



The International Biometric Society's IBO Update!

The e-newsletter for Region leadership and administrators, from
The International Biometric Office (IBO)
January 2021 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Note: Though IBO Update is intended for IBS Region leaders and administrators, you are welcome to share any relevant information with your members. To go straight to a specific point in the publication, click on the title hyperlinks. 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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The 2020 Year in Review

We are happy to have reached the end of 2020, and excited about what 2021 may bring! A brand new “Year in Review” for 2020 has just been posted and is available to review / share here (we hope you will):

<https://members.biometricsociety.org/news407286>

The *Year in Review* is a new publication that we intend to share annually for several reasons. First of all, we are proud of what our Society and its members have accomplished this year. Second, we understand the importance of sharing information on valuable services and programs with Regions and members. All of this content helps to explain why Society membership is so valuable. Of course, membership is so much richer when one considers the valuable benefits provided locally by our Regions as well.

A special thank-you goes out to those Regions who shared updates from the last edition with your members. We also wish to thank those who contribute regularly to the content for our *Biometric Bulletin*. The updates are not meant to be reports to the IBO or the IBS leadership, but to IBS members in every country.

During this time of COVID (and even after), it may be possible for more members to join you at future events, particularly when it comes to virtual events. Sharing this information is an opportunity to collaborate with fellow professionals from outside your Region, not only through the *Bulletin*, but via the new IBS Members community, the Events Calendar, and even via IBS social media. Your members are our members. So, we want to be as helpful as possible in sharing the good news coming from each Region.

2021 Membership Invoices Being Distributed

As you may have seen, the first IBS invoices for the 2021 renewal season are being distributed now. Those Regions who are still working to provide 2020 year-end reports and payments are also being contacted individually.

As a reminder, membership dues are due at the beginning of each calendar year. The IBS dues cycle runs from 1 January – 31 December. Please note that 2021 dues amounts have not changed: \$60 USD Regular Members, \$14 USD Lower/Middle Income Country Members, and \$0 Student Members. Contact the IBO if you need assistance with processing dues. We also ask that Regions confirm their local administrative contact or Treasurer at this time, in case it is necessary for us to reach out to that contact with questions. We will also typically send the IBS dues invoices to this person. Please send this information to abignall@biometricsociety.org.

Regarding membership in general...

The past year has been difficult for most associations, and the IBS is no exception. We have seen our overall membership numbers decrease since the start of the COVID-19 period.

At the start of 2021, some members will still be struggling. And associations will continue to be strapped for resources, so they will need to make sure that everything they do is effective, efficient, and also visible to the membership. The job of reminding members of the value of membership must be a joint effort, not just something that is done locally. The IBO is happy to provide more information regarding the benefits of membership at the international level, and you are welcome to share or post all of it. Please contact us if assistance would be useful.

Region Administrator Education Training Opportunities Scheduled for February 2021

In a separate communication, you will soon receive information related to annual Region training opportunities, to be held via Zoom and **hosted by members of the IBO Staff during the 3rd week of February, and the 1st week of March**. Our goal is to allow the IBO and our Region representatives the chance to connect, share updated procedures and guidelines, and find new ways for the Regions and the IBO to work together towards common goals. The sessions will last no more than one hour and will include a question and answer period. Sessions will be recorded, so that those who miss the sessions may still learn from them. Invitations will be sent to Region administrators very soon. Please be on the lookout for them!

IBC 2022 International Program Committee Confirmed

The formation of the International Program Committee is now complete and is listed below. The slate has been approved by the Executive Board. We look forward to engaging the entire committee as the IBC social events begin to take shape. We appreciate the opportunity to include members from so many geographic Regions. Current IBS President and IBC 2022 Organizing President Geert Verbeke is excited to begin planning for the event. The conference will be held at the **Radisson Blu Latvija Conference & Spa Hotel**. We look forward to welcoming the world to the IBC once again in 2022!

