President’s Message

Dear members of the ISBIS community,

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of 2014 has flown by so quickly! There is so much to do in order to promote business and industrial statistics all over the world that the available time seems really little… I wish that spring will be exciting and productive for all of us.

As to the current activities of ISBIS, the organization of ISBIS 2014 biennial international conference is progressing smoothly. Let me remind you that ISBIS is organizing ISBIS 2014 jointly with the American Statistical Association’s Section on Statistical Learning and Data Mining (SLDM).

The ISBIS 2014 and SLDM meeting takes place on 9-11 June 2014 and is hosted at Durham Convention Center (North Carolina, USA) by the Department of Statistical Science at Duke University.

Updated information on the program is provided later in this newsletter. Here, I would like to thank very warmly and sincerely David Banks (Chair of the Scientific Program and the Organizing Committees) for all his work and valuable contribution to the design and the organization of the conference. I am sure ISBIS 2014 will be a great success both scientifically and socially, highly appreciated by all conference delegates. I certainly hope to see many of you there!

Let me draw your attention to two specific and highly attractive features of ISBIS 2014:

ASA-NISS Best y-BIS Paper Awards
ISI-World Bank-ISBIS Travel Support

ASA-NISS Best y-BIS Paper Awards

Young Researchers attending ISBIS-2014 are eligible to compete for the ASA/NISS Best y-BIS Paper Awards. The best-paper awards consist of a cash prize, and there are separate awards for statisticians from developed and developing nations (3 places for each category!). I am very grateful to the American Statistical Association (ASA), and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences in the US (NISS) for their continued support of the award.

If you are interested in participating in this competition, please send the paper and your curriculum vitae to Dr. Eric Laber (eblaber@ncsu.edu) by May 1, 2014.

ISI-World Bank-ISBIS Travel Support

A limited amount of travel support is available to participants from developing nations. This support is made available by the International Statistical Institute (our parent organisation, which receives funding from The World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building) and by ISBIS. Travel support will be allocated among applicants based upon the decisions made by a committee that I have the honour to chair. Preference will be given
to young statisticians, participants who will speak or present a poster, and to those who have not received
World Bank funding in the past. Typically, only partial funding will be provided, so applicants are expected to
get partial support from other sources.

To apply for travel funding, send email to me (vinzi@essec.edu) and to David Banks (banks@stat.duke.edu).

More detailed information is available at the conference website: http://www.stat.duke.edu/~banks/dcc/
index.html.

For a complete list of recent and upcoming ISBIS-related conferences, please browse the Society website at
isbis.org.

As announced in the previous issue of ISBIS News, we are currently discussing plans for our strategic plan to be put in
place over the next couple of years. I hope to report on it in the near future as there are several challenges facing our
Society as well as our sister Societies within ISI and finally ISI as a whole.

Among the several challenges, we are aware that ISBIS has to offer additional benefits to members (both current and
potential ones!) and make the individual participation of members in our Society more active and interesting. In this
respect, we need to take into account that members from different parts of the world and with different profiles (e.g.
academics and professionals just to mention the most obvious categories) clearly have different needs. I believe that
we shall differentiate our offer to accommodate the diversity of expectations but we shall also represent the “place”
where different communities meet to exchange and learn from each other.

With this perspective in mind, in the first quarter of 2014 our efforts have mainly, but not exclusively, focused on devel‐
oping and promoting new activities coherently with both our mission and the ISI statistical capacity building goals.

A few members of the SBIS Executive Committee are currently working on planning short courses in some developing
countries, namely in the region of Latin America and Asia. These projects are being planned under the leadership of
Nalini Ravishanker (nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu - ISBIS Vice-President Scientific Programme).

At present, we are looking for colleagues who are interested in teaching these courses. The closest opportunity for such
courses is offered by “The International Conference in Quality and Applied Statistics” that will be held in Lima, Peru on
August 13-15, 2014. If you plan to attend, and you would like to volunteer to do a short course for 1.5 hours on any one
of these three days, please let Nalini and Susana Vegas Chiyón (susana.vegas@udep.pe) know.

More generally, it would be very helpful to the development of this activity if ISBIS members from developing countries
get in touch with either me or Nalini and let us know the main area of needs in statistical capacity building linked to
business and industry in their region.

