

Treasurer's Report 2019

Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for the calendar year end 2018. The 2018 fiscal year-end audit report will be published separately in the Fall of 2019 after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2018, the total number of IMS members decreased in 2018. Subscriptions by institutions also decreased this past year. The financial status of the Institute continues to be stable and strong, and actions have been in place 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
- 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

[Affiliated Publications](#)

- Observational Studies
- Probability and Mathematical Statistics

- Stochastic Systems

Membership, Subscription and Sales Data

Membership Data

Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2018 decreased 11% from December 31, 2017. Table 1 presents the membership data back to 2014. The IMS had a peak in paid membership 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:

- 57% United States
- 18% Europe
- 15% 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 2018, 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:

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Applied Probability Society/INFORMS (APS/INFORMS)
- Bernoulli Society (BS)
- Indian Society for Probability and Statistics
- International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA)
- International Statistical Institute/Bernoulli Society (ISI/BS)
- International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA)
- New England Statistical Society (NESS)

Institutional Subscription Data

Table 3 presents comparative subscription data for institutions to each of our scientific journals for 2018 and previous years. Almost all journals experienced subscription decreases in 2018. Overall institutional subscriptions decreased by 3.55%. The decrease to IMS journals, specifically, was 2.41%. We are continuing to see usage of our bundled offerings which are discounted on the whole. Approximately 60% of the institutional subscribers to IMS journals are in USA and Canada, with the remaining subscribers distributed throughout the world.

Book Sales Data

Table 4 presents 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 and are reported in Table 4.

Financial and Audit Report

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. The external audit of the IMS will be completed in August 2019. The full audit report will appear online at <https://www.imstat.org/council-reports-and-minutes/>.

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 and memberships are being felt across the market and are not unexpected. The IMS leadership began planning for these decreases over 14 years ago and has ensured that IMS resources are shored up to protect the long-term stability and growth of the society.

Zhengjun Zhang
Treasurer

**Membership and Subscriber Data
Tables**

TABLE 1: MEMBERSHIP, Calendar Year						
Membership Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change
Regular	1616	1587	1565	1447	1369	-5.39%
Life/Retired Life	516	528	541	563	613	8.88%
Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China	364	376	337	370	331	-10.54%
New Graduate	87	58	113	213	76	-64.32%
Student	1187	1236	1094	1022	828	-18.98%
Total	3770	3785	3650	3615	3217	-11.01%
Total not including free members (students)	2583	2549	2556	2593	2389	-7.87%
TABLE 2: MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year						
<i>Print subscriptions</i>						
Individual Members**	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change
AAP	100	80	68	61	54	-11.48%
AOP	108	97	75	68	57	-16.18%
AOAS	171	141	107	91	87	-4.40%
AOS	284	262	220	208	191	-8.17%
STS	534	464	386	382	387	1.31%
Total Member Print	1,197	1,044	856	810	776	-4.20%
<i>Electronic (free) access</i>						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change
Members setting up individual electronic access to IMS journals	1,234	1,226	1,183	1,144	1,175	2.71%
TABLE 3: INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year						
<i>Paid Subscriptions</i>						
Institutions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change
AAP	600	591	580	558	537	-3.76%
AOP	795	779	769	735	706	-3.95%
AOAS	346	368	349	341	341	0.00%
AOS	985	948	962	929	906	-2.48%
STS	753	717	708	671	666	-0.75%
BULL	102	96	90	75	71	-5.33%
CIS	216	199	182	NA	NA	0.00%
Supported Journal: Bernoulli	292	299	298	303	298	-1.65%
Supported Journal: AIHP	297	305	304	300	289	-3.67%
Supported Journal: BJPS	124	135	135	134	132	-1.49%
Total Institutional Paid	4,510	4,437	4,377	4,046	3,946	-2.47%
Total IMS Journals Only	3,479	3,403	3,368	3,234	3,156	-2.41%
TABLE 4: Sales of IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks						
Volume	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Sales
6 Volumes IMS Monographs	1046	543	4,115	4,214	2,414	14,971
11 Volumes IMS Textbooks	1093	1254	777	630	1,018	6,864
TOTAL	2,139	1,797	4,892	4,844	3,432	21,835

IMS ad hoc committee to propose a code of professional conduct for IMS meetings

Report to Council

Background

The IMS Council passed a motion that the IMS adopt the following statement regarding professional conduct at meetings: “The Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) is a society committed to the freedom of professional expression. The society wishes to foster a productive environment for the exchange of ideas and values participation of all members of the statistical community. The society, therefore, considers it essential that professional conduct is observed at all its functions. Accordingly, all attendees of IMS sponsored and co-sponsored events are expected to show respect and courtesy to other attendees. The society is currently devising specific rules of conduct and institutional mechanisms for enforcement of these rules. In the meantime, IMS members and attendees of IMS functions are advised that the society can and will take steps to guarantee a professional atmosphere and, in particular, will not tolerate harassment in any form.”

The committee was established in March 2018 and was charged to devise specific rules of conduct and to propose the necessary mechanisms for their enforcement.

Overview

While the name of the committee suggests this would apply at IMS meetings, the text in the charge refers to “IMS functions”. It is the view of the committee that the code of professional conduct should apply to all IMS activities, including conferences, workshops, committee meetings, editorial activities, and any other IMS supported functions.

The committee reviewed policies adopted by the US National Academies¹, the American Statistical Association², the International Society for Bayesian Analysis³, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. We also reviewed the NeurIPS 2018⁴ code of conduct, the Google events policy publicized at JSM 2018, and the policies of the American Astronomical Society⁵. The American Astronomical Society held a webinar on May 8, 2018, to describe the policies they have had in place for more than 10 years. Non-discrimination in professional activities is a specific item in their bylaws.

Some organizations recommend having several versions of the code: a very short public statement attached to conference posters and announcements, a one-screen length version for meeting and other web sites, and the full policy available on the society web site with a link to this included in the shorter public versions.

We heard evidence that the NeurIPS 2018 code of conduct was not adequate to the task of handling issues that arose at that meeting, and that the society is developing a more formal code with advice from a lawyer.

We have two documents to present to Council. The first is a proposed Code of Conduct, which is adapted from the US National Academies. The second is a proposed Code of Conduct Procedures describes reporting and resolution, recommends continuing updating of the Codes as we gain experience, and recommends the IMS establish a committee on professional conduct. The Code of Conduct Procedures document is adapted from the International Society for Bayesian Analysis⁶.

¹ http://www.nationalacademies.org/about/NA_186023.html

² <https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Meetings/Meeting-Conduct-Policy.aspx>

³ <https://bayesian.org/governance/code-of-conduct/>

⁴ <https://nips.cc/public/CodeOfConduct>

⁵ <https://aas.org/policies/anti-harassment-policy-aas-division-meetings-activities>

⁶ At NASEM reporting and resolution is the responsibility of their Office of Human Resources.

Institute of Mathematical Statistics Code of Conduct

The society is committed to the principles of diversity, integrity, civility, equal opportunity and respect in all of our activities. All forms of discrimination, harassment, bullying and retaliation are prohibited in any IMS activity. Members and guests are expected maintain a professional and cordial environment in all settings and locations in which IMS work and activities are conducted, including committee meetings, workshops, conferences, and other work and academic functions undertaken on behalf of the IMS.

The purpose of this code is to describe the standard for good conduct expected of IMS members and guests participating in IMS activities. It should be read with the companion document on reporting and resolution (“The IMS Code of Conduct Procedures”).

Definitions

For purposes of interpretation of this Code of Conduct , the IMS has adopted the following definitions, adapted from those published by the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine¹ and the American Astronomical Society.

Discrimination is prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups of people based on their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that interferes with an individual’s participation in IMS work or activities or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Other types of harassment include any verbal or physical conduct directed at individuals or groups of people because of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, that interferes with an individual’s participation in IMS work or activities or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Bullying is unwelcome, aggressive behavior involving the use of influence, threat, intimidation, or coercion to dominate others in the professional environment.

Retaliation refers to taking some action to negatively impact another based on a report of a violation of this Code of Conduct or participation in an investigation of a violation of this Code of Conduct.

¹ http://www.nationalacademies.org/about/NA_186023.html

Reporting and Enforcement

Reporting and enforcement of this Code is governed by the *IMS Code of Conduct Procedures*.

Maintenance of the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is subject to periodic review and amendment, as detailed in the *IMS Code of Conduct Procedures*.

Notes for Council

1. The definition of retaliation is taken from the American Astronomical Society; the NASEM guidelines do not mention retaliation.
2. The ASA does not include definitions of any of the prohibited activities, but instead provides lists of expected, and unacceptable, behavior.
3. The ISBA code of conduct includes an Appendix with detailed discussion of harassment. This Appendix is attached here for information. Council may wish to include it with the Code.

Appendix: Discussion of Harassment (ISBA)

The purpose of this Appendix is to describe harassment in more detail.

Harassing behavior involves actions, words and other conduct that belittle, threaten or disrespect an individual or group of people, or create an intimidating, hostile, abusive or offensive environment. Examples include negative stereotyping; offensive remarks about a person's gender, gender identity or sexual preference (or any other classification mentioned above under Equal Opportunity); sexual harassment (see below); disrespectful, dishonest or bullying comments; display of material that disparages or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group; sustained disruption of presentations; or questions designed to humiliate or embarrass a presenter.

Sexual harassment is a specific type of harassment that involves a person who engages in severe or persistent unwelcome sexually related behavior or makes severe or persistent unwelcome sexual advances towards another person. Examples include sexual propositions or flirtation; sexually related touching, comments, gestures or displays; or, directly or impliedly linking any opportunity with tolerance of or submission to sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, or agreement not to report a harassing action. Although sexual harassment is most commonly perpetrated against a woman by an older and/or more powerful man, it can also be perpetrated against men, people who are older or less powerful than the person, and among peers.

Power-based harassment occurs when there is an inherent power imbalance between senior and junior members of the profession. Senior people should not use age, rank, power or reputation to

adversely influence the behavior of junior people, or adversely affect their career advancement or status. It is acknowledged that people with lower rank or a subordinate position may be reluctant to express their objections or discomfort regarding unwelcome behavior. Therefore, it is incumbent on more senior members of ISBA to practice good professional conduct with junior members of the profession, and to be aware of how their words and actions – and the words and actions of their more senior colleagues – may impact on or be interpreted by their juniors.

