Report from IMS Program Secretary Annie Qu

For JSM Executive Committee Meeting, Aug. 3, 2025

1. IMS ICSDS 2025 Conference updates: Dec. 15-18, 2025, Seville, Spain

Conference website
https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/

- We have formed program committee and local arrangement committee (60 members) https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/committee?authuser=0
- Four plenary speakers are confirmed: Francis Bach, Richard Samworth, Daniella Witten and Bin Yu
- The third ICSDS at Nice, France in 2024 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. IMS-APRM 2026: June 13-16, 2026, Hong Kong, sponsored by Chinese U. of Hong Kong

- Conf website: **https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk**
- Chairs: Xiaotong Shen (U. of Minnesota) and Byeong Park (Seoul National U)
- Local Chairs: Junhui Wang (Chinese U. of HK) and Xinyuan Song (Chinese U. of HK)
- Plenary speakers: Andrea Montanari (Stanford U) and Hans-Georg Müller (Davis U)
- Distinguished lecturers: 20 people
- Venue has been booked

3. **IMS Annul meeting 2026, July 6 - 9, 2026, Salzburg, Austria:**
    - Conference website: **https://shamimsm99.github.io/IMS2026/**
    - Chairs: Genevera Allen (Columbia U, representing Statistics) and Remco van der Hofstad (Eindhoven University of Technology, representing probability)
    - Local Chair: Arne Bathke (U of Salzburg)
    - The conference venue has been booked

4. **IMS becomes an official partner of African Internation Conference, MOU has been signed by Tony Cai**

    - IMS will commit 10K a year to support junior researchers who will participate in the AIC and become IMS members. This will be a new outreach activity for the IMS.

    - This year AIC meeting is postponed to June 2026, Nairobi, Kenya.

    - AIC organizing committee chair Yehenew Kifle (UMBC) has agreed to allocate several invited sessions for IMS.

Treasurer's Report 2024

Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for the calendar year-end 2024. The 2024 fiscal year-end audit report will be posted online separately in the Fall of 2025 after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2024, the total number of IMS members increased, including the number of paying members. The most significant area of growth was our membership in China. 2024 was the first year since the pandemic IMS China was able to hold a meeting and in turn we were able to secure memberships during registration. Subscriptions by institutions decreased this past year by 3.04%. 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

- 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 2020. Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2024, increased by 11.9% from December 31, 2023.

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

- 45% North America
- 25% 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 2024. 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 on IMS membership. These include:

- Sociedade Portuguesa de Estatística (SPE)
- Società Italiana di Statistica (SIS)
- Société Française de Statistique (SFdS)
- Spanish Society of Statistics & Operations Research (SEIO)

Institutional Subscription Data

Table 3 presents comparative subscription data for institutions to each of our scientific journals for 2024 and previous years. Institutional subscriptions for the journals decreased in 2024. Approximately 53% 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, which included two series: *IMS Monographs* and *IMS Textbooks*. Sales of these volumes continue to be successful.

Financial and Audit Report

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. The IMS's external audit will be completed in August 2025. 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 remains financially strong and stable.

Jiashun Jin
Treasurer

Membership and Subscriber Data
Tables

TABLE 1: MEMBERSHIP, Calendar Year						
Membership Type	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**% change**
Regular	1397	1262	1220	1255	1315	4.78%
Life/Retired Life	614	624	637	660	689	4.39%
Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China	577	292	259	273	395	44.69%
New Graduate	63	43	31	41	95	131.71%
Student	1448	1996	2523	2091	2466	17.93%
Industry Friends of IMS	0	0	0	2	2	0.00%
Total	4099	4217	4670	4322	4962	14.81%
Total not including free members (students)	2651	2221	2147	2231	2496	11.88%

TABLE 2: MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year						
Print subscriptions						
Individual Members**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**% change**
AAP	31	35	28	26	20	-23.08%
AOP	36	37	32	30	26	-13.33%
AOAS	53	56	47	39	35	-10.26%
AOS	127	127	131	108	101	-6.48%
STS	236	240	248	207	201	-2.90%
Total Member Print	483	495	486	410	383	-6.59%

TABLE 3: INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year						
Paid Subscriptions						
Institutions	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**% change**
AAP	527	480	461	430	416	-3.26%
AOP	677	614	594	547	529	-3.29%
AOAS	358	315	320	309	288	-6.80%
AOS	855	799	765	712	695	-2.39%
STS	644	588	585	532	525	-1.32%
BULL	39	38	38	27	24	-11.11%
Supported Journal: AIHP	292	273	260	250	237	-5.20%
Supported Journal: Bernoulli	305	304	275	268	251	-6.34%
Supported Journal: BJPS	162	146	130	133	124	-6.77%
Total Institutional Paid	3,859	3,557	3,428	3,208	3,089	-3.71%
Total IMS Journals Only	3,061	2,796	2,725	2,530	2,453	-3.04%

TABLE 4: Sales of IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks						
Volume	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**Total Sales**
8 Volumes IMS Monographs	1,443	1,628	1,516	1,118	1,218	23,147
17 Volumes IMS Textbooks	975	1,232	1,195	807	1,040	14,053
TOTAL	2,418	2,860	2,711	1,925	2,258	34,942

Annals of Applied Probability Annual Report, June 29, 2025

Editors-in-Chief:

Jian Ding and Claudio Landim (from 2025-01-01)

Board Composition (as of June 29, 2025):

There are currently a total of 24 members, among which 8 (Bhaswar Bhattacharya, Sourav Chatterjee, Wei-Kuo Chen, Bingyi Jing, Sarah Penington, Perla Sousi, Wenxin Zhou, Rongchan Zhu) were in the previous board adn 16 were appointed in 2025.

Beatrice Acciaio, ETH, Switzerland
Shankar Bhamidi U. North Carolina, USA
Bhaswar Bhattacharya U. Pennsylvania, USA
Matthias Birkner U. Mainz, Germany
Sourav Chatterjee U. Stanford, USA
Wei-Kuo Chen U. Minnesota, USA
Bingyi Jing Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, China
Hubert Lacoin IMPA, Brazil
Xue-Mei Li, EPFL, Switzerland
Qi Lv, Sichuan U., China
Jean-Christophe Mourrat, ENS Lyon, France
Marcel Nutz, U. Columbia, USA
Eveliina Peltola, U. Bonn and Aalto U., Germany and Finland
Sarah Penington U. Bath, UK
Daniel Remenik U. Chile, Chile
Tselil Schramm U. Stanford, USA
Sumeetpal Singh, U. Wollongong, Australia
Perla Sousi, U. Cambridge, UK
Rongfeng Sun, National U Singapore, Singapore
Roman Vershynin, UC Irvine, USA
Jonathan Q Weare New York U., USA
Hendrik Weber, U. Muenster, Germany
Wenxin Zhou, U. Illinois, USA
Rongchan Zhu, Beijing Institute of Technology, China

Editorial Process.

We have one online meeting per week, pre-screening all the new submissions. Approximately 22% o the submissions are rejected in this meeting, sometimes after a quick confirmation from an AE or other expert. Both editors must agree for a paper to be rejected. If one of them opposes, the paper is sent to an Associate Editor to start the refereeing process. The other papers are assigned the an AE immediately.

Board meeting and Invited Papers: We had a successful presential board welcome meeting on June 2 in Beijing. Almost all AEs participated either presentially or online. The attached tables with the total number of submissions, the average number each AE is expected to handle per month were presented.

EJMS system:

Up to this point, we have no complaints on the EJMS system. We might have suggestions in the future.

