We would welcome more! Google Analytics reports 28,606 "sessions" by 22,650 users in the past year, frequently coinciding with the monthly eBulletin emailed out to all members that contains a link to the latest issue: clearly some members are accessing IMS news in this way. We also post on the IMS Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/IMSTATI) when issues are released, and link to some news items directly. We have started a Twitter account, @InstMathStat — where we tweet some news items.

In the past year, we have published obituaries (or sometimes notices, while obituaries are being sought) for: Peter John, Bruce Lindsay, Moshe Shaked, Gopinath Kallianpur, Gunnar Kulldorff, Esther Seiden, Moshe Zakai, Subramanian "Kesan" Panchapakesan, Asit Basu, Peter Hall, Ingram Olkin and Paul Herzberg. If you have missed any of these, you can find them on the Bulletin's website at http://bulletin.imstat.org/category/obituary/. We are preparing obituaries for Lajos Takacs, Emanuel Parzen and Paul Joyce. Thank you to those who have remembered to pass on the news that an IMS member or fellow has died, so that we can arrange for an obituary to be written.

We still publish lists of recent papers, rotating around IMS core, co-sponsored and supported journals (including electronic journals).

The Student Puzzle Corner, set by Anirban, has received some attention from student members. We congratulate Yixin Wang and Lu Mao, who submitted correct solutions. Two of the Puzzles have drawn no entries even when we extended the deadline – perhaps they were too puzzling...

As ever, we invite all members, and particularly Council members, to be proactive in writing or soliciting articles. And if you have any comments, suggestions or feedback, please email bulletin@imstat.org or leave a comment on our blog.

Anirban DasGupta & Tati Howell
June 2016

Note and update on the publishing arrangement between the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and Cambridge University Press

In 2009, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics decided to establish two new book series to be published by Cambridge University Press. The two series – IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks – have a single editorial board: David Cox (Oxford), Ben Hambly (Oxford), Susan Holmes (Stanford), and Jon Wellner (Washington). They launched in 2010 with books by Brad Efron and Geoffrey Grimmett.

Books published and in production

IMS Monographs

Published:
• Bradley Efron, Large-Scale Inference
• Abishek Bhattacharya and Rabi Bhattacharya, Nonparametric Inference on Manifolds
• Adelchi Azzalini and Antonella Capitanio, The Skew Normal and Related Families
• Ruth Keogh and David Cox, Case-Control Studies

In production:
• Bradley Efron and Trevor Hastie, Computer Age Statistical Inference

IMS Textbooks

Published:
• Geoffrey Grimmett, Probability on Graphs
• Simo Särkkä, Bayesian Filtering and Smoothing
• Frank Kelly and Elena Yudovina, Stochastic Networks
• Dan Romik, The Surprising Mathematics of Longest Increasing Subsequences
• Christophe Garban and Jeff Steif, Noise Sensitivity and Boolean Functions
• Simon Wood, Core Statistics

Our approach to the series

For both series, we're interested in statistics and probability, both theoretical and applied, and also stochastic modeling and networks, and relevant areas of computing such as machine learning, optimization and algorithms.

IMS Monographs are published in hardback; after 24 months, new printings are in paperback. We see this series as a vehicle through which the IMS can provide intellectual leadership to its community in a manner that's complementary to its journals publishing. Some books will look outward and forward, to give an entry point to emerging areas of science. Others will consolidate diffuse areas of research, as a base and point of reference for further work. Others will allow individual authors to develop the outlook or philosophy that underlies an important body of work. Ideal monographs are those that provide general

pictures, lay initial foundations, pose challenging questions, inspire others to think deep, and encourage new perspectives and syntheses. They are not encyclopedic or overly technical treatments. Books will be about 200 pages long.

We hope good authors and good topics for Monographs will come to us, but the series editorial board, with the help of the IMS, must be active in also seeking authors and topics, as this series competes with those of several commercial publishers. This kind of "commissioning" is important in shaping an attractive series.

IMS Textbooks are published in hardback and paperback. These are introductory accounts of topical areas suitable for advanced courses at master's level, for doctoral students and for individual study. Many lecturers develop excellent course notes. Some are on topics close to the live edge of research or practice; others define well-motivated paths through diffuse areas. The IMS Textbook series has been established to encourage publication of such high-quality notes, to support the diffusion of good modern pedagogy. These books are short (about 200 pages) and will have exercises.

