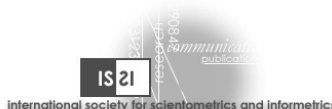


## ISSI Newsletter

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### Newsletter from the ISSI President, August 2003.

Dear Colleagues,

After many months of bad news about the SARS virus in many places around the world, by late June the World Health Organization (WHO) was no longer warning against travel to China and Beijing in particular. This was great news for the Chinese Organizing Committee, which had been planning the 9th International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics for over 2 years. During the SARS crisis, I had many emails from members who were deeply anxious about whether or not to attend the 9th ISSI Conference. The planning and running of International Conferences require long lead times with much preparatory work over a number of years. With the WHO clearance of the lessened risk for travel to China, people were encouraged to travel to Beijing for the ISSI Conference, the most important event in the Scientometrics calendar. As the outgoing President of ISSI, I was there – firstly to present a paper written with my colleague Joanne Orsatti, and secondly, to attend the ISSI Board meeting always associated with the Conference. At that meeting, we handed over to the new ISSI Board who, with the new ISSI President, Henry Small of ISI, Philadelphia, are to take charge of the Society's affairs for the next four years until around 2007.

The winner of the 2003 Derek de Solla Price Memorial Award was announced at the Beijing Conference. Previous winners include scholars from many fields, including sociology, such as Robert K. Merton (see Merton Obituary in *Scientometrics*, 57 (2) June 2003 by Manfred Bonitz).

Also the COLLNET group held its 4th Special Meeting in association with the 9th ISSI Conference on the Friday of the Beijing meeting. COLLNET is a global research network of scholars who are concerned to study aspects of collaboration in science and technology (see COLLNET web site at: <http://www.collnet.de/>). Hildrun Kretschmer, as

the group's coordinator, established this network of interdisciplinary scholars in January 2000 in Berlin. Since that time, there have been 3 meetings: the first in Berlin, September 2000, the 2nd in New Delhi, February 2001 and the 3rd in Sydney (in association with the 8th ISSI Conference), July 2001.

Elections by an open election process among all ISSI members were held for the first time using electronic communication. During the nomination process, many names were submitted. After seeking permission from those nominated, the ISSI Election Administration launched the voting process by email through its discussion group listserv ([issilistserv.rediris.es](mailto:issilistserv.rediris.es)). All valid electors (financial ISSI members) were sent ballot papers listing four (4) nominations for the role of President, and 23 for Board members. The final result was that HENRY SMALL (United States) of ISI in Philadelphia was elected President, and six others were elected to the Board – SUBBIAH ARUNACHALAM (India), MARI DAVIS (Australia), WOLFGANG GLÄNZEL (Belgium/Germany/Hungary), PETER INGWERSEN (Denmark), GRANT LEWISON (United Kingdom), ED NOYONS (The Netherlands), RONALD ROUSSEAU (Belgium). In my view, this team comprises members from many of the nations that contribute strongly to the field. Congratulations are in order for our ISSI representatives and wish them well for their work over the next 4 years (up to 2007). A report on the election process was presented at the ISSI Board meeting in Beijing together with some recommendations on a number of aspects that could be improved next time around.

We have been working steadily to activate the ISSI Web site with a number of pages of information on membership, the Conferences, history of the Society, the Derek De Solla Price Medallists, and current news and events of interest. We have designed a test site here at the University of New South Wales and testing with the assistance of Isidro Aguillo and CINDOC's assistance was conducted during early August 2003. The site was up and running at its new address (url) during the meeting in Beijing.

We are also continuing to foster linkage with other organizations that are interested in the study of science and scientists. Such links provide avenues for opening up possibilities for joint sessions at meetings or conferences sponsored by bodies other than ISSI. In this way, attention would be brought to the field of scientometrics and informetrics. Importantly, ISSI needs alliances with other groups, such as COLLNET, for broader reach among a range of interdisciplinary researchers and to encourage new thinking and perspectives on investigations in science and technology.

Don't forget about subscribing to the journal, *Scientometrics*, using the special rate of US\$100 for ISSI members (see Kluwer web page for this journal at: <http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0138-9130>). For me it is wonderful to receive each issue on my desk promptly and to be able to scan the contents immediately and later

read it in depth when time permits. Also I encourage as many of you as possible to subscribe and contribute to discussions on the ISSI listserv. To join this discussion group, email to [listserv@listserv.rediris.es](mailto:listserv@listserv.rediris.es) and, in the text of your message (write nothing in the subject line), type: SUBSCRIBE ISSI <your name>. It is not necessary to be a financial member of ISSI to join this discussion service. Once a subscriber, you are able to contribute news, start a discussion on issues of interest or to pose questions to the field. The lingua franca of the ISSI discussion group is English.

It was a great pleasure for me to meet many of my old research friends in Beijing, China at the 9th International ISSI Conference and to meet so many scientometric scholars from China who are new to ISSI.

Sincerely,

*Mari Davis*  
ISSI President, 2001-2003

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