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**ISBIS News**

**Volume 8 - Issue 3, 2015**

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**ISBIS Journal:**

*Applied Stochastic Models in  
Business and Industry  
(ASMBI)*

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**President's Message**



*David Banks*

Dear ISBIS Colleagues:

Welcome to the next cycle of the ISBIS wheel! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the ISBIS satellite meeting in Campinas and/or the World Statistics Congress in Rio. Thank you for participating.

I also want to thank the outgoing ISBIS Council. The people stepping off are **Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi**, the outgoing President; **Eric Laber**, the outgoing VP for Y-BIS; **Martina Vandebroek**, the outgoing VP for Membership; **David Steinberg**, VP for Communications; and Council Members **Wi Keung Li**, **Pilar Muñoz**, and **Román Viveros-Aguilera**. I look forward to working with all the new members (as reported in the previous ISBIS Newsletter). Note: A few past officers are staying on in new roles.

Vincenzo was a great ISBIS president. We are all very proud of what he did for the ISBIS image. He wore a suit and tie, and never forgot to attend an administrative meeting. But I'm afraid I'm off to a very bad beginning. ISBIS may want to impeach me.

By way of explanation, but not excuse, the World Statistics Congress was a really tough meeting for me. I think of it as a reality television show, with lots of physical challenges: hotels and airports far from the venue, 7:30 a.m. business meetings, and a ceaseless series of encounters with old acquaintances wearing small-print name badges, affording many occasions for embarrassment. Compounding this, I was busy. I had attended our satellite meeting in Campinas beforehand, and then taught an all-day short-course on Saturday in Rio. And at the WSC, I had to give three talks, chair three sessions, and participate in five business meetings, banquets, and other such ceremonies. So I was really tired and scattered when the ISI General Assembly came around.

I had a scintillating talk about ISBIS all teed up for the General Assembly. It reviewed how many members we had, how many we had last year, and how many resided in each of the world's continents. It outlined our current budget, the budget from last year, and our projected finances. It listed all the conferences and workshops we had sponsored, and I'm sure the talk would have won a resounding ovation, had I given it.



*Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi*

Unfortunately, I overlooked the timing of the ISI General Assembly, and did not show up. Vijay Nair, the outgoing president called upon me to stand and deliver, but I was not there to answer. I suppose the silver lining, if there is one, is that the 400+ people attending the General Assembly now have a more vivid impression of our society, and understand the special challenges we face (i.e., administrative disorganization).

Nonetheless, despite this rocky start, I think the WSC was good for ISBIS. We organized and sponsored multiple sessions that drew large audiences, and we launched the **William S. Gosset Lecture** with an outstanding talk by **Bill Meeker**, the first lecturer, of Iowa State University. We also strengthened our connections with the other ISI associations, and have possibly laid the foundation for a new strategy for joint work in our capacity building efforts.



*Bill Meeker*

Additionally, the satellite meeting in Campinas was tremendous. **Verónica González López** and her colleagues at the University of Campinas deserve our heartfelt thanks for rescuing the meeting after the tragic and untimely death of **Emanuel Pimental Barbosa**, the original organizer. Obviously, the satellite meeting was dedicated to his memory. And fittingly, it was especially well attended by students, thus honoring his career as both a teacher and a researcher. I hope he would have been proud of the outcome of his initiative; I know that ISBIS is.



*Verónica González López*

I hope all of you know about the next ISBIS meeting, in **Barcelona, Spain** on **July 3-6, 2016**. Keep an eye on the website. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sincerely,

**David Banks, ISBIS President**

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### **The 2015 William S. Gosset Lecture Available Online for ISBIS Members**

We are pleased to announce that the slides used by Professor **Bill Meeker** in his **William S. Gosset Lecture**, titled “Reliability in the 21st Century,” are available in PDF format for ISBIS members in the Society’s website. The link is located at the button-right corner in the front page. You will need your Members-Only codes. Professor Meeker, from Iowa State University, was chosen as the inaugural speaker for the ISBIS Gosset Lecture. The talk was delivered on July 30, 2015 at the 60th World Statistics Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Nalini Ravishanker, ISBIS President-Elect**

### The *ASMBI* Report



*Fabrizio Ruggeri*

I would like to inform you about two relevant changes. First of all, **Nalini Ravishanker** is stepping down as Editor of *ASMBI* as of December 31st (although she will keep handling revised papers for a while) since ISI (International Statistical Institute) appointed her as Co-Editor (which means the top job) for Theory and Methods in *International Statistical Review*, the official ISI journal. I must be partly blamed for the change since I was in the Nominations Committee and I expressed my sincere opinion on her, i.e. that she would have been the best choice for the journal, because of her commitment, knowledge and human qualities. I have been working with Nalini for 7 years here at *ASMBI* and with **Emmanuel Yashchin**, the other Editor, for 5 years and it has been one of the most pleasant activities in my career. I am sure all of you have appreciated Nalini's work (also in ISBIS) and would join me in thanking her for her contributions to *ASMBI* and in wishing her GOOD LUCK with the new job: I am sure she will do it very well!

At the same time, I am very glad to inform you that we have been able to secure (with Nalini's help!) a new Editor who has the characteristics we were looking for: a person involved in B&I, hard worker, with a lot of connections, a vision, an excellent CV. She is **Katherine Bennett Ensor** (Kathy Bensor, in short), who is Professor and Chair of Statistics in the School of Engineering, Director of CoFES at Rice University, Houston, TX, USA and also Vice-President of the American Statistical Association. She will start her job as of July 1st, 2016 because of previous commitments (in the meanwhile, Emmanuel and I will take care of the journal). I give her a warm welcome to the *ASMBI* Editorial Board and I am looking forward to working with her.



*Nalini Ravishanker*



*Katherine Bennett Ensor*

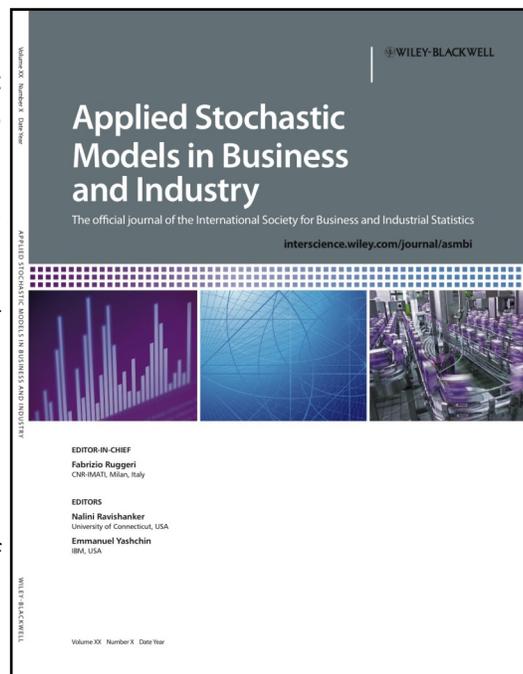
There is also another change about our Wiley liaison: **Steve Raywood** is leaving us to take care of other journal, he will be replaced by **Samantha Moore**. I have been working with Steve for 7 years as well and I enjoyed a lot having him as Wiley counterpart since he has been very active every time there was a request (and even before we had one...). Just to mention an event: we were able to secure the first paper by Box, through his wife and **Abraham** and **Steinberg**, but the toughest part before publishing it last year was to get the permission to publish it from the original publisher. It was a very tough job, but Steve succeeded in getting it. I wish Steve well and I am looking forward to the new cooperation with Samantha.