Submission Data:

See the table attached. We are a bit concerned. We expect to have approximately 520 submissions in 2025. There were around 400 in 2022 and 2023. We do not have the

numbers for 2024. If the number of published articles per year remains the same, the acceptance rate of the journal will be 16%, which seems low. By the end of the year we will have a clearer idea on the quality of the papers submitted. In any case, IMS should consider the possibility of increasing the number of volumes.

Submissions

- January:
  48 submissions 11 quick rejections 2 withdrawn
- February:
  37 submissions 11 quick rejections 1 withdrawn
- March:
  41 submissions 8 quick rejections 2 resubmissions
- April
  45 submissions 8 quick rejections 1 resubmission 2 withdrawn
- May
  45 submissions 9 quick rejections 3 resubmissions
- Up to June 29
  44 submissions 11 quick rejections

Projection

Total Jan-June :

259 submissions 58 (22%) quick rejections

Projection 12 months:

520 submissions

$\sim$ 85 Published papers in 2024

16% acceptance rate 21% after first round

Annals of Applied Statistics
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2024

Lexin Li, Editor-in-Chief

The year of 2024 marked the eighteenth full year of operation for the Annals of Applied Statistics (AOAS) and the third year of Dr. Ji Zhu's tenure as Editor-in-Chief. On January 1, 2025, I became AOAS's sixth Editor-in-Chief, following five exceptional predecessors from whom I learned a great deal. I am especially grateful to Ji for his generous support and guidance during this transition.

The terms of the Area Editors, Drs. Fan Li, Yufeng Liu, Jeffrey Morris, Brendan Murphy, Jie Peng, and Dale Zimmerman, also came to an end starting 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their tireless efforts and significant contributions to AOAS in the past years.

I am also pleased to welcome the new board of Area Editors, including:

Catherine Calder	Editor for social, political, and environmental sciences
Edward Kennedy	Editor for causal inference, design, and policy
Jessica Li	Editor for computational biology, bioinformatics, genetics, and genomics
Po-Ling Loh	Editor for machine learning and artificial intelligence
Tapabrata Maiti	Editor for neuroscience, physical science, and engineering
Peter Song	Editor for medical science, electronic health records, and smart health

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 2024, we received 558 submissions in total. The distribution of monthly submissions in 2024 is: 51, 42, 47, 40, 44, 37, 52, 44, 54, 47, 49, and 51.

Table 1 reports the total number of submissions and the numbers in different categories for the year of 2021 to 2024. Among those, the category of "rejected or resubmission" includes those being rejected, rejected-and-resubmission, and withdrawn.

Table 1: Submissions and decisions

Decision	Accepted	Under revision	Rejected or resubmission	Waiting for decision	Total
2021	64	78	467	27	636
	10%	12%	74%	4%	
2022	65	55	355	11	486
	14%	11%	73%	2%	
2023	82	54	362	4	502
	16%	11%	72%	1%	
2024	80	69	363	46	558
	14%	13%	65%	8%	

Table 2: Review time to initial decision

Days to first decision	≤ 7	8-30	31-90	91-180	≥ 181	Total
2021	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
2024	41 7%	65 12%	148 27%	185 33%	119 21%	558

Table 2 reports the review time, in days, when the submissions received their first editorial response for the year of 2021 to 2024.

The journal's impact factor has fluctuated between 1.43 and 2.24 over the past decade and currently stands at 1.656, according to `https://projecteuclid.org/journals/annals-of-applied-statistics/scope-and-details`.

Starting 2025, along with the new board of Area Editors, we are working on a number of new initiatives, including:

- While we will remain committed to research in all aspects of applied statistics, we are equally excited to explore emerging research topics, including but not limited to: large language models and generative AI; deep learning and reinforcement learning; electronic health records and personalized medicine; wearable devices and smart health; causal inference in complex biological, medical and social systems, among others.

- We are in the process of organizing a special issue on artificial intelligence, deep learning and statistics.

- We are starting new tracks of papers, including prospective papers, and data-centric papers. These steps aim to facilitate the statistics community to better embrace scientific applications.

- We encourage the authors to dedicate a special section providing more background and motivation for scientific applications, and a significance statement summarizing the importance and broader impact of the research in plain language to a non-specialist audience. We also organize the published papers by their scientific applications. These steps aim to facilitate the general scientific community to better embrace the newly proposed statistical methods.

- We will continue to work diligently to maintain reasonable review timelines, particularly aiming to lower the percentage of reviews that exceed three months.

- We will continue to promote reproducible research.

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

Annals of Probability: Editor's report, January 1st-December 31st, 2024

Prepared by Paul Bourgade and Julien Dubédat.

In the period from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, the Annals of Probability received 292 submissions.

As of June 18, 2025, of these submissions – 205 have been rejected, 22 have been accepted, and 65 are in review. Anticipating a 60-70% acceptance from the latter group, we project an overall acceptance rate in the range 21-24%.

The 2025 page target for AOP is 2400 pages. Given the increase in submissions compared to 2022 and 2023, we will propose to increase the 2026 page target for AoP to 2600 pages. which is coherent with the above numbers. As of June 18, 2025, there are about 2300 pages in accepted papers waiting for publication indicating a current backlog of about 10 months.

2024 Annual Report
The Annals of Statistics

Hans-Georg Müller and Harry Zhou, Editors

Submissions

We received 741 submissions in 2024. For comparison, the number of submissions in the years 2012–2022 was 607, 697, 694, 718, 686, 637, 694, 754, 658, 661 and 645, respectively. Of the 741 submissions, 16 were withdrawn before or during the review. 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 work that emphasizes mathematical, methodological, computational and interdisciplinary aspects (see Appendix for additional details).

