

## Report from IMS Program Secretary Annie Qu

July, 2024

### 1. IMS ICSDS 2024 Conference updates: Dec. 16-19, 2024, Nice, France

Conference website

<https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2024/>

- We have formed program committee and local arrangement committee  
<https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2024/committee?authuser=0>
- Four plenary speakers are confirmed:  
**Rina Barber, Peter Bühlmann, Cynthia Dwork and Martin Wainright**
- We have paid the conference venue: [Radisson Blu Hotel](#)
- The second ICSDS at Lisbon is another big success

#### Some highlights:

- (1) ICSDS aims to become a truly international conference series covering broad subjects on data science, with broad representations from diverse groups and many different countries.
- (2) To achieve the goals set in (1), we had formed a program committee with a broad diversity of members – e.g., nearly 1/2 of female, new researchers, good mix of application and theory, broad range of subjects, and representations from many different countries.
- (3) This feature of international participations should greatly enhance the IMS outreach effort and, hopefully, the IMS membership drive as well.
- (4) The organization of invited and plenary sessions are progressing well. About 300+ invited speakers have been committed for the in-person conference. We anticipate that there will be 85 invited/contributed sessions for 4-day conference, and 4 plenary speakers.

### 2. There was a big success of IMS-APRM 2024: Jan 4-7, Melbourne, Australia

- Chairs: Wei Liem Loh (National University of Singapore) and Min-ge Xie (Rutgers University)
- Local Chairs: Howard Bondell (University of Melbourne) and Aurore Delaigle (University of Melbourne)

### 3. 2024 IMS-China is held in Yinchuan, NingXia Province, China, July 6-8, 2024

<https://conferences.koushare.com/2024IMS>

- Program Chairs: Jinchi Lv (USC) and Shurong Zheng (Northeast Normal U.)

**4. 2026 IMS-APRM will be held in Chinese U. of Hong Kong, June 13-16, 2026**

- Program Chairs: Byeong Park (Seoul National U, SK) and Xiaotong Shen (UMN, USA)
- Local Chairs: Junhui Wang (CUHK) and Xinyuan Song (CUHK).

**5. Proposal on IMS joining as an official partner of African International Conference**

- I have just attended the 8th Annual African International Conference in Tunisia.  
<https://aic2024.utm.com.tn/wp/>
- This is a well-organized conference. Currently ASA is an official partner of AIC.
- Tony suggested that IMS can also be an official partner of AIC.
- Here is more information about the conference from Amstat news:  
<https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2024/05/01/8th-african-international-conference/>
- **We can discuss about this proposal and also think about reasonable financial support to the AIC to support junior researchers who will participate in the AIC and be IMS members. This will be a great outreach activity for the IMS.**
- The next year AIC will be on June 15-20, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya.
- AIC organizing committee chair Yehenew Kifle has agreed to allocate several invited sessions for IMS if IMS becomes an official partner of AIC.

# Treasurer's Report 2024

## Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for the calendar year-end 2023. The 2023 fiscal year-end audit report will be posted online separately in the Fall of 2024 after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2023, the total number of IMS members decreased, but the total number of paying members increased. This is because our total number of student members (who pay no dues) went down, but all other categories of members who pay increased. Subscriptions by institutions decreased this past year by 6.4%. Since the pandemic, we have seen a steady decrease in total institutional subscriptions. The financial status of the Institute continues to be stable and strong, and actions are in place to ensure its long-term stability. Details of the events of the past year, membership and subscription data, 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 Statistics
- Annals of Applied Statistics
- Statistical Science
- IMS Monographs
- IMS Textbooks
- IMS Bulletin
- NSF-CBMS Series in Probability and Statistics

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

- ACM/IMS Journal of Data Science
- Electronic Communications in Probability
- Electronic Journal of Probability
- Electronic Journal of Statistics
- Journal of Computational and Graphical 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

Table 1 presents the membership data from 2019. Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2023, increased by 3.9% from December 31, 2022.

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

- 46% North America
- 24% Asia
- 23% Europe
- 3% Africa
- 2% Australia and South Pacific
- 2% South America & the Caribbean

Selection of Journals by Members: Print subscriptions by members decreased in 2023. IMS members receive free electronic access to all journals. Members are charged the 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 (ISPS)
- International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA)
- International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA)
- International Statistical Institute/Bernoulli Society (ISI/BS)
- New England Statistical Society (NESS)

In addition, we offer other societies special discounts in IMS membership. These include:

- Sociedade Portuguesa de Estatística (SPE)
- Società Italiana di Statistica (SIS)
- Société Française de Statistique (SFdS)

### Institutional Subscription Data

Table 3 presents comparative subscription data for institutions to each of our scientific journals for 2023 and previous years. Institutional subscriptions for the journals decreased in 2023. Approximately 55% 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.

## **Financial and Audit Report**

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The IMS's external audit will be completed in August 2024. 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.

Jiashun Jin  
Treasurer

**Membership and Subscriber Data  
Tables**

<b>TABLE 1: MEMBERSHIP, Calendar Year</b>						
<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% change</b>
Regular	1397	1397	1262	1220	1255	2.87%
Life/Retired Life	617	614	624	637	660	3.61%
Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China	704	577	292	259	273	5.41%
New Graduate	70	63	43	31	41	32.26%
Student	722	1448	1996	2523	2091	-17.12%
Industry Friends of IMS	0	0	0	0	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3510</b>	<b>4099</b>	<b>4217</b>	<b>4670</b>	<b>4322</b>	<b>-7.45%</b>
<b>Total not including free members (students)</b>	<b>2788</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>2221</b>	<b>2147</b>	<b>2231</b>	<b>3.91%</b>
<b>TABLE 2: MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year</b>						
<b>Print subscriptions</b>						
<b>Individual Members**</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% change</b>
AAP	46	31	35	28	26	-7.14%
AOP	50	36	37	32	30	-6.25%
AOAS	83	53	56	47	39	-17.02%
AOS	174	127	127	131	108	-17.56%
STS	325	236	240	248	207	-16.53%
<b>Total Member Print</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>-15.64%</b>
<b>TABLE 3: INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year</b>						
<b>Paid Subscriptions</b>						
<b>Institutions</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% change</b>
AAP	519	527	480	461	430	-6.72%
AOP	673	677	614	594	547	-7.91%
AOAS	343	358	315	320	309	-3.44%
AOS	861	855	799	765	712	-6.93%
STS	629	644	588	585	532	-9.06%
BULL	70	39	38	38	27	-28.95%
Supported Journal: AIHP	288	292	273	260	250	-3.85%
Supported Journal: Bernoulli	294	305	304	275	268	-2.55%
Supported Journal: BJPS	142	162	146	130	133	2.31%
<b>Total Institutional Paid</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>3,859</b>	<b>3,557</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>3,208</b>	<b>-6.42%</b>
<b>Total IMS Journals Only</b>	<b>3,025</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>-7.16%</b>
<b>TABLE 4: Sales of IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks</b>						
<b>Volume</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total Sales</b>
8 Volumes IMS Monographs	1,253	1,443	1,628	1,516	1,118	21,929
17 Volumes IMS Textbooks	1,940	975	1,232	1,195	807	13,013
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>2,418</b>	<b>2,860</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>34,942</b>

**Editors-in-Chief:**

Kavita Ramanan, Qi-Man Shao (from 2022-01-01)

In the following, we summarize the board composition, provide a summary of our editorial process, and modes of communication, comments on potential improvements to the EJMS system, and finally share the submission data and an update on other aspects of the editorial process.

**Board Composition (as of June 15, 2023) (as of June 30, 2024):** There are currently a total of 29 members. Emmanuel Gobert, Patricia Goncalves and Nicolas Perkowski (marked in red. Below) left the board in 2023, due to other work commitments. We appointed two new members, Sarah Penington and Ronchan Zhu in 2024, and are awaiting feedback from several others whom we have invited to join the board.