Harassment can be intentional or unintentional. Members should seek to change behavior that is perceived, or could be perceived, by others as harassment. Individuals who experience or witness behavior that they perceive to be harassing are encouraged to let the actor know that their behavior is causing discomfort, so they can have an opportunity to change the behavior and remedy the situation if possible.

Harassment is everyone's business. Harassment can have long-lasting negative effects. In ISBA activities and communications (including informal gatherings of members), all members and participants are expected to promote an environment free of harassment and are encouraged to call out harassment if and when they see it or hear about it.

INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS (IMS)

CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES

Overview. The purpose of this document is to establish the procedures that will be followed by IMS in the event of a report of a violation of the IMS Code of Conduct.

The IMS expects all members to work proactively to promote good professional conduct, prevent violations of the IMS Code of Conduct and to help each other to resolve violations if they occur. Minor concerns that do not rise to the level of a violation of the Code can often be resolved by discussion. If the affected member is not able or does not feel empowered to do this, they are encouraged to seek help from a trusted colleague or the activity organizer, or report the incident to the IMS as described below. If a violation cannot be resolved immediately or satisfactorily, it should be reported in accordance with the procedures described below.

1. Professional Conduct Committee. A designated IMS Professional Conduct Committee (“Committee”) will be responsible for administering the Code of Conduct, handling reports of violations, and managing the review of any reported conduct and recommended actions.

The Professional Conduct Committee will be composed as per IMS Bylaws. Members will serve a five-year term, with one new person appointed per year by the Past President and approved by the IMS Board. The President and Past President will be ex-officio members. The Committee will be chaired by the Past President.

Reported violations of the Code of Conduct will be brought to the Committee in the first instance for consideration.¹

Real or perceived conflicts of interest between any Committee member and the alleged offender will be declared to the Committee Chair. Persons who are involved in a case may also raise with the Chair any concerns about conflict of interest of any Committee member. The Chair will deal with these reported conflicts on a case by case basis.²

The Committee will determine the circumstances under which a reported violation of the Code is reviewed, including whether a conduct review process will be conducted internally by the Committee or by engagement of a third party, typically an attorney or professional consultant with experience in conducting such reviews.³

The third party will provide findings to the Committee for decision on the outcome by the Committee or referral by the Committee to the IMS Council for decision, as provided below.

2. Reporting a Violation. Anyone who experiences, observes, or has knowledge of a violation of the IMS Code of Conduct may bring it to the attention of a member of the Professional Conduct Committee. If warranted, it should also be reported to other relevant authorities, such as a conference or workshop organizer,⁴ an employer or the Police.

¹ If it is considered necessary, an application can be made to the IMS President to raise any issues directly with a relevant third party rather than going through the Committee.

² If the conflict of interest is with the Chair, then another member of the Committee will be nominated to make a determination and, if necessary, take over the role of Committee Chair for that case.

³ Such appointments will be approved by the IMS President prior to engagement by the Committee.

⁴ Conferences co-sponsored with other organizations may have a policy in place for reporting incidents that occur during the conference.

If a report is made to the Committee, the person will be invited to discuss their concern with the Committee, explore possible avenues for resolving the issue and, if appropriate, make a formal Conduct Statement ("Statement") to the Committee.

It is acknowledged that a person may find it difficult to discuss a concern or make a Statement, in which case they are encouraged to seek the help of a trusted friend and/or seek professional help from their workplace or university, trained counsellor, or another source.

3. Conduct Review Process. All Statements received by the Committee will be reviewed by the Committee and, if deemed appropriate, by an external third party as described above. Concerns may be reviewed without a Statement when the concerns involve troubling behaviour that is not targeted towards any specific individual and/or may impact more than the person who raised it. Where appropriate, advice of a third party as described above may be sought. The timing, scope, and actions to be taken in each conduct review process will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

The Committee will provide notice to any members who may be contacted as part of a conduct review to let them know that a conduct review has commenced and that their participation is requested, and will provide information regarding the nature of their requested participation and any related timing. Notices will be sent using contact details available to the IMS. While every effort will be made to ensure the notice is delivered, it is acknowledged that it is the prerogative of members to respond to these notices; hence the conduct of a review is not contingent on response or consent from all parties.

Participants in an investigation may be asked to keep information shared by them or with them confidential and not share it outside the context of the investigation, unless disclosure is necessary for a report to a law enforcement agency or required by law, subpoena or court order.

The Committee will inform other members regarding the conduct review on a need-to-know basis, and will take such other interim measures as the Committee deems appropriate under the circumstances, such as asking or requiring alleged offenders to abstain from participating in certain or all IMS activities until the conduct review process has concluded.

Where warranted, conduct reviews will include but not be limited to interviews with the reporting party, other involved parties and material witnesses and review of relevant documents and other information. Any party interested in a conduct review may submit to the Committee (or the third party when applicable) any information, materials or tangible evidence that he/she believes to be relevant, including without limitation names of potential witnesses documents, digital media, tangible things and other evidence; character references; and, mitigating factors. It must be acknowledged that the extent of a review is limited by access to relevant information, the quality and quantity of information obtained, the financial resources of the Institute, privacy, Committee members' time and other constraints.

Conduct reviews will be conducted with professionalism and fairness to all parties, and any mitigating or aggravating factors that are brought to the attention of the reviewer(s) will be considered. Mitigating factors may include without limitation: consent by the receiving party, severity of the offense, the extent of harm caused or that could have been caused, discrepancies in evidence, length of time since the offense, history before or after the offense, acceptance of responsibility and commitment to change unacceptable behavior, and character references. Aggravating factors may include without limitation the foregoing factors, as well as the circumstances of any prior offense(s).

It is a violation of the Code for any person to retaliate in any way against a person for making a good faith Statement or participating in a conduct review or decision-making under the Code.

A conduct review, whether conducted internally by the Committee or externally by a third party, will conclude with a written Conduct Review Summary which will comprise the Statement, activities undertaken during the conduct review, evidence and findings of fact, any relevant witness credibility and mitigation factors, and a recommended outcome with supporting justification.

4. Decision-making Process. Following a review via the process(es) outlined above, a report will be provided to the IMS Executive⁵, who will recommend a course of action to the IMS Council, who will make a decision on the outcome of the Review. Further information, including legal counsel, may also be sought before a decision is made.

In all cases, the IMS reserves the right to report conduct to any applicable law enforcement agency, event staff or other authorities.

5. Potential Outcomes of a Review. Possible outcomes of a conduct review may include (i) no action, (ii) further investigation by a third party, (iii) informal mediation, (iv) temporary or permanent suspension of eligibility for certain IMS benefits including revocation of past honors, membership, and involvement in specific IMS activities, and (iv) referral to the police, university, workplace or other relevant authority.

Even in the case where the outcome is no action, all information about completed cases will be held by an attorney for the IMS for reasons of privacy and confidentiality, for at least six (6) years.

Information held by the Attorney about past cases will only be able to be accessed by the Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee or the IMS President, unless otherwise decided by the Council.

6. Appeal Process. A person may appeal against an Action taken against them by the Council. An appeal must be in the form of a written document with supporting material if warranted. An appeal will be brought to the Committee for consideration.

7. Communication of Decisions. The decision of the IMS and any details related to a conduct review will be promptly communicated to the parties involved in the conduct at issue, on a need to know basis taking into account legal and other considerations, the professional and personal implications for all parties involved, and the purpose of the Code of Conduct. At a minimum, the IMS will inform the reporting party, and potential offenders if they were contacted, that the case has been completed. The IMS reserves the right in its sole discretion to make an announcement at any time to its members or to the public regarding a conduct review and/or outcome of any matter reported pursuant to this Code of Conduct, upon a determination by the Council that it is in the best interest of the Society to do so. Notices will be emailed using contact details available to the IMS.

8. Revision of the Code of Conduct documents. The Committee will conduct an annual review of the Code of Conduct, these Procedures and associated documents.

⁵ If the IMS Executive is involved in the conduct under review, then the report will be provided to the IMS President, who will recommend a course of action to the IMS Council.

Nice and Berlin, June 18, 2019

Editors-in-Chief:

F. Delarue, P. Friz (2019-01-01), previous editor: B. Toth

Board (as of June 18, 2019):

There is a total of 32 members, including 5 female colleagues. 11 People are have been invited (and agreed) to serve a second (3-years) term, and we have appointed 21 new board members (**below in bold**).

(For comparison, in June 2018, the board had 31 members.)

[Pauline Barrieu](#)
[Mathias Beiglboeck](#)
[Nathanael Berestycki](#)
[Anup Biswas](#)

[Ajay Jasra](#)
[Arnulf Jentzen](#)
[Claudia Klüppelberg](#)
[Gabor Lugosi](#)

[Jochen Blath](#)
[Charles Bordenave](#)
[Francesco Caravenna](#)
[Dan Crisan](#)

[James Martin](#)
[Johannes Muhle-Karbe](#)
[Ashkan Nikeghbali](#)
[Sandrine Peché](#)

[Jean-Dominique Deuschel](#)
[Jian Ding](#)
[Ayalvadi Ganesh](#)
[Stefan Gerhold](#)

[Nicolas Perkowski](#)
[Miklos Rásonyi](#)
[Mathieu Rosenbaum](#)
[Mykhaylo Shkolnikov](#)

[Emmanuel Gobet](#)
[Patrícia Gonçalves](#)
[Massimiliano Gubinelli](#)
[Ben Hambly](#)

[Jan Swart](#)
[Pierre Tarres](#)
[Amandine Veber](#)
[Nikolaos Zygouras](#)

This editorial team tried actively to recruit female board members and also made a conscious choice to involve outstanding people in the early-mid stage of their career. We are particularly pleased to have two recent Rollo Davidson Prize winners, Jian Ding (2017) and Nicolas Perkowski (2018).

