

BIOMETRIC BULLETIN

International Biometric Society ■ Internationale Biometrische Gesellschaft ■ Société International de Biométrie

President's Corner

Greetings!

This is my last contribution to this column, and so provides an opportunity for a little reflection on the past two years. Certainly the role of President has involved far more than giving the biennial Presidential address, and writing this column! Besides dealing with the day-to-day, mostly mundane, matters, there has been the more challenging strategic planning which forms the basis of a strong and healthy Society. During this time I came to appreciate even more the valuable time that is willingly given by many Members. While in this column those taking on new duties have been duly recognised, this is an opportune time to acknowledge all their efforts. Without these contributions, our Society would become a very costly venture. While finding Members to help with our Society's enterprises, I have become even more appreciative of the increased demands being made on us all in our workplace. A consequence is that, for many of us, finding the time to undertake such voluntary work is becoming much more difficult than in times past. With this in mind, it became apparent when we were about to start the search for replacements for Editors Ray Carroll and Louise Ryan that a restructuring of the editorial positions for Biometrics would be necessary. The changes that were described in the previous Bulletin are now being implemented. Further, I am pleased to add that our new third Editor, and the person who will actually be replacing Ray in our rotating three Editor system, is Daniel Commenges (RF).

Your Executive Committee has worked extremely hard over the past two years, and I would like to acknowledge here all their efforts and achievements. However lack of local, direct, support, to enable them to undertake more efficiently some of their activities, has become of increasing concern. The Subcommittee of the Finance Committee, now finalised as Nye John, Chair, Peter MacDonald, Skip Woolson and David Young (not as announced earlier), will be taking this into account as part of their advising on the future place and role of the Business Office.

Last year I expressed concern in my Presidential address about the potential loss of biometrics groups, and departments, and in particular noted that Wageningen Agricultural University was planning to reduce the role of its biometricians. I wrote on behalf of IBS expressing concern with such a development, and was very pleased to recently learn this decision was being reversed. Meanwhile however, in my own country, university statistics departments are rapidly becoming a rarity, while simultaneously we have a governmental report highlighting the national shortage of biostatisticians!

The Regional, Group and Network structure of our Society is one of its most important characteristics, and many give a lot of their valuable time to helping at the local level. It is most important too that all geographic areas be

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International Biometric Conference 2000

Berkeley, California, USA
San Francisco Bay Area

July 2-7, 2000



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Greetings! continued from page 1

represented over all our Committees. One Committee that should have a representative from every Region is the Editorial Advisory Committee, yet still some Regions have not made a nomination. This Committee is for the provision of advice on the formulation of general editorial policy for all our publications. If members wish to raise discussion on editorial policy (see Letter to the Editor in the last Bulletin), then this Committee is the forum in which to do so.

The International Mathematical Union has declared the year 2000 to be World Mathematical Year (WMY 2000). The IBS has submitted the following resolution to be included in the commemorative program book: *The International Biometric Society welcomes the opportunity to*

From the Editor

This *Biometric Bulletin* is the last one to appear before the year 2000. Let us hope that Biometry, Biostatistics, and Biometrics keep growing in the new Millennium, both in size as well as in profile. While we see on the one hand a growing need for biometricians, in all areas of application and throughout the world, the very word **Biometrics** is in danger of becoming ambiguous. I received, as I am sure many of us did, an announcement for a meeting on "Biometrics for Financial Institutions", to take place in October 1999 in Barcelona, Spain. The conference was devoted to such topics as iris recognition (I assume not from Fisher's iris data set), speaker verification, fingerprint recognition, signature verification, hand and facial geometry (principal components or canonical correlation after all?). This sobering experience of seeing the so familiar term "Bio-

participate in this celebration of the World Mathematical Year 2000. The IBS is an international society for the advancement of biological science through the development of quantitative theories and the application, development, and dissemination of effective mathematical and statistical techniques. The joint efforts of mathematicians, now and in the future, will ensure the success of advancements in all fields of science into the 21st century.

Finally, I wish to thank all of those who have helped to smooth many paths for me over the past couple of years.

It is with much pleasure that I hand over the baton to Nanny, and hope that the paths ahead will be smooth for her.

See you in California next July!

Susan Wilson

metrics" used in such a different context is by no means an isolated event. In the beginning of the current volume of the *Biometric Bulletin*, it was indicated that a web search on Biometrics leads primarily to this other type of applications. I believe we have to work together to protect the terms which we thought to be well established. Perhaps the only way is to strive for a higher profile for and a better recognition of our profession than is currently the case.

To end this editorial on a positive note, with the assistance of the Business Office, as of 5 January 1999 the International Biometric Society has obtained the original Patent and Trademark Certification of Registration on the Principal Register for the mark "Biometrics" in International Class 16.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Assistant/Associate Professor Clinician-Educator track at Dept. Pediatrics/ University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (rank determined by qualifications, background of applicant). Doctorate in statistics, biostatistics, or related field. Collaborate with investigations in design, analysis of pediatric studies, grant submissions. Experience in Health research, publication record essential.

CV, 3 references: Avital Cnaan, Ph.D., 3535 Market Street., 10th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

The University of Pennsylvania is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Biometrics

Four highlighted articles in the December issue of *Biometrics* give striking examples of the diversity of biometry.

Genomic control for associate studies

B. Devlin and Kathryn Roeder

A dense set of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNP) covering the genome and an efficient method to assess SNP genotypes are expected to be available in the near future. An outstanding question is how to use these technologies efficiently to identify genes affecting liability to complex disorders. To achieve this goal Bernie Devlin and Kathryn Roeder propose a statistical method that has several optimal properties: it can be used with case-control data and yet, like family-based designs, controls for population heterogeneity; it is insensitive to the usual violations of model assump-

tions, such as cases failing to be strictly independent; and, by using Bayesian outlier methods, it circumvents the need for Bonferroni correction for multiple tests, leading to better performance in many settings while still constraining risk for false positives.

The stratified Petersen estimator with a known number of unread tags

Carl J. Schwarz, Myra Andrews and Michael R. Link

The Petersen estimator of abundance can be biased when the assumption of homogeneous capture probability or homogeneous recapture probability is violated. Often this heterogeneity is related to the time or place of capture or recapture and if these can be stratified, the stratified Petersen estimator reduces the bias caused by this heterogeneity. In

some experiments, not all the recovered tagged animals can be examined, and only a subsample has its stratum of release and recovery determined. Carl J. Schwarz, Myra Andrews and Michael R. Link develop methods for this modified experiment and apply them to estimate the number of salmon returning to spawn in a river in British Columbia, Canada.

Multiple comparison of entropies with application to dinosaur biodiversity

Kathleen S. Fritsch and Jason C. Hsu

Kathleen S. Fritsch and Jason C. Hsu address the question: Did the biodiversity of dinosaurs decline, or remain more or less constant before their mass extinction 65 million years ago? Previous reports that the biodiversity of families of dinosaur species remained more or less constant preceding their extinction, suggest extinction due to a cataclysmic event such as an asteroid strike. But that claim was based on the incorrect interpretation that a large p-value associated with a test of null hypothesis of equality supports that null hypothesis. To assess whether there is a basis for such a claim, they formulate the problem as one of practical equivalence, in analogy to bioequivalence.

A new approach to modelling daily probabilities of conception

Patrick Royston and Alberto Ferreira

Standard conception probabilities models assume that different acts of intercourse make an independent contribution to the probability of conception in viable cycles. Patrick Royston and Alberto Ferreira propose an alternative, approximate model based on the assumption that the act of intercourse closest to the time of maximum fertility is mainly responsible for conception. They describe an adaptive algorithm which estimates the most fertile intercourse day in each cycle. Reanalyses of two datasets reported in the literature are presented. Estimates of the probability of conception during the most fertile period of the cycle and of the effects of covariates are similar to estimates found using standard models.

Biostatistician/Mathematical Geneticist Assistant or Associate Professor

The Cardiovascular Genetics Research program in the Cardiology Division of the Department of Medicine at the University of Utah is recruiting a biostatistician with experience in analyzing family data. This position would require the analysis of both population and family data, designing and justifying study designs for new projects, and work with database programmers to build and maintain analysis datasets. Biostatisticians who also have population genetics experience would be preferred.

