

Candidates for TASSA 2008 Elections

Candidate for the Treasurer:

Refik Soyer, Ph.D.

The George Washington University, *Washington, DC*

(Current Treasurer, running for a second term)

Personal Statement:

If I get elected I strongly hope that I will be able to contribute to TASSA's visibility in the Industrial Engineering/Operations Research (IE/OR) community. IE/OR is one of the disciplines Turkish scholars and scientists have been very active in and have made significant contributions to. I would like to see that TASSA broadens its membership in this community and has presence at the IE/OR professional meetings. I hope to be able to contribute to such an effort in the short-run. I believe that the established academic and professional status of Turkish scholars and scientists in IE/OR will help TASSA to enhance scientific collaboration between USA and Turkey in other related areas of science and engineering in the long-run.

Biography:

Refik Soyer is a Professor of Decision Sciences and of Statistics at the George Washington University. Professor Soyer has got B.A. in Economics in 1978 from Bogazici University, Turkey, M.Sc. in Operational Research in 1979 from The University of Sussex, UK and D. Sc. in Operations Research in 1985 from The George Washington University (GWU), USA. Professor Soyer has been a faculty member at the GWU's School of Business since 1987.

Presently, he holds a joint appointment with the Statistics Department at Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and is also a research associate at the Institute for Reliability and Risk Analysis of GWU. Professor Soyer's research interests are in Bayesian inference, decision analysis, reliability modeling and statistical aspects of reliability analysis, stochastic modeling and time series analysis. He has published more than 80 articles and directed 6 doctoral dissertations. He has also coedited a volume titled *Mathematical Reliability: An Expository Perspective* by Kluwer. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, U. S. Army Research Office, Office of Naval Research, Electric Power Research Institute and Dupont Company. Professor Soyer is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, a fellow of the Turkish Statistical Association and is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He was a vice president of the International Association for Statistical Computing and also served as a board member of the International Association for Statistical Computing Council. He has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* and is currently a section editor of *The Encyclopedia of Quality and Reliability* by John Wiley.

Professor Soyer was a founding member of the Bogazici University and Robert College International Alumni Association (BURCIN). He was a board member of BURCIN and also served as BURCIN's treasurer for two terms.

Candidates for the Membership Committee Chair:

M. Ali Cinar

Western Union, *Stamford, CT*

Personal Statement:

I have been an active member of TASSA and have attended various meetings and seminars organized by TASSA, including Annual meetings. I have also been an active member of Membership Committee since 2007. I took the leadership in organizing one of TASSA's regional meetings in New York in 2008. With more than 200 participants, the meeting was a success for TASSA

I am now ready to take a leadership role in the Membership committee. I have the energy and the drive to enhance membership activities within TASSA, and establish new bridges between TASSA members.

My objectives are increasing the number of new members, determining the needs of members and potential members, pushing more participation in TASSA activities, reaching out to all eligible potential members, new innovative communication ways with the members, more focus on the institutional membership, supporting the TASSA mission and goals, identifying new strategies to increase the value of TASSA membership and working with staff to implement them as well as providing a New Member/Visitor Orientation at the Annual TASSA Meeting.

Biography:

1999 Graduate of Istanbul University's Economy department, Ali Cinar came to the United States nine years ago to further his higher education. While completing his master's degree program in the University of New Haven from 2000-2002, Ali also worked as a Research Assistant at the Communication Department and Center of Professional Ethics. He was the President of the International Students Association for two years at the University. Ali graduated with the "Outstanding International Student" award among 500 hundred other students in the university. During, 2004, 2005 and 2006, he attended Harvard Business School, MIT and New York University and successfully completed various professional business and marketing certificate programs. He worked for Concord Company as a Marketing Manager between April 2002 and March 2008. Ali has managed over \$20 million dollars and his clients include some of the world's biggest names such as Walgreens, TJ Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods.

Ali Cinar is currently working for a Fortune 500 company, Western Union, as a Marketing Manager for US to Europe.

