

Nice and Berlin, August 2021

**Editors-in-Chief:**

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

**Board (as of August '21; no changes since last year)**

<a href="#">Pauline Barrieu</a>	<a href="#">Arnulf Jentzen</a>
<a href="#">Mathias Beiglboeck</a>	<a href="#">Antti Knowles</a>
<a href="#">Nathanael Berestycki</a>	<a href="#">Gabor Lugosi</a>
<a href="#">Anup Biswas</a>	<a href="#">James Martin</a>
<a href="#">Jochen Blath</a>	<a href="#">Johannes Muhle-Karbe</a>
<a href="#">Charles Bordenave</a>	<a href="#">Pierre Del Moral</a>
<a href="#">Francesco Caravenna</a>	<a href="#">Ashkan Nikeghbali</a>
<a href="#">Dan Crisan</a>	<a href="#">Ivan Nourdin</a>
<a href="#">Jean-Dominique Deuschel</a>	<a href="#">Nicolas Perkowski</a>
<a href="#">Jian Ding</a>	<a href="#">Miklos Rásonyi</a>
<a href="#">Ayalvadi Ganesh</a>	<a href="#">Mathieu Rosenbaum</a>
<a href="#">Stefan Gerhold</a>	<a href="#">Mykhaylo Shkolnikov</a>
<a href="#">Emmanuel Gobet</a>	<a href="#">Jan Swart</a>
<a href="#">Patrícia Gonçalves</a>	<a href="#">Pierre Tarres</a>
<a href="#">Massimiliano Gubinelli</a>	<a href="#">Amandine Veber</a>
<a href="#">Ben Hambly</a>	<a href="#">Nikolaos Zygouras</a>
<a href="#">Ajay Jasra</a>	

There is a total of 33 members, including 3 female colleagues. (The board has not changed relative to our previous report in 2020.)

**Organization:** No changes in the editorial routine: We have one (online) meeting per week, during which we pre-screen all the new submissions: The most noticeable fact is that we require, for a significant number of submissions, quick evaluations from experts in the field. This allows us to reduce the number of papers that are assigned to associate editors (so that they can focus on the best ones) and also to give them some preliminary opinions or suggestions of referees.

The ongoing Corona crisis prevented another physical board meeting (as it took place in Nice in September 2019), however we had a full day Zoom meeting in January 2021 that was attended by a large part of the board.

**Editorial policy:** Our objective remains to maintain the high quality of the journal. Our feeling is that we receive very good submissions and, from the feedback we have from them, the associate editors have a similar opinion.

As mentioned in our 2019 and 2020 report, we sometimes receive submissions for which a conference version already exists. The actual number of these cases remains very low, so we were able to proceed with the case-by-base policy described in our 2020 report. (We understand this is a much bigger issue for AoS where strict rules against such submissions are in place.)

**Activity of the journal and Covid pandemics:** The Covid crisis has been an ongoing challenge for many mid-career board members with young families, including the two editors. Associate editors also reported that it was more difficult to find referees during the pandemics and also that reviewers were asking for more time to handle papers.

Number of submissions remains above 400, below 450, with a tendency upwards. Desk rejection rate unchanged (2019 vs 2020), also expect similar acceptance rate around 30% for 2019 vs 2020, too early to tell for 2021.

### **Submission statistics**

Previous years: 405 submissions in 2017, 440 submissions in 2018

#### **For calendar year 2019 (updated)**

416 submissions

244 rejected (including 115 desk rejections),

30 rejected with resubmission

105 accepted

22 still in review

12 withdrawals

Desk rejection rate: 28%

Acceptance rate: 30%

**For calendar year 2020 (updated)**

448 submissions

227 rejected (including 99 rejections by AE and 128 by editors)

35 rejected with resubmissions

67 accepted

87 submissions in review (26 without first recommendation)

16 withdrawals

Desk rejection rate: 28%

Estimated acceptance rate: 30%

**For calendar year 2021 (to now)**

273 submissions (to now)

102 rejected (14 by AE and 88 by editors)

4 rejected with resubmissions

2 accepted

162 in review

5 withdrawals

Desk rejection rate: 32%

Estimated acceptance rate: too early to tell

**ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR Calendar Year 2020**

**Karen Kafadar, Editor-In-Chief**

*The Annals of Applied Statistics* (AOAS) has been accepting submissions since October 2006. The number of submissions has been growing in the past 14+ years, as would be expected in a new journal, especially with the focus of research among many in our profession during the past 10 years on the development of methodology motivated by applied problems. Figure 1 on page 4 shows the increase in annual number of submissions since its first full year of operation in 2007. The counts for the first six months of 2020 have ranged from 48 to 65, a slight increase from the range, 46 to 61, in Jan-June 2019. Generally, counts tend to be slightly higher in July (summer) and December (before holidays), and slightly lower in January, April, and June (Figure 2). The median monthly count of submissions since 2012 has been 42.

The list of AOAS Area Editors is:

Karen Kafadar	Editor-In-Chief
Edoardo Airoldi	Editor, Computational Biology and Machine Learning
Beth Ann Griffin	Editor, Social Sciences, Biostatistics and Policy
Leonhard Held	Editor, Epidemiology and Clinical Science
Jeffrey Morris	Editor, Biology, Medicine, and Genomics
Brendan Murphy	Editor, Social Sciences and Government
Nicoleta Serban	Editor, Physical Science, Engineering, and the Environment

Professor Ji Zhu (University of Michigan) will assume duties as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) on January 1, 2021.

Due to its specific mission (focus on applications) and the wide range of topics in *AOAS* articles, the journal was intentionally established with co-Editors to handle specific domains of application. This mission also enables the EiC to readily identify MSs that should have been directed either to more theoretical journals or to less statistically-focused journals (i.e., targeted subject-matter journals). *AOAS* has six Area Editors: each one is fully responsible for decisions, with no interference from the EiC, apart from any inquiries that they may raise. This model ensures coordination and efficiency in the process, as well as consistency with the journal's mission. (Indeed, the model has been so successful that Xiao-Li Meng adopted it when he founded *Harvard Data Science Review*.)

In 2019 we received 540 submissions, close to the numbers for the previous two years (551 in 2017, 512 in 2018). With many researchers required to work from home between March 2020 and into summer 2021, this total increased to 637 for 2020. One can expect the submission counts to return soon to pre-pandemic levels, with perhaps only a slight increase; I doubt that we will see ~640 submissions in subsequent years.

Of the 637 submissions in 2020, the Editor-in-Chief withdrew 215 (34%) and also handled, as an “Area Editor,” 40 additional manuscripts. Each of the remaining 382 manuscripts was assigned to one of the six Area Editors. This model allows the EiC to limit the number of manuscripts handled by any one Area Editor to only 5-8 manuscripts per month. It also ensures consistency in the decisions across the six Area Editors (more Area Editors can lead to inconsistency in degree of adherence to the *AOAS* mission).

Table 1: Review Time to Initial Decision

Days to 1 <sup>st</sup> 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
2019	62 12%	144 27%	117 22%	135 25%	81 15%	540
2020 (pandemic)	56 9%	211 33%	123 20%	156 25%	81 13%	637

The decision time distribution varies substantially by level of review/decision. Figure 3 displays boxplots of decision time (in days since submission into EJMS) by decision type, and the table below gives the quartiles, median, and 90th percentile for each decision type:

Table 2: Days to Initial Decision, by Decision Type

Decision	#MSs	Quantiles: Days to Decision			
		25th	Median	75th	90th
Withdraw	215	9	15	22	25
Minor Rev	30	61	101	156	225
Major Rev	126	94	127	180	228
Rej w/Resub	103	46	100	151	210
Reject	147	31	72	125	180
Total	637	18	59	125	193

While close to 90% of initial decisions are completed within six months, we are aiming for a goal of 95% completion within four months.

Our acceptance rate continues at  $\sim 20\%$ . Since its inception, AOAS has accepted 21.6% of its 6657 submissions; 78% have been rejected, rejected with re-submission, or withdrawn. In 2019, the Editor-In-Chief withdrew 215 of the 637 submissions (34%) as being inconsistent with the journal's mission or not yet ready for review, with a median time to decision of 15 days. Those deemed ready for peer review are assigned to one of our six Area Editors (or the Editor-in-Chief, acting as a seventh 'Area Editor') who then solely oversees the entire manuscript review and decision, aided by our board of Associate Editors. The Impact Factor (per <https://www.resurchiefy.com/impact/details/21100211345>) has remained fairly steady at 1.675 (h-index 75).

Several of our long-time reliable Associate Editors have requested "retirement," and we have been replacing them as the need arises. The new Editor-in-Chief and our Area Editors may wish to recruit new Associate Editors.

The current Editor-in-Chief prepared two sets of Guidelines, one for the EiC and one for the AEs, in hopes that the information in them will be useful for new EiCs and AEs. The Area Editors reviewed for accuracy the latter set, and Geri Mattson reviewed both sets. These Guidelines also have been sent to the IMS Executive Director to ensure continuity, and future EiCs may wish to update them as changes occur to the review process.

It would be hard for me to overstate the genuine pleasure that I have had with *AOAS* over the past 13 years, first as an AE (2007-2009), then as Area Editor (2010-2018), and now as EiC. Serving as *AOAS*'s EiC during these past three years has been personally gratifying, seeing the fruits of one's efforts materialize into excellent papers that both make an impact in their respective scientific areas of application and that further the research in our own profession. I am tremendously grateful to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their continuously outstanding support of our daily operations, and to my predecessor, Tilmann Gneiting, who served as an occasional "adviser" even in his *AOAS* retirement. Geri's team prepared the data files needed for this report, and both Geri and Elyse have been very helpful and prompt in handling all of our inquiries. The success of the journal would not be possible without them and our outstanding Editorial Board, and I look forward to watching *AOAS* continue and grow in the years ahead.