Send a letter describing your qualifications, your curriculum vitae, and the names of references to: Steven C. Hunt, Ph.D., Cardiovascular Genetics, University of Utah, 410 Chipeta Way, Room 167, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108.

The closing date for this position is January 1, 2000 or until a suitable candidate is identified.

The University of Utah is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from women and minorities.

New Editorial Structure for Biometrics



Daniel Commenges (French Region), one of the three Editors of the "New Regime".

In the previous issue of the Biometric Bulletin, Niels Keiding described very clearly the new editorial structure of our flagship journal. After a short period of staggered entry, the current editors (Ray Carroll, Louise Ryan, and Jim Calvin) will be replaced by the first triple-editorship: Marie Davidian (ENAR), Tony Pettitt (AR) and Daniel Commenges (RF). Ann Hanhart will be in charge of the editorial office.

The term of the current **associate editors** will end on December 31, 1999. Since many of them had questions about the sequel, Ray, Louise, and Jim wrote them a letter answering the FAQs. Since the information is useful, not only for the AEs, but to the biometric community at large, some of these are reproduced here.

Q: What happens if an AE obtains reviews for either new submissions or revisions after January 1, 2000?

A: We hope that they will continue to handle these submissions as associate editors for the old editorial board. Ann Hanhart oversees the process.

Q: Where do they send reviews?

A: They send a copy to Ann, and a copy to the editor handling the paper.

Q: Is it possible to send reviews by email?

A: Absolutely, and this is greatly encouraged. As an alternative, fax is also encouraged to speed up the process.

Q: Will Ray, Louise and Jim continue to handle papers after the dates listed above?

A: Yes. For six months after they stop accepting new papers, they will continue to handle papers already out for review.

Q: Will the new editors have staggered terms?

A: Yes. This means that only one new co-editor will take over in any year.

Q: Where will new submissions be mailed?

A: After January 1, all new submissions will be mailed to Ann. She has developed a web-based system that will allow the new editors to write screening letters and reports to authors electronically.

Q: Will AEs run the risk to get three papers simultaneously, one from each co-editor?

A: Not likely, although they may get two

papers in exceptional circumstances. All correspondence goes through Ann. The web-based system allows editors to know how many papers each AE has been assigned, and when. In case of overlap, she will notify the co-editors and ask for one to specify an alternative associate editor, if possible.

Q: Will there be long delays, since papers will have to go to Texas and then on to France, Australia and North Carolina?

A: The editors hope not. As papers arrive, they will either be sent electronically by Ann to the co-editor, or faxed. Once an associate editor is chosen (electronically), Ann will send the editor's letter and the paper directly to the associate editor (possibly also electronically, see below).

Q: Can authors submit papers electronically?

A: Authors will still have to send in hard copies to Ann. We are currently working on a system that will allow authors to make their paper available as a postscript or pdf file at an http address. We will be informing all current and recent authors of our policy. Essentially, Ann will retrieve the paper from the web, and email it to the editor and associate editor. This means that associate editors will not be forced to retrieve the paper from the web, and hence the anonymity of the associate editor will be maintained. If the editor/AE can read the electronic version, that is great. Otherwise, the paper will be faxed/mailed.

Q: Why is Shorter Communications being eliminated?

A: One rationale for Shorter Communications was that it helped lessen the workload of the longer communications editor. With three co-editors, this rationale disappears. In addition, Shorter Communications is no quicker in its reviews. Finally, the 10 page limit is arbitrary, and many papers submitted initially as Shorter Communications become Regular Submissions over time.

Q: Will there still be a Consultant's Forum?

A: Yes.

ANNOUNCEMENT

European Mathematical Genetics Meeting, Limburgs Universitair Centrum Diepenbeek, Belgium, April 13-15, 2000

The 2000 European Mathematical Genetics Meeting (EMGM) will be held at Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Diepenbeek, Belgium. This meeting has been taking place for over 20 years and attracts European researchers with a broad range of interests. The conference will focus on genetic epidemiology with emphasis on recent results and open problems.

Tutorials taught by Dr. David Balding and Dr. John Whittaker (University of Reading, UK) will be provided.

We are now collecting contributed papers related to genetic epidemiology, quantitative genetics, population genetics and molecular evolution. We would greatly appreciate to receive your submission by February 1, 2000 and we recommend submission via internet. But you may also send a copy of your paper on diskette. You can use the following programmes: Word or LaTeX.

Information: <emgm@luc.ac.be>, <http://www.luc.ac.be/emgm>

COMPSTAT 2000 Utrecht, the Netherlands, August 21-25, 2000

The scientific program will consist of a variety of sessions, such as parallel and plenary presentations, invited and contributed papers, poster sessions, and software demonstrations.

The Scientific Program Committee seeks papers touching on all aspects of computational statistics. This includes theory, applications, and implementations. Papers may be submitted in any of the following categories: Statistical Research, Development of statistical methodology, especially topics that rely on computers and computing environments; Computing, Contributions of computer algorithms, tools and environments to the practice of statistics; Applied Statistics, Innovative applications of statistical computing in any area of current interest.

The Scientific Program Committee also welcomes papers in the field of Official Statistics, i.e. papers in the field of data collection, data editing, data analysis, and data publications. Papers may be selected by the Scientific Program Committee as full contributions, short contributions, or posters. Selection is based on submitted abstracts.

Full contributions will be refereed and published, with the invited papers, in a volume of Proceedings by Physica Verlag. Short communications and posters will be published in a 2nd volume by Statistics Netherlands and the Utrecht University.

Each abstract must be written in such a way that it enables the Scientific Program Committee to judge the relevance of the paper, and to select the most suitable for the program. It must include the title of the paper, author(s), address, up to 5 keywords, classification according to program category, purpose, main results, statistical and computing relevance, and main references. The body of the abstract must contain 500-700 words (approximately one page contains 40 lines and 360 words).

Keynote speakers:

Donald Rubin: The broad role for multiple imputation in statistical science; Peter Kooiman: The quest for overall consistency of official statistics out-

comes: mass imputation versus sequential weighting of a virtual census.

Invited speakers

Noel Cressie: Space-time Kalman filtering and MCMC; David Draper: Computational issues in MCMC fitting of multi-level models; Antoine de Falguerolles: Generalized linear models with bilinear terms; David Hand: Methodological issues in data mining; Georges Hebrail: Practical data mining in a large utility company; Hans van Houwelingen: Nonproportional hazard models in sur-

vival analysis; Youngjo Lee: Analysis of correlated non-Gaussian data via hierarchical linear models; Helmut Luetkepohl: Bootstrapping impulse responses in VAR analyses; Augustin Maravall: Some applications of the signal extraction technique to socioeconomic time series; Erich Neuwirth: Spreadsheets in statistical education; Walter Racugno: Bayes factors for model selection and prediction; Peter Rousseeuw: Applications of regression depth; Ari Verbyla: Spatio-temporal modelling

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Sankyo is a leading multinational pharmaceutical company with a strong commitment to highest standards for research and product quality. Major indications are cardiovascular, metabolic diseases and antibiotics. Our European Drug Development Division located in Duesseldorf (Germany) is looking for a

Manager Biostatistics/ Data Management Clinical Research

You will be responsible for planning, analysis and reporting of clinical data in cooperation with our clinical research organizations. You will directly report to the Director European Drug Development. Together with the headquarters in Japan and the United States you will ensure a global exchange on a regular basis. Your background is Ph.D. or a Master degree either in Mathematics, Statistics or Life Science with focus on Statistics. Ideally you have two or three years experience in Data Management within the pharmaceutical industry, a contact research organization and/or in a biometrics department of a university institute. If you are interested in developing your skills within a highly professional and innovative environment, please send your detailed CV to Felitzas Conrath at PMM Management Consultants, Koenigsallee 1, 40212 Duesseldorf, Germany, E-mail: pmm.dus.conrath@pmm.de.