Name	Institution	Country
Pauline Barrieu	The London School of Economics and Political Science	UK
Mathias Beiglboeck	University of Vienna	Austria
Bhaswar Bhattacharya	University of Pennsylvania	U.S.
Anup Biswas	IISER Pune	India
Jochen Blath	Goethe University Frankfurt	Germany
Francesco Caravenna	University of Milano-Bicocca	Italy
Sourav Chatterjee	Stanford University	U.S.
Wei-Kuo Chen	University of Minnesota	U.S.
Pierre Del Moral	INRIA	France
Jian Ding	Peking University	China
Stefan Gerhold	Vienna University of Technology	Austria
Emmanuel Gobert	École Polytechnique	France
Patrícia Gonçalves	Instituto Superior Technico	Portugal
Ajay Jasra	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology	Saudi Arabia
Arnulf Jentzen	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen University of Münster	China Germany
Bingyi Jing	Southern University of Science and Technology	China
Anti Knowles	University of Geneva	Switzerland
Johannes Muhle-Karbe	Imperial College London	UK
Ashkan Nikeghbali	University of Zurich	Switzerland
Ivan Nourdin	University of Luxembourg	Luxembourg
Sara Penington	University of Bath	UK

Nicolas Perkowski.	Free University of Berlin	Germany
Mathieu Rosenbaum	École Polytechnique	France
Mykhaylo Shkolnikov	Princeton University	U.S.
Perla Sousi	University of Cambridge	UK
Jan Swart	Czech Academy of Sciences	Czech Republic
Pierre Tarres	New York University Shanghai Université Paris-Dauphine	China France
Amandine Veber-Delattre	École Polytechnique	France
Ruth J. Williams	University of California, San Diego	U.S.
Wenxin Zhou	University of California, San Diego	U.S.
Rongchan Zhu	Beijing Institute of Technology	China
Nikolaos Zygouras	University of Warwick	UK

**Editorial Process:** The system with two editors works well. We have roughly one online meeting per week, pre-screening all the new submissions, assigning ownership of papers amongst ourselves (typically based on domain knowledge and avoidance of CoIs), and when appropriate discussing previous assignments or decisions, and striving to make sure that everything is being processed in a timely fashion. For any paper that we think definitely does not meet the standards of AAP, we make a desk rejection, sometimes after a quick confirmation from an AE or other expert, to guard against unconscious biases. For those papers that we think worthy of a full review, we assign the paper to an AE immediately. For the remaining papers, we seek high-level evaluations from experts in the field, and if the feedback is sufficiently informative, then either reject the paper (if the feedback is conclusively negative) or assign the paper to an AE for full review, passing on the preliminary opinions. So far, roughly 30% of the papers have been subject to a quick (desk) rejection, and the others go through a more in-depth review process.

**Communication:** We had made a few modifications last year in the wordings of letters sent out to evaluators and reviewers via the EJMS system, for example emphasizing the need for a high quality of exposition as well as relevance for applications, in addition to strong mathematical contributions. We made some additional changes this year – in particular, we included wording about CoI (Conflicts of Interest) in the letter to AEs, reviewers and evaluators. This has encouraged AEs and reviewers to identify and declare potential CoI, so that even when it is not a sufficiently strong CoI to disqualify the person from handling the paper, we can take this into account, for example, when weighting input from different reports.

As we did last year, we continue to carefully read reports before making a final decision, to both ensure that all reviews have adequate and pertinent content to support any decision and also to check that they are politely and constructively worded. We have also conveyed this expectation



to AEs. We also try to avoid simply saying some paper does not “meet the high standards” without providing some reason why that is the case – so that decisions do not appear arbitrary. This sometimes necessitates another set of e-mails between us and AEs or reviewers, but is important, and also decreases the chance of rebuttals. We have had very few of the latter.

We had a virtual meeting with the next upcoming editors of AAP. Amongst other things related to the journal, we discussed the possibility of having a conference in which all editors will be invited to participate. This may take place in 2025.

**Board meeting and Invited Papers:** We called a (virtual) board meeting on March 7, 2024. A total of approximately 25 out of (the then) 31 members of the Editorial Board joined the online meeting. All members agreed that we should maintain the high quality of AAP. An accepted paper should have a high quality in mathematics but also have relevance for applications, broadly construed, and the papers have to be written in a manner that is appealing to a broad audience. Members also discussed issues such as desk rejection, quick opinions, turnover time, referee selection and COIs while choosing referees and evaluations. We also followed up on an earlier e-mail announcing an IMS sponsored lunch at the Bochum meeting, and encouraged people to attend. Finally, we also discussed the idea of soliciting invited papers (e.g., from amongst recent IMS Medallion and other Special lecturers). This has apparently been done in the past, and the board was in favor of this endeavour. The board meeting was successful.

**Backlog:** We are very grateful to the IMS for, on our request, increasing the pages on several volumes of AAP over the last couple of years. This has allowed us to reduce the considerable backlog. It is currently 68 papers, which is a definite decrease from the 115 it was last year around the same time. The current backlog corresponds to (roughly) a little more than 3 volumes or 6 months. This is still a bit more than we would like but it is much better than it was earlier. In the long run, we feel both backlog and time-to-review are important to keep in mind for a journal that seeks to attract a diverse author base, ranging from those who publish in more applied journals with a focus on machine learning, theoretical biology or operations research to those who publish in fundamental mathematics journals. While the latter cohort is more used to long turnover times and time-to-publishing, this is not true of the former. This is also of particular concern to more junior researchers, graduate students, post-docs, etc.

**EJMS system:** The system is quite good, but there are several things that could be done to decrease routine administrative work of editors. Although we pointed this out soon after taking term, it seems that these are harder to implement in the system than one might anticipate. I list these items below (the first three are issues already mentioned in last year's report; the fourth is new to this report).

1. Editors cannot add new evaluators into the system, like they can do for reviewers. So, if one wants to solicit the opinion of an evaluator who is not already in the system, one has to do it either outside the system or invite them

as reviewers instead, which makes it harder to keep track of what stage the paper is and when to follow up with the evaluator.

2. When one lists all papers currently under evaluation (as opposed to those undergoing full-fledged review or awaiting processing), it does not allow one to down-select to see the evaluations being handled by a specific editor. One can do this for those awaiting decision, but not for those under evaluation. Adding this feature would make it easier for individual editors (since there are sometimes four working simultaneously, the two former and two current editors) to follow up on their evaluations.
3. If an evaluator wants to send a more detailed report that requires uploading a file, they cannot attach it directly, like one can do for reviews. They instead have to send it outside the system directly to our work e-mails, and then we have to upload it for the AE or author to see.
4. Since we take decisions jointly, we typically cc each other on decision letters. The EJMS system does not allow us to add a default cc – even after the previous editors stopped using the system, we have to still go in and add the other editor as a cc for each decision. Ideally, the EJMS system should allow default cc's for each editor who sends a message. So that when the new editors join, they can cc each other if they want to, but Qiman and I can continue to cc each other. With more than 430 decisions made each year, several entailing multiple rounds, the extra time required to enter this other e-mail as a cc adds up, even if one has the e-mail address readily available.

None of the above seem a good use of an editor's time. If these can be implemented it would really save (future) editors time, possibly for other journals using the EJMS system as well.

#### **Submission Data:**

Below are some relevant statistics of papers submitted to the journal. The number of submissions in the first half of the year has increased ~15% when compared to the same period last year (and the year before that). However, the percentage of those papers rejected in that period has also increased from 33% to 40%, as a result of efforts to avoid creating another backlog.

#### **Jan 1--June 30, 2024**

235: Total number of submissions  
004: Total number of withdrawals  
95: Total number of rejects by June 30, 2024  
001: Rejects with resubmission by June 30, 2024  
003: Total number of accepts by June 30, 2024  
132: Those still being processed (including revisions)

#### **Jan 1--Dec 31, 2023:**

396: Total number of submissions  
005: Number of withdrawals

236: Number of rejects by June 30, 2024  
030: Rejects with resubmission by June 30, 2024  
027: Number accepted by June 30, 2024  
098: Those still being processed (including revisions, etc.)

**Jan 1--Dec 31, 2022:**

403: Total number of submissions  
006: Number of withdrawals  
250 Number of rejects by June 30, 2024  
030: Rejects with resubmission by June 30, 2024  
099: Number accepted by June 30, 2024  
015: Those still being processed (including revisions, etc.)

## **Annals of Probability: Editor's report, January 1st-July 31st, 2024**

Prepared by Paul Bourgade and Julien Dubédat.

In the period from January 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024, the Annals of Probability received 165 submissions.

As of July 31, 2024, of these submissions – 99 have been rejected and 66 are in review. Anticipating a 60% acceptance from the latter group, we project an overall acceptance rate in the range 23-25%.

The 2024 page target for AOP is 2400 pages, which is coherent with the above numbers. As of July 31, 2024, there are about 1700 pages in accepted papers waiting for publication indicating a current backlog of about 8.5 months.