AOAS 2007–2020: New MSs

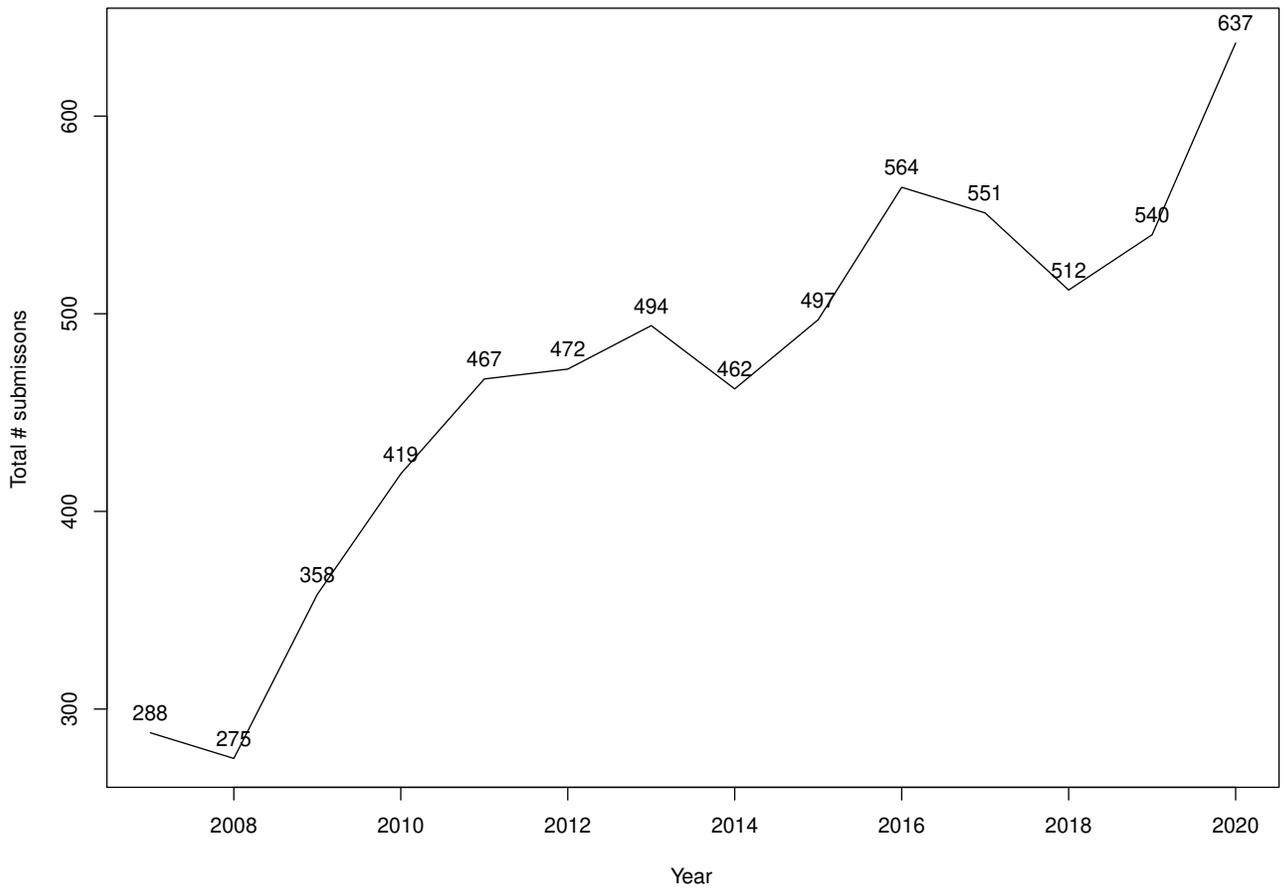


Figure 1: Annual submissions (2007-2020); includes New & 'Reject w/Resubmit'.

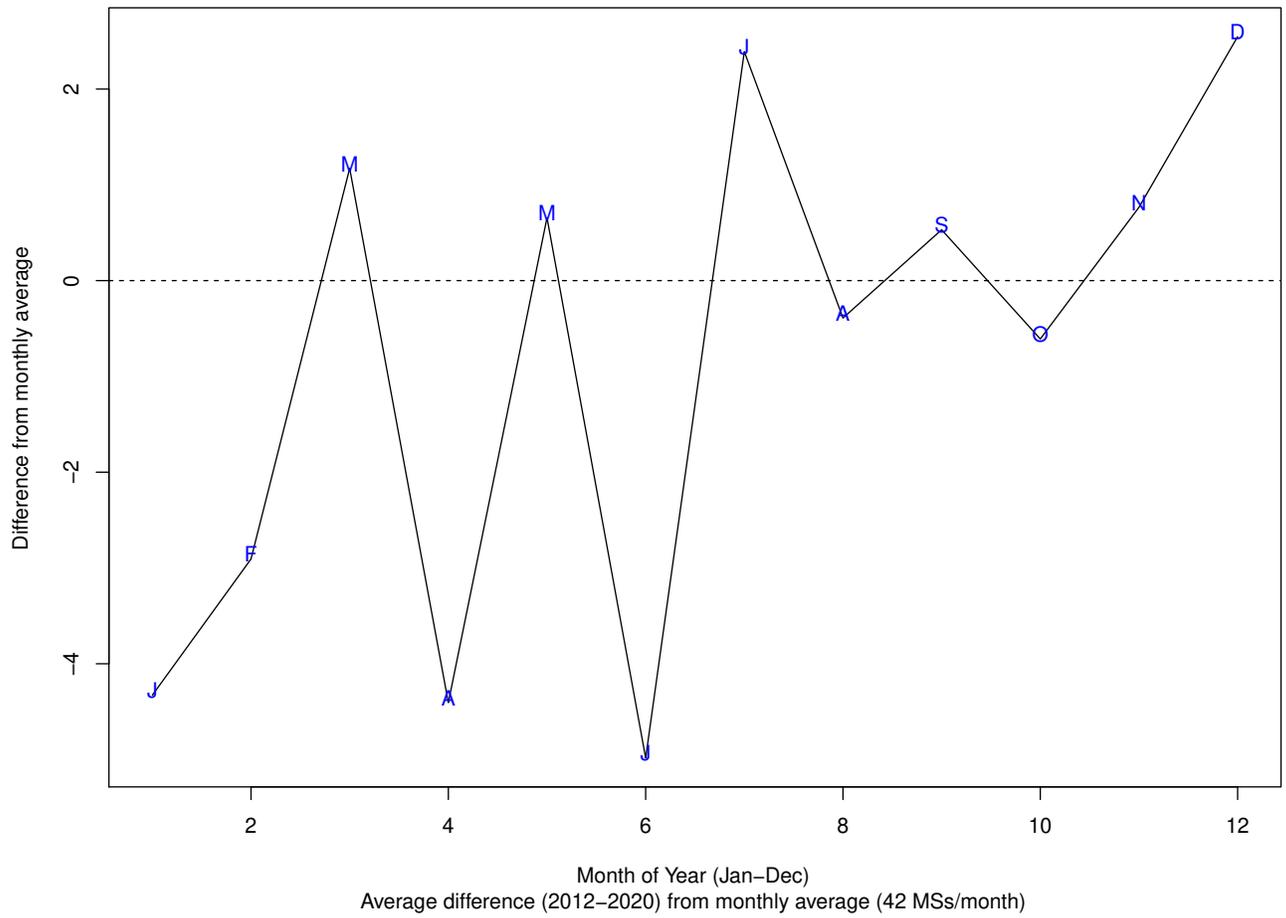


Figure 2: Difference from mean month submission count (42 MSs), averaged over 9 years (2012-2020).

