News

Editorial

by Kurt Hornik

Welcome to this first regular issue of *R News* in 2002, following the special issue on applications of R in medical statistics. In the future, it is planned to have two non-patch releases of R per year around the beginning of April and October, and to have regular issues of *R News* within 6 weeks after these releases. This also means that R fans should have enough reading material for their summer and/or winter breaks.

As the R Project keeps gaining in size and complexity, it needs to gradually replace its traditional approach of collectively managing all R tasks by focusing responsibilities more explicitly. To this end, the Editorial Board of *R News* has been reduced from 'all of R Core' to three members: Fritz Leisch, Thomas Lumley, and myself. From now on, *R News* editors will each serve a three year period, acting as Editor-in-Chief in the final year. In 2003, Doug Bates will join the Editorial Board, with Fritz Leisch taking over as Editor-in-Chief and me stepping down. Bill Venables continues to serve as column editor for the Programmer's Niche. Suggestions and volunteers for additional columns are most welcome (Book reviews anyone? Of course, nowadays 'book' is a fairly

general concept . . .). In addition, we welcome suggestions for special issues, and in particular volunteers for guest-editing them.

R 1.5.0 was released on 2002-04-29, with the main innovations in add-on packages (see "Changes in R" for detailed release information). Two articles by Brian Ripley and David Meyer describe enhancements in the standard time series package **ts**: much improved handling of missing values, full ARIMA support, stuctural equation modeling, and exponentially weighted smoothing and forecasting. In addition, there are now two more recommended packages, **grid** and **lattice**, implementing the 'new R graphics engine' and the R version of Trellis. These packages are introduced in articles by their respective authors, Paul Murrell and Deepayan Sarkar.

This issue has much more exciting information, including news on R and spatial statistics, distributed computing, and bioinformatics. We are sure it contains something for everyone.

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