Chris Fry
Statement for IIF Elections 2025

Chris Fry is Director of Data Science at Google Cloud, where he leads data science efforts dedicated to driving efficient and reliable utilization of Google's datacenter infrastructure. His team develops processes and tools for compute, network, and storage forecasting, capacity planning, and risk sharing across Google. Mr. Fry has worked in the field of forecasting for over 25 years, spanning work as a consultant, researcher, developer, and practitioner (LinkedIn profile). He served as an advisor on the M5 and M6 forecasting competitions (2020 IJF paper, 2021 IJDS paper, 2020 keynote talk at the M5 Awards Ceremony showcasing these contributions), and recently chaired IIF's first Forecasting Practice Competition which culminated in the IIF Award for the Impact of Forecasting in Practice. His practitioner talk from ISF 2020 showcases some of his team's work. His team also builds and maintains Google's internal statistical time series forecasting software, portions of which are available externally through Google's BQML ARIMA+ and the Starry-Net forecasting pipeline on Vertex AI.

Mr. Fry began his career as a Research Associate at Decision Focus Incorporated, where he designed and developed models for electric power forecasting, air cargo forecasting, and air cargo revenue management. He spent 20 years in management consulting with Booz Allen Hamilton, McKinsey & Company, and as founder of the analytics consulting firm Strategic Management Solutions. During this time, he developed forecasts and built forecasting systems for clients across energy, pharmaceuticals, travel, apparel, grocery retail, advertising, computer systems, and other industries.

Mr. Fry has been a member of IIF since 2018, and an IIF board member since 2021, serving as IIF Treasurer for 2 years during 2022-2024, and now as Director-at-Large, co-leading the IIF Practitioner Section. Prior to joining IIF, he was also an active member of INFORMS, and served on the INFORMS Roundtable from 2010-2016. Mr. Fry has been recognized with numerous awards, most notably the 2009 INFORMS Franz Edelman Award for his work with Hewlett-Packard on product portfolio management. Mr. Fry holds a B.S. degree in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering from Cornell University, and an M.S. degree in Management Science and Engineering from Stanford. He has engaged closely with the research community throughout his career, and publishes actively as a practitioner.

Personal Statement

It has been an honor to be a member of the IIF Board of Directors since May 2021. During this time period, I served as IIF Treasurer for two years, and I now serve as Director-at-Large, co-leading the IIF Practitioner Section. I am proud that through my efforts, along with the work of many others, we have:

1. Streamlined our financial reporting process, improved financial oversight, and kept the IIF healthy despite increasing cost and revenue pressure, while enabling IIF to support numerous member programs including workshops, awards, travel grants, and of course our great annual symposia.

2. Brought back the Foresight Practitioner Conference, which was held in Charlotte, NC in March 2025. This was the first time the practitioner conference had been held since 2019.

3. Hosted the first IIF Forecasting Practice Competition, which attracted over a dozen entrants and culminated in an outstanding day of finalist presentations earlier this month.

4. Grown our practitioner membership base to over 400 members, with strengthening relationships and collaborations between our academic and practitioner members.

I humbly seek your support for re-election to the board for a second term, to continue these efforts and contribute further to the leadership of IIF. My goals for a second IIF term include:

1. **Supporting greater collaboration between practitioners and researchers in the forecasting community**. I strongly believe that both practitioners and researchers benefit when they have the opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, and learn from each other. I will continue to build on the foundation we have established to encourage greater practitioner participation and engagement, as well as to facilitate communications and sharing between researchers and practitioners. I aim to continue supporting the Foresight Practitioner Conference and IIF Forecasting Practice Competition, as well as to introduce new programs to facilitate pairing between practitioners and the research community.

2. **Ensuring financial solvency**. IIF continues to face financial pressure as journal royalties decline in the digital age. To address this we have to simultaneously broaden our reach into additional sources of revenue, as well as streamline our operations to ensure we deliver maximum value to our members as efficiently as possible. Having served as treasurer in the past, I know the ins and outs of IIF's financials and will work diligently to support this mission.

3. **Maintaining IIF's community feel**. As IIF continues to grow, I aim for us to maintain the great community feel and culture that has underpinned IIF since well before I became a member. To achieve this we must continue to host outstanding global conferences that attract attendees from across disciplines and across the globe, and we must continue to deliver high quality member communications and experiences to support and build our community.

My membership in IIF and service on the board over the past several years has been extremely rewarding to me both professionally and personally. I have learned immensely from all of you at both the in-person and virtual conferences, and from the IJF and Foresight journals. I have also developed friendships and professional relationships that will last for many years. I believe I bring a unique perspective to the IIF board, based on my broad set of experiences that have given me a great appreciation for forecasting in practice across many application areas. I am excited to continue giving back to this great community as a member of your board and would be honored to have your vote!

Sincerely,
Chris Fry