Workshops and short courses are obvious activities we can organize and offer either as ISBIS-specific happenings or in
 collaboration with other ISI sister Societies. Nowadays, these activities may be run on site or as distance-learning expe‐
riences by exploiting the most recent technology, e.g. live webinars and pre-recorded videos. This is a “call for needs”
to our members in developing regions but also a “call for expertise” to the outstanding scholars and trainers that are
ISBIS members and I hope will rise up to put their knowledge and experience to the service of the ISBIS community.
Please write directly to me at vinzi@essec.edu and we can have off-line discussions.

On another note, we are currently exploring ways of designing an effective ISBIS communication plan based on re‐
newed content and tools. This plan is being designed on potential enhancements to ISBIS website and News by eventually
launching new activities and planning new additions to the content that is currently available and the functions that
are already featured by the ISBIS News and website.

I firmly believe that the more ISBIS members get voluntarily involved in different activities and collaborate with each
other, the more our Society is likely to provide a significant contribution to a larger scientific and professional
community spread over a wider range of geographical regions. We will then become even more attractive to potential new members while providing additional benefits to our current members.

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As usual, I strongly encourage each of you to submit news and items that might feed the content of both ISBIS News and ISBIS website so as to make them unique and become the ISBIS communication means that you always wanted! In this respect, please feel free to contact the ISBIS News Editorial team and Webmaster (contacts available at isbis.org/executive.html).

In preparation to the ISI World Statistics Congress in 2015 in Rio, I remind everyone that, following a decision taken by the ISBIS Council in March 2013, the ISBIS President’s invited session at ISI World Statistics Congress has been named the “William S. Gosset ISBIS Lecture”. This Lecture is meant to give more prestige to ISBIS and to make invitations more attractive to outstanding lecturers.

I am very pleased and honored to inform you that William (Bill) Meeker from Iowa State University is the ISBIS Gosset lecturer at ISI WSC 2015 in Rio with a lecture on: "Reliability in the 21st Century". I want to thank Bill for having enthusiastically accepted our invitation.

I also take this opportunity to remind that you can always access the latest and past News from the World of Statistics, the successor to the International Year of Statistics, at: worldofstatistics.org.

Finally, the members of the ISBIS Executive Committee and Council are very interested in hearing from each of you about proposals to organize and run any activities in the spirit of the ISBIS mission. Please e-mail any one of us with your inspiring suggestions, your current interests, as well as dreams for the future of our Society!

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi, ISBIS President

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The ASMBI Report

I would like to share with you exciting news about the two latest ASMBI issues. The last 2013 issue (volume 29, issue 6) contains three invited papers on Electricity Load Forecasting, whereas the first 2014 issue (volume 30, issue 1) is entitled Remembering George Box.

In the former issue, the three papers are:

- **Multivariate dynamic regression: modeling and forecasting for intraday electricity load** by Migon and Alves (Brazil)
- **Short-term forecasting of the daily load curve for residential electricity usage in the Smart Grid** by Hosking, Natarajan, Ghosh, Subramanian and Zhang (USA)
- **Electrical load forecasting by exponential smoothing with covariates** by Goeb, Lurz and Pievato (Germany and Italy)
I would like to thank the authors, the referees and the discussants (Gutiérrez-Peña and Mendoza, Palma, Espasa and Durban, Aung, Muñoz, Weron and Taylor) for a very remarkable issue.

Bovas Abraham and David Steinberg have been the Guest Editors of the latter issue honouring George Box. Bovas and David contacted some former students, colleagues and friends of the late George Box, invited them to write some papers and took care of all the editorial process, in cooperation with Nalini Ravishanker, ASMBI Editor. They were also able to obtain from Claire Box (Box's widow) the first paper Box published in 1939: I would like to thank her for the courtesy and the very valuable contribution and people at Wiley (Steve Raywood, first of all) who dealt with the copyright matters. The list of papers is the following:

- George E.P.Box by Abraham and Steinberg
- Rate of solution of air and rate of transfer for sewage treatment by activated sludge processes by Hicks and Box
- George Box in the 1950s by Hunter
- George Box: His interface with industry and its impact by Hill
- A journey of discovery with George Box by Bacon
- George Box's contributions to time series analysis and forecasting by Ljung, Ledolter and Abraham
- George Box and the design of experiments: statistics and discovery by Steinberg
- George Box and Robust Design by Jones
- An overview of George Box's contributions to process monitoring and feedback adjustment by Woodall and del Castillo
- George Box and Bayesian inference by Meyer
- George Box, quality, and improving almost anything by Fung

It is a great honour for ASMBI to host such contributions remembering a pioneer of our profession and I would like to thank all the authors for having made this issue possible.

