

Editor-in-Chief's Note

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This issue of *Bayesian Analysis*, Volume 4 Number 4, is the twelfth and final one for which I have the privilege of serving as editor-in-chief (EiC); my three-year term (2007-09) is drawing to a close. It's been an enormously gratifying and enlightening run, so I'd like to take just a few paragraphs to say thanks, describe a bit of what we've accomplished as a journal in the past year or so, and mention where the journal is headed and what challenges and opportunities it's likely to face there.

As I type this, it is near the end of Thanksgiving Day in the United States, and it's impossible not to reflect on how thankful I am for the chance to serve as EiC, and for the many dedicated men and women who do all the real work of the journal, completely without financial compensation and at a time when ever-increasing pressures to further improve productivity encourage one to forego often-thankless volunteer work like editing and refereeing whenever possible. Simply put, I am eternally grateful to all the editors, associate editors, referees, and production staff who make each issue possible. It is dangerous to begin naming names in situations like this since one is sure to miss someone important, but I do want to mention a few key persons who have been around *BA* since the very beginning some 5 years ago. These include System Managing Editor Pantelis Vlachos, Managing Editor Herbie Lee, Deputy Editor Marina Vannucci, and Editors Philip Dawid, David Heckerman, Michael Jordan, and Fabrizio Ruggeri. Philip and Marina have decided to step down as part of the transition, and let me thank them at this time for their years of outstanding service. I am hopeful that most if not all of the others are willing to continue, along with Production Editor Angelika van der Linde and Editors Kate Cowles, David Dunson, Antonietta Mira, and Bruno Sansó. All do wonderful work, as do all our AEs and referees. Thanks again.

2009 has been another good year for the journal. We will again publish about 850 pages, very similar to our page counts in 2007 and 2008. We submitted three consecutive issues of the journal to Thomson-Reuters as evidence that we merit inclusion in their indexing systems, and in October we received the good news that *BA* has been accepted into the *Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE)* including the *Web of Science*, the *ISI Alerting Service*, and *Current Contents/Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (CC/PC&ES)*. We have been told that Thomson-Reuters will have sufficient source item and citation data to compute an impact factor for the next *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*, which is scheduled to be published in June 2010. Getting *BA* on the road to an impact factor (critically important these days, especially to our European contributors) was one of my primary goals as EiC, so I'm very pleased this got done before my term expired.

My other primary goal was to keep the flow of interesting discussion papers going, and here again I've been very pleased by the results. I have striven to select a wide

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range of papers for this very visible quarterly slot, from foundations to applications and even an occasional thought piece (such as Andrew Gelman's "April Fools' Day blog" paper in Volume 3 Number 3). The current issue's discussion paper is on a subject near and dear to my heart (baseball), and as usual features some state of the art Bayesian methods followed by a spirited question-and-answer period in the discussions and rejoinder. We also get a nice stream of potential discussion papers from the Case Studies in Bayesian Statistics (Carnegie Mellon) and other ISBA-related meetings throughout the year. Some in the profession have suggested opening the papers on the BA website to discussion by anyone, rather than permit only a few papers to be discussed by a few high-profile discussants selected by the EiC. I must confess I have been hesitant to change our current system, since I like the idea of one "special" paper per issue, plus selecting this paper and coordinating the discussions and rejoinders is perhaps the best part of the EiC job! But it's a good suggestion and one with which the next EiC and editorial board may choose to grapple.

Speaking of the new EiC, I am very pleased to announce to those who missed the email from ISBA President Mike West that it will be none other than Herbie Lee, the current (and founding) managing editor of *BA*. I am very pleased the search committee offered the position to Herbie, and that he accepted! It means an especially easy transition period since Herbie's long tenure with the journal means he needs essentially no "training" of any kind. Herbie will no doubt want to bring on some new editors and AEs, and I'm confident the journal will remain strong under his leadership.

Of course, as I said there will be challenges to greet Herbie and his team. One involves the online review system, which was constructed specifically for us several years ago, but is now beginning to show its age somewhat. Other online review system products are out there that may offer advantages over ours in terms of flexibility and extendability in the long run. One of these is already used by our institutional partner IMS, for whom *BA* is already an IMS Supported Journal and with whom ISBA already has a joint membership agreement and a variety of well-attended jointly sponsored conferences (including the MCMSki series, the next of which will be January 5-7, 2011). Expanding this IMS partnership may be most natural.

A second issue continues to be finding a reliable revenue stream to support the journal. We now offer on-demand printing of issues for a small fee, but *BA*'s free online availability has essentially precluded any significant sales revenue. Other arrangements may include adding advertising, or even affiliating with the Berkeley Electronic Press, which has a fairly long history of profitably running journals like ours. I happen to know BEP is interested in seeing this happen, but whether we should surrender our independence in such a dramatic way for a modest revenue stream is again something Herbie and the ISBA Board will need to ponder.

On that note, I close this editorial. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as EiC, and for your support of the journal during my tenure. While my involvement with the journal will now shrink dramatically in order for me to free up the time necessary to chair my own biostatistics group at Minnesota, I will stay involved as a guest editor, helping the journal process the contributed papers from the upcoming Valencia 9/2010

ISBA World Meeting in Spain this June. I look forward to seeing many of you at that meeting, and as always, to your submissions at <http://ba.stat.cmu.edu>, and your more personal thoughts and reactions via email to <mailto:brad@biostat.umn.edu>.

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Thanksgiving 2009

