



## Letter from the President

Dear IASS members

We are starting 2021 still facing many challenges and adapting to the new circumstances presented to all of us in 2020. Even though, I keep in mind the message of a Brazilian journalist who wrote: “whoever had the idea to cut time into slices, called the year, was a brilliant individual. Industrialized hope, making it work at the limit of exhaustion. Twelve months is enough for any human being to get tired and retreat”. Then “... comes the miracle of renewal and it all starts again, with another number and another desire to believe that from now on everything will be different”. So, being positive about 2021, I would like to highlight IASS successful actions and activities during the last semester of 2020 and compliment the IASS community members who contributed to the good news.

As planned, the IASS webinars, launched in June, became a successful regular activity. Overall, the webinar series was composed of four IASS webinars plus one joint IAOS-IASS webinar, celebrating the World Statistics Day and fostering collaboration between the associations. I thank the organisers, speakers, attendees, and the ISI PO for making it happen. These webinars were part of the ISI and Associations’ Webinar programme and, with financial support from the World Bank (WB) Trust for Capacity Building, all videos are available at <https://www.isi-web.org/webinars>. The IASS ones can also be found in our website. Besides the webinars, IASS organised a virtual short course in Spanish on Survey Sampling and Survey Methods Topics in R for Latin American attendees. I express my gratitude to Pedro Silva and Guilherme Jacob, course instructors, and Leonardo Trujillo, course organiser. The News and Announcements session contains more information about this course. In addition, Marcel Vieira prepared a short course in English about the same topic that will be available as a self-learning material soon.

For the first time, in August, we held a virtual IASS Annual General Assembly. This was possible since the ISI was given an exception (in Dutch law) for such meetings to occur virtually in 2020, even if this is not included in the articles of association. In the occasion, an amendment of the IASS Statutes was approved to allow a meeting of the General Assembly of the association to be held at each ISI biennial World Statistics Congress, at another conference or in virtual form. We thank all members who could attend the meeting for their inputs and support. A special thank you goes to Gordon Brackstone (IASS President 2005-2007) who responded to our call to complete information about past council members. Please have a look at (<http://isi-iass.org/home/past-committees/>).

Last semester was also marked by preparations for the World Statistics Congress 2021 (WSC2021) and the announcement of the 2021 Cochran-Hansen Prize (<http://isi-iass.org/home/cochran-hansen-prize/>). We ask the members to advertise the award, motivating young statisticians to join the competition. IASS vice-president Isabel Molina is the chair of the C-H Prize Committee.



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Also, if you have submitted an invited session proposal to the WSC2021, please let Monica Pratesi (IASS representative in the WSC2021 Scientific Programme Committee) and James Chipperfield know about it.

Although 2020 was a difficult year, many people devoted their time to our association. I will not list all of them here, but I would like to acknowledge that for every IASS initiative, committee, webinar, course, its website and each TSS page, there is someone keen to contribute. This is great and it means that IASS matters for all of us. Let us keep this collaborative environment for the sustained development of IASS.

I wish you and your families a year with health, peace, harmony, and that you may be engaged in many gratifying professional projects in 2021.

With my best wishes,

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