

International Indian Statistical Association Newsletter, Spring 2007

Dear IISA Members,

Greetings! I hope this finds you all in the best of health and spirits. It is my pleasure to present the Spring Issue of the IISA Newsletter. In the following pages, you will find articles on various topics including achievements of IISA members, information on upcoming meetings and nomination of the IISA President for 2008. I trust you will find them useful and informative.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me put together this issue by sending me news items. If you have items that you would like to share with all members, please send them to me (ghosh.new@gmail.com) or to Paramjit Gill (paramjit.gill@ubc.ca). As always, your feedback is very important and I look forward to your comments and/or suggestions.

With best wishes for the summer,

Kaushik Ghosh
Newsletter Editor
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1 A note from the President



Dear Members,

I would like to thank all of you who helped make the Biennial conference at Cochin such a tremendous success. See a separate report on this conference in this Newsletter. At this conference as well as at a follow-up Conference of the ISPS, more than 50 new members joined the India Chapter of the IISA (see a separate list of new members in this Newsletter), thanks mainly to the efforts of Professor K. Srinivasa Rao of Andhra University and Ashis SenGupta of ISIK.

In view of the success of the Cochin Conference and the recent increase in membership of IISA in India, a proposal to bring alternate meetings of the IISA to India has received impetus and wide support, even though it is not yet formally voted upon. If and when we do this, I believe strongly in coordinating the annual ISPS conferences with those of the IISA, whenever we hold the latter in India — making our joint statistical meetings truly joint!! At Cochin, we successfully integrated sessions in probability, applied probability, and operations research, into our biennial conference, and I hope we continue this tradition at future meetings.

We are preparing for the next IISA meeting, to be held at Connecticut during May 22-24, 2008, and we hope for your enthusiastic support and participation.

Our members continue to receive kudos from various quarters, and most prominent of these during the current period, is the receipt of the Abel Prize by Professor S.R.S. Varadhan. Congratulations!

Sreenivasa Rao Jammalamadaka (President)
rao@pstat.ucsb.edu

2 Awards and honors



- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the Abel Prize for 2007 to Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York “for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations.”

Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan was born January 2, 1940 in Madras (Chennai), India. He received his B.Sc. honours degree in 1959 and his M.A. the following year, both from Madras University. In 1963 he received his Ph.D. from the Indian Statistical Institute. He is currently Professor of Mathematics and Frank J. Gould Professor of Science at the Courant Institute.

The Abel Prize is an international prize for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics. The prize is meant to recognize contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences.

The Abel Prize is awarded annually by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The prize amount is NOK 6,000,000 or close to USD 1,000,000. The Abel Prize for 2007 was presented to Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan by HM King Harald at the award ceremony in Oslo 22 May.

For more information about the Abel Laureate, please visit:

<http://www.abelprisen.no/en/prisvinnere/2007/>



- C.R. Rao was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Rhode Island on May 18, 2007. This is the 31st of his Honorary Degrees that he has received from universities in 18 countries.



- Dipak K. Dey, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, received the Purdue University Department of Statistics Outstanding Alumnus Award for 2007. He was honored at a banquet at Purdue on

March 30 for outstanding achievement in the field of statistics. Dey received research excellence awards in 2004 and 2005 from the University of Connecticut. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, elected member of the International Statistical Institute and has served as president of the International Indian Statistical Association. He earned bachelors and master's degrees from the Indian Statistical Institute, and his master's degree and doctorate in statistics from Purdue in 1977 and 1980, respectively. For further information, visit <http://www.stat.purdue.edu/people/alums/profiles/dipak.dey.html>

3 Upcoming conferences

- July 27-August 2, 2007: Joint Statistical Meetings, Salt Lake City, UT. There will be an IISA sponsored/organized invited paper session for JSM 2007. Details follow:
Title: Nonlinear and Nonstationary Time series
Session no: 201932
Date and Time: Sunday, July 29, 2pm
Speakers:
 1. Richard A. Davis, Colorado State University
 2. Cliff Hurvich, NYU, Stern Business School
 3. Kanchan Mukherjee, University of Liverpool
 4. Peter Robinson, London School of Economics
- December 16-19, 2007: Instructional Workshop in Bioinformatics and December 20-22, 2007: International conference on Bioinformatics in Hyderabad, India, organized by SLS and CMSD of the University of Hyderabad and C.R.Rao Advanced Institute for Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. Details are given in the website <http://www.uohyd.ernet.in/sls/cbt/bif/Training/conf2007.htm>.
Contacts: In India, A. Kondapi (akondapi@yahoo.com); in USA, C.R.Rao (crr1@psu.edu).
- May 22–24, 2008: The University of Connecticut Department of Statistics will be hosting the IISA meeting at the University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs from Thursday, May 22 to Sunday May 24, 2008. Details follow.
 - Local Organizing Committee: Dipak Dey, Nitis Mukhopadhyay (chair) and Nalini Ravishanker.
 - The meeting will be arranged professionally by the UConn conference center. Conference center will provide round trip transportation from Bradley International Airport. Participants / speakers will stay at the Nathan Hale Inn inside the UConn campus. Hotel rates: Single or double for King or 2 Queen beds will

