

## Director's Message – August 2017

Dear ISI members,

We can look back at a very special 61<sup>st</sup> World Statistics Congress in Marrakech. According to an #ISI2017 tweet, 'Statisticians [were] getting hot under the collar', which was absolutely true for many reasons. Of course, we had to face the challenge of high temperature, but we also partook in a very exciting programme – for both scientific and social events, and witnessed the warm hospitality of our Moroccan hosts. The *Palais de Congrès* in Marrakech was a wonderful venue and charmed the participants by its 1001 Night ambiance. The closing event at *Chèz Ali* was just fabulous.



The Congress started with an absolute highlight: the presentation of the first International Prize in Statistics to Sir David Cox during the Opening Ceremony. Although Sir Cox could not attend in person, his presence by video was fantastic.

On the day of the Opening Ceremony, the ISI YS Committee organised the YS-ISI2017 event, which brought together more than 80 early career participants from 30 countries.

Many participants praised the high quality of the scientific programme. We can't thank the SPC chair Fabrizio Ruggeri and LPC chair Belkacem Abdous enough for all the energy they have invested in putting together a programme that reflected the broad spectrum of the participants' interests. Organising a WSC is a huge undertaking and we are grateful to Belkacem Abdous in his capacity of the Local Organizing Committee Chair, the team of HCP and the PCOs for their efforts.

The generous contributions of our [sponsors](#) made it possible for many individuals from developing countries, young persons in particular, to take part in the WSC, the short courses programme and satellite meetings. For many of them it will be a memorable experience, and we trust a worthwhile one for their professional life. We are also grateful to the sponsors for making possible our special events and receptions. We thank all of them for their contributions, which added so much value to the Congress.



***The PO team in Marrakech and VP Irena Krizman.***

*Left to right: Rigselyn Jackson-Hortencia, Shabani Mehta, Irena Krizman, Sofia Kapnisi, Ada van Krimpen, Margaret de Ruiter-Molloy, Olivia van Dijck-Timbol, Michael Leeuwe, Justin van der Veeke.*

We will now proceed at full speed to prepare for the 62<sup>nd</sup> WSC scheduled for 18-23 August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Malaysian booth in Marrakech was just fabulous and gave a good foretaste of things we can expect in Kuala Lumpur.

The WSC is the moment when ISI leadership changes. Pedro Silva ended his two-year term as ISI President and handed over his responsibilities to Helen MacGillivray. The PO staff had worked with Pedro for a long period, since the time he started as President-Elect in 2013. Pedro made an exceptional start as President in 2015 in his role as the local organiser of ISI2015 in Rio de Janeiro. This made him the most qualified person ever to be the ISI President. We thank Pedro for his energy, devotion and wisdom for the benefit of the ISI.

We also said goodbye to Irena Križman, who was Vice-President for four years. Irena brought a lot of energy and priceless initiatives to the ISI. Last but not least, we said good bye to Ivette Gomes, who was Vice-President for two years. We thank Ivette for her valuable contributions and the good cooperation.

The new ISI EC team is ready to start their work. At the ISI Permanent Office we look forward to continue our service to the members of the ISI and Associations as well as their leadership.

Ada van Krimpen  
ISI Director