# Annals of Applied Statistics

## Annual Report for Calendar Year 2023

Ji Zhu, Editor-in-Chief

The year of 2023 marked the seventeenth full year of operation for the Annals of Applied Statistics (AOAS) and my second year as Editor-in-Chief. Below is the current composition of our board:

Ji Zhu	Editor-in-Chief
Fan Li	Editor for Social Sciences, Biostatistics and Policy
Yufeng Liu	Editor for Machine Learning and Bioinformatics
Jeffrey Morris	Editor for Biology, Medicine, and Genomics
Brendan Murphy	Editor for Social Sciences and Government
Jie Peng	Editor for Genetics, Genomics and Computational Biology
Dale Zimmerman	Editor for Physical Science, Engineering, and the Environment

Our team of Area Editors, supported by a dedicated board of Associate Editors, continues to manage the vast majority of manuscript reviews, ensuring the high quality of the papers we publish.

In 2023, we received 502 submissions, a modest increase from the 486 submissions in 2022, aligning closely with submission counts from the pre-pandemic period (e.g., 512 in 2018 and 540 in 2019). The distribution of monthly submissions in 2023 is as follows: 47, 52, 41, 46, 44, 41, 33, 27, 48, 36, 45, and 42. Typically, submissions decrease in July and August, a trend that persisted this year.

Of these submissions, 82 have been accepted for publication, 54 are under revision, 362 have been rejected or withdrawn, and 4 are still awaiting decisions. Our acceptance rate remains at approximately 20%.

Review timelines show that about 15% of the 2023 submissions received their first editorial response within one month, 43% within three months, and 85% within six months. The percentage of submissions taking longer than six months decreased slightly from 19% in 2022 to 15% in 2023. Compared to my predecessor, Karen Kafadar, I withdrew fewer submissions (23 out of 502 compared to her 193 out of 636). Detailed review times to initial decision for the past six years are shown in Table 1.

The journal's impact factor has fluctuated between 1.43 and 2.24 over the past decade and currently stands at 1.80, according to

<https://academic-accelerator.com/Impact-of-Journal/Annals-of-Applied-Statistics>.

Several long-standing Associate Editors have retired this year. We have successfully recruited replacements and slightly expanded the editorial board to alleviate the workload for each Associate Editor.

Currently, I am facilitating discussions on the submission titled "Boosting Data Analytics with Synthetic Volume Expansion," with Xiaotong Shen as the correspondence author. We are also encouraging data-centric submissions, which introduce timely datasets and relevant scientific questions

Table 1: Review Time to Initial Decision

Days to First Decision	$\leq 7$	8-30	31-90	91-180	$\geq 181$	Total
2018	210 41%	82 16%	92 18%	67 13%	41 8%	512
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
2021 (pandemic)	109 17%	145 23%	111 17%	191 30%	80 13%	636
2022	10 2%	59 12%	115 24%	212 44%	90 19%	486
2023	11 2%	66 13%	141 28%	211 42%	73 15%	502

in areas such as brain imaging, genetics and multiomics, electronic health records, and wearable devices.

For the remainder of my term (ending December 31, 2024), my primary goal is to complete these tasks while continuing to reduce the time to first decision, particularly aiming to lower the percentage of reviews that exceed three months.

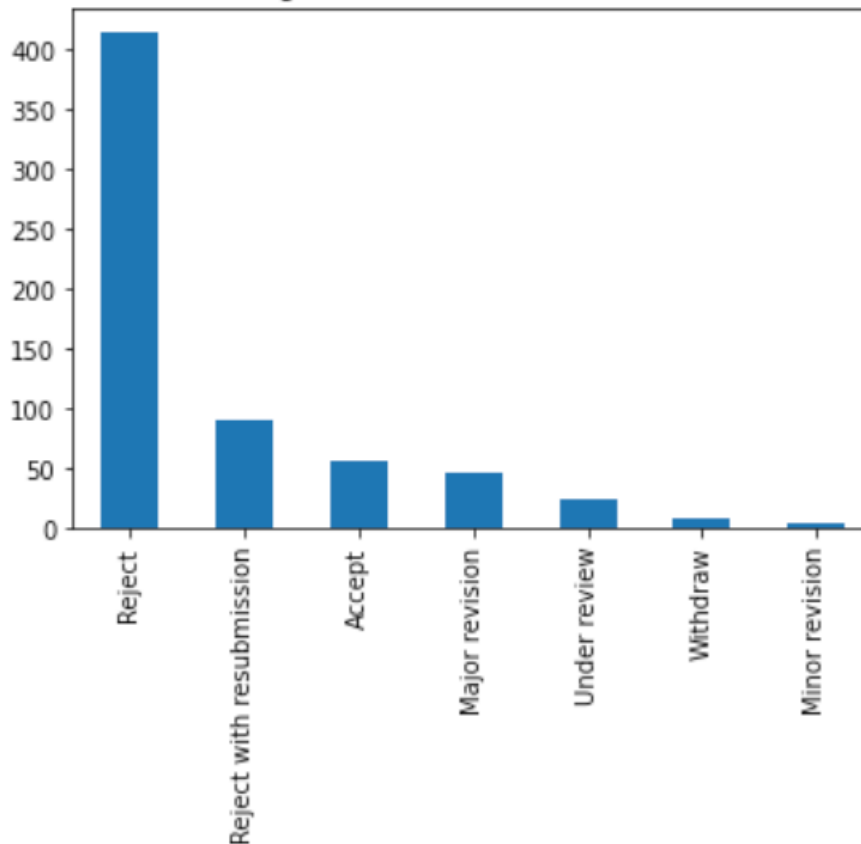
I am immensely grateful to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their exceptional support in our daily operations. Their efficiency and dedication have been instrumental in managing inquiries and preparing the data for this report.

## The Annals of Statistics, 2023 Annual Report

Enno Mammen and Lan Wang, Editors

**SUBMISSIONS:** We received 645 submissions in 2023. For comparison, the number of submissions in the years 2012–2022 was 555, 607, 697, 694, 718, 686, 637, 694, 754, 658, and 661 respectively. Of the 645 submissions, 5 were withdrawn before or during the review. In addition, we handled 79 requests for revision. Our editorial policy continues to emphasize that The Annals of Statistics aims at publishing research papers of the 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 2023



**ACCEPTANCE RATE:** For papers submitted during 2023, we have to date (to July 9, 2024) accepted 56, rejected 414, and rejected 90 with the possibility to resubmit. Currently, 92 submissions are still under review or revision. The acceptance rate is 8.75% by July 9, 2024. In

comparison, the acceptance rate last year was 14.22% (to June), 9.12% in 2020 (to July), 6.01% in 2021 (to June). Note that, since some papers are still under review, this is not the final acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2023.

#### BACKLOG AND PAGE REQUEST: BACKLOG AND PAGE REQUEST:

In 2023 AOS published 2550 pages (3676 in 2022, 3650 pages in 2021, 3720 pages in 2020, 3608 pages in 2019, 3866 pages in 2018, 2763 pages in 2017, 2779 pages in 2016, 2794 pages in 2015). We have become stricter in requesting the authors to adhere to the AOS policy on the page limit of the main paper. 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 371 pages in proofs and 927 pages in production (not in proofs yet). We would like to request an allotment of 3000 pages for 2025.

#### REVIEW TIMES:

The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2023 were 25 days, 110 days, and 180 days. The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2022 were 19 days, 94 days, and 166 days. The corresponding quartiles from 2021 were 16 days, 78 days and 152 days, from 2020 were 10 days, 81 days and 146 days, from 2019 were 10 days, 73 days and 131 days, from 2018 were 14 days, 99 days and 160 days, and in 2017 were 8 days, 103 days and 178 days.

The details of the review times are summarized in Figures 2 and 3, which provide for submissions in 2023 estimated survival curves for initial and second decision times respectively.

FINAL REMARKS: 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.