I would like to inform you also on ASMBI and the ISBIS 2014 and SLDM Meeting to be held in Durham, NC, USA on June 9-11, 2014. As usual, we are going to organise a session which will lead to a discussion paper to be published later in the journal. This year the speaker will be John Peterson (GlaxoSmithKline, USA) and he will present a paper on "A Posterior Predictive Approach to Process Conformance Optimization with Complex Multivariate Models". Furthermore, everyone presenting a paper at the meeting is kindly invited to submit it to the journal by October 31st, 2014 through the website http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmb, mentioning the ISBIS 2014 special issue. Of course, your papers are always welcome and subject to the usual tough reviewing process which has characterised ASMBI over all its history. I just realised, when writing these notes, that this year we are publishing the 30-th issue of ASMBI (formerly Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis) and next year we will celebrate 30 years since the start of its publications in 1985.

I remind you that each ISBIS member is entitled to get free access to the journal through the ISBIS website. I hope you will enjoy reading the papers we are publishing, especially the ones from the two latest issues.

Fabrizio Ruggeri, ASMBI Editor-in-Chief (fabrizio@mi.imati.cn)
ISBIS 2014
Data Mining in Business and Industry
Durham, North Carolina, USA
June 9-11, 2014

ISBIS-2014 will be held on June 9-11 in Durham, North Carolina, USA. It is a joint meeting with the American Statistical Association's Section on Statistical Learning and Data Mining, and the theme is Data Mining in Business and Industry. The website for the conference is at

www.stat.duke.edu/~banks/dcc/

and all ISBIS members are warmly invited to attend. The block of hotel rooms for the conference expires soon, on March 1.

Claudia Perlich                                       Xihong Lin
David Dunson

There is a stellar line-up of speakers. The three keynote addresses are by Claudia Perlich, of Distillery, Xihong Lin, at Harvard University, and David Dunson, at Duke University. Claudia won the ARF Grand Innovation Award and the 2011 KDD ACM Best Paper Award. David and Xihong are both COPSS Award winners. Claudia will speak on "Facing the Predictive Modeling Paradox: The Art of Making Do with the Data You Have, Not the Data You Wish You Could Get." Xihong will talk on "Signal Detection in Association Analysis of Genome-wide Genetic and Genomic Data." And David will speak on "Big Bayes." Additionally, the current program for the conference, with all of the speakers and most of the titles, is posted on the conference website.
The organizers wish to gratefully acknowledge the support of the SAS Institute, which is hosting the reception on Monday evening, as well as support from the American Statistical Association and Google.

David Banks, Chair of the Organizing Committee, ISBIS President Elect

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**ISBIS Sponsored Conferences and Other Events**

**3-day Course on PLS Path Modeling: Basic Concepts and Foundations, Advances and Applications.** To be held on 21-23 May 2014 (the week before the PLS’14 conference) in Paris, France. Taught by W.W. Chin, V. Esposito Vinzi and M. Tenenhaus, who are leading researchers in the area. The detailed agenda (with further information on registration, contact details and instructor profiles) is available at: [http://www.xlstat.com/en/learning-center/training/session/33.html](http://www.xlstat.com/en/learning-center/training/session/33.html).

For any further information, contact Ms. Anne-Cécile Vigé (acvige@xlstat.com).


**The International Conference in Quality and Applied Statistics.** To be held on August 13-15 2014 at the Lima Campus of Universidad de Piura in the capital city of Lima, Peru. For information, contact the General Conference Coordinator, Dr. Susana Vegas Chiyón at susana.vegas@udep.pe.

**National Conference on “Excellence in quality, statistical quality control and customer satisfaction”**. To take place on 18-19 September 2014 at the University Campus “Luigi Einaudi”, Turin University, Lungo Dora Siena, Turin, Italy. ISBIS is an active participant with one Invited Paper Session organized by Fabrizio Ruggeri (CNR-IMATI, Italy and ASMBI’s Editor-in-Chief) and has Irena Ograjenšek (University of Ljubljana – Slovenia and ISBIS Council member) and Antonio Pievato (CNR-IMATI, Italy) as speakers. For full details visit the conference website at [http://torinoqscscs.wordpress.com/](http://torinoqscscs.wordpress.com/).

