

Dear Colleagues:

I hope everyone is enjoying some well-deserved rest and relaxation this summer after a challenging academic year. This summer at DSI, the program team and home office staff are busy planning what is sure to be another outstanding virtual conference, to be held Wednesday November 17 through Saturday November 20. We chose these dates, which are a departure from previous years, as the preferred dates for a virtual conference from the 2020 post-conference survey. Next year, when we return to an in-person conference in Houston, we will go back to our usual Saturday through Monday dates, with pre-conference events on Friday.

And what a conference it promises to be! With nearly 1,000 total submissions, the DSI community is coming together to share with and learn from each other across research, teaching, and professional development domains. In the area of professional development, in particular, we have a large number of professional development workshops focused on research and teaching. In addition, the Data, Analytics, and Statistics Instruction (DASI) specific interest group (SIG) will again offer a full schedule of their popular sessions. Thank you to Bob Andrews and Kellie Keeling for their stewardship of DASI over the years and the invaluable contribution of this SIG to the Institute.

Following the success of our first virtual PhD Student Consortium last year, it will again be held as a pre-conference event on Tuesday November 16. This year will also feature a new Clinical Professor Career Consortium, taking place the weekend before the conference on Saturday November 13. Both consortia are free to DSI members, but registration is required; details are on the DSI website.

We are excited to have four keynote sessions that reflect the conference theme of, “Decision Making in Challenging Times – Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability.” The first keynote is *Commitment to Inclusive Excellence – A University President’s Perspective* with University of Houston President Renu Khator, moderated by Bauer College of Business Dean Paul Pavlou. Our second keynote is a *Fireside Chat: Creating a More Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Society: A Corporate Viewpoint* with Danielle Brown, Chief People Officer, and Bernard Coleman, Chief Diversity Officer and Head of Employee Engagement at Gusto, moderated by Sanjay Gupta. For the third keynote, Charles Corbett, Professor of Operations Management and Sustainability, UCLA and IBM Chair in Management, will speak on *The Operations of Well-Being*. Finally, the fourth keynote is *Relevance of Operations Management Research* with Jayashankar Swaminathan, Distinguished Professor of Operations, UNC Chapel Hill.

And there is so much more! In addition to the invited and contributed research and teaching sessions, conference award sessions include Best Paper, Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation, Instructional Innovation, Doctoral Research Showcase, Emerging Markets Showcase, and Regional Best Paper Presentations. Be sure to join your DSI colleagues at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday and Awards Ceremony on Saturday. For those of you new to DSI, the Member Services committee is hosting a New Member Reception immediately before the Welcome Reception.

Fortunately, you do not need to wait until November 2022 for an in-person DSI conference. Our regional conferences will be in-person starting with the Southeast DSI conference in Jacksonville, Florida next February 16-18, followed by the Southwest DSI conference March 2-5 in New Orleans. Western DSI will

hold their pandemic-delayed 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference April 3-7 in Waikoloa, Hawaii. The Northeast DSI conference will be in Newark, NJ April 7-9, during the famous Cherry Blossom Festival. For those who are looking to travel to or within Europe, plan to attend the European DSI conference in Dublin, Ireland May 29-June 1.

In other news, DSI is collaborating with Communications Strategy Group (CSG) on a major brand positioning and website redesign project. We are working with CSG to better communicate the many facets of our value proposition to members and potential members and support your professional development goals and engagement with DSI. Our new and improved website will be launched in time for the November conference.

I want to thank the many volunteers who make this all possible. DSI activities are supported by the work of our committees, with committee members working diligently to enhance the value of all of DSI's activities to our members. A special callout to the conference program team – Sriram Narayanan, Yan Dong, Nitin Joglekar, Kathy McFadden, Marco Sartor, and Stephen Ostrom – for their dedication to making the 2021 conference a terrific experience for all attendees. I am also fortunate to work with a top-notch Board of Directors who are deeply invested in the success of the Institute.

I encourage you to consider serving in a leadership capacity – on a committee or Board of Directors. The call for DSI officer nominations can be found on the DSI website. The deadline for nominations is October 1. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing everyone virtually in November and in person next year!

Joy M. Field  
President