A good Textbook will almost certainly be something that already exists in some form. It will have developed out of need, it will have been tested on real students (whether university or short course), and it will have been constrained to deliver a coherent set of material within a compact time/length.

Diana Gillooly is the Cambridge University Press acquisitions editor who works on the IMS-CUP publishing program. Formally, she oversees the publishing aspects (from contract negotiation onward), whereas the IMS editorial board is responsible for soliciting and reviewing the books. In practice, however, the pre-contract stages are more collaborative. New series must have a certain volume of titles to take hold and gain momentum, so CUP brings suitable prospects and ideas to the editorial board and helps to pursue and sign books. We want to build strong, lasting series. The IMS books we publish are also CUP books. They receive CUP's full editorial, production, marketing and sales attention and effort.

Diana Gillooly, Cambridge University Press, on behalf of D.R. Cox, IMS series coordinating editor

Annual report for Electronic Communications in Probability

June 1, 2016

Editorial board   Louigi Addario-Berry, Nathanael Berestycki, Noam Berger, Djalil Chafai, Julien Dubedat, Giambattista Giacomin, Massimialiano Gubinelli, Antti Knowles, Vladimir Koltchinski, Claudio Landim, Malwina Luczak, Annie Millet, Leonid Mytnik, Hirofumi Osada, Sandrine Péché (Chief Editor, ECP), Gabor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Alejandro Ramirez, Firas Rassoul-Agha, Brian Rider (Chief Editor, EJP), Victor Rivero, Peter Tankov, Josef Teichmann, Feng-Yu Wang.

Move to EJMS

As for EJP, the technical details have been dealt with by Djalil Chafai and Chris Burdzy (and a lot of help also from Geri Mattson). The move to EJMS has been quite easy and we can add this has been a positive thing. Some authors have encountered small difficulties due to the move but they were fixed rapidly.

There are only 12 papers left on OJS and their situation shall be fixed quite soon.

Statistics

For this year (up to 31 May)

Submitted: 129

Accepted: 4

Rejected: 74

It seems that we have been more selective this year, which was expected.

For 2015: these statistics are probably distorted due to the move.
Submitted: 282
Published: 45 (possibly 12 after 2015)
Rejected (archived): 183

For 2014:
Submitted: 302
Published: 91 (possibly after 2014)
Rejected (archived): 205.

Annual report for Electronic Journal of Probability

(for the period 6.1.2015 - 5.31.2016)

Current EJP Editorial Board:

Louigi Addario-Berry, Nathanael Berestycki, Noam Berger, Djalil Chafaï, Julien Dubedat, Giambattista Giacomin, Massimialiano Gubinelli, Antti Knowles, Vladimir Koltchinski, Claudio Landim, Malwina Luczak, Annie Millet, Leonid Mytnik, Hirofumi Osada, Sandrine Péché (Chief Editor, ECP), Gábor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Alejandro Ramirez, Firas Rassoul-Agha, Brian Rider (Chief Editor, EJP), Victor Rivero, Peter Tankov, Josef Teichmann, Feng-Yu Wang.

Move to EJMS:

The big news this year is the transfer from OJS to EJMS, courtesy financial assistance from the IMS. Technically this was carried out by our then managing editor Djalil Chafaï and ongoing advisor Chris Burdzy, with very little pain on my behalf or that of the board.

The move went "live" as of January 1, 2016 and from my point of view has gone quite smoothly. The only aspect I can point to as non-ideal is that submissions that came in before the switch (and were still active) have remained on OJS. This entails keeping track of two systems, but it is a small price to pay. Currently we have under 30 papers still in process on the old system, and I am confident that we will be able to make the full transfer complete (including closing the old journal website) by the end of this year.

Some statistics:

Submission rates remain remarkably stable.

Current year, through May 31:

    Submitted: 154
    Publsihed: 1
    Rejected: 100

For 2015:

Submitted: 365

Published: 31 (and 65 still in process)

Rejected: 269

Average days to rejection/first-decision: 29/60

For 2014:

Submitted: 378

Published: 117

Rejected: 250

Average days to rejection/first-decision: 90/107

Additionally, we have made a concerted effort to make faster decisions (especially to offer authors quick rejections on manuscripts that are deemed unsuitable for the level EJP is striving). This shows up in comparing average reject or first-decision times between 2014 and 2015. The new system (EJMS) does not track this information in a way that makes it easy for me to present for 2016.

