

NEWSLETTER  
Fall 2009



Online edition @ <http://www.intindstat.org>



## From the Editor's Desk

*by Veera Baladandayuthapani*

Dear IISA Members:

It is my pleasure to present the Fall 2009 issue of the IISA Newsletter in a new format. I hope you will find many interesting and useful items as you browse through it. Highlights in this issue include:

- Message from our new president Dr. Ram Tiwari
- Message from our ASA President elect – Dr. Sastry Pantula
- A brief update on Statistical Methodology by Dr. Jogesh Babu
- Reports from our IISA sponsored sessions at JSM 2009
- Updated news on the IISA JSM Conference in Visakhapatnam, and
- Latest news about our members and much more...

If you have any news to share, please do forward them to me. As always, your feedback is very important and I look forward to your comments and/or suggestions.

Have a productive fall!

Best regards,  
Veera Baladandayuthapani  
([veera@mdanderson.org](mailto:veera@mdanderson.org))



## From the President: Looking beyond past – into the future

*by Ram C Tiwari*

It is an honor for me to step in as the President of IISA for a one-year period starting July 1, 2009. I look forward for a productive year working closely with IISA Executive Board members and the general membership. I thank all the officials of IISA for making 2008-2009 a success. A special thanks to Subir for his outstanding service to IISA during his tenure as the President-Elect, President, and now the Past-President. He brought to IISA a sense of working together and making decisions based on consensus. His level of enthusiasm, energy, and hard work is undoubtedly superb and has helped IISA grow. IISA is making progress on a number of fronts. In partnership with ASA (under the leadership of Sastry) it looks forward to more close collaboration between the two organizations.

Thanks to the leadership of both Sreenivas and Bala, the preparation for IISA Conference, January 4-8, 2010, at Vizag is in full swing and we expect it to have excellent international representation. Special thanks to Professor K. Srinivasa Rao, the Chair of the local organizing committee, to Professor Kanwar Sen, and to the session organizers of this conference. Thanks also to Sastry, Sujit and Subhashis for taking on the responsibility of organizing IISA 2011 conference at the NC State. The conference will be held (as approved by IISA Executive Board) from April 21-24, 2011, and the preparation for the conference is already underway.

Thanks to Sneha for organizing IISA mixer and for her efforts in recruiting the volunteers for manning IISA membership-drive table at JSM 2009. I thank all the volunteers who signed up for their availability at the table and to those who just even showed up at the table. We were successful in our efforts (to some extent) as we had several new members joining IISA and a number of individuals have promised to become members soon. We are working towards having arrangements in place soon for making online payment for IISA membership fees using credit cards. I would like to thank both Subrata and Sudip, co-treasurers of IISA, for their help in this regard and for handling the membership renewals, updating the membership list, sending emails to members about our new endeavors. The online payment arrangement should help us increase the membership and lessen the burden of sending personal checks in the mail to the treasurer of IISA.

We are also talking to Elsevier, the publisher of IISA's journal--*Statistical Methodology*, for charging a nominal-fee for online access to the journal, including its back issues, as an incentive to new members to become life members of IISA. Elsevier would be able to offer on behalf of the journal a one year free subscription to it, for the winners of the Young Researchers Awards.

I thank Veera for his hard work in producing excellent quality IISA newsletters, and to H.N. Nagaraja, the President-Elect, popularly known as Raj or HNN for his years of devoted work on IISA website. The new website for IISA is: [www.intindstat.org](http://www.intindstat.org)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jogesh Babu, Editor in Chief of *Statistical Methodology*, for attending the IISA Executive Board meeting at JSM 2009 and presenting the highlights of the *Statistical Methodology* journal. It is kudos to Jogesh's leadership that the journal has made a good start and is now taking on several new initiatives. Jogesh's report is included in this issue of the newsletter.

I also thank the organizers of the IISA sponsored sessions at the JSM 2009 as the session topics were thoughtful and the sessions were well received. Detailed reports of these sessions are also included in this issue of the newsletter.

Finally, on behalf of the IISA office bearers, I congratulate the 2009 ASA Fellows: Drs. Mohammad Ahsanullah, Sujit Ghosh, Nandini Kannan, Mani Lakshminarayanan, Ashis SenGupta, T.N. Sriram. S. Ejaz Ahmed; and the 2009 IMS Fellow: Dr. Gauri Datta and Dr. Joseph Glaz

I welcome your contributions to the future issues of the IISA newsletters, and seek your help in making the association stronger. Please share your thoughts with me at [ram.tiwari@fda.hhs.org](mailto:ram.tiwari@fda.hhs.org)

Best regards,  
Ram Tiwari  
President, IISA



## From the ASA President-Elect

*by Sastry Pantula*

IISA has a bright future ahead of itself, not just because of its great leadership, but because of its great members like you who care about it and care about its vision. Yes, I mean YOU! Thank you in advance for taking the time to recruit others to join IISA (and ASA). As you know, IISA is very inclusive and its reach is global. There is strength in numbers, and we need more members.