PMM Management Consultants GmbH

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC CONFERENCE 2000



BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, USA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA July 2-7, 2000

Submit abstracts and register for IBC-2000 at:
< <http://www.tibs.org>>

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CONTRIBUTED PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Snehalata V Huzurbazar, Chair

IBC 2000 Short Course:

Overdispersion: Models and Estimation

Clarice G.B. Demetrio (RBras) and John Hinde (BR)

In applying standard generalized linear models it is often found that the data exhibit greater variability than is predicted by the implicit mean-variance relationship. This phenomenon of overdispersion has been widely considered in the literature, particularly in relation to the binomial and Poisson distributions. Failure to take account of this overdispersion can lead to serious underestimation of standard errors and misleading inference for the regression parameters. Consequently, a number of models and associated estimation methods have been proposed for handling such data. Overdispersion models for discrete data are considered and placed in a general framework. A distinction is made between completely specified models and those with only a mean-variance specification. Different formulations for the overdispersion mechanism can lead to different variance functions that

can be placed within a general family. In addition, many different estimation methods have been proposed, including maximum likelihood, moment methods, extended quasi-likelihood, pseudo-likelihood and non-parametric maximum likelihood. We explore the relationships between these methods and examine their application to a number of standard examples for count and proportion data. A simple graphical method using half-normal plots is used to examine different overdispersion models.

This short course will give an overview of methods for allowing for overdispersion in discrete data. Topics covered will include different model formulations, estimation methods, inference, model diagnostics and software implementations. Many examples from biometry will be used for illustration.

More on page 8

Famous Faces of the San Francisco Bay Area

Are you thinking of coming to the San Francisco Bay Area for IBC-2000, and wondering what kinds of people live here? You may have heard rumors about "those Californians." Let's look back at some famous people who have called the Bay Area home.

Poor **John Sutter** sought his fortune in California in 1839, and was doing very well with his nearly 50,000 acres of land. He had huge grain fields, a ten-acre orchard, 13,000 head of cattle, and two acres of roses. But on the morning of January 24, 1848, a carpenter building a sawmill for Sutter noticed gold nuggets in the American River. Although Sutter tried to pledge his employees to secrecy, word soon spread and the gold rush began. All of Sutter's employees abandoned him, and squatters overwhelmed his land, destroying his crops and slaughtering his herds. By 1852, the ranch was devastated and Sutter was bankrupt.

Levi Strauss, born in Bavaria, immigrated to San Francisco in 1850 hoping to benefit from the gold rush. His plan was to manufacture tents and wagon covers for the miners, but the market wasn't amenable. Instead, he used the heavy canvas he had brought with him to make very durable pants – perfect for the hard work of the miners. His pants were a hit, and with the opening of his factory, he added copper rivets to the stress points, and switched from canvas to a heavy blue denim material which the

continued on page 8

IBC2000

Registration Form on page 10

Awards for Special Circumstances Countries

It is hoped to have some Awards to assist members from Developing Countries with the Short Course Fees. Such members should send an application for these Awards to Lynne Billard (Department of Statistics, University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602-1952 USA, <lynne@stat.uga.edu>) by May 1, 2000. The application request should include a brief vita, reasons why you would benefit from the course, at least one reference letter from your supervisor or colleague, indication of other support to attend IBC2000 if Short Course Award is made to you, and any other information you feel is relevant.

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Printer to strip in film

IBC 2000 Short Course: *continued from page 6*

Group Sequential Design and Interim Monitoring of Clinical Trial Data: Statistical Methodology and Computation

Christopher Jennison, (BR) Professor of Statistics, University of Bath, UK, Bruce W. Turnbull, (ENAR) Professor of Statistics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Cyrus R. Mehta, (ENAR) President, Cytel Software Corporation, Boston, MA

It is now standard practice to incorporate formal data monitoring procedures into the design and conduct of long-term clinical trials. Specialized statistical methods are needed for such interim monitoring in order to balance the ethical and financial advantages of stopping a study early against the risk of an incorrect conclusion. Research in this area has progressed rapidly over the past 20 years and methods have been developed to meet the key practical needs. A unified formulation allows easy implementation with many types of design and a great variety of endpoints.

This course will survey the main ideas of group sequential procedures, covering material in the book *Group Sequential Methods with Applications to Clinical Trials* by Jennison and Turnbull (1999, Chapman and Hall/CRC Press). The topics will include some or all of the following: one-sided, two-sided and equiva-

lence designs, normal, binary, survival, regression, longitudinal and multiple endpoints, estimation and P-values, repeated confidence intervals, stochastic curtailment, nuisance parameters, multiple arm and factorial trials, Bayesian approaches, and data dependent sampling.

The oral presentation sessions will alternate with "hands on" demonstrations of the software package EaSt for Windows for sequential design and interim monitoring of clinical trial data. This package has recently been released by Cytel Software Corporation, authors of the very successful StatXact software package. These sessions will allow participants to explore the powerful features and wide flexibility of this new software in implementing the methods described in the course.

Bruce Turnbull

IBC 2000 Short Course:

Analysis of Data from Longitudinal Studies; Current Topics

Kung-Yee Liang and Scott L. Zeger, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Department of Biostatistics

In a longitudinal study, participants are followed through time to repeatedly observe measures of health or disease as well as times of key events. For example, in a cardiovascular study, we observe blood pressure and cholesterol levels repeatedly over time and the dates of myocardial infarctions, strokes or death. Until recently, statistical methods for repeated measures (old "longitudinal data analysis") and times of events ("survival analysis") were quite distinct.

In this workshop, we will survey more recent research that moves in the direction of unifying analyses of data collected in longitudinal studies. An update on methods for repeated measures and survival data will first be given. Analysis of multivariate and/or recurrent survival data will be discussed. Then models for the joint analysis of repeated measures and times of events will be considered and illustrated with data from studies of human health and disease.



Famous Faces of the San Francisco Bay Area *continued from page 9*

French called "genes". Although they remained popular for over a century, today's Bay Area workers are more likely to study genes while wearing Levi's "Dockers."

The first (and probably, only) "emperor" of the United States, [Joshua Norton](#), came to San Francisco in the early 1800s (from South Africa, via Chile) to make his fortune. After a failure in the rice market, he went slightly nuts, and on September 17, 1859 placed a notice in the San Francisco Bulletin declaring himself Norton I, Emperor of the United States. During his reign of 25 years, he strode the city streets in his personally designed military uniform making sure the sidewalks were unobstructed, the police were on duty, and necessary street repairs were being attended to; printed his own money; sent telegrams to crowned heads of state around the world; and made many decrees, some of which were very prophetic. He commanded that a suspension bridge be built at the site of the current Golden Gate [actual construction began in 1933], called upon the other world leaders to join him in forming a League of Nations where international disputes could be settled peacefully [the United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945], and both the Democratic and Republican parties be abolished because of the dissension between the them [an event still to come?]. The people of the city humored him by greeting him formally, and some even honored his money. Over 10,000 people made up his two-mile long funeral cortege.

[Leland Stanford](#) was born near Albany, New York. He moved to Sacramento to work with his brothers in their store, and within three years, he had bought the store and brought his wife to California. He became very active in the California Republican Party: campaigning for Lincoln in 1860, and being elected governor in 1861. The Stanfords bought a parcel of land on the San Francisco Peninsula where they would develop their Palo Alto Stock Farm for trotting horses,

continued next page

and later, Stanford University. During a family trip to Italy in 1884, the Stanfords' son died of typhoid fever. The next day, Leland told his wife that the children of California would be their children. With this was born the idea for Stanford University, a university untraditional for its day in that it was co-educational, non-denominational, and aimed at producing both "cultured and useful citizens".

Mark Twain (nee Samuel Clemens) worked for several newspapers in San Francisco and Sacramento in the 1860s, before he became famous as a novelist and lecturer. While he lived here, he met and became friends with a man named Tom Sawyer. This particular Tom Sawyer had spent many of his early years as a fireman on steamships, and was currently an Inspector at the Custom House. Legend has it that Mr. Twain remarked once that "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco." Keep that in mind when you pack for IBC-2000.

