Dear members of ISBIS,

It is my greatest pleasure to address a message to you at the end of the academic year as it also coincides with the end of my first year as President of ISBIS. The past 12 months were highly productive for the ISBIS community and rich in exciting events! I suggest that you go over the four *ISBIS News* (including this current one), issued since December 2013 and available on line at isbis.org, to have a few significant examples of how active our community is.

In the mid-June, ISBIS community gathered in Durham (NC, USA) for the ISBIS 2014 biennial international conference that was organized jointly with the American Statistical Association's Section on Statistical Learning and Data Mining (SLDM).

Here, I want to express – also on behalf of the roughly 300 delegates who attended the conference - all my gratitude and appreciation to David Banks who was in charge of the whole organization of ISBIS 2014 and did a magnificent job! ISBIS is also grateful to SAS for having graciously hosted a delicious conference reception at the famous SAS campus in Cary.

You can read David’s detailed report on ISBIS 2014 in the following pages. I was personally amazed, and certainly pleased, by the number of non-ISBIS members that the conference attracted also thanks to the collaboration with ASA’s section on SLDM. There is certainly a high potential for members of this larger community to become ISBIS members and thus benefit from the services and the networking provided by ISBIS. I believe that each ISBIS member can share this issue of *ISBIS News* with his/her colleagues who are not yet ISBIS members and thus contribute to spread a positive buzz about ISBIS by word-of-mouth.

As a first outcome of the relationships established at ISBIS 2014 in Durham, ISBIS will endorse a conference on Design and Analysis of Experiments (DAE 2015), to be hosted by the SAS Institute on March 4-6, 2015 in Cary and organized by Ryan Lekivetz and Bradley Jones. This will be the eighth in a series of conferences that attracts about 100 participants, mainly junior researchers (including graduate students) who will also be well represented among the speakers. The meetings also attract top-notch senior researchers, primarily from North America and Europe, and emphasize interaction between junior and senior researchers.

During ISBIS 2014, a few ISBIS-related administrative meetings took place: ISBIS Executive Committee, ISBIS Council and ISBIS General Assembly. In this issue of *ISBIS News*, you will
some of the relevant reports presented and discussed at these meetings:

- Report on *ASMBI (Applied Stochastic Models for Business and Industry)* journal by Fabrizio Ruggeri (ASMBI Editor-in-Chief) comprising the list of ongoing special issues and discussion papers but also showing very clearly how *ASMBI* editorial objectives and fields of interest are coherent with ISBIS mission. I truly hope that ISBIS members submit more and more frequently and spontaneously to ASMBI their good papers with innovative methodologies and sound applications;

- Report on the development of the Scientific Program of ISBIS by Nalini Ravishanker (ISBIS Vice-President Scientific Program) with information on two ISBIS workshops for January 2015 in India and the proposal for an ISBIS Satellite Meeting to the ISI World Statistics Congress in Rio 2015 on Business and Industrial Statistics with a focus on Quality Control and Improvement (Campinas, 23-25 July 2015). This project is subject to approval by ISI.

- Report on ISBIS Membership by Martina Vandebroek (ISBIS Vice-President for Membership) with significant information on up-to-date membership figures and a highly relevant reminder of what ISBIS provides to both current members and potential new ones in terms of the variety of products and services, as well as networking opportunities, including activities aimed at promoting the careers of students and recent graduates.

More generally, the ISBIS Executive Committee and Council meetings in Durham were very useful to make progress on our strategic and communications plan, our challenges to develop further, as well as the classical issues of membership participation and recruitment.

In this framework, we discussed potential developments of *ISBIS News* and website. At this stage, I want to warmly thank Román Viveros-Aguilera (Editor of *ISBIS News* since October 2013) who has done a lot of successful efforts to lead the activity of the ISBIS Editorial team in collaboration with Naveen Narisetty as ISBIS webmaster and Yili Hong as the editorial support to ISBIS News and contact for ISI Monthly News. Regarding the content of *ISBIS News*, over the past ten months most of the effort was placed on encouraging Executive and Council members to contribute with reports on the work they do for the Society. At the membership level, the Editorial team has constantly invited the submission of announcements of events or reports on them after they are held, as well as items about promotions, appointments, awards and publication of books as you can also see in the last few pages of this issue of *ISBIS News*.

