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The members' magazine of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

IMS Bulletin

January/February 2026

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See you in Salzburg?

2026 IMS Annual Meeting
July 6–9, 2026 in Salzburg, Austria
w https://imstat.org/2026AnnualMeeting/

The 2026 IMS Annual Meeting will be held in Salzburg, Austria, July 6–9, 2026. The venue is Salzburg Congress (https://www.salzburgcongress.at/en), located in the heart of the city and close to the river. The meeting organizers (Kavita Ramanan, IMS President; Genevera Allen, Program Chair for Statistics; Remco van der Hofstad, Program Chair for Probability; and Arne Bathke, Local Chair) are currently working on the invited program, which will be announced soon.

The conference will cover a broad range of topics from statistics and probability, as well as the two Wald lectures (**Tilmann Gneiting**); the Blackwell lecture (**Cun-Hui Zhang**); three Medallion lectures (**Jelle Goeman, Ian McKeague, Bodhisattva Sen**); and four Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award lectures (**Jin-Hong Du, Yu Gui, Subhodh Kotekal, Reese Pathak**), as well as the IMS Presidential Address by **Kavita Ramanan**, in addition to many other plenary, invited, and contributed presentations. Conference participants will also be treated to a classical chamber concert, by joint invitation of the Federal State of Salzburg and the City of Salzburg.

Registration links for the IMS Annual Meeting will open up sometime early in 2026, and as a heads-up, conference dinner tickets will be first come first served, so make sure to register early once the site opens.

There will also be an exciting opportunity to join a satellite meeting right afterwards in Salzburg: the **tenth edition of BFF (Bayes, Fiducial, Frequentist), taking place 10 & 11 July**. Stay tuned for further details on both conferences, and on how you can combine them.

If you're taking a little more time in the area after these meetings, the famous **Salzburg Music Festival** will start on 17 July (https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en/tickets/calendar?season=147), and the beautiful mountains around Salzburg are always good for a visit. For more trip inspiration, tips, and local attractions in Salzburg, check out the article on page 10. See you in Salzburg!

Photo: Tourismus Salzburg GmbH/ Günter Breitegger

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Executive Committee

IMS Members' News

Michael I. Jordan elected to Chinese Academy of Sciences


Michael I. Jordan

The Chinese Academy of Sciences elected 73 academicians and 27 foreign academicians in 2025. IMS Fellow **Michael I. Jordan**, who is Directeur de Recherche at Inria and Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France, and Pehong Chen Distinguished Professor Emeritus at UC Berkeley, was among those elected as a Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences this year.

See https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/w6BUa_7xosub8qdz2TWaVQ for the full list.

Xihong Lin receives the APHA Lowell Reed Lecture Award

The American Public Health Association (APHA) has selected **Xihong Lin** to receive the Lowell Reed Lecture Award from the APHA Health Statistics Section. The award is presented annually to a statistician who has made significant contributions to public health through research, teaching, and/or service. The lecture honors the legacy of Dr. Lowell Reed, who served as Chair of Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (1926), Dean of the School (1937–1946), and later as President of Johns Hopkins University.


Xihong Lin

Dr. Lin, who is Professor of Statistics and Professor of Biostatistics, at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the Statistics Department Chair, delivered the Lowell Reed Lecture, titled "Navigating Statistics, Generative AI, and Genomics Health," on Monday, November 3, 2025, at the 2025 APHA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Bernoulli Society New Researchers Award 2026


IMS member Mark Sellke was among the winners of the Bernoulli Society New Researcher Award

The Bernoulli Society has announced the recipients of its 2026 New Researchers Award in Probability Theory. The awardees are **Morris Ang** (UC San Diego), **Serte Donderwinkel** (University of Groningen), and IMS member **Mark Sellke** (Harvard University). There were also Honourable Mentions for **Ahmed Bou-Rabee** (University of Pennsylvania), **Sky Cao** (MIT), and **Alexander Dunlap** (Duke University).

The Bernoulli Society New Researcher Award celebrates the outstanding work of early researchers in the fields of Mathematical Statistics and Probability. As part of the New Researcher Award, the awardees will each deliver an invited lecture at the 45th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications in Ithaca, New York, June 15-19, 2026.

2025 Myles Hollander Distinguished Lecture by Robert Tibshirani now available online

The Department of Statistics at Florida State University welcomed Robert Tibshirani, Professor of Statistics and Professor of Biomedical Data Science at Stanford University, as the 2025 Myles Hollander Distinguished Lecturer. Tibshirani presented "Univariate-Guided Sparse Regression" on October 17, 2025. The recording is now available at: https://youtu.be/tYGWAJLC-eQ

More Members' News

Aleksandra Slavković ASA Links Lecture

Aleksandra (Seša) Slavković, Professor of Statistics and Associate Dean for Research in Eberly College of Science, Penn State University, has been selected by the American Statistical Association to present the 2025 ASA Links Lecture, *"Praivacy (noun) Pronounced: /'prā-və-sē/ Balancing Data Confidentiality and Utility,"* on January 23, 2026, from noon to 1:30pm EST. Saki Kinney will serve as the discussant.

This free virtual event is in honor of Constance Citro, Robert Groves, and Fritz Scheuren—three pioneers who advanced the US federal statistical system's ability to meet growing data demands.

Each year, the award recognizes an individual whose contributions have advanced official statistics and whose vision helps address critical data needs. Register for free via the link at https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2025/12/01/links26/

Klaus Krickeberg, 1929–2025

Professor **Klaus Krickeberg**, who was an IMS Fellow, passed away peacefully on November 27, in Bielefeld, Germany, where he had resided in recent years. He was 96 years old. The funeral service took place on December 8 in Bielefeld. Born in Berlin in 1929, Klaus Krickeberg held professorships in Heidelberg, Bielefeld, and Paris. He is remembered as a probabilist, a statistician and an epidemiologist. He is also widely known for his work in public health in Vietnam over several decades. An obituary will follow.

Lathisms scholarship selection committee seeks volunteers

Lathisms is an organization that supports and brings visibility to Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians. As part of this, Lathisms **offers scholarships to mathematics students**, meant to help with costs that pose a barrier to the success and advancement of the awardee in their pursuit of a career in the mathematical sciences. More info about the scholarship is at https://www.lathisms.org/scholarships.

Lathisms needs people who are willing to **volunteer as reviewers for these scholarship applications**. If you are interested, please fill out the form at https://forms.gle/u1s4KvHtTqj4yZwh7.

Application review would entail reading and scoring applications using a rubric, around March–April of this year. No prior experience serving on such a committee is required.

In particular, the following individuals are encouraged to volunteer:

- ☑ graduate students,
- ☑ postdoctoral scholars,
- ☑ research scientists, industry & academic professionals, and
- ☑ faculty from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), 4-year colleges/universities, and/or liberal arts colleges.

Please share this call with your colleagues!

= access published papers online

IMS Journals and Publications

Annals of Statistics: Hans-Georg Müller, Harrison Zhou
https://imstat.org/aos
https://projecteuclid.org/aos

Annals of Applied Statistics: Lexin Li
https://imstat.org/aoas
https://projecteuclid.org/aoas

Annals of Probability: Paul Bourgade & Julien Dubedat
https://imstat.org/aop
https://projecteuclid.org/aop

Annals of Applied Probability: Jian Ding, Claudio Landim
https://imstat.org/aap
https://projecteuclid.org/aoap

Statistical Science: Moulinath Bannerjee
https://imstat.org/sts
https://projecteuclid.org/ss

IMS Collections
https://projecteuclid.org/imsc

IMS Monographs and *IMS Textbooks:* Yingying Fan
https://www.imstat.org/journals-and-publications/ims-monographs/

IMS Co-sponsored Journals and Publications

Electronic Journal of Statistics: Alexandra Carpentier & Arnak Dalalyan: https://projecteuclid.org/ejs

Electronic Journal of Probability: Cristina Toninelli
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ejp

Electronic Communications in Probability: Patrícia Gonçalves
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ecp

Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: Yuguo Chen, Laura M. Sangalli https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Publications/Journals.aspx
log into members' area at www.imstat.org

Probability Surveys: Adam Jakubowski
https://imstat.org/ps
https://projecteuclid.org/ps

Statistics Surveys: Yingying Fan
https://imstat.org/ss
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ssu

IMS-Supported Journals

ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Statistics: Víctor Rivero
http://alea.impa.br/english/index.htm

Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré (B): Giambattista Giacomin, Yueyun Hu:
https://imstat.org/aihp
https://projecteuclid.org/aihp

Bayesian Analysis: Igor Prünster
https://projecteuclid.org/ba

Bernoulli: Kengo Kato
https://projecteuclid.org/bj

Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics: Francisco José A. Cysneiros: https://imstat.org/bjps
https://projecteuclid.org/bjps

IMS-Affiliated Journals

Observational Studies: Nandita Mitra, Andrew Spieker
https://obs.pennpress.org/

Probability and Mathematical Statistics: Krzysztof Bogdan, Krzysztof Dębicki
http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pms/

Stochastic Systems: Devavrat Shah
https://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/stsy

Hand Writing

Data quality: the missing module

Contributing Editor **David J. Hand**, Imperial College London, returns to his Hand Writing column with some thoughts on the unglamorous but fundamentally important topic of data quality.

