

# International Indian Statistical Association

## Newsletter, Fall 2006

Dear IISA Members,

Greetings and welcome! It is my pleasure to present the Fall 2006 Newsletter. This abridged version contains important information about the upcoming conferences in India, awards and honors received by IISA members and updated information on IISA membership.

As a forum for dissemination of information regarding IISA, its members and their activities, this newsletter depends on your input. We plan to have an issue every couple of months with articles of your interest. I would thus like to request you to send any news and/or announcements that you would like to share with everyone. Please send them to me at [ghosh@njit.edu](mailto:ghosh@njit.edu) or to Professor Paramjit Gill at [paramjit.gill@ubc.ca](mailto:paramjit.gill@ubc.ca). If you have any comments and/or suggestions on the contents, please feel free to let me know.

I would like to thank the IISA executive committee for entrusting me with this position. Our past editor Dr. Rajeshwari Sundaram did an excellent job of putting together earlier editions and has set a high standard for her successors. Her suggestions in putting together this edition have been very helpful and I thank her for them. Last but not the least, I would like to thank Professors S. Rao Jammalamadaka and Paramjit Gill for their contributions and suggestions on the newsitems for this edition.

With best wishes,

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# 1 A note from the President



Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to raise a couple of issues which I believe are fundamental to our organization and present some of my own random thoughts on these subjects. But the main purpose is to solicit opinions of the members, so that we can begin to address them soon.

1. How do we enlarge the membership of IISA by making it more attractive?
2. How can the IISA become an organization with impact on the profession, outside as well as inside India?

**About Membership:** Are we doing enough to make membership attractive for people to join and to continue? About membership privileges, I can immediately think of things like reduced subscription for the journal *Statistical Methodology*, reduced registration fee (for at least some) for our biennial meetings, and the electronic Newsletter which you are now reading. Could we do one or more of the following and how do we go about them?

1. The ASA offers its individual members access to JSTOR journals at an additional subscription of \$25 per title. We could attempt to negotiate with the JSTOR folks, a similar or even more discounted access to our membership, especially for the benefit of our Indian members. If we can deliver this at perhaps Rs. 500/year for individual members of the IISA in India where access to the internet is becoming common but not the availability of journals, that will be extremely useful.

2. We could offer increased communication and networking as a membership benefit — perhaps through a web-posting and reply service (?) at our website, including job announcements. This will be useful to current and potential grad students and job-seekers. Clearly we need technical help for which we should be willing to pay, say by hiring a graduate student.
3. What else do other similar organizations like the Chinese Statistical Association do for its members? Or for that matter the ASA? We can explore if we can piggyback on some of the benefits the ASA provides, by co-opting us as a sister organization. I recall Hira Koul made some progress towards this goal.

If we have some concrete deliverables like these, it might be easier to attract new members. We should, starting today, have a campaign to enroll students and work on a member-get-member scheme, like the ASA. We should have a system to keep everyone's membership current, and/or encourage them to become life-members so they don't have to be bugged annually.

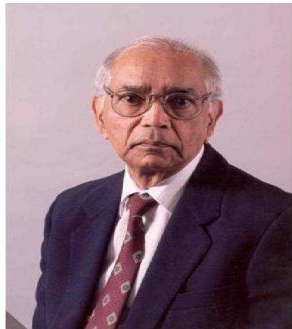
**On the other issue about our impact and visibility:** I think we already made a good start with our Annual meetings and the Journal. We can and should get some free publicity for some of our activities in places like the IMS Bulletin, Amstat News, ISI Newsletter etc. We could send some “well-timed” news items to these places, even minor items like our organizational elections, about our in-house journal, and about our meetings — spreading these over time so that IISA is constantly in the public eye! Each notice can end with our website address and how to become a member of the IISA. We should also re-energize the “Outreach Committee”, to reach out to Indian Universities and Organizations — help them organize workshops and short meetings, by specifically putting aside some money for this purpose.

Please free to email me or any member of the Executive Board (see the website <http://www.stat.ohio-state.edu/hnn/IISA.html>) about reasonable ideas that we can begin to implement and especially if you will volunteer to explore such options for the benefit of the organization. Thanks.

Sreenivas  
rao@pstat.ucsb.edu

## 2 Awards and honors

- **C. R. Rao receives thirtieth honorary doctorate**



Calyampudi R. Rao, US National Medal of Science Laureate, Eberly Professor Emeritus of Statistics at Penn State University and past Director of the Indian Statistical Institute has been awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa in Portugal. The award recognizes Professor Rao for “*the high relevance of [his] professional and academic career, as well as [his] important contributions to the foundations of statistical theory and multivariate statistical methodology and their applications.*” Previous recipients of this award include Nobel laureates Sir Nevill F. Mott, Robert Huber, Robert Mundell and Kofi Annan.

- **New IMS Fellows**

This year, the induction of new IMS Fellows took place at the IMS Annual Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil held on August 2, 2006. Among the new Fellows are two IISA members.



N. Balakrishnan, Professor, McMaster University, was named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). The citation reads: “*Professor Balakrishnan received*

*the award for research on order statistics and applications to life-testing and reliability; for scholarly publications on distributions; for leadership in encyclopedic publications; and for service to the profession by organizing numerous conferences.”*



Subhashis Ghosal, Associate Professor, North Carolina State University was also named IMS Fellow this year. The citation reads: “*Professor Ghoshal received the award for signal contributions in the theory and methods for nonparametric and semiparametric Bayesian inference; and for service to the profession.*”

- **New ASA Fellows**

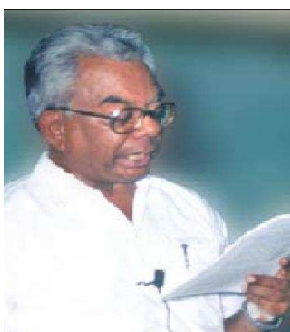
The American Statistical Association (ASA) inducted several IISA members as ASA Fellows during this year’s Joint Statistical Meetings at Seattle. For lack of space, we list just their names and affiliations.