The next development of the *ISBIS News* editorial policy will concern the publication of interviews and profiles of ISBIS members, without forgetting more pictures from ISBIS-related events and people. We will soon proceed to the identification of good candidates to interview and/or to profile. Obviously, the bar needs to be set high with the first published material. If you have any suggestions (that is certainly welcomed!), please get in touch with Román Viveros-Aguilera (rviveros@math.mcmaster.ca).

In the medium term, we also aim to further enrich the content of *ISBIS News* by publishing scientific discussions and consulting advice from members on topics related to Business and Industrial Statistics.

We also agreed about the need to distribute each issue of *ISBIS News* to as large an audience as possible beyond ISBIS members thus including other scientific communities and professionals who are not yet ISBIS members but potentially interested in the products, services and networking provided by ISBIS.

As a completely new activity for ISBIS, we will soon launch a series of web lectures made available exclusively to ISBIS members on the ISBIS website at the Members-Only section. Indeed, this is quite an ambitious project that might be accompanied in a later development phase by webinars, a Q&A or discussion forum and
more advanced technological features. The launching phase will be based on recording ISBIS-specific lectures (for instance, at conferences) and courses so as to make them available to ISBIS members. We are currently defining the topics of the first courses and setting up an ad hoc sub-committee within the ISBIS Executive Committee and Council so as to follow up and support this project closely. More news to come in the fall, stay tuned!

Finally, in line with ISI’s clearly stated mission of statistical capacity building, we have reaffirmed that ISBIS will support the development of short courses and workshops in specific regions of the world on a regular basis.

Please do not hesitate to e-mail any of the members on the ISBIS Executive Committee or Council with your inspiring comments and suggestions, as your own contribution will be highly beneficial to making ISBIS an even better and more attractive Society!

At this stage, please allow me to share with you how lucky I am as President of ISBIS to be surrounded by such a fantastic team of Executive Committee and Council members. Their substantial volunteer work for our Society is always accomplished timely, efficiently and to the full benefit of the ISBIS community. They definitely deserve that you have a look at their names (and faces!) at: www.isbis.org/executive.html.

I truly wish you are enjoying a relaxing summer break and look forward to fruitful exchanges with you all at the beginning of next academic year.

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi, ISBIS President

Report on ISBIS-2014

On June 9-11, the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics held its biennial conference. This time the conference was jointly sponsored with the American Statistical Association's Section on Statistical Learning and Data Mining, and the theme was Data Mining in Business and Industry. It was a happy combination, and pointed up the expanding role for statistics in the information technology industries. The conference was held in Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A., and had 298 participants from 19 different nations.

The keynote speakers were Claudia Perlich, from Dsitillery, David Dunson, from Duke University, and Xihong Lin, from Harvard. Their talks were topical: Claudia addressed problems in computational advertising and related fields, David discussed issues in applying Bayesian methods to big data problems, and Xihong described big data challenges in bioinformatics. David and Xihong are both recipients of the COPSS Award, and Claudia has won both the KDD ACM Best Paper Award and the Advertising Research Foundation's Grand Innovation Award.

The conference reception on Monday evening was graciously hosted at the SAS campus in Cary, NC. The facilities and the food were excellent, and the organizers thank SAS and its participants in the conference, especially John Saul and Brad Jones, for providing such a lavish celebration. The following picture shows a number of conference attendees as they prepare to board one of the buses that ferried people to the extensive
As part of the grand banquet on Tuesday, there was a Best Paper Competition for young researchers. The Awards Committee was chaired by Eric Laber of North Carolina State University, and the winner was Guan Yu from UNC Chapel Hill, for his paper on “Sparse Regression Incorporating Graphical Structure Among Predictors.” Funding for the award was jointly provided by the American Statistical Association and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences.