Countless articles and many books have been written on the topic of data quality. High quality data is clearly central to statistics and data science, in terms of understanding underlying processes, making operational decisions, and building effective algorithms. As most readers of this article will know, the consequences of poor quality data can be catastrophically serious. And yet, somehow, data quality almost always appears as a secondary consideration in the teaching of statistics and data science.

Perhaps this is understandable. If I am going to apply regression analysis I first need to know the nature of the regression model, what it is intended to do, and how to use it. Only then can I sensibly study its limitations. Indeed, the excitement of learning about a powerful new statistical method lies in the actual learning of that method, and in seeing how useful its application can be. Learning how something can fail is much less thrilling. But a consequence of this is that issues of data quality are typically pushed to the margins.

Such courses on data quality as there are tend to emphasise aspects such as computer science (e.g., storage and retrieval, database design, etc.) or regulatory compliance (e.g., in clinical trials, data governance, etc.), and to focus on particular application domains (e.g., official statistics, health service). This is in contrast to courses about statistical methods themselves, which aim to teach the student how to apply the tools in general, in any appropriate context.

Of course, many data quality issues are highly problem- and context-specific. But one might argue that the same applies to statistical tools themselves. When I apply regression to data from a physics experiment, I might be searching for a real (and significant) but very slight departure from a specific model (e.g. a tiny departure from a linear relationship between the dependent and independent variables), but when I apply the same statistical tool to social science data I might hope merely to explore the proportion of variation accounted for. The way the tool is used, and what it is used for, depends on the application domain and the problem.

It is a familiar adage that in many projects the bulk of the work lies in the data preparation. For example, we have, "Data scientists spend approximately 80% of the time on preparing the data and about 20% on actual model implementation and deployment," (Hameed and Naumann, 2020), and, "…the process of data cleaning […] will often take up to 50 percent to 80 percent of the entire time spent on the project" (Yu and Barter, 2024, Chapter 4). If this is the case, then it is curious that the teaching of tools for this critical initial step has been relegated to a secondary role. Surely, any university or other institution concerned with teaching statistics or data science should also offer a (perhaps mandatory) module on data quality and how to achieve—or at least work towards—it.

Such modules might cover topics which will be familiar to experienced statisticians and data scientists, but perhaps are not second nature to those newly exposed to the discipline. Sensitising new data analysts to the problems can only benefit both the discipline and the areas in which they are applying it.

Such topics will doubtless be familiar to most of the readers of this article, and include:

- that one should *never* simply assume that the data are sound.
- applying data error-detection tools is a useful step, but should not be unthinkingly relied upon.
- a good understanding of the data collection process can save one from many egregious errors, not only in detecting data problems, but also in correcting them.
- a recognition that data might be "clean" for one purpose but not for another.

https://dataedo.com/

- acknowledgment of the fact that one may not be able to guarantee to be able to clean data sufficiently to be able to answer any given question. If one could, then any data, no matter how limited or poorly related to the question, would suffice.
- that an audit trail of any data cleaning activity should be retained—in sufficient detail that the original data can be reconstructed.
- that new types of data come with new types of data quality issues. For example, administrative data collected for one purpose may not be helpful for another; data sets constructed by merging other sets have their own risks; and inferential tools based on an assumption of a random sample may be risky when applied to data with arbitrary and unknown underlying selection processes.
- it might be useful to have two modelling stages: one modelling the data selection and creation process, and one producing the substantive model of interest.

Kim *et al* (2003) have made a sterling effort to organise data quality issues into a "taxonomy of dirty data."

These and other aspects of data quality may not constitute the most glamorous of statistical courses to teach. But they are certainly one of the courses most likely to have a beneficial impact on the quality of the results. And this is not merely in reducing mistakes but also more positively. After all, in domains where machine learning methods outstrip the accuracy of human diagnosticians, it has often been found that this is attributable to the closer attention to data quality and completeness required for data input to the machine learning system.

References

- Hameed, M. and Naumann, F. (2020) Data preparation: a survey of commercial tools. *SIGMOD Record*, September 2020, **49**(3).
- Kim, W., Choi, B.-Y., Hong, E.-K., Kim, S.-K., and Lee, D. (2003) A taxonomy of dirty data. *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*, **7**, 81-99.
- Yu, B. and Barter, R.L. (2024) *Veridical Data Science*, MIT Press. https://vdsbook.com/04-data_cleaning

Yu Gui: IMS Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award preview

Yu Gui is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Statistics and Data Science at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, working with Professors Dylan Small and Zhimei Ren. Yu obtained his PhD in Statistics at the University of Chicago, advised by Professors Rina Foygel Barber and Cong Ma. Prior to his PhD, he graduated from the School of the Gifted Young at the University of Science and Technology of China in 2020. His research centers around distribution-free inference, selective inference under distribution shifts, multi-modal learning, and observational studies, motivated by problems that both arise from and can further inform real-world applications. This lecture will take place in the Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award session at the IMS 2026 meeting, in Salzburg, July 6–9, 2026.

Distributionally robust risk evaluation with an isotonic constraint

Statistical learning under distribution shift is challenging when neither prior knowledge nor data from the target distribution is available.

As a mainstream technique in addressing distribution shifts, sample reweighting with the goal of learning the density ratio between distributions can be sensitive to the misspecification of weights, especially when available data from the target distribution is scarce. Alternatively, distributionally robust learning (DRL) aims to control out-of-distribution performance uniformly across a set of candidate target distributions, which may result in excessive conservativeness. In light of the limitations of existing methods, we aim to answer the following question: Can we leverage data-informed side information to balance the misspecification of reweighting methods and the excessive pessimism of DRL?

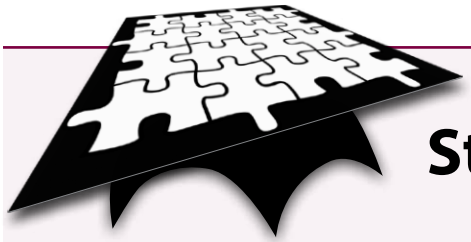
Preview: Yu Gui continued from previous page

To enable distributional robustness without being overly conservative, we propose iso-DRL, a shape-constrained approach to DRL, which incorporates prior information about the way in which the unknown target distribution differs from its estimate---for instance, we may assume the unknown density ratio between the target distribution and its estimate is isotonic with respect to some partial order. One notable example of the partial order is the one determined by an estimated density ratio, in which case, if the estimated density ratio reveals useful side information of the underlying truth (e.g., correct relative magnitude that is evident for defining under- or over-represented regions in the covariate space), iso-DRL focuses on a fine-grained set of candidate distributions and the robust isotonic calibration of the estimated density ratio.

This paper aims to balance the misspecification of sample reweighting and the over-pessimism of DRL by incorporating the shape constraints as side information. More broadly, this work aims to find more practical, optimistic, and data-driven solutions to distribution shifts under certain structures. More concretely, our paper has the following contributions:

1. At the population level, explicitly solving iso-DRL is highly nontrivial as it involves a cone constraint in the function space. We provide an equivalent formulation of the shape-constrained optimization problem that can be solved without the challenge of an explicit isotonic constraint, in which case, iso-DRL is equivalent to a DRL problem with a risk function after isotonic projection, which simplifies computation and yields closed-form solutions for many choices of ambiguity sets of candidate distributions.
2. At the sample level, although the shape constraint can be written as a set of linear constraints, as the number of constraints is a function of sample size, it is unclear whether a consistent estimator of iso-DRL objective can be established. We provide consistency results for an empirical estimator of the target in a range of different settings.
3. We apply the proposed method to distribution-free uncertainty quantification and demonstrate its effectiveness through experiments on synthetic and real-world datasets subject to distribution shifts, achieving notable improvements over both sample reweighting and DRL methods.

This talk is based on my PhD work with advisors Rina Foygel Barber and Cong Ma.



Student Puzzle 59

Deadline: February 1

Here is a reminder of Anirban DasGupta's current puzzles, published in the previous issue. He says, "You can send a solution to one, two, or ideally all three! We hope you will enjoy thinking about these problems."

Puzzle 59.1 Suppose X, Y, Z are i.i.d. standard normal. Find, without doing any calculations, the distribution of $\frac{X+YZ}{\sqrt{1+Z^2}}$.

Puzzle 59.2 Suppose $X_1, X_2, \ldots$ are i.i.d. $U[0, 1]$. For $n \geq 2$, let $X_{n-1:n}$ be the second-largest observation among $X_1,\ldots,X_n$. Find sequences a_n, b_n and a nondegenerate distribution G such that $\frac{X_{n-1:n}-a_n}{b_n}$ converges in distribution to a random variable with distribution G.