We had an Editorial Board meeting in Rio de Janeiro at the ISI World Congress. We decided to have some special issues, which will involve people who attended the meeting: Data Fusion (**Jeske**), Computational Advertising (**Banks**) and an issue honouring **Kathryn Chaloner (Soyer)**. We are also collecting papers presented at the ISBIS Satellite meeting held in Campinas (Brazil) just before the ISI World Congress.

Let me conclude with the list of papers that will be published in the forthcoming issue (October 2015). You can see the variety of contributions, typical of the journal and ISBIS as well.

Let me conclude with the list of papers that will be published in the forthcoming issue (October 2015). You can see the variety of contributions, typical of the journal and ISBIS as well.

- A Combined Attributes-variables Plan
- Analysing Return Asymmetry and Quantiles through Stochastic Volatility Models Using Asymmetric Laplace Error via Uniform Scale Mixtures
- Monitoring Change Point for Diffusion Parameter Based on Discretely Observed Sample from SDE Models
- An Improved Two-stage Variance Balance Approach for Constructing Partial Profile Designs for Discrete Choice Experiments
- Concentrated Portfolio Selection Models Based on Historical Data
- Simulation of Correlated Poisson Variables
- On Random Age and Remaining Lifetime for Populations of Items.
- A Simple Approach for Multi-fidelity Experimentation Applied to Financial Engineering
- Parametric Inference for Multiple Repairable Systems under Dependet Competing Risks
- Bayesian Semiparametric Customer Base Segmentation of Mobile Phone Users Based on Longitudinal Traffic Data
- Failure Probability Estimation with Differently Sized Reference Products for Semiconductor Burn-in Studies



I hope you will enjoy reading them and will decide to submit your papers through <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmb>.

**Fabrizio Ruggeri, ASMBI Editor-in-Chief (fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it)**

## The $\gamma$ -BIS Report



*Kristina Lurz*

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my great honor to introduce myself to the whole ISBIS community as the new vice president for  $\gamma$ -BIS. My thanks go to my two predecessors, Eric Laber and Paulo Canas Rodrigues, for setting the stage for the young statisticians' section in ISBIS and for their numerous profound initiatives in the past. The purpose of this group is to bring together young statisticians and professionals working both in academia and industry. Conferences particularly organized for young statisticians are valuable opportunities to get acquainted and share scientific and professional experience. I would like to promote a  $\gamma$ -BIS conference within the next two years as well as sessions at the forthcoming ISBIS and ISI conferences devoted to our goals.

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My aim is to bridge the gulf between our discipline of statistics and other fields such as business and industry, where statistics is applied. In my view, excellent knowledge of the subject matter and the composition of groundbreaking papers are not sufficient in order to reach the other shore. We need eloquent communication skills to be able to express ourselves concisely, especially to representatives of other disciplines. Knowledge about other areas or at least a willingness to deal with these subjects is also integral to everyday work in industry. In my experience it is occasionally a delicate task to act in a statistically correct way and still meet clients' expectations, who may at times be too preoccupied to worry about the validity of assumptions in statistical procedures. Guidelines on how to accommodate this circumstance, but still be faithful to our discipline could be valuable information for young statisticians. I hope to make this issue a topic at next year's ISBIS conference and a  $\gamma$ -BIS conference in the future.

I would be delighted to hear from you with your input on  $\gamma$ -BIS activities, any ideas you may have or contributions to the  $\gamma$ -BIS column in the ISBIS news. Although officially being called a "Young Statisticians Group", we look forward to contributions from any groups. Whether you are a student, doing your PhD or postdoc, have been working in industry for 20 years or are a seasoned university professor, I would like to encourage you to collaborate with us! A young statisticians group relies on the knowledge and experience of those who have had longer and distinguished careers. It is my belief that the greatest benefit can be achieved if all generations of statisticians work together. Please, do not hesitate to contact me at [lurz.kristina@gmail.com](mailto:lurz.kristina@gmail.com).

Looking forward to a fruitful exchange and collaboration!

**Kristina Lurz, Vice-President for  $\gamma$ -BIS**

## **ISBIS 2015 – University of Campinas**

**Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil**

### **A Post-conference Report**



*Verónica González López*

ISBIS 2015 was held from July 22 to July 24, 2015 in the installations of the Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (best known as IMECC) at University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. The conference was dedicated to the memory of **Emanuel Pimentel Barbosa**, who with great enthusiasm began the organization of ISBIS 2015 before his untimely passing in late 2014. Around 60 participants attended the conference, including academic and company researchers, university teachers and graduate students. See picture below of the participants at hand at picture time. A summary of the presentations follows:

- ◆ 1 one-day short-course
- ◆ 2 keynote addresses
- ◆ 18 invited thematic sessions
- ◆ 46 talks

The conference works began with a 6-hour short-course on Wednesday July 22 presented by Dr. **Emmanuel Yashchin** from the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA on “Advanced Methods in Statistical Process Con-



trol". The course was delivered in 4 blocks of 1.5 hours each with time in between the blocks for interaction among the attendees. In the short-course, which was attended by a sizable number of students, Dr. Yashchin covered a good amount of material on quality control methods, ranging from fundamental basic topics to the advanced techniques.

The formal opening ceremony of the meeting took place on the morning of Thursday July 23. Representing the University of Campinas, Dr. **Gláucia Pastore** (Vice-President for Research) headed the ceremony and officially declared the meeting open, joined by other distinguished guests at the podium, including **David Banks**, **Emmanuel Yashchin**, **Nalini Ravishanker** and **Verónica González-López**. Each of the two conference days featured a keynote address. Dr. **Emmanuel Yashchin** gave the first keynote talk on July 23, on the topic "Statistical Aspects of Early Warning Systems". The keynote address on July 24 was a joint effort between Dr. **Carlos Alberto de Bragança Pereira** and Dr. **Sergio Wechsler**, both from University of São Paulo, Brazil, on the topic of "Rain Dance: Role of Randomization in Clinical Trials". The keynote addresses generated a good discussion at the end of each presentation.



*Emmanuel Yashchin*

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*Sergio Wechsler*

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*Carlos Alberto de  
Bragança Pereira*

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The invited paper sessions accounted for the largest portion of the program and they covered a large variety of topics, both at the methodological and applied levels. On the methods side, the invited sessions dealt with univariate and multivariate time series, clustering, copulas, multivariate singular spectrum analysis, support vector regression, linear degradation models, Bayesian inference, control charts, capability indexes, cumulative damage distributions, fuzzy sets, and categorical data analysis, among others. The applied talks also displayed a large variety of practical topics, including survival analysis, market volatility, risk, finance, archaeology, environment, electricity generation, and modeling and analysis of rhythm, among the many applications discussed.