Annual Report - Electronic Journal of Statistics

Domenico Marinucci

This report covers the following periods:

- *January 1 - December 31, 2015*

- *January 1 - May 20, 2016*

George Michailidis was in charge as Editor in Chief until December 31, 2015; he is still handling the papers submitted before that date.

Period: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2015

In 2015, 406 papers were submitted, basically the same amount as in 2014 (401). Out of these, 234 were rejected, 23 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 68 and 35 a major or minor revision (respectively) were proposed, 15 were accepted. As a consequence, the rejection rate among papers for which a first decision was reached was equal to $(234+23)/(234+23+68+35+15)=69\%$. For 30 papers a decision has still to come.

Among the submissions for which a first decision was taken, the statistics for the days to reach it are as follows:

Average: 61,23; Q1: 2 ; Q2 (Median): 21; Q3 :114

Overall, 96 papers were published, including two discussion papers

Period: Jan 1 - May 20, 2016

The reporting period this year is January 1 – May 20, during which 182 papers were submitted. The number of submissions seems to be growing – last year 198 papers were received in the first 6 months (January 1 – June 30), while approximately the same number has been reached this year one month in advance. So far, 76 papers have been rejected, 4 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 8 and 4 a major or minor revision was required, respectively, one was accepted and 89 are still waiting for a first decision. The rejection rate among papers for which a decision has been reached is very high $((76+4)/(76+4+8+4+1)=86\%)$, but this result is clearly biased, because rejections are much higher among papers for which a decision is reached quickly. In particular, consistently with the

previous years about one third of submissions are rejected directly by the Editor in Chief (150/406 in 2015).

Among the submissions for which a first decision was taken, the statistics for the days to to reach it are as follows:

Average: 27,13; Q1: 2 ; Q2 (Median): 6,5; Q3 :42,5

As mentioned before, these figures cannot be compared with the statistics for 2015 – whole year.

Finally, the number of published pages by calendar year since 2010 are (Remark: Starting in 2014, the annual volume was split in two issues):

Year	Number of Pages
2010	1546
2011	2030
2012	2626
2013	3169
2014	3192
2015	3195
2016	1340

Special issues and invited discussion papers

Two invited discussion papers have appeared in 2015:

- *High-dimensional autocovariance matrices and optimal linear prediction*, by McMurry and Polits, with discussions by Wu, Hyndman, Gel-Palma, Chen, pages 753-822

- *Hypotheses Testing by Convex Optimization*, by Goldenschluger, Juditsky and Nemirovski, with discussions by Birge, Rigollet, Dalayan, Agrawal, Munk-Werner, Comte-Duval-Genon Catalot, pages 1645-1748

One invited discussion paper has appeared in 2016 :

- *Estimating Structured High-Dimensional Covariance and Precision Matrices: Optimal Rates and Adaptive Estimation*, by Cai-Ren-Zhou, with discussions by Zou, Tsybakov, Paul-Wang and Balasubramanian-Yuan, pages 1-89

There are two special issues which have been finalized and are expected to appear soon:

- A special issue based on the February 2014 SAMSI workshop on Statistical Inference in Sparse High-Dimensional Models, co-edited by Flori Bunea and Marloes Maathuis. Contributed papers are by: Gao-Zhou, Olhede-Wolfe, Barraud, Hao-Zhang, Zhao-Xu-Li-Liu, Mitra-Zhang, Belloni-Rosenbaum-Tsybakov, She

- A special issue based on selected papers presented at the recent 10th Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics that recently took place at the NCSU campus, edited by Subhashis Ghoshal

Report on Probability Surveys

Ben Hambly - Editor-in-Chief since 1st January 2015

Probability Surveys has a valuable role to play for the probability community providing well written articles on topics that are in need of consolidation or summary at points in their development. Probability Surveys publishes surveys articles covering any aspects of probability theory, its applications and its interactions with related fields. All papers are refereed. Any survey format is welcome (short and long, without proofs or with some proofs) as long as the article conveys a substantial amount of information about an interesting subject in an accessible way and with respect for the existing knowledge and literature in the area.

The journal is still in the process of finding its natural steady state in terms of the flow of survey articles it receives.