Puzzle 59.3 Consider the standard linear model $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\beta+\varepsilon$. Find an element u in the column space of X such that $\|u-\mathbf{Y}\|^2 < \|\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{Y}\|^2$ for all v different from u in the column space of X.

Student members of IMS are invited to submit solutions to bulletin@imstat.org (subject "Student Puzzle Corner"). If correct, we'll publish your name (and photo, if there's space) with the solution in the next issue. The Puzzle Editor is Anirban DasGupta. His decision is final.

Radu's Rides:

Attention, rewards and something in between

Radu Craiu writes: Halfway through writing this sentence, I lost focus. I cannot remember if it was because my email pinged, a phone message arrived, or a student knocked at my door asking for directions, literally or figuratively. I used to think that the rewards for my job were the respect of my peers, talking to smart people and occasionally having a good idea. The world is increasingly trying to convince me that I should reconsider: the biggest reward is the ability to draw attention. The well-known "15 minutes of fame" that animated our predecessors is long gone, replaced with a longing for 30 seconds of fragmented attentiveness. Those minutes were usually the coronation of a lifetime of work and perhaps some luck, while the seconds courted now seem to be more about the noise one can make. And the cumulative noise is deafening. Between posts about new papers or books that appear daily on most social platforms, arXiv feeds that have increased in size at an astonishing rate, announcements for the *many* online webinars and conferences, frequent requests for reviews of grants, papers, and hairdos, I am not doing great with keeping up with the Joneses. This feeling of inadequacy is persistent. How can I be a professional when I am behind on my reading of a gazillion papers? If my reading is so inadequate, then turning the question on its head, I sometimes wonder how many of our colleagues have time to read what we write? In this context, who can blame the elusive and progressively discombobulated reviewer of our papers or the under-motivated student in our nightmares? They are all also targeted by a myriad of attention-grabber apps, movies, news, podcasts, social media posts, as demonstrated by our increasingly rapid blinking.

Paradoxically, this "enhanced" communication environment can lead to insularity rather than community building. For one, the abundance of exposure to unvetted work, which has been greatly facilitated by online (mostly non-professional) dissemination networks, makes it statistically more likely to encounter papers that disappoint. While we have not reached the "almost sure" levels, we are close enough to leave us with a sense of despondency. In the face of overwhelming "noise" it is harder to identify the signals, which seem to be as sparse now as always. I have often heard it said that while PhD theses are getting longer and their authors publish more than ever before graduation, our discipline is not bursting with important ideas. Overwhelmed by an avalanche of "happenings," we all tend to retreat in our own scientific bubbles, working on problems that are dear to us and leaving behind the hope of being read, or even misread.

It is then not surprising that many hiring committees still hold in high regard publications in traditionally strong journals and talks given at important conferences or institutions. While the last twenty years have seen an explosion in dissemination, the reliable avenues for vetting what is being disseminated have remained largely the same, or perhaps even a little worse for wear. Conferences originally designed for 700 participants use the same system, albeit rescaled in a hurry, to accommodate over 20,000 submissions. Journals that used to get 400 submissions a year now see tenfold, while the number of pages and AEs is only slightly larger, if not the same. They are like cities who started small, benefited from a wave of massive success that saw their population quadruple in a very short period of time, only to realize that their infrastructure cannot handle all the attention.

This explosion of demand and implosion of resources can be extended to the classroom, where the size of a class makes it increasingly difficult to assess students' work based on data-driven projects that involve analysis and interpretation. Our letters of recommendation become more generic (how do you distinguish Student X in a class of 300 where 40 showed strong skills?) and the difficulty of separating wheat from chaff continues…

It is frustrating to merely rant without thinking that something concrete can be proposed to alleviate these headaches. We could diversify where we publish, using some of the new journals that have recognizable editorial board members. Some will scream "gatekeepers" and perhaps justifiably so. We have seen several initiatives where papers are posted publicly and reviewed openly by peers. That is an excellent idea, as long as people participate and the number of papers one can look at are manageable, which is hard to achieve when the system is completely open. And therein lies the proverbial fly in the ointment. As a community, we have to take seriously the responsibility of vetting, to the best of our abilities, what is disseminated under respectable banners, and we must fight hard for those to remain respectable.

I am sure that our community will be happy to hear realistic suggestions that can help democratize these processes so please write with your ideas, get engaged or both.

Perhaps this period is best understood as a transitional one? Maybe the challenge of our generation (if you're wondering which generation: if you read this, it's yours) is to adapt our ecosystem so that we enhance and scale up the elements that work and eliminate those that do not, so that 10 years from now, an IMS Bulletin column will be written about entirely new trials and tribulations far from the ones we are facing now.

Lines from Layla: When is it enough?

Layla Parast has had a tough lesson recently about what is important, and what constitutes that elusive "enough":

As the year comes to a close, I've been reflecting on my goals for 2025. I had thirteen, yes thirteen, goals: SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound), carefully constructed, color-coded, and tracked goals. I will miss the mark on three of them. And instead of feeling proud of the ten that I did accomplish, I find myself spiraling about the ones I didn't. It's a familiar pattern: my internal voice says *you just didn't do enough*.

My calendar is a mosaic of blocks that I protect fiercely, especially the ones labeled "deep work" and "kids." In my previous job, this protection was somewhat easier. We had to track our hours and charge them to projects, literally, down to the quarter hour. While some might not like this, for me, it was freeing. After years in graduate school where I constantly felt simultaneously overworked and underworked, suddenly there was a clear metric. And I was determined: I was not going to work more than 40 hours per week. If I did, I was essentially giving away my time. No, thank you. And I did indeed successfully work about 40 hours per week, often less.

However, after 10 years of necessary time tracking, moving to academia in 2022 felt glorious. No timesheets! No electronic reminders to allocate 0.75 hours to Project A! I was free… until I wasn't. Within six months I was right back in the old grad-school feeling: *Am I working enough? Too much?* I had no idea. So I started tracking my time again. I literally write, to this day, on an (electronic) sticky note when I start and stop. I separate "deep work" from everything else, including teaching, meetings, email, applied collaborations, and service. And, unsurprisingly, I learned I was working more than 40 hours per week—not dramatically more, but more than I intended. I made a goal to pull it back. I even tracked the running median for the year, aiming for 35 hours a week (my ideal). It's still a struggle.

Because the truth is: I love this work. I enjoy it. I wake up in the morning excited and joyful to work—to finally figure out that optimal bandwidth, to check on my simulations, to cook up the perfect homework assignment for my freshmen. But if I'm working too much, something else has to give: sleep, exercise, time with my family, cooking (okay, heating up food). And every time I tell myself, "Once this paper is done… once the grant is submitted… once the semester ends… *then* I can slow down." But that moment never comes. We are never done. There is always one more thing to do.

Every Sunday I make a plan for the week: tasks, blocks of time, alignment with monthly and semester goals. It's all a delicate

balancing act. And it only takes one unexpected event to send the whole thing crashing down: a kid vomiting in the night, a tree falling on my car (yes), a school lockdown because a shooter was loose in the neighborhood (also yes). Recently, that unexpected event was a text from my mom.

I was on a flight home when she texted that my dad had collapsed at the gym. His heart had stopped. Bystanders did CPR and shocked him with an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), saving his life. He was in the ICU, intubated, sedated, and no one knew whether he would wake up, nor what he would be like if he did. I know intellectually that my parents will die someday, but I live my daily life in complete denial of this fact. On the plane, I froze. Tears just rolled down my face. The minute we landed, I went home, dumped out my suitcase, repacked it, and drove five hours to the hospital, arriving at midnight, grateful we moved to Texas four years ago for scenarios like this.

For seven days, I slept in a hospital recliner next to my dad's bed. In that moment, weekly goals, color-coded calendars, and meticulously-planned time blocks meant absolutely nothing. I somehow recorded a lecture for my students (disheveled and apologetic), but that was the most I could manage. After two days, my dad woke up. After seven, he was discharged with an implanted defibrillator. It was horrible. There are many details I won't share. Mercifully, he remembers none of it.

(Side note: in a previous column in the April/May 2024 issue, https://imstat.org/2024/03/30/lines-from-layla-uncertainty-and-intuition/, I wrote about the heart attack that he had eight years ago, which he refers to as a "discomfort". He refers to this most recent incident as "fainting". I have to correct him: "You did not 'faint'. You died, and someone brought you back to life.")

When I got home, I did what I always do: I got right back to work. I rescheduled meetings. I prepared lectures. I submitted my grant. I met with my students. I put up Halloween decorations. I brought Halloween candy in for my students. I CrossFitted [*Editor's note: you may recall from Layla's October/November 2023 column, she is a CrossFit enthusiast! See* https://imstat.org/2023/09/30/lines-from-layla-lessons-from-crossfit/]. I made follow-up appointments for my dad. I tried to convince him to take all the medications that he was prescribed. I ordered personalized medical bracelets for both of my parents. I worked on middle-school applications for my son. I researched assisted-living facilities for my parents for some day in the not-so-distant future. And then, my body finally told me that it was too much. I ended up in urgent care with chest pain and was told that I was having a panic attack.