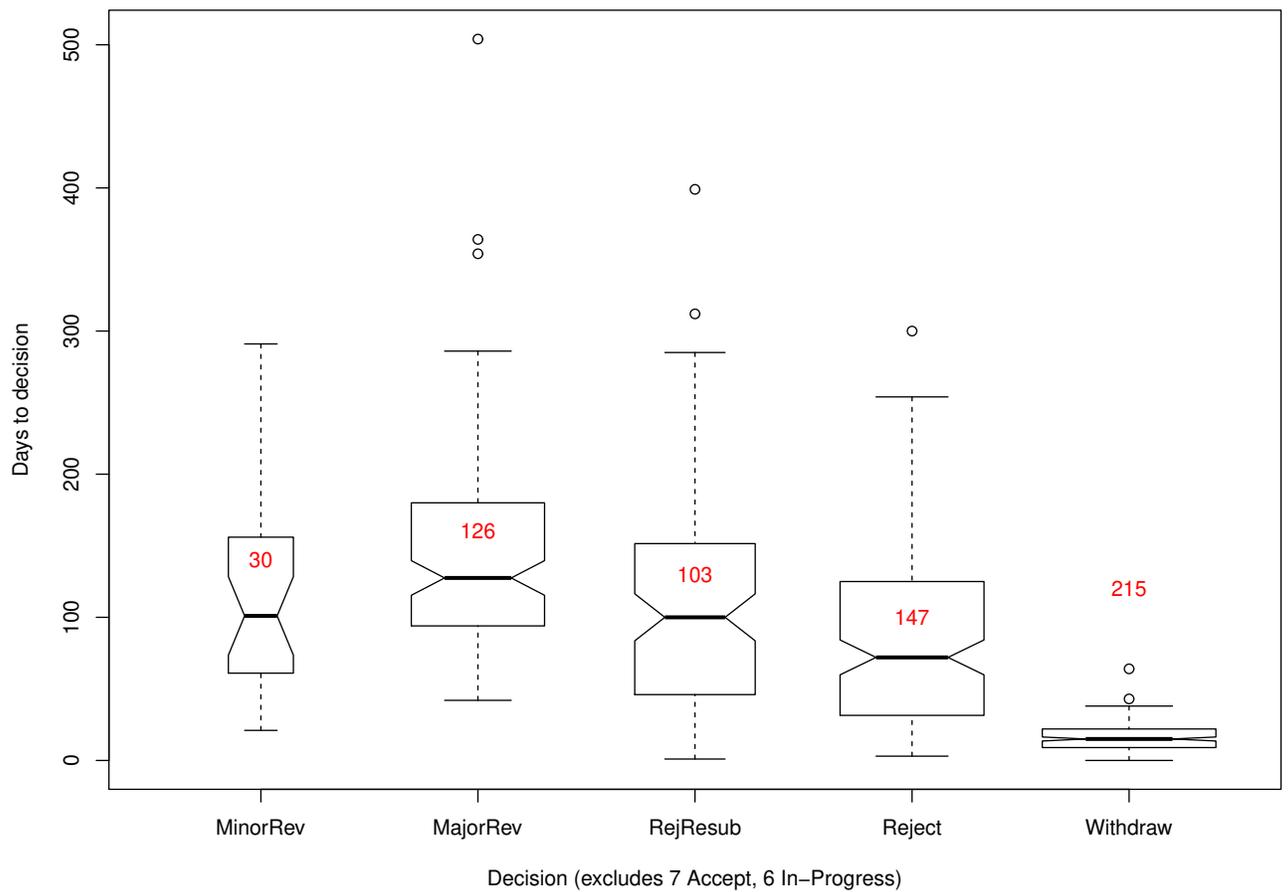


Figure 3: Decision times (days) & #MSs (in red) by decision type, 2020

## Annals of Probability: Editor's report

Prepared by Amir Dembo [editor 2018-20].

In the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, the Annals of Probability received 289 submissions.

As of August 6, 2021, of these submissions -- 205 have been rejected, 46 accepted and 20 withdrawn.

The completion of the review of the 18 remaining submissions would bring to conclusion the work

of the 2018-2020 editorial board, which had an overall acceptance rate of 24% during its term.

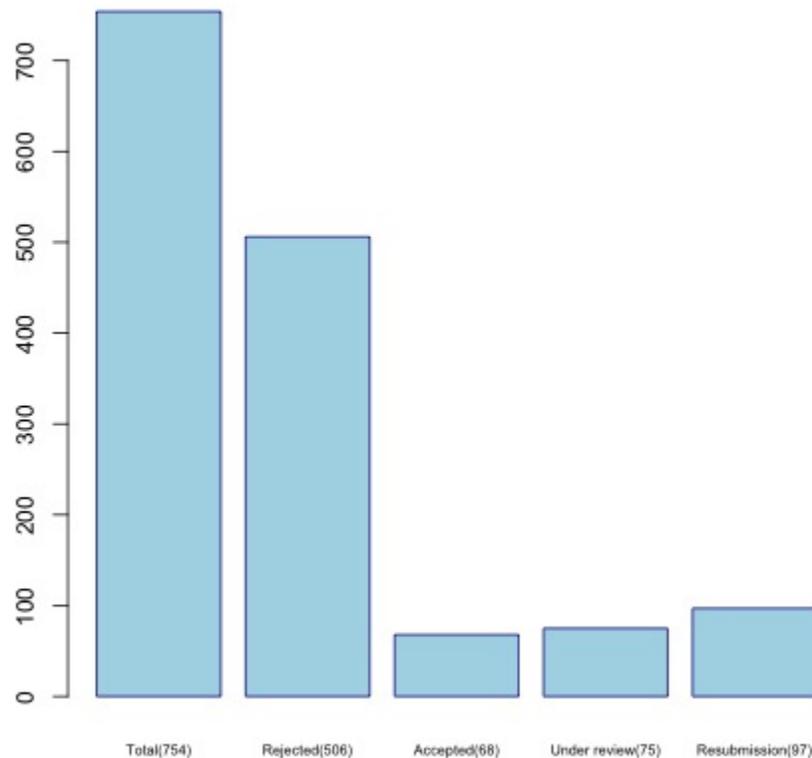
For 2021 the IMS Council approved a total of 3200 pages and as of August 6, 2021, there are about 1300

pages in accepted papers waiting for publication, indicating a current publication backlog of about 5 months.

## The Annals of Statistics, 2020 Annual Report

Richard J. Samworth and Ming Yuan, Editors

**SUBMISSIONS:** We received 754 submissions in 2020, a record high. For comparison, the number of submission in the years 2010–2019 were, respectively, 532, 502, 555, 607, 697, 694, 718, 686, 637 and 694. Of the 754 submissions, 8 were withdrawn before or during review. In addition, we handled 87 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 2020*

**ACCEPTANCE RATE:** For papers submitted during 2020, we have to date (July 2021) accepted 68, rejected 506, and rejected 97 with the possibility to resubmit. Currently, 75 submissions are still under review or revision. The acceptance rate is 9.12%, which is slightly above last year's rate, but still a little below the rates described in recent previous AOS annual reports (8.60% in 2019, 11.44% in 2018, 10.16% in 2017, 10.82% in 2016, 13.12% in 2015, 10.33% in 2014). Note that, since some papers are still under review, this is not the final acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2020.

**BACKLOG AND PAGE REQUEST:** During 2020, we printed 3720 pages (3608 pages in 2019, 3866 pages in 2018, 2763 pages in 2017, 2779 pages in 2016, 2794 pages in 2015, 2585 pages in 2014). The backlog of papers to be published has come down over the last couple of years,

and is now at a fairly comfortable level. As of now we have roughly 3500 pages in proofs (the recent switch to a denser style file means this is a smaller number than it would otherwise have been), which amounts to around six issues if we stay at 600 pages an issue. We would like to request an allotment of 3700 pages for 2022.

**REVIEW TIMES:** The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2019 were 10 days, 81 days and 146 days. The corresponding quartiles from 2019 were 10 days, 73 days and 131 days, from 2018 were 14 days, 99 days and 160 days, in 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 2020 estimated survival curves for initial and second decision times respectively.

**FINAL REMARKS:** Since this is our final annual report as co-editors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Kristina Mattson, as well as the editorial board and referees, for their invaluable contribution to the journal.