Over the last 5 years the journal has published
Volume 8 (2011) 8 Surveys and 495 pages
Volume 9 (2012) 8 Surveys and 479 pages
Volume 10 (2013) 3 Surveys and 93 pages
Volume 11 (2014) 9 Surveys and 440 pages. Volume 12 (2015) 4 Surveys and 103 pages

There are currently 11 Surveys at various stages in the editorial process.

It seems likely that the existence of Probability Surveys is instrumental in encouraging researchers in probability and related fields to write survey articles. I would encourage any readers of this report to consider submitting a survey to Probability Surveys!

Relations with vtex are very cordial and effective.

Statistics Surveys, Annual Report to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

May 31, 2016

Prepared by: Wendy L. Martinez, Coordinating Editor

Statistics Surveys is sponsored by the American Statistical Association, the Bernoulli Society, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and by the Statistical Society of Canada. The editorial board contains one representative of each of these four societies and a coordinating editor. The board consists of: Sara van de Geer (Bernoulli Society), Ranjan Maitra (American Statistical Association), Richard A. Lockhart (Statistical Society of Canada), Wendy L. Martinez (Coordinating Editor), and Donald Richards (Institute of Mathematical Statistics).

The American Statistical Association will be conducting an editor search to replace Ranjan Maitra, who has already served six years on the board. Dr. Maitra has done a lot to advance the journal, and we greatly appreciate all of his hard work and support.

SUBMISSIONS

During the period January 01, 2015 – May 31, 2016, thirty (31) manuscripts were submitted to the journal. This number is small when compared with other IMS journals, however this is to be expected given that the survey nature of viable papers requires such papers to be lengthier and to have been written by a smaller, select group of authors with substantial experience and strong credentials in their chosen subject areas. The editorial board has also taken informal steps to increase the number of submissions, and there is a willingness amongst the board to encourage authors of potentially viable articles to revise and resubmit manuscripts.

The current status of the 31 submitted manuscripts is as follows:

Accepted: 7

Rejected: 12

Papers in review: 5

Rejected with resubmission encouraged: 7

————————————————--------------------------

Total   31

In a few instances, submitted manuscripts of a non-survey nature were rejected because authors had confused the journal name, "*Statistics Surveys*," with that of other journals specializing in survey methodology. This issue prompted a brief discussion amongst the four co-editors to discuss the idea of approaching our respective societies to raise the issue of a possible change-of-name, but the consensus view is that no such name change is necessary and that it is the duty of potential authors to make themselves fully aware of the journal guidelines, subject areas, and the general nature of published articles, all of which are available at <http://imstat.org/ss/>.

THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATE EDITORS

The current editorial board (37) consists of: Martin Lindquist, Daniel Commenges, Enno Mammen, Guido Consonni, John Marden, Noel Cressie, Geoff McLachlan, Rainer Dahlhaus, Hannu Oja, Anirban DasGupta, Dominique Picard, Sujay Datta, Louis-Paul Rivest, Mathisca De Gunst, Qi-Man Shao, Jianqing Fan, Xiaotong Shen, Edward I. George, Simon Tavaré, Subhashis Ghosal, Stephen B. Vardeman, Nils L. Hjort, Grace Wahba, John D. Kalbfleisch, Yuhong Yang, Claudia Klüppelberg, Donglin Zeng, Vladimir I. Koltchinskii, Cun-Hui Zhang, Jerald F. Lawless, and Jun Zhu. The editors are very grateful for their continued assistance.

EJMS

The EJMS is working well. Geri Mattson and Elyse Gustafson are always quick to provide their advice and help when called upon.

We added the option for authors to upload supplementary materials, such as computer code and figures. This will enhance the usability and impact of the journal.

Annual Report of the Scientific Legacy Editor, 2015-2016

The role of the Scientific Legacy Editor is to present the accomplishments and contributions of IMS members, and, in doing so, to describe and enhance knowledge of the history of the IMS. The IMS Scientific Legacy project, under continuing development, aims to document the accomplishments and biographies of IMS Fellows and other honored IMS members via webpages.

A contract with Mathematical Sciences Publishers (MSP) to provide software to host a website for the IMS honorees is in force until 31 December 2018. The software is that which supports MSP's *Celebratio Mathematica* publication at `celebratio.org`. It runs on servers located in U.C. Berkeley's Data Center, and the website will be hosted there. Design of the website is IMS-branded and consistent with the appearance of the IMS website, `imstat.org`. Plans call for launching the website in the near future. After the launch, content will be continually updated as more information is gathered and new information becomes available.