Also as part of the banquet, ISBIS and the ASA SLDM Section jointly sponsored a poster session, which was organized and chaired by Sounak Chakraborty from the University of Missouri. There were 16 posters, and there was a tie for first place between David Lawlor of Duke University and the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute, and Fulton Wang of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The second-place award was won by Lao Kenao of ENSAE-Senegal. Funds for these awards were equally provided by the two sponsors of the conference.
The Organizing Committee for the conference consisted of David Banks, of Duke University, Hongyuan Cao of the University of Chicago, Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi of ESSEC in Paris, Eric Laber of North Carolina State University, Yufeng Liu of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cynthia Rudin of MIT, and Yichao Wu of North Carolina State University. They were greatly supported in this effort by Sounak Chakraborty, who single-handedly organized the poster session and chaired its Awards Committee.

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

The ASMBI Report

Several weeks ago we organised the “usual” ASMBI session at ISBIS-2014 in Durham (USA) and we had a great talk by John Peterson (GlaxoSmithKline, USA) on "A Posterior Predictive Approach to Process Conformance Optimization with Complex Multivariate Models", followed by the very stimulating discussions by David Edwards (Virginia Commonwealth University, USA) and Debddeep Pati (Florida State University, USA). You will find the paper and the discussion in ASMBI in due time.

In the meanwhile, people who attended ISBIS-2014 are strongly invited to submit their papers by October 31st, 2014 through the website http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmb, mentioning the ISBIS-2014 special issue.

The forthcoming issue of ASMBI contains the discussion paper on “Start-up Demonstration Tests: Models, Methods and Applications, with Some Unifications” by Balakrishnan, Koutras and Milienos. I invite all of you to use your ISBIS privileges (free access to ASMBI!) to read the paper: it is really worthwhile!

The other forthcoming discussion papers are:

• Lee, Pao and Huang on “Statistical learning methods for information security: Theory and case studies”
• Weaver and Meeker on “Methods for planning repeated measures accelerated degradation tests”
• Mueller, Pronzato, Rendas and Waldl on “Efficient prediction designs for random fields”
• Esposito Vinzi and Trinchera on “Component-based predictive path modeling and multi-block data analysis”

We have some special issues on which guest editors (mostly from our Editorial Board) are working:

• 2013 Quality and Productivity Research Conference in Naskayuna, USA (and Emmanuel Yashchin is working also to get papers from QPRC-2014 in Seattle, USA)
• Mathematical Methods in Reliability 2013 in Stellenbosch, South Africa (with Maxim Finkelstein as guest editor)

(Continued on page 8)
ISBIS-2014 IN PICTURES
Photographers: Richard Andrew Cooper (Duke University, USA) and Imad Bou-Hamad (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)
• Future of Statistical Modelling in Business and Industry (Ron Kenett and Galit Shmueli have been able to get an impressive list of authors and topics: more on it just before its publication in January 2015)
• Stochastic Methods in Mining Industry (with Rodney Wolff and Orietta Nicolis as guest editors)

And, just to conclude, here is the list of papers published in the latest issue of the journal (see http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asmb.v30.3/issuetoc):

- Parameter estimation of an agent-based stock price model
- Knowledge-based scenario tree generation methods and application in multiperiod portfolio selection problem
- Analyzing risky choices: Q-learning for deal-no-deal
- Forecasting retained earnings of privately held companies with PCA and L1 regression
- Assessing the reliability of a nanocomponent using nanocrack growth
- On spatial contagion and multivariate GARCH models
- Monitoring the mean of multivariate financial time series
- Multivariate risk models under heavy-tailed risks
- On allocating redundancies to k-out-of-n reliability systems

As you can see, ASMBI is covering many fields, just like ISBIS. We try to get papers which could be of interest also for people not specialised in that particular field, trying to promote cross-fertilisation and stimulating researches and applications, according to our favourite statement when describing the papers we (Editorial Board) want for our and your journal: "innovative methodologies with sound applications". As usual, we are waiting for you to submit, read and spread news about ASMBI.

