

International Indian Statistical Association (IISA)

Newsletter, Summer 2008

Message from the Incoming President



On behalf of the IISA, it is my privilege to thank Professor Malay Ghosh for his dedicated service as the IISA President during his term July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. He will continue to work with us during July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 as the Past-President.

On behalf of the IISA, it is also my privilege to welcome our President-Elect Professor Ram Tiwari and our new member of the Board of Trustees Professor Jayanta K. Ghosh. I am excited to work with you all on various issues during this year.

We need volunteer help from some of you at the 2009 JSM in Denver. Would you please inform us your willingness to help us on this matter?

The IISA has become an official partner for the 2009 JSM. We want to thank Ron Wasserstein, Sastry Pantula and Malay Ghosh for making this possible. The IISA has also become an official partner of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) for its First Asia-Pacific Rim Conference in Korea during June 29-July 2, 2009.

Please e-mail me at subir.ghosh@ucr.edu with your thoughts on the issues facing IISA and how you can help us in resolving them. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,

Subir Ghosh

Mile High JSM



The Joint Statistical Meetings will be held this year in Denver, Colorado from Sunday, August 3 through Thursday, August 7. Please mark your calendars for the following IISA-related activities. Hope to see you all there!

- **IISA Mixer**

Title: IISA Welcome and Mixer
Date: Monday, August 4
Room: HY-Mineral Hall B (Hyatt Regency, Denver)
Time: 5:30-7:00pm

- **IISA Invited Session**

Title: Statistical Challenges in Large Scale Genetic and Genomic Studies
(Session #210)
Date: Tuesday August 5
Room: CC607 (Colorado Convention Center)
Time: 8:30-10:20am
Speakers: Brad Efron (Stanford)
Charles Kooperberg (Fred Hutchinson)
Nilanjan Chatterjee (NIH/NCI)
Mike Boehnke (University of Michigan)
Organizer: Bharamar Mukherjee (University of Michigan)

- **IISA Table**

There will be a table at the JSM to inform people about IISA and its activities. We **need volunteers** to help us at the table on Sunday afternoon and Monday through Wednesday 10-4. Please email Nandini Kannan (nandini.kannan@utsa.edu) with your preferred date(s) and times if you can spend a couple of hours at the table.

Report on Connecticut Conference



The International Indian Statistical Association held a conference titled “Frontiers of Probability and Statistical Science” at the University of Connecticut, Storrs on May 22–25, 2008 (<http://merlot.stat.uconn.edu/~nitis/IISA2008/index.htm>). The conference was attended by nearly 180 participants representing countries including USA, Canada, India, Bangladesh, Japan, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Brazil and Egypt. There was participation from several industrial organizations including Novartis, Cytel, Merck, Pfizer and IBM. The conference was sponsored by a number of companies, the University of Connecticut and the ASA.

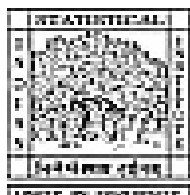
The conference included two Plenary Lectures by Distinguished Professors Jayaram Sethuraman of the Florida State University and Marvin Zelen of Harvard University. In addition, a number of named lectures (Bahadur, Sukhatme, Basu, Huzurbazar, and Krishnaiah) were given respectively by Evarist Gine, Sanat Sarkar, Glen Meeden, Lee-Jen Wei, and Barry Arnold. A number of invited sessions, contributed sessions and student paper sessions were also included. Participants were also entertained by one of the conference organizers, Professor Nitis Mukhopadhyay and his family, at a banquet.

Professor S. R. S. Varadhan received a Life Time Achievement Award from IISA. Professor Zelen received this award last year. The Young Researcher Award for Theory and Methodology went to Dr. Anindya Roy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Dr. Sujit Ghosh of the North Carolina State University, while the Young Researcher Award for Methodology and Application went to Dr. Sayan Mukherjee of Duke University. The Best Student Paper Presentation Award for Theory and Methodology went to Arnab Maiti of Texas A & M University, while the corresponding Methodology and Application Award went to Tyler H. McCormick of Columbia University.

We gratefully acknowledge gifts from the following corporate sponsors (contact person in parentheses) for the IISA conference in Connecticut and thank them for their support.

- Cytel Inc., Cambridge, MA. (Cyrus Mehta, Ph.D.) \$750
- Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN. (Aarti Shah, Ph.D.) \$500
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Florham Park, NJ. (Kannan Natarajan, Ph.D.) \$500
- Vislation, Chesterbrook, PA. (Kalyan Ghosh, Ph.D.) \$500

ISI Platinum Jubilee

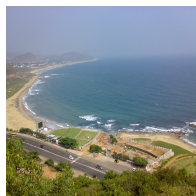


On December 17, 1931, Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis established the Indian Statistical Institute as a learned society, to promote research in the theory and applications of statistics in India. Since then, it has been a haven for bright and talented academics working in a number of disciplines. Over the decades, the Institute has grown steadily and, at present, it boasts of seven scientific divisions at Kolkata, a Branch in Giridih, Centres in Delhi and Bangalore, and a network of Statistical Quality Control and Operation Research units at Baroda, Mumbai, Pune, Coimbatore, Chennai and Hyderabad.