The list of IMS Fellows currently numbers 1,114, of whom 346 are deceased. Last month 16 new Fellows were named. Current work continues on the collection of information, with emphasis on the Fellows. For each Fellow, an easily-accessed webpage lists education and honors, and provides references and links to many sources, including biographies, memoirs, Festschriften, oral histories, archive collections, bibliographies, portraits, and obituaries and in memoriam articles.

An article discussing the history of the IMS Fellows and noting some interesting persons among them appeared in the August 2015 issue of the *IMS Bulletin*. The online version is accompanied by lists of honors and awards achieved by the Fellows, such as Nobel Prizes, knighthoods, and academy memberships. The online list will be updated every year. The version posted in 2015 is available at bulletin.imstat.org/2015/07/ims-fellows-a-little-history/.

Three persons have been involved in the legacy project. Jim Pitman has long worked to publicize the achievements of statisticians and mathematicians. As Scientific Legacy Editor, Paul Shaman is responsible for planning, and concentrates on data acquisition. Ruth Williams is the liaison between the project and the IMS Executive. She has been instrumental in moving the project forward.

Paul Shaman

10 July 2016

New Researchers Group

Chair: Alexander Volfovsky

The New Researchers Group (NRG) was founded this year building on the previous Ad-Hoc j-IMS Committee. It is designed to facilitate interactions among new researchers in statistics and probability.

The NRG includes two full time members (Alexander Volfovsky and Daniel Sussman) and is working with other members of the former Ad-Hoc j-IMS Committee (Elizabeth Ogburn, Ali Shojaie) and current members of the Committee on New Researchers (Karl Rohe, Anru Zhang). The NRG is currently building its website (as a prototype for future IMS groups) and is working on updating the Guide to New Researchers (this effort is led by Daniel Sussman). Other than the website, the NRG is organizing an event at the JSM in Chicago (similar to the successful event organized by the j-IMS last year) and has also been working to secure multi-year funding for the New Researchers Conference.

Moving forward:

1. We will launch the website before the JSM in Chicago – to do so we are working to get junior researchers to contribute to the blog and other elements of the site.

2. Starting next year we will seek funding to facilitate workshops (beyond the New Researchers Conference) for new researchers.

3. Overarching goal: showcase the work of new researchers at IMS (co-)sponsored conferences – ask the IMS executive committee if special IMS sessions can be provided for new researchers – form a program selection committee for such sessions.

4. Funds: we request the ongoing support from the IMS for our JSM/World Congress reception ($3500 yearly) as well as support for the website.

IMS Committee on New Researchers Annual Report, 2015-2016

The IMS Committee on new researchers has been actively organizing the 2016 New Researchers Conference (NRC) to be held at UW-Madison. In addition, a subcommittee -- Jian Ding (chair) -- was also formed to select a tutorial speaker for the 2017 Seminar on Stochastic Processes (SSP).

To organize the NRC, the co-chairs of the organizing committee have been able to secure ***$49,000 funding from NSF (31,000), ONR ($15,000) and Google ($3,000).*** NIH has declined to fund.

On the organizational front, the logistics for venue and lodging have been finalized. Participants have been selected. 47 participants have been selected from 60 applicants based on review of applications by the Organizing Committee. Given the goals of the NRC, selected participants are primarily (~90%) junior faculty, or will start a faculty position in Fall 2016. The 60 applicants came from 48 different institutions, and 51 were domestic applicants. Of domestic applicants, 19 (37%) come from the northeast,12 (23%) come from the south, 9 (18%) come from the midwest, and 7 (14%) come from the west. Race/gender information will be collected (voluntarily) from the participants as part of the registration process.

The following senior faculty will present plenary talks.

1) Speakers:

Tianxi Cai (Harvard University)
Jerry Friedman (Stanford Univeristy)
David Dunson (Duke)
Martin Wainwright (UC Berkeley)

We will also have panel discussions on (1) teaching and mentoring, (2) publishing, (3) funding, (4) finding collaborators, and (5) bio data science.

2) Panelists:

Teaching and mentoring:

 David Dunson (Duke)
 Martin Wainwright (UC Berkeley)
 Grace Wahba (UW Madison)

Publishing:

David Dunson (Duke, JRSSB)
Richard Davis (Columbia)

Funding:
Nandini Kannan (NSF).
Michael Newton (UW Madison).

