

President's Message – January 2020

WSC 2019 – 2020 – WSC 2021 and beyond

Happy 2020! (So, is this the first year of the new decade or the 10th year of the last decade?) We closed 2019 with a celebration of the world of statistics at the WSC in Kuala Lumpur, and we launch 2020 with a view towards an exciting [WSC 2021 in The Hague](#). [Calls for contributions](#) to the scientific programme will be issued in the near future. Please start thinking now about what you and your colleagues can contribute to make the WSC 2021 scientific programme the most exciting and engaging ever. What can you do to make this WSC one of the *must attend* statistical conferences of 2021?



These conferences require the contribution of dedicated volunteers. Please join me in thanking the Scientific Programme Chair Nalini Ravishanker and Programme Vice-Chairs, Mark Podolskij and Kees Zeelenberg, for their leadership, and the rest of the [Programme Committee](#) for their work so far and for the activity that I know will be coming before the programme is finalized.

The [staff members in the permanent office \(PO\)](#) have been very busy preparing for the first WSC where ISI is responsible for all of the logistical components of the meeting as well as the scientific programme. Their work ranges from interacting with the company building the web-based systems for registration and abstract submissions to working closely with the professional conference organizing firm that coordinates the host of logistical issues that need to be resolved for a major conference. I am grateful to Director Ada van Krimpen and Associate Director Shabani Mehta for leading this effort and for the work of the rest of the ISI PO team.

WSC 2023 is not as far away as you might think! ISI President-Elect Stephen Penneck will be part of the team conducting site visits in Canada, the host country of the WSC 2023 meeting. The host city is still to be determined – stay tuned!

ISI is doing more this year! We are excited about co-sponsoring, with IAOS and the Republic of Zambia Statistical Office, an IAOS / ISI Regional Statistical Conference in Livingstone, Zambia. For more information, please contact zambiastats2020@gmail.com. I love the catchphrases for this meeting: *Better Lives 2030: mobilising the power of data for Africa and the world. Bringing together statisticians and all those in government, universities and education who care about the value of statistics to society.* These capture my hopes and aspirations for the impact of our discipline to provide broad value to society.

I hope that we can start 2020 pursuing some of the themes identified for the RSC in Zambia that I paraphrase here: statistics making a difference and statistics that leave no one behind. I thank you for your work to make a difference and leave no one behind in your communities

John Bailer (@john_bailer)

ISI President

13 January 2020