

The International Biometric Society's IBO Update!

The e-newsletter for Region leadership and administrators, from
The International Biometric Office (IBO)
June 2020

Note: Though IBO Update is intended for IBS Region leaders and administrators, you are welcome to share any relevant information with your members. Any questions regarding the appropriateness of sharing one or more topics, or requests for additional details, may be forwarded via e-mail to [Executive Director, Peter Doherty](#). Thanks for reading!

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IBC 2020 is Changing



Hello to our IBS Region friends! We hope you are safe and well. We must hope that this is the case of course, as so much is shifting even as I write this!

When we last spoke, plans were still underway for our biennial International Biometric Conference (IBC) to be held in Seoul, Korea on July 5-10, 2020. But now, COVID-19 has changed all that. We would like to extend our support and best wishes to any colleagues who may be directly affected by the outbreak. We had hoped that we could perhaps reschedule to sometime in 2021. But with the continued concern for what the pandemic might have in store for us all next year, we decided that the most prudent course of action would be to look ahead to IBC 2022, and salvage what we could of what would have been a truly impressive program.

While the IBC 2020 will no longer be held as scheduled this July, we are pleased to tell you that the final chapter in the story of IBC 2020 has not yet been written! What we will be able to offer this year is simply changing. Here is where we are:

- The Korean Region is considering a smaller university-based conference in 2021, and some of the elements from IBC2020 are expected to be included. We applaud the Region's effort to bringing a little bit of the IBC to Seoul next year, and we will share more details as they are confirmed.
- Plans are underway for the presentation of some online offerings, based on the original IBC program. For instance, a *Biometrics* and *JABES* Best Paper Showcase session are already confirmed, as is a Society Awards program and at least two keynote sessions. More content, including possible invited sessions and contributed sessions, is currently being considered.
- Rather than broadcast all of these sessions within the span of a few days, we expect to offer sessions over a period of weeks, trying our best to make at least a portion of the content available to members and others in most geographic regions sometime during their regular business day. In addition, all sessions and content will be made available online for later viewing by those who are registered.
- We wish to thank the Korean Region for everything they have done to support this year's conference! As a part of this virtual IBC program, the Korean Region intends to prepare some cultural materials that might eventually be part of a virtual opening ceremony.
- Best of all, and in recognition of the difficulties many of your members are facing right now, we wish to make all IBC programming affordable for all.

Many details have yet to be worked out. We will of course keep you updated on our plans. We expect for at least a portion of the programming to be available sometime in July. In the meantime, you are welcome to visit <https://www.ibc2020.org/home> anytime for the latest news, or to register. Note that, as of 3 June (the date of this article), online registration is not yet available.

Update – IBC 2022

Make plans to join us for **IBC 2022 from July 10-15, 2022 in Riga, Latvia**. We are hopeful that our Local Organizing Committee will have the opportunity to provide a sneak preview of IBC 2022 during any virtual Closing Session of IBC 2020. The conference will be held at the **Radisson Blu Latvija Conference & Spa Hotel**, located within the city's center. The beautiful streets, parks and attractions will entice you to stay a bit longer after the conference! We look forward to welcoming the world to the IBC once again in 2022!