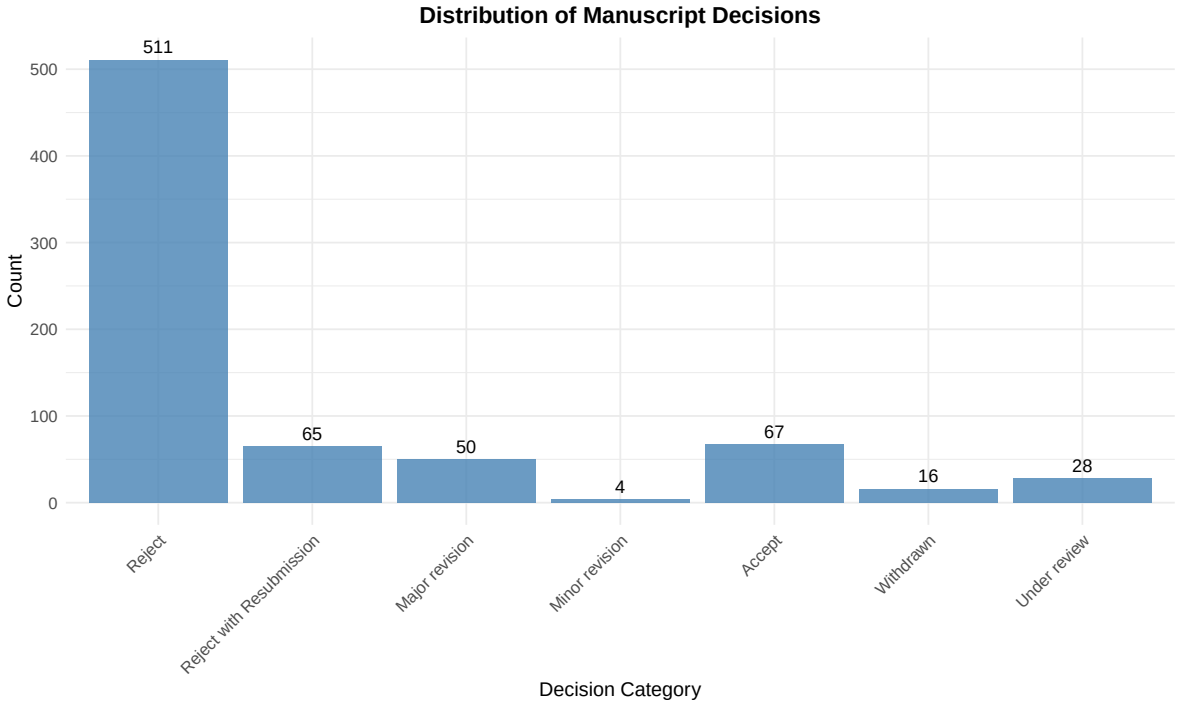


Figure 1: Submissions in 2024

Acceptance Rate

For the papers submitted during 2024, we have to date (to July 1, 2025) accepted 67, rejected 511, and rejected 65 with the possibility to resubmit. Currently, 28 submissions are still under review or revision. The acceptance rate is 9.0% by July 1, 2025. In comparison, the corresponding acceptance rate was 8.7% for the 2023 submissions, 14.2% for 2022 and 6.0% for 2021. Note that these rates are a lower bound as in mid-year of the year following the year of submission some papers are still under review, so the actual acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2024 will be somewhat higher than 9.0%.

Backlog and Page Request

In 2024, AOS published 2978 pages (2550 pages in 2023, 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). We have become stricter in requesting 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 326 pages in proofs and 1340 pages in production (not in proofs yet). We would like to request an allotment of 3100 pages for 2025 as it appears that the number of submissions is increasing.

Current Trends

For the period January 1 to June 30 of each year, the number of accepted papers was 49 in 2023, 66 in 2024 and 66 in 2025. The number of submissions also for January 1 to June 30 of each year has evolved as follows: 303 in 2023, 362 in 2024 and 388 in 2025, indicating an increasing trend.

Review Times

The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2024 were 24 days, 90 days and 161 days. For 2023 they were 25 days, 110 days and 180 days; for 2022, 19 days, 94 days and 166 days; for 2021, 16 days, 78 days and 152 days; for 2020, 10 days, 81 days, and 146 days; for 2019, 10 days, 73 days and 131 days; for 2018, 14 days, 99 days and 160 days. Kaplan-Meier survival plots of the review times to first and second decision are in Figures 2 and 3 for the 2024 submissions.

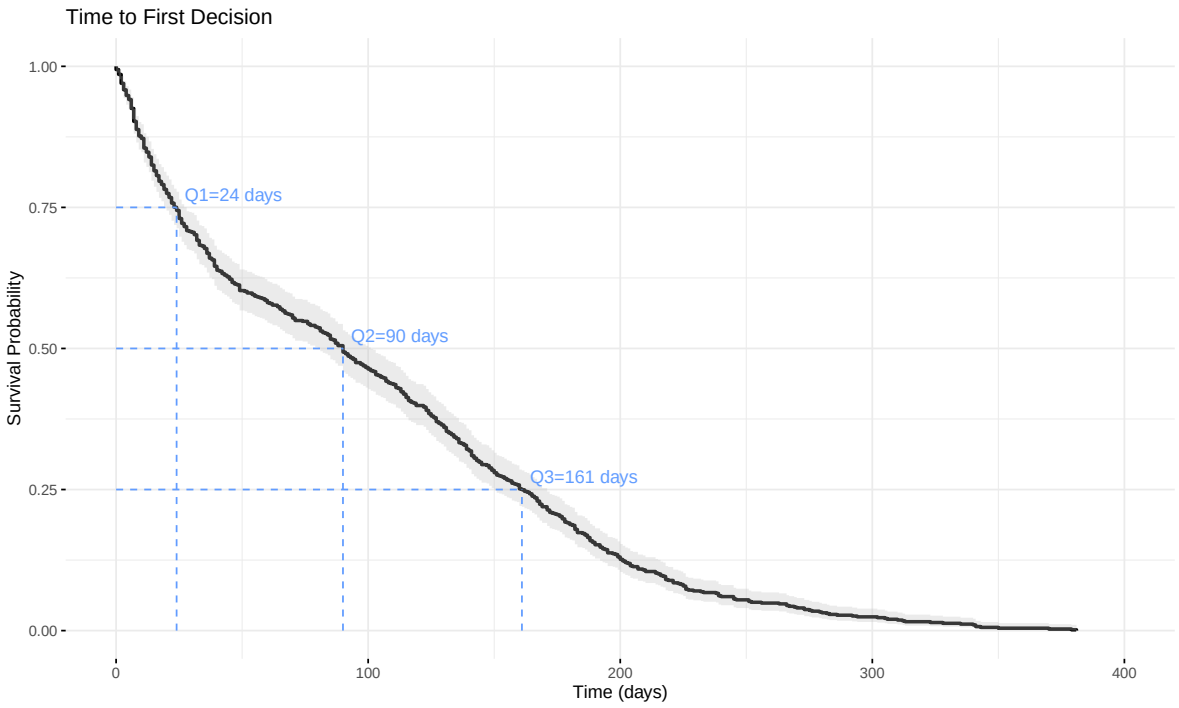


Figure 2: Survival Function for the Time to Initial Decision

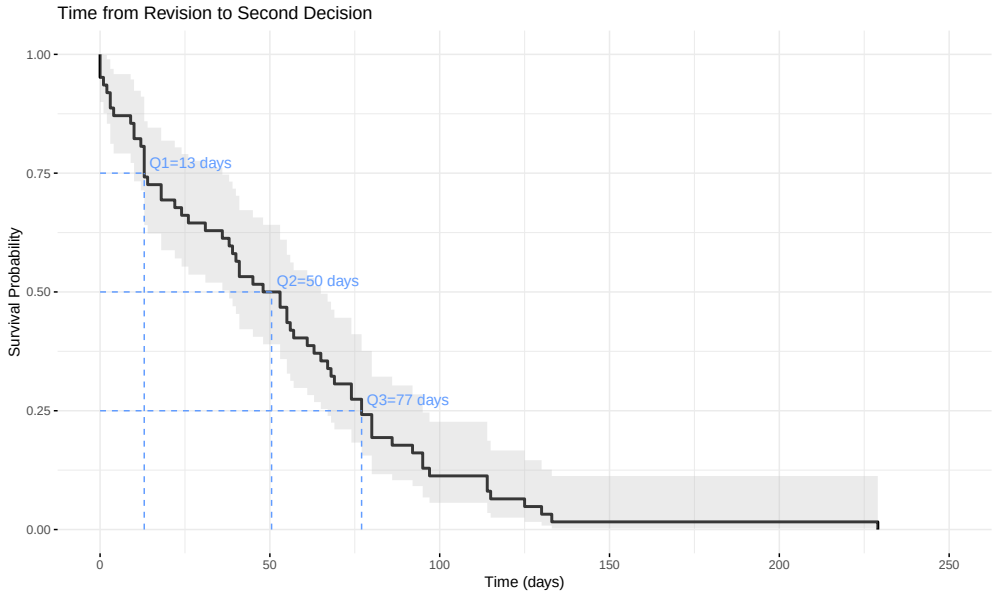


Figure 3: Survival Function for the Time to Second Decision

Final Remarks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kristina Mattson, the Associate Editors and the referees for their invaluable contributions to the journal.

