

President's Message – August 2017

Dear ISI members,

This is many messages in one: thank you to so many, farewell to another wonderful WSC, and welcome to the next two years of challenges, hard work, achievements, and above all, the best of international collegiality.

The ISI Director's message outlines the highlights of the 61st WSC in Marrakech. I echo the biggest thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this WSC such a rich and vibrant success: to the SPC and its inexorable chair, Fabrizio Ruggeri; to the LPC and the LOC, and their indefatigable chair

Belkacem Abdous and unflagging enabler Hasnae Fdhil; and, to the PO staff for their wonderful work behind the scenes in helping to connect all the ISI and WSC dots.



It's an honour and a privilege to be asked to lead ISI, and especially as the second Australian and the second female in ISI's long and distinguished history since 1885. I have to fill very big shoes, Pedro's, and a long and veritable line of remarkable people. Pedro's talent and dedication are as big as his heart and generosity, and it's been a pleasure working closely with him. The interview at <https://youtu.be/QHQ588JWbsM> gives a glimpse of Pedro's commitment to ISI. It has indeed been, and will continue to be, an honour and pleasure to work with so many dedicated and talented people in ISI and its Associations and many partner organisations. I pay tribute to the energy, abilities and commitment of all EC, Council, and Committee members with whom I've worked.

I have been on the Executive for the past 6 years, and before that on Council as IASE President, and before that, on the SPC for ISI2009. But to anyone who wonders why, I give the same answer I give to those who used to ask me why I never tired of teaching statistics, particularly large introductory classes. And that is, no, because Statistics – understanding, thinking, concepts, skills – is so important to so many and its richness, diversity and reach are always growing and changing.

More than 20 years ago, as president of the Statistical Society of Australia, I was emphasizing that diversity is both our strength and challenge – so much more true for an international statistical community. No matter how much statistics changes, this is a constant. This was reflected in the many thoughtful responses to the members' survey, which identified strengths such as statistical coverage and inclusivity, networking and links, quality and passion of members, excellence of 'umbrella' structure, integrity, history, diversity, World Statistics Congresses, genuine commitment to support and development.

Communication and networking feature very strongly, and the utmost value of them to individuals is particularly evident during a WSC. Many times during the WSC, people commented on the importance and invigoration of meeting, greeting, introducing, putting faces to names, of connecting, interacting. We are always full of ideas, plans and aspirations

at WSC's. My aspiration is to maintain this, to bring people and groups together, and to continue to make things happen.

Networking and cooperation with all statistical organisations are also of or core importance to ISI which aims to continue building on recent significant and varied collaborations, including the International Statistics Prize, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Statistical Capacity Building, and in defence of professional integrity and ethics. The last is once again to the fore in speaking out in support of Andreas Georgiou ([ISI](#), [ASA](#), [RSS](#), [Significance](#)).

What also comes through very strongly from members is pride in belonging to the ISI family. And rightly so. ISI has a wonderfully rich history and structure to encompass diversity. We must meet the accompanying challenges to realise the strength of unity in diversity.

Helen MacGillivray
ISI President