And here's the thing: no one is asking me to do all of this. In twenty years of graduate school, industry, and academia, no supervisor has ever told me that I'm not doing enough. If anything, performance reviews tell me the opposite. Even when I get rejected from awards or grants (often!) the message is certainly not "you aren't working hard enough." The only person who tells me that is me.

So, it seems, it's up to me to say: *I do enough.* I can always do more, but that doesn't mean I should. And it definitely doesn't mean that I must.

Academia is a world where we have no finish line. Publish a paper, and there's the next one. Get a grant, and the renewal looms. Become a fellow of a professional society, and there's always another rung. But at some point, we have to just stop for a moment on the way up the mountain, before we trip and fall face-first down the other side, and say, "I did good."

It can be hard to stop at "good enough"…

Rawpixel.com

So maybe 2026 will be the year I get better at this, at easing up on my self-expectations, at making a little more space around the edges, at not assuming productivity is the measure of a life. Maybe I'll only make twelve goals instead of thirteen. I'll try. But I also know myself well enough not to promise anything.

What I can say is that I'm working on recognizing that even in years with unfinished goals, there is plenty that is good and meaningful. And *that* is enough.

Salzburg's Scenic Must-Sees

The Institute of Mathematical Statistics 2026 Annual Meeting will take place in Salzburg, Austria, July 6–9, 2026 (see **https://ims2026.github.io/IMS2026/**). If you're coming to Salzburg, allow yourself to be charmed by these scenic attractions!

Set against the backdrop of the snow-tipped Alps and straddling the Salzach River, Salzburg is one of Europe's most enchanting small cities. Its compact size, excellent public transport (*free* for overnight visitors, who receive a guest mobility ticket), and walkable historic center make it ideal for conference visitors who want to balance productive sessions with memorable experiences. Whether you have a free hour, an afternoon, or a full day, here are the best ways to make the most of your time in Mozart's city.

Start with the Old Town (Altstadt)

Salzburg's UNESCO-listed Old Town offers a perfect introduction to the city's baroque charm. It's about 15 minutes' walk from the IMS Meeting venue's, Salzburg Congress. If you have a break between conference events, wander the narrow lanes and courtyards around Getreidegasse, the famous shopping street lined with wrought-iron guild signs. Mozart's birthplace is located here, and even if you don't have time for a full visit, the exterior and lively street ambiance are worth experiencing.

Nearby, the Salzach River promenade provides a peaceful, scenic walk. It was salt—"Salz" in German—shipped along the Salzach until late into the 19th century, which gave the river its name. A stroll by the river on the broad, flat footpaths is ideal for clearing your head after a long day of sessions.

Enjoy Salzburg's Café Culture

Salzburg has a long tradition of elegant coffeehouses where you can rest, work, or network with fellow attendees. Try historic cafés like Café Tomaselli, one of Europe's oldest; Café Bazar with a terrace that offers a spectacular view across the river to the old city and fortress; or Café Sacher, famous for its velvety Sachertorte. These venues offer not only excellent pastries but also an authentic window into local life. In addition, they're convenient places to catch up on emails or prepare for your next conference meeting.

If you want to experience a truly historic meal, you could try the Saint Peter Stiftskulinarium. This legendary location is the oldest restaurant in Europe, tracing its origins to the year 803.

The charming Getreidegasse (Grain Lane) is a busy shopping street in the historic Altstadt (Old Town) of Salzburg, Austria, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996.

© Tourismus Salzburg

Visit the Hohensalzburg Fortress

If you have a free morning or afternoon, the Hohensalzburg Fortress is a must-see. Dominating the skyline, it's one of Europe's largest and best-preserved medieval castles. The funicular from the Old Town whisks you up in under a minute, letting you enjoy sweeping views over the city and mountains [*right*]. Inside, you can explore centuries-old rooms, museums, and courtyard spaces.

Insider tip: Salzburgers don't call it a castle, it's a fortress!

Explore Mozart's Legacy

No visit to Salzburg is complete without acknowledging its most famous resident. In addition to Mozart's birthplace and residence in the Old Town, the city regularly hosts classical concerts that fit well into an evening schedule. The Mozarteum often features chamber performances, while many churches hold shorter recitals suitable for visitors with limited time. Or, for a more relaxed musical experience, check for dinner concerts combining local cuisine with live performances.

Relax in the Mirabell Gardens

Directly across the river from the Old Town, and right next to the Salzburg Congress, sits the Mirabell Palace and Gardens [*below*]. You might recognize this iconic Salzburg location from *The Sound of Music* (the "Do-Re-Mi" scene!). These gardens are right next to the Salzburg Congress so they make a perfect spot for a morning stroll, a relaxed lunch break, or a quiet moment to regroup between sessions. The geometrically designed flower beds and views toward the fortress are particularly beautiful in the summer.

Visit Hellbrunn Palace and Trick Fountains

If you have a half-day free—perhaps at the beginning or end of your trip—consider heading to Hellbrunn Palace, about 20 minutes from the city center, by bicycle or by public transport using the excellent bus system. Known for its playful trick fountains and picturesque grounds, it offers a fun and unexpected contrast to Salzburg's baroque architecture. The nearby Hellbrunn Alley, lined with towering trees, is also perfect for a relaxing bike ride or walk.

Mirabell Palace and Gardens are among the most popular attractions in Salzburg.

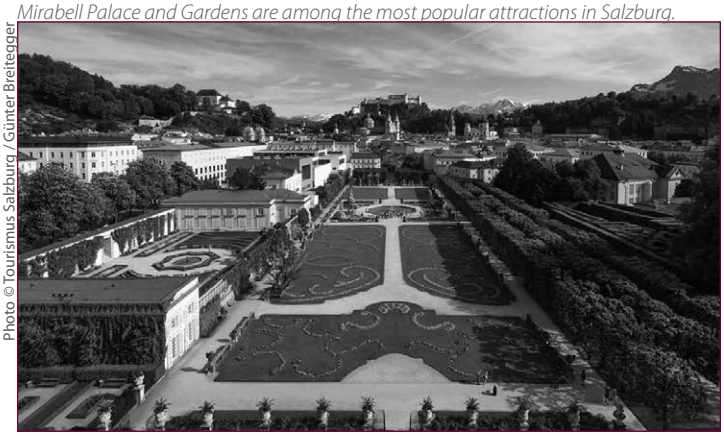


Photo © Tourismus Salzburg / Günter Breitegger

Enjoy the view over the rooftops of Salzburg by taking the fortress railway (Festungsbahn) to Hohensalzburg Fortress. Austria's oldest operating funicular railway has been transporting visitors since 1892. Until 1959, it was operated as a "drip railway" using water from the Almkanal canal; today, the funicular is electric.

Free Public Transport

You don't need a car (but you may still enjoy riding a bike) around Salzburg. With Salzburg's brilliant **guest mobility ticket**, overnight guests in Salzburg enjoy the excellent public transport system for free in the whole province of Salzburg. Check it out: https://www.guestmobilityticket.at/en/ Of course, we still hope to see you at the conference nevertheless!

Beer with History – in a 400-year old Brewery

For a casual evening with colleagues, visit Augustiner Bräu, a historic monastery brewery. Choose your stein, have it rinsed in the stone trough, and order your beer straight from the wooden barrels. Food stalls provide traditional Austrian snacks—pretzels, sausages, and spreads—making it a lively and authentic place to end the day.

Take a *Sound of Music* Tour

Have time for a half-day excursion? The *Sound of Music* tour takes you to filming locations in and around the city—always a hit with cinephiles.

Evening Walks and River Views

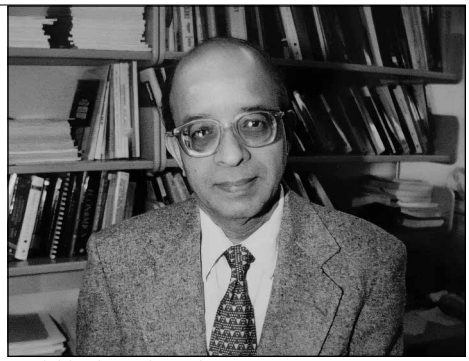
No matter how busy your conference schedule is, try to reserve at least one evening for a stroll along the Salzach. The city lights reflecting on the water, the cafés buzzing with conversation, and the softly illuminated fortress create a magical, calming atmosphere.

Salzburg's charm lies in its blend of culture, history, and natural beauty—all in a setting compact enough to explore even during a full-on conference. Whether you prefer music, architecture, nature, or gastronomy, the city offers countless ways to enrich your visit. With a little planning, you can leave the 2026 IMS Meeting feeling inspired, refreshed, and eager to return.

Obituary: Madabhushi Raghavachari

1936–2024

IMS Fellow Madabhushi Raghavachari passed away on September 19, 2024.



Madabhushi Raghavachari

Professor Madabhushi Raghavachari, a renowned statistician and academic leader, passed away peacefully at the age of 88. His life was marked by a profound dedication to education, leaving an indelible mark on students and institutions across the globe.