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=101232&contact=1>

In 2004 and 2005, he was an Honorary Guest Speaker about the world economy and marketing at the American Coast Guard Military Academy. Still very active in the Turkish-American community, he has also been a big contributor in raising campaign funds for politicians. He has been given awards from various Non-Profit Organizations in the United States. Lead by ATAA, Ali Cinar was honored as the "Leader of the Year" for his services and leadership role in the Turkish community in 2007.

Ali Cinar received an "Outstanding Turkish-American Activist" award from Forum Newspaper on November 24th, 2008. Also, Cinar was named "Year of the Turkish American" by the Turkish American North Texas Association (Turant) on November 25th, 2008.

Below is a list of the Associations, he is currently active:

- VP of NY, Southern New England Turkish American Association, (Present)
- Senior Advisor to the Federation of Turkish American Association (Present)
- Chairman of International Alumni Committee, University of New Haven Alumni Association (Present)
- Founder of Istanbul University Alumni Association of USA (Present)
- Young Professional Member, United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) (Present)
- Board Member, Fenerbahce USA (Present)
- Board Member, Turkish American Fairness Alliance (Present)
- Member, Balkan Turks Association, (Present)
- Past Secretary General, Federation of Turkish American Association (2006)
- Professional Member, American Marketing Association (#2882540) and American Marketing Research Association (# 51933)
- Member, Turkish-American Scientists and Scholars Association - TASSA- / Active in the Membership Committee
- Public Notary, CT

* Ali Cinar is also a Board Member of Turks Living in Foreign Countries Committee (Y.Y.V.D.K) that is a part of Ministry of State of Turkey (Minister Prof. Said Yazicioglu)

Alican Dalkilic, MD, MPH

Virginia Commonwealth University, *Richmond, VA*
St. Elizabeths Hospital, *Washington, DC*

Personal statement:

After I read vision, mission, and statement of purpose of TASSA and reviewed personal statements of elected members, I decided to apply for Chairperson of Membership Committee position. So far my education, career, research, and life experiences have taught me the significance of helping others in living a full-filled life. Therefore I would like join TASSA team aiming to “facilitate the flow of scientists and scholars, knowledge, and technology and help link science and technology institutions between Turkey and USA.” I am convinced that by working together with executives and members of TASSA, I can contribute in improving scholarly and scientific collaboration among USA and emerging economies and countries, especially modern Turkey. Helping to sustain “the science bridge” TASSA has built, in order to “promote educational, scientific and technological cooperation between the US and Turkey,” by itself is worthwhile goal for me.

I strongly believe scholars and scientists would continue discovering ways to solve problems and improve quality of life for fellow human beings. However spreading the knowledge, science, and technology resources and experts from innovative institutions and nations to emerging nations and markets are very important as well. Only by making sure more people and more nations benefiting from the advances in technology and sciences, we can assure continuous development and hopefully a more peaceful world. I see TASSA as a critical bridge not just between Turkey and USA, but also as a model to other nations.

As an individual, who had the opportunity to live in diverse communities from small towns to large metropolitans both in Turkey and USA, I have learned to value hard work, honesty, and helping others are effective principles in success and actualization. Increasing membership numbers and member participation and getting discounts and perks for TASSA members in annual

conferences and other areas of need are examples of specific tasks I plan to propose to Executive Committee and pursue if approved.

Should valuable members of TASSA entrust me the responsibility and authority, I will do my best to carry out the tasks and implement the programs as designed by the Executive Committee regarding membership issues. I am looking forward to serving scientists and TASSA members as chairperson of membership committee, if elected.

Biography:

Dr. Dalkilic is currently working as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University and also as an Attending Psychiatrist and Clinical Faculty Member at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, DC.

Dr. Dalkilic got his M.D. degree from Marmara University School of Medicine, Istanbul, in 1993. He completed his Internship (1995-96) at Albany Medical College, Albany, NY and Residency Training in Psychiatry (1996-99) at Yale University, New Haven, CT. He also started his MPH Training at Yale University School of Public Health and eventually obtained an MPH on Health Administration from School of Public Health and Health Services, George Washington University in 2002.