Another great author who called the Bay Area home was John Griffiths London, better known as **Jack London**. In addition to his well know novels (*Call of the Wild* and *The Sea Wolf*), he used his journalistic skills to write about such topics as the war, boxing, and the life of Molokai lepers. His work ethic caused him to write 1,000 words every morning, re-

sulting in over 50 books, hundreds of short stories, and numerous articles. His writing supported both his house in Oakland and his ranch in the wine country, where he was constantly trying to keep up with the latest agricultural techniques. A wonderful area of the Oakland waterfront, "Jack London Square", is known today for its restaurants and nightlife.

Isadora Duncan, the famous dancer, was born in San Francisco in 1878, and after her parents' divorce, moved to Oakland where she grew up. Although the family was terribly poor, there was always poetry and music in the home. Isadora was also an avid reader and dreamer, and spent a great deal of time at the public library. No doubt, here she first read of the ancient Greek culture which so inspired her style of dance. It was in Oakland that she first learned to dance, and even taught dance to younger children – her special form of dance which was fifty years ahead of its time.

The photographer **Ansel Adams** was born in San Francisco in 1902, and it was a boyhood trip to Yosemite that inspired him to take up the art form for which he became famous. In 1963, University of California president Clark Kerr commissioned Ansel Adams and Nancy Newhall to produce a book to com-

memorate the centennial celebration of the University. The result was "Fait Lux: The University of California" (McGraw Hill Book Company, 1967). It seems so appropriate that Mr. Adams would create this photographic collection for a university whose motto "Fait Lux" means "let there be light". Six hundred and five of these signed prints reside in the Bancroft Library on the Berkeley campus.

One final Bay Area legend is the great baseball Hall of Famer **Joe DiMaggio**. His father was a fisherman, and young Joe and his siblings grew up among the boats along Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Joe's father thought he was lazy and urged him to become a bookkeeper, a job where he could do a lot of sitting down. But Joe became one of America's best and most-loved baseball players. His wedding to Marilyn Monroe took place at City Hall in San Francisco, and they lived in a home near the Wharf. Millions mourned Joe DiMaggio's recent death.

These people lived here in the past, but while you're at IBC-2000, watch out for current famous residents of the Bay Area such as **Bonnie Raitt**, **Robin Williams**, **George Lucas**, and **Sharon Stone**.

Lynn M. Ackerson
Member, Local Organizing
Committee for IBC 2000

Biostatistician Faculty Positions

Located in Seattle, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) is a world-renowned research institution. The FHCRC's Public Health Science Division is currently recruiting two Associate or Full Members depending upon qualifications. As well, depending on qualifications and interest, corresponding affiliate, research or regular Associate or Full Professor appointment at the University of Washington is possible (a regular appointment at the University of Washington would require teaching). The successful candidates will join the FHCRC-based, NIH-funded Statistical Coordinating Center which is part of an international research network conducting clinical trials of HIV vaccines and other HIV prevention interventions. They will have an important leadership role within the network, serving as protocol team members, collaborating in the development of the scientific agenda, assuming lead responsibility for study designs, developing statistical analysis plans, and supervising and presenting interim and final analyses. Faculty statisticians work closely with Masters-level statisticians ensuring that studies have appropriate data collection, participant randomization, data management, and data analysis procedures. Responsibilities includes close collaboration with study principal investigators and scientific working groups, as well as conducting methodologic research.

Requirements: Ph.D in biostatistics or related field; extensive clinical trials experience serving as a lead statistician; a minimum of five years experience in infectious diseases and vaccine and or prevention research with a preference for an HIV focus; strong publication record in applied, methodologic, and collaborative research.

A letter summarizing biostatistical experience (both independent and collaborative) and research interests and a complete CV including names of three references should be sent to:
Dr. Steven G. SelfHead, Biostatistics Program Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1100 Fairview Ave. N. MP-900 Seattle, WA 98109

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington are equal opportunity/affirmative action employers. Both institutions are building culturally diverse faculty and strongly encourage applications from female and minority candidates.

IBC2000 Registration Form

2-7 July 2000
San Francisco, California, USA

Register on-line with your credit card and receive immediate confirmation by going to the International Biometric Society Web Site: www.tibs.org

1: Registrant Information

Mr. Prof. Ms. Dr.

Name: First _____ Last _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City/State/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

University: _____

Student ID#: _____ Year Received Highest Degree: _____

Companion Name(s): _____

2. Conference Registration Fee

Before April 1, 2000

After April 1, 2000

Conference registration fee will be discounted 50% for full-time students and members from special circumstance countries (as defined by IBS)

Members: \$250.00 \$300.00 \$ _____

Nonmembers: \$300.00 \$350.00 \$ _____

Subtotal Registration: \$ _____

3. Short Course Registration Fee

Before April 1, 2000

After April 1, 2000

Total short course fees will be reduced by \$50 for those who take two courses. Short course fees will be discounted \$100.00 for those who are full-time students between January 1, 2000 and IBC-2000.

Longitudinal Data Analysis—Saturday July 1, 2000 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Scott L. Zeger, (ENAR), Johns Hopkins University

Members: \$250.00 \$340.00 \$ _____

Nonmembers: \$330.00 \$420.00 \$ _____

Overdispersion: Models and Estimation—Sunday July 2, 2000 9 AM to 5:00 PM

Clarice Demetrio (RBras), University of Sao Paulo at Piriacicaba

John Hinde (BR), University of Kent at Canterbury

Members: \$250.00 \$340.00 \$ _____

Nonmembers: \$330.00 \$420.00 \$ _____

Group Sequential Design and Interim Monitoring of Clinical Trials:

Statistical Methodology and Computation—Sunday July 2, 2000 9 AM to 5:00 PM

Chris Jennison (BR), University of Bath; Bruce Turnbull (ENAR), Cornell University; Cyrus R. Mehta (ENAR), Cytel Software Corporation

Members: \$250.00 \$340.00 \$ _____

Nonmembers: \$330.00 \$420.00 \$ _____

Subtotal: Short Course \$ _____

4. Conference Meals & Social Events

Opening Reception Sunday, 5-8, # of People: _____ @ Free

Box Lunch Plan Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

..... # of Tickets (Vegetarian) _____ @ \$50 per person \$ _____

..... # of Tickets (Non Vegetarian) _____ @ \$50 per person \$ _____

4th of July Picnic & Fireworks Tuesday, 6-9:30 P.M.

..... # of Tickets (Vegetarian) _____ @ \$25 per adult \$ _____

..... # of Tickets @ \$15 per child under age 12 \$ _____

..... # of Tickets (Non Vegetarian) _____ @ \$25 per adult \$ _____

..... # of Tickets @ \$15 per child under age 12 \$ _____

Mid Conference Tours (Wednesday June 5; No sessions!)

Napa & Sonoma County Tour (7.5 hours) # of Tickets _____ @ \$41 per person \$ _____

Six Flags/Marine World (10 hours) # of Tickets _____ @ \$52 per person \$ _____

Alcatraz "The Rock" Tour (5.5 hours) # of Tickets: _____ @ \$38 per person \$ _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Monterey & Carmel Tour with Monterey Aquarium (10 hours)	# of Tickets: _____	@ \$54 per person	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> The IBC Hike (8 hours)	# of Tickets: _____	@ \$25 per person	\$ _____
Closing Banquet, Friday, 6:30 - 9 P.M.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken	# of Tickets _____	@ \$65 per person	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish	# of Tickets _____	@ \$65 per person	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	# of Tickets _____	@ \$65 per person	\$ _____
Subtotal Conference Meals & Social Events			\$ _____

5. Campus Housing

All on-campus bookings are handled via this form. The preferred on-campus accommodations are at the Clark Kerr Campus. Both suites and dormitories are available. Also on campus is the "Unit 1" Residence Hall. These are very modest accommodations, but offer lower price and closer location. For further information, see <http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/housing>.

Packages include six nights' housing, July 2-7, and includes breakfast. No adjustments or refunds for unused nights or meals are permitted.

Additional nights' accommodation without breakfast may also be purchased.