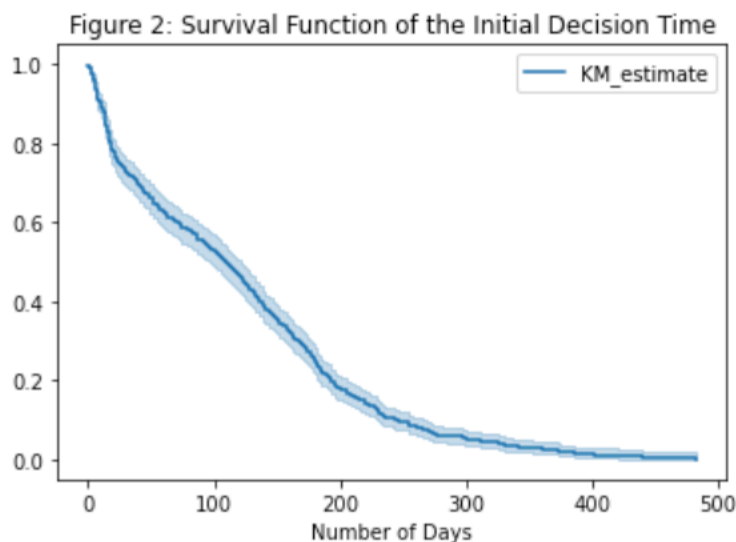
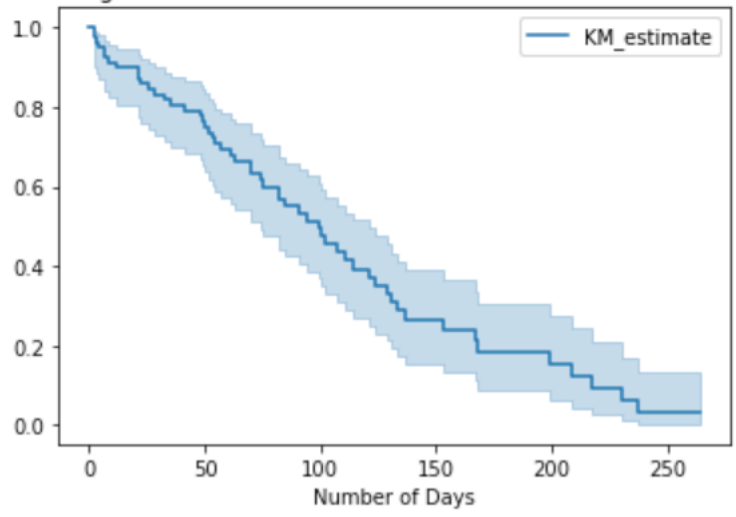




Figure 3: Survival Function of the 2nd Decision Time



## **Annual Report for Statistical Science: June 2023 – May 2024.**

**Moulinath Banerjee, Editor**

### **Overall picture:**

My previous report to the council covered June 2022 -- May 2023 (the latter part of the previous editor's final year and the earlier part of my first year as editor), and I will continue to adhere to this format.

Over this period, the numbers look as follows:

Total submissions: 185, which is consistent with the general trend of around 15 submissions a month.

Rejections: 118 (64%)

Desk rejections: 49 (26%)

Sent for review: 136, out of which 69 rejected (51%)

Desk rejections: 49 rejected /185 (26.5%)

Of the remaining 67 papers two were withdrawn, leaving 65. Of these 15 have been accepted so far, 14 are with authors awaiting revision (6 minor, 8 major) and 36 are in various stages of review. Using a 75% acceptance rate going forward for the ones awaiting revision, and a 50% acceptance rate for the ones undergoing active review, one arrives at a total of 44 eventually accepted papers, which at 24% is just a shade under a quarter.

The time to first decision for submitted manuscripts in 2023 (I chose this window as more papers in this period have had a chance to run their course) had a median of 69 days, whilst 33 out of the 175 papers required more than 6 months for the first decision (19%). This is a long time for Statistical Science papers and we will make efforts to bring this percentage down for subsequent submissions by chasing up tardy referees and in some cases tardy AEs more aggressively. However, the majority of AEs have dealt with their assignments conscientiously.

## **Discussion Papers:**

Two discussion papers are slated to appear in subsequent issues. I will consider soliciting invited discussion papers after consulting with the editorial board in the coming months.

"Item Response Theory – A Statistical Framework for Educational and Psychological Measurement" by Yunxiao Chen, Xiaou Li, Jingchen Liu and Zhiliang Ying

*Dylan Small*

Protocols for Observational Studies: Methods and Open Problems

## **Special issues:**

A special issue on reproducibility and replicability (Guest Editors: Nancy Reid, Mike Daniels and Alicia Carriquiry) was published in the Nov 2023 issue 38(4).

A special section on "Bayesian computations in the 21st century" (Guest Editors: Christian Robert and Dennis Prangle) was published as part of the Feb 2024 issue 39(1).

A special issue on Bayesian prediction [Guest Editors are Bertrand Clarke and Pietro Rigo] is being wrapped up and should appear in early 2025.

The above special issues were all commissioned by the previous editor, Sonia Petrone.

Since the start of my tenure in January 2023, I have commissioned three special issues:

The first deals with problems at the Statistics-ML interface and comprises topics in meta- learning, domain adaptation, transfer learning and so forth. Richard Samworth and Yuekai Sun (current AEs) along with Samory Kpotufe are guest-editors for this. Of the 9 commitments, 7 have been submitted thus far and are at various stages of review and the guest editors hope to receive the remaining 2 shortly. Progress on this has been slower than I anticipated, but I

will make an effort to expedite the rest of the process so that we have this done and dusted in the next 10 months.

A second special issue guest-edited by Ambuj Tewari (current AE) and Nan Jiang (UIUC, Computer Science) on 'Reinforcement Learning' is also underway. Four submissions have been received so far. For the remaining four, we have reminded the authors and we expect them to submit soon.

A special issue on 'Statistics and Optimal Transport' is in the works and will be co-edited by Jon Niles-Weed at NYU and Long Nguyen at Michigan. We expect to iron out details regarding contributors and topics by early Fall 2024.

I envisage to get two more special issues on topical areas started over the remaining part of my tenure as editor in consultation with the editorial board.

### **Short Communications:**

Short Communications was launched last year and the formal announcement is available on the Statistical Science webpage:

"Short communications will have an upper bound of 10 pages with references and could comprise philosophical musings on current research areas; alternative proofs and interpretations of important existing statistical results; suggestions for new methodology; short new proofs of new results or simulation experiments that point out downsides of a widely used procedure that have hitherto gone unnoticed. Short communications should not be used as an introduction for a long arXiv paper or supplement. Note that the platform is not intended to incorporate isolated short technical results. On the other hand, an interesting interpretation of an important existing result that is consequential or a theorem that builds on existing results in a broad area and provides key insights is admissible."

I am glad to report that this has generated considerable interest among authors and we've been receiving submissions consistently over the past few months. We've also solicited contributions from renowned statisticians from time to

time to jump start the process. Two such communications are now formally accepted and will appear shortly:

Ya'acov Ritov No need for an oracle: the nonparametric maximum likelihood decision in the compound decision problem is minimax

Elisabeth Gassiat, *Gilles Stoltz*

The van Trees inequality in the spirit of Hajek and Le Cam

**Number of requested pages:**

We would like to request between 725-750 pages for 2025.

**Acknowledgements:**

In closing, I would like to thank Kristina Mattson for her efficient administrative support, and her consistent handling of my many varied requests with alacrity. And finally, my gratitude to a wonderful editorial board that has been functioning conscientiously to keep the journal moving at a good clip.

## IMS Bulletin Report to Council 2024

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 Dan Nordman (Iowa State University). The current Contributing Editors are: Radu Craiu, Anirban DasGupta, Ruobin Gong, Clara Grazian, David Hand, Takis Konstantopoulos, Xiao-Li Meng, Layla Parast and Daniela Witten. A few of them write regular columns, others contribute more occasionally. We are grateful to them all. We continue to **look for 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.

Since the last report, we have published 16 obituaries: Peter Brockwell, Theo Gasser, Dick Gundy, Don Guthrie, Alan Hawkes, Anant Kshirsagar, Johannes Ledolter, Colin Mallows, Richard Olshen, Don Pierce, R.V. Ramamoorthi, C.R. Rao, Ehsanes Saleh, Kasala Subramanyam, Wolfgang Wefelmeyer, and Ruben Zamar. Some more are being written or are lined up for publication: Shoutir Kishore Chatterjee (“SKC”), Albert (Al) Madansky, and Brenda MacGibbon. Please do let us know if you hear of the death of an IMS member or Fellow, or a luminary in the field. You can read the obituaries (published since June 2011) on the Bulletin’s website at <https://imstat.org/?s=obituary>.

The advice column *Clara-fications*, primarily for early-career researchers, that started last year has not taken off as we hoped. We’d like to **solicit questions**: perhaps you could think back to when you were starting out in your career, what would have been helpful to know? Or perhaps you could ask your students what they need advice on? Send any questions c/o Tati, who will anonymize them and send them to Clara Grazian.