Ram Tiwari, IISA President, asked me to write a brief note to our newsletter about relationships between IISA and ASA. Let me thank Ram for this opportunity, as well as thank all of you for your support for me in the ASA elections, and since then. Without your support, and that of your friends in our sister organizations, I would not have been elected to be the President of ASA for 2010. THANK YOU!

There are plenty of opportunities for ASA and IISA to collaborate in the near future. Under the leadership of Ron Wasserstein as the Executive Director, ASA is reaching out to IISA, ICSA, and other organizations to be actively involved with ASA. Sally Morton, the current ASA President, also wrote about such relationships in her Amstat News column. Also, this is consistent with one of my goals I set for myself and wrote about it in my statement as a candidate before the ASA presidential elections. Collectively, we can advocate effectively for our thriving profession. As you have noticed, IISA and ICSA have been invited to be partners for the Joint Statistical Meetings starting in 2009, and were invited to be at the table with the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS). Both relationships are at their fledgling stages, and its success will depend on our proactive interest and efforts.

ASA has 18,000 members. It has a couple of dozen sections and 60-70 committees and working groups that provide opportunities for members of IISA to continue to contribute significantly. One of my goals as the President-elect was to diversify the ASA committees. Thanks to the help from the leadership of IISA and other sister organizations, I have been able to achieve some success in reaching this particular goal of having African Americans, Chinese, Hispanics, Indians, Koreans, and women on various committees. I know many many statisticians of Indian origin who are making great contributions to our profession and we all should be proud of ourselves. However, when I was making the appointments to ASA committees, I was really surprised (I should say shocked) to see how small a percentage of Indians are members of IISA. One thing for sure, members of IISA (and of ASA) who I approached have all enthusiastically agreed to serve on various ASA committees. I know ASA will benefit from their/your service. THANK YOU! I encourage you to volunteer for various ASA committees in the future, as the next President-Elect, Nancy Geller, begins to make her appointments soon. I also urge IISA to continue to take an active role in nominating its members to various awards and to be ASA Fellows. As one of my colleagues at NSF said once, "NSF has a strict policy of not awarding grants to folks who had great ideas but never submitted a proposal." I am sure each of us know others who deserve the recognition. Please think of them, and take the time to nominate them!

As the President-Elect of ASA, I have formed four working groups to work on some of the bullets in the ASA's strategic plan. "GIVE to ASA"- Growth, Impact, Visibility and Education are the initiatives I am focusing on. Members of IISA can help achieve these goals, and thanks for those who agreed to be on these working groups as well. Membership growth is important to ASA, as it is for IISA and other sister organizations. We want to make sure we are providing the appropriate benefits to our current members as well as potential new members (some of whom could also be our past members!). Impact in terms of using statistics for science and public policy as well as visibility to our neighbors who may not be statisticians are both very important. I truly believe statistics is a key to innovation in many sciences, and we need to get the message better to everyone. Finally, ASA is an organization that brings all sectors- academia, government, business and industry, and these sectors work together to educate and train future problem solvers. I request all members of IISA and our sister organizations also to help make these initiatives a success by sending your suggestions to me and to the members on these working groups.

ASA has been a co-sponsor of IISA and other conferences. I recall fondly where Ron Wasserstein announced the ASA election results at the IISA conference in 2008. I am looking forward to be at the IISA conference in January in Vizag, as I start my role as the ASA President in 2010. ASA is co-sponsoring this conference as well. Of course, I look forward to welcoming all of you in 2011 to Raleigh as my colleagues host the IISA conference at North Carolina State University! I sincerely hope that IISA increases its membership by a factor of ten by then! It can be done- only with your help.

Let me end this note with another personal request. I am looking for a keynote speaker for JSM 2010 in Vancouver. The theme for JSM 2010 is "Statistics: A key to innovation (in a data-centric world)!" If you have some suggestions for someone, not necessarily a statistician, who is a great speaker and who has an appreciation for the value of what statistics can do, I would appreciate hearing from you soon.

Thank you again for reading this, and thank you for your support to IISA, ASA and me! Keep up the good work- volunteer and nominate!! United, we can achieve a lot (and divided, we fall apart)!!!

Cheers,

Sastry

ASA President-Elect

(Life member of ASA, ICSA, IISA and IMS)

*From the editor:*

*Dr. Pantula's views on our profession were recently covered in a couple of interviews in The Telegraph, Calcutta Edition and the ASA. The articles can be accessed at:*

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091008/jsp/careergraph/story\\_11587672.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091008/jsp/careergraph/story_11587672.jsp)

and <http://www.amstat.org/about/pdfs/Bridgesarticle.pdf>

## **Need Candidates for ASA SECTION Officers!**

The ASA is seeking candidates to run for the 2010 ASA elections for various committees. Please visit <http://www.amstat.org/committees/index.cfm> and click on the "volunteer" link to submit your interests. Also one can contact the chairs/committee members of the committee one wants to serve on, details of which are available at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sectionlist.cfm>. This is your chance to have your voice heard!