Location & Room Type:

- I will arrange my own accommodations
- Clark Kerr Campus - Suite (Single \$365, Double \$500)
- Clark Kerr Campus - Dormitory (Single \$325, Double \$470)
- "Unit 1" Dormitory (Single \$290, Double \$420)

Occupancy: Single Occupancy Double Occupancy

I have arranged to share a room with this person _____ (Double occupancy only)

For off-campus housing, please see conference hotel listings information.

Subtotal Campus Housing \$ _____

6. Extras

Childcare:

On campus, group childcare is \$25 per half day for children, and \$35 per half day for infants.

Half day sessions are from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Wednesday. The maximum number of children or infant half-days is eight.

This option is subject to a minimum participation, based on interest indicated here. Parents will be contacted once the minimum has been reached.

Infant Childcare:

of Infants _____ x _____ days @ \$35.00 \$ _____

Non-infant Childcare:

of Children _____ x _____ days @ \$25.00 \$ _____

Conference Companions' Tours:

Sunday, July 2:

San Francisco City Tour - 5 hours # of Tickets _____ @ \$20 per person \$ _____

Monday, July 3:

Muir Woods & Exploratorium Tour - 6.5 hours # of Tickets _____ @ \$37 per person \$ _____

Tuesday, July 4:

Wine Country and Outlet Shopping - 7.5 hours, # of Tickets _____ @ \$45 per person \$ _____

Thursday, July 6:

Chinatown Walking Tour with Dim Sum Lunch - 5.5 hours # of Tickets _____ @ \$42 per person \$ _____

Pre and Post Conference Tours:

Friday, June 30 - Sunday, July 2:

Yosemite National Park and Lake Tahoe # of Tickets _____ @ \$200 per person \$ _____

Saturday, July 8 - Sunday, July 9:

Yosemite National Park # of Tickets _____ @ \$145 per person \$ _____

Subtotal Extras \$ _____

7. Payment Information

Total Fees to be charged \$ _____

- Visa MasterCard American Express Check made payable in US\$ to IBC 2000

Bank Transfer to RIGGS National Bank of Washington DC USA Routing #054000030 Account# 08-297-064

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Name as it appears on credit card _____

I authorize the International Biometric Society to charge the total fees indicated to the above credit card.

Signature _____

Comments or Special Instructions: _____

Cancellations must be made in writing to the International Biometric Society. Cancellations received on or by 15 May 2000 will receive a full refund. A US\$50.00 administrative fee will be deducted from any monies when cancellations are received on or after 16 May 2000. Cancellations received on or after 26 June 2000 will not be refunded.

Modern Statistical Methods for Medical Research

First school on statistics held at the UNESCO supported International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy.

Seventy participants from 33 developing countries (Algeria and Argentina to Zambia and Zimbabwe) and 7 'advanced' countries participated in a three week school on "Modern statistical methods for medical research". The school, directed by Jane Hutton (Newcastle, UK), Els Goetghebeur (Ghent, Belgium) and Patty Solomon (Adelaide, Australia) was the first school in statistics sponsored by UNESCO and IAEA through the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. The Center was founded over 30 years ago, and provides opportunities for research workers in developing countries through a program of training activities within a framework of international cooperation.

The school provided an opportunity to learn about recent and current work in various areas of medical statistics. Thanks

to the generosity of SAS, SPlus and STATA, who provided complimentary software for the duration of the school, participants were able to gain familiarity with modern programs, and recently written functions for advanced statistical methods. Two tutors, Ross Darnell (Newcastle, UK) and Mart Mols (Tartu, Estonia) worked very hard to ensure that materials provide in SAS or Splus were converted to the other package, so that participants were generally able to work in the environment with which they were familiar. Els Goetghebeur was responsible for insuring that the software needed was provided, and was duly restored, for which all of us are very grateful. Wiley kindly provided a copy of the Encyclopedia of Biostatistics, which was held at ICTP for the three weeks, and is now being donated to Institute of Sta-

tistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Uganda.

Dave Harrington (Harvard School of Public Health, US) explained diagnostic methods and marginal and conditional models for survival data. His discussion of sequential designs for clinical trials lead on to Peter Gilbert's (Harvard School of Public Health, US) description of the issues arising in the design and analysis of HIV vaccine trials. Mike Campbell (Sheffield, UK) continue the topic of clinical trials with particular focus on cluster randomization.

Medical data are frequently incomplete, and the principles which must be considered when dealing with missing data were described by Juni Palmgren (Stockholm, Sweden). It has been established that patients often do not take

continued next page

**Cytel
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medicine as prescribed. Causal inference is the area of statistics which addresses the challenges which arise from the implications of non-compliance for estimating the efficacy of drugs. Els Goetghebeur summarized the philosophical background of 'causation', and detailed the specific scientific questions relevant in therapeutic research. Ethical issues in experimental and observational research involving people, and two codes of practice for statisticians were explained by Jane Hutton. Discussions of ethical issues arising from proposed changes in standard for developing countries included the (to me) surprising finding that developing countries value the relative independence of committee in other nations. Participants were concerned to develop appropriate codes of conduct for statisticians in their own countries.

Sir David Cox gave clear and profound lectures on components of variance, using chalk and blackboard. The fundamental ideas of statistics were expressed in

terms of the nature and sources of variation. Norm Breslow (Seattle, Washington) described alternative study designs, and the related analyses, including case-cohort and nested case-control studies. Modeling the transmission of infectious diseases was presented by Valerie Isham (London, UK) and Patty Solomon.

In addition to presenting current developments in the topics covered during the instructions weeks, several eminent experts presented material on three further areas of biostatistics which are developing rapidly: genetics, image analysis and systematic reviews. This include ENAR president Louise Ryan and IBS president Susan Wilson. Fifteen participants gave presentations of their research work. Several talks related to modeling transmission of infectious diseases.

Everyone worked intensely, with participants determined to get as much as they could from practical sessions, and the

faculty generously giving their time. A very friendly atmosphere prevailed, and links were built up across the continents. The availability of wine in the cafeteria at the same price as water, and less that the price of a kiwi fruit added to the relaxation in the evenings, when we gathered on the terrace of the guest house, to discuss statistics and life, and to watch the sun set over the Adriatic sea. Some Australians (Kieren, Jane, Max) organized a trip to Venice, and a quiz. One eminent statistician received the booby prize. Els arranged a sing-a-long, at which songs of many nations were sung. Jane took some brave people in Els' car on a wonderful Sunday outing.

Several of the faculty paid some of their own expenses, and I wish to record my thanks for all the time and financial support received. ICTP provided very helpful and thorough administrative support.

Jane Hutton

Cytel Printer to strip in film

MP S Medical and Pharmaceutical Statistics Research Unit

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES 2000

at
Reading, UK
Düsseldorf, Germany
Cary, North Carolina, USA

FOR CLINICAL PERSONNEL

21 FEBRUARY 2000, READING

Data and Safety Monitoring Board Workshop

Presenters: John Whitehead, Sue Todd

Guest Presenter: Julian Bion

*Reader in Intensive Care Medicine
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham*

FOR MEDICAL STATISTICIANS

22-23 FEBRUARY 2000, READING

Sample Size Determination in Efficacy and Equivalence Trials

Presenter: Anne Whitehead

24 FEBRUARY 2000, READING

Use of PEST 4

Presenter: John Whitehead

6-7 JUNE 2000, READING

Introduction to Sequential Clinical Trials

Presenters: John Whitehead, Kim Bolland

8-9 JUNE 2000, READING

Further Topics in Sequential Clinical Trials

Presenters: Nigel Stallard, Sue Todd

19-20 JUNE 2000, DÜSSELDORF

Introduction to Sequential Clinical Trials

Presenters: John Whitehead, Nigel Stallard

21-23 JUNE 2000, DÜSSELDORF

From Theory to SAS[®]: Likelihood- based Statistical Inference

Presenters: John Whitehead, Nigel Stallard

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED, NORTH CAROLINA

Introduction to Sequential Clinical Trials

Presenter: John Whitehead

For further details please contact:

Mrs Barbara Dodds
MPS Research Unit
The University of Reading
PO Box 240, Earley Gate
Reading, RG6 6FN, UK

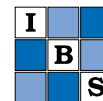
Tel: +44 118 931 6662

Fax: +44 118 975 3169

e-mail: mps@reading.ac.uk

Meetings

Meetings appearing for the first time are shown in blue



2000

March 6-10

4th International Conference on Operations Research Optimization, Probability and Statistics, Mathematical Economics and Algorithms

Havana, Cuba

Universidad de La Habana and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

A stream of Sections in Biometrics is being organized by Prof. Richard Tomassone (France). Invited conferences will be delivered by well known specialists, including Prof. Klaus Kirkerberg. Deadline for abstracts submission: November 30, 1999. Registration fees: 100USD (includes Conference Proceedings & Welcome Party).