Remarks on present policies (as of June 18, 2019):

The objective of the new editorial team is to maintain the high quality of the publications and of the reviewing process. In this regard, the previous editor-in-chief, Balint Toth, did an incredible job to return decisions to authors within reasonable times. Of course, we want to do the same. In order to speed-up the reviewing process, we require, for a certain number of submissions, quick opinions from experts in the field before we decide to assign an associate editor. When quick opinions on a submission are clearly negative, we reject outright: Authors then get a negative feedback, but in short time (usually less than 1 month); this inflicts little harm. When quick opinions are more positive, the submission is handled by a member of the board for a deeper review.

We have received a significant proportion of longer submissions (more than 50 pages). As required by the members of the board, we clarified our policy: While we do not cap the number of pages, we strongly encourage (see the webpage of the journal) authors to optimize the presentation of their works. We also allow authors to place part of their work as supplementary material, but we insist on the fact that this should only concern standard material and variations thereof that the experienced reader would typically skim over. We also ask authors to make supplementary material easily accessible if the paper is accepted. In any case, acceptance of a long paper requires a significant breakthrough.

We also received a few papers that contain results recently published, accepted or submitted to conference proceedings. Our policy is that they may be considered only if the submission has significant merit compared to the conference version (generally speaking, AAP is not interested in publishing technical material that is closely related to results elsewhere available by one or more of the authors). We will clarify this fact on the website of the journal soon. Then, we will require authors to clearly communicate the status of the conference version (if any) at submission state.

Technical remarks (EJMS):

EJMS website is really good, but we may think of small improvements that might be useful for an editorial team with two co-editor chiefs. For instance:

- With the current version, only one editor in chief can receive withdrawal requests;
- Each EiC has its own queue of submissions. Once a submission is handled by one of the two EiC, it disappears from the queue of the other EiC. In particular, if the two EiC want to share opinions on a submission, they have to maintain it in the queue of “new submissions”. In the latter case, the status of the submission remains unchanged as long as the two EiC want to share it. This may be a source of misunderstanding for authors.
- It seems that the option “Begin Evaluation” is not available as long as the paper is in the queue “new submission”. It would be easier for us if this option was available: We could use it at the early stage when the both of us share a submission.

AAP Boarding Meeting, Nice 2019

We will organize a board meeting in Nice on September 26 and 27. We asked IMS support to organize a dinner on September 26.

2018 Submission statistics

This editorial team took office in 2019-01-01. The following statistics thus reflect on the fine work carried out by the previous editor of AAP, Balint Toth. Using the [2018 data](#) provided to us by mattsonpublishing we extracted the following:

Status of papers submitted between 2018-01-01 -- 2018-12-31, as of June 18, 2019:

	Number of submissions (2018)
Submitted	440
Without final decision	67
Assigned to AEs (still in 1st round)	27
Awaiting revision	20
Revised (in 2 or 3 round)	20
Accepted	57 (OK)
Rejected	266 (checked, OK)
Rejected with resubmission	32 (checked, OK)
Withdrawn	18 (checked, OK)

Rejection rate: $(266+32)/440 \sim 67\%$

For comparison, the 2017 data are given right below:

Status of papers submitted between 2017-01-01 -- 2017-12-31, on June 1, 2018:

	Number of submissions
Submitted	405
In review	61
Assigned to AEs (still in 1 st round)	24
Awaiting revision	17
Revised (in 2 nd or 3 rd round)	20
Accepted	44
Rejected	249
Rejected with resubmission	31
Withdrawn	20

The rejection rate was: $(249+31)/405 \sim 69\%$

2019 Submission statistics

Status of papers submitted between 2019-01-01 -- 2019-06-15

	Number of submissions (2019) -- till 06-15
Submitted	166
Without final decision	87
Assigned to AEs	77
Assigned to referees (without AE)	6
Awaiting revision	1
Awaiting decision	3
Accepted	0
Rejected	66
Rejected with resubmission	6
Withdrawn	7

Rejection rate: Too early to tell.

ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR Calendar Year 2018

Karen Kafadar, Editor-In-Chief

DRAFT July 9, 2019 DRAFT

2018 marked the twelfth full year of operation for the *Annals of Applied Statistics* (AOAS) and Tilmann Gneiting’s third year as Editor-In-Chief. On January 8, 2019, I became AOAS’s fourth Editor-in-Chief, having followed three exceptional predecessors from whom I learned much. Tilmann was a fantastic role model, and he has been especially helpful during this transition, for which I am extremely grateful.

As of today, the list of AOAS Editors is:

Karen Kafadar	Editor-In-Chief
Edoardo Airoldi	Editor for Computational Biology and Machine Learning
Beth Ann Griffin	Editor for Social Sciences, Biostatistics and Policy
Leonhard Held	Editor for Epidemiology and Clinical Science
Jeffrey Morris	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 2018 we received 510 submissions, close to the numbers for the past two years (551 in 2017, 564 in 2016), between 33 and 52 new submissions per month. Tilmann’s punctual “Level-0” decisions (E-i-C decisions) did much to reduce the time in review, as did “Level-1” decisions (Area Editor only without further review). Despite the high numbers of submissions, our concerted efforts to reduce the time in the review process have been successful. Specifically, 53.1% of the 2018 submissions received a first editorial response within two weeks, 57.1% within a month, 75.0% within three months, and 91.8% within six months:

Table 1: Review Time to Initial Decision

Days to First Decision	≤ 7	8–30	31–90	91–180	≥ 181	Total
2014	163 35%	30 6%	102 22%	107 23%	60 13%	462
2015	196 39%	30 6%	95 19%	141 28%	35 7%	497
2016	236 42%	72 13%	106 19%	130 23%	20 4%	564
2017	284 52%	59 11%	107 19%	84 15%	17 3%	551
2018	284 41%	59 16%	107 18%	84 13%	17 8%	510

Our acceptance rate has stabilized at about 20%. Since its inception, AOAS has accepted 21.2% of its 5700 submissions; 71.3% have been rejected, rejected with re-submission, or withdrawn. Roughly half of the submissions are returned to the authors by the Editor-In-Chief. As a submission proceeds to peer review, the Area Editors oversee the manuscript review, aided by an outstanding board of Associate Editors. The yearly totals of submitted and accepted papers and impact factors since 2007 are as follows:

Table 2: AOAS Submissions and Impact Factor by Year

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. Submissions	286	274	352	418	468	472	494	462	497	564	551	510
No. Accepted	96 34%	98 36%	121 34%	109 26%	96 21%	90 19%	111 22%	102 22%	86 17%	117 21%	70 13%	63 12%
No. Active						1 0%	1 0%	3 1%	7 1%	6 1%	12 2%	
Impact Factor		2.45	2.57	1.75	1.58	2.24	1.68	1.46	1.43	1.58	1.55	
5 Yr. Imp. Factor		2.48	2.58	2.44	2.55	2.90	2.44	2.31	2.16	2.27	2.26	

I remain grateful to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their continuously outstanding support of our daily operations.



Elyse Gustafson <imstat@gmail.com>

2019 Editorial Report for the AOP (2018 submissions & 2019 backlog).

1 message

Amir Dembo <adembo@stanford.edu>
To: Elyse Gustafson <erg@imstat.org>
Cc: Amir Dembo <adembo@stanford.edu>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 10:46 AM

Annals of Probability: Editor's report

Prepared by Amir Dembo

In the period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, the Annals of Probability received 327 submissions. As of June 25, 2019, of these submissions -- 221 have been rejected, 45 accepted and 10 withdrawn. Estimating a 60% acceptance rate for the 51 submissions still under review, we anticipate an overall acceptance rate of about 23%.

The Annals of Probability published 3615 pages in 2018. For 2019 the IMS Council approved an increase to 4200 pages. As of June 25, 2019, there are 3984 pages in accepted papers waiting for publication, indicating a backlog of about 11 month.

As reported by Maria Eulalia Vares (the Annals of Probability previous editor), the recent increase in page count and backlog is mostly due to an abrupt increase in the number of very long papers. To minimize this effect we encourage the use of supplemental material for long articles and aim at gradually reducing the journal's acceptance rate down to 20%.

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The Annals of Statistics, 2018 Annual Report

Richard J. Samworth and Ming Yuan, Editors

SUBMISSIONS: We received 637 submissions in 2018. This rate is not too far off the historical high of 718 achieved in 2016. For comparisons, the number of submission in the years of 2008–2017 were, respectively, 490, 505, 532, 502, 555, 607, 697, 694, 718 and 686. Of the 637 submissions, 8 were withdrawn before or during review. In addition, we handled 126 requests for revision. Our editorial policy continues to emphasise 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.

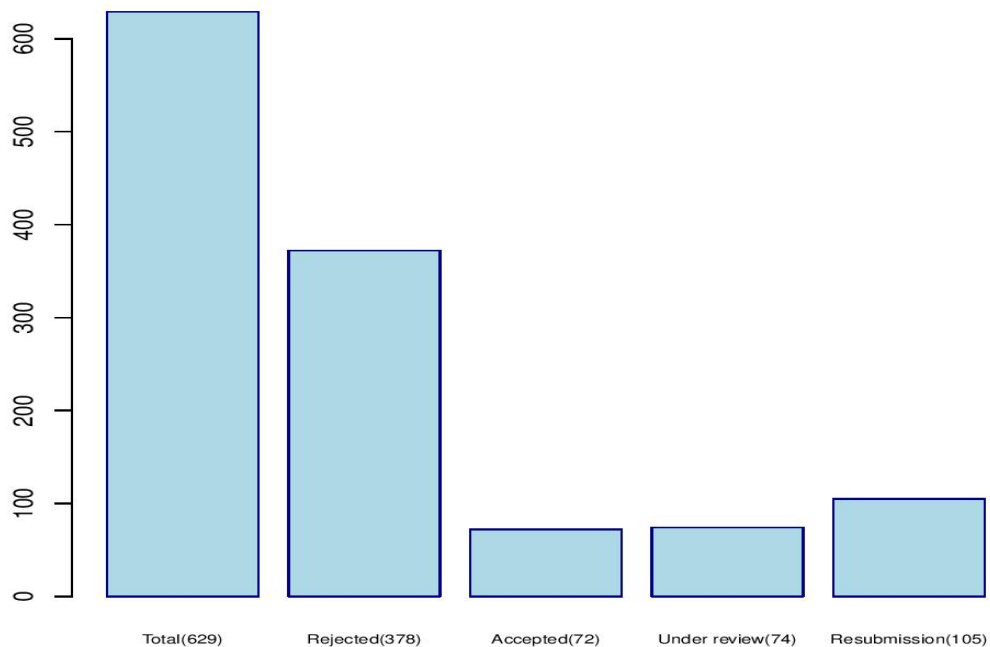


Figure 1: *Submissions in 2018*

ACCEPTANCE RATE: For papers submitted during 2018, we have to date (June 2018) accepted 72, rejected 378, and rejected 105 with the possibility to resubmit. Currently, 74 submissions are still under review or revision. The acceptance rate is 11.44%, which is comparable to the acceptance rates in the past few years (10.16% in 2017, 10.82% in 2016, 13.12% in 2015, 10.33% in 2014, 11.70% in 2013) described in the AOS annual reports. Note that, since some papers are still under review, this is not the final acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2018.