## Editor's Corner: a brief update on the journal *Statistical Methodology*

by *G Jogesh Babu*

Statistical Methodology publishes 6 issues per year. Each issue has about 100 pages. To maintain high standards, only about 25 percent of the papers are accepted. The rejection rate for papers coming from India and China are particularly high due to inadequate quality. This may be the reason for recent decline in submissions from India. In addition, submissions from France and Belgium have also decreased slightly over the previous years. On the other hand submissions from US, Brazil and Germany have increased.

The editorial board will be working on reducing the time from submission to first decision to authors. Ideally, it would help to bring this to 10 to 15 weeks. I also will be working with the editorial board to reduce the time taken from submission to final disposition; it is 33 weeks this year for one of the papers.

Special issues: The journal has already published two special issues; one on Bioinformatics and the other on Astrostatistics. Two special issues on Social Sciences (guest edited by Adrian Raftery and Mike Ward) and on Data Mining (guest edited by David Banks and Prem Goel) are in the final stages of revisions. They are expected to be out either later this year or early next year. The social sciences issue is good for the publisher financially, as the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences has agreed on a price to buy couple of hundred copies of the special issue. Dipak Dey and Sudipto Banerjee will be guest editing a special issue on spatio-temporal processes (Bayesian). A call for papers for this special issue will be going out shortly.

Discussion papers: Statistical Methodology has already published a discussion paper and another is in the pipeline. When two or more reviewers find a paper to be exciting and on current topic, the editors handling that paper would consider it for a discussion paper and invite experts in the field for discussion. I would like to have more discussion papers and authoritative reviews in Statistical Methodology.

Top 5 most cited papers from Statistical Methodology are listed below:

(Cited 12 times): Detection of intrusions in information systems by sequential change-point methods. Tartakovsky, A.G., Rozovskii, B.L., Blazek, R.B., Kim, H. 2006 *Statistical Methodology* 3 (3), pp. 252-293.

(Cited 10 times): Universal codes as a basis for time series testing. Ryabko, B., Astola, J. 2006 *Statistical Methodology* 3 (4), pp. 375-397.

(Cited 6 times): Data quality: A statistical perspective. Karr, A.F., Sanil, A.P., Banks, D.L. 2006 *Statistical Methodology* 3 (2), pp. 137-173.

(Cited 5 times): Survival analysis for the missing censoring indicator model using kernel density estimation techniques. Subramanian, S. 2006 *Statistical Methodology* 3 (2), pp. 125-136.

(Cited 5 times): Error tolerant model for incorporating biological knowledge with expression data in estimating gene networks. Imoto, S., Higuchi, T., Goto, T., Miyano, S. 2006 *Statistical Methodology* 3 (1), pp. 1-16



## Minutes of Executive Board Meeting at JSM 2009

by *Ram C Tiwari*

Date: Monday, August 3

Room: RH-Meeting Room 7

(RH:RENAISSANCE WASHINGTON DC HOTEL)

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Participants: N. Balakrishnan (Bala), Jogesh Babu, Sastry Pantula, Sujit Ghosh, Ashis Sengupta, Sneha Gulati, Veera Baladandayuthapani, MB Rao, Amarjot Kaur, Soumendra Lahiri, H.N. Nagaraja, Bhramar Mukherjee, Subir Ghosh, Ram Tiwari

The minutes of the meeting are:

1. Sastry gave a brief presentation about possibility of increased collaborations between IISA and ASA in future including IISA members serving on several ASA committees. ASA is a partner of IISA, and will be sponsoring sessions at the IISA meetings at Vizag and NC State University.
2. Jogesh Babu gave some highlights of the Statistical Methodology including the submission and acceptance rates of the manuscripts, highly cited manuscripts, forthcoming special issues, etc. Soumen presented some recommendations of the Committee on Publication pertinent to the Journal.
3. Bala gave an update of the IISA 2010, Vizag, meeting that included the number of special invited sessions, and discussed some concerns regarding the logistics of the meeting that he was working out with the local organizers.
4. Sujit discussed the dates of IISA 2011 conference at NCSU. The Committee discussed and approved the date of the conference to be from April 21-24, 2011.
5. Amarjot talked about the Young Professionals that was organized at the JSM and need to have more such sessions at the future meetings of IISA.
6. Raj mentioned the new website of the IISA has been established; this is: [www.intindstat.org](http://www.intindstat.org).
7. The IISA membership drive was briefly discussed. It was mentioned that the efforts are being made for making online payment of the IISA membership fees using credit cards. This should help in increasing the membership in IISA since it was noted that there was a real need to have better representation in our organization.