<guddat@mathematik.hu-berlin>,
<bouza@matcom.uh.cu>

March 19-22

ENAR Spring Meeting, Chicago

Palmer House Hilton Program chair:

Xihong Lin

<xlin@sph.umich.edu>

Local arrangements chair: Julia Bienias

<jbienias@crha.rpslmc.edu>

March 20-23

46th Biometrical Colloquium

'Biometrie2000', Germany

University of Rostock

Details: see Region and Group News (German Region)

April 10-12

Workshop on statistical inference

Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Belgium

Key topics: bootstrap, smoothing, extremes and censoring.

Information: P. Janssen

Fax: +32 11 26 82 99

<paul.janssen@luc.ac.be>

<http://www.luc.ac.be/censtat/Seminars/workshop.html>

Prof. A.C. Davison (Swiss Federal Institute of Lausanne) accepted to deliver a series of six lectures on the bootstrap. There will be invited presentations on extremes, incomplete

data, and smoothing. We welcome contributed presentations and posters. The workshop fits into an international scientific and technological cooperation between South Africa (University of Potchefstroom, University of the Free State and UNISA) and Flanders (Limburgs Universitair Centrum and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).

Scientific Committee : Beirlant (KUL), De Waal (UFS), Fresen (UNISA), Janssen (LUC), Swanepoel (CHO, Potchefstroom), Veraverbeke (LUC).

April 13-15

European Mathematical Genetics Meeting

Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Belgium

Information: Geert Molenberghs

<geert.molenberghs@luc.ac.be>

<http://www.luc.ac.be/censtat/Seminars/emgm.html>

Fax: +32 11 26 82 99

The conference starts with a tutorial, taught by the team of David Balding (University of Reading, UK). Contributions are welcome.

April 29, 2000

14th New England Statistics Symposium

The Center for Statistical Sciences at Brown University

Providence, Rhode Island, USA

Invited speakers are David Mumford from Brown University and Dipak Dey from the University of Connecticut. Contributed papers are welcome.

Information: Joseph Hogan,

Tel: +1 (401)-863-9243

Fax: +1 (401) 863-9182

<jhogan@stat.brown.edu>

<http://stat.brown.edu/>

May 15-18

Symposium: BioEd 2000: The Challenge of the Next Century

(International Union of Biological Sciences; Commission for Biological Education)

Paris, France

Local Chair: Prof. André Giordan (LDES, Geneva)

International Committee Chair: Dr. Winston King (Barbados)

Information:

BioEd 2000, MNHN

Fax: +33 1 40 79 39 26

<laurier@mhn.fr>

www.unige.ch/fapse/SSE/teachers/giordan/LDES

June 4-7

Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada Local Arrangements

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Chair: Andre Dabrowski Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Ottawa, 585 King Edward, Station A, P.O. Box 450, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

<ardsg@mathstat.uottawa.ca>

Program Chair: Duncan Murdoch Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

<murdoch@fisher.stats.uwo.ca>

June 10-14

Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada Local Arrangements

Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Chair: Tim Swartz Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5A 1S6, Canada

<tim@cs.sfu.ca>

July 17-21

15th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling New Trends in Statistical Modelling

Bilbao, Spain

Information: Vicente Nunez-Anton

<vn@alcib.bs.ehu.es> Eva Ferreira

Fax: +34 94 601 3754

<ef@alcib.bs.ehu.es> [http://](http://iwsm.bs.ehu.es)

iwsm.bs.ehu.es

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August 21-25

Compstat2000 International Association for Statistical Computing

Utrecht, the Netherlands

Correspondence: FBU Congress

Bureau, Utrecht University, Mrs.

Marcelle Buma, Utrecht, the Netherlands Fax: +31 30 253 5851

<compstat@fbu.uu.nl> [http://](http://neon.vb.cbs.nl/rsm/compstat)

neon.vb.cbs.nl/rsm/compstat

September 11-15

Royal Statistical Society International Conference

University of Reading, Reading, UK

Includes sessions on Statistical

Genetics, Interim Analysis in Clinical

Trials, Climate Variation and Optimal

Design. Information: Dr Dave Collett.

Fax +44 118 975 3169

<d.collett.rdg.ac.uk> [http://](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/RSS2000)

www.rdg.ac.uk/RSS2000

September 14-15, 2000

Statistical Methodology in Non-Clinical Research and Development Drug Information Association

Hotel Royal Plaza Inter-Continental,

Montreux, Switzerland Abstract Due

Date: December 6, 1999 Please

forward abstracts in Word format to:

DIA European Office Katja

Buchwalder, Fax: +41 61 386 93 85

<atjab-diaeurope@stepnet.de>

December 9-13, 2000

The Ninth International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics In Celebration of C.R. Rao's 80th Birthday

Hyderabad, India

Details: see Region and Group News

(Indian)

December 30, 2000-Jan 3, 2001

International Conference on Recent Developments in Statistics and Probability and Their Applications India

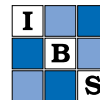
International Center, New Delhi, India

This International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Biennial Conference is organized by IISA India Chapter in collaboration with other Indian organizations.

Information: Kanwar Sen, Department of Statistics, University of Delhi, Delhi, <dustats@del3.vsnl.net.in> <http://www.stat.ohio-state.edu/~hnn/IISA.html>

**Muthen & Muthen
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Region and Group News



Australasian

By the time this edition is delivered the Australasian Region Biometric Conference will be upon us. We are looking forward to an interesting scientific program and an entertaining social scene.

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of W.B. (Bruce) Hall on July 27, 1999. Bruce was a member of the CSIRO Division of Mathematics and Statistics for many years before his retirement in 1984. He played a strong role in the mentoring of many of those who joined the Division in the 1970s. He will be remembered with great affection by his colleagues, for his warmth and friendship, and particularly for his enquiring mind which always pushed at the reasons why. His contributions in the area of experimental design, especially the use of cyclic designs, led to a series of publications jointly with Bill Davis, Emlyn Williams and Richard Jarrett, and contributed to major developments in the field over the last 30 years. Bruce turned 80 last April. He is survived by his wife Helen, 5 children and a number of grandchildren.

Glenys Bishop

Belgian

On September 28 the Quetelet Society (Belgian Region) held a scientific meeting at the Limburgs Universitair Centrum (Diepenbeek). About 40 participants attended talks from Stuart Lipsitz (Department of Biometry and Epidemiology, Medical University of South Carolina) and Louise Ryan (Department of Biostatistics, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts). Stuart Lipsitz gave a talk on goodness-of-fit methods for generalized estimating equations, while Louise Ryan lectured on statistical issues in environmental health research. Both talks focused on environmental problems, a topic which has seen some stimulating collaboration between the speakers and both US and Belgian collaborators.

*Adelin Albert
Geert Molenberghs*

Brasil

The previous bulletin contained information about all the activities on the 44th RBRAS meeting and the 8th SEAGRO, which was held in Botucatu, Sao Paulo, Brasil, at the campus of UNESP (end of July). In addition to that, we can inform that the meeting had about 260 participants and most of the 130 presented communications had their abstracts put on the IBS Website (www.tibs.org). All the activities had a very high scientific level and the efforts of the local committee made for an excellent meeting. The 45th RBRAS meeting will be held in the Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Sao Paulo, Brasil, probably on July, 2000. More information in the next issue or by email <ltrinca@ibb.unesp.br>.