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**A Very Profitable Week in Moscow**

Last August (2013), while at the ISI meeting (Hong Kong), I had the opportunity to meet Professor Elena V. Zarova, D.Sc. (Economics), Vice Rector for Science of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics and Chair of ISI Central Eurasia Outreach Committee, and Dr. Maria Frolova from Togliatti Academy of Management (Russia). They proposed that I participate as an ISBIS Council member in the international conference “Modernization of Economics and Social Spheres in
Russia and CIS Countries: Quantitative Research Methods.” The conference took place at the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics in Moscow, last December. I also served on the committee that selected the best student essays. This selection was not easy, because the essays that students presented in the competition were all of high quality and it was very difficult for us to decide who the winners were.

I have to say it was an unforgettable experience, not only for the quality of the student presentations, but for the effort, organization and hospitality of the organizers who looked after me. The truth is that without the collaboration of Elena and Maria, nothing would have come out as well as it did. I must also thank Professor Victor I. Grishin, Rector of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, for his support to this initiative.

I had the chance to teach a course on time series to the students of that University. This course contained theoretical and practical sessions using the R package. Wonderful! I was very impressed by the scientific level that students had, as well as their affability. Some of them did not know R and quickly learned. If I were there right now, I would tell them to continue in this way. As a forecaster, I predict that they will be very successful.

And now let’s focus on the fun part. Unimaginable! It couldn’t have been better! There were very interesting dinners with the university authorities, a performance of the Russian ballet, and the visit to the Kremlin. All of it was spectacular! I could never have imagined the magnitude of the enclosure, the beauty of the cathedrals inside Red Square, Lenin’s Mausoleum, the guards’ changing at the Unknown Soldier Tomb, and a long etcetera of places we visited. At this point I would like to thank the team of University – Prof. Elena Tikhomirova (Dean of the Mathematical Economics and Informatics Department) and Katerina Shestaeva (Head of the International Research Projects and Programs Division), who showed us the Kremlin in great detail. Without their support, suggestions, and information, it would not have been the same. Believe me!

I hope and desire to maintain this collaboration in the future, because I sincerely believe that it can be very fruitful.

M. Pilar Muñoz, ISBIS Council Member

A New Journal: Quality Issues and Insights in the 21st Century

Quality Issues and Insights in the 21st Century is an international, periodical scientific journal publishing original research across the whole spectrum of quality. The journal is affiliated with the Lithuanian Scientific Society. The journal’s Editorial Board and staff are committed to building QIIC into the leading scientific journal in its field by publishing articles of outstanding scientific quality that merit the attention and interest of the whole quality community. An issue of QIIC is planned for April-May 2014. Details on the journal and the submission procedures are available at http://www jbse websinfo lt QIIC Quality_Issues_Insights htm.

David Steinberg, ISBIS Vice-President for Communications
A Canadian Volume in Celebration of the International Year of Statistics

In early 2013 the Statistical Society of Canada commissioned a volume of expository articles in celebration of the 2013 International Year of Statistics. The resulting book *Statistics in Action: A Canadian Outlook* is being published by Taylor and Francis/CRC Press in March 2014. By agreement with the publisher, an electronic version will be freely available at [www.ssc.ca/statistics-in-action](http://www.ssc.ca/statistics-in-action). The objectives for the volume are to present for a general audience some of the ways that statistics contributes to science, technology, business, government and other areas, while highlighting important contributions being made by Canadians. We hope that in addition to serving an educational function, the book will motivate students and others to learn more about statistics and its role in diverse fields. The volume was edited by Jerry Lawless and prepared for publication by Christian Genest. It features 21 articles by leading Canadian researchers, covering a wide range of statistical methodology. Many subject areas are represented within the applications described, including climate change, e-commerce, ecology, financial engineering, genetics, medicine, public health and resource management. Two articles, on the development of statistics in Canada, and on Statistics Canada’s contributions to survey methodology, provide historical perspectives. A table of contents can be found on the web site.