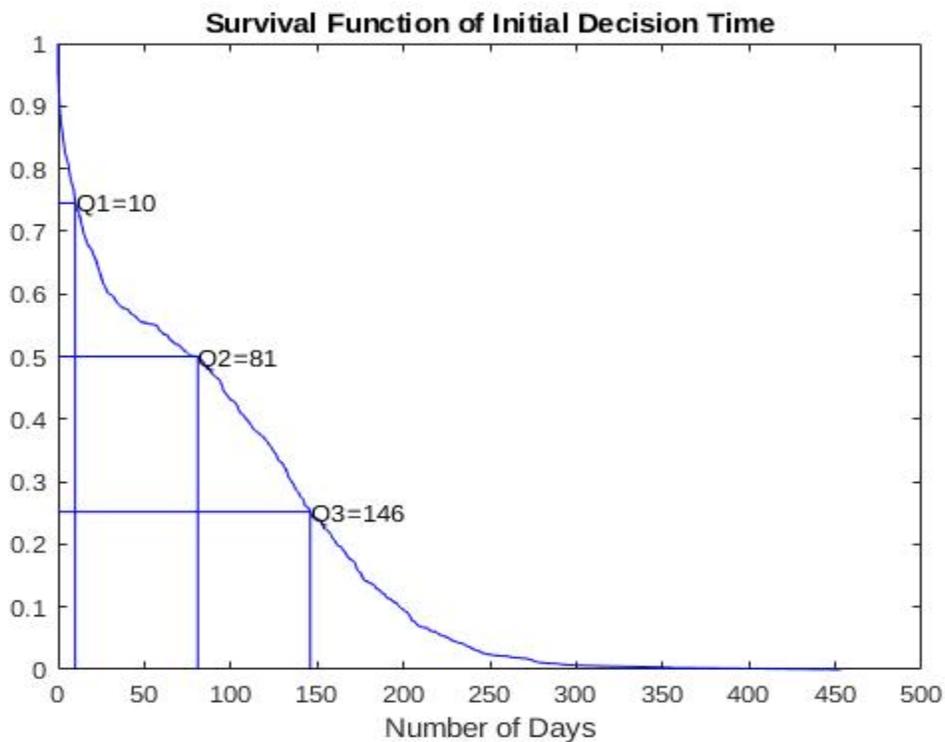


Figure 2: *Survival Function of Initial Decision Time*

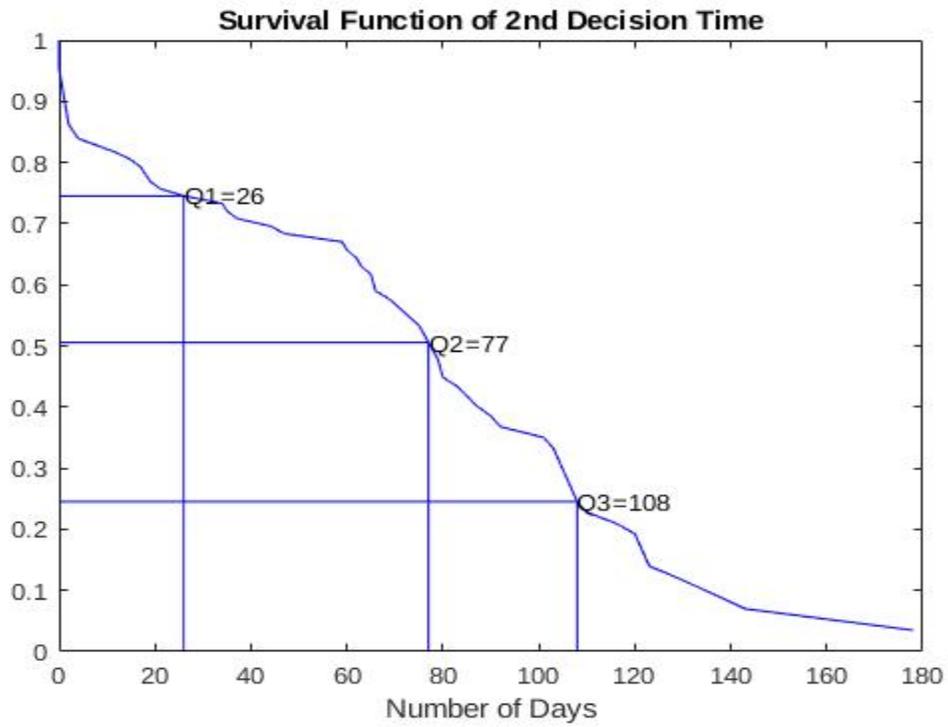


Figure 3: *Survival Function of 2nd Decision Time*

## Annual Report - Statistical Science

Sonia Petrone, Editor, with Peter Green, Deputy Editor.

As of 3 August 2021, 68 manuscripts were at various stages of review (39) or revision (29) for Statistical Science (14 of these have been back with authors for over 18 months, and could probably be discounted). Over the 12 months from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2021, 234 manuscripts were submitted; of these, 174 have been rejected, 30 are still in various stages of review or revision, and 24 (*including invited discussions for special issues*) have been accepted. Thus, of those papers for which final decisions have been reached, the rejection rate has been 88% and the acceptance rate 12%. The following table shows this information broken down by month of submission.

	Received	Rejected	In review or revision	Accepted	Withdrawn
June 2020	26	19	3	4	
July 2020	27	18	4	4	1
August 2020	22	20	1	1	
September 2020	21	13	3	5	
October 2020	14	10	3	0	1
November 2020	15	13	1	1	
December 2020	25	18	0	5	2
January 2021	18	16	1	1	
February 2021	19	17	1	1	
March 2021	18	11	4	2	1
April 2021	17	13	3	0	1
May 2021	12	6	6	0	
Total	234	174	30	24	6

I anticipate that the total number of manuscript pages for 2021 will be about 650, close to budget. Roughly the same number of pages should be planned for 2022.

During the last 12 months each of the 4 issues have had some special element. Issue 35(3) was a special issue on Causal Inference, guest edited by Jason Roy and Dylan Small, 35(4) featured papers by Bertsimas et al and Hastie et al on aspects of variable selection in regression, with a joint invited discussion. 36(1) featured a special section on Network Analysis and Applications, guest edited by Yihong Wu and Harrison Zhou, and 36(2) included a paper by Ruobin Gong and Xiao-Li Meng on statistical learning using imprecise probabilities, with an invited discussion. I am grateful to the previous editor Cun-Hui Zhang for initiating these special issues, and to the guest editors for their valuable work in putting them together.

Encouraging discussions and special issues is crucial for STS but it has been more difficult during the pandemic lockdowns, not having the change to meet people and discuss in person. Still, since February 2020 we have been planning a special issue on "*Data Science in a time of crisis: lessons learned from the pandemic*", with Chiara Sabatti and John Chambers as guest editors. This is meant to be an ex-post discussion (envisaged publication in 2022) on lessons learned, and will necessarily be a limited selection of the huge amount of work on covid-19 related problems: in fact, the ambition is to offer a first step of discussion that can stimulate further

reflections and initiatives, *possibly involving IMS and other Statistical Societies*, to be proactive in fostering our role in the society and in the science in front of current and new global crises.

We are also working on further envisaged special issues on Bayesian computations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with Christian Robert, Tamara Broderick and Pierre Jacob as Guest editors, and on statistical and interdisciplinary themes in reproducibility, with Nancy Reid and Michael Daniels and possibly a third guest editor; and on discussions on the Bayesian predictive approach and on frequentist properties of Bayesian procedures.

I am indebted to all the members of the Editorial Board: Shankar Bhamidi, Peter Bühlmann, John Chambers, Michael Daniels, Robin Evans, Stefano Favaro, Chris Holmes, Susan Holmes, Tailen Hsing, Michael I. Jordan, Ian McKeague, Peter Müller, Luc Pronzato, Nancy Reid, Jason Roy, Chiara Sabatti, Bodhisattva Sen, Glenn Shafer, Michael Stein, Jon Wellner, Bin Yu, Giacomo Zanella, and Cun-Hui Zhang. I am very grateful to both Mattson Publishing Services and VTEX, who continue to be very responsive to the needs of the journal. I would also like to thank Elyse Gustafson, T.N. Sriram, Patrick Kelly, Geri Mattson, Kristina Mattson and Saulius Kurklys, from whom I receive invaluable editorial support. In particular, I would like to thank Kristina Mattson for her continual timely help.

## *IMS Bulletin* Report to Council 2021

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.

Tati Howell, based in London, UK, is the *IMS Bulletin* Editor, with oversight from Managing Editor Bob Keener (University of Michigan). The Contributing Editors are currently: Radu Craiu, Anirban DasGupta, Yoram Gat, Ruobin Gong (new this year), David Hand, Takis Konstantopoulos, Xiao-Li Meng and Kavita Ramanan. A few of them write regular columns, others contribute more occasionally. We are grateful to them all. We are also **looking for more diverse voices** in the *Bulletin*, so if any Council members would like to recommend someone who can write engagingly, particularly from under-represented sections of our community, please get in touch with Tati.

In the past year, we have published the following 14 obituaries: Kenneth Arrow, Saul Blumenthal, Donald A.S. Fraser, Donald P. Gaver, Leo Goodman, Gordon Harrington, Dmitry Ioffe, Hélène Massam, Elizabeth Meckes, Arianna Rosenbluth, S. James Taylor, Willem van Zwet, Yossi Yahav, Xiangrong Yin. We're preparing obituaries for Richard J. (Rich) Fox, Charles J. (Chuck) Stone, Mitchell Snyder, Photis Nobelis. Once again, we ask you all to 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 <https://imstat.org/?s=obituary>.

We have a number of regular features such as Anirban DasGupta's Student Puzzle Corner, which gets a small number of responses from student members. We continue to 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 (2442, plus 32 institutions); the rest opt for the electronic PDF/HTML version only. Since December 2019 the *Bulletin's* news articles have been posted on the main IMS website, at <https://imstat.org/news/>. Tati 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). Google Analytics reports about 32,500 page views of news items on the IMS website. We post on the IMS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IMSTATI>), which now has 3,334 followers, when issues are released, and also link to some news items and announcements directly. We also have a Twitter account, [@InstMathStat](https://twitter.com/InstMathStat), with 1,910 followers, 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](mailto:bulletin@imstat.org)— or you can leave a comment on an article, obituary or news item posted at <https://imstat.org/news/>.

