

Letter from the President

Dear IASS Members,

The IASS Executive Committee have been working very hard to promote and support the many activities that serve our community of survey statisticians. I'm very grateful to Partha Lahiri, Eric Rancourt, Andres Gutierrez, Jiraphan Suntornchost and Annamaria Bianchi for their dedication in undertaking all of the IASS initiatives. I am also grateful to the ISI Permanent Office, particularly to Conchita Kleijweg and her team, for supporting IASS operations and administration and ensuring that everything is run smoothly.

Our IASS Strategic Document is open for consultation and available here: [\[Strategic Document\]](#). Please provide comments to natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk before we bring it to the vote at our 2024 IASS Annual General Assembly (AGM) to be held on July 17th at 2 pm CET. It is important that you make your voice heard on the future direction of the IASS by attending the AGM. The registration page is here: [\[2024 Annual General Assembly\]](#).

In the Strategic Document, we have identified new avenues to increase our visibility and support for our community. The first strategy is to actively support relevant survey statistics conferences by organizing special invited sessions. I am pleased to say that we will now have a sponsored session at the Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium (October 29–November 1, 2024) titled: Developments in Small Area Estimation. We are also sponsoring an invited session at the upcoming 3rd Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics at ISTAT (December 4–5, 2024) titled: Innovations in Small Area Estimation, focusing on the use of innovative non-survey data in small area estimation.

Another important strategy is to sponsor an IASS satellite conference prior to the 65th World Statistics Congress to be held in The Hague. The IASS has a tradition of providing monetary support to various conferences in survey statistics, but does not necessarily brand an official IASS satellite conference to the WSC. This will now change. The IASS is happy to join with the biannual 2025 9th Italian Conference on Survey Methodology (ITACOSM 2025). The joint conference will be held July 1–4, 2025 in Bologna, Italy. Moreover, we are also delighted to announce that the 2025 Small Area Estimation (SAE 2025) conference will be held during the second week of July also in Italy. Therefore, both conferences will be labelled as IASS satellite conferences to the 65th WSC. Note that although the 65h WSC has had to be moved from July to October 5–9, 2025, we have decided to keep the IASS satellite conference in July as originally scheduled to allow for more flexibility during the summer months. Watch this space as more information emerges on these exciting July 2025 conferences now in planning.

This year the IASS supported two events: a Workshop on Survey Data Visualization using R, held in Ogun State, Nigeria on January 24, 2024, and the upcoming 13th edition of the International Francophone Conference on Sample Surveys to be held on November 5–8, 2024 in Luxembourg. The list of upcoming conferences and workshops are featured on our events page on the IASS website: [\[Events\]](#), in our monthly newsletters: [\[Newsletters\]](#), as well as listed in *The Survey Statistician*.

The Survey Statistician (past issues can be found here: [\[The Survey Statistician\]](#)) continues to be our flagship IASS publication. An essential and historical part of *The Survey Statistician* are the country reports and we are very grateful to the IASS country representatives for their

dedication in submitting timely articles. We are also very grateful to our editorial team of *The Survey Statistician*, in particular our Editor-in-Chiefs, Danutė Krapavickaitė and Alina Matei, for producing and publishing this outstanding publication.

The *Survey Statistician* serves our community scientifically with informative articles, particularly highlighting new developments and opportunities as we make the cross-over into AI and Data Science. Beyond traditional components of survey statistics covering survey design, questionnaire development, data collection and modes of response, nonresponse adjustments and weighting, small area estimation and confidentiality practices, the field of survey statistics is moving into more formal statistical and modelling theory as we deal with ongoing challenges related to the quality of probability-based surveys. New directions of research include measuring and compensating for measurement errors and informative nonresponse, nonprobability sampling, data integration and multi-source statistics, and Bayesian survey estimation. We aim to ensure that *The Survey Statistician* remains relevant with timely articles dedicated to these areas and to the future of survey statistics.

Our highly successful IASS webinar series continues to provide stimulating and informative talks from leading survey statisticians around the world and I thank Andres Gutierrez for organizing this successful series. We provide regular updates on our IASS website [\[Home\]](#) and through our increasing social media presence and I thank Annamaria Bianchi for posting and coordinating our social media accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn and X. We are also now in the process of selecting the recipient of the 2024 Hukum Chandra Prize and I thank Eric Rancourt for chairing the selection committee.

Now is the time to spread the word about IASS to your networks and to help increase our membership. The website for joining the IASS is here: [\[Join IASS\]](#). Please download our brochure here: [\[Brochure\]](#) to help recruit new members from your networks. I am also pleased to say that we continue to expand our institutional members and have recently welcomed two new institutional members to the IASS: the Office for National Statistics in the UK and IPSOS Italy. We thank all institutional members for their continuing support to the IASS. The list of institutional members to the IASS are included in the back page of *The Survey Statistician*.

Please get in touch with me at Natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk if you have ideas, suggestions, comments, improvements, or criticisms, regarding IASS activities and strategic priorities, particularly related to organizing sessions at relevant conferences and workshops.

With best wishes,

Natalie Shlomo

President IASS, 2023-2025