Contributions Still Needed for Travel Awards Fund

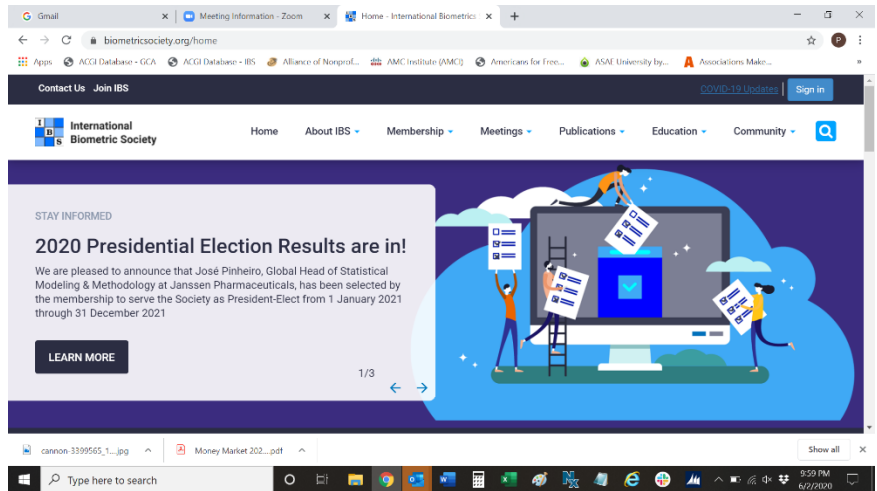
Perhaps due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, contributions to the Travel Awards Fund by Regions is somewhat lower than expected. Normally, this would be a significant concern this close to an IBC. But as the IBC will no longer be taking place in July, we have another opportunity to rebuild the fund in anticipation of Region events in 2021 and IBC 2022.

If your Region is able, the Society asks that you consider contributing to the Travel Awards Fund this year. Thanks to those who already have done so! This fund goes a long way in helping IBS members from low and middle-income countries attend the IBC. We feel it is our obligation to do what we can to ensure that biometrics professionals from all over the world are able to join us, regardless of their ability to pay personally. The IBS dispersed nearly \$21,000 USD in travel grants during 2019 to help send worthy candidates to Region meetings and events, and the IBS would like to at least match this figure. We are currently about \$8,000.00 short. **Any contribution by a Region or individual toward LMIC travel will be matched by the IBS, up to \$20,000.00 USD.** Please consider making a donation, either [directly through the IBC website](#) or as part of the Region dues collection process. For more information on the travel awards program, [contact Amanda Bignall at the IBO](#).

Introducing the New IBS Website!

We are pleased to introduce the new biometricsociety.org – streamlined to deliver a better user experience with tools to connect the many regions of the Society. We'd like to thank the many members who offered feedback for this project and the IBS leadership, executive board, volunteers, and IBO staff for making it happen!

In our current reality, connecting with colleagues may be more difficult. We are pleased to offer a channel that can help! Join the new [IBS Members Community](#) free of charge. Send questions, review content from the community, and access materials specifically archived for this audience, and more. Here are some instructions for how to join the IBS Members Community:



1. Go to www.biometricsociety.org, and login using your existing credentials. Contact us if you need assistance.
2. Visit your profile and update your personal information. You can also edit privacy settings.
3. Click 'Community' in the main navigation, then select 'All Communities'. Members will see a brand-new 'IBS Members Community' to join (you MUST be logged in to see this option).
4. After you join the community, be sure to click on the group Settings and customize Email Notifications, so that you only receive the information you want (decide to receive real-time updates, a daily digest, or no e-mails). You may set your preferred email address here as well.
5. Now, take the final step... post an update or topic!

This service has been launched for IBS members, with the goal of empowering 6,000 colleagues worldwide to share their unique perspectives, reach out, and connect. It will take some time for these discussions to begin organically, so we appreciate your patience, and your input! We welcome all comments and feedback about the new website. Let us know what you think!

We continue to rely on support from committee Chair Jürgen Kübler and the rest of the Website and Membership Advisory Committee. The committee will continue to be involved for many months, to ensure that all web-based processes are running smoothly. Our special thanks go out to our Outgoing President, Louise Ryan for her vision and determination in ensuring that this project never lost its momentum.

One final note... Now that the website has been launched, the IBO intends to offer training to new and Existing Administrators on the proper use of the site, in addition to other topics. However, we will postpone the training until many COVID-19 disruptions have been addressed. For now, we expect training sessions to be offered starting in September. More information will follow!

IBS Journal Club – Suspended through August

Our organizer Jim Todd and the Education Committee will be taking a break from our semi-monthly Journal Club, as we prepare for our virtual IBC programming. For future program dates and details, visit <https://www.biometricsociety.org/education/journal-club/>.