*Tati Howell, August 2021*

# ACTIVITY REPORT: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN PROBABILITY August 8th, 2021

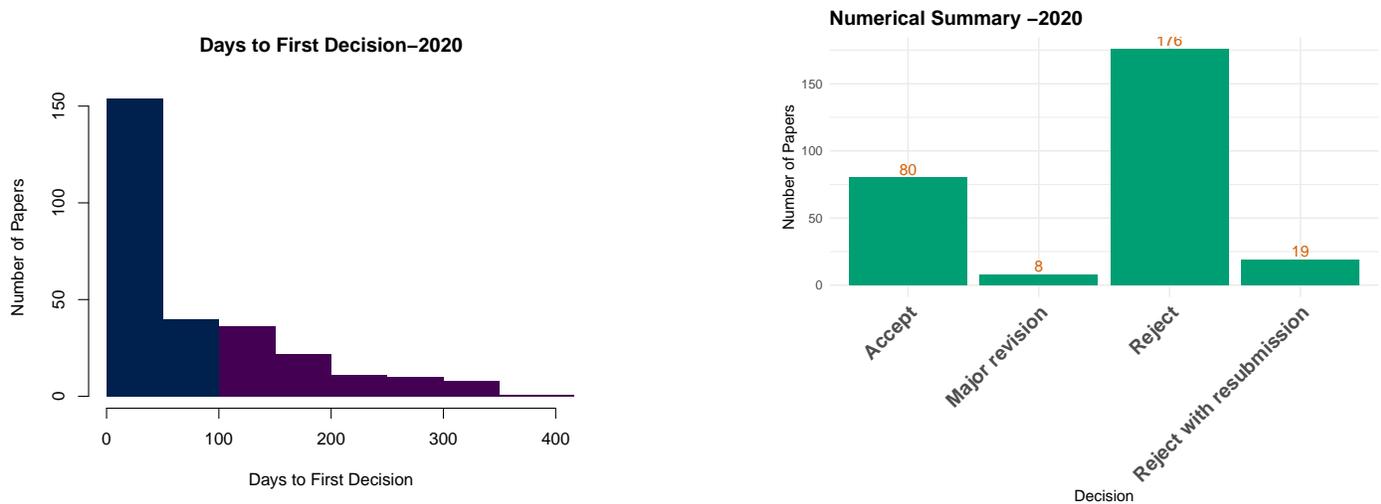
The editorial board: AnneLaure Basdevant, Leif Doering, Alessandra Faggionato, Patrik Ferrari, Peter Friz, Paul Gassiat, Christina Goldschmidt, Patricia Gonsalves, Maria Gordina, Geoffrey Grimmett, Benedicte Haas, Hubert Lacoin, Guenter Last, Xue-Mei Li, Paolo Dai Pra, Silke Rolles, Rongfeng Sun, [Louis-Pierre Arguin](#), [Federico Camia](#), [Nicolas Curien](#), [Francois Delarue](#), [Ioana Dumitriu](#), [Steve Evans](#), [Nina Gantert](#), [Soumik Pal](#), [Nicolas Perkowski](#), [Nathan Ross](#), [Justin Salez](#), [Augusto Teixeira](#), [Cristina Toninelli](#)

In blue the colleagues that joined the board during the last year.

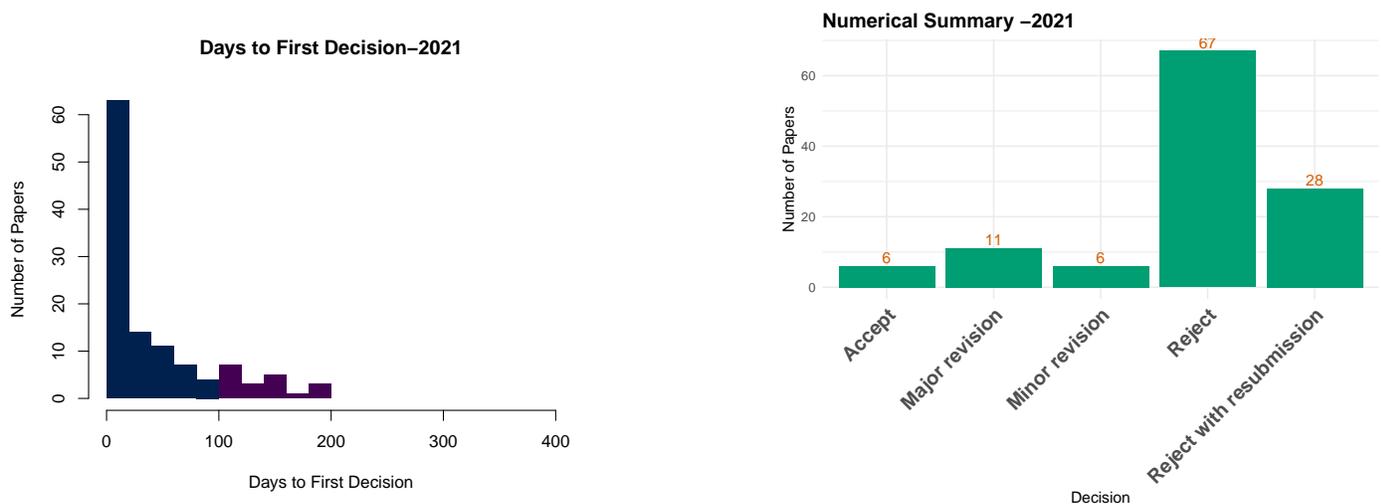
The number of submissions is rather stable: 265 in 2019, 283 in 2020, and for the first 7 months of 2021 we have 159 submissions.

Standardising quality of papers papers to be accepted at ECP is one the new steps take this year was stand. At the Electronic Communications for Probability, for review process to begin, the entire manuscript that is submitted should be within 12 pages all inclusive in ECP-style format. This was done to maintain consistency in judgement across all submissions.

## Numerical Data Summary for 2020:



## Numerical Data Summary for 2021 till August 8th, 2021:



## 2021 Editorial report for *Electronic Journal of Probability*

Bénédicte Haas – July 21, 2021

**Board's renewal.** From January 1, 2021, I have been appointed as editor-in-chief of *Electronic Journal of Probability* in replacement of Andreas Kyprianou. Simultaneously Siva Athreya became editor-in-chief of *Electronic Communications of Probability* in replacement of Giambattista Giacomini.

The editorial board is common to both journals. With Siva, Andreas and Giambattista we worked closely to ensure a smooth transition and renew part of the board. In the table below you will find the current board, consisting of 31 members (for comparison the previous board had 30 members at the end of 2020). There are 13 newly appointed associated editors (in blue) and 16 continuing from Andreas and Giambattista's tenure, most of which started in January 2018, and a few later in the 2018-2020 term. The female ratio is  $11/31 \approx 35,5\%$ .

ECP & EJP Editorial Board on July 21, 2021	
Louis-Pierre Arguin	Patricia Gonçalves
Siva Athreya (EiC of ECP)	Maria Gordina
Anne-Laure Basdevant	Geoffrey Grimmett
Federico Camia	Bénédicte Haas (EiC of EJP)
Nicolas Curien	Hubert Lacoïn
Paolo Dai Pra	Guenter Last
François Delarue	Xue-Mei Li
Leif Döring	Soumik Pal
Ioana Dumitriu	Nicolas Perkowski
Steve Evans	Silke Rolles
Alessandra Faggionato	Nathan Ross
Patrick Ferrari	Justin Salez
Peter Friz	Rongfeng Sun
Nina Gantert	Augusto Teixeira
Paul Gassiat	Cristina Toninelli
Christina Goldschmidt	

Geoffrey Grimmett and Guenter Last have announced that they will leave the board at the end of 2021 and mid-2022 respectively. There will therefore be a slight reorganization of the board to consider soon.

In total, 11 colleagues have left the board at the time of the renewal: Beatrice Acciaio, Vincent

Beffara, Nathanaël Berestycki, Djalil Chafaï, Antti Knowles, Claudio Landim, Gábor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Firas Rassoul-Agha, Víctor Rivero and Samy Tindel.

**Status of papers submitted in 2020, on July 21, 2021.** The following information reflects the work of the previous board and is based on the data provided by Geri Mattson:

<b>Submitted</b>	<b>442</b>
In Review	70
first round	26
second round	20
third+ round	24
Accepted	119
Rejected	195
Reject with resubmission	47
Withdrawn	11

Average days before rejection (for 195 papers): 69

Average days before first decision (for 405 papers): 129

Estimate of acceptance rate, assuming roughly that the 44 papers in second or third+ round are very likely to be accepted:  $(119+44)/(119+44+195+47) \approx 40\%$ .

**Status of papers submitted between 2021-01-01 and 2021-07-21:**

<b>Submitted</b>	<b>232</b>
In Review	146
first round	138
second round	8
Accepted	3
Rejected	77
Reject with resubmission	2
Withdrawn	4

Average days before rejection (for 77 papers): 37

It is too early to extract further statistics, but it can be noted that the increase of submissions observed during the previous tenure tends to be confirmed (in the table below the number of submissions per year, from the data I found in previous reports – disregarding the withdrawn papers):

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
316	339	378	365	382	?	412	420	431

This allows the board to apply an ambitious policy, at the highest level.

# Annual Report

## Electronic Journal of Statistics

Domenico Marinucci

**July 21, 2021**

This report covers the following periods:

- (i) January 1 - December 31, 2020
- (ii) January 1 – July 17, 2021

### **Period: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020**

In 2020, 553 papers were submitted to EJS, a steep increase with respect to the previous year 2019 (when they were 453). Out of these, in the first round 346 papers were rejected, 45 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 105 and 42 major or minor revisions (respectively) were proposed, while 2 were accepted directly; for 4 a decision has still to be taken while the remaining ones were withdrawn. Note that these data refer to the first decision only – out of the papers received in 2020, 98 have been accepted by today, 55 are still pending. Hence among the 2020 submissions 17.7% (98/553) were accepted, 9.94% (55/553) are still pending, all the others have been rejected or withdrawn. For a comparison, note that a final decision has been reached for all 453 submissions of 2019; among all these, 141 were eventually accepted (31%).

Among the 2020 submissions, the statistics for the days to a first decision are as follows:

Average: 78,7; Q1: 5 ; Q2 (Median): 41,5; Q3 :136,5

where the average is smaller than in 2019 (84,1), and the median much smaller than in 2019 (80); the first quartile is the same and the third has gone down from an earlier value of 152.

Overall, 126 papers were published in 2020, to be compared with 138 in 2019.

### **Period: Jan 1 - July 17, 2021**

The reporting period this year is January 1 – July 17, during which 278 papers were submitted, about ten more than last year but on a longer period (268 at 30/6/2020). So far, 123 papers have been rejected, 8 rejected with possibility to resubmit, for 24 and 5, respectively, major or minor revisions were proposed; 118 papers are still waiting for a first decision (hence a first decision has been reached for  $160/278=57.6\%$  of the papers that were received). The rejection rate among papers for which a first decision has been reached is clearly very high but this proportion is very much biased upward and hence not very significant. Note, however, that nearly 50% of all submissions are now 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: 40,3, Q1: 3, Q2 (Median): 6, Q3: 77

All these numbers show some increase with respect to the figures for the first months of 2020.