Jerry Lawless

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**NEWS**

Canada

**Bovas Abraham Receives the Shewhart Medal**

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) has announced that Bovas Abraham is the recipient of the Shewhart Medal of the Society. It will be awarded during the ASQ’s World Quality Congress to be held in Dallas, Texas in May 2014. The Shewhart Medal recognizes outstanding leadership in modern quality control. Bovas Abraham is an honorary member of the Statistical Society of Canada and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Professor Abraham is the founding President of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS). In Canada, he founded and served as first President of the Business and Industrial Statistics Section of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC). More recently, Professor Abraham served as SSC President. He was the Director of the Institute for Improvement in Quality and Productivity at the University of Waterloo for nearly ten years. Bovas is also a recipient of many other awards, a Fellow of the American Society for Quality, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association,
a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, and an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute. In addition he holds the Service Award from the International Statistical Institute (2007) and the William G. Hunter award from the Statistics Division of the American Society for Quality (2006). The citation for the Shewhart Medal reads,

To Bovas Abraham, in the year 2014, for outstanding contributions to quality improvement through research, teaching, and consulting; and for leadership in professional societies and education, and outreach through conference organization.

Professor Stefan Steiner, former ISBIS Council member and Scientific Program Chair for ISBIS 2010 in Portoroz, Slovenia, has been appointed Chair of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of University of Waterloo for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2014. Since 2004 Professor Steiner has been the Director of the Business and Industrial Statistics Research Group (BISRG) at the University of Waterloo. From 2003-2004 he was the Director of the predecessor of BISRG, namely the Institute for Improvement in Quality and Productivity. In 2013 he received fellowship in the American Society for Quality. Professor Steiner joined the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science in 1995.

United Arab Emirates

Dr. Faisal G. Khamis, who is a faculty member in the Department of Finance & Banking, College of Business Administration, Al Ain University of Science and Technology, UAE, had a very successful 2013 year. He was awarded the titles of Chartered Statistician, Chartered Scientist, and Consultant in Statistics, all from the Royal Statistical Society. He also received a Plaque of Appreciation from the Arab Statisticians Union, Jordan. Dr. Khamis has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Statistics and Analysis (IJSA), India, and the Journal of Islamic Banking and Finance (JIBF), USA. He also serves as Associate Editor for Academia Publishing (National Journal of Social Sciences), UK; SCIKNOW Publications (Econometrics, Open Journal of Mathematical Modeling, International Journal of Maternal and Child Health, and Open Journal of Social Science Research), USA; and the International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS), India. Dr. Khamis’ research interests cover the areas of Applied Multivariate Statistics, Public Health, Spatial Statistics, and Simulation.

Editor’s Notes

In this issue, ASMBI’s Editor-in-Chief Fabrizio Ruggeri highlights in his report the very interesting articles published in the last two issues of our research journal. The larger-than-life impact George Box had combined with the high quality of the articles make the “Remembering George Box” issue enticing to read. In fact, Wiley has made it a sample issue available for free for wide reading at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/subject/code/000113/homepage/free_online_sample_issues.htm. Please make this known to your friends, colleagues or fellow employees.
ISBIS 2014 in Durham, NC is shaping up to be a great meeting. Under the steady hand of chief organizer David Banks, the emerging program looks very interesting. If you were late in booking your accommodation with the Marriot City Center Hotel-Durham, there are plenty of hotels within the vicinity of the Durham Convention Center. A list (with links) of hotels within 5 miles of the DCC can be found at http://hotelguides.com/attraction-maps/north-carolina/map-hotels-near-durham-convention-center-nc.html. You will find a good selection on rates.

Pilar Muños’ report on her trip to Russia, exciting as it was, could be a potential starting point to expand the ISBIS presence in that part of the world. Pilar had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with a number of key people in her trip. Little is known about Russia’s statistics activities (societies, conferences, programs, etc.). The ISI directory of statistical societies, available at http://www.isi-web.org/images/statsoc/NSSlist.pdf, lists a handful of societies from some of the former Russian Federation countries.

This issue brings some member news from a few other countries. We would love to publish more news from you. I have no doubt there are a lot of happenings among our ISBIS members, we warmly invite you to send your news for publication in the newsletter. Promotions, new positions, awards and new books are all welcome as news. Also if you know of conferences and workshops taking place in your area, please let us know and we will be delighted to put a note in the newsletter.

I am very grateful to Yili Hong and David Steinberg for their help with the newsletter. Yili helps to keep communications with the ISI office in shape, particularly about ISBIS news and activities worth highlighting in the ISI news outlets. David helps with proofing. Both also keep an eye for items and happenings for the newsletter of potential interest to ISBIS members. Yili and David are the first members of the ISBIS News’ Associate Editors team that is in the process of assembling.

Happy reading!

Román Viveros-Aguilera, Editor, ISBIS News