EDITOR'S REPORT

During the year 1996, two issues of the Bulletin were published from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Bombay. Thanks are due to the Executive Committee of the ISMS for support and continuous encouragement. I owe a special thanks to Dr. B.L. Verma without whose active editorial collaboration it would have been difficult for me to bring the Bulletin in the present shape. While the first issue of the Bulletin of the year 1996 included one Technical Note in addition to recent publications of interest, Presidential address, General Secretary's Report, and official items from the Secretariat, the second issue of the Bulletin carried two Technical Notes along with a few items from the Secretariat. The later issue of the Bulletin is delayed due to some unavoidable circumstances.

IIPS, Mumbai
November, 1996

Arvind Pandey
Editor - ISMS Bulletin

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
(1-9-96 to 31-3-97)

Life Members

1. Dr. J.M. Naidu, Vishakapatnam.
2. Dr. Tanuja srivastava, Roorkee.
3. Mr. N. Upendhar, Port Blair.
4. Mr. S.N. Chinchole, Nadiad.
5. Dr. M.D. Gupte, Chennai.
6. Dr. Shoba Nagaraju, Pune.
7. Mr. Partha Sarathi Mondal, New Delhi.

Annual Members

1. Ms. Y.S. Kusuma Kumari, Vishakapatnam.
2. Dr. K.K. Saxena, Hissar.
3. Dr. H.K. Nayak, Chennai.
4. Dr. Kusum Lata Gaur, Jaipur.
5. Mr. Nikhil A. GUpte, Pune.

Student Member

1. MR. Santosh Kumar Patnaik, New Delhi.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ISMS
(at AFMC, Pune, 30-11-96)

G96.1 The General Body (GB) meeting started with Prof. P.S.S. Sundar Rao, President, ISMS in the Chair.

G96.2 Prof. Sundar Rao welcomed all the members. He, However, informed that since there was no quorum the meeting was adjourned for a short period and reconvened.

G96.3 The minutes of the GB meeting held on 22-11-95 at the IRMS, Chennai was confirmed.

G96.4 Dr. M. Kachirayan, General Secretary, ISMS, presented his Annual Report 1996. Members wanted information on number of new members enrolled during the period under review be included in the report. The GB approved the report.

G96.5 Mr. P. Jayabal, Treasurer, ISMS, presented his report for the 10-month period from 1-4-95 to 31-1-96 when the Secretariat was functioning at AIIMS, New Delhi. He informed the members that the accounts for the remaining 2 month period of the financial year will be audited and submitted to the EC members. The General Body suggested that the Secretariat should periodically get the advice of experts on the Society's investment in UTI under "Unit Scheme - 1964", whether to continue or sell the units for better investment elsewhere. His report was accepted unanimously.

G96.6 On behalf of Dr. Arvind Pandey, Editor, ISMS Bulletin, Dr. Kachirayan presented the Editor's report. The proposal of the Editor to combine both issues of the ISMS Bulletin for the year 1997 for want of materials was not agreed by the GB. The GB endorsed the suggestion of the EC to include abstracts of some selected papers presented at the XIV Annual Conference in the Bulletin.

G96.7 Prof. Sundar Rao said that as the members are aware, this year's FSMS Award has been conferred on the Awardees for the Society's Awards 1996, as approved by the EC.

1. Prof. B. G. Prasad Award : Dr. S.S. Ganguly
2. Smt. Suraj Kali Jain Award: Mr. Atul Juneja
3. Prof. P. V. Sukhatme Award: Dr. K. Visweswara Rao

He also announced the election of Dr. V.G. Kaliaperumal for the post of President-Elect for the year 1997-98 and Dr. R.J. Yadav for the post of Member, Executive Council for the years 1997-99. The GB approved the above.

G96.8 The draft Rules & Regulations of Prof. S.K. Bhattacharya Oration Award, as approved by the EC, was agreed by the GB also. The GB thanked Dr.(Mrs.) Bhattacharya for her kind gesture.

G96.9 The GB suggested to the Secretariat that a final reminder letter be sent to the 20 Annual Members who have not paid their subscription for 2/3 years emphasizing that their name will be struck off from the rolls of the Society if the subscriptions are not received by 31st January 1997.

G96.10 Mr. N. Sreekumaran Nair, Asst. Professor of Biostatistics, Dept. of Community Medicine, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, accepted in principle to host the XV Annual Conference of the Society at Manipal. At this juncture, Dr. Sundaram informed the GB that he would write to the concerned authorities at Manipal to accept the proposal to hold the next conference there. Prof. Sundar Rao and Dr. B.L. Verma reiterated that the Secretariat should be in a position to inform the GB the tentative venue of the next conference along with a study venue, in future.