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	5453	138
2020	4551	126
2021	3427	85

### **Current list of Associate Editors**

There are currently 47 Associate Editors for EJS:

Felix Abramovitch, Edoardo Airoidi, Christophe Andrieu, Ery Arias-Castro, Alexander Aue, Francis Bach, Fadoua Balabdoui, Moulinath Banerjee, Gilles Blanchard, Florentina Bunea, Francois Caron, Ismael Castillo, Ngai Hang Chan, Yen-Chi Chen, Arnak Dalalyan, Herold Dehling, Mathias Drton, Chao Gao, Subhashis Ghoshal, James Hobert, Mark Hoffmann, Kengo Kato, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Rafal Kulik, Antonio Lijoi, 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, Armin Schwartzman, Johan Segers, Bodhisattva Sen, Alexandre Tsybakov, Sara van de Geer, Ingrid van Keilegom, Frederi Viens, Wei Biao Wu, Yingnian Wu, Minge Xie.

At the end of 2021, my second (and last, of course) term as Editor in Chief of EJS will be concluded. Over this period, the number of submissions has grown by about 36.3%: from 405 in 2015 (with two special issues) up to 553 in 2020. I wish to express my gratitude to all the Associate Editors, to Elyse Gustafson and to Geri Mattson for their most valuable support in this demanding but extremely interesting job.

# Report on Probability Surveys

*Ben Hambly* - Editor-in-Chief from 1st January 2015 until 31st December 2020.  
*Mikhail Lifshits* - Editor-in-Chief since 1st January 2021.

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 survey 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 13 (2016) 4 Surveys and 244 pages;  
volume 14 (2017) 5 Surveys and 327 pages;  
volume 15 (2018) 6 Surveys and 306 pages;  
volume 16 (2019) 6 Surveys and 332 pages;  
volume 17 (2020) 7 Surveys and 753 pages.

There are currently 14 Surveys at various stages in the editorial process. The current acceptance rate for papers is around 60%. Almost all rejections correspond to research articles, not being the surveys.

A new journal management system EJMS has been implemented in January 2021. At the moment, both the old and the new system work simultaneously, managed by the current, resp. past, Editor-in-Chief.

In the past the journal has provided the probability community with useful overviews of a range of areas within the field. However, the number of submissions in recent years has been insufficient. The current editorial policy aims to increase (say, to double) the annual number of published surveys through a more active approach including direct inviting potential authors.

Any readers of this report are also encouraged to consider submitting a survey to Probability Surveys.

*Statistics Surveys*, Annual Report to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

August 19, 2021

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: Marloes Maathuis (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).

Ranjan Maitra is serving as the *Statistics Surveys* representative on the American Statistical Association Committee on Publications (CoP). It makes more sense to have Ranjan Maitra (the ASA Editor on *Statistics Surveys*) be appointed as the ASA CoP representative.

We did not have a meeting of the Editorial Board at the JSM 2020 or 2021. The Editors did have virtual meetings and email discussions this past year to plan for our invited session at JSM 2021 and to deal with other issues. We found the meetings to be productive, and Wendy will work to set up similar meetings later in 2021.

*Statistics Surveys* had an invited session at JSM 2021. Speakers were Cynthia Rudin of Duke University and Alfred O. Hero, III from the University of Michigan. Dr. Rudin's talk was titled "For Interpretability and Explainability in Machine Learning, Consider Applications Instead of Abstractions." She submitted a paper to *Statistics Surveys* and it is under minor revision. Dr. Hero's talk was titled "Multiway Tensor Covariance Modeling," and we expect his paper to be submitted this calendar year. Upon Ranjan's recommendation and with the concurrence of the Editors, we invited speakers for the session who would submit papers to the journal. This has been successful as indicated above.

**ISSUES:** Last year we mentioned two papers that have been lingering in the journal management system. One of the papers was returned to the author. The author of the second paper agreed to submit a revision by a certain date, which has now passed. Wendy will return the paper since it is several years old now. We are also discussing the need for an additional AE with expertise in random numbers.

**SUBMISSIONS** During the period January 01, 2020 – July 31, 2021, forty-two (42) 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.

The status of the manuscripts is as follows:

Accepted: 6

Rejected: 22

Papers in review: 7

Rejected with resubmission encouraged: 6

Withdrawn: 1

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#### **THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

For most of the reporting year, the editorial board 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.

#### **EJMS**

The EJMS is working well. Geri Mattson and Elyse Gustafson are always quick to provide their advice and help when called upon. Wendy recently (July 2021) recommended Mattson Publishing to AAPOR as they are searching for publishing alternatives for their journals. Eric Sampson of the ASA also recommended them.

# Treasurer's Report 2020

## Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for the calendar year end 2020. The 2020 fiscal year-end audit report will be posted online separately in the Fall of 2021, after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2020, the total number of IMS members increased. Subscriptions by institutions decreased this past year by 1% overall, but increased by 1% for IMS core journals. The financial status of the Institute continues to be stable and strong, and actions are in place to ensure its long-term stability. As of 2020, the IMS did not have negative effects to membership, subscriptions, or financials due to COVID-19. We continue to keep a close eye on these items in 2021 as many effects may not be felt until this year.

Details of the events of the past year, and membership, subscription and 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 Applied Statistics; Annals of 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: the Latin American Journal of Probability and Mathematical Statistics; Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré (B); Bayesian Analysis; Bernoulli journal; Bernoulli News; Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics*

## Affiliated Publications

*Observational Studies; Probability and Mathematical Statistics; Stochastic Systems*

## Membership Data

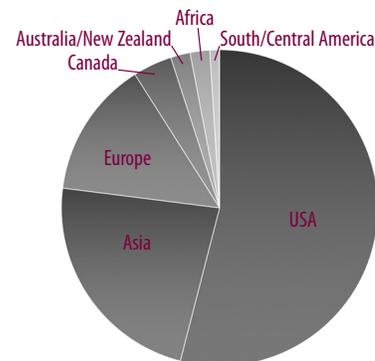
Table 1 presents the membership data back to 2016. Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2020 increased by 17% from December 31, 2019. This is largely due to an increase in student (non-paying) members. Paid membership decreased by 5%. The total number of paid IMS members in 2020 was 2,651. The IMS had its peak in paid membership in 2008 with 3,156 members. The IMS Executive Committee continues to look for ways to address our membership numbers.

TABLE 1: Membership, by Calendar Year

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% change
<b>Regular</b>	1,565	1,447	1,384	1,397	1,397	0.0%
<b>Life/Retired Life</b>	541	563	613	617	614	-0.5%
<b>Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China</b>	337	370	331	704	577	-18.0%
<b>New Graduate</b>	113	213	76	70	63	-10.0%
<b>Student</b>	1,094	1,022	828	722	1,488	100.6%
<b>Total</b>	3,650	3,615	3,217	3,510	4,099	16.8%
<b>Total excluding free members (students)</b>	2,556	2,593	2,389	2,788	2,651	-4.9%

## Geographic Distribution of Members.

The IMS membership is currently distributed as follows (see pie chart, right): 54% United States; 18% Asia; 14% Europe; 4% Canada; 2% Australia and New Zealand; 2% Africa; 1% South America, Mexico and the Caribbean.



## Subscription Data

### Selection of Journals by Members:

Print subscriptions by members continued to decrease in 2020, 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.

TABLE 2: Member subscriptions, by calendar year

PRINT (paid)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% change
<i>Annals of Applied Probability</i>	68	61	54	46	30	-34.8%
<i>Annals of Probability</i>	75	68	57	50	34	-32.0%
<i>Annals of Applied Statistics</i>	107	91	87	83	49	-41.0%
<i>Annals of Statistics</i>	220	208	191	174	125	-28.2%
<i>Statistical Science</i>	386	382	387	325	226	-30.5%
<b>Total</b>	856	810	776	678	464	-31.6%

Continues on page 19

**Joint Memberships:** The IMS offers joint membership opportunities with: the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Applied Probability Society/ INFORMS (APS/INFORMS), Bernoulli Society (BS), Indian Society for Probability and Statistics (ISPS), International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), International Statistical Institute + Bernoulli Society (ISI/BS), and New England Statistical Society (NESS).

**Institutional Subscription Data:** Table 3 presents comparative subscription data for institutions, to each of our scientific journals for 2020 and previous years. Almost all journals experienced slight subscription increases in 2020. Overall, institutional subscriptions decreased by 1.2%, mostly due to decreases in subscriptions to the *IMS Bulletin* which is free online. The increase to IMS core journals, specifically, was 1.2%. We continue to see usage of our bundled offerings, which are discounted on the whole. Approximately 60% of the institutional subscribers to IMS journals are in the USA and Canada, with the rest distributed throughout the world.