Appendix: Guidelines for Associate Editors, AOS 2025-2027

Initial screening of new submissions. When you receive a new paper, it will have passed the initial screening by the co-editors. We anticipate that about 30% of the initial submissions will be desk-rejected before they reach you.

Once you receive a paper, please immediately check for a potential conflict of interest (COI): There is a strict COI with papers where there is an author who has an affiliation at the same university/institution or who is a partner/relative/housemate and also if there is a financial interest of any kind involved. Inform the co-editor as soon as possible if you collaborate currently or in the recent past with one of the authors or if you have been a mentor or mentee of any of the authors at any time, and also if you had a conflict of any kind with one of the authors. Please be aware that in some cases you may be asked to serve as AE for a paper even when the paper falls outside of your area of expertise, which may happen for example when other potential AEs are conflicted or the paper is outside of the expertise of any of the AEs, especially when it is on a niche topic.

You have up to 10 days to screen the paper. For this screening, please follow the general guidelines below. While the AoS emphasizes mathematical statistics and mathematical depth and new theory is a plus, it is not required and papers should not be rejected with comments such as ... "the paper lacks mathematical depth" .... "it would be a better fit for JASA." The main criterion is statistical innovation with forward-looking new ideas. Papers on topics in probability or with a focus on technical improvements are discouraged, regardless of mathematical depth, unless they are substantial and clearly consequential for the field of statistics.

It is expected that you will reject about 20% of the submissions at this stage, with some variations depending on the area. If you reject, write 1-2 paragraphs providing the main reasons why the paper is unsuitable that can be transmitted to the authors. If you find the ideas intriguing but something seems amiss, you may recommend an immediate Reject with Resubmission, for example if the Supplement is not in good shape (See author certifications below).

Recruiting referees. Good referees are a valuable resource that should not be over-used. In recent years it has become harder to recruit referees with the requisite expertise who are willing to put in the time and effort to write a careful and unbiased report, with clear reasons that support the recommendation. Avoid referees who are conflicted with one of the authors under the criteria listed above, and ideally referees will be from geographic areas that differ from the locations of the affiliations of the authors. If you send a paper out for full review, it may be advisable to request reports from 3-4 referees and to discard unresponsive referees after two weeks, ideally replacing them with new ones. Encourage referees to send negative reviews without much delay, ideally within one month.

Timely recommendations. If you receive one or two negative reviews and find that you concur with the report(s), do not wait for additional reports to send a negative recommendation. Likewise if you receive two reports with similar recommendations and concur with them, do not wait for additional reviewers to make your recommendation. Most importantly,

we aim to arrive at a Reject decision very soon, the sooner the better and definitely within the first 3 months. If referees are not responsive, it is important to send a personal message by the AE (especially as the system generated reminders are ignored by many referees). If in spite of personal reminders and referees remain unresponsive and additional referees cannot be found, it could indicate that a paper is of limited interest (and therefore not suitable for the AoS), on the other hand this may also happen if a paper is highly innovative and contains ideas out of the box. At the 4 months point the AE would need to step in, assess the situation, and write a somewhat more detailed report.

Reject and Resubmit: (see also below) It is advisable to recommend this action only if at the core the paper is innovative, has potential and there is a chance that remaining issues can be addressed, requiring more than a major revision. Reject and resubmit should not be recommended if the basic idea of the paper is of limited interest, the innovation is insufficient or when there are other major flaws, as this will only drag out the process and usually will end with a final reject. Chains of reject-resubmit decisions are to be avoided, and if a paper is resubmitted after such a decision the next step normally would be either acceptance, major or minor revision, or rejection.

Major and Minor Revision: (see also below) If a major or minor revision has been recommended, it will often suffice if the AE checks whether the issues that needed addressing have been satisfactorily resolved, without sending the paper back to referees; when it is necessary to send the paper back to specific referees for a check these referees should be held to a tight timeline. For major or minor revisions, the time to decision should be particularly short. Author as Referee: (Co-) authors of submitted papers will be expected to make themselves available as referees (the submitting author will be required to mark a box in the submission web site to this effect).

Feedback. We encourage any feedback about issues and procedures to the co-editors and especially at the annual AoS AE meeting. Our shared goal will be to strengthen the role of the AoS as the premier journal in statistics.

General Strategies

(1) Shortening Review Times

The time to first report on a submitted paper needs to be substantially shortened. For example, it is not acceptable to have a time to first report of 6+ months and then hand down a reject decision. Even less acceptable is a reject after 9+ months, which has happened. To address this will require a multi-faceted approach:

Initial Screening: The initial screening process should be strengthened. We as co-editors will do an initial screening of each submission and record immediate rejects for papers that we deem unsuitable for the AoS. We also expect AEs to carefully screen all submissions before sending them to referees and to make a reject recommendation for less promising

submissions within two weeks. For this, an AE report will be needed that can be very brief.

Three Reviews: If you do decide to send a paper for review, it is advisable to request at least three reviews and to ask referees to send a brief report within a month if they consider a paper to be unsuitable. A recommendation to reject can be made by the AE even if not all referee reports have been received.

Timely Decisions: A decision on the recommended action should be reached even if not all referee reports have been received within 4 months. The AE may need to step in and act as additional referee. If not at least two referees can be lined up within the first two weeks after sending the paper out for review, additional referees should be recruited. In some cases, difficulties to recruit reviewers could indicate that the paper is of limited interest overall, and in this case the way forward may be for the AE to recommend a reject decision (accompanied by an AE report).

Conflict Disclosure: It is important that referees (and also AEs) are at arm's length and disclose possible conflicts (eg., current or recent collaborator or student-mentor relationship).

Sending Reminders: If a reviewer who accepted to evaluate the paper does not send a report within 2 months, a personal reminder by the AE is in order, as system-generated reminders usually are often ignored and less effective. As already mentioned, if some referees remain unresponsive, when reaching the 4 month point an AE should proceed to carefully assess the paper and make a recommendation with accompanying AE report.

Reject and Resubmit: It is advisable to recommend this action only if at the core the paper is innovative, has potential and there is a chance that remaining issues can be addressed, requiring more than a major revision. Reject and resubmit should not be recommended if the basic idea of the paper is of limited interest, the innovation is insufficient or when there are other major flaws, as this will only drag out the process and usually will end with a final reject. Chains of reject-resubmit decisions are to be avoided, and if a paper is resubmitted after such a decision the next step normally would be either acceptance, major or minor revision, or rejection.

Major and Minor Revision: If a major revision has been recommended, it will often suffice if the AE checks whether the issues that needed addressing have been satisfactorily resolved, without sending the paper back to referees; when it is necessary to send the paper back to specific referees for a check these referees should be held to a tight timeline. For major or minor revisions, the time to decision should be particularly short. Author as Referee: (Co-) authors of submitted papers will be expected to make themselves available as referees (the submitting author will be required to mark a box in the submission web site to this effect).

(2) Emphasize Statistical Innovation

A key requirement is that a paper contains a promising new idea with anticipated impact for statistical theory, methodology, data analysis, applications, computing or statistical

learning. Mathematical depth is neither necessary nor sufficient. If the impact is similar, a clean theory with simpler proofs is better than a contrived theory with complex proofs.

Papers that emphasize technical improvements of a specialized nature and without evidence for clear impact find a better home in more specialized journals, and similarly papers emphasizing probability in probability journals. A good example of an innovative paper with little mathematical sophistication is "Projection Pursuit" by Peter Huber, Annals of Statistics 2985, 435-475, which had immense impact.

it Authors will be asked to state the key innovations in both cover letter and abstract/introduction so that readers (and reviewers) can grasp these quickly.