G96.11 The GB approved the appointment of "SHIV RAM & RAJ, Chartered Accountants, Chennai" as auditors of the Society at Channai.

G96.12 The GB also approved the EC's decision to print 700 copies of the Memorandum, Rules & Bye-laws of the Society and Membership directory at an estimated cost of not exceeding Rs. 20,000/-.

G96.13 Prof. Sundar Rao informed the GB that the Society received a letter from the Statistical Assistants of the IRMS (ICMR), Channai stating that they were classified under Technical Staff with very little promotional avenues. They requested the Society to help them to raise their status in their organisation. The GB discussed this issue at length and passed a resolution that the President of the Society should write to the Health Secretary, Govt. of India with a copy to the Director-General, ICMR, and Chairman, Central Pay Commission requesting him to take necessary action to remedy the situation.

G96.14 Prof. Sundar Rao, on behalf of the GB, thanked the Organising Committee of the XIV Annual Conference for the excellent arrangements made by them.

G96.15 Dr. Kachirayan placed on record the services of Prof. Sundar Rao as the President of the Society for the past 2 years. The GB acknowledged it overwhelmingly.

G96.16 The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS OF THE ISMS FOR THE YEAR 1996

(A) Fellowship of the Society (FSMS)

This year's FSMS award was bestowed on Dr. J. Richard, Professor & Head, Dept. of Biostatistics, Christian Medical College, Vellore and Dr. K.R. Sundaram, Professor & Head, Dept. of Biostatistics, All India institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. A brief write-up about them is enclosed.

Dr. J. Richard, Professor and Head of the Department of Biostatistics, Christian Medical College, Vellore (CMC) obtained Ph.D. from the Australian National University in 1980 after gaining Master's degree in Statistics from the Annamalai University in 1962. Immediately after joining the CMC (1962) he acquainted himself with human anatomy, physiology and public health by attending the relevant courses along with the regular students of CMC. So he was able to communicate efficiently the principles and practice of biostatistics to the medical and public health staff and students who were not oriented in mathematics. His teaching has been extended to other institutions, summer courses, and specialized courses of the Epidemiology Resource Centre and Clinical

Epidemiology Unit.

Dr. Richard enjoyed providing statistical consultation and assistance to research projects which include field surveys, clinical trials, laboratory experiments and evaluation studies. His expertise was also utilized through the Research Committee and Ethics Committee. He has conducted a number of research projects as a Principal Investigator. Along with Dr. Sundar Rao, he was active in establishing the department of Biostatistics in the CMC in 1964, organizing the Diploma in Health Statistics course and later M.Sc. in Biostatistics. He has guided a candidate to obtain Ph.D. in 1994. and three are registered for Ph.D. under his supervision.

Dr. Richard had visited many Universities and Institutions in U.S.A. and U.K. in connection with Epidemiology Resource Centre in 1986 and brought in expertise in statistical software. On receipt of the award of Mid-career Fellowship of the Population Council, New York, research on age at marriage and its correlates was undertaken at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, during 1991-92. Dr. Richard was the Organising Secretary of the Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS) held at the CMC, Vellore.

Dr. Richard coauthored two books and published more than 50 papers and about a dozen monographs. His areas of the specialization are Demography and Multivariate analysis.

Dr. K.R. Sundaram, born in 1943 in Kerala, passed his graduate course in Mathematics with Statistics from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, University of Kerala, in 1964 and Master's Degree course in Statistics from Govt. Victoria College, Palghat, University of Kerala, in 1966. Before joining the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi as Asst. Professor in Biostatistics in 1976, he worked as Statistician/Lecturer in Biostatistics for three years in Medical Colleges in Kerala and thereafter as Statistician/Senior Research Officer for seven years in the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi and Pune. In AIMS, he was promoted to Assoc. Prof. in Biostatistics in 1983 and was redesignated as Addl. Professor in the same year. He became Head of the Department in 1991. He took his Doctorate degree in Biostatistics from AIIMS in 1991. He is currently Prof. and Head of the Department from March 1996. He was WHO Fellow for six months in 1973 and had training in Biostatistics from the University of Michigan, USA.

Dr. Sundaram has more than 100 research publications, published both in International and National Journals. Fifteen chapters on various aspects of Biostatistics and epidemiology in various books were contributed by him.

Dr. Sundaram has a long teaching experience in Biostatistics, epidemiology and research methods spread over for about thirty years. He has taught this subject for undergraduate, postgraduate and para-medical course students and also for the faculty and Research workers in various teaching and research institutions. He was associated with more than 100 Medical, Public Health and Biological research projects both at National, and International level, carried out in the Medical Colleges and Research Institutions.