Fabrizio Ruggeri, ASMBI Editor-in-Chief (fabrizio@mi.imati.cn)

Wiley’s Discount for Books Has Been Increased

ISBIS is pleased to announce that the discount for regular books published by Wiley has been increased to 35% for ISBIS members in good standing. Check the Members-Only section of the Society’s website (www.isbis.org) to learn about how to claim the discount next time you purchase a book from Wiley.
Upcoming ISBIS Workshops in India

Two ISBIS co-sponsored capacity building workshops on Statistical Modeling Relevant to Business and Industry are planned for January 2015 in India.

1. A workshop in Chennai is proposed for January 2-3, 2015, and will be co-sponsored by ISBIS, the Indian Statistical Institute, the International Indian Statistical Association, University of Madras, and the Chennai Mathematical Institute.

2. A workshop, in Cochin is proposed for January 5-7, 2015, and will be co-sponsored by ISBIS and the Cochin University for Science and Technology (CUSAT).

Both workshops will include sessions presented by experts in areas of statistical modeling that are relevant to business and industry, including reliability, time series, methods for high frequency and big data, R for data analysis, etc. The purpose of these workshops is to provide an opportunity for graduate students, teaching and research faculty, and employees from business and industry, to benefit from learning state-of-the-art methodology and application in different areas of statistics. We expect that this would lead to enhanced classroom teaching in local institutions, enhanced undergraduate and graduate level research, enhanced workforce preparation, and perhaps some ongoing interactions between presenters and participants. Further details are available from Nalini Ravishanker (nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu). An expansion of such activities to other places in collaboration with local institutions would be an attractive future activity plan for ISBIS.

The ISI-2015-WSC ISBIS Satellite meeting Business and Industrial Statistics Meeting with focus on Quality Control and Improvement is being proposed by Emanuel Pimentel Barbosa (emanuel@ime.unicamp.br). Subject to approval by ISI, this satellite meeting will be held at Campinas State University, Campinas, SP, from 23-25 July 2015. The city of Campinas is just 90 km from São Paulo and about an hour flight from Rio de Janeiro. The aim of this meeting is to get together statisticians, engineers, and other professionals from many different backgrounds and geographic locations (from within Brazil and abroad), who are involved/interested in this extremely important area of Quality. Participants would include students, lecturers and professors, researchers, and industry professionals, who will get together in order to exchange ideas and experiences. This meeting will also include a short course on multivariate process control offered by Emmanuel Yashchin from IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, NY, who is a leading expert in this area.

Nalini Ravishanker, ISBIS Vice-President, Scientific Program
ISBIS Membership Is Up

The mid-2014 membership figures indicate that ISBIS has now 281 members worldwide. Among them, 28 have stayed within the Society since its founding. We are pleased to report that 30 new members were recruited this year, this represents an increase of about 12%.

In July, an e-mail was sent to all members containing the new login information for the Members-Only section on the ISBIS website www.isbis.org. In this section, you can find the member list, reports of ISBIS meetings and free access to the ISBIS research journal Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI).

A reminder was sent to recent members who have not yet paid their membership fee for 2014 along with a questionnaire to get feedback and suggestions. A summary of the results will be put on the members-only section.

A reminder to current members and potential new members that ISBIS provides a variety of products and services as well as networking opportunities, including activities aimed at promoting the careers of students and recent graduates. In particular, ISBIS features:

- Biennial international conferences that cover case studies, applications, best practices, and state-of-the-art research developments, and attracts participants from across the world;
- An active slate of regional conferences and workshops as well as meetings that are co-organized with local societies to focus on the specific needs of the regions;
- An international journal, Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI) with free on-line access to ISBIS members;
- A regular newsletter, ISBIS News, sent by e-mail to all members and freely available in the ISBIS website (http://www.isbis.org/publications.html);
- 35% discount for ISBIS members on all Wiley books;
- A website www.isbis.org that provides a broad range of information;
- A Members-Only area with free access to ASMBI and ISBIS sponsored events;
- A Young Statisticians’ group (y-BIS) that was formed as part of ISBIS to facilitate communications among people starting their careers and that provides support in a variety of ways — jobs network, Help Desk, social networking site. (For more information, contact Eric Laber at eblaber@ncsu.edu);
- Lowest rates at all official ISBIS events.