The weather was in its best behaviour, and the participants enjoyed a 3-day rain-free conference. This allowed the participants to walk to the conference site from their residences and to the restaurants and sight-seeing in the area.

In addition to the efforts of the Organizing Committee, other volunteers and the ISBIS support, the conference benefitted tremendously from the following organizations:

- **Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo** (FAPESP; provided monetary support for participants from the state of São Paulo and some foreign participants)
- **Pró-Reitoria de Pesquisa** (PRP, helped to obtain reduced rates for food at UNICAMP Hotel, helped with some hotel bills)
- **Associação Brasileira de Estatística** (ABE, provided invaluable logistic support to obtain the funding from FAPESP)
- **Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science** (IMECC, technical support for website, online registration and secretarial support; provided all the conference rooms at no cost)
- **University of Campinas** (UNICAMP; facilitated the conference organization through various internal offices and units)



**ABE**



On the evening of Thursday July 23 everyone converged to the House of the Visiting Professor (Casa do Professor Visitante, CPV) in the university campus for the conference banquet. The conference participants enjoyed a hearty Brazilian meal that included soup, salad, three types of meat, rice and pie. On the dessert front, the offerings included Papaia's cream, a variety of fruits, and ice cream. And, of course, lots of red and white wine.

The banquet was also the appropriate setting to pay tribute to the late Dr. **Emanuel Pimentel Barbosa** for his contributions to statistics in general, and for his important role in taking the lead in the organization of the ISBIS conference before he passed away last year. Emanuel's sister, **Ana Pimentel Barbosa**, was able to attend the banquet and to be present at the tribute. Dr. **Vera Tomazella**, who is the President of the Brazilian Statistical Association (Associação Brasileira de Estatística, ABE) spoke about the respect Emanuel earned among the statisticians in Brazil and his contributions to many activities in the ABE over the years. Dr. **David Banks**, still in his capacity of President-Elect of ISBIS, took the mike and spoke of the enthusiasm and efforts Emanuel put in the early organization of the conference. Speaking on behalf of the conference participants and the entire ISBIS, Dr. Banks thanked all the members of the Organizing Committee and its Chair, **Verónica González-López**, for their superb job in the organization of the conference. To close the speeches, the Chair of the Organizing Committee for ISBIS 2016, **Pilar Muñoz**, extended a warm invitation to everyone to attend the meeting next year. ISBIS 2016 will take place on **July 3-6, 2016** in **Barcelona, Spain**.



*Vera Tomazella and Ana Pimentel Barbosa*



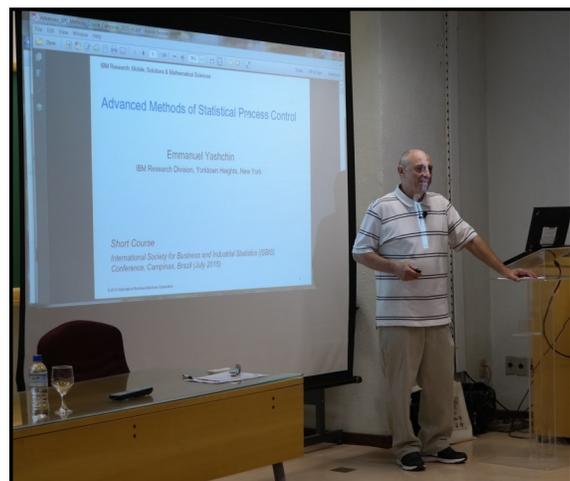
*David Banks*

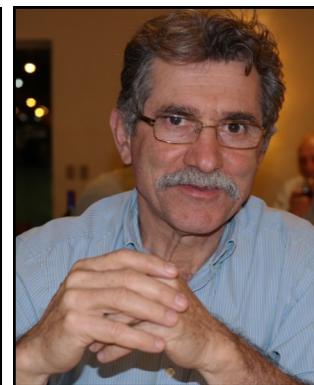
The banquet attendees were invited to dance to the rhythm of live music by an excellent Bossa Nova trio.

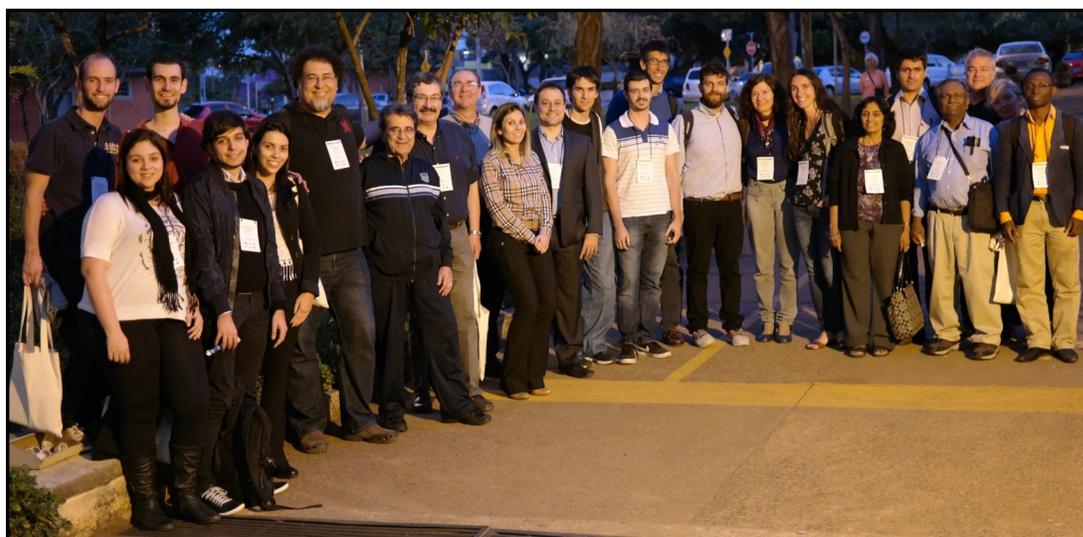
**Verónica González-López, Chair of the Organizing Committee for ISBIS 2015**

### ISBIS-2015 IN PICTURES

Photographers: Jesús García, Verónica González-López and Márcio Viola (University of Campinas, Brazil)







# ISBIS 2016

Barcelona  
(SPAIN)  
03-06 July



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on  
BUSINESS and INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS



focused on High Frequency Time Series



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA  
DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH

Department of  
STATISTICS and  
OPERATIONAL  
RESEARCH

<http://isbis2016.upc.edu>

The aim of this meeting is to provide an overview of the recent developments in the methodological, computational and applications aspects of the **Statistical Models**. The lectures will be given by recognized experts in this field.



SEE YOU SOON !!!