BACKLOG AND PAGE REQUEST: During 2018, we printed 3866 pages (2763 pages in 2017, 2779 pages in 2016, 2794 pages in 2015, 2585 pages in 2014, 3110 pages in 2013). Currently, we have a substantial backlog of papers to be published, which we suspect is caused by the spike in number of submissions in the past few years. As of now we have roughly 4000 pages in

proofs, which amounts to around 9 issues if we stay at 450 pages an issue. We would like to request an allotment of 4800 pages for 2019 to clear a significant proportion of the backlog.

REVIEW TIMES: The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2018 are 14 days, 99 days and 160 days. The corresponding quartiles from 2017 were 8 days, 103 days and 178 days, and in 2016 were 9 days, 86 days and 175 days. The details of the review times are summarised in Figures 2 and 3, which provide for submissions in 2018 estimated survival curves for initial and second decision times respectively.

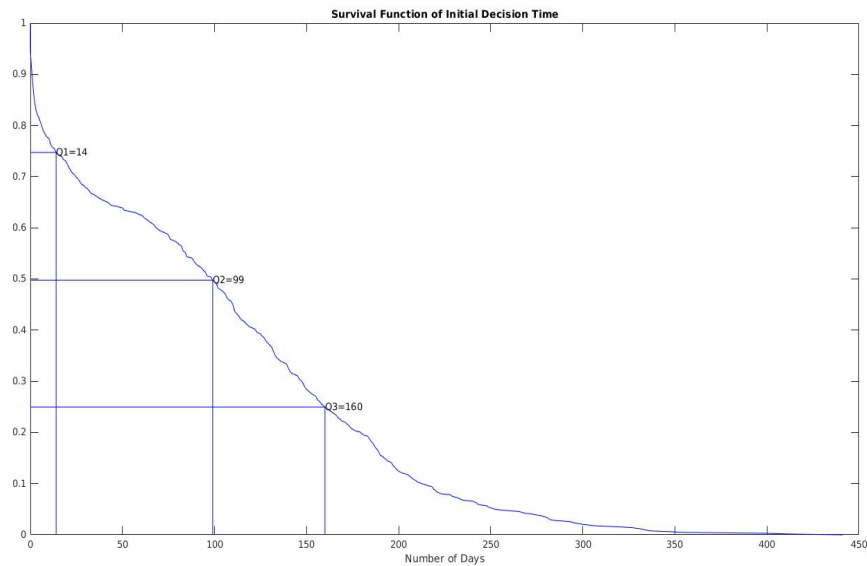


Figure 2: *Survival Function of Initial Decision Time*

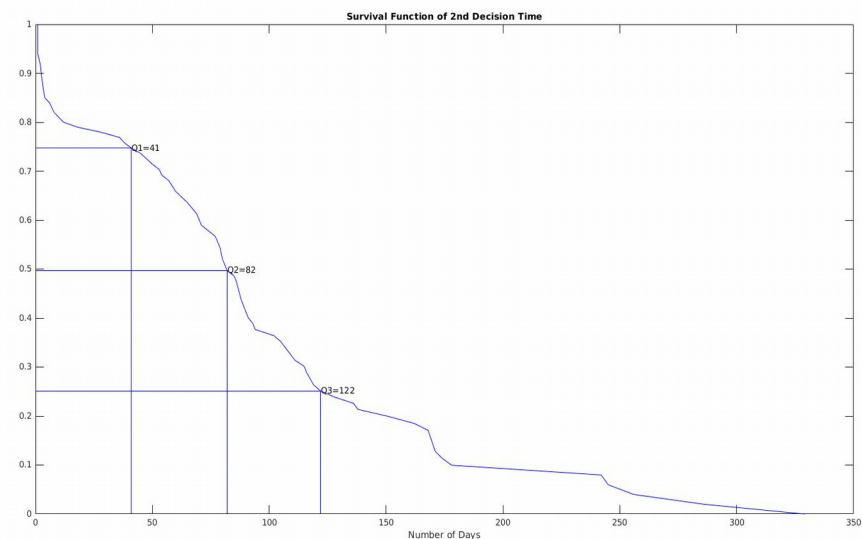


Figure 3: *Survival Function of 2nd Decision Time*

IMS Bulletin Report to Council 2019

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.

It's been just over a year since Council approved that the Managing Editor (T.N. Sriram, until the end of 2019) would have general oversight of the *Bulletin's* production. IMS members have recently voted to accept the amendment to the IMS Constitution, such that the *Bulletin* Editor is no longer required to be an officer of the IMS, and Tati Howell (London, UK) is now appointed as *IMS Bulletin* Editor.

The Contributing Editors are currently: Anirban DasGupta, Yoram Gat, David Hand, Takis Konstantopoulos, Xiao-Li Meng, Regina Nuzzo, Dimitris Politis, Kavita Ramanan and Terry Speed. A few of them write regular columns, others contribute more occasionally. We are grateful to them all.

In the past year, we have published obituaries for: P.K. Bhattacharya, George Cave, Frank Hampel, Kimiko Bowman, Harry Kesten, and Joan Rosenblatt. We're preparing obituaries for Joel Zinn and David Hinkley. We have been unable so far to source an obituary for Martin Orr, so if any council members have a suggestion on that, please get in touch. Please also get in touch if you hear of the death of an IMS member or Fellow, so we can arrange for an obituary to be written. You can read all our published obituaries since June 2011 on the *Bulletin's* website at <http://bulletin.imstat.org/category/obituary/>.

Anirban DasGupta's Student Puzzle Corner continues, with a few students engaging, sometimes repeatedly. We still publish lists of recent papers, rotating around IMS core, co-sponsored and supported journals (including electronic journals).

About three-quarters of IMS members receive the printed *Bulletins* in the mail (2362, plus 71 institutions); the rest opt for the electronic PDF/html version only. The *Bulletin's* website, <http://bulletin.imstat.org>, is maintained by Tati, who uploads the news items and articles from each issue, just after it has gone to the printers (hence, a couple of weeks before the print copies are mailed out). At the time of writing there are 854 articles posted (112 in the past year), which collectively have received 219 comments (we welcome more!). There has been a massive increase in the number of spam comments: about 225,000 in the past year. We have installed more anti-spam protection (reCaptcha as well as Akismet), which should help to protect the site. Google Analytics reports about 23,000 "sessions" by 19,000 users in the past year, about 12% more users than the previous year. 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 a Twitter account, @InstMathStat, where new issue releases, and some news items, are tweeted.

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 about an article on bulletin.imstat.org.

Tati Howell, June 2019

ECP annual report (January 1st 2018 – December 31st 2018)

Giambattista Giacomini

Editorial board

Beatrice Acciaio, Omer Angel, Anne-Laure Basdevant (*since September 2018*), Vincent Beffara, Nathanaël Berestycki, Djalil Chafaï, Paolo Dai Pra, Alessandra Faggionato, Patrik Ferrari, Peter Friz, Giambattista Giacomini (*Chief Editor ECP*), Patricia Gonçalves, Maria Gordina, Bénédicte Haas, Antti Knowles, Andreas Kyprianou (*Chief Editor EJP*), Hubert Lacoin, Claudio Landim, Guenter Last, Xue-Mei Li, Gabor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Firas Rassoul-Agha, Victor Rivero, Silke Rolles, Rongfeng Sun, Samy Tindel

General comments

Standard of quality. It is of course impossible to define which papers should make it into ECP and which should not (aside for the correctness issue). And some of the AE's explicitly use the comparison with well respected probability journals, applying explicitly the rule that ECP should be at least at that level or better. My impression is that these criteria are applied in a rather homogeneous way through the board, even by people who do not mention explicitly these comparisons. And overall I am definitely satisfied with the standard of quality we apply. We have of course to pay very much attention with the times of the refereeing procedure and I believe that this can be improved (see comments in the subsection "numerical data and related considerations" below).

About the 12 page limit. The 12 page limit is strictly enforced on the first submission, with the minor difficulty that people submit using very disparate latex formats. I have a rule of thumb based on number of characters, number of lines and formulas: in three borderline cases I used reject and resubmit and asked the authors to use the ECP format. For most of the papers that I rejected because of the length I proposed the authors to try the ECP format, and in a couple of cases the papers came back with 12 ECP pages (with the comment that some secondary results or parts had been taken off too). What helps in this procedure is that the ECP format is very dense and I know essentially of no standard latex format that becomes longer in ECP format.

Working load and evolution of the board. The load is lighter than for EJP. Nevertheless the submissions concentrate on certain topics and there is a substantial disparity of working load among the various AE. About one third of the people on the board have received and treated 9-12 papers (including myself), but four AE received 4 papers or less. In particular, at ECP the submissions in the field of Interacting Particle Systems (except Mean Field), Stochastic PDEs and Random Matrices related to Statistical Mechanics are quite limited. The new entries to the board, Anne-Laure Basdevant that is already part of it and Christina Goldschmidt who starts on the 1st of January 2019, have been chosen in order to reinforce the board in the directions that are highly demanded. Of course this has been done in agreement with Andreas.