He is the 2008 recipient of Future Leaders in Psychiatry Award from Emory University and secured "Partners for Excellence in Psychiatry Program" Grant for St. Elizabeths Hospital from University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ in 2003. He has conducted clinical trials of psychotropic medications and published in peer-reviewed journals about medications, tobacco smoking and stress. In addition to clinical research he is also interested in global security and economic development research and projects.

Dr. Dalkilic is a member of TASSA and American Psychiatric Association (APA). He lives in Richmond, VA and is married with two children. He enjoys reading, writing, and mentoring students about career and success in life.

Candidate for the Health & Biomedical Sciences Technical Group Representative

Gokce A. Toruner, MD, Ph.D.

Institute of Genomics Medicine

UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School, *Newark, NJ*

Personal Statement:

The vision of TASSA is to build a sustainable science bridge between USA and Turkey as stated in its charter. In my opinion, the sustainable bridge is a collaborative structure that benefits researchers in both countries. If benefits derived from a research enterprise is just one sided, it is not sustainable.

As US based researchers what we can provide to our counter parts in Turkey is our know-how, access to advanced technology, access to US based research funding and training opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Our colleagues in Turkey can provide us well educated students for our laboratories, access to samples for biomedical research, access to Turkish and European funds, and job opportunities in our native country when we decide to return our native country.

I know the challenges and practical difficulties of establishing collaboration between US and Turkey, because I had been there. Last year, I had a PhD student in my laboratory from Akdeniz University under as TUBITAK sponsored project entitled as Array based comparative genomic hybridization analysis of Turkish leukemia patients. The collaborative effort was beneficial for all parties. I had free talented labor, access to clinical samples and data for a research paper. The student had her data for her thesis, learned about the technology and obtained a very favorable reference letter (she was very talented) for her postdoctoral job search and her department acquired the necessary know-how for implementing a research or diagnostic operation using array technology in Antalya, Turkey.

If I am elected as a representative for the Health and Biomedical Sciences Technical Group, I will leverage my experience for fostering practical mutually benefiting collaborative sustainable activities between US based Turkish researchers and our compatriots in Turkey.

I think, in addition to building a scientific bridge between Turkey and USA, TASSA should address the needs of US based Turkish researchers. In my personal opinion, compared to other ethnic groups, the Turkish network is much weaker. I believe that, as a group, we should show more solidarity and share our life experiences with our colleagues. If elected, during my two year tenure, I would advocate for organizing workshops and/or creating white papers (success stories and practical advice) on subjects such as How to obtain an academic appointment as a faculty, how to find a job in the industry, how to write a research paper, how to write a grant proposal, how to network effectively. I think these skill sets are essential for surviving as a successful researcher in the United States.

For last four years, my role in TASSA was just attending annual meetings. This year, I want to be become an active participant rather than a mere attendee. Therefore am applying for the representative position at the Health and Biomedical Sciences Technical Group of TASSA. Thank you for your support.

Biography:

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Pediatrics 2007-present
Institute of Genomic Medicine
UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School

Past Experience: Instructor in Microbiology 2004-2007
Center for Human and Molecular Genetics
UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School

Postdoctoral research fellow 2001-2004
Center for Human and Molecular Genetics
UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School

Research Interests: Human molecular genetics and cytogenetics
Impact of copy number variations in human diseases
Clinical applications of microarrays
Molecular basis of sudden infant death

Publications: 12 peer reviewed papers with 148 citations

Education: PhD, Bilkent University 2001
Dept of Molecular Biology and Genetic

MD, Hacettepe University 1996
Faculty of Medicine

Candidates for the Auditors:

Daver C. Kahvecioglu, Ph.D.
IMPAQ International, *Columbia, MD*

Personal Statement:

I have been following TASSA since its inception with enthusiasm and optimism about all of things it set out to achieve. Admiring over the last few years, the many volunteers making a difference by serving TASSA help form bridges of ideas/people/institutions between the U.S. and Turkey, I have decided that it is my time to help in any way as I can to fulfill TASSA's missions.

