

EDITORIAL

Membership is important !

Another year over! Time has come again to send all members of the SBS-BVS my personal wishes for a happy and successful New Year 2007.

Another year over! Time passes by rapidly. Emails and electronic transactions change our daily life ever more, not only in depth but also in pace. On Saturday morning, when browsing through my infinite list of weekly emails, those received on Monday or Tuesday seem to me ages ago. By contrast, long time received emails can be retrieved in a second, giving me the impression that I got them yesterday. I remember the time when a scientific paper published in one of the best journals was a matter of discussion and appreciation for many years, while today nobody would talk about it a month later. The same applies to daily life events and persons. Evanescence is probably a good word to term the 21st century information society.

Another year over! Time has been plain, however. The SBS-BVS and its members have been active not only in Belgium but also worldwide in many ways. I would like to specially commend on the UCL statistical team which organised the BSS2006 annual meeting in Houffalize on a short notice but with a remarkable success. The afternoon for young statisticians, sponsored in part by the society, gathered over 60 participants and was highly appraised. I wish the group in Antwerp in charge of BSS2007 the same successful outcome.

Another year over! Time has also come to renew your annual dues. Everyone in the society should contribute to its financial health and stability. One way to do this is to promptly pay the membership fee. Delays cause costly reminders, unnecessary paperwork and headaches to the treasury office. Today, there are also legal reasons for doing so. According to the new law on "asbl/vzw", the official list of members has to be established and deposited every year. Members leaving the society for any reason should always notify the secretarial office about their resignation. Likewise address changes should be rapidly reported to the secretary. I hope that all members will recognise these elementary rules which apply to all societies.

Members can live without the society but the society can not live without its members! Like cells in the human body, members are the cellular

components of the society, making it alive, active, and moving forward.
Membership is really important!

Adelin Albert
President of the SBS-BVS