The reports of Jogesh, Sujit, and Amarjot can be found in this issue of the IISA Newsletter.

## Report on IISA Sponsored Sessions at JSM 2009, Washington DC



### IISA Session on “Emerging Statistical Challenges in Cancer Research”

by *Bharamar Mukherjee*

IISA was a new JSM partner this year and was allotted two invited session slots for JSM 2009. The session on Emerging Statistical Challenges in Cancer Research was held on Wednesday, August 5, organized by **Bhramar Mukherjee**, University of Michigan, who also served as the IISA program chair for JSM, 2009. The session consisted of cutting edge statistical techniques for modeling genomic data as well as a new look at classical risk assessment for environmental exposures.

**Sayan Mukherjee** from Duke University presented a stimulating talk on modeling gene networks using biological pathway information. The approach which Sayan termed as multiscale graphical models was a new spin to old ideas such as path analysis. Sayan used diffusion wavelets for multiscale decomposition of a partial correlation matrix or the generator of a Markov chain to build up the models for gene regulatory networks and sub-networks. Sayan illustrated his methods by using an example on tumor progression in prostate cancer which involved analyzing integrated source of genomic information to identify such gene networks. **Jaya Satagopan** from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center changed the tone of the session from genes to environment, when she discussed a study of Nevi (moles) in children, (The SONIC study), on 443 fifth grader students in Massachusetts. The study involved collection of extensive data on sun exposure and sun protection behavior through detailed questionnaires. In such a questionnaire evaluation there are many correlated items. Standard least squares regression analysis of the response (count of moles in this case) on the entire list of questionnaire items become quite unstable with inflated variance estimates of the model parameters, often leading to puzzling inferential results. On the other hand, imposing some user-defined structure where dimension reduction is carried out by creating composite items through linear combination of individual items provides gain in efficiency but may lead to bias under misspecification of this user-defined composition structure. Jaya proposed an empirical Bayes approach to combine these two inferences to strike a compromise between robustness and efficiency and presented elegant analysis of the exposure data. **Debashis Ghosh** from Pennsylvania State University gave an insightful talk on joint modeling of copy number and gene expression data. Debashis proposed a double layered mixture model where the intuition was to look for change points in copy number expression, and within constant segments of copy number data, look for differentially expressed genes. Boosted with reversible jump Markov chain Monte Carlo based Bayesian computation strategy, the method is able to target gene expression changes that are concordant with copy number changes in the same direction. Debashis then suggested measures to nominate candidate oncogenes identified through this joint analysis. The session concluded with a presentation from **Mousumi Banerjee**, from University of Michigan, speaking on survival trees and forest for breast cancer prognostication. Mousumi's objective was to analyze relative contributions of patient and tumor-related factors to recurrence free breast cancer survival and identify patient subgroups with similar outcome within a group but different outcomes between groups by using tree based methods. Mousumi wanted her method to retain identities of individual trees in a random forest. By introducing similarity metrics on the tree space she was able to identify representative trees in a forest and assign a measure of uncertainty to this inference procedure. The representative tree in a forest changed, as the similarity metrics changed with "similarity" being

defined in terms of prediction of survival or simply through having common node structure of the trees. Analysis of survival data on women diagnosed with breast cancer, using clinical, pathological and treatment covariates from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database illustrated the main points of Mousumi's method in a very clear manner. The session was a wonderful blend of clever statistical thinking and modeling, with applications to challenging problems in cancer studies. The session was attended by approximately 50-60 people, with an engaging question and answer session with the speakers at the end.



### **IISA Hosts a Successful Panel Discussion on "Guiding Young Professionals to Be Successful in Government, Academia, and Industry"**

*by Amarjot Kaur*

In an effort to promote and support the mentorship needs for new statisticians, the IISA committee of new professional statisticians conceived and organized a very successful panel discussion at JSM 2009 in Washington DC. The goal of this session was to bring together the leaders from academia, government, and industry with young professionals in statistics and create a communication channel between them. Such discussions would provide a platform for the young professionals to be successful in their career as well as be informed of the opportunities available for them.

The five panelists on this session had excellent background and many years of experiences, in government, academia, and industry, to share with the new statisticians. Representing Government were Dean Follmann from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Nancy Geller from National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Representing academia were Jagbir Singh from Temple University and Sujit Ghosh from North Carolina State University; representing industry was Mani Y. Lakshminarayanan from Merck & Co., Inc.

This topic contributed session was organized by Subir Ghosh of University of California, Riverside, on behalf of the IISA Young Professionals Committee with members Raji Sundram (Government), Amarjot Kaur (Industry), and Sujit Ghosh (Academia), and chaired by Amarjot Kaur of Merck & Co. Inc. The session was structured to first have about 10-12 minutes of presentation by each panelist, followed by some additional thoughts based on what others mentioned end of all presentation. After that the session was open to questions.