Any individuals interested in joining the Society will find all the application materials at http://www.isbis.org/membership.html.

Martina Vandebroek, Vice-President for Membership
ENBIS-14: A Reminder

This year’s annual conference will be held on **22-24 September 2014 in Linz, Austria.** ENBIS-14 will feature a number of distinguished keynote speakers, invited and contributed sessions, workshops and panel discussions, as well as short pre- and post-conference courses. Among the confirmed keynote speakers for ENBIS-14 are **William Meeker**, Iowa State University (USA); **Enrique del Castillo**, Penn State University (USA) and **Luigi del Re**, Johannes Kepler University (AUT).

Confirmed pre- and post-conference events in the framework of ENBIS-14 are:

- Course on **R as an Extension of Excel** by Erich Neuwirth.
- Course on **Design of Experiments (DOE) with JMP** by Volker Kraft.

Please also note that the normal registration fee cut-off date is **September 1st, 2014**. Simply log into ENBIS Web at [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org), go to the Upcoming Events / ENBIS-14, and submit your abstract. If you are not yet a member of ENBIS, register first – it’s easy and there is no membership fee.

Should you need any conference-related information that is not available on the website, please feel free to contact **Marco Reis**, University of Coimbra (Portugal), Chair of the ENBIS-14 Programme Committee ([marco@eq.uc.pt](mailto:marco@eq.uc.pt)) or **Helmut Waldl**, Johannes Kepler University (Austria), Chair of the ENBIS-14 Local Organizing Committee ([helmut.waldl@jku.at](mailto:helmut.waldl@jku.at)).

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**Marco Seabra dos Reis, Chair of the Programme Committee of ENBIS-14**

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**ISBIS Sponsored Conferences and Other Events**

**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 visit the conference website at [http://beta.udep.edu.pe/ingenieria/conferencia-internacional-de-calidad-y-estadistica-aplicada-cicea/](http://beta.udep.edu.pe/ingenieria/conferencia-internacional-de-calidad-y-estadistica-aplicada-cicea/) or contact the General Conference Coordinator, Dr. **Susana Vegas Chiyón**, at [susana.vegas@udep.pe](mailto: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 Pievatolo** (CNR-IMATI, Italy) as speakers. For full details visit the conference website at [http://torinoqcscs.wordpress.com/](http://torinoqcscs.wordpress.com/).

ISBIS is sponsoring an invited session at the **ISI Regional Statistics Conference 2014** to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on **16-19 November 2014** (see [http://www.isi-rsc2014.my/](http://www.isi-rsc2014.my/)). The session is organised by **Fabrizio Ruggeri** (CNR IMATI, Italy) who will give a talk entitled "On Bayesian estimation of thermal diffusivity in materials". **Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi** (ESSEC, France) will present work on "Projections to Latent Structures: Model Assessment and Interpretation Features with Business-related Applications", whereas **Gentry White** (QUT, Australia) will talk on "Intrinsic and Exogenous Effects in Self-exciting Process Models for Terrorist Activity and Social Conflict".

