

## INTRODUCTION

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Since 1989, the year I attended my first IAMSLIC meeting in Bermuda, the increase in geographical diversity of conference participants is remarkable. It is no longer a novelty to have members from each of our six regional groups attend conference. I chose this year's theme to reflect this pattern. The composition of the program committee was intended to reinforce the theme – Bart Goossens (Belgium), Geoffrey Salanje (Malawi), Catalina Lopez-Alvarez (Mexico) and Janet Webster (USA). I would like to again thank them for helping shape an excellent program.

This year's conference had eighty-seven participants from eleven countries. I hope they all enjoyed being part of the downtown Portland scene. Coffee, chocolate and wine were very conveniently located right next to the hotel. Thanks to Barb Butler, Todd Hannon, Lenora Oftendahl and Andrea Coffman for making our visit to Portland such a great experience.

Look forward to seeing you all at our next conference.