The young statistician attending this session were very engaged and asked many relevant questions to guide them through their careers. The usefulness of the session was exemplified as the audiences continued their discussion with panelist even after the session was over. The session was very well attended and received compliments on the quality of discussion from the ASA officers.

Given the success of this session and the appetite for the new statistician to learn from the experience of the successful statisticians, I think it would be very beneficial to have more sessions/forums of this type at future IISA sponsored meetings to provide mentorship to new statistician.

*Note: The available slides from this session will be made available on the IISA website for future reference.*





## IISA session on New Developments in Survey Sampling

*by Gauri Sankar Datta*

The Session titled "New Developments in Survey Sampling" was co-sponsored by the International Indian Statistical Association, Section on Survey Research Methods, Section on Bayesian Statistical Science and Section on Government Statistics. The session took place in the morning from 8:30 to 10:20 on Tuesday, August 4. The session was chaired by Dr. William Bell, a noted statistical methodologist from the U.S. Census Bureau. There were four speakers who are well known in the survey research community for their research. Professor Jean Opsomer of Colorado State University, who is the recent winner of the Gertrude Cox award, presented a very interesting talk entitled "Cross-Validation in Survey Estimation: Model Selection and Variance Estimation". Professor Gauri Sankar Datta of University of Georgia presented a talk entitled "Bayesian Benchmarking with Applications to Small Area Estimation". Professor Balgobin Nandram of Medical College of Georgia, a well known Bayesian survey methodologist, presented an interesting talk entitled "A Bayesian Adjustment for a Selection Bias in Genetics". To surpass all expectations of a room full audience in this session, Professor Danny Pfeffermann of Hebrew University and University of Southampton, the well known leader in the survey sampling, presented a very interesting talk whose title had a lot of common with the session title itself. Using his vast experience in editing the recent two-volume Handbook of Statistics on Survey Sampling, Professor Pfeffermann presented a talk entitled "Some New Developments in Model-Based Small Area Estimation". Even in less than thirty minutes, Professor Pfeffermann covered a lot of new developments in small area estimation. The session was well attended as many people had to stand outside the room. All in all, the session was a great success.

## IISA Member news

### Congratulations to our new Fellows!

**ASA Fellows:** Drs. T.N. Sriram, Mohammad Ahsanullah, Mani Lakshminarayanan, Sujit Ghosh, Nandini Kannan, Ashis SenGupta, S. Ejaz Ahmed

**IMS Fellows:** Drs. Gauri Shankar Datta and Joseph Glaz

Congratulations to all on the wonderful achievement!



## Other Member News

- **Professor C. R. Rao elected Honorary Fellow and road named after him!**

Dr C R Rao, Eberly Professor Emeritus of Statistics at Penn State University has been elected an Honorary Fellow of European Academy of Sciences.

Further, a road will be named after Prof. C.R. Rao! The GHMC has accorded permission to name the road from IIIT crossroads to Alind Factory, Lingampally as 'Prof. C.R. Rao Road' in recognition of services rendered by the legendary figure of Indian science and renowned statistician, Padma Vibhushan Prof. C.R. Rao. A press release stated and can be accessed at:

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/09/10/stories/2009091059940300.htm>

Double congratulations again Dr. Rao!



- **Professor Hira Koul named Chairperson!**

Professor Hira Koul is currently the Chairperson of the Department of Statistics and Probability at the Michigan State University. Congratulations Professor Koul!



- **Professor Dipak Dey becomes elected member!**

Professor Dipak Dey has become an elected member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences: March 2009. Congratulations Professor Dey!



- **Dr. Shesh Rai named endowed Chair!**

Dr. Shesh N Rai has been nominated and awarded the Wendell Cherry Endowed Chair in Clinical Trial Research at University of Louisville. Dr. Rai joined the University of Louisville in November 2007 as the Director of the Biostatistics Shared Facility, James Graham Brown Cancer Center, and is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Bioinformatics & Biostatistics, School of Public Health & Information Sciences, University of Louisville, Kentucky. Congratulations Dr. Rai!



- **NISS 2009 Distinguished Service Awards presented to Vijay Nair and John Rolph!**

Vijay Nair and John Rolph are the recipients of this year's NISS Distinguished Service Awards. The awards were presented by Alan Karr, director of NISS, at the NISS/SAMSI reception at JSM in Washington DC. The awards, established in 2005, recognize individuals who have given extraordinary service that significantly advances NISS and its mission. As Karr put it, "These are people who didn't have to do what they did for NISS, but did it because they believe in NISS and what it does to serve the statistics community." Nair is professor of statistics and industrial engineering at the University of Michigan. His award honors his service as the chair of the Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2008, his role in development of the 2004 strategic vision, leading the 2007 strategic positioning study and his leadership during most of the building addition project."