**61st ISI WSC 2017  
Marrakech, Morocco  
First Announcement**



*Werner Müller*

Dear ISBIS members,

At the 60th ISI WSC in Rio de Janeiro this July the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) for the 61st ISI WSC 2017 was formed. The meeting will be held from **16<sup>th</sup>** to **21<sup>st</sup>** of July 2017 in **Marrakech**, Morocco. I am happy to serve as the ISBIS Representative in the SPC. Our task is to solicit (and eventually review and select) proposals for Invited Paper Sessions (IPS). We estimate to have a total number of 150 such IPS.

The homepage of the WSC 2017 is up and running (<http://www.isi2017.org/>) and submissions of session proposals will be handled through a submission system, which will be available from 1st of November on. However, I take this opportunity to encourage you to start now thinking about what you believe may be interesting and current topics worth of an invited session. Do not hesitate to email me, if you

feel my feedback could be of any help.

Let us strive for a maximum of high quality ISBIS-related activities at WSC 2017 together!

Best wishes to all.

**Werner Müller (Werner.Mueller@jku.at)**

**ISBIS Rep. to the Scientific Program Committee for WSC 2017**





### ENBIS-16: Conference Announcement

ENBIS – the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics – is a platform where statistical practitioners and academic statisticians from Europe and beyond meet, exchange ideas and design new projects. Individual membership of ENBIS is free.

Many ENBIS network activities are web-based, but some take place face-to-face. **Spring meetings** are always dedicated to a special topic (e.g. data mining, reliability, DOE, etc.), whereas the **annual conference** (which traditionally takes place every September) hosts presentations from a wide variety of sectors, ranging from manufacturing to service, from private to public sector. Conference contributions can consist of introductions and overviews (presenting an area of expertise to the uninitiated), reviews (presenting state of the art advances in scientific research), and best practice communications (sharing experiences of practitioners). In short: the annual conference features both theoretical and practical papers. In addition, people from industry and business are invited to present their problems and current solutions and pick the brains of other conference participants to find better solutions than their current ones.





The annual conference session topics include, but are not limited to, the special areas of interest that exist within ENBIS (detailed in the so-called Special Interest Groups). The non-exhaustive list includes:

- Design of Experiments.
- Measurement Uncertainty.
- Process Modelling and Control.
- Reliability and Safety.
- Statistics in the Pharmaceutical Industry.
- Statistical Computing.
- Operational Risk Management.
- Statistics in Practice.
- Stochastic Modelling.
- Quality Improvement and Six Sigma.
- Data Mining and Warehousing.
- Machine Learning.
- Predictive Analytics.

Additionally, the annual ENBIS conference also features distinguished keynote speakers (George Box, Blanton Godfrey, Stu Hunter and Doug Montgomery are just a few well-known names from a long list of recent speakers), invited and contributed sessions, workshops and panel discussions, as well as pre- and post-conference courses.

**The 16th annual conference of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS: [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org)) will take place at the University of Sheffield in Sheffield (United Kingdom), from 11th to 15th September, 2016.**

On top of the sessions topics mentioned above, in 2016 special attention will be given to the discussion of *Statistics in Manufacturing* and *Applied Statistics Meets Practical Statistics*.

To register as a member of ENBIS, please visit [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org).

For up-to-date information on ENBIS-16 visit [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org) or contact **ENBIS Permanent Office** ([office@enbis.org](mailto:office@enbis.org)) and **Eleanor Stillman**, School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sheffield, Chair of the ENBIS-16 Organizing Committee ([e.c.stillman@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:e.c.stillman@sheffield.ac.uk)).

## Highlighting Interesting Articles that are NOT in the Statistics Literature

- “Arbitrariness of Peer Review: A Bayesian Analysis of the NIPS Experiment,” Olivier Francois, *arXiv*, <http://arxiv.org/pdf/1507.06411.pdf>

The principle of peer review is central to the evaluation of research, by ensuring that only high-quality items are funded or published. But peer review has also received criticism, as the selection of reviewers may introduce biases in the system. In 2014, the organizers of the “Neural Information Processing Systems conference conducted an experiment in which 10% of submitted manuscripts (166 items) went through the review process twice. Arbitrariness was measured as the conditional probability for an accepted submission to get rejected if examined by the second committee. This number was equal to 60%, for a total acceptance rate equal to 22.5%. This article presents a Bayesian analysis of those two numbers, by introducing a hidden parameter that measures the probability that a submission meets basic quality criteria. The standard quality criteria usually include novelty, clarity, reproducibility, correctness and no form of misconduct, and are met by a large proportion of submitted items. The Bayesian estimate for the hidden parameter was equal to 56% (95% CI: (0.34, 0.83)) and had a clear interpretation. The result suggested the total acceptance rate should be increased in order to decrease arbitrariness estimates in future review processes.



David Steinberg

- “A Quality by Design (QbD) Case Study on Liposomes Containing Hydrophilic API: II. Screening of Critical Variables, and Establishment of Design Space at Laboratory scale,” Xiaoming Xu, Mansoor A. Khan and Diane J. Burgess, *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* (2012), 543-553.

Quality by Design (QbD) in the pharmaceutical industry is a systematic approach to development of drug products and drug manufacturing processes that begins with predefined objectives, emphasizes product and process understanding and sets up process control based on sound science and quality risk management. The FDA and similar regulatory groups elsewhere are actively promoting QbD applications, in which the manufacturer demonstrates understanding of the process and provides empirical evidence of the sensitivity of key parameters to process inputs. The manufacturer then enjoys much greater flexibility in production, with the ability to make process changes within a design space that has been authorized on the basis of the application. Designed experiments are an important tool in achieving the process understanding that is essential to a successful QbD drug approval application.

This article is a good example of a QbD project. It studies a liposome-based, controlled-release system, with the anti-viral drug Tenofovir used as a model compound. The team employed a sequence of experiments, beginning with a Plackett–Burman design to screen eight high-risk variables obtained from risk analysis and assess their impact on liposome characteristics (drug encapsulation efficiency, particle size, and physical stability). Only two of the eight high-risk variables had significant effects on the drug encapsulation efficiency. This prompted the second experiment, which employed a central composite design (CCD) to fully elucidate the relationship between lipid concentration, drug concentration and encapsulation efficiency. The resulting model was the basis for establishing the design space for Tenofovir liposomes preparation in a laboratory setting, within which the preparation variability is minimized. With regard to sample storage stability, it was shown that at 4 °C the prepared Tenofovir liposomes, dispersed in aqueous phase, achieved stability for at least 2 years. These principles are relevant for liposomes containing other hydrophilic substances, and can thus save time and expense and result in a more robust liposome preparation process.

Data from the experiments is included in the article.

