

ISI Committee on Women in Statistics, ISI Committee Matters, ISI Newsletter, Volume 29, No. 1 (85) 2005, page 11.

The ISI Committee on Women in Statistics (CWS) was organized to enhance the role for women within the ISI and the statistics profession. The committee was organized in 1997 under the leadership of Mary Regier who served until 2001 as chair. Beverley Carlson served from 2001 to 2003 and Cynthia Clark recently succeeded her. The committee has identified five objectives:

- To promote and strengthen the representation of women statisticians in the ISI and its Sections,
- To help in providing opportunities for women members to assume active and visible roles in the ISI and other statistical associations,
- To collect information on women in the statistical professions in different countries and to facilitate the flow of information among women statisticians,
- To stimulate interest in statistics among women and encourage women in schools and colleges to study statistics,
- To support the compilation of statistics on women, with a view to generating relevant studies concerning women's roles in the various activities in their countries.

One of the vehicles through which the committee functions is its website. The site can be accessed at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/cws>. Activities and articles of interest are put onto the site for access to individuals throughout the world. The committee has a new webmaster, Martha Farrar (mfarrar@nass.usda.gov) who is also a committee member.

A recent objective has been to identify individuals that are interested in being country and regional correspondents. These correspondents would contribute brief notes periodically on statistics or statisticians in their country several times a year that would be published on the CWS website. The country correspondents would also take on the role of identifying potential ISI members in their country or region and support their nomination for membership.

The CWS will be sponsoring an invited session at the 2005 Sydney ISI meetings. Invited Program Session 74 is titled "Surveying Women's Issues". It will be held on Saturday, the 9th of April at 9:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. Five papers will be given in the session addressing issues of health, abortion, sexual assault, literacy, and voting. The papers come from both developed and developing countries – Canada, the United States, India, Egypt, and New Zealand.

A recent activity that might be of interest to women statisticians working in the drug or pharmaceutical industry is a survey conducted by Dr. Sheela Talwalker, former Director of Clinical Statistics at Pharmacia. The focus of the survey was to evaluate the opportunities that women statisticians working in the drug industry get for career growth and their satisfaction with management help in achieving it. Dr. Talwalker presented her

analysis of the survey at the 2003 ISI session in Berlin. The results of the survey are on the CWS website.

If you are interested in being involved in the activities of the ISI Committee on Women in Statistics, contact Cynthia Clark (Cynthia.clark@ons.gov.uk). In particular, the committee is soliciting individuals interested in being country or regional representatives.