The new elected members for the RBRAS Council (1999-2002) are: Clovis de Araujo Peres (UNIFESP), Enrico Antonio Colosimo (UFMG).

Lisbeth K. Cordani

British

Tuesday 23 March at the Royal Statistical Society, London. Joint meeting with the RSS Medical Section: "Modern Approaches to analysis of genetic data" (abstracts posted on the IBS Web site).

The following talks were given: David Clayton (MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge, U.K.): "Disequilibrium mapping"; Hywel B. Jones (Department of Genetics, Stanford University, CA USA & MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge University, U.K.): "Statistical methods for genome mapping"; Elizabeth A. Thompson (University of Washington, Seattle): "Monte Carlo likelihood for multipoint linkage analysis"; Françoise Clerget-Darpoux INSERM U155 (Chateau de Longchamp, Bois de Boulogne, Paris, France): "Unraveling the genetic component of multitactorial diseases: Dream or reality". Richard Durbin, Chris Cannings and Heike Bickeboeller led a discussion.

The 190th Ordinary and Summer Meeting took place at Horticulture Research International, Wellesbourne, UK on Wednesday 23rd June 1999: "New Directions in Plant Biology" (A celebration

of 50 years of HRI). Abstracts posted on the IBS Web site. All four papers will be published in full in the International Statistical Review in 2000.

After a general welcome from Prof Chris Payne, HRI Chief Executive and an introduction to the Research of the Institute and its History by the present and past Heads of Biometry (John Fenlon, John Nelder and Geoff Freeman) there were four talks given:

Andrew Mead, Rosemary Collier (HRI-Wellesbourne) & Joe Perry (IACR-Rothamsted): "Biometrical approaches in supervised pest control"; Kath Phelps (HRI-Wellesbourne): "Decision Support in Horticulture: Software for Interlinking Models"; Rodney Edmondson & Nick Parsons (HRI-Wellesbourne): "Robust quality in ornamental pot plants: design and analysis of pot plant experiments"; John Fenlon, David Skirvin & Michael de Courcy Williams (HRI, Wellesbourne): "Modelling Predator-Prey Interactions"

Following lunch there were tours of facilities including "Mushroom experimentation", "Projects on modelling the weed seed bank" and "Glasshouse experimentation - tomatoes, flowers, pot plants, etc".

The AGM and 191st Ordinary General Meeting takes place on Tuesday 12th October 1999 at the Royal Entomological Society. The 192nd Ordinary General Meeting takes place on 7th Dec 1999 Tuesday 7th December 1999 at the Royal Entomological Society.

Clive Moncrieff

Central America and The Caribbean

STATISTICAL GUIDES FOR PROJECTS IN NATURAL RESOURCES, NOW IN SPANISH

Five statistical guides for projects in natural resources, originally produced in English by the Statistical Services Centre (SSC), University of Reading, for the Department for International Development (DFID), are now freely available in Spanish.

continued on page 18



Participants of the 6th meeting of the IBS Network for Central America and The Caribbean.

SSC and DFID authorized Universidad Nacional (UNA) and Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) both in Costa Rica, to translate, publish and distribute the Spanish version of the guides.

Guides are intended to help researchers involved in the development and presentation of natural resources projects, to identify their biometric and statistical needs.

Current available titles are:

Statistical Guidelines for Natural Resources Projects
On-Farm Trials: Some Biometric Guidelines
Data Management Guidelines for experimental Projects
Guidelines for Planning Effective Surveys
Project Data Archiving – Lessons from a Case Study

Guides are available in a PDF format and could be downloaded from: <http://www.una.ac.cr/agra/umecad/>

Hard copies and CD version will be available very soon.

For more information contact: camachoj@sol.racsa.co.cr

SHORT TRAINING COURSE ON "SAMPLING METHODS FOR MONITORING INVERTEBRATE POPULATIONS", IN SPANISH

First trimester, 2000.

The course is intended for biological researchers working on integrated pest management and on monitoring invertebrate populations in tropical ecosystems. The course is sponsored by the Graduate Program on Ecological Agriculture (Universidad Nacional), Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) and the IBS Network for Central America & the Caribbean) and will be run at Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.

camachoj@sol.racsa.co.cr <http://www.una.ac.cr/agra/umecad/>

www.una.ac.cr/agra/umecad/

PUBLICATION ON "METHODS FOR QTL ANALYSIS"

The author of this publication is Dr. Emilio Carbonell, Head, Biometric Unit, Insitituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias, Valencia Spain, Vice-President of IBS Spanish Region and member of the IBS Education Committee.

The publication comprises an introductory chapter and a description of early approaches mapping QTL's; methods for populations derived from crosses of inbred lines; statistical methods for out bred populations; significance tests; precision of estimates of QTL positions and future perspectives on this matter. The publication has been used on training courses in molecular biology data analysis taught by Dr. Carbonell in Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Costa Rica.

Publication is available in a PDF format and could be downloaded from: <http://www.una.ac.cr/agra/umecad/>

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China

The First QOL Symposium in China

The First Chinese National Quality of Life Symposium will be held from 21–24 January 2000, Guangzhou, China. The symposium is co-organized by the Ministry of Public Health, the Health Bureau of Guangdong, the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong, SAR and the Sun Yat-Sen University of Medical Sciences in Guangzhou, PRC.

The First Chinese National QOL Symposium is the first conference of this kind in China to explore the relevance and application of the QOL concept and measures to the Chinese population. Besides sharing the experience of applying QOL in the Western society, the Symposium will explore the QOL concept and measures from the perspective of Chinese culture and traditional Chinese medicine. We believe this will be an interesting symposium to the health care professionals working in both the Western and the Eastern world.

Tentative topics: Overview of QOL concepts; QOL concepts and Chinese culture; Traditional Chinese medicine and

QOL concepts; Methodology in QOL research; Statistical method in QOL research; Development and cultural adaptation of Chinese QOL measures; QOL measures in health care; QOL in public health and administration; QOL in rehabilitation; QOL in drug development.

We welcome you to attend the First Chinese National Quality of Life Symposium!

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ENAR

I am very pleased to announce the results of the ENAR 1999-2000 elections:

2000 President-Elect: Linda J. Young (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
Treasurer (2000-2001): Timothy G. Gregoire (Yale University)
Regional Committee (RECOM, 2000-2002): Eric J. (Rocky) Feuer (National Cancer Institute), Paige Williams (Harvard School of Public Health).

Kathy Hoskins
Executive Director, ENAR

ENAR Diversity Workshop by Louise Ryan



Attendees at the ENAR Diversity Workshop in Atlanta, March 1999

At its Spring meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, USA in March, the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) held a special workshop on focusing on issues of diversity in the field of biostatistics. The idea was to create a forum wherein interested students, faculty and other professionals could come together to discuss some of the challenges facing our profession as we try to diversify by attracting students from under represented minority groups to consider careers in biostatistics. Students and fac-

ulty from several of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Atlanta region attended. Workshop presenters included Dr Dejuan Richardson from Lake Forest College and Rush Presbyterian, Ms Crystal Moffit from Morehouse College, Dr Louise Ryan from Harvard University and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and President Gloria Scott from Bennett College. One of the most successful aspects of the workshop was a student panel discussion. Panelists included Cassandra Arroyo, Scarlett Bellamy and Mahlet Tadesse from Harvard, Angelita Bush and Ahinee Amamoo from University of North Carolina, Jovonne Williams from Emory and Ronnie Sebros from Morehouse College. According to participant evaluations, the workshop was a great success. A similar workshop will be held at the ENAR Spring meetings in Chicago on Sunday, March 19th, 2000. Dr Amita Manatunga from Emory University will coordinate the next workshop. Anyone interested in more details may contact her by email at amanatu@sph.emory.edu or by telephone at (404) 727-1309. Sponsorship for the 1999 workshop was generously provided by Merck Research Laboratories.

