

BIOMETRIC BULLETIN

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

THE INTERNATIONAL

Biometric Conference

2000

San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA
July 2-7, 2000

See Page 7

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial	3
Biometrics	5
IBC2000	7
Meetings	10
Region and Group News	11
Announcements	15
SUSAN	16

President's Corner

Greetings!

As we start a new year, we enter a change-over period for some of our Society's Officers. So it is time to thank **Steve George** who, as Treasurer, has contributed a magnificent eight years to overseeing the finances of our Society. Steve's efforts have ensured the ongoing stability of IBS finances, and currently they are in 'good shape'. Sincere thanks also go to my predecessor as President, **Byron Morgan**, who retires as Vice-President. Byron has maintained the momentum needed to keep our Society moving forward, as well as initiating the Education Committee. To both Byron and Steve, I personally am extremely grateful for the wise counsel and guidance they have given me over the past couple of years.



The crowd gathers for the opening address by President Sue Wilson.

I also have much pleasure in welcoming our new Officers, commencing 1999. Our Treasurer will be **Jeff Wood**, and our Vice President, then President, will be **Nanny Wermuth**.

As we wind down from all our activities associated both at, and around, IBC'98 in Cape Town last December, it is appropriate to thank **Tim Dunne**, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). Tim with the assistance of his Committee worked hard and long to prepare for this meeting, attending to the myriad of details that inevitably arise. Group South Africa (GSaf) is one of our newest and smallest Groups, and so its achievement in organising such a smoothly-run meeting was quite remarkable. Our thanks go also to members of the Scientific Program Committee, chaired by **Geoff McLachlan**; they ensured that our program was of the highest quality, both scientific and biometric.

During the IBC'98 Banquet, I had much



Outgoing past-president and vice-president Byron Morgan.

continued on page 2

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General Correspondence and requests for information regarding membership, advertising, publications and subscriptions should be addressed to the International Biometric Society listed above.

Greetings!

continued from page 1

pleasure in announcing the election by Council of two new Honorary Life Members (for the past two two-year periods), namely **Peter Armitage** (BR) and **Pierre Dagnelie** (RBe), in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Biometry and to the development of the International Biometric Society. Framed certificates were presented to Pierre and Peter (accepted in his absence by Byron Morgan). So currently our Society has four Honorary Life Members, including **David Finney** (elected 1984) and **C.R. Rao** (elected 1985).

All Committees met during the Cape Town meeting, and summaries of their Reports will appear elsewhere in issues of the *Bulletin*. At the Regional Presidents and National Secretaries Meeting, representatives were reminded of their links with the International Society. In particular, it was noted that each Region or National Group appoints a Correspondent for the *Biometric Bulletin* whose role is to report on regional or group matters (see Bylaw 9.3.b). Further, it was noted that the Editorial Advisory Committee should include a representative from each Region (see Bylaw 8.2.g.iii). So far, the nominated representatives are: **Juliana Barabas** (HR); **Lisbeth Cordani** (RBras); **Guadalupe Gomez i Miele** (REsp); **Timothy Gregoire** (ENAR); **Juerg Huesler** (ROeS); **Dong-Ke Kim** (GKe); **Debbie Street** (AR) and **Toshiro Tango** (JR).

At the Cape Town Council Meeting many items were discussed. Already two of these formally have been approved by your Council. First, Biometrics will now be published in a larger size with a two-

column layout. This will be both a cost-saving to IBS, and allow more pages to be printed this year, thus reducing the backlog. For those of you whose copies of the journal go back a while, you will notice that the last substantial change in size occurred in 1974 (Volume 30). Second, *JABES* is a Joint Venture between IBS and the American Statistical Association and the journal has taken longer to establish than originally estimated. To enable *JABES* to continue, the original agreement needs to be revised and this has been approved. Many other items are with Council as this issue of the Bulletin is being prepared. In particular, the question of whether there should be a Fellows Committee has generated lively debate, and, in view of widespread differences of opinion, has been referred back to Council. Council Members form the link between you (via your Region or National Group) and the international body, so please let them know your views on all IBS matters.

As we leave IBC'98 behind, it is time to start thinking of IBC2000 which will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, July 2-7. Council has approved the appointment of **Joan Hilton** (WNR) as Chair of the LOC, as well as the International Program Committee (IPC). Chair of the IPC, **Sylvia Richardson** (RF), has put out a call for topics for Invited Paper Sessions (see page 7) so please contact her with your suggestions. This is your first opportunity to be actively involved in IBC2000.

Wishing you a successful 1999,

Susan Wilson

Letters and Members' Contributions

As the Editor of the Biometric Bulletin I encourage members and readers to send in short letters about issues relevant to our profession and our Society. We have great responsibilities regarding education and scientific research (methodological and co-laborative). IBS has established several committees that are devoted to education, the wellbeing of our publications, technology, etc. Of course, the view of our

members is very important, and I encourage you to submit your views in writing (<geert.molenberghs@luc.ac.be>). Those members who have been in the IBS for several decades will have good (or bad?), interesting, or amusing memories of the old days. I should be very grateful if you could write up anecdotes, maybe even supported with pictures.