- be \$111 (no tax, since IISA has tax exemption status) — 150 rooms are booked. In addition to the hotel rooms, there will be several air conditioned dorm rooms.
- Social Events: Participants will check in on Thursday. There will be a reception on Thursday night, tour on Friday night and a banquet with a cultural program on Saturday. Program will be over on Sunday noon.
 - For further details, please contact Dipak K. Dey (dey@stat.uconn.edu), Nitis Mukhopadhyay (mukhop@uconnvm.uconn.edu) or Nalini Ravishanker (nalini@stat.uconn.edu).

4 Announcements

- A Nominating Panel for electing the next IISA president (President-Elect as of July 2007) has been set up. The panel consists of Sri Gopal Mohanty (mohanty@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca, chairperson), Ram Tiwari (tiwarir@mail.nih.gov) and Soumendra Lahiri (snlahiri@iastate.edu).

The panel will suggest name(s) for the President-Elect in a few weeks. Please send your suggestions to any of the panel members. Before doing so, make sure that (s)he is a member of the IISA and if elected, is willing to serve as the President-Elect (2007), President (2008) and Past-president (2009).

Please note that there will also be an open call for nominations for this position. If we have additional nominations, there may be an election.

- The foundation stone for C.R.Rao Advanced Institute for Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science was laid by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of India on February 20, 2007 in the campus of the University of Hyderabad. The Institute was established on a suggestion made by C.R.Rao, Eberly Professor Emeritus of Statistics at Penn State, for promoting basic research in mathematical sciences leading to technological innovations and acceleration of economic prosperity.

The mission of the institute is to disseminate advances made in mathematical sciences by conducting workshops, international and national conferences and short courses on newly emerging areas of science and technology, guiding Ph.D. students and providing consultancy services to research workers in other disciplines, and to government and industrial organizations. The institute will endeavor to work in cutting edge areas of mathematics, statistics and computer science and provide a forum for national and international experts in different areas to meet and discuss problems of mutual interest.

On the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony, messages of goodwill and congratulations were received from President of India, President of USA, Prime Minister of India and the President of the IISA.

The construction of the building for the Institute and a Museum for statistics highlighting the development of statistics has started. The Governing Body of the Institute has issued an appeal for donation of funds, tax deductible in USA, to meet construction costs and to start some activities to fulfill the mission of the Institute. There is also provision for establishing professorships, scholarships and naming parts or whole of the building in the names specified by donors. Donors can kindly send a check drawn in favor of IISA, AIMSCS and mail to Prof. Nandini Kannan, Head of the Dept. of Management Science and Statistics, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78249. She will send you an acknowledgment and tax ID number.

The Governing Council of the Institute is seeking for qualified persons to work in the Institute on a permanent basis or for short terms during sabbaticals. Those interested are requested to contact the Director of the Institute, Professor S.B.Rao by e mail: raosb@isical.ac.in and crr1@psu.edu.

5 Report on the IISA Conference, 2007

The Biennial Conference of the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA), Joint Statistical Meeting and International Conference on Statistics, Probability and Related Areas, was held during January 2-5, 2007 at Cochin. The Conference was organized by the Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin-22. The venue of the conference was Hotel Renaissance, Palarivattom, Cochin.

The main objective of the conference was to assess recent developments in the fields of Statistics and Probability and to discuss future directions in terms of theory, practice and education. One of the primary goals was to foster international collaboration in these and related areas through the exchange of ideas and experiences and to enhance other technology transfer activities. Reforms needed in Statistical education and training in order to meet the changing needs of the industry and government received special attention.

The International Conference was inaugurated by Dr. P.K. Abdul Aziz, Vice Chancellor of Cochin University of Science and Technology. Prof. K.R. Muraleedharan Nair, Head, Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology welcomed the gathering. Prof. S. Rao Jammalamadaka, President of the IISA presided over the inaugural session and Dr. P.G. Sankaran, Coordinator of the conference delivered vote of thanks.