Finding Collaborators:

 Paul Rathouz (chair of Biostatistics at UW Madison)
 Tianxi Cai (Harvard Biostatistics)
Christina Kendziorski (UW Madison)

Bio data science:

Michael Newton (UW Madison)
Tianxi Cai (Harvard Biostatistics)
Ming Yuan (UW Madison)

Publication Committee Annual Report (2016)

The 2016 IMS Publication has 3 members and 9 ex officio members. They are: Xiao-Hua (Andrew) Zhou (Chair), Christian Genest, Andrew Noble, T. N. Sriram (ex officio), Aniban DasGupta (ex officio), Peter Green (ex officio), Jean Opsomer (ex officio), Maria Eulalia (ex officio), Ed George (ex officio), Tailen Hsing (ex officio). The Publications Committee is responsible for determining general policy for all publications of the Institute. The Editors of the official journals are ex-officio members.

On March 8, 2016, the Publication Committee had a productive conference call to discuss some issues related to IMS publications and possible solutions. The members in attendance were Christian Genest, Balint Toth, T.N. Sriram, Andrew Nobel, Tailen Hsing, and Xiao-Hua (Andrew) Zhou. Peter Green provided useful suggestions to the Chair before the meeting. The following questions were raised and discussed; and some answers were given.

#1: Public access

- **Question:** Should papers in archive be the final versions? (Content vs. Format)
- **Question:** How to pay for public access:
  .

ANSWER: IMS sends the final pdf of articles to ALL authors (whether they are a IMS member or not). They are given full permission to repost in PubMed, on their own web site or in an institutional repository. This is part of the copyright transfer agreement here:
http://imstat.org/publications/copyrights/copyrightTA.pdf

IMS has always maintained very author friendly policies in this regard so every author can fulfill their NIH (or other national funding agency) obligations.   In addition, an author can pay the publication charges ($950 for an article in the Annals) and have it posted open for everyone on Project Euclid.

#2: Special invited papers

- **Question**: Should IMS create policies or mechanisms in relation to special papers? Or should it be up to the editor's discretion?

ANSWER: There shouldn't be any sort of standard, and it is better to leave the decision to individual editors. But, each Medallion and Named lecturer is encouraged to submit their talks to one of our journals.

#3: IMS receiving reports from editors

- These reports are not standardized, making it hard to compare journal to journal
- **Question:** Should a policy be created to help editors make more detailed reports?
- Interested stats:
  - Review time
    - Put on website bulletin, it will be helpful for authors
  - Publication time
  - Time to acceptance
  - Time to 1st revision
  - Number of papers rejected by editor
  - Number of paper reject by summary
- Use data as a tool to improve profession
- When transitioning from editor to editor, most people try to mimic each other, but there's lots of variations
- Isn't IMS better suited to provide this data? With electronic submission, it's all in their system?
  - The data exists but a matter of extracting
- Let editors know what type of data they should have? What information can publishers provide?
- Editors need to be provided this data, should have to track it themselves
  - Get in touch with publishing agency to make data available to editors
- What is IMS's goal will inform what data is needed

ANSWER: Get in touch with publishing company about the type of data they can make available to editors, and ask IMS executive committee what are their goals with the data

#4: Current publishing company – Mattson

- **Question:** Mattson is a smaller publishing company, should IMS change to a different, larger publishing company?
- Things to consider:
    - With current company, there is more control
    - Larger companies are more focused on profit, there are royalties, but lower quality English journals?
    - IMS already provides high quality journals, do they need a bigger audience?
    - Currently, does IMS make a profit? which authors may want/like?
- **Question:** How to reduce backlog? Should IMS increase frequency?

ANSWER: IMS self publishes its journals. IMS uses a typesetter (Mattson Publishing) and a printer (Sheridan Press). Since IMS self publishes, IMS does not contract with a publishing company, IMS contracts with Mattson Publishing and Sheridan Press for the pieces of publishing.

Each journal publishes on a different schedule and none of them are every 6 months. AOS, AAP, AOP are all published bimonthly, AOAS and Stat Sci are quarterly. All the open access journals are published immediately.

Backlog is not a result of the publishing itself, it is typically a result of either the number of approved papers (if it is quite high, then backlog is longer) or the amount of time a paper is in the review stage.

Xiao-Hua (Andrew) Zhou
Chair, IMS Publication Committee