Drawing upon my experience as summarized in my bio, I nominate myself for the "auditor" position with the strong belief that I can contribute to the exciting goals TASSA has set by making sure that the integrity of the financial and operational affairs is preserved, by ensuring that TASSA operates with efficiency and effectiveness all the while complying with its laws and regulations.

Biography:

Since receiving a Ph.D. degree in economics in 2006 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I have been working as a research associate at IMPAQ International, LLC – located in Columbia, Maryland which specializes in domestic/international policy research and technical assistance and also houses a survey center. At the beginning, my role at IMPAQ was of a researcher working as a technical lead in projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Health of Human Services (DHHS) utilizing my background in labor economics, health economics, econometrics, and quantitative methods. Recently, my role has evolved to include project management and business development as I lead a successful bid in winning a large multi-year project from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) of the DHHS. For the next five years, I will be serving as the Project Director, where our team (including the RAND Corporation and the Lewin Group as subs) will evaluate a very timely and policy-relevant program CMS is implementing for Medicare beneficiaries as a large randomized controlled experiment: Senior Health Risk Reduction Demonstration (SRRD). If the evaluation finds positive results, we will start seeing a paradigm shift in the way Medicare is being operated – from "sick" care to healthcare in the face of a rapidly aging population.

The following are some of the other projects I worked on over the last two years:

Client	Project	Role
CMS - DHHS	Payment Error Rates	Conceptualize, define, measure, and analyze payment error rates in Medicare Advantage (Part C) and Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (Part D) programs
Employment and Training Administration (ETA) – DOL	Project GATE (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship)	Evaluate an entrepreneurship training/assistance program using experimental methods
ETA - DOL	Evaluation of the WIA (Workforce Investment Act)	Evaluate the largest DOL Federal program of workforce investment system using quasi-experimental methods

Personal background: I was born in Kayseri in 1972. I graduated from "Kayseri Fen Lisesi" in 1991, from Bilkent University (B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering)

in 1995, and from the Middle East Technical University (M.Sc. in Economics) in 1998. I am married to Omur Celmanbet and have a ten-week old son, Kaan Demir Kahvecioglu. My wife (also a Ph.D. in Economics from UNC) is a litigation consultant at Cornerstone Research in D.C.

Hurriyet Aydin Ok, D.Sc.

World Bank, *Washington, D.C.*

(Current Auditor, running for a second term)

Personal Statement:

I would like to serve as a TASSA "Auditor" for the period of 2009-2011. I am a strong supporter of TASSA mission and its goals. I participated in establishing TASSA Bylaws as a committee member since 2004.

I have more than 14 years of management experience with budget responsibility in providing Information Technology Services for an international organization. I am also an active participant in Turkish-American Community based organizations since 1987. With my volunteer spirit, I worked on varying aspects of furthering the relations between the American society and people from Turkey living in America. I was a co-founder and first president of GWU Turkish Student Association, now is one of the most influential student organizations in the Nation's Capital. I was one of the sponsoring parents for establishing ATA-DC Turkish School for teaching Turkish language for our children. I had coordinated activities of Turkish Music and Choral Society of Greater Washington DC. Currently, I am supporting Turkish-American Television, airing in Capital area community TVs, as a producer.

Biography:

Hurriyet Ok is a member of the TASSA Bylaws and Elections Committee. He works at the World Bank since 1992. He is a Senior Information Officer in Technology Engineering Unit. He manages the work program of the Product Engineering Team responsible for evaluating emerging technologies related to desktop and mobile computing, and systems security. Dr. Ok also taught at George Washington University Computer Sciences Department as Associate Professorial Lecturer in late 1990s.

Hurriyet Ok holds a Doctoral degree in Computer Science from the George Washington University and M.S. and B. S. degrees from Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.