We enjoy hearing from our members — let us know if you’d like to see new content in the newsletter, or, submit your own content! Deadline for the next issue is April 2 2021.

Ana Galvao, IIF Director and Oracle Editor

your member ID:

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IIF Events

41st International Symposium on Forecasting, Virtual

> Keynote and Practitioner Track Speakers announced

> Local Hubs* — will allow small, in-person gatherings to present and view sessions, as well as informal social gatherings. The locations are: Beijing, Lancaster, Rotterdam, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney and Washington DC.

> Deadline dates
  > Proposals for Invited sessions - March 1
  > Abstract submission - March 15
  > Travel grant applications 15 March
  > Notification of acceptance/rejection of abstracts - March 29

* Due to COVID-19, we will be monitoring the on-site venues to assure the safety of our guests.

IIF Podcast — Forecasting Impact
Mahdi Abolghasemi

Forecasting Impact is a new initiative sponsored by the IIF. The podcast aims to disseminate the science and practice of forecasting, grow the forecasting community, and foster collaboration between academia and industry.

Forecasting Impact will bring prominent academics and practitioners in various forecasting fields to discuss a wide range of topics including economics, supply chain, energy, AI, data analytics, healthcare, social goods,
Listen to our first podcast - an interview with Prof. Rob Hyndman.

The monthly podcast is created by Dr. Mahdi Abolghasemi, Dr. Shari De Baets, Michal Chojnowski, Anna Sroginis, and Dr. Sarah Van der Auweraer.

**IIF News**

**Foresight Hall of Fame Award - Seeking Nominations**

Jim Hoover, Len Tashman

We have created a *Foresight Hall of Fame* (HOF) program to annually bestow awards on the best papers published in our practitioner journal, *Foresight: The International Journal of Applied Forecasting*.

We are asking you for nominations for the best papers in Foresight published since its inception in 2005 through 2017 (Issues 1 – 47). Five papers from this period will be inducted into the *Foresight Hall of Fame*, with each award carrying a $500 stipend.

Recipients will be selected by vote of the *Foresight* Editors and Advisory Board, based on nominations from the IIF membership. Editor Len Tashman will announce recipients at ISF2021.

- **Deadline for nominations is March 15** Please send nominations (title of article, author, and issue) to Michelle Kitchens, *Foresight* Marketing Director
- Note that multi-part articles will be treated as a single article in the HOF voting, so you can nominate a series rather than each individual article in the series.

IIF members with *Foresight* subscriptions have free online access to the *Foresight* archives – available at the *Foresight* Bookstore.

Thank you all in advance for participating in this project, and we look forward to your nominations by March 15.

**SWEET Section — Section on Water, Energy and EnvironmentT**

Tao Hong

1. **Global Energy Forecasting Competition 2021: Solar and Net Load Forecasting** GEFCom2021 will feature two tracks, solar irradiance forecasting and net load forecasting. This competition will inherit the bi-level setup of GEFCom2017. We will use a qualifying match math to bring together contestants from various domains, and to help people get familiar with solar and load forecasting problems. A final match will determine the winners. Details of GEFCom2021 will be released in Spring 2021. Please join the email list to get timely updates.
2. **SWEET Election** In Spring 2021, Dr. Tao Hong will become Past Chair of SWEET and Vice Chair, Dr. Richard Povinelli, and Secretary, Dr. Jooyoung Jeon, will become the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. The team is looking for a Secretary. If you are interested in taking this leadership role, please contact Dr. Tao Hong.

**ECR Section — Early Career Researchers Section**

Shari De Baets, Sarah Van der Auweraer, Anna Sroginis, Michal Chojnowski

The ECR section of the IIF is off to a great start in 2021! They just hosted a webinar with Paul Goodwin, entitled *Lessons from a career in forecasting research*. If you weren't able to attend, listen to Paul share his wisdom on the [recorded session](#).

**Instagram Take-over**

We've started an Instagram take-over! To celebrate our members, each week we'll post a member's photo.

We welcome contributions — send your photo (from your travels or home town), brief explanation of the photo, where you're working, your forecasting interest and your @ Instagram account. Send to forecasters@forecasters.org.
Community Events

Friday Forecasting Talks
Centre for Marketing Analytics and Forecasting, Lancaster University

Centre for Marketing Analytics and Forecasting of Lancaster University, UK has hosted six webinars in 2020 in the series of "Friday Forecasting Talks" (CMAF FFT), introducing presentations from academics and practitioners on a variety of forecasting-related topics. All the talks have been recorded and are available on the CMAF YouTube channel.

The Centre now plans to host six more talks in 2021 before the Easter and several more afterwards. The list of confirmed speakers includes Stephan Kolassa, Nikos Kourentzes, John Noguera, Thomas Willemain, Sven Crone, Mike Gilliland, Ivan Svetunkov and others to be announced. The schedule of the talks is available at cmaf-fft.lp151.com/, and registration is at MeetUp of the CMAF, https://www.meetup.com/cmaf-friday-forecasting-talks/. Participation to the Friday Talks is free.

Webinar: Climate Econometrics Spring School
Timberlake | March 15th – March 17th, 2021 ONLINE

This Spring School will be presented by Dr. Jennifer L. Castle, Dr. Jurgen A. Doornik and Prof. Sir David F. Hendry, as a precursor to the 23rd Annual Dynamic Econometrics Conference, 2021. The course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of econometric modelling of climate variables in a non-stationary world. It covers the modelling methodology, implementation, practice and evaluation of climate-economic models.

The framework, its basic concepts and implications will be explained for modelling evolving processes that are also subject intermittently to outliers and structural breaks. Live applications to empirical climate time series will demonstrate the approach.

Develop skills in selecting econometric models for a range of climate and related variable, producing and evaluating empirical models and handling evolving time series exhibiting trends, outliers and sudden shifts. The powerful econometric software packages OxMetrics and XModeler (running within Excel) will be used.

Register and find out more: http://bit.ly/climate-econometrics

M5 Competition — Discussion Paper
participation in quick online survey (5 min)

The ‘why’s and ‘how’s of the M5 Competition
K. Nikolopoulos, A. Alroomi, G. Karamatzanis, S. Xiao
We are writing a discussion paper for the special issue of IJF on the M5 competition results, and we are looking for help from the forecasting community. We want to understand your perception on why some methods win more often then not, and why not the same methods win all the time, given the M datasets are broad enough. We believe these are some of the questions that many forecasters are also struggling to find answers for.

To address this concern, we have created a survey, and we kindly ask for your participation. This will allow us to establish a better understanding of why certain methods work on specific data and why there is a different winner in every M competition. There is also an ongoing discussion on how forecasting is done in real-life, and if this is merely a time series extrapolation exercise. We will offer the opportunity of an acknowledgement of the contributors in our forthcoming paper. Click here to take the survey: https://durham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/m-5-survey.
Not sure when your membership expires? Need to update your address? Contact us at forecasters.forecasters.org