Anirban DasGupta’s Student Puzzle Corner continues as a regular feature, now with two puzzles each time, and receiving (usually) a few responses from student members. Again, we would like to encourage more responses, so do **share the puzzles** with your students. We publish lists of recent papers from IMS core, co-sponsored and supported journals (including electronic journals).

About two-thirds of IMS members receive the printed *Bulletin* in the mail (total print 2,160, including members and institutional subscribers); the rest opt for the electronic PDF/HTML version only. Since December 2019 the *Bulletin*’s news articles have been individually posted at <https://imstat.org/news/> (in addition to the complete PDF copy, which you can download from the archive pages: <https://imstat.org/ims-bulletin-archive/>). I upload the news items and articles from each issue just after it has gone to the printers (that is, a couple of weeks before the print copies are mailed out). Over 12 months, there were 12,313 page views of news items and *Bulletin* downloads from the IMS website. We post on the IMS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IMSTATI>), which now has 4,255 followers, when issues are released, and also link to some news items and announcements directly. We also have a Twitter (X) account, [@InstMathStat](https://twitter.com/InstMathStat), with 3,891 followers, where new issue releases, and some other news items, are tweeted. As well as those channels, we send out a monthly email to members, the IMS eNews, with links to news items.

As ever, we invite all members, and particularly Council members, to be proactive in writing or soliciting articles. We are open to your comments, suggestions or feedback!

Tati Howell, *IMS Bulletin* Editor  
[bulletin@imstat.org](mailto:bulletin@imstat.org)  
July 2024

## **Report on the Editorial activity:**

### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN PROBABILITY**

Editor-in-chief: Patricia Gonçalves

The current editorial board members are:

Louis-Pierre Argiun, Riddhipratim Basu, Federico Camia, Elisabetta Candellero, Giuseppe Cannizzaro, Ana Bela Cruzeiro, Nicolas Curien, François Delarue, Leif Döring, Dirk Erhard, Steven Evans, Nina Gantert, Paul Gassiat, Davar Khoshnevisan, Cyril Labbé, Gabor Lugosi, Mylene Maida, Ioan Manolescu, Soumik Pal, Giovanni Peccati, Nicolas Perkowski, Leonid Petrov, Nathan Ross, Justin Salez, Jason Schweinsberg, Avelio Sepúlveda, Vittoria Silvestri, Nike Sun, Augusto Teixeira, Daniel Vaselin, Nikolaus Zygouras

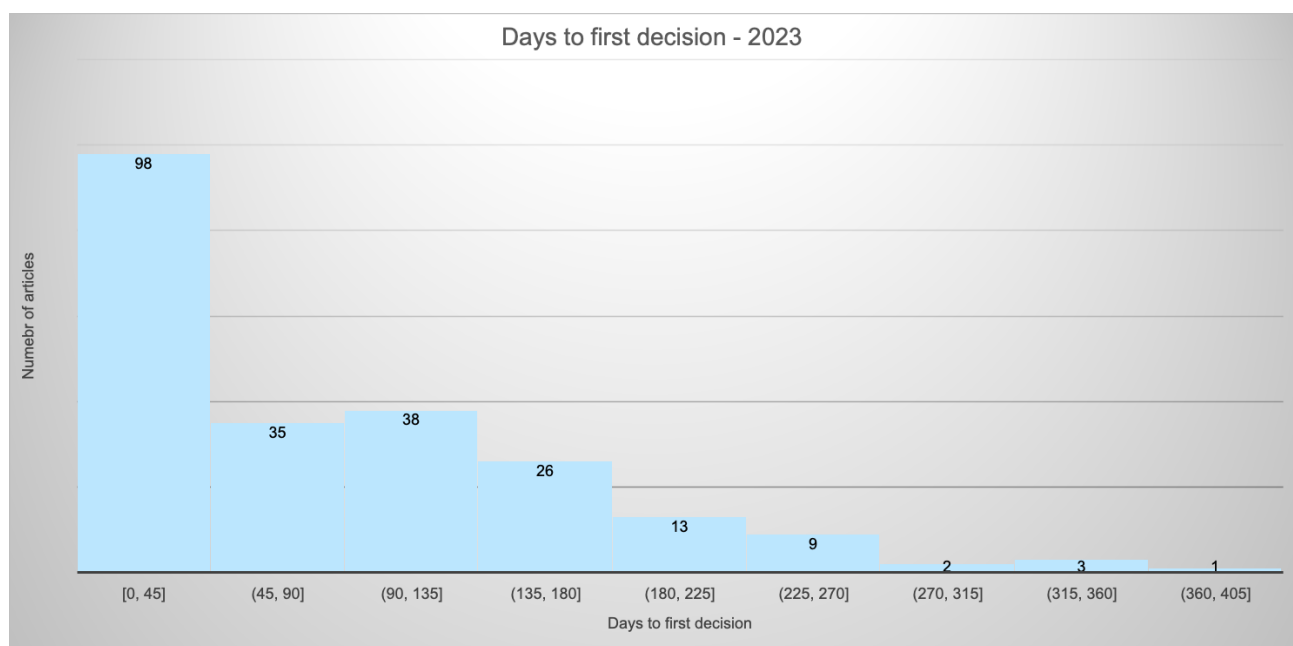
In color blue are the colleagues who were on the previous editorial board and who agreed to continue for a second round.

Status of papers:

The number of submissions over four years is 257 in 2021, 226 in 2022, 234 in 2023, and 139 (in the first six months of 2024).

The standardization of the quality of papers to be accepted at ECP is kept from previous years. At the Electronic Communications for Probability, for the review process to begin, the entire manuscript that is submitted should be within 12 (at most 13) pages all-inclusive in ECP-style format. This was done to maintain consistency in judgment across all submissions.

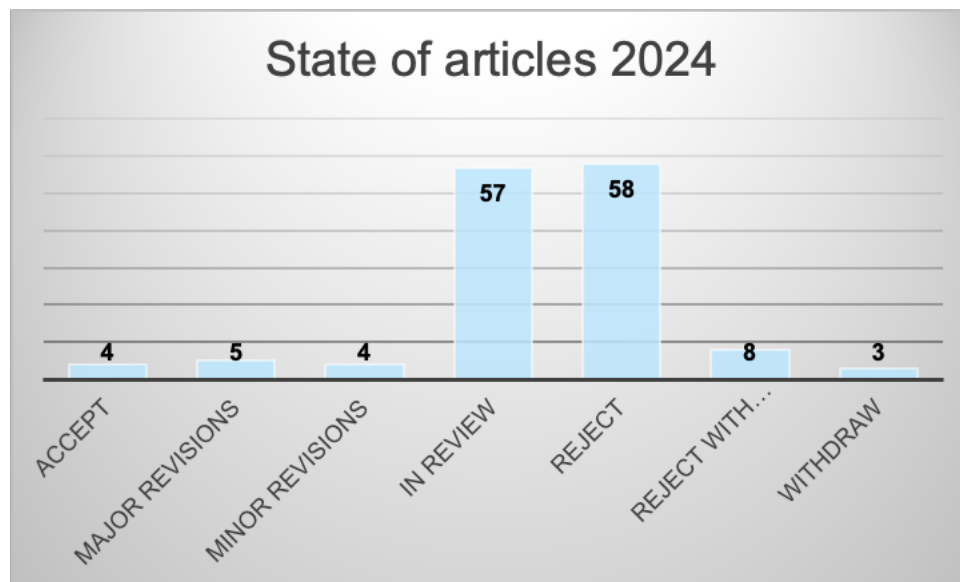
Here is a summary of the number of articles submitted in 2023 to the journal and the respective number of days until the first decision. This includes articles that could have had all sorts of ends: accepted or rejected.



### Load per AE:

The average load per Associate Editor for ECP (excluding Cristina Toninelli and myself) over the period 1st of January to 30th of June 2024, is 4,6 articles per AE and this is more or less balanced. I always try to balance the load but there are variations, because some editors do not feel comfortable handling papers outside their field of expertise or because this is more narrow than others. I have rarely rejected a paper (even a desk rejection) without asking for an AE to have a quick look.

Here are the statistics on the state of the articles submitted from the 1st of January 2024 up to the 30th of June 2024. Most of the articles that appear as “reject with resubmission” are because the authors did not send the article with the ECP-style format as requested. And are asked to resubmit it again (in case the 12-page limit is respected).