Born in Chittoor, India, Dr. Raghavachari embarked on his academic journey with a passion and skill for numbers, obtaining Bachelor's and Master's degrees with Honours from Madras University. Subsequently, he received his PhD in Statistics in 1965 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Over his career, he held positions in elite universities such as Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon, University of Maryland at College Park, and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. His influence was most deeply felt through significant contributions to two esteemed institutions: the Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad (IIMA) and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). At IIMA, he played a pivotal role in shaping the institute's renowned postgraduate program in management, mentoring countless students who went on to become leaders in their respective fields. His commitment to academic excellence earned him the respect of colleagues and students alike. During this time he wrote a seminal book, *Mathematics for Management*, which became a standard textbook throughout India. He served as Dean from 1978–81, and held other positions during his time there, including Department Chairman and Member of the Board of Governors.

Later, at RPI, he continued his impactful journey, serving as a professor, then as Associate Chairman of the Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems department, and retired as a Professor Emeritus. His leadership was instrumental in fostering a culture of interdisciplinary research and academic rigour. He championed the integration of statistics into various fields of study, recognizing its power to unlock insights and drive innovation.

Beyond his scholarly pursuits, Dr. Raghavachari was a beloved mentor and friend. He possessed a rare ability to connect with people from all walks of life, offering guidance and support with unwavering kindness. His legacy extends far beyond the classroom, touching the lives of those he taught, mentored, and befriended. In particular, he was responsible for the founding of Pallavi, which remains a vibrant organisation for Carnatic music in the Capital District of NY.

Dr. Raghavachari will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the countless students whose lives he touched. His contributions to the field of statistics and his unwavering commitment to education will be remembered for generations.

Reprinted with permission from The WIMWIAN Magazine *(Oct. 2024 issue), Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.* https://wimwian.iima.ac.in/prof-madabhushi-raghavachari-march-31-1936-september-19-2024/

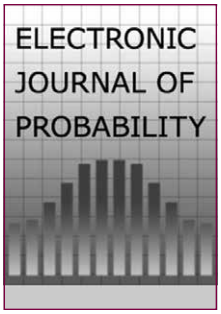
IMS Travel Awards: apply by February 1

The IMS has two travel awards: for graduate (Master's/PhD) students, and for new researchers (up to five years post-PhD). If you are in either of these categories, you can apply for an award now, for travel to any IMS-sponsored or co-sponsored meeting in 2026.

The **IMS Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award** funds travel and registration to attend an IMS-sponsored or co-sponsored meeting. Presentation of a paper/poster is encouraged, but not required. These travel awards are for IMS members who are graduate students (seeking a Master's or PhD degree) studying some area of statistical science or probability, who have not yet received a PhD degree and who will not receive their degree in 2026. The application deadline is **February 1, 2026**. Please see https://imstat.org/ims-awards/ims-hannan-graduate-student-travel-award/ for details and to apply. The **IMS New Researcher Travel Award** funds travel, and possibly other expenses, to present a paper or a poster at an IMS-sponsored or co-sponsored meeting for those who otherwise would not be able to attend the meeting. These travel awards are available to IMS members who are New Researchers, i.e., awarded a PhD (or similar degree) within the five years immediately preceding the year of the application deadline or in the same year as the application deadline, which is **February 1, 2026**. Please see https://imstat.org/ims-awards/ims-new-researcher-travel-award/

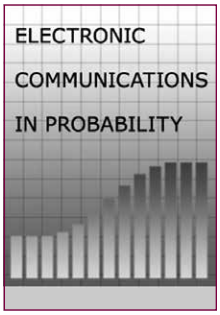
Recent papers: two open-access IMS/BS journals

Electronic Journal of Probability



The *Electronic Journal of Probability* (*EJP*) publishes full-length research articles in probability theory. Short papers should be submitted first to its sister journal, *Electronic Communications in Probability* (*ECP*); see below. *EJP* and *ECP* share the same editorial board, but with different Editors in Chief. The Editor of *EJP* is Cristina Toninelli. *EJP* and *ECP* are open access official journals of IMS and the Bernoulli Society. ***Donations to the IMS Open Access Fund help to keep the journal free:*** https://www.imstat.org/shop/donation/. You can read the 189 papers in Volume 30 (2025) at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/electronic-journal-of-probability/current**

Electronic Communications in Probability



Electronic Communications in Probability (*ECP*) publishes short, peer-reviewed research articles in probability theory (typically shorter than 12 pages). *ECP* shares an editorial board with the *Electronic Journal of Probability*; the Editor of *ECP* is Patrícia Gonçalves. *EJP* and *ECP* are open-access official journals of IMS and the Bernoulli Society. ***Donations to the IMS Open Access Fund help to keep the journal free:*** https://www.imstat.org/shop/donation/. Read the 98 papers in Volume 30 (2025) at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/electronic-communications-in-probability/current**

Recent papers: an IMS-affiliated journal

Probability and Mathematical Statistics

Probability and Mathematical Statistics journal is published by the Kazimierz Urbanik Center for Probability and Mathematical Statistics, and is sponsored jointly by the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of University of Wrocław and the Faculty of Pure and Applied Mathematics of Wrocław University of Science and Technology. The purpose of the journal is to publish original contributions to the theory of probability and mathematical statistics. *Probability and Mathematical Statistics* was founded in 1980; its establishment was a result of the initiative of the Wrocław probability community led by Kazimierz Urbanik and Czesław Ryll-Nardzewski, and the statistics community represented by Witold Klonecki. They served as Editors of the journal during the first twenty-five years of its existence, with Urbanik shouldering the role of the Editor-in-Chief. In 2007, *PMS* became an affiliated journal of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. The Managing Editors are Krzysztof Bogdan (Wrocław) and Krzysztof Dębicki (Wrocław).
Access papers at **http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pms/**

Volume 45, fascicle (issue) 1, 2025

IMS meetings around the world

Joint Statistical Meetings

2026 Joint Statistical Meetings
August 1–6, 2026, Boston, USA
w https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

The theme for JSM 2026, selected by ASA President-Elect Jeri Mulrow, is *"Communities in Action: Advancing Society."* The program committee has finalized the invited program, choosing 181 of the top proposals out of more than 350 submitted.

Contributed abstract submissions are open

Nearly half of JSM sessions are contributed. Contributed paper sessions consist of seven papers with 15 minutes of presentation time for each, including the introduction of the speaker and questions. Contributed abstract submission closes February 2, 2026, and notifications about acceptance will be sent by early April 2026. Submit your abstract: https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/submissions.cfm#abstracts
Registration & housing reservations open May 1, 2026.

JSM dates for 2026–2030

JSM 2026	IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM 2027	JSM 2028	IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM 2029	JSM 2030
August 1–6, 2026	August 7–12, 2027	August 5–10, 2028	August 4–9, 2029	August 3–8, 2030
Boston, USA	Chicago, USA	Philadelphia, USA	Seattle, USA	[location TBC]
[see above]				

2026 IMS Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM)
June 13–16, 2026
Hong Kong, China
w https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/

The seventh meeting of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM) will take place in Hong Kong from June 13 to June 16, 2026, and will be hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

This event will serve as an exceptional global forum for scientific communication and collaboration among researchers from Asia and the Pacific Rim. It aims to foster connections and partnerships between researchers in this region and colleagues from around the world. Building upon the successes of previous meetings, the seventh meeting will enhance our ongoing efforts to fulfil our shared mission within the statistical profession.

Participants can look forward to a diverse program featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops led by prominent experts in the field of statistics. The conference will cover a wide range of topics, including theoretical advancements, innovative methodologies, and practical applications in various domains. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations.

Plenary speakers: **Andrea Montanari**, Stanford University, and **Hans-Georg Müller**, University of California, Davis. A further 20 distinguished lecturers are listed at https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/program/plenary-speakers-and-distinguished-lecturers

The vibrant city of Hong Kong, known for its rich cultural heritage and modern infrastructure, will provide an inspiring backdrop for the event, offering numerous opportunities for networking and professional growth.

The conference is organized by (CUHK) in collaboration with IMS. By bringing together a diverse group of participants, the organizers aim to facilitate meaningful interactions and collaborations that will drive the advancement of statistical science in the Asia Pacific-Rim and beyond.

At a glance:

forthcoming IMS Annual Meeting and JSM dates

2026

IMS Annual Meeting: Salzburg, Austria, **July 6–9**

JSM: Boston, USA, **August 1–6, 2026**

2027

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Chicago, USA **August 7–12, 2027**

2028

IMS Annual Meeting/ 12th World Congress: Singapore, **July 24–28, 2028**

JSM: Philadelphia, USA, **August 5–10, 2028**

2029

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Seattle, USA, **August 4–9, 2029**

SAVE THE DATE for ICSDS2026:

2026 International Conference on Statistics and Data Science
December 15–18, 2026
Split, Croatia
w TBC

The 2026 IMS–ICSDS will be held December 15–18, 2026, in Split, Croatia. More information coming soon!