Submissions by AE's. Some of you have submitted papers to ECP or EJP. On the other hand, I know that others (including Andreas and myself) have a strict policy of not submitting to journal where they are (A or C) editors. We have decided to accept these submissions, informing that a more severe review procedure would have been used. The aim is: if a paper of an AE appears, it is among the best papers we publish. At ECP this year, four papers with an AE among the authors have been submitted (one accepted, two rejected, one in review).

Numerical Data and related considerations

274 submissions of which:

56 accepted

137 rejected

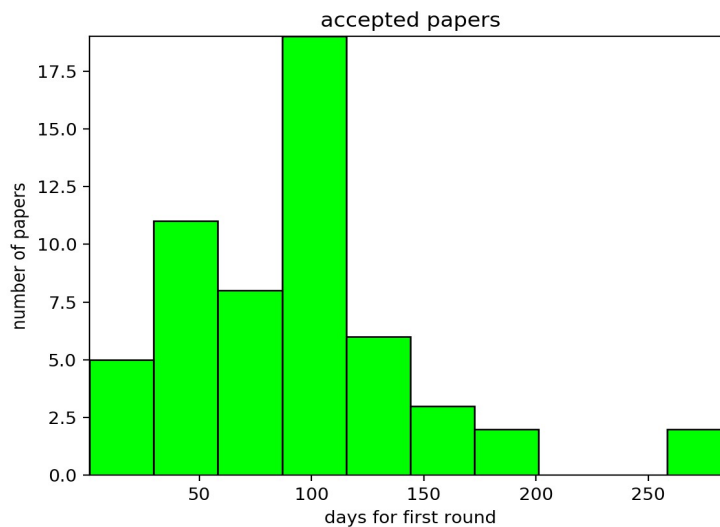
10 rejected with resubmission (most of them came back)

9 awaiting revision

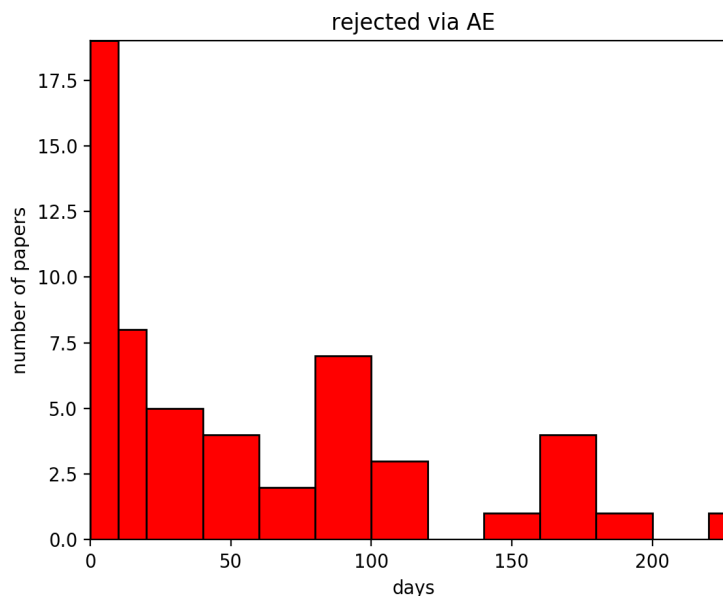
7 withdrawn

55 are in review

For the 56 accepted papers only the time for the first answer (i.e. the first round) is given: it is the only one that I find meaningful. Very often the authors revise the paper quickly, but not always (in some cases: not at all), and the second round is much faster, even in case of major revision. Median is 90 and mean is 93 days: the mean is affected by the two outliers you see on the graph. It would be nice if we could push the column centered on 100 to 90 or so.



I have rejected directly, mostly within a few days, 82 of the 137 rejected papers. 55 out of the 137 rejected papers have been assigned to an AE (in a few cases with an a priori negative or non positive remark, these are the cases in which I needed to be comforted in a direct reject choice). The mean is of 52 days and median of 22 days for the 55 papers assigned to AE and rejected: here is the histogram.



Roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the papers that have been fully treated received a “definitive” answer in 90 days or less. By “definitive” I mean that I include the papers that received a first answer round in 90 days or less and the paper has been eventually accepted (again, the delays after the first round are mostly not due to the board and they are often negligible). The figures for rejected papers are much “better”, in the sense that the response is quicker (less than a month for at least 110 submissions, +10 if we include the rejected with resubmission). While the quality should remain the main concern, speed of answer and publication is one of ECP assets and there are margin of improvement in this direction, above all in reducing “dead times”.

Giambattista Giacomini
January 1st 2019

EJP report June 2018

Editorial changes

Since the last report, there have been two minor editorial changes. By agreement with Giambattista, we felt that certain areas were not suitably covered relative to the incoming material. These included stochastic processes with jumps and combinatorial/discrete probabilistic structures (in particular the sphere of theory generally cited as surrounding the theory of Lévy processes, random walks, fragmentation, coalescence, combinatorial stochastic processes and related stochastic geometric structures).

To this end, Anne-Laure Basdevant (Paris Nanterre) and Christina Goldschmidt (Oxford) were invited to join the editorial board from August 2018 and January 2019, respectively. The current configuration of the editorial board is thus:

Editors-in-Chief	Giambattista Giacomin (ECP)	Andreas Kyprianou (EJP)	2
Associate Editors (ECP & EJP)	Beatrice Acciaio	Bénédicte Haas	
	Omer Angel	Antti Knowles	
	Anne-Laure Basdevant	Hubert Lacoïn	
	Vincent Beffara	Claudio Landim	
	Nathanael Berestycki	Guenter Last	
	Djalil Chafaï	Xue-Mei Li	
	Paolo Dai Pra	Gábor Pete	
	Alessandra Faggionato	Peter Pfaffelhuber	
	Patrik Ferrari	Firas Rassoul-Agha	
	Peter Friz	Victor Rivero	
	Christina Goldschmidt	Silke Rolles	
	Patricia Goncalves	Rongfeng Sun	
	Maria Gordina	Samy Tindel	
			26
Total			28

Accordingly, we have thus achieved our goal of an approximate gender balanced inclusion of *new* editorial members. The overall gender balance lies at 32% (F) to 68% (M) or, by way of head count, 9 (F) to 19 (M).

Workload distribution

Although the temporal distribution of workload may not feel uniform to individual AEs, I make an effort to spread the volume of incoming material evenly across the editorial board, taking note of current loads. Whilst I try to mitigate this as much as possible, it would be unfair to say that all editors receive approximately the same load over the long term. Some areas are naturally more populous than others. Stochastic analysis in particular is very heavily represented and this puts an additional burden on three of our AEs. Generally speaking, once an AE is carrying 10 articles at once, I will completely avoid assigning them any further papers. The histogram in Figure 1 gives the distribution of articles among 26 AEs since 1st January 2018 (remembering two AEs joined later and one was on maternity leave for the first six months of 2018).

I also make a point of handling papers myself in the context that they are selected for further review, and the data suggests I have been taking on around two to three times the number of handled by an average AE.

Quality of material solicited and published

It was brought to my attention that the standard invitation email to referees indicates that:

"EJP aims to publish articles of the highest caliber in probability theory, on par with AOP and PTRF".

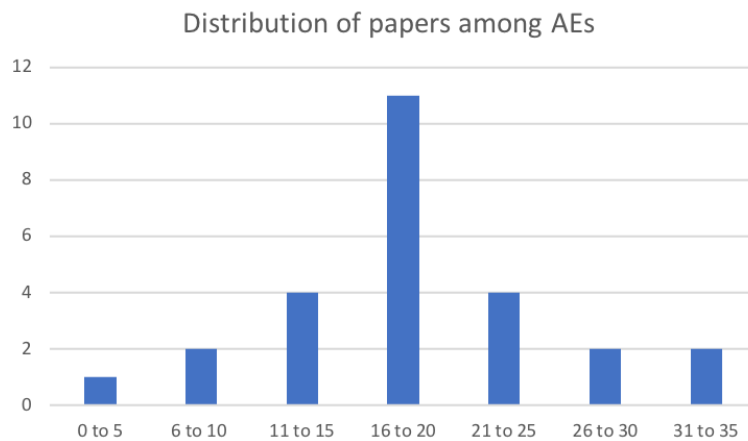


Figure 1: 1st January 2018 - present

With regard to this sentence in particular, there has been feedback from some referees, which can be summarised as saying that: ‘it was not clear that the probabilistic community had always understood EJP to have held this position’. It is unclear to me when this text was introduced and to what degree of consensus was obtained before including it in the standard outgoing email to referees.

I feel reasonably comfortable with inclusion of the above sentence, but on account of the fact that it attracted some attention, I have taken some time to discuss the matter with senior colleagues as well as some, but not all, of the editorial board. Whilst I only have anecdotal evidence and informal opinions, my judgement is that this sentence should remain in the outgoing email to referees as it does not seem to be doing any harm to the journal, nor does it appear to be interfering with the volume of material published. Moreover, there is a prevalent argument that, with the rapid expansion of the number of publishing mathematicians who identify as probabilists in the last 20-30 years, it is inevitable that a journal like EJP can and should be more selective.

In light of the above discussion, it is also worth asking whether the EJP really does succeed in publishing articles ‘*on a par with AOP and PTRF*’. I would say this is an overestimation of reality, least of all as there is strong evidence that EJP is the next port of call for papers that have been rejected by AOP, PTRF and CMP (this can be seen by the style files that authors send their work in as well as the number of authors that now forward their referee reports from those journals or are open about being previously rejected from these journals in the submission comments).

Data

The cumulative data as of 1st June 2019 (since my tenure began on 1st January 2018) appear as follows:

In review	210
Accepted	97
Rejected	270
Rejected with resubmission	19
Withdrawn	5
Total submitted	601

Based on the data above, excluding the papers that are in review, we thus see an acceptance rate of around 25%. Brian Rider’s 2017 report indicated he had an acceptance rate of just under 30%. Noting that there is an element of fluctuation in this data, and that the 210 in review could easily perturb the 25% calculation, it seems fair to say that the new editorial board is being as selective as in the past, if not slightly more stringent.