- “Time-series Modeling with Undecimated Fully Convolutional Neural Networks,” Roni Mittelman, *arXiv*, <http://arxiv.org/pdf/1508.00317.pdf>

This paper presents a new convolutional neural network-based time-series model. Typical convolutional neural network (CNN) architectures rely on the use of max-pooling operators in between layers, which leads to reduced resolution at the top layers. Instead, this work considers a fully convolutional network (FCN) architecture that uses causal filtering operations, and allows for the rate of the output signal to be the same as that of the input signal. It goes on to propose a more refined version of the FCN, the undecimated fully convolutional neural network (UFCNN), which is motivated by the undecimated wavelet transform. Experimental results verify that using the undecimated version of the FCN is necessary for effective time-series modeling. The UFCNN has several advantages over time-series models such as the recurrent neural network (RNN) and long short-term memory (LSTM), since it does not suffer from either the vanishing or exploding gradients problems, and is therefore easier to train. Convolution operations can also be implemented more efficiently than with the recursion that is involved in RNN-based models. The performance of the model is evaluated in a synthetic target tracking task using only measurements generated from a state-space model, a probabilistic modeling of polyphonic music sequences problem, and a high frequency trading task using a time-series of ask/bid quotes and their corresponding volumes. The experimental results using synthetic and real datasets verify the significant advantages of the UFCNN compared to the RNN and LSTM baselines.

**David Steinberg, Section Editor**

## Officers for the ISBIS Executive Committee and Council (2015-2017)

### Executive Committee



**President: David Banks (USA)**

David is Professor in the Department of Statistical Science at Duke University in USA. He does research in risk analysis, data mining, and network modeling, and is interested in statistical problems that arise in business analytics, especially computational advertising and recommender systems. He is a former editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* (ASA) and past-chair of the ASA Risk Section and the ASA Section on Statistics in Defense and National Security. He has worked in the Center for Biologics Research at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Prior to his federal service, he worked at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Cambridge, and the University of California at Berkeley.



**President-Elect: Nalini Ravishanker (USA)**

Nalini is Professor and Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut, USA. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Her research interests include time series modeling, time-to-events analysis, inference for stable processes, signal processing, and applications to differential geometry among others. Nalini has been Editor, Theory and Methods, *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry*, since 2008; and Associate Editor of *The American Statistician* (since 2001) and *Journal of Forecasting* (since 1994). She has also served as Editorial Board Member for *International Journal of Statistics and Systems* (since 2005). She has published more than 60 research articles and a book.



**Vice-President for Membership and Outreach: Roger Hoerl (USA)**

Roger is Brate-Preschel Professor of Statistics at Union College in Schenectady, NY. He was Head of the Applied Statistics Laboratory at GE Global Research. He is an elected member of ISI and of the International Academy for Quality, and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and of the American Society for Quality (ASQ). He is a recipient of the Shewhart Medal from ASQ and the Founders Award from ASA. In 2006 he received the Coolidge Fellowship from GE Global Research, honoring one scientist a year from among the four global GE Research and Development sites for lifetime technical achievement. He used his six-month Coolidge sabbatical to study the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, spending a month traveling through Africa in 2007. Roger has authored several books, including *Statistical Thinking: Improving Business Performance*, jointly with Ron Snee.



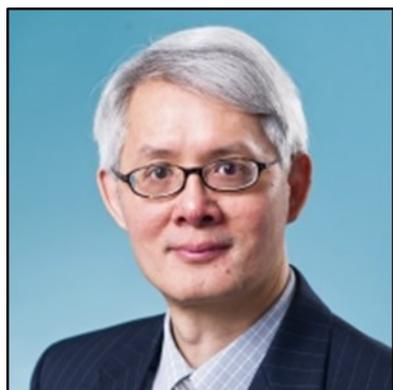
**Vice-President for Y-BIS: Kristina Lurz (Germany)**

Kristina is a data scientist at prognostica GmbH, Germany. She works as project manager and consultant for this Würzburg-based company, specializing in the development of advanced forecasting systems for industry and commerce. She holds a diploma in Mathematics, which she received from the University of Würzburg in 2009. Before co-founding prognostica in 2014, she worked as a research and teaching assistant at the Department of Statistics at the University of Würzburg. Several months ago, she submitted her doctoral thesis in statistics. Her professional interests involve industrial statistics, time series analysis, predictive analytics, confidence and prediction intervals, and machine learning. Kristina is a member of the Research Center for Risk Management (FZRM) in Würzburg and holds the position of treasurer for ENBIS.



**Vice-President for Communications: Pilar Muñoz (Spain)**

Pilar is an Associate Professor of Statistics in the Department of Statistics and Operations Research, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the UPC (1988). Her research interests include time series analysis, computational statistics, statistical models in epidemiology, computer-assisted instruction for statistics, and applications in Energy Markets. She has been a consultant to the Regional Government Public Health Agencies of Catalonia, the Metropolitan Transports of Barcelona (TMB) and to the Regional Government Traffic Department of Catalonia. She has been Deputy Director of the Statistics and Operations Research Department (UPC) from 2005 to the present. Pilar has been an elected member of the International Statistical Institute (2004) and member of ISBIS since 2007.



**Vice-President for Scientific Program: Kwok Leung Tsui (Hong Kong)**

Professor Kwok L. Tsui is Head and Chair Professor of Industrial Engineering in the Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management at the City University of Hong Kong, and the founder and Director of the Center for Systems Informatics Engineering. Prior to joining City University of Hong Kong, Professor Tsui was Professor at the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. A recipient of the National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award, Professor Tsui is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, American Society for Quality, and International Society of Engineering Asset Management. He is also a U.S. representative to the ISO Technical Committee on Statistical Methods. Professor Tsui was Chair of the INFORMS Section on Quality, Statistics, and Reliability and the Founding Chair of the INFORMS Section on Data Mining. Professor Tsui's current research interests include data mining, surveillance in healthcare and public health, prognostics and systems health management, calibration and validation of computer models, process control and monitoring, and robust design and Taguchi methods.

## Council Members



### **Narayana Balakrishna (India)**

Narayana Balakrishna is a Professor in the Department of Statistics at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) in Cochin, India. He holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from Mangalore University, and M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from University of Poona. He has served as Head of the Department of Statistics at CUSAT. Professor Balakrishna has held several visiting appointments, including Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at University of Waterloo, Canada, Visiting Scientist at the School of Mathematics & Statistics at The University of Birmingham, England, and Visiting Researcher in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Technical University of Dresden, Germany, among others. A Commonwealth Fellow and an Elected Member of the ISI, Professor Balakrishna received a UK India Education and Research Initiatives Fellowship and a Travel Grant for Commonwealth Scholars Networking from the British Council. An active researcher and supervisor of graduate students, his research interests include time series analysis, applications of stochastic processes, modeling of stochastic volatility, analysis of repairable systems, and chaotic time series. Professor Balakrishna is a former editor of *ISBIS News*.



### **Oliver Chinganya (Tunisia)**

Oliver is the Division Manager for the Statistical Capacity Building Division, Statistics Department of the African Development Bank since April 2010. Before joining the Bank, he was with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Statistics Department as Regional Advisor (2002–2009), providing support to 21 Anglophone African countries participating in the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) programme. Prior to joining the IMF, he was deputy director of the Zambia Central Statistical Office responsible for research and dissemination division. He also spent time at the World Bank working on the guidelines for Statistics Result Facility in the Development Economic Data Group.