## International Indian Statistical Association Joint Statistical Meetings and International Conference on Statistics, Probability and Related Areas, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, January 4 -8, 2010

The Joint Statistical Meetings organized by the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) in partnership with the American Statistical Association (ASA) as well as the Statistical Associations in India will be held at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, January 4 -8, 2010. For information about this international conference on Statistics, Probability, and Related Areas, please contact: S. Rao Jammalamadaka (Organizing Committee Chair) ([rao@pstat.ucsb.edu](mailto:rao@pstat.ucsb.edu)), N. Balakrishnan (Program Committee Chair) ([bala@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bala@mcmaster.ca)), K. Srinivasa Rao (Local Organizing Committee Chair) ([ksraoau@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ksraoau@yahoo.co.in)).

All information for the conference can be obtained at: <http://www.iisa-isps2010.org/>

Details about the registration can be found at: <http://www.iisa-isps2010.org/Registration.php>

We would also like to inform everyone that the following procedure has been arranged for the registration in order to speed up the process for our delegates from outside India. Participants can mail their duly filled registration form (which can be obtained on the website: <http://www.iisa-isps2010.org/Registration.php>) along with their registration fees (including that for accompanying persons, any workshops etc.) to Professor K.S. Rao (India) or Professor Sudip Bose (USA):

Personal checks in US Dollars made out to "Chair, Local Organizing Committee IISA-JSM 2010" are acceptable as well as drafts and cashier-checks.

Professor K.S. Rao, Chair, Local Organizing Committee  
Department of Statistics, Andhra University  
Visakhapatnam-530 003, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA  
E-mail: [ksraoau@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ksraoau@yahoo.co.in), [ksraoau@gmail.com](mailto:ksraoau@gmail.com)

OR

Professor Sudip Bose, Co-Treasurer, IISA, Department of Statistics  
George Washington University, 2140 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20052 (USA)  
E-mail: [sudip@gwu.edu](mailto:sudip@gwu.edu)

All IISA members get 10% discount on their registration fees. Discounted Fees for IISA members:

IISA members(Outside India):

\$157.50 (upto and including September 30, 2009)

\$202.50 (after September 30, 2009)

Foreign Students (Outside India Students):

\$90.00 (upto and including September 30, 2009)

\$135.00 (after September 30, 2009)

India-Chapter Members:

Rs. 2250 (upto and including September 30, 2009)

Rs. 3150 (after September 30, 2009)

For your IISA membership status or to join the IISA, please contact  
the IISA Co-Treasurer: Subrata Kundu [kundu98@gmail.com](mailto:kundu98@gmail.com)

In addition, financial support is also available to participants in India who are members of IISA as detailed below.

#### **Financial Support for Participants from India at the 2010 IISA-JSM VIZAG Conference**

Participants at the 2010 IISA JSM Conference from within India, who are members of the IISA, may apply for the following travel support. The categories of the people who will qualify for the AC second-class train travel fare are:

- 1) Retired statisticians who are Invited speakers and are members of the IISA.
- 2) Any researcher who has secured his/her doctorate in 2005 or after.
- 3) All senior Doctoral Students (students who have been in a Ph.D. program for at least 2 years) at recognized Indian universities.

Because of the limited funds available, the travel award will be competitive. All participants who wish to seek this travel support are asked to send their application by the end of September, 2009 to Dr. K. S. Rao at the e-mail address [ksraoau@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ksraoau@yahoo.co.in).

The application from people in categories 2) and 3) should include a vitae of up to three pages. The students should also include the name of their thesis advisor, the topic of the thesis and the expected date of graduation.

The committee to decide on the travel awards consists of Professors K. Srinivasa Rao (Coordinator), Sreenivasa R. Jammalamadaka, Ashis SenGupta, M. L. Aggarwal, and Ram Tiwari(Chair).

### **2011 IISA Annual Conference at NC State Announcement**

Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University (NCSU, <http://www.ncsu.edu>) is planning to host the "2011 IISA Annual Conference" from April 21-24, 2011 at Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. The objective of the conference is to bring together both well established and emerging young researchers from around the world who are actively pursuing theoretical/methodological research in statistics and their applications in various fields.