Next we look at the distribution of the number of days until the first decision is made, from those papers

that we have that data for (426). See Figure 2. This could be ‘Reject’, ‘Reject with resubmission’, ‘Major revision’, ‘Minor revision’ or (rarely) ‘Accept’. There are 83 papers drifting over the 180 day threshold (around 19%) and 18 papers which exceeded the 270 days threshold (around 4%).

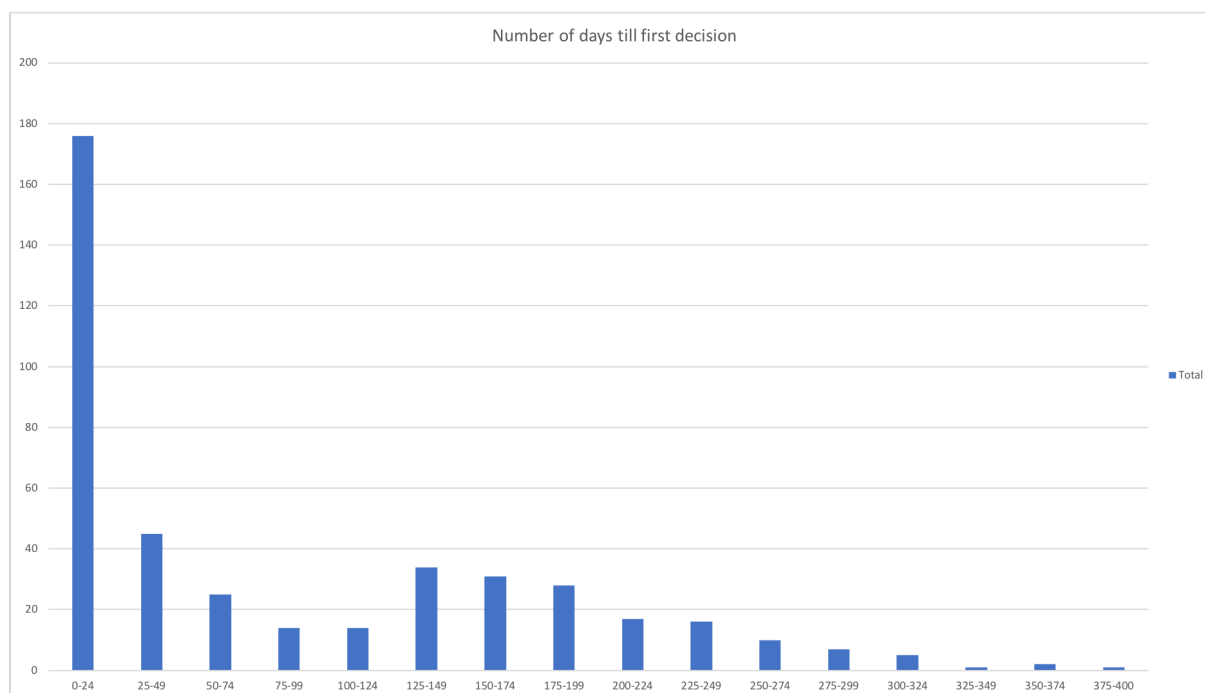


Figure 2: 1st January 2018 - present

We can additionally focus on the time it takes for rejections to occur from the 287 papers that were rejected from 1st January 2018 to date. See Figure 3. Here we see that 95 exceeded 30 days (approx 33%), 61 exceeded 60 days (approx 21%) and 49 exceeding 90 days (approx 17%).

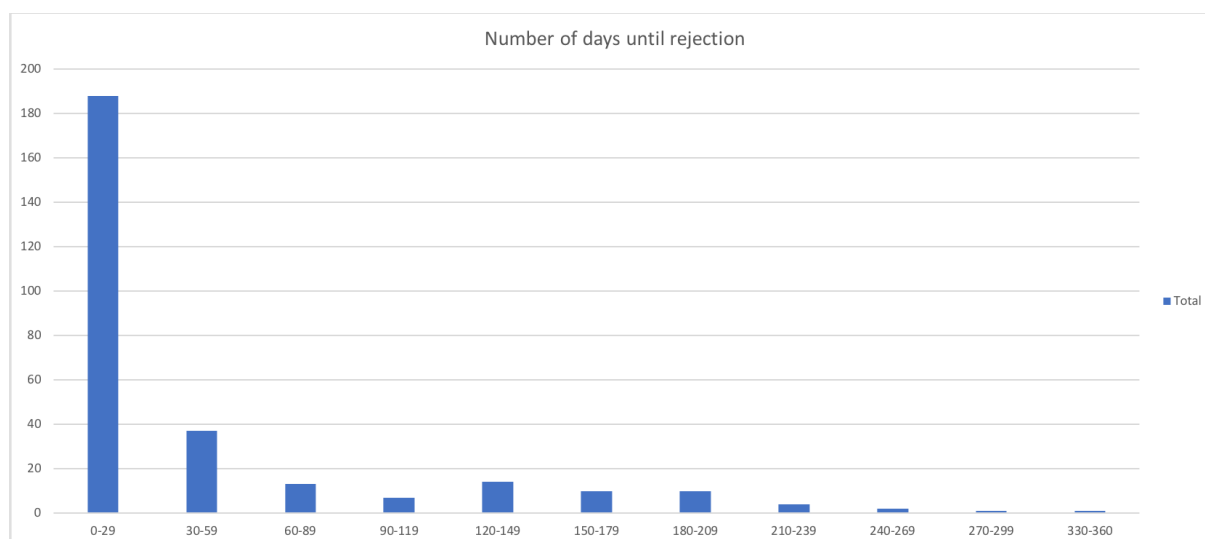


Figure 3: 1st January 2018 - present

In both cases, there is a long tail to the distribution of time to first response and time to rejection (among the cohort of rejected paper in the latter case). This is not inconsistent with other journals and is symptomatic of the large volume of material that is now presented for review across all probability journals coupled with the phenomenon of ‘referee fatigue’, which leads to a refusal to referee or diminished responsibility to deliver on time.

Mitigating the long tail on processing time

Aside from the obvious technique of periodically sweeping through material that has not yet had its first decision¹ (and encouraging the AEs to do so) I have introduced a method for continued communication with corresponding authors when they bring to my attention that they have been in the system for over six months:

- I contact the handing AE and discuss the status and expected time line (which could be me).
- In some cases this produces a specific date by which things will be done, in others it produces a commitment of “soon” (which may or may not be honoured).
- Once communication with the AE/referees is concluded, I will then write back to the author and communicate the actions taken and map out a projected time line. Depending on this time line, I will invite the author to write back to me (if there has been no news) after somewhere between 2 and 4 weeks. In many cases, this never happens and the predicted response time is delivered.
- In cases where the timeline looks very uncertain/unpredictable, I explain to the author that I will continue to invite them to write back to me every 2-3 weeks to keep their case in focus. Naturally, there is careful discussion with the AE (and referees) behind the scenes. Most importantly, *staying engaged with the author tends to keep the corresponding author's mood from souring*. Many of these cases end in acceptance.²

Correspondence with authors on such papers indicates that they are generally grateful to be kept in the loop, even if the time to a decision is still many weeks off.

Conclusion

EJP continues to publish very high quality material, maintaining its position as one of the very top journals in the field. There is an increase in the number of submissions (412 in the 365 day period of 2018 vs 382 in same cycle of 2016), with possible indication (insufficient data to be sure) of a slightly more stringent rate of selectivity than in previous years. The journal has continued to support a progressive policy with regard to gender balance in its editorial board. The workload of the editorial board is inhomogeneous according to the popularity of material that the journal receives within the different subdomains of probability. AEs' workloads are continuously monitored for overload and balance nonetheless. The long processing time on papers continues to remain a challenge, however a new communication strategy with authors has proved to hold the good will of authors.

I continue to enjoy regular contact with Giambattista over a variety of matters that bear relevance to either the shared editorial board or (more often) problematic cases, where we discuss possible strategies and rely on each others' experience.

Andreas E. Kyprianou

1st, June 2019

¹This is a straightforward task thanks to an extremely well organised web tool, which makes it very easy to navigate the various stages that papers are at.

²There is some correlation between good/long and deep papers and referees sitting on them because they want to find the time to digest things properly. But there is also a subconscious element of guilt that can play out with some referees' decisions given that the report is long overdue.

Annual Report

Electronic Journal of Statistics

Domenico Marinucci

June 1, 2019

This report covers the following periods:

- (i) January 1 - December 31, 2018
- (ii) January 1 – May 27, 2019

Period: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2018

In 2018, 447 papers were submitted to EJS, with a slight decrease with respect to the previous year 2017 (when we had 484 submissions, including though a special issue). Out of these, in the first round 247 paper were rejected, 27 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 84 and 41 major or minor revisions (respectively) were proposed, while 4 were accepted directly; for 43 a decision has still to be taken. Note that these data refer to the first decision only – out of the papers received in 2018, 87 have been accepted by today (June 1, 2019), 68 are still pending (25 are in their second round or waiting for a revision). The rejection rate among papers for which a first decision was reached was equal to $(247+27)/(247+27+84+41+4) = 274/403 = 0.6799$, with a very slight decrease from 70% in 2017.

Among these submissions, the statistics for the days to a first decision are as follows:

Average: 75,9; Q1: 4 ; Q2 (Median): 30; Q3 :127,

where the average is basically identical to the one in 2017 (76,1), while the median is much smaller (it was 70 in 2017).

Overall, 136 papers were published in 2018, to be compared with 162 in 2017.

Period: Jan 1 - May 27, 2019

The reporting period this year is January 1 – May 27, during which 206 papers were submitted, with some increase over which of the last three years (186 were submitted in 2018 until May 22, 193 papers were submitted in 2017 until May 28 and 182 up to May 20 in 2016). So far, 93 papers have been rejected, 2 rejected with possibility to resubmit, for 5 and 1, respectively, major or minor revisions were proposed and only one was accepted on the first round; 104 papers are still waiting for a first decision. These numbers are close to those in 2018, when we had 87 papers which had been rejected, 2 rejected with possibility to resubmit, for 5 and 4, respectively, major and minor revisions were proposed, 1 had been accepted on the first round; 87 papers were still waiting for a first decision. The rejection rate among papers for which a decision has been reached is again very high $((93+2)/(93+2+5+2)=95/102=93\%$, but as usual we remark that 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 35/40% of all submissions have been rejected directly by the Editorial Board without being sent to referees.