**Book Sales Data**

Table 4 presents sales data for IMS book

TABLE 3: Institutional paid subscriptions, by calendar year

PRINT	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% change
<i>Annals of Applied Probability</i>	580	558	537	519	527	1.5%
<i>Annals of Probability</i>	769	735	706	673	677	0.6%
<i>Annals of Applied Statistics</i>	349	341	341	343	358	4.4%
<i>Annals of Statistics</i>	962	929	906	861	855	-0.7%
<i>Statistical Science</i>	708	671	666	629	644	2.4%
<i>IMS Bulletin</i>	90	75	71	70	39	-44.3%
<i>Annals Inst Henri Poincaré (B)</i> <sup>5</sup>	304	300	289	288	292	1.4%
<i>Bernoulli</i> <sup>5</sup>	298	303	298	294	312	6.1%
<i>Brazilian J Probab Stat</i> <sup>5</sup>	135	134	132	142	162	14.1%
<b>Total</b>	4,377	4,046	3,946	3,819	3,866	1.2%
<b>Total IMS journals</b>	3,368	3,234	3,156	3,025	3,061	1.2%

<sup>5</sup> denotes IMS-supported journals.

TABLE 4: Total sales of IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks

Book series	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
<i>IMS Monographs</i> (6 vols to end of 2020)	4,115	4,214	2,414	1,253	1,443	17,667
<i>IMS Textbooks</i> (14 vols to end of 2020)	777	630	1,018	1,940	975	9,779
<b>Total sales</b>	4,892	4,844	3,432	3,193	2,418	27,446

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.

**Financial and Audit Report**

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2020. The external audit of the IMS will be completed shortly; the full auditor’s report will then be posted on the IMS website 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.**

*Zhengjun Zhang*  
IMS Treasurer



The 2021–22 IMS Executive Committee: in the top row, Past-President Regina Liu, President Krzysztof (Chris) Burdzy, President-Elect Peter Bühlmann, and in the bottom row, Executive Secretary Edsel Peña, Program Secretary Annie Qu, and IMS Treasurer Zhengjun Zhang

## Committee on Equality and Diversity Annual Report

The IMS Committee on Equality and Diversity consists of the following members: Nicole Lazar (Chair), Zach Branson, Samory Kpotufe, Tatyana Krivobokova, Thomas Lee, Shili Lin, Andrew Nobel, Simone Padoan, Yan Yu.

The committee met regularly between June 2020, when it was formed, and August 2021.

The major undertakings of the committee during this first year of operation include:

1. **IMS Member Survey:** One of the first elements of the committee's charge was to help IMS understand the composition of its membership. To this end, the committee drafted a new survey (the last such survey having been administered in 2014). This was modified with input from various other IMS stakeholders, to the final version that was sent out to members in Spring 2021.
2. **Liaison with COPSS DEI Task Force:** In early 2021 COPSS created a task force to look at DEI issues among the member societies. The task force had three goals: to come up with policies for naming and renaming awards; to generate strategies for increasing diversity in the profession; and to collect resources related to the connection between statistics and eugenics. Committee chair Lazar was the IMS representative on the COPSS task force.
3. **Discussions on Outreach:** Committee meetings had a strong focus on generating ideas for outreach, especially in consideration of the global membership of IMS. A proposed project is to consolidate a list of resources and activities around the world for increasing diversity in the profession. Another suggestion is for IMS to help link departments around the world who are working on DEI issues in the profession (e.g. departments are starting to create their own DEI committees and it might be helpful to have a venue for sharing ideas).
4. **Discussions on Increasing Diversity:** Through conversations, committee members concluded that IMS should think about ways of expanding its reach to: (i) younger researchers; (ii) researchers from historically underrepresented groups; and (iii) researchers outside of its traditional intellectual domains (e.g. those working in machine learning rather than traditional areas of statistics and probability). The committee suggests that IMS leadership consider ways to be more active in attracting these groups as members, including:
  - (a) **New Researchers Conference:** Currently seems more focused on academic statisticians, but research happens elsewhere, for instance large tech companies such as Google, Amazon, Facebook, as well as in smaller companies and government. The conference is a strong tool for keeping people involved

in the community and can be advertised more broadly. If similar conferences are currently held outside of North America, IMS might co-sponsor these; if such conferences are not widespread on other continents, perhaps these can be instituted. It would be helpful to participants to have a forum for continuing contacts, and conferences around the world could also be linked via this forum.

- (b) Co-Sponsor Events: The American Statistical Association and the Caucus for Women in Statistics co-sponsor the FN Day event, which is aimed primarily at girls in middle school and high school, to encourage them to think about careers in statistics/data science. IMS could consider joining this partnership, or seeking out others, for example with similar efforts to engage young women and minorities in Europe, Africa, and elsewhere.
- (c) Work with Other Statistical Societies (see next item).

5. **Liase with Other (Statistical) Societies:** The current CANSSI Director is focused on DEI as part of the CANSSI mission, but the structure of that institute does not allow them to easily implement changes directly. Hence the Director is interested in teaming up with statistical societies such as IMS to work together on these issues. The committee recommends that IMS leadership pursue such partnerships so that the response from the community will be more organized and coherent. We can also learn from the efforts of other societies, as well as other professions, who are grappling with many of the same problems.

## IMS Memorials Committee Report, 2021

The IMS Memorials Committee for 2020 - 2021 has consisted of Richard Davis, Edwin Perkins, and Jon Wellner (Chair). Paul Shaman has continued as an ex-officio member of the committee via his work on the Scientific Legacy Project.

This report covers three different projects of the Memorials Committee in 2020-2021:

- A. Scientific Legacy Project: Paul Shaman.
- B. Obituaries for recently deceased IMS Members:
- C. Evaluation of two proposals for new named lectures and prizes in honor of two current IMS members:
  - Grace Wahba:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace\\_Wahba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Wahba) .
  - Redacted: for IMS Council only.
- D. Memorials Committee Motion to Council, 2021
- E. Appendix: supporting documents
  - E(1). Proposal to establish an “IMS Grace Wahba Award”.
  - E(2). Memorials Committee Comments on the proposed Wahba Prize and Lecture.
  - E(3). Proposal to establish an “IMS (Redacted: for IMS Council only) Award”.
  - E(4). Memorials Committee Comments on the proposed (Redacted: for IMS Council only) Prize and Lecture

### **A. Scientific Legacy Project: Paul Shaman.**

Paul continues to update the Legacy Database in cooperation with Elyse Gustafson and Tati Howell. This database contains information about the scientific careers of (most if not all) IMS Fellows. Paul suggests that corrections and additions be sent to him at [shaman@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:shaman@wharton.upenn.edu) .

### **B. Obituaries for recently deceased IMS Members:**

In truth this list of obituaries ... and the work of collecting obituaries for publication in the IMS Bulletin continues to fall mainly on the shoulders of Tati Howell. It is helpful for members of the community to send reports to Tati at [bulletin@imstat.org](mailto:bulletin@imstat.org) concerning passages of IMS members as well as suggestions regarding potential authors of obituaries. The Memorials Committee owes a big thanks Tati for her dedication to this work.

- Kenneth J. Arrow: 1921-2017 (February 21, 2020)
- Saul Blumenthal: 1935-2018 (March 10, 2018)
- Donald A.S. Fraser: 1925-2020 (December 21, 2020)
- Donald P. Gaver, Jr.: 1926-2018 (February 11, 2018)
- Leo Goodman: 1925?-2020 (December 22, 2020)
- Tom Liggett: 1944-2020 (May 12, 2020)
- H el ene Massam: 1949-2020 (August 22, 2020)
- Elizabeth Meckes: 1980-2020 (December 16, 2020)
- S. James Taylor: 1929-2020 (January 22, 2020)
- Joseph (Yossi) Yahav: 1935-2016 (August 6, 2016)
- Xiangrong Yin: 1966-2020 (August 11, 2020)
- Willem van Zwet: 1934-2020 (July 2, 2020)

## C. Evaluation of two proposals for new named lectures and prizes in honor of two current IMS members:

### C.1 Comments on / evaluation of a proposal to establish an “IMS Grace Wahba Award”.

**Background:** A detailed (8 page) proposal was sent by IMS President Regina Liu to the Memorials Committee on 24 January 2021. This proposal was written and supported by an informal committee consisting of Jianqing Fan, Douglas Nychka, Bernard Silverman, Daniella Witten, Wing H. Wong, Bin Yu, Ming Yuan, and Hao Helen Zhang. (The proposal is attached below as Appendix D(1) to this report.)

**Memorials Committee Report / Comments:** The committee felt that the proposal was very strong and compelling and worthy of the IMS. On the other hand, the committee report pointed out that the proposal created a striking precedent that went beyond the mandate or purview of the Memorials Committee, in that it was aimed at honoring a living member of the community. Here is the description of the role of the Memorials Committee from the IMS Handbook:

“The Committee on Memorials sees that proper steps are taken to memorialize distinguished probabilists and statisticians [who have died](#) ... Ways to honor such researchers are obituaries in the Bulletin, extended memorial articles in IMS scientific journals, memorial issues of IMS journals, and memorial sessions at IMS meetings.” [See <https://imstat.org/ims-handbook/ims-handbook-committees/#Memorials>]

The Memorials Committee comments (sent to Regina Liu on 1 February) also included comments on several other potential problems involving the proposed Prize and Lecture, including potential difficulties in arranging time slots for the lectures and expectations concerning the expected level of funding to endow the lectures. The Comments included further suggestions about the need to either: (a) create either a new IMS committee concerning Named Lectures or, alternatively, (b) restructure and rename the Memorials Committee and give it a new charge or purview which would include appropriately honoring living members of the IMS.

The Memorials Committee Comments on the proposed Wahba Prize and Lecture were sent to Regina Liu on 1 February and is attached to this report as Appendix D(2).

**Council Decision:** The understanding of the Memorials Committee is that a motion to the IMS council in favor of the proposal was made on April 1, 2021, and that the motion passed on April 20, 2021.