(3) Publish the Best Work in Statistics

The AoS aims to publish the best innovative work in all areas of statistics and statistical aspects of machine learning. Mathematical/theoretical investigations will continue to play a major but not exclusive role. Papers of outstanding quality and innovation with applied and non-mathematical emphasis should also find a home in the AoS, reflecting a broad perspective of the best work in statistics. The IMS mission statement for the AoS provides guidance and is as follows.

Annals of Statistics Editorial Policy (IMS)

The Annals of Statistics aim to publish research papers of highest quality reflecting the many facets of contemporary statistics. Primary emphasis is placed on importance and originality, not on formalism. The journal aims to cover all areas of statistics, especially mathematical statistics and applied/interdisciplinary statistics. Of course many of the best papers will touch on more than one of these general areas, because the discipline of statistics has deep roots in mathematics, and in substantive scientific fields.

Mathematical Statistics. Mathematics provides the language in which models, the properties of statistical methods and computation algorithms are formulated. It is essential for rigor, coherence, clarity and understanding. Consequently, our policy is to continue to play a special role in presenting research at the forefront of mathematical statistics, especially theoretical advances that are likely to have a significant impact on statistical methodology, computation or understanding.

Applied and Interdisciplinary Statistics. Substantive fields are essential for continued vitality of statistics since they provide the motivation and direction for most of the future developments in statistics. We thus intend to publish papers relating to the role of statistics in interdisciplinary investigations in all fields of natural, medical, technical and social science.

Annual Editorial Report for *Statistical Science*: June 2024 – May 2025

Moulinath Banerjee, Editor

Overview

This report covers editorial activity at *Statistical Science* for the period June 2024 through May 2025, and compares it to the corresponding figures from the previous year. The upward trajectory in submissions continues, and several editorial metrics show measurable improvement, particularly with respect to review times.

Summary Statistics

Over this period, the numbers look as follows:

- **Total submissions:** 232, compared to 185 in the previous year.
- **Rejections:** 143 out of 232 (61.6%), of which:
  - **Desk rejections:** 72 (31%) — decisions made without external review.
  - **Rejections after review:** 71 (31%) — includes decisions such as "reject with resubmission."
- **Withdrawn:** 8 papers were withdrawn by the authors.

This leaves 81 papers after subtracting rejections and withdrawals. Of these:

- 18 have been accepted and assigned TN numbers.
- 15 are currently with authors following revision requests.
  - 2 are minor revisions (assumed accepted).
  - 13 are major revisions (assume 75% acceptance ⇒ 9 papers).
- 48 are still under review (assume 50% acceptance ⇒ 24 papers).

Adding these together, we project approximately 53 eventual acceptances, yielding a projected acceptance rate of **22.8%**, slightly below last year's 24%. However, this period includes a sizable number of special issue papers, which typically see a higher acceptance probability, so the comparison should be interpreted in that context.

Decision Times

- **Median time to first decision:** 56.5 days (improved from 69 days).
- **Papers requiring more than 6 months to first decision:** 20 (11.9%, improved from 19%).

These improvements reflect targeted efforts to expedite reviews through more aggressive follow-ups with referees and Associate Editors.

Comparison Table

Metric	**2023–2024**	**2024–2025**
Total submissions	185	232
Desk rejections	49	72
Rejections after review	69	71
Withdrawn	2	8
Accepted (TN#)	15	18
Awaiting revision	14	15
Active review	36	48
Projected acceptances	44	53
Projected acceptance rate (%)	24.0	22.8
Median decision time (days)	69	56.5
Papers ¿6 months to decision	33	20
% ¿6 months	19.0	11.9

Table 1: Editorial Metrics Comparison: 2023–2024 vs 2024–2025

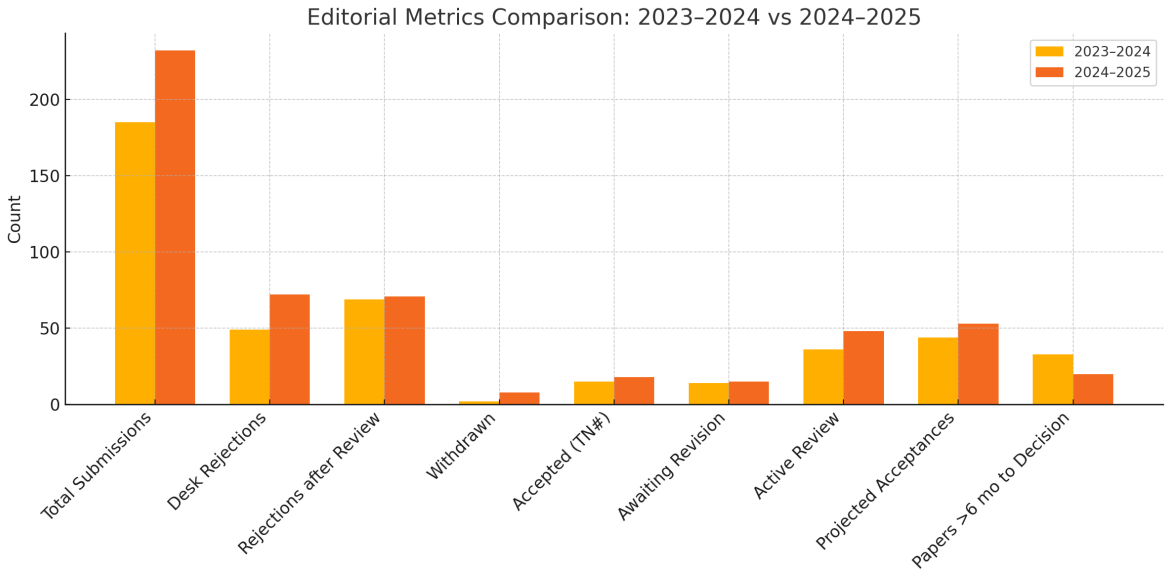


Figure 1: Bar plot comparing editorial metrics between the past two reporting periods. Y-axis shows raw counts.

Short Communications

The Short Communications category continues to gain traction. This year, we received approximately **50 submissions** in this format, which accounts for much of the increase in overall submissions from 185 to 232.

Of these 50:

- 9 were rejected,
- 2 were withdrawn,
- 39 are still in various stages of review.

We have maintained a high bar for these contributions, and although none have yet been formally accepted, several are still under consideration. Given the relatively recent timing of these submissions and the compact review cycle, we refrain from projecting an acceptance rate at this time.

Special Issues and Discussion Papers

We published **one special issue** during this period: the *Special Issue on Contemporary Bayesian Prediction*.

In addition, **two discussion papers** appeared:

- **STS945:** "Protocols for Observational Studies: Methods and Open Problems" by Dylan Small.
- **STS896:** "Item Response Theory – A Statistical Framework for Educational and Psychological Measurement" by Yunxiao Chen, Xiaoou Li, Jingchen Liu, and Zhiliang Ying.

Looking ahead, the third and fourth issues of *Statistical Science* in 2025 will each be devoted to special issues planned since the beginning of my tenure.

- Issue 3: *Learning Across Distribution Shifts*, which includes topics like transfer learning and integration of data across platforms. Guest editors: Richard Samworth, Samory Kpotufe, and Yuekai Sun.
- Issue 4: *Reinforcement Learning: Foundations and Frontiers.* Guest editors: Ambuj Tewari and Nan Jiang.

Two additional special issues have also been commissioned:

- *Optimal Transport*, guest edited by Jon Niles Weed and Long Nguyen.
- *Statistics in the Age of Generative AI*, scheduled for publication during the incoming editor's tenure (specifically 2026–2027).