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**NEWS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Canada**

[Photo of N. Balakrishnan]

Professor **N. Balakrishnan** has been appointed University Research Professor (URP). He is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The appointment recognizes Professor Balakrishnan’s distinguished contributions as researcher, mentor, teacher, book writer, editor, and for his editorial and professional services. His research covers most areas of statistics. With over 30,000 citations, Professor Balakrishnan is currently the most cited researcher from McMaster University. He has supervised over 60 masters and 48 PhD students. An inspiring teacher, Dr. Balakrishnan has been the recipient of five McMaster Students Union Teaching Awards in three faculties. He has authored/co-authored 17 books and 5 handbooks, and has edited over 50 volumes. He has also edited 16 volumes of the Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences (2nd edition), published by Wiley. Professor Balakrishnan is past editor of the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, and current editor of *Communications of Statistics* for both *Theory and Methods* and *Computation and Simulation*. He sits in the editorial boards of many statistics journals. Professor Balakrishnan is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute. A University Research Professorship is the highest academic appointment at McMaster University. Only a small and capped number of living URPs are allowed.
Italy

Dr. Fabrizio Ruggeri has been elected Fellow of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). ISBA Fellows Committee Chair, Professor Jim Berger (Duke University, USA), made the announcement on July 14 at the ISBA 2014 World Meeting held in Cancun, Mexico. Fellowship in ISBA recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions in some aspect of statistical work (publication, teaching, and service, including service to the society). Dr. Ruggeri is a Research Director in the CNR-IMATI, Milan, Italy. He is also Adjunct Professor at Queensland University, Australia and International Professor Affiliate at New York University, USA. His research interests include reliability, general statistical modeling with applications in industry, and Bayesian statistics. He is a former President of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) and former Board member of ISBA. He edited two volumes on Bayesian Robustness and special issues of several journals. He also served as the Editor (1999-2002) of the ISBA Bulletin and of Bayesian Analysis, and is currently Editor-in-Chief of Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ISBIS research journal). He is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia of Statistics in Quality and Reliability and of the soon-to-be-launched online Wiley StatsRef. Dr. Ruggeri 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. He is a faculty member of the Ph.D. Programme in Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Pavia. He has been member of many committees, including Savage Award, De Groot Award and Box Medal. He is the author of over 100 research articles and four books. Dr. Ruggeri is ASA Fellow, ISI Elected member and Council member. The citation accompanying his ISBA Fellowship reads,

“To Fabrizio Ruggeri, for outstanding contributions to Bayesian statistics, especially in industrial and engineering statistics, Bayesian inference in stochastic processes and robust Bayesian analysis and for exemplary leadership and service to the ISBA and Bayesian statistics”.

During the Award Ceremony at the ISBA 2014 final banquet, Dr. Ruggeri was also the first recipient, along with Mike West (Duke University, USA), of the most prestigious of the ISBA’s awards, the Zellner Medal. The award, named after one of the founders of ISBA and ISBA’s first President, “recognizes ISBA members who have rendered exceptional and distinguished service to ISBA over an extended period of time, and whose contributions have had an impact on the society beyond the time of his or her incumbency”.

Fabrizio Ruggeri
Editor’s Notes

As President Esposito Vinzi announces in his message, this issue is a recount of the Society activities over the past academic year as well as an overview of short- and long-term plans for ISBIS. It is revealing to see how much is accomplished in one year in the life of ISBIS. It is nice to see that the Society is expanding its range of offerings in the future.

ISBIS 2014 was a success on all counts! The scientific program was of the highest quality, and the food at the banquets (at SAS and at the conference venue), as well as the wine, were superb. I had a chance to meet many ISBIS members and non-members. Thank you for the feedback. I am sure there will be future opportunities to meet more of you.

We are indebted to Richard Andrew Cooper (Duke University, USA) and Imad Bou-Hamad (American University of Beirut, Lebanon) for their photographic contributions to this issue. Andy is a freshman student in statistics and conference volunteer (thanks for that too) while Imad is a faculty member affiliated with the Olayan School of Business and conference participant. They took all the pictures published on pages 6-7. We plan to archive the pictures in the ISBIS website.

I thank my Associate Editors David Steinberg (Tel Aviv University, Israel) and Yili Hong (Virginia Tech, USA) for their help with this issue and to ISBIS webmaster Naveen Naidu Narisetty (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, USA) for helping with all the associated postings.

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

Román Viveros-Aguilera, Editor of ISBIS News and Council member