He was sub-Dean of AIIMS for about two years and was responsible for the academic and examination work in AIIMS during these years. He is a member of WHO expert panel on Health situation and trend assessment. He was the General Secretary of ISMS for three years and needless to mention that he did an excellent job in that capacity. He organized a National Workshop in "Biostatistical Methods in Statistical Inference and Evaluation" in AIIMS in Dec., 1995 which was well appreciated by the participants. He is a member of the Project review committee of ICMR, monitoring committee of ICMR Leprosy Vaccine trial in Madras and statistical consultant to Nutrition Foundation of India, UNICEF and Danish National Project on cataract Blindness. He was a member of the Editorial committee/Statistical Consultant to National Medical Journal of India, IJMR, Indian Paediatrics and Indian Journal of Paediatrics. He was honoured with Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Award for the best published paper in Nutrition by ISMS in 1995.

His area of research interest include: Application of statistical methods/models to anthropometric data of children for the

classification of their nutritional status and growth pattern; epidemiological studies on alcohol and drug abuse in various population and the application of multivariate analysis in medical and allied fields. He has travelled widely covering many parts of the world for attending conference, for visits and as consultant. He is a regular statistical consultant for teaching and research in the Sultan Quaboos University, in Muscat.

Prof. B.G. Prasad Award

This year, the paper entitled " Analysis of ordinal data in a study of endometrial cancer under a matched pairs case-control design", published in Statistics in Medicine, 1995; 14: 1545-1552 was selected for this award. This award will be presented to its first author **Dr. S.S. Ganguly**, during the next ISMS Conference. Dr. Ganguly is lecturer in Statistics & Demography, Dept. of Preventive & Social Medicine, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune.

Smt. Suraj Kali Jain Award

This year, the paper entitled "Probability approach for identifying a high-risk group of women for cervical cytology screening" published in The Cancer Journal, 1996, 9(3): 149-151 was selected for this award. The award will be presented to its first author **Mr. Atul Juneja**, during the next ISMS Conference. Mr. Atul Juneja is Technical Officer (Biostat.) at the Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology (ICMR), New Delhi.

Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Award

This year, the paper entitled "Anthropometry for the assessment of various forms of malnutrition - Available approaches and their relative merits" published in the Man in India, 1995; 75(2); 195-207 was selected for this award. The award will be presented to its first author **Dr. K. Visweswara Rao**, during the next ISMS Conference. Dr. Visweswara Rao is Deputy Director at the National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR), Hyderabad.

Dr. R.N. Srivastava Award

This year, the paper entitled " Application of Receiver operating Characteristics (ROC) curve analysis for identifying optimum cut-off points of risk factors for hypertension" presented by Lt. Col. Rajvir Bhalwar at the XIV Annual Conference of the ISMS at AFMC, Pune was selected for the award. The award will be given during the next Conference. Dr. Rajvir Bhalawar is a Reader in the Dept. of Preventive & Social Medicine, at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune.

NOMINATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP & AWARDS 1997

Nominations for the Fellow of the Society of Medical Statistics (FSMS), Prof. B.G. Prasad Award, Smt. Suraj Kali Jain Award and Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Award are invited upto 31-8-1997. Papers for Prof. R.N. Srivastava Award may be sent directly to the Organising Secretary of the Conference and a copy of the paper should be sent to the Secretariat. More details may be obtained from the Secretariat upon request.

NOMINATIONS FOR ISMS OFFICE-BEARERS

Nominations for three posts of Member of the Executive Council are invited upto 31-8-1997. The nominations are to sent directly to Prof. K.R. Sundaram, Convenor, ISMS Nomination Committee, Dept. of Biostatistics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi- 110 029.

PROFESSOR S.K. BHATTACHARYA ORATION AWARD

This award has been instituted in 1996 by Dr.(Mrs)M. Bhattacharya of Allahabad in memory of her husband, Late Dr. Samir Kumar Bhattacharya, Professor of statistics, Head of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, and Dean, Faculty of Science, Allahabad University, Allahabad. This award is given every year, if suitable entries are received by the Society. The awardee has to deliver an Oration-lecture on

suitable topic during the annual conference of ISMS.

Nature of the award

The award consists of a cash prize of Rs. 1,500/- and a Scroll of honour. This award is presented by the Society's President in a session held for the purpose during the annual conference of ISMS.

Submission of entries for the Award

A biostatistician, medical doctor or scientist from related disciplines fulfilling the following criteria, shall be considered for the award. He/she should:

(i) be a senior faculty member;
(ii) be an ISMS member at the time of presentation of award;
(iii) have earned national eminence by way of his/her academic contributions, leading to a promotion of statistics in medicine, with emphasis on application of newer techniques;
(iv) not have received this award earlier.