### **Luis A. Escobar (USA/Colombia)**

Luis is a Professor in the Department of Experimental Statistics at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. His research interests include statistical analysis of reliability data, accelerated testing, survival analysis, and industrial statistics. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the LSU Rainmaker Award for nationally and internationally innovative research and creative scholarship (2008), the Jack Youden Prize (1999), the John Wiley & Sons Book Award for best selling performance of his book *Statistical Methods for Reliability Data* (1999), and the “Best General Engineering Book” award from the Professional Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers for his Wiley book (1998). His editorial service to the statistics profession is extensive and includes serving as Associate Editor for *Technometrics*, *Lifetime Data Analysis*, *Selected Tables of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics*, *the Institute of Industrial Engineers—Transactions on Quality and Reliability Engineering*, and *Revista Colombiana de Estadística*, among others. Luis served as Elected President of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (2010–2012) and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.



**Birger Stjernholm Madsen (Denmark)**

After earning his Master of Science in Statistics and Mathematics, Birger acquired several years of experience as an industrial statistician at major Danish companies, including Carlsberg Research Laboratories (Brewing), Novo Nordisk (Pharma), and Coloplast (Medical Devices). Since 2008 he has worked for Novozymes (a world leader in biotechnology). He also gained experience in other areas, including national statistics. His main areas of interest are Statistical Process Control (SPC), Design of Experiments (DOE), Measurement Uncertainty, Survey Sampling, Sampling Inspection, Operations Research, Data Mining, Neural Networks, Data Editing and Imputation, SAS System, and Teaching/Communicating Statistics. His academic experience includes several years as External Associate Professor at University of Copenhagen where he has been officially appointed an external examiner. Birger is the author of the elementary book *Statistics for Non-Statisticians*, Springer 2011. The book focuses on statistical methods that are most useful for practical statistical work. The book has also been published in Danish, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Samfundslitteratur, 2012. Birger is an elected member of ISI. He is a member of ISBIS, IASE and IASS. He has been particularly active in the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) where he has served as Vice President 2006-2007, Chair of the Working Group on Measurement Uncertainty 2001-2007, and Council member since 2011. He is also a member of the Danish Statistical Society, serving as Board member since 2012.



**Irena Ograjenšek (Slovenia)**

Irena Ograjenšek is Associate Professor of Statistics at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Economics. She studied in the PhD programmes of the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) and Emory University (USA). Her research work at the level of an organisation focuses on measurement of customer and employee loyalty, customer and employee satisfaction, employer attitudes towards older workers, service quality, as well as motivational and ecological capital of an organisation. At the level of industry/economy as a whole and region/country/group of countries she applies qualitative and survey methodology when researching issues related to urban revitalization, competitiveness, economic growth and labour market. She is author or co-author of numerous scientific articles published at home and abroad. In the period 2015-2019 she is serving the professional statistical community as a Council Member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and Permanent Office Member of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS).



**Changsoon Park (South Korea)**

Changsoon Park is a full professor at Chung-Ang University in Korea. After completing his Ph. D. in Statistics from Virginia Tech in 1984, he began his professional career with the Department of Statistics at Chung-Ang University. Changsoon visited Virginia Tech during 1990-1991 and 1998 as a visiting associate professor and professor, respectively, and Purdue university during 2006 as a visiting professor. His primary research interests are on statistical process control, robust design of experiments, and structural equation modeling. He is a member of the American Statistical Association, the American Society for Quality, and a lifetime member of the Korean Statistical Society and the Korean Society for Quality Management. In 2015 he was elected president of the Korean Statistical Society.



**Paulo Rodrigues (Brazil)**

Paulo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics of the Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil, and Visiting Professor of the University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland. His past experience with ISBIS includes serving as Vice-President for  $\gamma$ -BIS Members (2009-2011, 2011-2013) and chair of the  $\gamma$ -BIS (Young Business and Industrial Statisticians 2009-2011, 2011-2013). He is an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute and is currently also a member of the Council of ISI and Chair of the ISI Young Statisticians Committee. He is co-editor of the journal *Biometrical Letters* and managing editor of *Statistics, Optimization and Information Computing*. Paulo's research interests focus on high-dimensional data modeling, low-rank and weighted low-rank approximations, quantitative genetics, time series and singular spectrum analysis, and robust statistics.



**Galit Shmueli (Taiwan)**

Galit Shmueli is Tsing Hua Distinguished Professor at the Institute of Service Science, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. She is also Director of the Center for Service Innovation & Analytics at NTHU's College of Technology Management. Between 2011-2014 she was the SRITNE Chaired Professor of Data Analytics and Associate Professor of Statistics & Information Systems at the Indian School of Business. Dr. Shmueli's research focuses on statistical and data mining methodology with applications in information systems and healthcare. She has authored six books, including the popular textbook *Data Mining for Business Intelligence*, and over 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals and books, including the top journals *Management Science*, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, *Information Systems Research*, *MISQ*, *Marketing Science*, *Statistical Science* and *Technometrics*. After graduating from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in 2000, Dr. Shmueli was Visiting Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Statistics Department, where she first became involved in early biosurveillance research and efforts. Her co-authored 2010 paper "Statistical Challenges Facing Early Outbreak Detection in Biosurveillance" was the featured article in *Technometrics*. Dr. Shmueli has also worked on information systems, specifically on electronic commerce and online auctions. She is a gifted teacher who has won multiple teaching awards, and supervised several Masters and PhD students. Dr. Shmueli is senior editor at *Decision Sciences Journal* (Analytics Section) and associate editor for the top journals *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *JASA* & *The American Statistician Reviews*. She was guest editor of a special issue of *Statistical Science* and of *Applied Stochastic Models in Business & Industry*. Dr. Shmueli has provided consulting services to private companies (including Price Waterhouse Coopers, Structured Decisions Corporation, and Accenture) and to US government and state agencies (including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Economic Development Corporation).

### Ex-Officio Council Members



**Webmaster: Naveen Naidu Narisetty (USA)**

Naveen Narisetty is a PhD candidate in the Department of Statistics, University of Michigan working under the guidance of Professors Xuming He and Vijay Nair. He is currently in his final year of PhD studies and plans to pursue an academic career. Prior to coming to the United States, he obtained his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. His research interests include High Dimensional Data, Variable Selection, Bayesian Computation, Large-Scale Computational Models, Functional Data Analysis, Censored Data and Quantile-Based Inference. During his PhD, he received several accolades for research and teaching including a Rackham pre-doctoral fellowship, a student paper awards from ASA, an outstanding student award and an excellence in teaching award. Naveen hails from a small village near Guntur in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Having come from a modest background, he feels fortunate to be part of the statistics community and in particular to be part of the ISBIS family. He is grateful for the support by his family and the encouragement by his teachers and mentors including all the faculty members at Michigan. He enjoys professional service, and working with charitable organizations during his spare time.