Inaugural session was followed by a special session to honor Prof. N. Unnikrishnan Nair, the founder Professor of the Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology. He is the former Vice Chancellor of Cochin University of Science and Technology. A book on the "Collected Papers of Prof. N. Unnikrishnan Nair" was released by Prof. C.R. Rao and Prof. N. Balakrishnan delivered a technical talk in this special

session.

The technical sessions were begun with a keynote address by Prof. C.R. Rao. Other plenary speakers were Professors R.N. Bhattacharya, S.R.S. Varadhan, Zari Rachev and Peter Robinson. There were forty six special invited sessions which includes about hundred and forty special invited talks by leading Professors from India and abroad and a session for student competition. Mr. Abhijit Mandal, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Mr. Anurag Prasad, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur were selected for the best paper award. Young Researcher Awards were also given to Drs. Subhashis Ghosal and Bani Mallick for Theory and Applications respectively. In addition, there were nineteen invited sessions in which around ninety research papers were presented. The conference was attended by three hundred participants in which hundred and fifty five of them were foreign delegates.

The conference was supported by Bayesian Society of India, Calcutta Statistical Association, Forum for Interdisciplinary Mathematics, Indian Statistical Association, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, Indian Society for Agricultural Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics and the National Institute of Medical Statistics. Other sponsors included the University Grants Commission (New Delhi), National Board of Higher Mathematics (Chennai), Cranes Software Private Limited. (Bangalore), Reserve Bank of India, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (New Delhi), Elsevier Publications (Netherlands) and the State Bank of Travancore (Thrikkakkara).

At the conclusion of the conference, a one day Workshop on Financial Mathematics was conducted on January 6, 2007 by Prof. Zari Rachev, with more than seventy students in attendance.

6 Information about the IISAJSM Trust

The IISAJSM Trust was founded in 2003, after the successful Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) of the IISA in New Delhi. Its main purpose is to enhance statistical research and education in India. Any institution, university or a member of the IISA in India can apply for grants that help organize workshops and small-scale conferences and other events in India. The current trustees who facilitate in making these awards are:

1. Prof. J.K. Ghosh, Chairman
2. Prof. A.P. Gore, President ISPS (Ex-Officio Member)
3. Prof. Ashis Sengupta, President IISA India Chapter (Ex-Officio Member)

4. Prof. R.B. Bapat, Head ISI Delhi Centre (Ex-Offico Member)
5. Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director IASRI, New Delhi (Ex-Offico Member)
6. Director General, NSSO (Ex-Offico Member)
7. Prof. Prem Narain, Nominated Member
8. Prof. Kanwar Sen, Managing Trustee & Treasurer Ex-Offico

Professor Sankar Pal, Director, ISI, has recently joined the IISAJSM Trust as one of the new Trustees. The Cochin meeting has enriched this trust by approximately another Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

7 Membership information

IISA (India Chapter) has had a very successful membership drive this year. There are over 50 new members, most of whom joined during the ISPS meeting in Tirupati. A very warm welcome to all the new members!

- Prof. B.L.S. Prakasa Rao, University of Hyderabad
- Professor Rajasekhara Reddy Putha, Dravidian University, Kuppam.
- Chokka Lingeswara Rao, S.V. University, Tirupati
- Professor Maddipatla Sreehari, M.S. University, Vadodara
- Dr. Jayakumar Kuttan Pillai, University of Calicut
- Katneni Vedavathi, Gitam, Visakhapatnam
- Dr. Manoharan Mavila, University of Calicut
- Dr. Basanagouda Biradar, Karnataka Arts College
- Dr. Parameshwar Pandit, Narayanpur, Dharwad
- Lakshmanan Karthikeyan, Sakthi Nagar, Viruthachalam
- Professor Vivekananda Murty Mushini, Vishakhapatnam.
- Dr. Tirupathi Rao Padi, Visakhapatnam