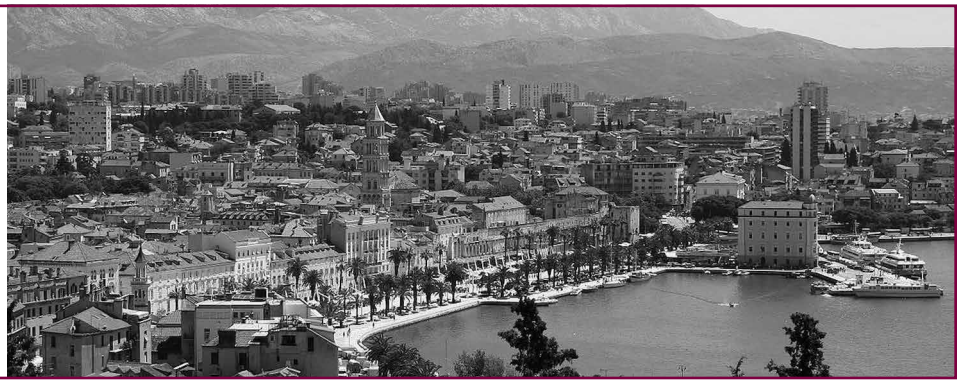


Photo: Tatyana Peshkova CC-by-SA4.0

The 11th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

May 8–10, 2026
Atlanta, GA
w https://math.gsu.edu/yichuan/2026Workshop/

Biostatistics and Bioinformatics have been playing very important roles in scientific research fields in recent years. The goal of the 11th workshop is to stimulate research and to foster the interaction of researchers in the research areas. The workshop will provide the opportunity for faculty and graduate students to meet the top researchers, identify important directions for future research, and facilitate research collaborations.

[*See the call for papers, right.*]

Springer Book on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics: Call for papers

Professor Din Chen, the editor of the Springer *Statistics & Biostatistics* book series, would like to showcase the scientific output for our workshop [*see the announcement left*] by making a book, which reflects new challenges and advances in Biostatistics and Bioinformatics. **We welcome submissions from all areas of statistics, data science and interdisciplinary areas**. Submitted papers are expected to present new methods in statistics and data science, new theories in biostatistics, and applications in bioinformatics.

You are encouraged to submit your research that is related to biostatistics and bioinformatics. To include high quality papers in the book, all submissions will be subject to peer review. Each submission will also be independently reviewed by the co-editors. The final accepted papers will be those selected by the co-editors. If you wish to submit a paper, we need you to indicate your intent of submission by January 31, 2026, with a tentative title of the paper (you can change the title later), your name (first, middle and last), and your affiliation. Please email this information to Yichuan Zhao at yichuan@gsu.edu. Your manuscript should be sent to Dr. Yichuan Zhao by March 31, 2026. The decision will be reached by October 31, 2026. The book is expected to appear on March 31, 2027.

Sincerely yours, Yichuan Zhao, Georgia State University, Atlanta and Din Chen, Arizona State University, Phoenix (co-editors of the book)

Photo: Wikimedia / Heribert Pohl CC-by-SA2.0

Organizers: Kavita Ramanan, IMS President; Genevera Allen, Program Chair for Statistics; Remco van der Hofstad, Program Chair for Probability; and Arne Bathke, Local Chair

2026 IMS Annual Meeting

July 6–9, 2026, Salzburg, Austria
w https://imstat.org/2026AnnualMeeting/

The 2026 IMS Annual Meeting will be held in Salzburg, July 6–9, at Salzburg Congress (salzburgcongress.at/en).

The conference will cover a broad range of topics from statistics and probability, as well as the IMS Wald lectures by **Tilmann Gneiting**, the Blackwell lecture by **Cun-Hui Zhang**, and three Medallion award lectures, by **Ian McKeague**, **Bodhisattva Sen**, and **Jelle Goeman**. There's also the IMS Presidential Address by **Kavita Ramanan** and the Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award lectures (**Jin-Hong Du, Yu Gui, Subhodh Kotekal, Reese Pathak**), in addition to plenary, invited, and contributed presentations. Conference participants will also be treated to a classical chamber concert. Join us!

International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies
June 1–4, 2026
American University, Washington DC, USA

w https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/

Now an IMS co-sponsored meeting.

Registration and abstract submission are open for the ninth International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM). This biannual conference will bring together researchers and practitioners to explore advances in sequential statistics, related areas of statistics and applied probability, and their many applications.

The technical program consists of theoretical and applied presentations in the areas of sequential testing, change-point detection, sequential estimation, selection and ranking, machine learning, artificial intelligence, clinical trials, adaptive design, stochastic quality and process control, optimal stopping, stochastic approximation, applied probability, mathematical finance, and related fields of probability, statistics, and applications.

The program features plenary lectures by leading experts in sequential statistics, including **Moshe Pollak** (Hebrew University), **Alexander Tartakovsky** (AGT StatConsult), **Dong-Yun Kim** (NIH), **Jay Bartroff** (University of Texas), and **Peihua Qiu** (University of Florida).

Invited session proposals are solicited. The link to the proposal form is on the conference web site. Priority will be given to session proposals submitted by December 1, 2025, while all invited speakers are asked to register and submit abstracts of their talks by February 1, 2026.

Travel grants for students and new researchers are offered by IMS for participating in the 9th IWSM. Typical awards range between $500 and $1500. The application deadline is February 1, 2026. See the conference website for information about the IMS travel support.

The regularly updated site also has registration, abstract submission, and session proposal links, as well as on- and off-campus lodging reservations.

Early registration ends on April 1, 2026.

Any questions? Innovative ideas, requests, or opportunities? Please contact the IWSM-2026 Organizing Committee: Michael Baron, American University (baron@american.edu), and Yaakov Malinovsky, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (yaakovm@umbc.edu).

SSP 2026: Seminar on Stochastic Processes
March 25–28, 2026, in Schenectady, NY, USA

The Seminar on Stochastic Processes 2026 will be held from March 26–28, 2026, with tutorial lectures delivered on March 25. It will be hosted by Union College, in Schenectady, NY. The local organizers are Roger Hoerl (Union College), Phanuel Mariano (Union College), Hyunchul Park (SUNY New Paltz), Fanhui Xu (Union College).

The invited speakers will be announced soon.

International Symposium on Nonparametric Statistics (ISNPS 2026)
June 22–26, 2026, Thessaloniki, Greece

w https://easyconferences.eu/isnps2026/

The International Symposium on Nonparametric Statistics (ISNPS 2026) will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, June 22–26, 2026. This global forum will bring together researchers from around the world to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and advance the fields of nonparametric statistics, data science and machine learning.

Building on the success of previous meetings, the 2026 symposium will feature plenary lectures, special invited sessions, contributed talks, and a dedicated student poster session. A student paper competition will be held within the poster session, with travel support awarded to the winners. Professor **Jianqing Fan** (Princeton University) will deliver the **Peter Hall Lecture**.

The meeting will take place at the Grand Hotel Palace, a venue with many multifunctional halls, offering an ideal environment for both scientific exchange and networking in one of Greece's most vibrant and historic cities.

For updates, visit https://easyconferences.eu/isnps2026/

Inquiries regarding the scientific program can be addressed to Professors Escanciano (jescanci@eco.uc3m.es), Ioannides (dimioan@uom.edu.gr), Kugiumtzis (dkugiu@auth.gr), and Racine (racinej@mcmaster.ca)

SPA 2026: Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications
June 14–20, 2026, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

w TBC

The 2026 conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications (SPA 2026) will take place on June 14-20, 2026 on the beautiful campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. The chair of the program committee is Davar Khoshnevisan, and the local organizing committee is headed by Laurent Saloff-Coste and Gennady Samorodnitsky. The keynote speakers are: 2026 BS/IMS Schramm Lecturer **Roland Bauerschmidt**; 2026 IMS Medallion Awards & Lecturers **Philip Ernst** & **Marcel Nutz**. The information on the program of the conference, invited sessions and instructions for submission of contributed talks is forthcoming, along with information on travel and housing. See you in Ithaca in June 2026!

More IMS meetings

18th World Meeting of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis
June 28–July 3, 2026
Nagoya, Japan
w https://isba2026.github.io

ISBA2026 will be the 18th conference in the series of biennial ISBA World Meetings. It will bring together the international community of researchers and practitioners who develop and use Bayesian statistical methods to share recent findings, exchange ideas, and discuss new challenges.

ISBA World Meetings attract both established and early-career researchers and for place special emphasis on promoting the work of early-career researchers, resulting in a conference that brings together the world's best Bayesian researchers, building and strengthening ties between them, and fostering new collaborative relationships. We expect between 600 and 700 researchers will attend the conference, which will feature several plenary speakers, invited and contributed talks, and multiple poster sessions.

ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting
March 15–18, 2026, Indianapolis, USA
w https://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2026/index.cfm

The theme of ENAR2026 is "The Role of Statistics in an AI-augmented World," reflecting the crossroads that we are at in our discipline. Highlights include the 2026 Presidential Invited Debate. Dr. **Tianxi Cai** from Harvard University and Dr. **Marylyn Ritchie** from the University of Pennsylvania are going to debate for and against the motion: *AI Alone Is Not Enough: Advancing EHR Research Demands Statistical Rigor.*

One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI) Seminar (Ongoing, online)
w https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar

After five seasons of the One World Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) Seminar (https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar/owabc/), launched in April 2020 to gather members and disseminate results and innovation during those weeks and months under lockdown, we have now decided to launch a "new" seminar series, the One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI), to better reflect the broader interest and scope of this series, which goes beyond ABC. In particular, simulation-based inference and ML related techniques will have a particular role. Feel free to contact any of the organisers if you want to suggest yourself or someone else for a talk.

All webinars are held on Zoom/Teams, with a link shared on the email sent via the mailing list. So if you are interested in the OWABI seminar and would like to hear from us, monthly, about the announced speaker, title and abstract and, most importantly, be able to join the talk, please register at https://listserv.csv.warwick.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/abc_world_seminar.

A "One World ABI" playlist on the ISBA YouTube channel, with all past OWABC and current OWABI talks is available at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUaj_wLsosMTjqTN8kmn6nNo7YtLV6-1Z

This webinar is part of the larger One World seminar initiative [*see right*].

Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability & Statistics
July 24–28, 2028
Singapore
w TBC

The 2028 Institute of Mathematical Statistics annual meeting will be held at the 12th Bernoulli–IMS World Congress in Probability and Statistics, in Singapore. Details to follow in due course.

Please keep the date!

Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics
Ongoing and online
w https://sites.google.com/view/apsps/home

The Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics (APSPS) is a monthly online seminar, broadcast on a mid-month Wednesday via Zoom. The seminar series was created as a permanent forum for good research in the field.

Topics include: probabilistic models for natural phenomena, stochastic processes and statistical inference, statistical problems in high-dimensional spaces, asymptotic methods, statistical theory of diversity.

The organizers—see the list of Board members on the website, chaired by Ajay Jasra (Chinese University of Hong-Kong, Shenzhen)—seek an emphasis on novelty, beauty, and clarity. Presentations are intended to be accessible to good postgraduate students in probability and mathematical statistics.

If you would like to receive email announcements about the next speakers, send an email to any of the APSPS Board members, who are listed on the website above.

One World Probability Seminar (OWPS): Ongoing and online
w https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar/

Thursdays, 14:00 UTC/GMT. Please subscribe to the mailing list for updates: https://www.owprobability.org/mailing-list

Other meetings and events

23rd Winter School on Mathematical Finance NEW
January 19–21, 2026. Soesterberg, The Netherlands
w https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/a.khedher/winterschool/winterschool.html
Mini courses will be given by Xin Guo (University of California, Berkeley) and Christian Bayer (Technical University of Berlin), on reinforcement learning and rough volatility models respectively. Special invited lectures will be provided by Eduardo Abi Jaber (Ecole Polytechnique, Sorbonne University, Paris), Giorgia Callegaro (University of Padova) and Sigrid Källblad Nordin (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm).

Best of Statistical Science Workshop (BOSS 2026) NEW
April 24–25, 2026
College Station, TX, USA
w https://tx.ag/boss2026
BOSS 2026 brings together leading experts, faculty, and students for two days of engaging discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities. Whether you're a student, researcher, or industry professional, this event is a great opportunity to connect and explore the latest advancements in statistical science. Registration options on the website. See display ad on next page.

SMTDA 2026 (the 9th Stochastic Modeling Techniques and Data Analysis international conference) and Demographics 2026 Workshop NEW
June 8–11, 2026
Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece (and online)
w www.smtda.net
In-person and virtual meeting.
Followed by CHAOS 2026 (see below).

CHAOS 2026 (the 19th Chaotic Modeling & Simulation international conference) NEW
June 12–15, 2026
Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece (and online)
w http://cmsim.org/
An international conference on non-linear analysis and modeling: theory and applications.

This is an in-person and virtual meeting.

This conference immediately follows SMTDA 2026 and the Demographics 2026 workshop (see above).

Please see the website for registration fees and information.

The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting NEW
June 16–18, 2026
Halifax, NS, Canada
w https://www.theclassificationsociety.org/annual-meeting/
The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting will be held at Dalhousie University in Halifax. A welcome reception will be held in the evening of June 16 with all talks taking place on June 17 and 18, and the meeting will conclude with a banquet dinner on June 18. The Classification Society will offer financial support to all student presenters and offer prizes for both poster and oral presentations.

A call for abstracts will come out in early 2026.

SLDS 2026: Inference and Intelligence NEW
November 1–3, 2026. New York City, NY, USA
w https://asa-slds.github.io/slds2026/index.html
The ASA Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science (SLDS) is pleased to announce the 2026 SLDS Conference. The conference theme highlights the dynamic interplay between principled statistical reasoning and modern algorithmic developments. The program will span a wide range of topics, including AI, big data analytics, causal inference, deep learning, graphical models, high-dimensional statistics, learning theory, machine learning, model selection, network analysis, spatiotemporal modeling, and text and image analytics. Applications will reflect ongoing work across the health, social, and engineering sciences, as well as data-driven challenges arising in the technology, finance, and pharmaceuticals, and sports. The conference will feature **keynote presentations** from David Banks (Duke University), Dean Foster (Amazon), David Rosenberg (Bloomberg), and Bin Yu (University of California, Berkeley). Their participation highlights the conference's commitment to fostering cross-sector collaboration and connecting methodological developments with real-world implementation. SLDS welcomes participation from the wider statistical learning and data science community in shaping the event: please see the website for contacts for invited session proposals, short course proposals, student paper or poster judges and sponsorship inquiries. Additional information on abstract submission, registration, and program updates will be available on the conference website.

Extreme Value Analysis conference 2027 NEW
July 5–9, 2027. Montreal, Canada
w https://hecsciencesdecision.github.io/eva2027/
More information to follow. Please keep the date.

Employment Opportunities

China: Guangzhou
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)
Open-rank faculty positions in Fintech, Financial Engineering, Mathematical Finance, Operations Research, AI, Machine Learning, Statistics, and Data Science
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//75031428

United States: Berkeley, CA
University of California Berkeley
Assistant Professor Department of Statistics
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//80806018

United States: Los Angeles, CA
University of California Los Angeles
Hedrick Assistant Adjunct Professor 2026–27
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//80789167

United States: Los Angeles, CA
University of California Los Angeles
Assistant Adjunct Professorship 2026–27
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//80789112

United States: Tallahassee, FL
Florida State University
Teaching Faculty Position
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//80697206

United States: Boston, MA
Boston University Math & Stat Department
Statistics Tenured Professor
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//80929001

United States: Minneapolis, MN
University of Minnesota, School of Statistics
Assistant Professor
https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79811540

International Calendar of Statistical Events

IMS meetings are highlighted in maroon with the ims logo, and new or updated entries have the NEW or UPDATED symbol.
Please submit your meeting details and any corrections to Elyse Gustafson: ims@imstat.org

Online and Ongoing series

ONLINE ims **Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics**
w https://sites.google.com/view/apsps/home

ONLINE ims **One World ABI (Approximate Bayesian Inference,** formerly ABC, Approximate Bayesian Computation) **Seminar w** https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar

ONLINE ims **One World Probability Seminar**
w https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar

ONLINE ims **One World YoungStatS Webinar series**
w https://youngstats.github.io/categories/webinars/

ONLINE **Video series:** *The Philosophy of Data Science*
w https://www.podofasclepius.com/philosophy-of-data-science

January 2026

NEW January 19–21: Soesterberg, The Netherlands. **23rd Winter School on Mathematical Finance w** https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/a.khedher/winterschool/winterschool.html

January 27, 09:00–10:00am ET: **The Role of Bayesian Statistics in an Age of AI** (COPSS–NISS Leadership Webinar)
w https://www.niss.org/events/copss-niss-leadership-webinar-role-bayesian-statistics-age-ai

March 2026

March 2–3: Bruges, Belgium. **Foresight Practitioner Conference 2026 w** https://forecasters.org/events/foresight-practitioner-conference/

March 2–6: Montevideo, Uruguay. **CLAPEM 2026: Latin American Congress of Probability and Mathematical Statistics**
w https://clapem17.cmat.edu.uy/

ims March 15–18: Indianapolis, IN, USA. **ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting w** https://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2026/index.cfm

March 18–20: Würzburg, Germany. **16th Workshop on Stochastic Models, Statistics and Their Applications** (SMSA)
w https://www.smsa2026.de

ims March 25–28: Schenectady, NY, USA. **SSP 2026: Seminar on Stochastic Processes**
w https://www.math.union.edu/~marianop/SSP2026/

April 2026

April 17–18: Syracuse, NY, USA. **Finger Lakes Probability Seminar 2026 w** https://sites.google.com/g.syr.edu/fingerlakes2026