— Geert Molenberghs

Editorial



Executive Director David Santini, President Susan Wilson, General Secretary Elisabeth Baráth, and outgoing Executive Director Charles McGrath.

As usual, the International Biometric Conference in Cape Town, December 1998, has been a highlight in the life of our international society. Delegates gathered in the remarkably beautiful country of South Africa for a very diverse program with invited sessions, contributed presentations, and papers. In addition, we could attend

the first African Royal Statistical Society Ordinary Meeting, where Ary Verbyla gave a wonderful presentation on behalf of his co-authors, Brian Cullis, Mike Kenward, and Sue Welham. Our journals came to life in the Biometrics Session Editor's Choice paper, by Borchers, Zucchini, and Fewster, on mark-recapture models for line transect surveys, as well as in the JABES Invited Session, with talks by Peter Clarke, Clarice Demetrio, and Linda Young. We are happy to present a first pictorial impression from Cape Town, a report on issues with Biometrics, and a call for invited paper sessions for the IBC2000 in San Francisco. If you want to go to San Francisco, you'd better start making plans immediately since it is just a bit over a year from now! More on the IBC'98 in the next issue. This will include reports from

several committees, a feature on our new Honorary Life Members, Peter Armitage and Pierre Dagnelie.

As mentioned in the President's address, two executives are leaving. Also my sincere words of appreciation for Byron Morgan and Stephen George and a warm welcome to Nanny Wermuth and Jeff Wood.



Useful Web Sites

- **International Biometric Society:** <http://www.tibs.org>
- **Biometrics:** <http://stat.tamu.edu/Biometrics>
- **JABES:** <http://www.tibs.org/Jabes>

Deadline for Submission

The deadline for submitting contributions to *Biometric Bulletin* (2nd quarter) is March 31, 1999.

Welcome to Nanny Wermuth and Jeff Wood



Professor Nanny Wermuth from the German region was born during the Second World War, she is married and mother of four sons. She is a very prolific statistician who

studied in Frankfurt, Munich and Kansas. She got a Ph.D. in Statistics from Harvard University and a "habilitation" in Medical Statistics from the University of Mainz, where she has been a Professor of Statistics since 1978. Since 1997, she is also chairing the Research and Development branch of the Center for Survey Research in Mannheim. Nanny has been active in the German Region, which she presided in 1995-1996. Her diverse and deep research has featured prominently in the top statistical journals. Her book on multivariate dependencies, jointly with David Cox, has been the natural sequel of a series of joint papers. Nanny will be vice president in 1999, while she will lead our Society into the new millenium in 2000-2001. We wish her the best of luck.



Professor Jeff Wood from the Australasian Region has been a consultant biometrician for over 30 years, the last 25 with the CSIRO, the principal federal government research organization

in Australia. He has been involved in the application of statistics in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, ecology, and the environmental sciences. He has been both Treasurer and President of the Australasian Region, and Treasurer of the Statistical Society of Australia. Jeff served on the Finance Committee of the IBS for nearly ten years, much of this time as Chairman. Clearly, Jeff is very suited to take over this important position in the Executive Committee and his experience will help him maintaining the "good shape" of the finances of our Society.



B iometrics maintains a web site (<http://stat.tamu.edu/Biometrics>) which includes information of interest to our readers and to authors. For example, you will find a list of the papers which have been accepted for publication, but which have not yet appeared. In this list we also typically provide e-mail addresses for the corresponding author.

There are a large number of exciting papers which will appear in the March issue. Among them we highlight the following.

Margaret Wu and Dean Follmann's paper "Use of Summary Measures to Adjust for Informative Missingness in Repeated Measures Data with Random Effects" discusses the problem of informative missing data. This is an issue of vast importance in longitudinal studies, and one that is an area of active and vigorous research. Over the coming issues, we will be publishing a number of new papers on this topic. Wu and Follmann's paper derives a summary measure of missingness and use this summary measure as a covariate in a final analysis. Their results are applied to a study of heroin addicts where missed visits are informative about a drug test results.

Kung-Yee Liang and Paul Rathouz have a paper entitled "Hypothesis testing under mixture models: application to genetic linkage analysis." For complex diseases, one of the challenges for locating disease susceptibility gene(s) is to deal with the issue of linkage heterogeneity. Here, only a portion of the studied families are linked to the markers. In the absence of knowledge as to which families are linked, a mixture model has been proposed to acknowledge statistically the possibility of heterogeneity. In this paper, the authors proposed a class of statistics to test the null hypothesis of no linkage. Unlike the conventional likelihood ratio statistic, these new statistics have a simple asymptotic distribution to which to refer to under the null hypothesis. In addition, these procedures are easily implemented for the commonly used software for linkage analysis including HOMOG.