## **C.2 Comments or / evaluation of a proposal to establish an “IMS (Redacted: for IMS Council only)” .**

**Background:** A 3 page proposal was sent by IMS President Regina Liu to the Memorials Committee on 13 June 2021. A copy of this proposal was received directly from (redacted: for IMS Council only) on 21 June 2021. This proposal was written and supported by an informal committee consisting of (redacted: for IMS Council only) (The proposal is attached below as Appendix D(3) to this report.)

**Memorials Committee Report / Comments:** The committee felt that the proposal was well written and worthy of the IMS. The committee agreed that Professor (redacted: for IMS Council only) is a strong possibility for such an award. On the other hand, the committee report pointed out that the proposal landed squarely in the territory of the precedent created by the Wahba Award and Lecture: it goes beyond the mandate or purview of the Memorials Committee, in that it was aimed at honoring a living member of the IMS community. This was already noted in C.1.

The Memorials Committee comments (sent to Regina Liu on 19 July) also repeated comments from the Committee Comments on the Wahba prize and award. This included potential difficulties in arranging time slots for the lectures and expectations concerning the expected level of funding to endow the lectures. The Comments included further suggestions about the need to either: (a) create either a new IMS committee concerning Named Lectures or, alternatively, (b) restructure and rename the Memorials Committee and give it a new charge or purview which would include appropriately honoring living members of the IMS.

The Memorials Committee Comments on the proposed (redacted: for IMS Council only) Prize and Lecture were sent to Regina Liu on 19 July. They are attached to this report as Appendix D(4).

**Council Decision:** This proposal has not yet been presented to the IMS Council pending discussions and decisions concerning the restructuring and potential renaming of the Memorials Committee

(or possible creation of a new Committee) charged with awards intended to honor living members of the IMS.

#### D. IMS Memorials Committee Motion to Council, 2021

MOTION: To rename the ‘Committee on Memorials’ to ‘Committee on Endowed Lectures and Memorials’ and broaden the charge to consider proposals beyond honoring the dead.

Furthermore, the following sentence will be added to the committee’s in the IMS Handbook: “In exceptional cases the Committee will also consider proposals of endowed lectures honoring deserving researchers or endowed lectures that enhance IMS missions.” These changes are suggested in order to bring the role of the Committee on Endowed Lectures and Memorials in line with existing material on the IMS web site as listed in the ‘Background’ material below.

BACKGROUND: The current charge to the committee reads: ‘The Committee on Memorials sees that proper steps are taken to memorialize distinguished probabilists and statisticians [who have died](#). Ways to honor such researchers are obituaries in the Bulletin, extended memorial articles in IMS scientific journals, memorial issues of IMS journals and memorial sessions at IMS meetings.’

Note that this charge [does not include](#) ‘Creation of New IMS Prizes or Awards’ or ‘Creation of New IMS named Lectures’ as described below.

Under <https://imstat.org/memorials/creation-of-new-ims-prizes-or-awards>:

Creation of New IMS Prizes or Awards  
Current IMS Awards  
Current IMS Funds

Examples:

- IMS Lawrence D. Brown Ph.D. Student Award Fund: created 2019.
- IMS Peter Gavin Hall IMS Early Career Prize Fund: created 2018.

Such prizes have been created in only a few cases and have involved substantial fundraising efforts. The most recently created awards have involved total contributions of approximately \$100,000-150,000. The creation of any such prize must be approved by the IMS Memorials Committee and the IMS Council. It is advisable to consult

with the Chair of the Memorials Committee in [advance](#) of submitting a proposal.

Under

<https://imstat.org/memorials/creation-of-new-ims-named-lectures/>:

“Creation of New IMS Named Lectures IMS Special Lectures IMS/BS Special Lectures

This is very difficult to carry out due to the current number of existing named lectures and the problems involved in scheduling such lectures.

Existing named Lectures, with date created:

- Reitz (1947)
- Wald (1957)
- Neyman (1982)
- Le Cam (2003)
- Doob (2012) joint with Bernoulli Society
- Schramm (2013) joint with Bernoulli Society
- Blackwell (2014)
- Wahba (2021)

If you wish to consider this option, please reach out to the IMS Memorials Committee to discuss in [advance](#) of submitting a proposal.”

**Additional background and concerns:**

(a) The Committee is concerned about continuation of the current decision patterns with little or no established guidelines or criteria. It seems likely to the Committee that in the long term this could easily result in a proliferation of awards and a consequent degradation of the significance of our existing awards.

(b) We hope that the incoming Committee on Memorials will work to establish criteria, guidelines, and processes to handle the recently received named lecture proposal (to honor (redacted: for IMS Council only) .as well as the many other proposals of a similar kind which the Committee on Memorials anticipates receiving in the coming years.

**E. Appendix: supporting documents (sent separately)**

- E(1). Proposal to establish an “IMS Grace Wahba Award”.
- E(2). Memorials Committee Comments on the proposed Wahba Prize and Lecture.
- E(3). Proposal to establish an “IMS (redacted: for IMS Council only) Award”.
- E(4). Memorials Committee Comments on the proposed (redacted: for IMS Council only) Prize and Lecture

# IMS New Researchers Group annual report 2021

Alexander Volfovsky

October 11, 2021

The 2020-2021 year was a difficult one for the New Researchers Group due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our original 2020 plans included:

1. Sponsoring junior researchers at the Atlantic Causal Inference Conference (May 2020),
2. Sponsoring a joint workshop for data science and management science new researchers at HBS (May 2020),
3. Running our annual meeting (NRC) at the University of Pennsylvania (August 2020),
4. Sponsoring the annual Preparing to Teach Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania (August 2020).

All of the above in-person plans had to be scrapped due to the pandemic. We regrouped and started planning for 2021 — The ACIC and HBS workshops were rescheduled for May 2021 as in person events, while the NRC and Preparing to Teach workshops were rescheduled for JSM 2021. However, the pandemic prevented holding the events in person. Because of the important networking, collaboration and cohort/workforce building that the NRG aims to generate at its events, moving all of them online was not considered a viable option. Nonetheless, some events were redesigned and hosted online.

The Preparing to Teach workshop (run by Mine Cetinkaya Rundel from Duke University) was most resilient to the pandemic and was held several times in an online format: in May 2020 at the virtual US Conference On Teaching Statistics, and in 2021 as a virtual post-JSM workshop. This has led to the development of new easily usable material that is now being professionally redeveloped to be made shareable on the workshop website.

The management science-data science workshop was rescheduled as an online event for May 2021. Organized by Iavor Bojinov, Alexandra Feldberg and Shunyuan Zhang of Harvard Business School and Alexander Volfovsky of Duke, the workshop was titled “Crossing

Disciplines: Studying Fairness, Bias, and Inequality in Management and Decision Sciences Research” and brought together 30 new researchers for two days of presentations and discussions. There are now plans to organize an in person event in May 2022.

The Atlantic Causal Inference Conference has been rescheduled as an in person event at UC Berkeley for May 2022 and the New Researchers Conference is proceeding as planned at George Mason University for pre-JSM 2022.

The New Researchers Group had several other developments this past year. We coordinated with Bernoulli junior researchers to organize a series of virtual floor discussions at the annual meeting revolving around the academic job search in different countries (we held broadly European, American and Asian country panels). The NRG also organized the first invited IMS NRG session at the Annual Meeting (Virtual JSM 2021) that included talks on new MCMC tools. NRG representatives also served on the Nominations and Program committees for the IMS.

The New Researchers Group is still fully funded by the National Science Foundation, with two active awards with approximately 400,000 dollars remaining. The funds are committed to the organization of the aforementioned workshops and future New Researchers Conferences. The group has also secured active leadership: a new president, Pragya Sur of Harvard, will take over after JSM 2022 and the recent grant is held by NRG Treasurer Simon Mak of Duke. The outgoing president, Alexander Volfovsky of Duke, will remain in an advisory position.

# IMS Committee on Publications, Chair's Report 2021

## Committee Members:

Marianna Pensky, Chair,

Thomas Lee

Tilman Gneiting

Francois Delarue (ex officio)

Peter Friz (ex officio)

Amir Dembo (ex officio)

Karen Kafadar (ex officio)

Richard Samworth (ex officio)

Ming Yuan (ex officio)

Cun-Hui Zhang (ex officio)

Robert Keener (ex officio)

Zhengjun Zhang (ex officio)

## The committee considered several issues:

### 1. Equal Authorship

Currently, the “IMS style” only allows one author listed as first author. Committee discussed whether it is worthwhile to allow journals to give credits to each of the authors for specific contributions, following the article of Xiao-Li Meng. The committee decision was: leave this decision to individual journals, and let them decide what they do with the credits and the first authors issue.

### 2. Plagiarism Checking

It was decided to adopt plagiarism software for IMs journals. Right now, AOS uses plagiarism software to check all submitted papers. The costs are minimal and IMS can cover these without an issue.

### **3. COPE - Publication Ethics**

We discussed whether IMS wish to become part of COPE: <https://publicationethics.org/>. The opinions of the committee split, some felt that COPE might be useful but others were against COPE or any other external body involved in the running of IMS journals, either as ethical supervision, or as external dispute mechanism. Since it is easier to join than to leave, the committee finally decided against joining COPE.

### **4. ABDC ranking**

ABDC released 2019 Journal Quality List where some of the IMS journals were downgraded. We contacted the ABDC steering committee but received unsatisfactory response.