**Editor-in-Chief of ASMBI: Fabrizio Ruggeri (Italy)**

Fabrizio is Research Director at CNR-IMATI, Milan, Italy, and Adjunct Professor at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. His research interests include reliability, general statistical modelling with applications in industry, and Bayesian statistics. He is a former President of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) and of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). Fabrizio has authored over 100 research articles, coauthored a book on Bayesian Analysis of Stochastic Process Models and edited two volumes on Bayesian Robustness and one on Statistics in Healthcare. In addition, he also served as Editor of the ISBA Bulletin and Bayesian Analysis and is currently Editor-in-Chief of Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry and of Wiley StatsRef. Fabrizio is Co-Director of the Applied Bayesian Statistics summer school (ABS) and Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Bayesian Inference in Stochastic Processes (BISP) series of workshops. A faculty member of the Ph.D. programme in Mathematics at the University of Pavia, Italy and of the Ph.D. programme in Statistics at the University of Valparaiso, Chile, Fabrizio has been a member of many committees, including Savage Award, De Groot Award and Box Medal. He is a Fellow of both the American Statistical Association and ISBA, and one of the first two recipients of the Zellner Medal, the most prestigious award conferred by ISBA.



**Editor of ISBIS News: Román Viveros-Aguilera (Canada)**

Román is Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University in Canada. He obtained a B.Math from Universidad Veracruzana and an MSc in Math from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies, both from Mexico, and a PhD in Statistics from the University of Waterloo, Canada. His interests include industrial statistics, reliability, quality control methods and teaching statistics. His research articles have appeared in *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*, *Technometrics*, *Journal of Quality Technology*, *Journal of Chemometrics*, *Statistics in Medicine* and other journals. He served as director of the Graduate Program in Statistics at McMaster University for over four years. Román has also served the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) in various capacities: member of the Board of Directors; editor of its newsletter *Liaison*; co-founder, Secretary and President of the Society’s Business and Industrial Statistics Section; and more recently as President of the SSC. He is currently the managing editor of *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*. In ISBIS, he served in the Council (2011-2015) and has been the editor of *ISBIS News* since 2013. Román received the Pierre Robillard Award for “the best Ph.D. thesis of the year in Canada” and the Distinguished Service Award, both from the Statistical Society of Canada, and the McMaster University Student Union Teaching Award.

**NEWS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**USA**

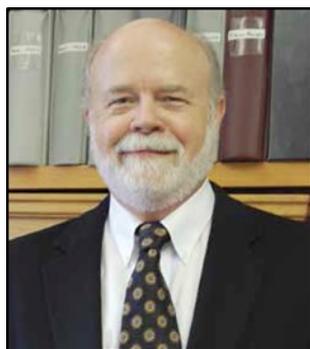


*William Q. Meeker*

Professor **William Q. Meeker**, who is Professor of Statistics in the Department of Statistics and the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation at Iowa State University, Ames, IA received the **2015 Deming Lecturer Award** from American Statistical Association (ASA). He delivered the **ASA Deming Lecture** at the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM 2015) in Seattle, WA on August 11, 2015. In his talk, titled “Reliability: The Other Dimension of Quality”, Professor Meeker spoke about the relationship between engineering quality and reliability, and outlined the role statistics and statisticians have in the field of reliability. The Deming Lecturer Award was established in 1995 to honor the accomplishments of W. Edwards Deming, recognize the accomplishments of the awardee, and enhance the awareness among the statistical community of the scope and importance of Deming's contributions. Professor Meeker is also this year’s recipient of **Gerald J. Hahn Q&P Achievement Award**, granted by the American Statistical Association. The award, which is announced by the Quality and Productivity Section,

recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding and sustained achievement and leadership in developing, promoting, and successfully improving the quality and productivity of products and organizational performance using statistical concepts and methods over a period of 20 or more years. The award will be presented to Professor Meeker at the Fall Technical Conference (FTC) to be held in Houston, TX on October 8-9, 2015. The plaque has the inscription *“In recognition of outstanding and sustained achievement and leadership in developing, promoting and successfully applying statistical concepts and methods for quality and productivity improvement.”*

**Bill Woodall, Allison Jones-Farmer, Stefan Steiner, and Charles Champ** have received the **2014 American Society for Quality Statistics Division's Lloyd Nelson Award** for the article entitled “An Overview of Phase I Analysis for Process Improvement and Monitoring.” This paper appeared in the July 2014 issue of the *Journal of Quality Technology (JQT)*, pp. 265-280. The award will be presented at this year's Fall Technical Conference in Houston, Texas on Thursday, October 8th. The award recognizes the *JQT* article from the previous year of



*Bill Woodall*



*Allison Jones-Farmer*



*Stefan Steiner*

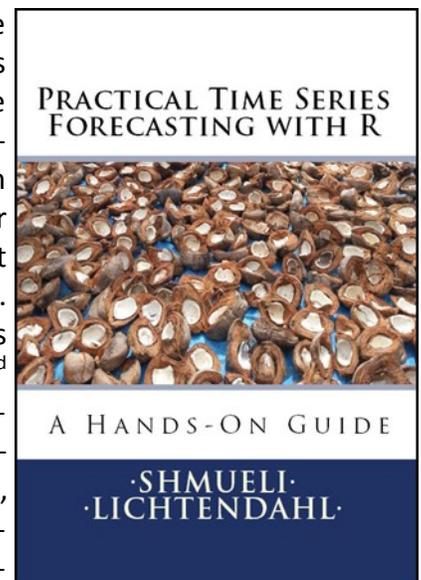


*Charles Champ*

"greatest immediate impact to practitioners". The article provides an overview and perspective on the Phase I collection and analysis of data for use in process improvement and control charting. The focus in Phase I is on understanding the process variability, assessing the stability of the process, investigating process improvement ideas, selecting an appropriate in-control model, and providing estimates of the in-control model parameters. The article reviews and synthesizes many of the important developments that pertain to the analysis of process data in Phase I. Dr. **Bill Woodall** is a Professor in the Department of Statistics at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Dr. **Allison Jones-Farmer** is the Van Andel Professor of Analytics at Miami's University School of Business in Miami, FL. Dr. **Stefan Steiner** is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at University of Waterloo in Waterloo, ON, Canada. Dr. **Charles Champ** is a Professor in the Department of Mathematical Science at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA.