The Department of Statistics at NCSU (<http://www.stat.ncsu.edu>) is among the nation's oldest and most prestigious, housed in the SAS Hall, a new state-of-the-art building on main campus. The faculty are well-known for excellence in research and teaching and the statistics graduate program is the largest in the country. As one of the three "corners" of the Research Triangle, Raleigh's



(<http://www.visitraleigh.com>) academic research network begins with North Carolina State University and is enhanced by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University in Durham. All of these North Carolina Universities are within a 30-minute commute of each other and are only 10-15 minutes from Research Triangle Park, one of the nation's largest and most prestigious planned research centers. More information can be obtained at <http://www.visitnc.com>

The conference aims to provide a forum for leading experts and young researchers to discuss recent progress in statistical theory and applications, thereby provide new directions for statistical inference in various fields. The conference will include plenary, invited and topic contributed sessions. Further details regarding the conference will be made available as soon as the conference website is created. The organizers of the symposium are Sujit Ghosh and Subhashis Ghoshal, both from the NC State University. For more information, please contact:

Dr. Sujit Ghosh, Professor  
 Department of Statistics NC State University  
 Raleigh, NC 27695-8203, USA  
 Email: [ghosh@stat.ncsu.edu](mailto:ghosh@stat.ncsu.edu)



## International Conference on Frontiers of Interface between Statistics and the Sciences

*December 30 2009 -- January 2 2010 at Hyderabad, India*

The conference is in honor of C.R.Rao, the living legend who will be attaining the age of 90 in 2010. The objective of the conference is to highlight the importance of statistics in knowledge discovery in the sciences. There will be sessions on a variety of topics with the participation of 3 or 4 speakers in each. All contributed papers will be in the form of poster presentations. Two prizes of Rs.5000 each will be offered to authors of the best poster presentation as judged by a panel of experts. The last date for sending the registration fee is 15 October, 2009.

More details can be found at <http://www.stat.osu.edu/~hnn/hydstatconf2010.html>



## INDIAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH (ISCR) 3rd Annual Conference

Indian Society for Clinical Research brings you the 3rd edition of its annual conference - an exclusive scientific convention for all clinical research personnel in India - with excellent topics in each of the sessions in the main **2 - day conference on January 8 - 9, 2010**. The 2-day annual scientific conference is a must attend annual event for all stakeholders in clinical research for professional development and networking. This year's conference will have 2 tracks – **"Clinical Research"**, and **"CDM, Biostatistics & Medical Writing."**

Details can be found at: <http://iscr.org/conference/>

## New IISA Members

The following members joined us or renewed their membership recently. We welcome all new members to the IISA family!

### **USA CHAPTER**

#### **Life Members**

Dr. Mani Lakshminarayanan (Merck)  
Dr. Arka P. Ghosh (Iowa State University)  
Dr. Nitai Mukhopadhyay ( Virginia Commonwealth University)  
Dr. Satish Chandra Misra (Food and Drug Administration)  
Dr. Nilanjan Chatterjee (NCI, NIH, USA)

#### Regular (Three year) Members

Dr. Sat N. Gupta (UNC Greensboro)  
Dr. Madan Puri (Indiana University)  
Dr. Satrajit Roychoudhury (Novartis)  
Dr. Atul Narain Roy (Montgomery College)  
Dr. Prabir Burman (University of California Davis)  
Dr. Pradeep Singh (SE Missouri State University)  
Dr. Somesh Chattopadhyay (Food and Drug Administration)  
Dr. Sowmya R Rao (MGH Biostat Center)  
Dr. Savi Appana (University Louisville)  
Dr. Veera Baladandayuthapani (UT MD Anderson Cancer Center)  
Dr. Avinash Singh (NORC)  
Dr. Krishna Saha (Central Connecticut State University)  
\*Dr. Joseph Glaz (University of Connecticut)  
\*Dr. Koti Kallappa (Food and Drug Administration)

#### **Regular (One year) Members**

Dr. Amit Bhattacharyya (Glaxo Smith-Kline)  
Dr. Katherine Davies (University Manitoba)  
\*Dr. Usha Govindarajulu (Cornell University)

#### **Student Members**

Mr. Siddhartha Roy (North Carolina State University)  
Ms. Monica Anand (California State University East Bay)  
Mr. Ritendranath Mitra (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

\*-renewal

## **India CHAPTER**

### **Life Members**

Mr. Rahul Varshney (Aligarh Muslim University)  
Mrs. G. Uma (PSG College of Arts & Science)  
Dr. Devaraj Arumainayagam (Govt Arts College)  
Dr. Kapuluru Sreenivasulu ( J B College)  
Dr. Manoj Varshney (University of Delhi)  
Mr. Brijesh Sathian (MCOMS, Pokhara)  
Dr. Rajender Parsad (IASRI, PUSA)  
Dr. Srinivas Narayan Iyer ( Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research)  
Dr. Rupak Gupta (The ICFAI University, Tripura)  
Mrs. Alka Sabharwal (K.M.College, University of Delhi)  
Dr. U.V. Naiknimbalkar (Pune University)  
Dr. T.V.Ramanathan (Pune University)  
Dr. Sangita Kulathinal (The Indian Society for Education and Development)  
Dr. Mohan Kale (Pune University)

### **Regular (Two year) Members**

Mrs. Archana V. Bhat (Mangalore University)

Thank you all for the continued support!