Conclusion

The editorial pipeline has grown in volume and improved in responsiveness. While the overall projected acceptance rate is slightly lower than last year, the strong showing from special issues and, espcially, the popularity of Short Communications is highly encouraging. Short Communications has indubitably assumed a life of its known and should be carefully nurtured by future editors.

IMS Bulletin Report to Council 2025

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 have had two jointly written contributions, from Takis Konstantopoulos with George Kesidis, and from Daniela Witten with Rob Tibshirani. 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 8 obituaries: Joseph Caldwell, Shoutir Kishore Chatterjee, Myles Hollander, Thomas G. Kurtz, P. Warwick (Warry) Millar, Paul Shaman, William (Bill) Strawderman, and John Wolfe. In preparation are obituaries for Sayan Mukherjee, Boris Rozovsky, Eugene Laska, and Simos Meintanis. We have been unable to source obituaries for Brenda MacGibbon and Al Madansky, so if you know anyone who might be suitable, please let Tati know. Please also 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 that have been published since June 2011 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 still 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 forward 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. (The most recent issue contains another "guest puzzle" from Stas Volkov and Magnus Wiktorsson.) 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, with the rest opting 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 the past 12 months, there were over 40,000 views of news items, and 1,794 *Bulletin* PDF downloads from the IMS website.

On the social media channels, we post when issues are released, and also link to some news items and announcements directly. The IMS Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/IMSTATI) has around 4,300 followers. On Twitter/X (@InstMathStat) there are 3,953 followers. We now have a Bluesky

account (https://bsky.app/profile/instmathstat.bsky.social), which is just starting to gain followers as new people join the platform. As well as those channels, we send out a monthly email to members, the IMS eNews, with links to news items.

As ever, we encourage all members, and particularly Council members, to be proactive in writing or soliciting members' news items, articles, meeting reports, or other items of interest to the readers. We remain open to your comments, suggestions or feedback.

Tati Howell, *IMS Bulletin* Editor
bulletin@imstat.org
July 2025

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, Kevin Schnelli, Jason Schweinsberg, Avelio Sepúlveda, Vittoria Silvestri, Nike Sun, Augusto Teixeira, Daniel Vaselin, Nikolaus Zygouras.

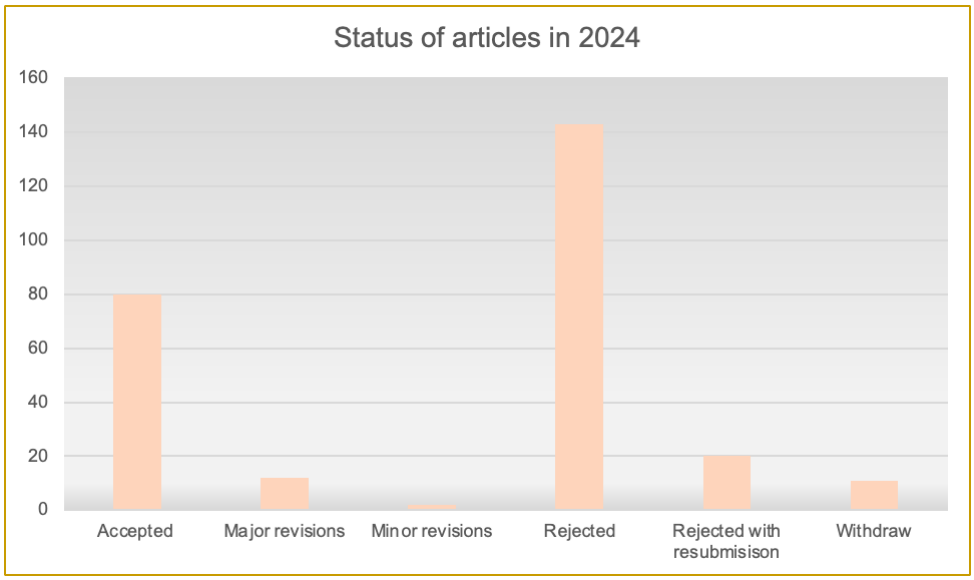
In color blue are the colleagues who were on the previous editorial board and who agreed to continue for a second round. In color red is Kevin Schnelli who joined the editorial board in September 2024. We decided to add another AE with an expertise on random matrices because we had the feeling that we were overloading the AEs with many articles around this topic.

Status of papers:

The number of submissions over four years is 226 in 2022, 234 in 2023, 268 in 2024 and 132 (in the first half) of 2025.

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 status of articles submitted in 2024: we had 80 articles accepted, 12 were under review (major revisions) and 2 (minor revisions), 143 were rejected, 20 were rejected with possible resubmission and 11 withdraw.



Load per AE:

The average load per Associate Editor for ECP is more or less balanced along the board. As I mentioned in my previous report, 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 an immediate desk rejection) without asking for an AE to give me an opinion that usually I share with the authors.

Some comments: Many articles submitted to ECP are rejected immediately because they are either not formatted using the ECP template or they exceed the 12-page limit. It would be important for the software to detect these issues automatically; otherwise, the reported numbers of submissions and rejections do not accurately reflect reality. Moreover, it is quite common for authors to use LaTeX commands that are forbidden by the journal's policy—for example, commands that change the font size or adjust the page margins. I suspect this is sometimes done to make the paper fit within the 12-page limit, but of course it is not allowed. Occasionally, I can spot these cases myself; other times, I miss them because the variations can be subtle. It would therefore be very important for the system to detect such issues automatically.

Recalling the 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: 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 8 weeks for ECP.

Patricia Gonçalves

Electronic Journal of Statistics Annual Report, July 9, 2025

Editors-in-Chief: Alexandra Carpentier, Arnak Dalalyan (from 2025-01-01)

In the following, we summarize the changes made in the board composition and the layout of the manuscripts. We also describe our editorial process and share the submission data.

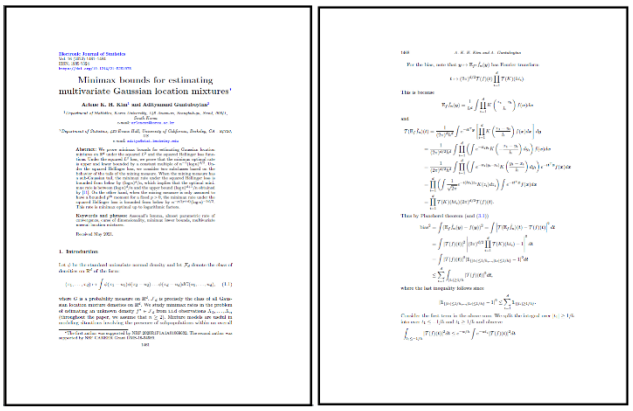
Board Composition: We officially began our term as Editors-in-Chief on January 1, 2025, succeeding our predecessors, Gang Li and Grace Yi. Prior to this, we held an online meeting with them and Geri Mattson on November 1, 2024, to discuss the editorial process and the composition of the incoming editorial board. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Gang and Grace for sharing their editorial experience and for all their valuable advice.

The new editorial board, whose composition is detailed in the following table, includes 56 members, 15 of whom joined on January 1, 2025.