- Arti Golthi, Visakhapatnam
- Eswara Rao Sathi, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
- Anuradha Kanipakam, S.V. University, Visakhapatnam
- Prasad Sankarapu, Andhra University Sompalli
- Dr. Ishwar D. Shetty, Karnatak University, Dharwad
- Dr. Venkatesh B. Joshi, Population Research Centre, Dharwad
- Dr. Seetaram Narayan Hegde, JSS College Department of Statistics, Dharwad
- Puppala Dharma Rao, Andhra University
- Surekha B. Munoli, Karnatak University, Dharwad
- Sharda Bhat, Karnatak University, Dharwad
- Kuppusamy Krishnamoorthy, Alagappa University, Karaikudi
- Mahesh Krishnan, Alagappa University, Karaikudi
- Meyyappan Thirunavukkarasu, Alagappa University, Karaikudi
- Jakkam Pratapa Reddy, T.J.P.S College, Guntur
- Orsu Naga Raju, R.V.R. & J.C. College of Engg., Guntur
- Inu Mella Venkata Siva Jaya Rama Rao, R.V.R. & J.C. College of Engg., Guntur
- F.H. Nadaf, Anjuman Arts, Science and Commerce College, Dharwad
- Prof. Somappa Megeri, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
- M. Srinivas Sesha Sai, Hindu College, Guntur
- Kousar Jaha Begum, Andhra University
- Gorripati Vara Prasada Rao, West Godavari
- Katharaju Rajya Lakshmi, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
- Sanjeev Sabnis, IIT Mumbai
- Jitendra Kumar, Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad
- Dr. S. Lalitha, University of Allahabad
- Dr. Asok K. Nanda, I.I.T. Kharagpur

- Sumathi K., Department of Mathematics NMAM Institute of Technology, Udupi
- Pradeepa Veerakumari Kumarasamy, Bharathiar Univesrity, Coimbatore
- Dr. Sikdar Karabi, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Dr. Gautam Choudhary, Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology, Guwahati
- Prof. Umesh Gupta, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- Pratibha K., Bharathiar University, Coonoor, The Nilgiris
- Kuttykrishnan .A.P., Sir Syed College, Kannur
- K. Arumugam Venkatachalam, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar
- Gopal Parthasarathi, SRM University, Chennai
- Prof. K. Srinivas Rao, Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam
- Dr. Penumathsa Suresh Varma, Vishkhapatnam
- Dr. Yarramalle Srinivas, Vishakhapatnam
- Dr. Konala Thami Reddy, GITAM, Vishakhapatnam
- Dr. Satish Chand Sharma, Janta Vedic College Baraut (Baghpat) (C.C.S. University)

Reduced Subscription Rate of *Statistical Methodology*

Statistical Methodology aims to publish articles of high quality reflecting the varied facets of contemporary statistical theory as well as of significant applications. In addition to helping to stimulate research, the journal intends to bring about interactions among statisticians and scientists in other disciplines broadly interested in statistical methodology. The journal gives special consideration to established as well as emerging applied areas and covers more traditional areas such as

- statistical inference
- multivariate analysis
- design of experiments
- sampling theory
- regression analysis
- re-sampling methods
- time series
- nonparametric statistics

Emphasis is on importance, interest, and originality — formal novelty and correctness alone are not sufficient to warrant a publication.

Statistical Methodology contains original research papers, review articles, discussion papers as well as short communications on teacher's corner and consultant's forum. It also includes papers on the development of novel methodology with potential applications, and papers on novel applications supported by statistical methodology. The journal especially encourages the submission of authoritative reviews of innovative statistical applications and noteworthy overview presentations from interdisciplinary conferences. All submitted manuscripts will undergo normal review process and the publication decision will be adjudged by quality, novelty, suitability and interest.

As a member of the International Indian Statistical Association, you are eligible to receive online access as well as the hardcopy of Volume 4 (4 issues) of the IISA official journal, *Statistical Methodology*, at a reduced rate of \$75.

In addition, you have the opportunity to support the IISA/Elsevier Sponsor-an-Indian-Library-Scheme. For a small fee you can sponsor free institutional access in print and electronic to an Indian library of your choice.

Further information on the reduced subscription rate and the sponsorship can be found on the order form from the website
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/statmet>.

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (2007-2008)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Work phone #: _____

Home phone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IISA Membership fees:

- **For Nonresident Indians**

Regular Membership:	{	\$25 US for 1 year,
		\$40 US for 2 years or
		\$50 US for 3 years
Life membership:		\$300 US
Student Membership:		\$5 US per year

Please make your check in US funds payable to: *International Indian Statistical Association*.

Return the completed form with the appropriate dues to:

Prof. N. R. Chaganty
Treasurer, IISA
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529
Email: rchagant@odu.edu

- **For Resident Indians** (revised)

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

Membership benefits:

- 10% discount on IISA Conference fees
- Co-Sponsorship of Workshops (through IISA Resource persons from India and abroad, announcement in IISA newsletter and possible nominal financial support).

The membership fees may be paid by Demand Draft to *Prof. Kanwar Sen* at the following address:

Prof. Kanwar Sen
115 Vaishali, Pitampura
New Delhi 110088