### ***Practical Time Series Forecasting with R: A Hands-On Guide* – Shmueli and Lichtendahl Jr.**

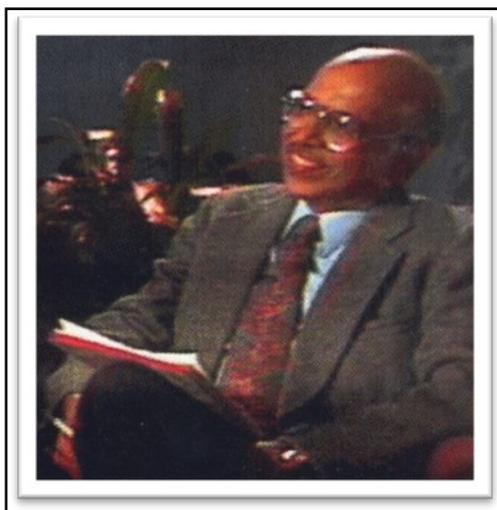
In this book, authors Galit Shmueli and Kenneth C. Lichtendahl Jr. introduce readers to the most popular statistical models and data mining algorithms used in practice. The book covers issues relating to different steps of the forecasting process, from goal definition through data collection, visualization, pre-processing, modeling, performance evaluation to implementation and communication. *Practical Time Series Forecasting with R* is suitable for courses on forecasting at the upper-undergraduate and graduate levels. It offers clear explanations, examples, end-of-chapter problems and cases. Methods are illustrated using the free and open-source software R. This book is an R edition of the Excel-based *Practical Time Series Forecasting*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Galit Shmueli. The Distinguished Professor at the Institute of Service Science, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, **Galit Shmueli** is co-author of the best-selling textbook *Data Mining for Business Intelligence*, among other books and numerous publications in top journals. She has designed and instructed courses on forecasting, data mining, statistics and other data analytics topics at University of Maryland's Smith School of Business, the Indian School of Business, National Tsing Hua University and online at Statistics.com. **Kenneth C. Lichtendahl Jr.** is an Associate Professor of Business Administration at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. He specializes in teaching data science to MBA students with R. He was recognized by The Case Centre as its 2015 Outstanding Case Teacher for his course Data Science in Business. His research focuses broadly on making, evaluating, and combining forecasts and has been published in leading academic journals such as *Management Science*.



**Ramanathan (Ram) Gnanadesikan**

**1932-2015**

**“The Founding Father of ISBIS”**



**Ram Gnanadesikan**, one of the foremost industrial statisticians of the last century, passed away on July 6 on Martha’s Vineyard, MA, where he had a much-beloved summer home.

After completing his Ph.D. in 1957 at the University of North Carolina, Ram spent two years at Procter & Gamble before joining Bell Labs in 1959, where he rose to be the head of the Statistics and Data Analysis Research Department from 1968 through 1983. At that time, Bell Labs was the research arm of the nationwide Bell System in the USA. After its monumental breakup in 1984, Ram joined Bellcore as division manager of Information Sciences Research. In 1986 he was promoted to assistant vice president of what became known as the Information Sciences and Technologies Research Laboratory. In 1991 he was appointed professor of statistics at Rutgers University, where he remained until his retirement in 1998.

Ram was the consummate applied statistician with a great flare for research to improve methodologies available to practitioners. He loved to tackle real data problems wherever they arose, e.g. in areas such as air pollution, speaker recognition, aging of semiconductor devices, and risk modeling of companies. Many of these problems needed nonstandard statistical approaches, which stimulated much of his research.

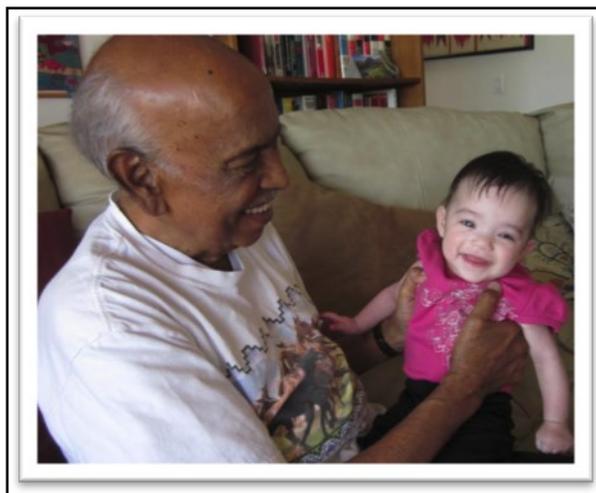
Perhaps the best example of this can be seen in his classic paper with Martin Wilk on probability methods for data analysis in *Biometrika*, 1968, pp. 1-17. It had a large impact on statistical practice and led to follow-up papers on graphical methods for analysis of variance. His book on the analysis of multivariate observations (1997, Wiley, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) reflects many of his own contributions to that field, again with strong emphasis on graphics and what works in practice.

For much more on Ram's statistical research and his perspectives on the discipline, see the [interview with him in Statistical Science](#), 2001, 295-309.

Ram also contributed widely to our statistics infrastructure. He served as president of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (1998-1999) and the International Association for Statistical Computing (1981-1983), which he helped to found. He was a member of the board of directors of the American Statistical Association (1983-1985), chaired its committees on fellows (1989) and publications (1981-1982), and was president of the Cincinnati chapter (1958-1959). He was elected to the council of the International Statistical Institute for six years (1977-1983) and served as vice president of ISI for two terms (1997-2001). He also headed the ISI Working Group on industrial statistics and led various efforts that eventually resulted in what is now the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics. For that reason, ISI President Nair has referred to Ram as the 'founding father' of ISBIS, now ten years old.

Ram's humanitarian instincts, inspired perhaps by his exposure to Gandhi as a teenager, touched many. In 1989 the senate in his home state of New Jersey honored him for his contributions to greater understanding between the people of India and America.

Ram is survived by his statistician wife Mrudulla; son Anand, his wife Amalia, and their daughter Gita; and son Mukund, his wife Dominik, and their daughter Mara (pictured with Ram).



**Jon Kettenring, July 10, 2015**



## Editor's Notes

Hello all!

As **President Banks** notes in his opening message, this issue marks the beginning of a new year in the ISBIS calendar cycle. In an effort to let you know better the members of the new ISBIS Executive Committee and Council, we have included a short personal bio and a picture of each of them in this issue. My personal view is that ISBIS is in great hands!

We bring you highlights of the ISBIS 2015 conference held in Campinas, Brazil in July. I am grateful to **Verónica González-López**, who chaired the Organizing Committee, for providing a detailed account of how the meeting went. Her post-conference report indicates that a lot of work was involved, however the meeting succeeded in attracting a good number of participants, in featuring high quality presentations, and on the great fun the participants had. I would like to thank **Jesús García**, **Verónica González-López** and **Márcio Viola**, all from University of Campinas, for the pictures they took and for making them available to *ISBIS News*. More pictures and larger versions of those published in this issue are posted at:

[http://www.ime.unicamp.br/~veronica/fotos\\_isbis/24.html](http://www.ime.unicamp.br/~veronica/fotos_isbis/24.html)

Our new section, **Highlighting Interesting Articles that are NOT in the Statistics Literature**, contains the highlights of three interesting articles recently published. I thank **David Banks** for bringing two of the articles to our attention and to **David Steinberg** for selecting the third article and for editing the section.

In July we lost **Ramanathan Gnanadesikan** (best known simply as **Ram**), who in addition to being a brilliant statistician was also the man who led the efforts to found our own International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics. I am grateful to **Jon Kettenring** for writing the obituary for Ram published in this issue.

Thanks go to all who contributed to this issue. Special thanks to *ISBIS News*' Associate Editors **David Steinberg** and **Yili Hong** for their help, and to **Naveen Naidu Narizetty** for his continued assistance with the ISBIS website.

Best wishes to all for a happy and safe fall or spring, depending on where you are.

**Román Viveros-Aguilera, Editor of *ISBIS News***

This newsletter was produced in **Microsoft Publisher 2010**; template: **Vijay Nair**, layout: **Román Viveros-Aguilera**.