

PSYCHOMETRIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dear Members of the Psychometric Society,

It is my pleasure and honor to serve as the 89th President of the Psychometric Society. When I joined the Society as a graduate student in 1982, I never dreamed that I would eventually become its President. That was a long time ago, and the Society was very different then. The Society has grown both in numbers and in complexity since those days, and the purpose of this newsletter is to highlight some of the challenges that the Society is now facing and, relatedly, some initiatives that I would like us to pursue over the coming year.

First, and perhaps of most importance to the Society, is the transition of *Psychometrika* from a hybrid subscription and open-access journal to fully open access. This transition is inevitable, and so we also must eventually move the journal to an open access model, what is referred to as **gold open access**. As you read this, we are in the process of renewing our publishing contract, and we are in discussions with our current publisher, Springer, and two other publishers regarding our transition to open access. Regardless of how the negotiations play out, the Society will experience a loss of revenue, and although our finances are quite strong right now, we will need to find ways to mitigate the loss of revenue while retaining the strengths of the Society that we have come to expect and enjoy. I will keep the membership fully apprised of our decisions.

Second, I plan to work with the Board and membership to expand the Society's regional footprint. Over the years, we have seen an increase in the number of scholars from emerging nations not only join the Society but participate in, and host, IMPS. I want to continue this important trend and I would like to encourage the membership to reach out to colleagues from emerging nations and urge them to join the Society and attend IMPS. In this regard, the Society has various tools to encourage scholars from emerging nations to join the Society and attend the meeting. As an example, scholars from emerging nations can take advantage of reduced membership and attendance fees. Please contact me if you know of individuals or groups from emerging nations and I will be happy to personally reach out to them.

Finally, a trend that has been troubling me for quite some time is the dearth of critical dialog or questions at scientific conferences, including IMPS. In part, this might be due to the structure of the sessions – particularly paper presentations. But even when there is time to ask questions, we rarely take the opportunity to engage speakers in critical discussion. At the meeting in College Park, I was moved by Klaas Sijtsma's comments about being critical of one another's work in order to produce something meaningful, and **Keith Markus'** remarks on a methodology of criticism – sharing his ideas of "internal criticism", "charitable criticism", and "parity". I strongly believe, in line with Sir Karl Popper's **Three Worlds Theory**, that when we are willing to make our ideas known to others through our writings and presentations, then those ideas no longer belong to us, so to speak, but rather to the relevant scientific community. It is then the responsibility of the community to test those ideas through sharp, but charitable, criticism. Criticism makes everyone's work better and moves the field forward. I would like end by encouraging all of us to embrace a quote from Seneca (**Letter XII, On Old Age**); ***"The best ideas are common property."***

Have a safe and productive New Year.

David Kaplan
President, Psychometric Society