Among all submissions, the statistics for the days to a first decision are as follows:

Average: 14; Q1: 1 ; Q2 (Median): 4; Q3 :11

As mentioned before, for obvious reasons these figures cannot be compared with the statistics for 2017 – whole year; they are all lower than analogous values for the first half of 2018. For a more significant comparison among entire years, we report that out of 406 submissions in 2016, 126 were eventually accepted, while out of 485 submissions in 2016, 152 were finally accepted, while out of 486 submissions in 2017, 141 were accepted. As a consequence, the acceptance rate over the last few years has oscillated around 29-31%, including articles that appeared on special issues (which have a lower rejection rate).

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	Number of Articles
2010	1546	56
2011	2030	70
2012	2626	98
2013	3169	113
2014	3192	137
2015	3195	108
2016	4009	129
2017	5451	162
2018	4740	136
2019	1823	48

Current list of Associate Editors

There are currently 55 Associate Editors for EJS:

Felix Abramovitch, Edoardo Airoldi, Christophe Andrieu, Ery Arias-Castro, Alexander Aue, Francis Bach, Fadoua Balabdou, Moulinath Banerjee, Gilles Blanchard, Florentina Bunea, Francois Caron, Ismael Castillo, Ngai Hang Chan, Yen-Chi Chen, Guang Cheng, Arnak Dalalyan, Herold Dehling, Mathias Drton, Chao Gao, Subhashis Ghoshal, Irene Gijbels, James Hobert, Mark Hoffmann, Kengo Kato, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Rafal Kulik, Antonio Lijoi, Han Liu, Jean-Michel Loubes, Eric Moulines, Sayan Mukherjee Axel Munk, Boaz Nadler, Richard Nickl, Debashis Paul, Giovanni Peccati, Emilio Porcu, Annie Qu, Mathieu Rosenbaum, Judith Rousseau, Theofanis Sapatinas, Armin Schwartzman, Johan Segers, Bodhisattva Sen, Xiaotong Shen, Ling Shiqing, Alexandre Tsybakov, Sara van de Geer, Ingrid van Keilegom, Harry van Zanten, Frederi Viens, Wei Biao Wu, Yingnian Wu, Minge Xie, Johanna Ziegel

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their extremely valuable support.

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. 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.

Over the last 5 years the journal has published:

Volume 11 (2014) 9 Surveys and 440 pages

Volume 12 (2015) 4 Surveys and 103 pages

volume 13 (2016) 4 Surveys and 244 pages

Volume 14 (2017) 5 Surveys and 327 pages

Volume 15 (2018) 6 Surveys and 306 pages

There are currently 15 Surveys at various stages in the editorial process. The current acceptance rate for papers that are peer reviewed is around 60%.

In the past the journal has provided the probability community with useful overviews of a range of areas within the field. However there was been a decrease in the number of submissions in recent years. If the journal is to maintain its profile it is important that the submission rate increases. I would encourage any readers of this report to consider submitting a survey to Probability Surveys!

Statistics Surveys, Annual Report to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

June 24, 2019

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: David Banks (Institute of Mathematical Statistics), Sara van de Geer (Bernoulli Society), Ranjan Maitra (American Statistical Association), Richard A. Lockhart (Statistical Society of Canada), and Wendy L. Martinez (Coordinating Editor).

Wendy Martinez has been serving as the *Statistics Surveys* representative on the American Statistical Association Committee on Publications (CoP) since the start of the journal. It makes more sense to have Ranjan Maitra (the ASA Editor on *Statistics Surveys*) be appointed as the ASA CoP representative instead of Wendy. This change became effective June 2019.

We held a meeting of the Editorial Board at the JSM 2018, and we thank IMS for supporting this meeting. As usual, we discussed the problem of obtaining more submissions. We also discussed the impact factor for the journal, and Wendy thought it would be interesting to create a citation summary of all papers published in *Statistics Surveys*, which could be used as a marketing tool for submissions.

Statistics Surveys had an invited session at JSM 2018. Here is a summary of the session:

Introductory Lectures on Recent Advancements in Computational Statistics — Invited Papers

Statistics Surveys Online Journal, Section on Statistical Graphics, Section on Statistical Computing, SSC
Organizer(s): Wendy L. Martinez, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chair(s): Richard Lockhart, Simon Fraser University

- Visualizing Data Using T-SNE, Laurens van der Maaten, Facebook AI Research
- Beyond the Bayesian Lasso: a Review of Continuous Shrinkage Priors, Maryclare Griffin, University of Washington
- Topological Data Analysis: Case Studies and an Applied Overview, Adam Jaeger, Indiana University
- Discussant: Edoardo M. Airoldi, Harvard University

ISSUES: The editors would like to highlight some issues they had to deal with during this past year.

- One paper was withdrawn because the review was not done in a timely manner. The author was working on tenure and needed a faster response.
- A paper on causality was rejected based on a thorough review by several editors and reviewers. The author wrote a 12-page response essentially rejecting any comments from the review and protested the rejection. The paper and the reviews from the referees were subsequently reviewed by a past IMS Editor of *Statistics Surveys*. He spent many hours making sure the comments were valid and upheld the decision of the Editor. Wendy Martinez sent the result to the author.

- Three papers had been in the system for more than a year waiting for a revision from the author. Wendy sent emails to the authors asking them if they will be submitting a revision. One person withdrew the paper, and the other two will be sending in a revision.

SUBMISSIONS During the period January 01, 2018 – May 31, 2019, twenty-five (25) 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 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. Wendy Martinez wrote an article for the ASA and the AMSTAT News describing the journal and soliciting submissions.

The current status of the manuscripts is as follows:

Accepted: 6

Rejected: 15

Papers in review: 5

Rejected with resubmission encouraged: 1

THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATE EDITORS

For most of the reporting year, the editorial board (37) consisted 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. We did lose one AE, and the editors decided to not appoint a replacement until we found a need to do so.

EJMS

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

To: IMS

From: The Carver Award Committee

(Richard Davis, Erwin Bolthausen, Bin Yu (chair))

The Carver award committee unanimously selected the Carver Award winner. The selection process was through email and reviewing nominations in basecamp from previous years since no new nominations this year.



Elyse Gustafson <imstat@gmail.com>

IMS-China: 2019 report

Yao, Q <Q.Yao@lse.ac.uk>

Sat, Jul 13, 2019 at 9:27 AM

To: Xiao-Li Meng <meng@stat.harvard.edu>, susan murphy <samurphy11@gmail.com>, Elyse Gustafson <erg@imstat.org>

Cc: "xzfang@math.pku.edu.cn" <xzfang@math.pku.edu.cn>, "fzgong@amt.ac.cn" <fzgong@amt.ac.cn>, Helen Zhang <hzhong@math.arizona.edu>

Dear Xiaoli, Susan and Elyse,

As you know, 2019 IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability was held in Dalian in 6-10 July. There were 475 participants from 11 countries, including 146 overseas. The scientific program consists of two plenary speakers, 75 invited sessions (25 in Probability and 50 in Statistics).

Further information on conference is available at

<http://www.ims-china.org/>

The IMS-China Council met in the evening of 8 July. Both Helen Zhang and I attended the meeting. Below is a summary of what has been discussed.

1. IMS-China membership and service to the members

Due to the introduction of the new policy to include the membership fees in the conference registration, the membership has increased substantially. The total number of new members is about 240.

With such an increase, the council sees the urgent need to scale up the service for the new members. The new leadership, to be led by Professor Fuzhou Gong, has many good ideas to promote IMSC activities and service.

The help from the IMS Office is also required to enable each IMSC new members to register online such that they can enjoy the full benefit for the IMS members.

2. Election of a new IMS-China Council

The candidates of the new council members will be nominated, by the current council, from the 240 new IMSC members plus the IMS ordinary members residing in the mainland of China. Each person should not serve more than two terms.

The list of candidates will be passed to Elyse in early August. The election will be conducted online.

3. 2021 IMS-China Conference

Initial discussion indicates that Yinchuan, Hangzhou and Harbin are possible host city for the 2021 IMS-China Conference. Helen Zhang will be responsible

7/16/2019

Gmail - IMS-China: 2019 report

for finding a conference organiser. It is hoped that both the host institution and the organiser will be appointed by the end of 2019.

There is also a need to make IMS-China conference more attractive and competitive, given the increased presence of international conferences in China (e.g. two or three ICSA conferences per annum). The council will consider the possibility to establish a few named lectures, a special forums of young statisticians etc.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Kind regards,

Qiwei

PS. By submitting this report, I have practically completed my term. It was very helpful that Helen attended the council meeting on 8 July, and is fully engaged in the role of the IMS representative for IMS-China by now.

Report of the Memorials Committee

In addition to dealing with the proposal for the Larry Brown award and requests for memorial articles and issues, the committee discussed ways to honor deceased researchers and the role of the committee in this. A proposal for revised guidelines was submitted to Council, but it failed in the vote. The main new point in this proposal was to eventually name the current Medallion lectures after deceased researchers with a great and lasting impact. The committee is still discussing alternatives to this idea, but the options are limited. The committee has also just started a discussion about the future of the Scientific Legacy project, but it will take some time until a proposal can be submitted to Council.

June 18, 2019

To: The IMS Council

Report on the 2018-19 IMS Nominations Committee:

There were five vacancies on the IMS Council to be filled, and candidate for President-Elect was sought. Procedures in observance of the IMS Nominations and Voting bylaws were followed:

- Members of the committee were asked in October 2018 to submit proposals for candidates with brief justifications for why they would serve the IMS Council well: thirty-seven choices were presented for the Council and five for President-Elect. These were ordered by two rounds of voting and small discussions to: a ranked list of ten Council candidates with five reserves, and one Presidential candidate with one reserve.
- The process went smoothly over the course of October-December 2018 with active participations from most members. One council members did not participate at all - this should be noted so clearer commitments are stressed when offering to be part of the committee.
- Prior to nominations a discussion was initiated regarding the importance of a diverse IMS Council, both geographical and institutional. A broad representation was apparent in the full list of presented candidates, unfortunately this subsequently diminished after the voting process.