Introducing the IBC 2022 International Program Committee:

- Emanuele Del Fava - Italian
- Takashi Daimon - Japanese
- Krista Fischer – Nordic Baltic
- Jelle Goeman - Netherlands
- Linda Haines - South Africa
- Leonhard Held – Austro Swiss
- Mounia Nacima Hocine - French
- Ruth Keogh – British Irish
- Andy Lynch – British Irish
- Raul Macchiavelli - Central America-Caribbean
- Beatrijs (Bieke) Moerkerke - Belgian
- Samuel Mwalili – Kenyan
- Henry Mwambi - South African
- Darfiana Nur - Australasian
- Taesung Park - Korean
- Luiz Peternelli - Brazilian
- Eva Petkova - ENAR
- Iris Pigeot - German
- Juned Siddique - ENAR
- Jim Todd - Tanzanian
- You-Gan Wang - Australasian
- David Warton - Australasian
- David Zucker - Eastern Mediterranean (EMR)
- Renato Assunção - Brazilian
- Pablo Reeb - Argentinean

We also wish to thank those who participated as part of the **IBC 2020 International Program Committee** whose terms have just ended. A great deal of work was put into selecting the content that was shared during our eight-week virtual IBC. We had hoped to thank you all in person!

- Renato Assuncao, Chair - Brazilian
- Charmaine Dean, Past Chair - WNAR
- Tae Rim Lee, LOC Co-Chair - Korean
- Taesung Park, LOC, Co-Chair - Korean
- Hongzhe Li - ENAR
- Patrick Brown - ENAR
- Shili Lin - ENAR
- Toshimitsu Hamasaki - Japan
- Legesse Kassa Debusio - South Africa
- Atinuke O. Adebajji - Ghana
- Michael Hoehle - German
- Antonia Zapf - German
- Rachel McCrea – British Irish
- Lola Ugarte - Spanish
- Fabrizia Mealli - Italian
- Olivier Thas - Belgian
- Aila Sarkka – Nordic Baltic
- Paulo Rodrigues Canas – Brazilian
- Urania Dafni - EMR
- Rachel Fewster – Australasian
- Andrew Zhou - China
- Saumyadipta Pyne - ENAR

Contact Information Update Requests

The IBO will be in touch with you very soon regarding Region records in the IBS database without e-mail addresses. And in some cases, there are also records with “bad” (undeliverable) e-mail addresses.

Having a current e-mail address on file is quite important for a global society such as ours. In addition, one of the new benefits of membership, the new IBS Members Community (more on that later), can only be accessed by those members with a current e-mail address in the database. Since we assume that your local admins and volunteers will have more frequent contact with these members, we hope you will work with us at the IBO to help us update our database, and yours!

Travel Awards Coming in 2021

Could it be that we will all have the chance to travel again in 2021?

As travel to the IBC was not possible in 2020, we had an opportunity to rebuild the travel awards fund in anticipation of Region events in 2021 and IBC 2022. We are hopeful that the Awards Fund Committee will be able to pick up their awards selection process this year. Note that in all future non-IBC years, the committee will plan to offer travel awards to deserving applicants for travel to IBS Region and Network events.

We encourage you to do one of three things (or all 3!):

1. Continue to encourage individual contributions to the Travel Awards Fund during Region dues collection.
2. Consider a Region leadership/Board contribution to the Travel Awards Fund for 2021 as part of your annual budget development activities.
3. And finally, we have recently added a new online giving button that the Regions and all individual donors may use, available here:
https://ams.biometricsociety.org/ibsssa/ssaapexmnucall?p_app_id=FNDSSA&p_page_id=9203&p_clearcache=9203

Note that the IBC 2020 logo still appears at the present time. But that will change shortly. IF the funds being donated are intended for non-IBC travel funding, you should still select "IBC Travel Awards" and we will make sure that the funds are transferred to the right account.