Nominations for the Oration Award should be proposed by 2 ISMS members. Such nominations should be made to the General Secretary on plain paper and sent under registered cover so as to reach him on or before 31st March, containing the following documents:

(i) Letter of nomination along with the nominee's consent giving the title of the proposed oration-lecture.
(ii) One-page bio-data of the nominee giving evidence on the eminence in the field.
(iii) Evidence on the status of nominee's ISMS membership.

Criteria for assessment of nominations for the award

All entries received shall be assessed by the Award Committee. On the basis of recommendations of the Award Committee, the Executive Committee of the society will take a final decision on the name of the person selected for the award. The awardee shall be informed well in advance about the date, place and the name of the Organising Secretary of the Annual Conference where the oration-lecture shall be delivered.

VENUE OF THE XV ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY

The XV Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics will be held at SMS Medical College, Jaipur under the leadership of Dr. M.R. Songra, Prof. & Head, Dept. of P.S.M. of the college. The exact date of the conference will be intimated to the members shortly. We wish that Members make it convenient to attend the Society's XV Annual Conference to be held at Jaipur in large numbers to make it a grand success.

ADMISSIONS

The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES) has several academic programmes (and also short courses) in epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, health services research, medical informatics and public health offering M.Sc, M.P.H., Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees. For further details and brochure, contact: The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences, Erasmus University Medical School, Mrs. Gerda Bathoorn, Room no. 2122, PO Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. FAX: +31(0) 10 4365933.

AVAILABILITY

Global Environmental Epidemiology Network (GEENET)

If one is actively involved in the environmental epidemiology field, please write to the address below for application form. There is no fee. Environmental Epidemiology, Division of Environmental Health, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, FAX : (022) 791 0746.

MEMBERS NEWS

Dr. A. Indirayan, Prof. & Head, Division of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of

Preventive & Social Medicine in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Delhi, for a period of 3 years. This department looks after PSM affairs in Maulana Azad Medical College and Lady Hardinge Medical College in addition to the University College of Medical Sciences in Delhi.

Dr. A. Indrayan has been elected as a Member of the International Statistical Institute by virtue of his distinguished contributions to the development or application of statistical methods.

Dr. A. Indrayan has been invited to be a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Mr. T.C. Gupta, ADG, ICMR, New Delhi was conferred with Ph.D in Statistics by Meerut University in November 1995 for his thesis entitled "Role of Sampling in Planning Epidemiological Studies".

Mr. V. Sreenivas has been provisionally awarded Ph.D at the Dept. of Biostatistics, AIIMS, New Delhi for his thesis "Some Statistical Investigation into the Epidemiology of Uterine Cervical Dysplasia and their Progression into Carcinoma in Situ".

Dr. K.R. Sundaram, Addl. Prof. & Head, Dept. of Biostatistics, AIIMS has been appointed as the Professor & Head of the same Department with effect from 26 March, 1996. *Dr. Sundaram* served as the Visiting Consultant in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Medicine, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Dr. R.M. Pandey, Asstt. Prof., Dept. of Biostatistics, AIIMS, New Delhi, presented a paper "Comparison of Multivariate Statistical Procedures for Misclassification" at the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN) in its Global Meeting held at Penang, Malaysia, during 18-24 February, 1997.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 1997

The General Body Meeting of the Society was held at the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune during the XIV Annual Conference of the Society and Office-bearers for various posts were elected for terms beginning January 1997. The Executive Council for the year 1997 is as listed below:

1. *Prof. P.P. Talwar, New Delhi President (2 years: 1997-98)*
2. Dr. V.G. Kaliaperumal, President - Elect NIMHANS, Bangalore (2 years: 1997-98)
3. Dr. M. Kachirayan, IRMS, Chennai General Secretary (3 years: 1996-98)
4. Mr. P. Jayabal, IRMS, Chennai Treasurer (3 years: 1996-98)
5. Dr. Arvind Pandey, IIPS, Mumbai Editor (5 years: 1994-98)
6. Dr. K.R. Sundaram, AIIMS, New Delhi Member (3 years: 1996-98)
7. Dr. S.N. Dwivedi, AIIMS, New Delhi Member (3 years: 1996-98)
8. Prof. P.S.S. Sundar Rao, SLRTC, Karigiri Member (2 years: 1997-98)
9. Dr. R.J. Yadav, IRMS, New Delhi Member (3 years: 1997-99)
10. Prof. K.V. Suryanarayana, Waltair Member (3 years: 1995-97)
11. Dr. B.L. Verma, MLBMC, Jhansi Member (3 years: 1995-97)
12. Prof. A. Indrayan, UCMS, New Delhi Member (3 years: 1995-97)