The new chair of EAC, Hans-Peter Piepho, has taken up the post on 1 January 2018. In the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 May 2018, EAC has been involved in the following activities:

(1) **Search for new Editor of Biometrics**

Three members of EAC were part of the search committee nominating Stijn Vansteelandt's successor as Co-Editor of Biometrics:

Hans-Peter Piepho, EAC Chair (German Region), Esa Läärä, EAC member (Nordic Baltic, former EAC chair), Liliane Lopez Kleine, EAC member (Central America and Caribbean Region).

EAC unanimously approved the proposal to nominate Mark Brewer as new Co-Editor of Biometrics.

(2) **Search for new Book Review Editor of Biometrics**

Donna Ankherst is currently the Book Review Editor of Biometrics. Her term will be ending this year. A search subcommittee will be tasked to find her successor. The IBS policies and procedures manual sets out the following:

“Book Review Editor: Search subcommittee includes EAC chair, Biometrics book review editor, plus three EAC members. Deadline is June 1 prior to the completion of the current three-year term of office, with completion of the selection process by September 30.”

The following EAC members have been nominated for this search committee:

Peter Njuho (South African Region), Ruth King (British & Irish Region), and Rebecca Hubbard (ENAR) have kindly agreed to act as EAC members on this search committee if nominated.

Additional members: Donna Ankherst (current Book Review Editor), Hans-Peter Piepho (chair EAC)
IBS head office has started the search by sending out a mail to the IBS membership soliciting suggestions for nominees before 30 May 2018. The search committee will select a candidate from the list of candidates and make a proposition to the Executive Board.

(3) Replacement of Ann Hanhart as Editorial Manager of Biometrics

Ann Hanhart, current Editorial Manager of Biometrics, is retiring by end of August 2018. Geert Molenberghs, Executive Editor of Biometrics, has proposed to hire a new Editorial Manager at his own institution, Hasselt University in Belgium. The proposal made by Geert Molenberghs is reproduced here:

> The proposal I would like to submit to you is to hire an Editorial Manager at my own institution, Hasselt University in Belgium. Keeping an eye on efficiency and cost-efficiency at the same time, I would propose a part-time appointment, say 50%. To have an informed discussion, I talked to the university administration, and here is what the cost involved would be:
  > Salary per annum: € 32,959.56
  > Office related cost (housing, supplies,… ) € 5000.00
  > Overhead charged by the university € 6453.13
  > TOTAL € 44,412.69 = $ 54,886.09
  > This is roughly 72% of the expenses currently charged.
  > If this option is acceptable, the job has to be advertised, as required by local regulations (sooner rather than later). Fortunately, we do have at least one excellent candidate. Our former departmental research manager had to leave the office over a year ago, unfortunately, for health reasons. Fortunately, she has recovered well, but would prefer a… half-time job rather than a full-time one, and also that she can work from home from time to time. Also, she is bilingual, with a British father and a Belgian mother.
  > What I would hope is that Ann and her successor could overlap for at least a month, ideally for two months (i.e., July and August), so as to make the transition as seamless as possible. I can speak to the benefit of that. I started working alongside Marie as early as August 2017, and I still frequently request advice and input from her side, so a good amount of overlap for the Editorial Manager positions seems entirely sensible to me.

EAC has unanimously approved this proposal. We are now awaiting the further steps taken by IBS in this process.

(4) Change of the workflow for the Book Review Section of Biometrics
Geert Molenberghs, Executive Editor of Biometrics, suggested a change of the workflow for the Book Review Section of Biometrics. The cost to implement the change would be 300 $. The relevant passage of Gert Molenbergh's message to the EAC Chair was follows:

"We are writing with an update on recent discussions concerning moving Biometrics Book Reviews to ScholarOne. We have been in touch with Sara Welliver at Wiley, and after discussing a few options, we believe the option that would work best for all involved is to create a new Book Review workflow. Sara explained, "ScholarOne would create a new branching workflow for your site. When a book review comes in, the site can direct it along a completely different path than regular papers. You could skip the review process altogether and go straight to a decision or you could have a different default number of reviewers. You could also remove the entire AE portion of the workflow for Book Reviews. These book review tasks could be differentiated in the Admin Dashboard, but since the Admin role sees every portion of the process in ScholarOne, you (Ann) would always see them in some way."

We requested a quote from ScholarOne and Sara reported that the cost to implement would be $300. We believe this is entirely reasonable, and Sara can get approval and move forward."

EAC as unanimously approved this proposal.

(5) Search for new Editor of JABES

On behalf of IBS, the EAC Chair was a member of the search committee for a new Editor of JABES, chaired by Jennifer Hoeting. The search committee has suggested to nominate Brian Reich as new Editor.

This proposal was forwarded to EAC and was unanimously approved. A letter officially informing the IBS Executive Board of this decision has been prepared and sent to Peter Doherty for comment and processing.

(6) Biometrics pricing 2019

In keeping with our regulations, Wiley has made a proposal for institutional and individual subscription rates for 2019. The proposal is to increase rates by 6% in 2019, which is in agreement with increases implemented in past years. This proposal has been forwarded to EAC and was approved unanimously.

In the process, there has been some communication on the background of the suggested increase. A question that came up was why the increase is, and has been for a number of years, well above inflation rate. Geert Molenberghs provided some background info to help understand the suggested increase. Very briefly, before Biometrics moved to Wiley, it was very cheap and it was perceived at the time that prices should increase for a number of years to make prices more comparable to other journals. Most importantly, the deal with Wiley involves revenue sharing with IBS, with IBS taking 79%. So good marketing and pricing is in both Wiley's and our own interest.

(7) Tentative agenda for Barcelona meeting of EAC
EAC will hold a face-to-face meeting at IBC in Barcelona on Tuesday 10 July 2018 (exact time to be determined yet). The tentative agenda is as follows:

- Welcome and approval of agenda
- Report by Chair of EAC on activities since 1 January 2018
- State of affairs Biometrics (brief report by Geert Molenberghs)
- State of affairs JABES (brief report by Steve Buckland)
- Biometrics pricing and subscription options
  (price increase for institutional subscribers, option for members to switch to electronic subscription, continued mailing of paper copies to members who unsubscribed to paper copies)
- Partnering of publishers with IBS (Louise Ryan received one specific request from Taylor & Francis to make specific electronic content available to our membership via the IBS website, but we should discuss the options in general)
- Refereeing for Biometrics: anonymous, double blinded or with identities revealed both ways?
- Appearance of our journals on their webpages, brainstorm ideas for possible improvement
- Any other matters

We would welcome any suggestions by the Executive Board for amendment of this tentative agenda.

Hans-Peter Piepho
Chair of EAC

31 May 2018