An Important Message regarding IBS and 2020 Dues Collection

As most of you know, **all IBS membership reporting / rosters were due from each Region by 1 May**. But we understand that some members may have difficulty paying their dues during this period. If for some reason your Region was unable to make payment at this time, we will allow for a grace period of up to sixty days. Therefore, **full or partial payment / reporting is now due no later than 1 July, 2020**.

This new deadline is being offered in order to ensure that our records are as accurate as possible, and so we may provide full access to IBS services, including the members-only sections of the new website, Society journals, and any future virtual programming developed due to the unfortunate cancellation of our in-person IBC 2020 conference. A partial report received by 1 July is far better than no report at all. Having current data from each Region also helps IBS leadership examine the latest data, and also COVID-19's effect on our typical renewal patterns. If you require another copy of the reporting forms, or need additional instructions, [please contact Starr Ellis directly at the IBO](#).

We again want to acknowledge the extraordinary period that we are currently in, and wish to express our support for you, your family, and your Region's members during this COVID-19 period. It seems that changes or delays to some of our expectations and processes are inevitable during this time, and that everyone's health is our primary concern. We want you to know that the IBO is here and we welcome any questions that you may have about the membership dues collection process.

IBS Social Media Liaisons, Get Involved in Building the Online IBS Members Community

Help us post interesting news and articles through our new IBS Member Community!

We have just begun to post updates and questions to the new community (see page 2, or visit our new [IBS Members Community](#) for more information). But your staff at the IBO has a limited supply of content. It will be up to our members to become active builders of their own community. We have requested members from several IBS communities to help add questions and comments in these early days. But we have not yet tapped our Social Media Liaisons. This could be you!

Did your Region name a Social Media Liaison in 2018? If so, please let us know if this person is still assigned to this role. If not, [please let us know](#) who might assist us. If you are not sure, just let us know. We look forward to having your Region participate in this way!

Would your Region like to help us spread the word about the new IBS website through your local social media platforms? If the answer is yes, here are a few sample posts for you to try out...

- 1) "We're pleased to introduce the new www.biometricsociety.org to members of our Region – streamlined to deliver a better user experience with tools to connect to the many Regions and viewpoints shared in the IBS!"
- 2) "Thanks to the many members who offered feedback for the new www.biometricsociety.org project and the IBS leadership, executive board, volunteers, and Region members for making it happen!"
- 3) "Join the new IBS Members Community at www.biometricsociety.org, free of charge to send questions, review content from the community, access materials specifically archived for this audience, and more."
- 4) "What would YOU like to see discussed in the new www.biometricsociety.org member community? Log in now, join the community, and share your thoughts."
- 5) "Any biometrics or statistics-related topic can be shared in the new www.biometricsociety.org member community. Log in, join the community, and let us know what's important to you. Members only!"
- 6) "Looking for a safe, secure, private network of statisticians and biometrics colleagues? Join the new IBS Members Community at www.biometricsociety.org. The network is free and driven by member expertise and content."

Feel free to add these posts to your own social media communications to members.

Your contributions to IBS Facebook and Twitter pages are also still appreciated. Send us photos and information about events occurring in your Region. We will post these items, with an appropriate caption, to the IBS Facebook or Twitter account on your behalf. We can also add them to our IBS website's Events page, if appropriate. To see the latest posts, visit our social media pages using these links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/International-Biometric-Society-160276730693749/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IBSstats>

LinkedIn Company Page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/15716178/admin/>

Data Collection and Privacy Reminder



As a reminder, here is a [link to the new IBS Data Collection and Privacy Policy](#). This privacy policy provides members and others with important details about the information we collect, how we use it, and how we comply with GDPR (the EU General Data Protection Regulation) and other relevant regulations. GDPR affects all European IBS Regions, as well as any Region with members or customers who reside in the E.U. The IBO continues to track the latest developments related to privacy legislation and regulations, including the most recent developments related to the [California Consumer Privacy Act](#).

We strongly recommend each Region to take steps to develop their own written policy, especially (but not limited to) those Regions within the boundaries of the European Union. The IBS Society policy does not cover Region activities, and Regions risk the possibility of costly legal disputes by not developing their own policy.