The fund is used solely for lower and middle-income (LMIC) applicants' travel to local Region events. As in-person events are rescheduled for 2021, we are hopeful that we can quickly respond to the need for travel assistance by providing meaningful financial support. There is also the possibility of virtual program support for individual registrants. The committee is discussing this possibility now. And **any contribution by a Region or individual toward LMIC travel will once again be matched by the IBS**, up to \$20,000.00 USD. The Board has pledged this level of support for 2021. For more information on the travel awards program, [contact Amanda Bignall at the IBO.](#)

Wiley Publishing Discount Available to IBS Members

With the holiday season upon us, perhaps you are planning to purchase a few gifts for colleagues, or even for yourself. We wanted to remind members that a 15% discount is available on-demand to all current IBS members by applying the promo code of "IBS15" to your purchase at checkout. [Click here to shop!](#)

The California Consumer Privacy Act, and Building Your Region's Own Privacy Statement

[The recent update to the California Consumer Privacy Act](#), whose language mirrors the EU General Data Privacy Regulation (GDPR) in many but not all respects, makes it clear that data protection and privacy regulations continue to evolve. And it will become a necessity for many companies and societies (national, international and local) to comply with these regulations in the future. In late 2018, the IBS completed work on its policy statement, which may be referenced here: <https://higherlogicdownload.s3-external->

1.amazonaws.com/BIOMETRICSOCIETY/Data%20Protection%20and%20Privacy%20Policy%20FINAL%202018-1109.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVRDO7IEREB57R7MT&Expires=1609479448&Signature=1PUEa4beslrCt5yapvm4i0EWL%2Bo%3D

Due to the nature of the relationship between the IBS and the Regions, and the fact that we routinely share data in order to ensure that Society members receive the services that they have paid for, **it is imperative that each Region develops at least a basic data protection and privacy policy.** We ask that, in addition to addressing the 2021 dues process, **all Regions should develop their own policy no later than December 31, 2021 in order to provide members with peace of mind that their data is being managed appropriately.** We ask that Regions forward a copy of their policy to the IBO so that we may have a copy on file here in the main office.

Completing this task may seem daunting for some. That is why we have developed a template to help you draft your Region's own policy. The template can be found on the next page. Please discuss the particulars with your Region leadership, answer the questions on the next page, and send the IBO a copy. We are happy to answer any questions as you develop your policy.

SAMPLE DRAFT DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY TEMPLATE
(please enter your information in the spaces provided below)

DATA COLLECTION AND PRIVACY POLICY
FOR THE _____ REGION
CURRENT AS OF XXXX-XX-XX

THE PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT WE COLLECT

(Enter where the information is collected and what data, specifically, you collect. Also indicate why it is collected.)

HOW DO WE USE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?

(What does your Region do with the information it collects? Please state the uses here.)

HOW IS THE PERSONAL INFORMATION SHARED?

(And with whom? Please state all the recipients of your members' personal information and a method to contact them here.)

CONTACT US

(How can a member reach you if they have questions, or if they choose to have some/all their data removed from your database? State the information below.)

This is the most basic of templates. Please consult your leadership for other information that should be included based on local and regional regulations. Again, we are happy to answer any questions as you develop your policy.

Officers Visitation Program – Call for 2021 Visits

Although we expect that very few Regions will be holding in-person events during the first half of 2021, we are hopeful that the second half of the year will bring with it improved conditions and more travel opportunities during July and later. With that in mind...

As you may know, the IBS has an Officers Visitation Program which assists IBS officers in attending Region conferences. IBS tracks attendance and makes an effort to have our officers visit all Region conferences on a rotating basis. If your Region is interested in having an IBS officer visit and speak during 2021, we are now accepting applications.

The application was sent along with this edition of *IBO Update*. Please review the information about the visitation program and the responsibilities shared by both IBS and Regions. If you have any questions, please let us know. Once we are made aware of a Region's interest, we will determine if a visit is feasible based on funds available, the Officer's availability and when the Region was last visited. There is no due date for these applications. However, earlier submissions often result in better outcomes.

2021 and Recruitment... How might IBS Regions Support their Members in New Ways?

And finally, a recent newsletter from Wiley offered some suggestions based on a recent study that explored the reasons why members from different Regions joined their Society. Many of the societies taking part in the study were based in the United States, though a significant number of them are structured similarly to the IBS and they serve a global audience. We thought the story might be helpful. You may [access the story here](#).

That is all for now! Look for the next update during the 1st quarter of 2021. Thanks for reading *IBO Update*!

Sincerely, Your IBO Staff