

President's Message – July 2017

Dear ISI members,

Our largest and most diverse event, the ISI World Statistics Congress, starts in less than a week in beautiful Marrakech, Morocco. I look forward to meeting many of you there very soon.



The local hosts have been working hard to complete preparations for the event, which promises to be an intense and magical experience. The preparation of the final programme continues to this date, to iron out the last remaining details, such as last-minute replacements for speakers who are unable to attend. By the time you receive this news item the final programme will be in place and accessible via the congress website: <http://payment.isi2017.org/programme-schedule-of-the-61st-world-statistics-congress-isi2017/>

In addition to the rich programme featuring the traditional IPS, STS, CPS (Oral, Poster or Poster-Plus) and the recently added LRTD sessions, this year's congress will also feature many 'side' or 'special' events. Such events complement the main scientific programme and bring in additional opportunities for discussion and engagement. Amongst these, there will be some ISI organised open meetings to discuss three of our core strategic initiatives for 2017-2021. Please consider the programme for these events when organising your calendar of activities during the WSC.

I am especially happy to invite you to attend the IPS001, the ISI President's Invited Keynote Lecture, to be delivered by Dr Hadley Wickham, on "Data science in the *tidyverse*". Make sure that you don't miss this session featuring both a hot topic and a great speaker!

This is my last message to you as ISI President. My first ISI activity was attending WSC in Tokyo, in 1987, so thirty years ago! Since then, I must confess that I have become addicted! ISI membership and activities have become an important part of my professional life and beyond. Having my own trajectory as example, I encourage you, especially the younger, to get more involved with the ISI and its Associations activities. There are many opportunities to engage and to help make things happen. Our many committees and special interest groups also provide opportunities for such engagement.

I take this opportunity to thank ALL of you for your support and contributions over the past two years. Thanks also to the dedicated team at the Permanent Office in The Hague. A special note of thanks is due to my closer collaborators at the EC: Helen MacGillivray, Irena Križman, Ivette Gomes, John Bailer and Steve Penneck. You have been amazing to work with, and I will miss you. Best wishes to Helen and the incoming EC and Council, who will take the ISI forward. Our future couldn't be in better hands.

Sincerely yours,

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