

Editorial

by Douglas Bates

This edition of R News is the work of a new editorial team and I would particularly like to recognize my associate editors, Paul Murrell and Torsten Hothorn, who stepped up and did a superb job of handling most of the submissions whilst I was otherwise occupied.

This issue accompanies the release of R 2.1.0 and we begin with three articles describing new facilities in this release. For many users the most notable change with this release is the addition of internationalization and localization capabilities, described in our feature article by Brian Ripley, who did most of the work in adding these facilities to R. The next article, also written by Brian Ripley, describes the new package management structure in R 2.1.0 then Paul Murrell updates us on changes in the standard package `grid`.

Following these articles are three articles on contributed packages beginning with Alessandra Brazzale's description of the `hoa` bundle for statistical inference using higher-order asymptotics. By contributing the `hoa` bundle to CRAN Alessandra has extended to five years the association of R with win-

ners of the Chambers Award for outstanding work on statistical software by a student. She received the 2001 Chambers Award for her work on this software. The 2002 Chambers Award winner, Simon Urbanek, is now a member of the R Development Core Team. The work of the 2003 winner, Daniel Adler for RGL, the 2004 winner, Deepayan Sarkar for Lattice, and the recently-announced 2005 winner, Markus Helbig for JGR, are all intimately connected with R.

The next section of this newsletter is three articles on tools for working with R. We follow these with an article on experiences using R within a large pharmaceutical company. This article is part of a continuing series on the use of R in various settings. We welcome contributions to this series. Finally, an article on magic squares and John Fox's guest appearance in the Programmer's Niche column, where he discusses a short but elegant function for producing textual representations of numbers, put the focus on programming in R, which is where the focus should be, shouldn't it?

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