Hungarian

During September 1-3 the 5th Hungarian Biometrics and Biomathematics Conference was held in Szombathely with more than 50 participants. The program consisted of wide range of agricultural, ecological, biological, zoological, pharmaceutical and medical problems. Three plenary sessions were held on different topics, e.g. ecological modelling, quality management of clinical trials, problems of usage of foreign language terms in biostatistics. Two parallel sessions were held, one was dedicated to biometrics and the other to biomathematics papers. The total number of the lectures were 29. Round table discussion covered teaching situation of biostatistics and biometrics at Hungarian Universities and plans for the future. There was given a survey of the present situation of biometrics as a research field. The poster session presented 8 interesting study and 2 software show were made. All the abstracts of the papers were issued in a Proceeding Book of the conference. Of course there took place

some pleasant social events too. Finally the participants decided to held the next Conference in 2002.

Júlia Barabás

Italian

The Italian Region of the International Biometric Society has recently changed its Regional Officers: Prof. Carla Rossi (Regional President), Dr Giuseppe Schinaia (Regional Secretary and Treasurer). Other Officers of the Italian Region: Prof. Carlo Berzuini, Prof. Adriano Decarli, Prof. Corrado Lagazio, Dr Giuseppe Matullo. We welcome them and we are confident that they will keep up the good work of the previous board.

F.M. Stefanini

Kenyan

During the week from September 6-10, 1999 IBSGKE members were involved in conducting a workshop on design and analysis of field experiments to masters students beginning their second year in the faculty of Agriculture, University of Nairobi. The students are expected to start their field research work in order to write their theses. The course was hosted by crop science Department, University of Nairobi, courtesy of the Chairman of Department Professor Levi Akundabweni. On 6th September Dr. John Rowlands a Biometrician at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI-Kenya) gave a course on planning and design of field experiments then on 7th September Rosemary Nguti from the Department of Mathematics, University of Nairobi gave a course on data management. On 8th September Sonal Nagda who is a statistical programmer at ILRI-Kenya gave a course on GENSTAT and finally on 9th and 10th September the students were taken through various steps in data analysis and interpretation by Damaris Yobera, Rosemary Nguti and Dr John Rowlands. The closing remarks for the course were given by Prof. J.W. Odhiambo who is the National Group Secretary and Chairman, Department of Mathematics, University of Nairobi.

Henry G. Mwambi

Polish

In September, 13-16, 1999 the XXIX International Biometrical Colloquium was held in Piechowice, in the Karkonosze mountains. This year the conference was

organized by the committee from Warsaw Agricultural University with W. Zielinski (Chairman), S. Jaworski, R. Pietrzykowski and P. Kobus. Thanks to the organizers, the participants had an opportunity to spend four days in an extremely picturesque region in the South-west of Poland. The conference was attended by about 80 biometricians, chiefly Polish but there were also guests from Germany, Czech Republic, Lithuania and Portugal. Papers on Planning and Analysis of Experiments, Multivariate Methods, Statistical Methods in Genetics and other methods were presented at seven sessions. Most of them were delivered in English. Eleven more papers were presented during a poster session. There were, of course, other, not exactly scientific, activities: a barbecue, banquet, coach excursion to the Cistercian monastery in Krzeszow, a hike in the mountains and a performance of two stand-up comedians, which was in tune with a generally very friendly atmosphere of the conference.

As in previous years, all participants received a volume of the Biometrical Colloquium containing 326 pages of conference papers. The volume was dedicated to Prof. Tadeusz Przybysz, on his 70-th birthday. A special two-day scientific session on this occasion will be held in May, 2000 in Naleczow. For details, please contact prof. M. Wesolowska-Janczarek (e-mail: janczar@ursus.ar.lublin.pl).

The next jubilee XXX Colloquium will be organised by the Agricultural University of Siedlce. It will be held in September, 2000 in Bialowieza, this time, by contrast, in the Northeast of Poland. It is also going to be international, so we invite biometricians from all over the world!

Zofia Hanusz

SUSAN

Sub-Saharan Africa Network (SUSAN) of the International Biometric Society.

The Network held its business meeting on 26th August 1999, between 17:15 and 19:00, during its 6th scientific conference at IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria. A record 102 member of the network attended the meeting. The following are the highlights of the minutes of this meeting.

During the meeting, group secretaries

gave encouraging news about the activities of their groups and efforts being made to promote biometrics in their respective countries. Representatives from countries without existing groups also expressed their desire to start groups in their countries as a part of the network. These include the francophone countries represented at the meeting. They were encouraged and assured of support by the network and the IBS.

The Network's bylaws, as proposed by the coordinator, were thoroughly discussed and passed after some amendments.

Group Ethiopia (G_{Et}) requested to hold the next SUSAN conference in the year 2001, and this was unanimously approved by the congress. The group promised to work hard towards making the conference a great success.

The congress unanimously decided that the present seat of the network coordination be maintained and the coordinator given a second two-year term in office.

Professor Lynne Billard informed the meeting about IBS training programs and requested to know which courses will be of interest to members, when and where such courses should take place, and how much members will be willing to pay. Members suggested that courses taking place within Africa, with resource persons from developed countries, would be more beneficial. For the short courses scheduled for IBC 2000, the network decided to pay \$50 each for ten members from national institutions, who will be presenting a paper at the conference.

The valuable contribution of Dr. Sagary Nokoe to the network was particularly acknowledged by the congress with a standing ovation.

Adedapo Odulaja

SUSAN '99 REPORT

The long awaited SUSAN '99 finally came and was a huge success. 146 participants from 21 countries participated at the 4-day meeting. Participants came from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Greece, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rep. of Benin,

Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, UK (Scotland), USA, and Zimbabwe.

The meeting started on the 23rd of August with an opening speech by the Deputy Governor of Oyo State, Nigeria who represented the State's Governor. [Oyo is one of the largest states in Nigeria, and is the seat of the first University in Nigeria]. Earlier, the IITA Director General (Dr Lukas Brader), represented by the Director of IITA's - Resource and Crop Management Division, Prof. Dyno Keatinge, had welcomed the participants to IITA while the DG of the Federal Office of Statistics welcomed participants to Nigeria. Later at the first scientific session, The Director General of Federal Office of Statistics, Nigeria, Mr. O.O. Ajayi gave the keynote address on the "Role of Biometry in National Statistical System". Seventy papers and 3 posters on Gender, Biometrics Practice and Research, Human health and Environment were presented at the meeting.

Social activities included an opening reception cocktail and dinner for 170 participants and guests, a visit to the historical town of Oshogbo where the participants had the rare honour of being met by the King of Oshogbo, Oba Iyiola Oyewale Matanmi III. Other activities included a happy Hour hosted by IITA - I club members, a visit to Ibadan-city and a walk through IITA Nature Trail under the guidance of Mr J K Adebuseyi (a botanist at IITA).

At the conference dinner, a raffle was drawn and book prizes donated by ILRI -Biometrics(Dr. John Rowlands) and IITA-Biometrics (Dr S. Nokoe) were given. Dr. Ethelbert Nduka (G_{Ni}) of the University of Port Harcourt won the star prize of SOLAS software, donated by Statistical Solutions Ltd., UK.

Prof. Harvey Dicks (G_{Saf}) and Dr. Karl Stielau (G_{Saf}) of the University of Natal, ended the last day of the conference with a short training on "Spatial Statistics, with applications in Agriculture" using the GEOEAS - software.

The conference was sponsored by the International Biometric Society (IBS), Prof. Corstern Biometry Fund, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), The Eco-regional Program for Humid and sub-humid Tropics of Africa (EPHTA) of IITA, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya Airways and Nigeria's Federal Office of Statistics (FOS).

The venue for the next meeting is Ethiopia in the year 2001.

Taiwo Adetola ONIBOKUN (G_{Ni})



Participants on the opening day with the Deputy Governor of Oyo State; Director General of Federal Office of Statistics, Mr. O. O. Ajayi; Representative of IITA Director General, Professor Dyno Keatinge; and, Commissioner for Education, Mr. A. Adalokun at the Centre.



Lynne Billard (ENAR), Jane Canhao (G_{Zim}), and Local Organizer Sagary Nokoe (G_{Ni}) at the SubSaharan African Network Meeting, 23-27 August 1999.