- Gauri S. Datta, Professor of Statistics, University of Georgia
- Somnath Datta, Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, University of Louisville
- Tapan K. Nayak, Professor of Statistics, George Washington University
- Sudhir Ranjan Paul, Professor of Statistics, University of Windsor
- Nalini Ravishanker, Professor of Statistics, University of Connecticut
- Debajyoti Sinha, Professor of Biostatistics, Medical University of South Carolina

- Brajendra C. Sutradhar, Professor of Statistics, Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Congratulations to all new Fellows!!**

### 3 Obituary



Somesh Das Gupta, retired professor of the Indian Statistical Institute (Kolkata) and past professor at the University of Minnesota and Columbia University, and a fellow of the IMS and ASA and the Indian National Science Academy, passed away at 11pm Indian Standard Time on 29 April, 2006 in Kolkata, India. Professor DasGupta was past editor of *Sankhya* (1993-2001) and brought far-reaching changes to the journal. He battled metastatic bladder cancer for the past four and a half years, and finally succumbed to complications from the disease. He is survived by his wife Jharna, son Abhijit, daughter-in-law Rashmi and granddaughter Anusha.

### 4 Job openings

Many of you may already know, but here are a few websites that list openings for statisticians:

- ASA Job Web (<http://jobs.amstat.org/search/results/>)

- IMS Job Web (<http://www.imstat.org/jobs>)
- University of Florida (<http://www.stat.ufl.edu/vlib/jobs.html>)
- University of Washington (<http://www.stat.washington.edu/www/jobs/>)

## 5 Upcoming conferences

- **Kolkata, India; Dec. 28–29, 2006:** International Conference on Multivariate Statistical Methods, in memory of S.N. Roy. Please check the website:  
<http://www.isical.ac.in/multstatconf/>
- **Cochin, India; January 2–5, 2007:** IISA Joint Statistical Meetings. Dont forget the Financial Mathematics Workshop on Jan. 6, 2007! Please visit the following website for updates:  
<http://www.stat.ohio-state.edu/hnn/IISACnf2007.pdf>
- **Tirupati, India; January 7–9, 2007:** ISPS Conference on Statistics. See the website:  
<http://www.conferencealerts.com/seeconf.mv?q=ca1a83sm>

## 6 Membership information

### Reduced Subscription Rate of *Statistical Methodology*

*Statistical Methodology* aims to publish articles of high quality reflecting the varied facets of contemporary statistical theory as well as of significant applications. In addition to helping to stimulate research, the journal intends to bring about interactions among statisticians and scientists in other disciplines broadly interested in statistical methodology. The journal gives special consideration to established as well as emerging applied areas and covers more traditional areas such as



- statistical inference
- multivariate analysis
- design of experiments
- sampling theory
- regression analysis
- re-sampling methods
- time series
- nonparametric statistics

Emphasis is on importance, interest, and originality — formal novelty and correctness alone are not sufficient to warrant a publication.

*Statistical Methodology* contains original research papers, review articles, discussion papers as well as short communications on teacher's corner and consultant's forum. It also includes papers on the development of novel methodology with potential applications, and papers on novel applications supported by statistical methodology. The journal especially encourages the submission of authoritative reviews of innovative statistical applications and noteworthy overview presentations from interdisciplinary conferences. All submitted manuscripts will undergo normal review process and the publication decision will be adjudged by quality, novelty, suitability and interest.

As a member of the International Indian Statistical Association, you are eligible to receive online access as well as the hardcopy of Volume 4 (4 issues) of the IISA official journal, *Statistical Methodology*, at a reduced rate of \$75.

In addition, you have the opportunity to support the IISA/Elsevier Sponsor-an-Indian-Library-Scheme. For a small fee you can sponsor free institutional access in print and electronic to an Indian library of your choice.

Further information on the reduced subscription rate and the sponsorship can be found on the order form from the website <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/statmet>.

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**INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (2006-2007)**

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Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Work phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## IISA Membership fees:

- **For Nonresident Indians**

Regular Membership:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \$25 \text{ US for 1 year,} \\ \$40 \text{ US for 2 years or} \\ \$50 \text{ US for 3 years} \end{array} \right.$

Life membership: \$300 US

Student Membership: \$5 US per year

Please make your check in US funds payable to: *International Indian Statistical Association*.

Return the completed form with the appropriate dues to:

Prof. N. R. Chaganty  
Treasurer, IISA  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, VA 23529  
Email: rchagant@odu.edu

- **For Resident Indians** (revised)

Annual membership: Rs. 100

2-year membership: Rs. 150

3-year membership: Rs. 200

Life Membership (Regular): Rs. 1500

Life Membership (Retired): Rs. 500

Membership benefits:

- 10% discount on IISA Conference fees
- Co-Sponsorship of Workshops (through IISA Resource persons from India and abroad, announcement in IISA newsletter and possible nominal financial support).

The membership fees may be paid by Demand Draft to *Prof. Kanwar Sen* at the following address:

Prof. Kanwar Sen  
115 Vaishali, Pitampura  
New Delhi 110088