The IBO, IBS Executive Board and Representative Council members all wish to support the Regions in their efforts to develop their own Data Collection and Privacy Policy. After all, your members are also our members.

Once your Region's policy statement has been drafted, we suggest that Regions compare their policy with ours to ensure that they are properly aligned. However, please note that we do not intend to recommend changes to your local policy. We only wish to offer guidance if it would be helpful. Please feel free to [contact Executive Director, Peter Doherty](#) with any questions or concerns.

Biometric Bulletin – Are Your Region Correspondents Active?

Each Region should appoint a *Biometric Bulletin* correspondent whose role is to report on regional matters in advance of each issue. The deadline for *Biometric Bulletin* correspondents to send their submissions to the Editor for the next issue is fast approaching. For more information, or to confirm your current Region Correspondent, [please contact Kristi Wolford](#), our IBS Director of Operations. Remember that well-organized, informative regional contributions helped make the *Bulletin* more interesting and colorful!

IBS Representative Council In-Person Meeting will Now be Held Virtually

Region leadership are typically contacted at this time regarding the upcoming Representative Council meeting, to be held at the IBC. But as with all other in-person meetings planned for Seoul, this meeting will not take place. The IBO and our Representative Council Chair, Alison Kelly, are discussing the timing of a virtual meeting, to take the place of our traditional in-person meeting. Your Rep Council members will be contacted shortly to determine the best date and time for this meeting. We look forward to hearing the latest updates and sharing your viewpoints with all of our Regions!

IBS Representative Council Network and Inter-Regional Activities Funding Program

Region leadership are encouraged to apply for funding through this annual program!

This program establishes a funding mechanism for such activities on a more formal and regular basis. The above examples illustrate the types of activities that can be considered, but there are many other possible activities that could be funded under the program, so regions should be creative in their proposals. For instance, inter-regional activities like organizing a symposium or a workshop at a conference being organized by a scientific organization other than the IBS could be funded which would also increase the outreach activities of our society. The guiding principle is that the activity must involve and encourage inter-region interaction. The expectation is that there should be some contribution, maybe in-kind, from the participating regions and some general benefit to the Society at large.

Amount: The Executive Board allocates \$20,000 in total per year to this funding program. Each activity award is subject to a maximum of \$5,000.

Eligibility: Applications can be submitted twice a year: by March 31 for activities that are scheduled to start in the second half of the same year (July 1 – December 31) and **by September 30 for activities scheduled to start in the first half of the following year (January 1 – June 30).**

Regions or Networks should send their proposal for a Network or inter-Regional activity to the Taskforce of the Representative Council by e-mail. In general, a Region or a Network can apply for only one activity in a

single funding round. Deviations from this rule need a particular justification. Regions or Networks must demonstrate how funded activities will reinforce links between regions. [To find out more, click here.](#)

Host Region Sought for IBS Executive Board Meeting, Early 2021

In odd-numbered years, the IBS often designates one of its Region or Network conferences as the venue for a meeting of the IBS Executive Board. The Board will typically meet in Europe during these years, though we are open to other locations. If your organization is interested in being considered as a host for such an event, [please contact our IBS President, Geert Verbeke.](#)

Please Update Your Regional Officers

Don't forget to notify the IBO if there has been a change to your Region's officers. Lists of officers from the Regions are maintained in our member database. Providing the IBO with updates will allow us to communicate effectively with all the Regions about upcoming Society events and new programs, membership dues deadlines and more. Don't assume that we are aware of local officer changes! If you think you might have new information for us, please [send updates to the IBO.](#)

IBS has a New President-Elect!

José Pinheiro, Global Head of Statistical Modeling & Methodology at Janssen Pharmaceuticals, has been selected to serve the Society as President-Elect from 1 January 2021 through 31 December 2021. He will automatically ascend to the office of President for two years, followed by a term of one year as Outgoing President. José needs very little introduction to our Society as he has been an active member for quite some time, and he is currently an IBS Board member. Please congratulate José on this significant accomplishment!

That is all for now! Please let us know if we can help you in any way. And thanks for reading *IBO Update*.

Sincerely, Your IBO Staff