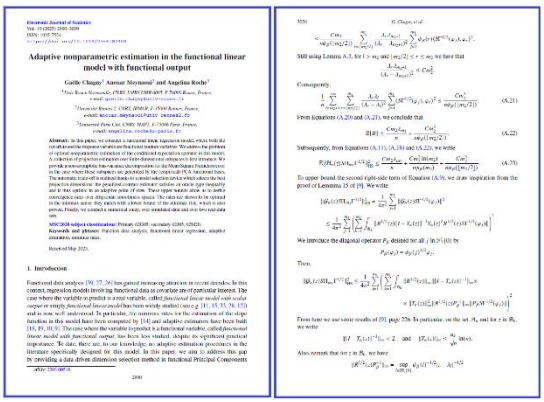
Name	Institution	Country
Pierre Alquier	ESSEC ASIA-PACIFIC	Singapore
Christophe Andrieu	University of Bristol	United Kingdom
Ery Arias-Castro	University of California, San Diego	USA
Alexander Aue	University of California, Davis	USA
Fadoua Balabdaoui	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
Merle Behr	University of Regensburg	Germany
Claire Boyer	Paris-Saclay University	France
Federico Camerlenghi	University of Milano-Bicocca	Italy
Timothy Cannings	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
Charles R. Doss	University of Minnesota	USA
Yulia Gel	Virginia Tech University	USA
Debashis Ghosh	University of Colorado Denver	USA
Debarghya Ghoshdastidar	Technical University of Munich	Germany
Malka Gorfine	Tel Aviv University	Israel
Nhat Ho	University of Texas	USA
Rafal Kulik	University of Ottawa	Canada
Sophie Langer	Ruhr University Bochum	Germany
Nicole Lazar	Pennsylvania State University	USA
Johannes Lederer	University of Hamburg	Germany
Runze Li	Pennsylvania State University	USA
Antonio Lijoi	Bocconi University	Italy
Karim Lounici	Ecole polytechnique	France
Wenbin Lu	North Carolina State University	USA
Yanyuan Ma	Pennsylvania State University	USA
Cheng Mao	Georgia Institute of Technology	USA
Yuzo Maruyama	Chiba University	Japan
Matey Neykov	Northwestern University	USA
Richard Nickl	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
Victor Panaretos	EPFL	Switzerland
Emilio Porcu	Khalifa University	United Arab Emirates
François Portier	ENSAI	France
Annie Qu	University of California Irvine	USA
Kolyan Ray	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
Zhao Ren	University of Pittsburgh	USA
Vivekananda Roy	Iowa State University	USA

Joseph Salmon	INRIA	France
Johannes Schmidt-Hieber	University of Twente	Netherlands
Johan Segers	KU Leuven	Belgium
Martin Slawski	University of Virginia	USA
Xinyuang Song	Chinese University of Hong Kong	China
Claudia Strauch	Heidelberg University	Germany
Qiang Sun	University of Toronto	Canada
Mahmoud Torabi	University of Manitoba	Canada
Thomas Verdebout	Université Libre de Bruxelles	Belgium
Nicolas Verzelen	INRAE	France
Stanislav Volgushev	University of Toronto	Canada
Martin Wahl	Bielefeld University	Germany
Yuhao Wang	Tsinghua University	China
Marten Wegkamp	Cornell University	USA
Ying Nian Wu	UCLA	USA
Yingcun Xia	National University of Singapore	Singapore
Minge Xie	Rutgers University	USA
Donglin Zeng	University of North Carolina	USA
Zhengjun Zhang	UW Madison	USA
Anderson Zhang	University of Pennsylvania	USA
Yichuan Zhao	Georgia State University	USA

Layout of the manuscripts: Shortly after beginning our term as Editors-in-Chief of the *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, some members of the editorial board suggested updating the manuscript layout used by the journal. The previous layout featured wide margins, which was not ideal for papers with substantial mathematical content—as is often the case in *EJS*. In response, we asked Geri Mattson to revise the layout by reducing the margins. The updated layout has been in use since the end of March. Below is a comparison of the former and current layouts:



The past layout



The new layout

Editorial process: We have maintained the editorial process established by the previous Editors-in-Chief of EJS. Manuscripts with even submission numbers are handled by one Editor-in-Chief, while those with odd numbers are handled by the other. In cases of a conflict of interest, the manuscript is assigned to the Editor-in-Chief without a conflict.

We strive to review each newly submitted manuscript within two weeks and decide whether it should be assigned to an Associate Editor or deemed unsuitable for publication. Once a manuscript is assigned, Associate Editors are generally expected to determine—within about two weeks—whether it should be sent out for external review. In a few instances, we have consulted an Associate Editor before desk-rejecting a manuscript, in order to minimize the risk of unconscious bias.

Recently, a reviewer suggested to an Associate Editor that EJS would benefit from having formal reviewer guidelines. While we observed that many IMS journals already provide such guidelines, EJS currently does not. We are considering moving forward on this topic in the near future.

Submission data: The table below summarizes submission data for EJS from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. The most notable feature is a 25% increase in the number of manuscripts submitted during the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.

2024-01-01 –2024-06-30		2024-07-01 – 2024-12-31		2025-01-01 – 2025-06-30	
Accept	43	Accept	19	Accept	3
Minor revision	3	Minor revision	3	Minor revision	4
Major revision	11	Major revision	33	Major revision	13
Reject with resubmit	23	Reject with resubmit	18	Reject with resubmit	21
Reject	118	Reject	118	Reject	106
Ongoing	1	Ongoing	10	Ongoing	108
Withdrawn	5	Withdrawn	2	Withdrawn	1
Total	**204**	**Total**	**203**	**Total**	**256**

We also provide statistics on desk-rejected papers over the 3 periods, defining a desk rejection as any manuscript for which a decision—either "reject" or "reject with encouragement to resubmit"—is made within 2 weeks of submission. Comparing data from the first half of 2025 with the same period in 2024, we observe that the desk rejection rate remained nearly unchanged: 32% in 2024 versus 30% in 2025.

2024-01-01 –2024-06-30		2024-07-01 – 2024-12-31		2025-01-01 – 2025-06-30	
Reject (< 15 days)	61	Reject (< 15 days)	47	Reject (< 15 days)	69
Rejects with resubmit (<15 days)	4	Rejects with resubmit (<15 days)	1	Rejects with resubmit (<15 days)	9
Total	**65**	**Total**	**48**	**Total**	**78**

The last table reports the percentage of papers submitted during each period for which the number of days until the first decision falls within a given time interval.

2024-01-01 –2024-06-30		2024-07-01 – 2024-12-31		2025-01-01 – 2025-03-31	
< 15 days	33%	< 15 days	24%	< 15 days	29%
< 1 month	39%	< 1 month	33%	< 1 month	33%
<3 months	51%	<3 months	44%	<3 months	46%
<5 months	77%	<5 months	74%	<5 months	>68%
<7 months	90%	<7 months	89%	<7 months	>70%
>7 months	10%	>7 months	11%	>7 months	NA

IMS Committee on Equality and Diversity
Annual Report
July 2025

The 2024-2025 IMS Committee on Equality and Diversity contained the following members:

Raaz Dwivedi
Konstantinos Fokianos
Chae Young Lim
Shili Lin
Oscar Madrid
Tai Melcher
Christina Kendziorski
Huixia Judy Wang (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), the committee identified approximately 25 IMS members, representing diversity in both gender and geographic background, whom we considered strong candidates for IMS Fellowship. The committee chair contacted these individuals on behalf of the committee to encourage them to pursue nomination and to provide assistance in reaching out to potential nominators. The vast majority responded positively, with about 10 requesting support in identifying or contacting nominators.

Of the 25 individuals contacted, approximately 18 were ultimately nominated—either through nominators we helped connect them with or through other channels. Of those nominated, 6 were successfully elected as Fellows, comprising 3 women and 3 men, including 3 individuals based outside North America.