### Policies followed by the editorial board:

Regarding potential AE submissions to ECP and EJP:

In collaboration with Cristina, we have decided to revise the policy adopted by previous boards concerning the possibility of an AE or an Editor-in-Chief submitting an article to ECP or EJP. Specifically:

1. AEs are not allowed to submit articles to ECP or EJP. This measure aims to avoid any conflicts of interest and to maintain the journal's reputation for strong impartial objectivity.
2. As of today, one co-author of an AE (who is also an author of the article) has submitted an article to ECP, unaware of the new rule described in item 1. Consequently, the authors withdrew the article.



Regarding submissions of articles to ECP or EJP with a possible conflict of interest (e.g., department colleagues, close collaborators, or students of the Editor-in-Chief):

The policy we adopt is to delegate the article to an AE, who will act as the Editor-in-Chief in this case. The AE makes the decision, and the Editor-in-Chief strictly follows the AE's recommendations.

Deadline for the first decision:

The standard deadline is 8 weeks for ECP.

To date, two issues have required attention, but both were resolved smoothly.

Patricia Gonçalves

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Gonçalves", is written over a horizontal line.

## **Report on the Editorial activity:**

### **ELECTRONIC JOURNAL IN PROBABILITY**

Editor-in-chief: Cristina Toninelli

The current editorial board members are:

[Louis-Pierre Argiun](#), Riddhipratim Basu, [Federico Camia](#), Elisabetta Candellero, Giuseppe Cannizzaro, Ana Bela Cruzeiro, [Nicolas Curien](#), [François Delarue](#), [Leif Döring](#), Dirk Erhard, [Steven Evans](#), Nina Gantert, Paul Gassiat, Davar Khoshnevisan, Cyril Labbé, Gabor Lugosi, Mylene Maida, [Ioan Manolescu](#), [Soumik Pal](#), Giovanni Peccati, [Nicolas Perkowski](#), Leonid Petrov, [Nathan Ross](#), [Justin Salez](#), [Jason Schweinsberg](#), Avelio Sepúlveda, Vittoria Silvestri, Nike Sun, [Augusto Teixeira](#), Daniel Vaselin, Nikolaus Zygouras

In color blue are the colleagues who were on the previous editorial board and who agreed to continue for a second round.

Status of papers:

The number of submissions over the last years according to previous reports is (excluding withdrawals)

2012: 316  
2013: 339  
2014: 378  
2015:  
2016: 382  
2017: ?  
2018: 412  
2019: 420  
2020: 431  
2021: 389  
2022: 372

In 2023 the number of submission from January 1st to June 27 was 174.

The number of submissions I received in 2024 from January 1st to July 12 is 236.

The status of the submission is as follows:

- [In review](#) (144)
- [Rejected](#) (83)
- [Rejected with resubmission](#)(2)
- [Accepted](#) (7)

Load per AE:

The average load per Associate Editor for ECP (excluding Patricia Gonçalves and myself) over the period 1st of January to 12th of July 2024, is 7.4 articles per AE and this is more or less balanced. I always try to balance the load but there are variations, because some editors do not feel comfortable handling papers outside their field of expertise or because this is more narrow than others. I have rarely rejected a paper (even a desk rejection) without asking for an AE to have a quick look.

Policies followed by the editorial board:

Regarding potential AE submissions to ECP and EJP:

In collaboration with Patricia, we have decided to revise the policy adopted by previous boards concerning the possibility of an AE or an Editor-in-Chief submitting an article to ECP or EJP. Specifically:

AEs are not allowed to submit articles to ECP or EJP. This measure aims to avoid any conflicts of interest and to maintain the journal's reputation for strong impartial objectivity.

Regarding submissions of articles to ECP or EJP with a possible conflict of interest (e.g., department colleagues, close collaborators, or students of the Editor-in-Chief):

The policy we adopt is to delegate the article to an AE, who will act as the Editor-in-Chief in this case. The AE makes the decision, and the Editor-in-Chief strictly follows the AE's recommendations.

Deadline for the first decision:

The standard deadline is 3 months for EJP. For long submission I manually extend the deadline to 4 months before sending the submission to the AE.

Cristina Toninelli



# Report for The Electronic Journal of Statistics

Grace Y. Yi and Gang Li  
Co-Editors-in-Chief (2022-2024)

July 15, 2024

## Review Summary

This report summarizes the review information for the period of June 20 2023 to June 30, 2024:

### 20 June – 31 December of 2023

EJS received **229 submissions** during the period of June 20 – Dec ember 31, 2023. As of the date of preparing this report, **125** submissions have been rejected, a reject-resubmit decision was made for **21** submissions, **47** manuscripts were invited for a major revision, **4** articles were invited for a minor revision, and **20** manuscripts have been accepted. The remaining **12** papers are still under review and waiting for the first decision.

For all those submissions, the review time statistics (in days) for reaching the first decision are as follows:

<b>Average:</b>	82.73
<b>First Quartile:</b>	11
<b>Median:</b>	85
<b>Third Quartile:</b>	137

### 1 January – 30 June of 2024

EJS received **204** submissions for the period of 1 January – 30 June of 2024. As of the date of preparing this report, **87** submissions have been rejected, a reject-resubmit decision was made for **8** submissions, **16** manuscripts were invited for a major revision, **2** articles were invited for a minor revision, **2** manuscripts have been accepted and **89** are still under review and waiting for the first decision.

For all those submissions, the review time statistics (in days) for reaching the first decision are as follows:

<b>Average:</b>	38.12
<b>First Quartile:</b>	4
<b>Median:</b>	9
<b>Third Quartile:</b>	87

Please note that the statistics for this period are incomparable to those in the previous period because the majority of the submissions during 1 January – 30 June 2024 are still under review either by AEs or referees. The statistics for this period pretty much reflect the processing time related to desk rejection from the co-Editors-in-Chief and rejection based on the recommendation from Associate Editors.

## Summary of Yearly Publications

The following table lists the number of published pages and the number of manuscripts by calendar year since 2010 (Starting in 2014, the annual volume has been split into two issues).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Pages</b>	<b>Number of Articles</b>
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	6739	163
2022	6650	154
2023	4048	95

## Associate Editors (in Alphabetical Order of the Last Name)

[Christophe Andrieu](#)

[Ery Arias-Castro](#)

[Alexander Aue](#)

[Fadoua Balabdaoui-Mohr](#)

[Moulinath Banerjee](#)

[Merle Behr](#)

[Alessandra Brazzale](#)

[Federico Camerlenghi](#)

[Jiahua Chen](#)

[Yuansi Chen](#)

[Charles R. Doss](#)

[Chao Gao](#)

[Yulia Gel](#)

[Debashis Ghosh](#)

[Malka Gorfine](#)

[Nhat Ho](#)

[Kengo Kato](#)

[Edward H. Kennedy](#)

[Jae-Kwang Kim](#)

[Rafal Kulik](#)

[Victor Hugo Lachos Davila](#)

[Nicole Lazar](#)

[Johannes Lederer](#)

[Runze Li](#)

[Antonio Lijoi](#)

[Miles E. Lopes](#)

[Wenbin Lu](#)

[Yanyuan Ma](#)

[Yuzo Maruyama](#)

[Sayan Mukherjee](#)

[Boaz Nadler](#)

[Richard Nickl](#)

[Jianxin Pan](#)

[Victor Panaretos](#)

[Debashis Paul](#)

[Giovanni Peccati](#)

[Emilio Porcu](#)

[François Portier](#)

[Kolyan Ray](#)

[Bruno Rémillard](#)

[Adam J. Rothman](#)

[Judith Rousseau](#)

[Vivekananda Roy](#)

[Johannes Schmidt-Hieber](#)

[Armin Schwartzman](#)

[Johan Segers](#)

[Martin Slawski](#)

[Xinyuang Song](#)

[Francesco Claudio Stingo](#)

[Qiang Sun](#)

[Yanqing Sun](#)

[Boxin Tang](#)

[Mahmoud Torabi](#)

[Ingrid Van Keilegom](#)

[Thomas Verdebout](#)

[Stanislav Volgushev](#)

[Marten Wegkamp](#)

[Ying Nian Wu](#)

[Yingcun Xia](#)

[Chen Xu](#)

[Hongquan Xu](#)

[Donglin Zeng](#)

[Zhengjun Zhang](#)

[Yichuan Zhao](#)

## **Acknowledgements**

The EJS continues to attract submissions from researchers worldwide, and we are committed to upholding the journal's appeal as a premier platform for authors. The Editorial Board actively promotes the journal and ensures a fair, transparent review process.