NEW April 24–25: College Station, TX, USA. **Best of Statistical Science Workshop** (BOSS 2026) **w** https://tx.ag/boss2026

May 2026

May 2–5: Tangiers, Morocco. **AISTATS 2026: Journal to Conference Track w** https://virtual.aistats.org/Conferences/2026/CallForJournalTrack

NEW ims May 8–10: Atlanta, USA.
11th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
w https://math.gsu.edu/yichuan/2026Workshop/

Meeting organizers: to get a FREE LISTING in this calendar, please submit the details (as early as possible) at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/ Or you can email details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org We'll list them in the Bulletin, and on the IMS website too, at imstat.org/meetings-calendar/

June 2026

ims June 1–4: Washington DC, USA. **9th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies** (now an IMS co-sponsored meeting) **w** https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/

NEW June 8–11: Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece (and online) SMTDA 2026 (the 9th Stochastic Modeling Techniques and Data Analysis conference) and Demographics 2026 Workshop **w** www.smtda.net

June 11–13: Jiangsu Normal University, Xuzhou, China. **International Conference on Frontiers in Probability and Statistics: Celebrating the distinguished contributions of N. Balakrishnan on his 70th Birthday w** http://statreliab.jsnu.edu.cn/

NEW June 12–15: Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece (and online). **CHAOS 2026 (the 19th Chaotic Modeling & Simulation conference) w** http://cmsim.org/

ims June 13–16: CUHK, Hong Kong, China. **IMS–APRM2026: 7th IMS Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting w** https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/

ims June 14–20: Ithaca, NY, USA. **SPA 2026: Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications w** TBC

June 15–19: Rome, Italy. **21st International Conference on Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems (IPMU2026) w** https://www.sbai.uniroma1.it/conferenze/ipmu2026/index.php

June 15–19: Chicago, USA. **Stochastic Networks Conference w** https://www.chicagobooth.edu/events/stochastic-networks-conference

NEW June 16–18: Halifax, NS, Canada. **The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting w** https://www.theclassificationsociety.org/annual-meeting/

ims June 22–26: Thessaloniki, Greece. **ISNPS2026: International Symposium on Nonparametric Statistics w** https://easyconferences.eu/isnps2026/

June 28–July 1: Montreal, Canada. **46th International Symposium on Forecasting w** https://isf.forecasters.org/

ims June 28–July 3: Nagoya, Japan. **ISBA2026: 18th ISBA World Meeting w** https://isba2026.github.io

July 2026

ims July 6–9: Salzburg, Austria. **2026 IMS Annual Meeting w** https://imstat.org/2026AnnualMeeting/

July 12–17: Brisbane, Australia. **ICOTS 2026: 12th International Conference on Teaching Statistics w** https://icots12.oa-event.com/

July 23–30: Philadelphia, USA. **International Congress of Mathematicians 2026 w** https://www.icm2026.org/

August 2026

ims August 1–6: Boston, MA, USA. **JSM 2026 w** https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

August 24–28: Lugano, Switzerland. **2026 European Meeting of Statisticians w** https://www.bernoullisociety.org/organization/erc/ems

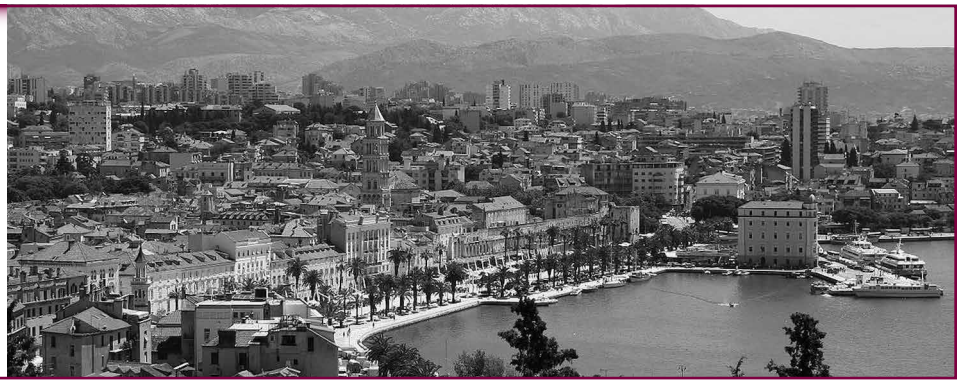
September 2026

September 7–10: Bournemouth, UK. **RSS International Conference 2026 w** https://rss.org.uk/training-events/conference2026/

Continues on **page 22**

International Calendar *continued*

SAVE THE DATE for ICSDS2026: NEW
2026 International Conference on Statistics and Data Science
December 15–18, 2026
Split, Croatia
w TBC
The 2026 IMS–ICSDS will be held December 15–18, 2026, in Split, Croatia. More information coming soon!


Tatyana Peshkova CC-by-SA4.0

November 2026

NEW November 1–3: New York City, USA. **SLDS 2026: Inference and Intelligence** **w** https://asa-slds.github.io/slds2026/index.html

December 2026

ims December 15–18: Split, Croatia. **IMS International Conference on Statistics and Data Science (ICSDS)** **w** TBC

July 2027

NEW July 5–9: Montreal, Canada. **Extreme Value Analysis conference 2027** **w** https://hecsciencesdecision.github.io/eva2027/

ims July [mid-July, exact dates TBC]: Durham, UK. **Informs Applied Probability Society Conference 2027** **w** http://informs-aps.webspace.durham.ac.uk

August 2027

ims August 7–12: Chicago, USA. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2027** **w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

July 2028

ims July 24–28: Singapore. **Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability and Statistics** (incl. 2028 IMS Annual Meeting). **w** TBC

August 2028

ims August 5–10: Philadelphia, USA. **JSM 2028** **w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

August 2029

ims August 4–9: Seattle, USA. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2029** **w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

Are we missing something? If you know of any statistics or probability meetings which aren't listed here, please let us know.
You can email the details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org, or you can submit the details yourself at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/
We'll list them here in the Bulletin, and on the IMS website too, at imstat.org/meetings-calendar/

Membership and Subscription Information: 2026

Journals

The scientific journals of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics are *The Annals of Statistics*, *The Annals of Probability*, *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, *The Annals of Applied Probability*, and *Statistical Science*. The *IMS Bulletin* is the news organ of the Institute.

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Each individual member receives the *IMS Bulletin* (print and/or electronic) and may elect to receive one or more of the five scientific journals. Members pay annual dues of $105. An additional $158 is added to the dues of members for each scientific printed journal selected ($105 for *Stat Sci*). **Reduced membership dues** are available to full-time students, new graduates, permanent residents of countries designated by the IMS Council, and retired members.

Individual and General Subscriptions

Subscriptions are available on a calendar-year basis. **Individual subscriptions** are for the personal use of the subscriber and must be in the name of, paid directly by, and mailed to an individual. Individual subscriptions for 2026 are available to the *Annals of Applied Probability*, *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Annals of Probability*, *Annals of Statistics* ($273 for each title), *Statistical Science* ($220), and *IMS Bulletin* ($115). **General subscriptions** are for libraries, institutions, and any multiple-readership use. Institutional subscriptions for 2026 are available to *The Annals of Applied Probability, The Annals of Applied Statistics, The Annals of Probability,* and *The Annals of Statistics* (each title $632 online only / $881 print+online), *Statistical Science* ($364/$487), and *IMS Bulletin* ($212 print). Airmail delivery is no longer offered.

IMS Bulletin

The *IMS Bulletin* publishes articles and news of interest to IMS members and to statisticians and probabilists in general, as well as details of IMS meetings and an international calendar of statistical events. Views and opinions in editorials and articles are not to be understood as official expressions of the Institute's policy unless so stated; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement in any way of the opinions expressed therein, and the *IMS Bulletin* and its publisher do not accept any responsibility for them. The *IMS Bulletin* is copyrighted and authors of individual articles may be asked to sign a copyright transfer to the IMS before publication.

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Advertising job vacancies: A single 60-day online job posting costs just $410.00. We will also include the basic information about your job ad (position title, location, company name, job function and a link to the full ad) in the *IMS Bulletin* at no extra charge. See https://jobs.imstat.org

Advertising meetings, workshops and conferences: Meeting announcements here and on the IMS website at https://imstat.org/meetings-calendar/ are free. Submit your meeting details at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/

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Deadlines and mailing dates for *IMS Bulletin*

Issue	Deadline	Online by	Mailed
1: January/February	**December 1**	December 15	January 1
2: March	**February 1**	February 15	March 1
3: April/May	**March 15**	April 1	April 15
4: June/July	**May 1**	May 15	June 1
5: August	**June 15***	July 1	July 15
6: September	**August 15**	September 1	September 15
7: Oct/Nov	**September 15**	October 1	October 15
8: December	**November 1**	November 15	December 1

* *Note early deadline for August issue*

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The purpose of the Institute is to foster the development and dissemination of the theory and applications of statistics and probability

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Continued on back cover

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