Notably, about 60% women elected as IMS Fellows in 2025 had been contacted by the committee during 2024–2025, and the other had been contacted the previous year. The committee views this as a highly successful effort to promote diversity in Fellowship nominations and is enthusiastic about continuing this initiative in the future.

2) **Recommendations for the next IMS survey.**

The committee put together a set of responses to the IMS EC's questions and recommendations regarding future IMS membership surveys. These recommendations include keeping the survey concise, involving international representatives to ensure global relevance, and including questions on both demographics and research areas. The committee also recommends using survey findings to guide efforts in mentorship, outreach, and equitable participation in IMS activities. They support forming a diverse Survey Committee with survey design expertise, including representatives from the CED, and suggest conducting the survey every five years. These recommendations have been sent to the IMS president for consideration. These recommendations have been sent to the IMS president for consideration.

Annual Report: IMS Peter Galvin Hall Early Career Prize

This year the “Peter Hall Prize” committee received a healthy number of 15 nominations of strong candidates, solidifying an increasing trend in the number of nominees over the past three years. Most of the nominees (13/15) are currently working at academic US institutions. The other two work at the UK and India, respectively. Their research emphases encompass a diverse range of areas, from application driven biostatistics/public health and big data in medicine, through high-dimensional statistics, the intersection of applied probability and mathematical statistics to computational Bayes and theory for machine learning and its intersections with statistics.

Following the IMS protocol for the selection process (in particular, two rounds of voting; observing COIs) the awardee recommended by the committee was selected with very strong overall support. Given the (appreciated) geographical diversity of the committee members, all the communications within the committee were held via email.

Wolfgang Polonik
University of California, Davis
Chair of “Peter Hall Prize Committee”
July 4, 2025

IMS Committee on Nominations
Annual Report
June 2025

The 2024-2025 IMS Committee on Nominations contained the following members:

Yingying Fan (Chair)
Alessandro Arlotto
Yuansi Chen
Charles Doss
Jiaoyang Huang
Iain Johnstone
Julie Josse
Quefeng Li
Tengyuan Liang
Marianna Pensky
Igor Pruenster
Peter Radchenko
Adrian Roellin
Chengchun Shi
Yin Xia
Frederi Viens, Past Chair, ex officio

The committee accomplished the following goals:

(i) A nomination for the next President-Elect of the IMS
(ii) A slate of 10 names for the renewal of the IMS Council

Compared to the previous year's timeline, the committee introduced a new preliminary stage into the nomination process. During this new phase, committee members discussed the desired qualities of candidates for President-Elect and Council members. The aim was to establish a shared understanding of the qualities the committee values in candidates, which can provide a common framework to guide the voting process later on. At the end of this phase, the committee chair summarized the top-ranked qualities as identified through the discussion.

Before the nomination process began, the committee also discussed a potential challenge: the same individual may be nominated for both the president-elect and the council. However, we need one final nominee for the president-elect and 10 final nominees for the council, and the two sets must not overlap. In consultation with IMS President Tony Cai and the Executive Director Elyse Gustafson, the committee decided to take the strategy of voting for 12 ranked candidates for council members and reporting the top 10 as the final nominees. An alternative approach that was considered (but ultimately not adopted) was to vote for the president-elect first and then vote for council members separately. This approach would require adjusting the timeline significantly.

During the president-elect voting, some committee members raised concerns (after the first round of voting) that, given the large pool of initial candidates for president-elect, the IMS voting rule might yield a result where top-ranked candidates are the favored ones by very few committee members. In consultation with the IMS President Tony Cai and the Executive Director Elyse Gustafson, to address this concern, the committee decided to add an additional run-off vote among the top candidates from the first round of voting, where the top candidates were the most frequently ranked among the top three choices by committee members. This reduced the initial 26 nominations to a pool of 5. The committee then voted again following System A of the IMS voting rule to obtain the final nomination.

After the first round of the council voting, some committee members expressed concerns that there were no probabilists among the 18 shortlisted nominees for the council. Notably, there were probabilists among the original list of 47 nominees before the voting began. The committee discussed the issue and acknowledged it as a valid concern. However, since the voting process had already started, it was not possible to address it this year. Considering that i) the 18 shortlisted candidates include people who may broadly represent the interests of probabilists, and ii) council appointment is for three years, with probabilists currently well represented on the existing council, the committee decided to proceed to the next stage of voting. For future cycles, it is recommended that the committee review and consider the probabilists' representation before the voting starts.

IMS Committee to Select Administrative Officers: 2024-2025 Report

During the last year, the IMS Committee to Select Administrative Officers (Jing Lei, Xinghua Zheng, and Dipankar Bandyopadhyay as the Chair) was tasked with conducting searches for the Treasurer and the Managing Editor. The incumbent candidates were Professors Jiashun Jin (Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University) and Daniel Nordman (Statistics, Iowa State) respectively, respectively, both serving their first terms, and both were eligible to serve another term.

This was discussed electronically among the committee members, and it was decided that these 2 candidates would be contacted by the Chair to gauge their willingness to serve a 2nd term. Upon agreement from the candidates, what followed was an electronic voting by the committee members. The results, for both these positions, were 3 (Yes) to 0 (No).

To conclude:

- Prof. Jiashun Jin has agreed to serve the 2nd term as the Treasurer, Aug 5, 2025 – July 26, 2028, and
- Prof. Daniel Nordman has agreed to serve the 2nd term as the Managing Editor, Jan 1, 2026 – Dec 31, 2028

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay
Richmond, VA
June 21st, 2025

IMS Survey Committee Report

Jun 26, 2025

The IMS Council has established a new Survey Committee to oversee the design, administration, and analysis of a comprehensive membership survey to be conducted every five years. The inaugural Survey Committee consists of Jeff Cai (Chair), Jean Opsomer, Daniela Witten, and Linda Zhao. Its first term will run from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2030, with the next survey scheduled for spring or summer 2026.

The most recent IMS Membership Survey was conducted in 2021. Three members of the new committee, Jean, Jeff, and Linda, played key roles, alongside joint efforts from then-President Regina Liu, Elyse Gustafson, Nicole Lazar, and Nicole Pashley. The 2021 Survey provided a broad and thoughtful assessment of the state and the evolving needs of the IMS community. Two key priorities emerged:

1. **Broader Future Directions:** expanding the engagement with the rapidly growing fields of machine learning and data science;
2. **Membership Base Expansion:** broadening its membership base by retaining student members, supporting early-career researchers, and reaching broader groups and regions beyond North America.

In response, IMS has taken several significant steps, including strengthening support for the New Researcher Group (NRG) and launching the International Conference on Statistics and Data Science (ICSDS) in 2022 to foster global, interdisciplinary collaboration across academia, industry, and government.

The landscape of statistics and data science has evolved rapidly since the last survey, particularly with the renewed prominence and accelerating impact of artificial intelligence (AI). As the new committee begins its term in August 2025, it will immediately start work on the 2026 IMS Membership Survey, with the several priorities:

1. Incorporate lessons from the 2021 survey, while updating themes to reflect recent developments in AI, interdisciplinary research, and changes in the academic (both research and teaching) and professional environments.
2. Engage stakeholders, including the IMS Council, journal editors, special interest groups, and membership coordinators, to ensure the survey aligns with organizational goals and community needs.
3. Prioritize accessibility, relevance, and rigor in survey design, with an emphasis on inclusivity across geography, career stages, and research domains.
4. Consider launching a brief pilot survey at JSM 2025 to solicit member input and surface priorities for the full survey, while also building awareness and engagement.
5. Launch the full survey in spring or summer of 2026, with targeted outreach to encourage broad participation and representation.