As our tenures as Co-Editors-in-Chief will conclude by the end of 2024, this report marks our final update. We extend heartfelt thanks to our Associate Editors for their expertise and dedication. Special gratitude goes to our referees for their support, and to authors for choosing EJS to publish their research. We are grateful to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their invaluable support throughout our tenure.

It has been a great pleasure and a valuable experience working with committed colleagues to uphold EJS as a prestigious publication venue in our field.

# Report on Probability Surveys 2024

*Mikhail Lifshits* - Editor-in-Chief from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023.

*Adam Jakubowski* - Editor-in-Chief from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026.

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 16 (2019): 6 surveys, 332 pages;

Volume 17 (2020): 7 surveys, 753 pages.

Volume 18 (2021): 7 surveys, 275 pages.

Volume 19 (2022): 12 surveys, 700 pages

Volume 20 (2023): 15 surveys, 937 pages.

As of July 16, 2024, in the current

Volume 21 (2024), 1 survey (27 pages) has been published.

According to Mikhail Lifshits, among submissions sent before the end of 2023, there are still 5 surveys at various stages of the editorial process. After January 1st, 2024, six submissions have been received.

The current acceptance rate for papers is around 60%. To date, the rejections have specifically targeted research articles, rather than surveys or expository papers.

In the past the journal had provided the probability community with useful summaries of various areas within the field. For a long time, however, the number of submissions had been insufficient. Mikhail Lifshits' editorial policy and activity led to a doubling in the number of submissions. It is our aim to continue this trend, including directly inviting potential authors.

All readers of this report are encouraged to consider submitting a survey to Probability Surveys!



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

July 23, 2024

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 includes one representative of each of these four societies and a coordinating editor. The board consists of: Yingying Fan (Institute of Mathematical Statistics), Bodhisattva Sen (Bernoulli Society), Ranjan Maitra (American Statistical Association), Richard A. Lockhart (Statistical Society of Canada), and Wendy L. Martinez (Coordinating Editor). It should be noted that two of the editors – Yingying Fan and Bodhisattva Sen – started as editors in late 2022.

Ranjan Maitra is serving as the *Statistics Surveys* representative on the American Statistical Association Committee on Publications (CoP). He passes along any updates and issues from the CoP to the editorial board. Wendy Martinez is also now serving on the CoP as the co-Editor of CHANCE magazine, so she also learns about any issues related to *Statistics Surveys*.

We held a meeting of the Editorial Board at the JSM 2023, and we are grateful for the opportunity to meet at conferences, with support from the IMS. Unfortunately, travel is still difficult, and JSM 2023 required international travel for most of the board. Hence, the attendance at the JSM 2023 meeting was low. However, the Editors held lively email discussions over the year. All Editors participate and share the workload. It is truly a pleasure to work with them.

*Statistics Surveys* has an invited session for JSM 2024. The ASA CoP has a regular schedule of allocating invited sessions to ASA supported journals, including *Statistics Surveys*. These sessions are a great way to showcase the journal and to get high quality submissions.

**ISSUES:** No significant issues were encountered this past year. We continue to experience low submission rates, which is reasonable with this type of journal. Although, we are experiencing a slight increase in submissions, and they are of high quality. We need to follow-up on some ideas we have discussed in recent years. One is to examine the make-up of the Associate Editors in terms of their areas of expertise, responsiveness, and diversity. The other is to quantify and characterize the quality of the journal using different metrics and use them to encourage submissions.

**SUBMISSIONS:** During the period January 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024, 28 manuscripts were submitted to the journal. This number is small (but one more than last year) when compared with other IMS journals. However, this is to be expected given that the introductory 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 the board has encouraged authors of potentially viable articles to revise and resubmit manuscripts.

The status of the manuscripts is as follows:

Accepted: 6 (down from last year)

Rejected: 15

Papers in review: 6

Rejected with resubmission encouraged: 2

Withdrawn: 0

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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, 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.

**IMS Committee on Equality and Diversity  
Annual Report  
July 2024**

The 2023-2024 IMS Committee on Equality and Diversity contained the following members:

Shili Lin  
Tai Melcher  
Raaz Dwivedi  
Konstantinos Fokianos  
Chae Young Lim  
Oscar Hernan Madrid Padilla  
Christina Kendzioriski  
Daniela Witten (Chair)

The committee met several times throughout the year to accomplish the following goals:

- 1) Encouraging nomination of women & members of underrepresented groups as IMS fellows. With help from Elyse Gustafson (who provided a list of IMS members who are eligible for fellowship), we identified ~28 IMS members from underrepresented groups who we thought were very qualified for IMS fellowship. The committee chair then reached out to those individuals on behalf of the committee to encourage them to seek nomination, and to offer assistance in contacting a potential nominator. The vast majority of those individuals responded positively, and a substantial majority asked for assistance in contacting a potential nominator. Around half of the resulting nominations were successful. In fact, almost the entire set of women who became IMS fellows in 2024 were among those contacted on the behalf of the committee, and this was a several-fold increase over the number of women who became IMS fellows in 2023. The committee viewed this as a very successful effort, and is enthusiastic about continuing this effort in the future.
- 2) Recommendations for the next IMS survey. The committee put together a set of recommendations for future IMS surveys. These recommendations include asking detailed demographic questions in future surveys, conducting future surveys biennially, and asking basic demographic questions to IMS members on an ongoing basis, when they join IMS and also when they renew their membership. These recommendations have been sent to the IMS president for consideration.
- 3) CANSSI-IMS Mentoring and Engagement Program (CIMEP). Through discussion with the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI) on coordinating efforts and consolidating resources in mentoring and other initiatives, the committee (led by Shili Lin, and together with the New Researchers Group and the Engagement committee) and CANSSI jointly initiated CIMEP. The first CIMEP event, "Navigating different stages of a successful career in academia, industry, and beyond," will take place at JSM 2024. This event aims to connect statisticians and data scientists in all sectors and at all stages of their careers. The committee and CANSSI will continue to organize other CIMEP events in the future.



To: Michael Kolsorok, President, Institute of Mathematical Statistics  
From: Jianqing Fan, Representative of IMS-China  
Date: June 18, 2024  
SUBJECT: Committee of IMS-China

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I herewith report the activities of the IMS-China committee from July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.

1. IMS-China participated in creating the “Joint Conference on Statistics and Data Science” in China, which was successfully inaugurated in July 2023 in Beijing. The scientific program was co-chaired by Song Xi Chen and Jianqing Fan with about 1600 participants. The IMS-China has two representatives on the steering committee of “Joint Conference on Statistics and Data Science”.
2. IMS-China participated in the second “Joint Conference on Statistics and Data Science” with Tony Cai and Fang Yao (Peking University) as the program co-chair. It has been successfully held in July 2024 in Kunming, China, with around 2200 participants.
3. IMS-China committee organized an offline meeting in October 2023 in Shanghai to discuss its activities. It was decided to hold the IMS-China conference in July 2024 and to hold an offline meeting again in October 2024 in Hong Kong. In addition, the committee also held an afternoon workshop, with lectures given by members of IMS-China committee, to stimulate research discussion and disseminate knowledge.
4. In February 2024, a local host was found to host the IMS-China Conference in July 2024. It was then decided to scale down the size of the meeting with a target of 400 participants due to the limited amount of the time.
5. The IMS-China conference was successfully launched in July 2024 in Yinchuan China, with Jinchi Lv (University of Southern California) and Shurong Zheng (Northeastern Normal University, China) as the program co-chair and Susan Murphy (Harvard University), Song Xi Chen (Peking University), and Shige Peng (Shandong University) as keynote speakers. Opened by Peter Buelhmann, the conference has attracted over 450 participants, with 12 invited sessions on probability, 32 invited sessions on statistics, and 6 contributed sessions. This is the first IMS-China conference since 2019 and very successful.