The remarkable achievements of the Institute in statistical work as well as its contribution to economic planning motivated the Government of India to recognize ISI as an institution of national importance by an act of the parliament in 1959, amended in September 1995 to empower the Institute to award degrees/ diplomas, in addition to statistics, in mathematics, quantitative economics, and computer science. Today, the Indian Statistical Institute occupies a prestigious position in the academic firmament. Its research faculty has done India proud in the areas of Statistics, Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, among others. Since 1933, the Institute has been publishing *Sankhya*, the Indian Journal of Statistics, which is regarded very high internationally.

With generous support from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the Institute organized a year-long program of activities including conferences, workshops, special lectures to celebrate its 75th birthday. The platinum jubilee celebrations were launched by Honorable Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh on December 24, 2006, and the Govt. of India declared 29th June as “Statistics Day” to commemorate the birthday of Prof. Mahalanobis nationally. Dr. Singh was honored with the Honorary Doctorate degree of the Institute on that occasion. A comprehensive academic program, involving Nobel Laureates, Fellows of the Royal Society, and other distinguished scientists from across the globe, had been implemented. About fifty separate events including international conferences, seminars, workshops, visionary lecture series highlighting the emerging areas of ongoing frontline research, had been successfully organized during the year-long celebrations in its various scientific divisions, centers, branches and outlying units. The final curtains fell on the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 25 January 2008 in a solemn function held in the Geology auditorium of the Institute in Kolkata. The meeting was presided over by Prof. M. G. K. Menon, FRS in the august presence of Prof. C. R. Rao (Eberly Professor Emeritus, Penn State University), Prof. Sankar K. Pal, Director, ISI, Prof. Michael Brown (Maryland) and Prof. Vijay Nair (Michigan).

2010 IISA Conference



The next IISA conference will be held in Visakhapatnam, India (also known as Vizag or Waltair) during January 4–7, 2010 (dates are tentative). Ideas? Suggestions? Please forward them to the committee below:

Organizing committee chair: Sreenivasa Rao Jammalamadaka (rao@pstat.ucsb.edu)

Program committee chair: N. Balakrishnan (bala@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca)

More details to follow.

Financial Report

Here is a short financial report (as of December 2007):

IISA account balances	
Checking account	\$3,359.52
High Performance money market	\$12,367.88
CD maturing Feb. '09	\$28,433.21
AIMSCS* account balance	\$39,629.67

*=C.R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science

New Officers

Elections were recently held for a new President-Elect and a Trustee of the IISA. The results are:

President-Elect: Ram C. Tiwari (FDA)

Trustee: Jayanta K. Ghosh (ISI and Purdue University)

Other news

- J. N. K. Rao, Distinguished Research Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada received Honorary Doctor of Mathematics degree from University of Waterloo, Canada at the Spring 2008 Convocation ceremony.
- Sastry G. Pantula, Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University, Raleigh is the President-Elect of the American Statistical Association for 2009.
- C. R. Rao received his 32nd Honorary D.Sc. Degree from Madras University at a special convocation celebrating 150th year anniversary of the establishment of the University.

Membership

New Members

The following new members joined us this year. Welcome to the IISA family!

Life Members

Anindya Roy (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)
Ranjan Maitra (Iowa State University)
Marvin Zelen (Harvard University)
Mokshay Madiman (Yale University)
Xinlei (Sherry) Wang (Southern Methodist University)
Md. Rezaul Karim (University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh)

Three-year Members

Sayan Mukherjee (Duke University)
M. Raghavachari (Rensselaer Polytechnic)
Varghese George (Medical College of Georgia)

Renewal

Speaking of IISA membership, **your yearly membership renewal time is now**. Please renew your membership immediately before you forget. **Life membership is only \$300 US (Rs. 1500 for resident Indians) and you do not have to remember to renew again!** For your convenience, a membership renewal form is attached at the end of this newsletter. We would also appreciate your help in requesting your colleagues, students and friends to be members of the IISA.

IISA Journal



An Invitation to Subscribe the IISA Official Journal with a Special IISA Member Rate

STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY

The Official Journal of the International Indian Statistical Association

Editor-in-Chief: G.J. Babu

Now available **FREE** via ScienceDirect: Special Issue on Bioinformatics Volume 3, Issue 1 Edited by David Banks and Grace S. Shieh.

If you are affiliated with the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA), you can subscribe to the journal at a reduced fee. You can also join 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>.

The journal Statistical Methodology publishes papers that make original contributions to theory and to novel applications. The journal will, in the future, also publish articles judged as “pathbreaking” and/or of sufficient interest to the statistical community as “Discussion papers.”

Contacts



Have some news to share with IISA members? Want to make a suggestion about the newsletter? Please contact Kaushik Ghosh (kaushik.ghosh@unlv.edu) or Nandini Kannan (nandini.kannan@utsa.edu).

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (2008-2009)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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