



The International
Biometric Society

Awards Fund Committee Report Barcelona, Spain

Date: July 12, 2018

In Attendance:

Elizabeth Thompson, IBS Outgoing President, Luzia Aparecida Trinca (RBras), Mark Brewer (BIR), Julia Maria Pavan Soler (RBras), IBS Staff, Mik Bauer and Amanda Bignall

2018 Travel Grant Awardees in attendance:

Kazeem Osuolale (GNi), Ysar Serdemir (GSAF), Nino Deetrashvili (EMR), Abhik Ghosh (IR), Clarice Demetrio (RBras), Isabel de Sousa Amorim (RBras), Izabela Oliveira (RBras), Maira Faretto (RBras), Hasinur Rahaman Khan (PSKTAN), Jesca Batidzirai (GSAF), Tarylee Reddy (GSAF)

Elizabeth welcomed all the travel award recipients and summarized the IBC2018 travel award submissions. IBS received 55 eligible applications and 15 awards were granted. Of the awardees, 11 received Oral presentations and 4 received Poster presentations. The group included 8 men, 7 women, and 8 Professional IBS members and 7 Student IBS members. A total of \$29,988.00 was awarded for the IBC2018 travel funds.

IBS, IBO and the Committee are all aware that the timeframe for awards is not ideal. Although every effort is made to expedite the process, it is quite lengthy. The IBO makes every effort to quickly vet the applicants and verify membership status of all applicants. The committee's review process can only begin after this work from the IBO is complete. After committee decisions are made it then takes additional time to notify individuals and to disburse funds.

The travel award recipients each introduced themselves, and each mentioned that they were very appreciative of the opportunity to come to the IBC. Several also commented that they had much to take back to share with their peers at their home institutions, and also that they planned to continue to be involved in IBS in the future.

The awardees were also invited to comment on the award process. Some points made:

- Could invitation letters for visa purposes be provided sooner? For example, as soon as awards are made, rather than first requiring registration. This would help many.
- A (non-student) awardee suggested that for students the 4-year interval between award eligibility could perhaps be reduced. This would be good, but there are many good applications that cannot currently be funded.

- Clarice commented that travel support had been particularly important for Brazil members in this IBC year. DC countries may go through times of economic crisis and the IBS awards programs really help members to stay active in the Society.

Current Business:

After a group photo, the Travel award recipients were dismissed and the AFC continued discussion of the IBC travel awards process in non-IBC years. The Board has established an ad hoc Committee to review the process for these awards, which is currently burdensome on IBO and on the Committee, and fails to involve the Regions/Networks hosting the meetings. A paper had been circulated to the Board and to the Committee.

Some points made:

- The general call to regions for funding should focus on IBC. For non-IBC regional meetings it is better to focus directly on the host regions.
- Regional meetings could specify, when their meetings are entered into the calendar, if they would like to provide support (e.g. wave registration/provide local expenses) for DC travel awardees.
- Applicants should provide member verification from their own DC region, and also acknowledgement of their application from regional meeting host/organizer.
- There is need to reemphasize that the travel awards fund inter-region travel in non-IBC years: a member from a developing country attending an IBS meeting in another region.

Some suggested action items previously made by Committee members:

1. Broader advertising of both IBC and non-IBC travel award programs.
2. In addition to regional IBS meetings, encourage short-courses at such meetings. These can be funded through the Education Committee. (Per Policies & Procedures: The AFC and EdC are encouraged to work together in this regard.)
3. Give some visibility to the travel award. For example, calling the recipients or one of them as their representative on stage during the opening ceremony of IBS.
4. Administrative recommendations, for example anonymizing the applicants: these can be handled internally.
5. Allow flexibility on the maximum amount that can be awarded depending on the application and number of applications. This can be assessed on a case by case basis.

Travel Awards granted to Members for Participation in 2018 IBC in Barcelona, Spain

Applications were received from both professionals and students. This was discussed by the committee members who anonymously scored the application following a given criterion and scoring guidelines for each applicant type. The breakdown is shown below.

Applicant type	Number applied	Number awarded	Amount awarded	Sex
Professionals	45	8	\$11,638.00	4 Male, 4 Female
Students	10	7	\$18,350.00	4 Female, 3 Male
Total	55	15	\$29,988.00	15