## **Other news**

### **A New Applied Statistical Journal:**

ICSA has just launched a new applied Statistical journal "Statistics in Biosciences" (SIB), a sister journal of Statistica Sinica, in partnership with Springer. The first issue was just published by Springer and consists of a very distinguished group of authors. SIB sessions have been held at the JSM, ICSA Applied Statistical Symposium and IMS-Asia Pacific Rim Conference this year. Briefly, SIB aims at development and application of statistical methods and their interface with other quantitative methods, such as computational and mathematical methods, in biological and life science, health science, and biopharmaceutical and biotechnological science. SIB has established a strong editorial board. More information about SIBS and the first issue can be found at the journal website

<http://www.springer.com/statistics/stats+life+sci/journal/12561>.





## The First IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting

by Runze Li

Byeong U. Park chaired the Local Organizing Committee, Feifang Hu and Runze Li co-chaired the Scientific Program Committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting. They wrote:

The inaugural meeting of the new IMS meeting series, IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting (IMS-APRM), took place at Seoul National University (SNU) in Seoul, Korea, during the period June 28 - July 1, 2009. SNU is the nation's top education and research institute located in the southern part of Seoul. The creation of IMS-APRM was initiated by Jianqing Fan, a former President of IMS, back in 2006. The new meeting series aims to provide an excellent forum for scientific communications and collaborations for the researchers in Asia and Pacific Rim, and to promote communications and collaborations between the researchers in this area and those from other parts of the world. The inaugural meeting was organized by the Korean Statistical Society (KSS), and co-sponsored by the IMS, the International Chinese Statistical Association, the International Indian Statistical Association and the Japan Statistical Society.

The program covered a wide range of topics in statistics and probability, presenting recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics and in applications. The program included two plenary lectures presented by Peter Bickel (statistics) and Masatoshi Fukushima (probability). The 17 Distinguished Lecturers were (in alphabetical order of last name): Tony Cai, Louis Chen, Jianqing Fan, Peter Hall, Xuming He, Sangyeol Lee, Xihong Lin, Zhengyan Lin, Jun Liu, J. S. Marron, Rahul Mukerjee, Sastry G. Pantula, John Robinson, Xiaotong Shen, John Jen Tai, Katsuto Tanaka, Mark van der Laan.

Many IISA members attended this conference. As a co-sponsor of IMS-APRM, IISA has contributed to this conference by organizing three invited talk sessions:

1. Empirical Processes and Semiparametric Inference (organized by Subir Ghosh)
2. Bayesian Nonparametrics: New Directions and Novel Application (Organized by Bhramar Mukherjee)
3. Statistics in Health Sciences (Organized by Somnath Datta)

The meeting concluded successfully on July 1, 2009. The local organizing committee and the scientific committee would like to acknowledge the generous finance support from SNU, Seoul Metropolitan Government, Korea Research Foundation, The Bank of Korea and The Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies. The 2<sup>nd</sup> IMS-APRM will be held in Japan in 2011.

Conference photos are available on the website at <http://ims-aprm.org/>



From left, daughter of Sastry Pantula (ASA President-Elect), Sastry Pantula and Byeong U. Park, after the conference dinner.



---

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL  
ASSOCIATION

---

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM (2009-2010)**

---

Membership Type:     Renewal     New

Select one:    Life    Annual    2-year    3-year    Student    Retired

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

## Membership benefits

- 10% discount on IISA Conference fees
  - Co-Sponsorship of Workshops (through IISA Resource persons)
  - Announcement in IISA newsletter and possible nominal financial support
  - Reduced subscription fee to the journal [\*Statistical Methodology\*](#)
- 

## Membership Fees

### For People residing outside India:

- **Life Membership Fee: \$300.00 (US)**
- Regular Annual Membership Fee: \$25.00 (US)
- \$40 US for 2 years and \$50 US for 3 years
- Student Annual Membership Fee: \$5.00 (US)

Please write your check (in US funds) to **International Indian Statistical Association**.

Please return this form with cash/check (in person) or mail your check to:

**Subrata Kundu** ([kundu@gwu.edu](mailto:kundu@gwu.edu)) or **Sudip Bose** ([sudip@gwu.edu](mailto:sudip@gwu.edu)).

Treasurer, IISA

Department of Statistics

George Washington University

2140 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20052

### For Resident Indians:

- **Life Membership Fee: Rs. 1500**
- Regular Annual membership Fee: Rs. 100
- 2-year membership: Rs. 150, 3-year membership: Rs. 200
- Life Membership (Retired): Rs. 500

The Demand/Bank Draft for IISA (India Chapter) membership is to be prepared /issued in favour of "IISA 2000-2001 INDIA JSM" payable at State Bank of India, Service Branch, New Delhi and should be sent to Prof. Kanwar Sen by SPEEDPOST at the following address:

**Prof. Kanwar Sen**

115 Vaishali, Pitampura,

Delhi – 110088, India.