## **Report by the IMS Committee on Memorials**

This committee consists of Iain Johnstone, Wei-Liem Loh, and Heping Zhang (Chair). One major action taken by the committee in the past year was to review the enclosed proposal to establish “Marvin and Thelma Zelen Award for Emerging Female Data Science Leaders.” The committee received the proposal on September 27, 2023 and held a zoom meeting on October 13, 2023 in addition to the discussion on Basecamp. The committee made the following recommendation to the IMS president and council:

- The committee was in favor of establishing the proposed award.
- The committee agreed that it is important and timely for the IMS to establish an award for young female statisticians. The committee reviewed existing awards exclusively or almost exclusively for females, but they are not specifically by the IMS and they are generally for senior statisticians. The committee felt that a clarification of "young" would be useful by the proposer or by the IMS.
- The committee made notes of: (a) There is an award named after Marvin Zelen, although it is not by the IMS; (b) The IMS criteria for naming an award after a living person is exceedingly high. In this case, the award was proposed for both Thelma Zelen and her husband who is deceased. So, the IMS current standard criteria may or may not apply.

It is our understanding that this proposal was approved by the IMS council and started soliciting nominations.

## **Purpose of the award**

In today's data landscape, there is a notable surge in extensive and varied datasets, encompassing big data and unstructured data types. This surge underscores the need for advanced tools and methodologies that can facilitate effective analysis and comprehension. Data science, with its emphasis on predictive modeling, machine learning, data exploration, and automation, offers the essential framework for extracting valuable insights, facilitating informed decision-making, and addressing intricate real-world challenges. By integrating data science into the modern realm of statistical science, statistics can gracefully adapt to the evolving data landscape, leverage cutting-edge technologies, and maintain relevance within the data-driven decision-making landscape across diverse sectors and industries.

Recognizing the contributions of female researchers in data science is imperative as it advances diversity, equality, and inclusion, fuels innovation, inspires future generations, and enables us to tap into a wide range of talent and perspectives for tackling intricate, data-driven problems, ultimately yielding benefits for the field and society at large. Currently, there is a limited number of IMS awards that acknowledge the achievements of emerging female leaders in data science. It would be highly beneficial for the IMS community to institute such an award, setting examples and motivating valuable contributions.

The "Marvin and Thelma Zelen Award for Emerging Female Data Science Leaders" is designed to acknowledge the achievements of young female data scientists who have made substantial contributions to the data science field and demonstrated leadership qualities.

## **Format of the award (lecture, award, and/or prize)**

The award will be given annually to a few young female data scientists as cash awards, announced at JSM along with other IMS awards.

## **Background on the person for whom the award will be named, including their contributions to the fields of probability and/or statistics.**

From 1927 to 2014, Professor Marvin Zelen, a prominent figure in biostatistics, was recognized not only as a leading light but also celebrated for his forward-thinking vision, generosity, and nurturing mentorship, guiding two generations of researchers. He chaired the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health from 1981 to 1990, leaving a lasting impact. Additionally, during the 1970s at Dana-Farber, he played a pivotal role in founding and leading the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology until 1999, significantly contributing to their global growth and influence.

Prof. Zelen gained renown for pioneering data science contributions, particularly in statistical methodologies and study designs crucial for clinical cancer trials, which evaluate drug safety and efficacy. He introduced measures to enhance data quality and reduce biases, now industry standards, advancing clinical trial research and cancer treatment. His data science research spanned key areas, including early cancer detection, cancer progression modeling, and optimizing screening strategies, especially for breast cancer. Dr. Zelen's lasting impact as an advocate for integrating quantitative methodologies into global clinical cancer research is evident through his transformative contributions, encompassing experimental designs, data analysis, quality assurance, academic leadership, nonprofit models, mentorship, and philanthropy, benefiting researchers worldwide.

Thelma Zelen, often regarded as the driving force behind Marvin Zelen's groundbreaking work in data science and biostatistics, played a pivotal but less visible role in supporting and enabling her husband's achievements. Including Thelma Zelen's name in the award not only honors her

significant contributions but also symbolizes the inclusive and collaborative ethos that should be at the core of data science and scientific endeavors at large.

**A funding proposal with the specification of the frequency of the award.**

The award should be given annually. Depending on the funding raised, the number of awardees can range from 1-3. The committee aims to raise \$150,000 to establish the award.

**At the time of the proposal, the donor/group must provide an alternate name – this would not be an individual’s name, but rather a descriptive name for the award; for example “Applied Probability” or “Machine Learning”. The nature of the alternative could vary, referring to an area of research, or age group, or something else. If evidence arises that triggers the IMS award renaming and if the IMS Council decides to change the name, the alternate name would receive full consideration from the IMS Council.**

Emerging Female Data Science Leaders Award

# IMS Outreach Committee Annual Report 2024

Ryan Tibshirani

The members of the Outreach Committee are: Ryan Tibshirani (chair), Lorin Crawford, Genevera Allen, and Aaditya Ramdas.

"Outreach" is to be broadly interpreted, which leaves the committee room for discussing the development of things which we find interesting and important. An early conversation with Michael Kosorok (the current IMS president) identified the following thoughts to drive committee discussions (paraphrasing): "We don't want people to get hung up on the *math* angle of IMS. More so — 'We support rigorous statistical research'. This would lead to a more broad interpretation of what the core identity is."

The committee discussed the following ideas:

- Outreach to students and in particular students in adjacent fields to statistics — like biostatistics — could happen in a "locally-disseminated" way, which would make it more effective and more sustainable in the long run. For example, we find an IMS member at a given university/department, have them send an email out with a template for an "IMS brochure" that we help craft.
  - It will be better to have some "real meat" to such an email before sending it out. Instead of just saying (paraphrasing) "IMS is broad, we're not only about mathematical statistics", we should have some proof of this. That is, we should be able to point to some new initiatives that support this idea.
- Student awards are a big deal for students — why not just offer more awards, travel fellowships, etc. etc.? Assuming IMS has the money, this seems like an easy thing to pull off. We could organize panels and career development sessions alongside this. This is also often lightweight for faculty/senior IMS members to participate in, especially panel sessions.
  - In order to change the perception, we really need it to be the case that some of these travel awards go to people of non-mathematically-traditional backgrounds. Otherwise people won't believe what we're saying in terms of the messaging.
  - ISBA makes a conscious effort to support international awards, we could and should do the same with these IMS student awards.
  - Something like "Rising Stars in Statistics" could also be very appealing to students, and an effective way to promote provide career support for students/postdocs about to go on the job market, inform them about industry research positions, networking, and clearly signal the IMS' endorsement of non-mathematically-traditional backgrounds.

Aside from these discussions, the main activity we pursued was to identify good candidates for IMS awards that were from URM groups, and then write personal emails to senior department members/colleagues in order to encourage these colleagues to nominate the candidates. This was suggested by Peter Buhlmann (the past IMS president) as an activity for the Outreach Committee to pursue the following year. (We believe that this was also done this year by the Diversity Committee, and the idea of both committees pursuing it was to build some purposeful redundancy into the system.) We did this for the following awards: Harry Carver Award, Larry Brown Award, Peter Hall Award, Tweedie Award, Hanna Travel Award, and New Researcher Travel Award. Uniformly, our experience was that the senior colleagues we contacted were positively receptive and grateful for the idea of nominating a junior colleague.



Anecdotally, we believe that the balance of URM nominees was better this year in the awards (from what Ryan has seen in Council messages). But this has not been systematically evaluated by our committee, and we assume it has already been done by the Executive Committee and/or Diversity Committee, and if not, should be done, in order to discuss at the annual IMS Council Meeting.

## Report by the IMS Committee on Travel Awards

The IMS Committee on Travel Awards consisted of Hyo Young Choi, Edgar Dobriban, Magda Peligrad, Anru Zhang, Yingqi Zhao, Ruoqing Zhu, and Kai Zhang (Chair). This committee reviewed the nominations and applications for the three IMS travel awards below.

- *The Tweedie New Researcher Award:* There were 16 nominations for the 2024 Tweedie New Researcher Award. After two rounds of voting following the instructions in the IMS Handbook, we selected Dr. Chengchun Shi at London School of Economics and Political Science for the award. The citation for Dr. Shi was “For ground-breaking contributions to statistical inferences in reinforcement learning and complex data, with applications to precision medicine, mobile health, ridesharing, neuroimaging and deep brain stimulation.”
- *IMS New Researcher Travel Award:* There were 26 candidates for the 2024 IMS New Researcher Travel Award. After three rounds of voting following the instructions in the IMS Handbook, we selected 16 candidates for the award. The committee suggested dividing the total fund of \$12,000 evenly among the 16 awardees.
- *IMS Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award:* There were 53 candidates for the 2024 IMS Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award. After four rounds of voting following the instructions in the IMS Handbook, we selected 26 candidates for the award. The committee suggested dividing the total fund of \$12,000 evenly among the 26 awardees.

We look forward to comments and suggestions from the IMS Council.