The candidate for President-Elect was contacted in mid-December 2018 and they accepted the position at the beginning of January 2019. Top ten candidates for the IMS Council were contacted at the same time, some declined due to other standing commitments (or wishing to cede the seat to younger members), reserve candidates were contacted until ten accepting candidates were reached in mid-January 2019.

Sincerely,

Lea Popovic

IMS Committee on Publications, Chair's Report 2019

Committee Members:

Thomas Lee, Chair

John Lafferty

Marianna Pensky

Francois Delarue, AAP Editor, ex officio

Peter Friz, AAP Editor, ex officio

Amir Dembo, AOP Editor, ex officio

Karen Kafadar, AOAS Editor, ex officio

Richard Samworth, AOS Editor, ex officio

Ming Yuan, AOS Editor, ex officio

Cun-Hui Zhang, STS Editor, ex officio

T.N. Sriram, Managing Editor, ex officio

Zhengjun Zhang, Treasurer, ex officio

During February/March 2019, the committee discussed the CRediT methodology put forward by IMS President Xiao-Li Meng for documenting author contributions on published articles in IMS journals. The committee's official response is that, the CRediT methodology should be up to the individual journals to decide if they would like to adopt it.

Report of the Committee to Select Administrative Officers

During the last year the Committee to Select Administrative Officers (Donald van Deventer, Larry Wasserman, and Marten Wegkamp as chair) was tasked with nominating the IMS Managing Editor.

This was discussed electronically among the committee members and unanimously recommended Professor Robert Keener, who accepted to be the IMS Managing Editor, from January 1, 2020 -- December 31, 2022.

Marten Wegkamp,
Ithaca, New York,
May 29th, 2019

Report on the work of the IMS Special Lectures Committee for the Medallion lecturers

In early February 2019, we gathered a list of Medallion candidates from official nominations, and nominations by members of the committee in prior discussions. To this list, we added four names from last year's list, which meant that our present list included the first six names in the list of candidates eliminated last year. The list of Medallion candidates in the first round of voting comprised 31 names. The first round of voting took place between February 20th to 26th, 2019.

1 Some comments on the voting procedure

We started the discussion on voting procedure on February 8th, 2019. Since our aim was to select a slate of eight Medallion lecturers, I initially thought we would follow the the first stage of the voting procedure

"C. Selection of a slate of fixed size $N > 5$ individuals (this procedure is usually only needed when a slate of candidates for Council is being selected, in which case $N > 9$). Stage 1: If there are more than $L = N + \lfloor N/2 \rfloor$ candidates, where $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$ denotes integer part, narrow the field to L using a similar procedure to that in Stage 1 of Scenario A: each voter, including the chair, expresses up to $N-2$ preferences, in order, with no ties allowed (with 1=first preference, 2=second preference, etc.); if M preferences are expressed all others are given rank $M+1$. Total these votes and choose the L candidates with the lowest total rank."

And I wrote "Since we have to select $N=8$ candidates, we need to narrow the field down to $L=12$ candidates by giving ranks 1,2,3,4,5,6,6,6,..."

Of course, we also had to follow the rule that among the eight Medallion candidates, there be two probabilists, two statisticians and one interdisciplinary person. I asked the question

Question: To make sure than the rules of voting and the rules of prob/stat are both satisfied, should we try and put labels "statistician", "probabilities", "interdisciplinary" on each of the names of the list of 30 before we start Stage 1 of the voting procedure?

I invited discussion. Though, initially, members of the committee were not opposed to the idea of giving one of the three labels to candidates, it quickly became obvious that we could not agree of what was an "Interdisciplinary" candidate. Faced with this situation, on February 13th, we decided to follow the voting rule that has been followed in the last few years, which works, but does not seem to be listed anywhere among the official voting rules. The rule is as follows.

Each voter has to classify each candidate within one category "S" (Statistician), "P" (Probabilist) or "I" (Interdisciplinary), and within the selected category, each voter had to assign the rank 1,2 or 3. After the vote, each category is evaluated separately and the 4/4/2 people with the lowest rank-sum in each category are listed.

2 Results of the votes

After some discussion and because of some candidates receiving split votes between Statistics and Interdisciplinary, we obtained the following lists:

Interdisciplinary list (2)

Robert Nowak Stats rank-sum=2, Interd. rank-sum=8, total rank-sum=10

David Blei Stats rank-sum=5, Interd. rank-sum=10, total rank-sum=15.

Statistics list (4)

Axel Munk rank-sum=14

Dylan Small rank-sum=14

Nancy Zhang total rank-sum=14

Philippe Rigollet rank-sum=15

Probability list (6, need two rounds)

Hugo Duminil Copin rank-sum=13

Silvia Serfaty rank-sum=16

Alexey Borodin rank-sum=16

Dmitry Ioffe rank-sum=17

Beatrice de Tiliere rank-sum=17

Balint Toth rank-sum=17

On February 28th, we were ready to proceed with the 2/2/1 vote. We selected one Interdisciplinary candidate, two Statistics candidates and a slate of four Probability candidates. On March 7th, the vote closed and the results were as follows:

- (a) Robert Nowak is the first Interdisciplinary Medallion speaker for our 2/2/1 choice,
- (b) Nancy Zhang and Axel Munk are the first two Statistics Medallion speakers for our 2/2/1 choice,
- (c) the "Probability list" of 4 candidates now comprises Hugo Duminil Copin, Silvia Serfaty, Alexey Borodin, Dmitry Ioffe.

The vote was done by ranking each name 1 or 2 in the case of vote (a), 1-2-3-4 or 1-2-3-3 or 1-2-2-2 in the case of vote (b) and 1-2-3-4-4-4 or 1-2-3-3-3-3 or 1-2-2-2-2-2 in the case of vote (c).

We then selected the two probability candidates from list (c): Hugo Duminil Copin and Alexey Borodin. We still have to select three more lecturers.

For this new stage, on March 11th, we agreed on the following:

- (a) classify Marina Vannucci who has the rank-sum of 17 as a statistician,
- (b) add the female statistician who has the next rank-sum>17, and that would be Linda Zhao with a rank-sum of 21,
- (c) make sure that we include at least one female probabilist in our final selection,

- (d) make a case for a limited number of "new" candidates, particularly statisticians. Jiayang suggested Linda Zhao and Hongtu Zhu who also have a rank-sum of 21. I suggested adding Christian Genest who had a rank-sum of 19.

We agreed on a list that consisted of eleven candidates: Dylan Small, Philippe Rigollet, Silvia Serfaty, Dmitry Ioffe, Beatrice de Tilière, Balint Toth, Marina Vannucci, Sebastien Bubeck, Christian Genest, Linda Zhao, Hongtu Zhu.

Candidates were selected according to Stage 1 of the voting procedure for a slate of $N+2=5$ candidates with rankings such as 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 or 1 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 or 1 2 3 4 4 4 4 4 4. The five candidates with the lowest rank-sum were

- Silvia Serfaty rank-sum=22
- Dmitri Ioffe rank-sum=25
- Philippe Rigolet rank-sum=25
- Beatrice de Tiliere rank-sum=26
- Balint Toth rank-sum=28.

It had been decided that, since, there had not been a female probabilist Medallion speaker for several years, the female probabilist with the lowest rank-sum would be the sixth Medallion speaker. So, Silvia Serfaty was chosen as a speaker.

Subsequently, on March 24th, we proceeded to Stage 2 of the voting procedure to choose two speakers among Dmitri Ioffe, Philippe Rigolet, Beatrice de Tiliere, Balint Toth. Candidates were ranked as 1-2-3-4 or 1-2-3-3 or 1-2-2-2. On March 28th, we had the results: Philippe Rigollet and Dmitri Ioffe had been chosen.

The list of Medallion speakers for 2021 is therefore as follows.

1. IMS/JSM 2021
 - Robert Nowak, Interdisciplinary,
 - Nancy Zhang, Statistics, female,
 - Axel Munk, Statistics,
 - Philippe Rigollet , Statistics.
2. SPA 2021
 - Hugo Duminil Copin, Probability,
 - Alexey Borodin, Probability,
 - Silvia Serfaty, Probability, female,
 - Dmitri Ioffe, Probability.

IMS 2019 Travel Award Committee Report
Debashis Mondal (Oregon State University)
Lea Popovik (Concordia)
Amber Puha (Cal State Univ San Marcos), Chair

The committee reviewed nominations for three prizes and selected recipients for each.

- 1) Tweedie New Researcher Award: We received 8 nominations and followed the usual process for narrowing the pool to 2 finalists. The two finalists were a clear choice for the committee. After some discussion concerning the strengths and weaknesses of the finalists, a second round of voting resulted in a winner, without the chair needing to break a tie. It happens that the winner was also chosen to receive one of the three the Bernoulli Society 2019 New Researcher Awards.
- 2) The New Researcher Travel Awards: 11 New Researchers applied to a pool of \$12,000 in funding. All applicants seemed worthy of support. However, from the information provided in the application, the committee noted that it is difficult to assess whether or not an applicant meets the criterion “would not otherwise be able to attend”. The committee has requested that applicants be asked if they have other funds that could be used to support their travel, either in full or in part, and given a prompt to explain if yes. For this year, all 11 were awarded partial funding with international conference goers receiving \$1300 each and domestic conference goers receiving \$725 each.
- 3) The Hannan Travel Awards (for graduate students): 25 graduate students applied to a pool of \$4000 in funding, which makes this the most difficult to decide. Each committee member scored each application as follows: 3 = definitely fund, application is outstanding; 2 = fund, application is good; 1 = fund if possible, the application has no flaws, but is not as competitive as others (this could be because that person has other sources of funding); 0 = do not fund. The applicant’s score was the sum of the three scores. A clear top 10 emerged from this process with scores in the 6 to 9 range. The next highest score was a 3. Various proposals were discussed for reducing the pool further. But it seemed that all 10 had compelling cases and, in the interest of diversity, 10 awards of \$400 each were made. In my two years on the committee, it seems that this is the largest applicant pool, and one wonders if the pool of funding for this travel award could be increased.