Rebecca Betensky and Daniel Rabinowitz discuss the question of "Maximally selected chisquared statistics for $k \times 2$ tables." Here they consider the issue of categorizing continuous data via thresholds. When the threshold is chosen to maximize the usual chisquared statistic, then significance levels are clearly biased. They show how to adjust the significance levels to make them

asymptotically correct and apply their work to an AIDS clinical trial.

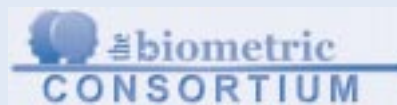
Philip Hougaard has written an article comparing the proportional hazards model and the accelerated failure time model for survival analysis. He includes a very nice discussion of the fundamentals of survival analysis, some of the standard accelerated failure time models, and some reasons for choosing among the various alternatives.

Searching for "Biometric(s)" on the Web?

Try searching for "biometrics" or "biometric" on the web. You may be surprised at what you find. My web browser (using AltaVista) found 36160 Web pages for "biometrics" and 26180 for "biometric". First listed for "biometrics" (as it should be for my Alma Mater!) was the Cornell University Biometrics Unit. But only 3 of the top 10 were for our meaning of "biometrics". The other 7, and the first 7 listed for "biometric", were for its use as a new Information Technology catch phrase *biometric* to refer to a biological characteristic or behavioral trait used for the automatic identification, or identity verification, of persons. Here are some observations from these 20 sites.

PC Week

<www.zdnet.com/pcweek/news> reported in October 1997 that "Biometrics may be the next big thing in information technology. At least, that's what Bill Gates thinks. Gates told an audience that biometrics technologies - those that use human characteristics such as fingerprint, voice and face recognition - will be the most important IT innovations of the next several years."



The Biometric Consortium

<www.biometrics.org> serves as the US Government's focal point for research,

development, test, evaluation, and application of biometric-based personal identification/verification technology. In the UK there is the *Association for Biometrics*. The AFB is a non-profit making organization which aims to promote the awareness and development of biometric related technologies. There is a Glossary of Biometric Terms on their web site <www.afb.org.uk> developed jointly with International Computer Security Association.

"Biometry" is also used in this new sense. For example, <www.networkusa.org/fingerprint/page3/fp-human-tracking.html> the article *Biometry: Human-tracking System Goes Global* begins "Biometric identification using such technologies as fingerprint and retinal scanning is well under way worldwide."

"Biometric society" appears to be still ours! The top 20 listings for "biometric society" were all associated with our society - and the International Biometric Society came in second. Incidentally, have you ever wondered why our web site address, <www.tibs.org>, has the t? Without "t" you get the International Bible Society. Our International Business Office has obtained a trademark in the US for "Biometrics" and "International Biometric Society".

Harold Henderson

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC CONFERENCE 2000

San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA ■ July 2-7, 2000



Call for Invited Paper Sessions

Start the new millennium off right. Begin planning now to attend the next International Biometrics Conference to be held in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, 2-7 July, 2000. Currently, the Program Committee is requesting suggestions of topics and organizers for the invited paper sessions. Members of the Program Committee listed below would be happy to help you develop your ideas for invited paper sessions.

A formal proposal for an invited paper session should be submitted to the Program Chair, Sylvia Richardson by email (address below). The committee wishes to encourage the format of sessions consisting in 2 invited papers and a discussant. The organizer can introduce the session but should not be among the invited speakers. Each proposal should include the session title with a brief outline, 2-3 key words, name and address of organizer (also fax and e-mail address, if possible), titles or specific topics of talks, possible speakers and discussant(s) (preferably with confirmation that they will participate if the session is selected).

The deadline for receipt of invited paper session proposals is April 30, 1999. Final decisions on invited sessions will be made by the Program Committee by June 30, 1999.

IBC2000 Program Committee

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16 Avenue Paul Vaillant Couturier 94807
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Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies

President's Award Nominations

The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies seeks nominations for the 1998 President's Award. This award is presented annually to an individual under 40 (i.e., may have a 40th birthday anytime during the year of the award) in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession of statistics.

Members of COPSS societies, namely the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), American Statistical Association (ASA), Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), and the International Biometric Society (ENAR/WNAR), should feel free to nominate candidates for this award. The recipient of the award shall be a member of at least one of the participating societies.

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 1999. Nominations should include a current vitae for the nominee, nomination letter, and several supporting letters. Nominations may be forwarded to Sallie Keller-McNulty, Los Alamos National Laboratory, TSA-1, MS-F-600, Los Alamos, NM 87545.

2000 Fisher Lecture Nominations

The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies seeks nominations for the 2000 Fisher Lecture. The R.A. Fisher Lectureship was established in 1963 to honor the contributions of Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher and the work of a present day statistician. The Fisher Lectureship recognizes the importance of statistical methods for scientific investigations. The lecture is to be broadly based and is to emphasize aspects of statistics and probability that are closely related to scientific collection and interpretation of data.

Members of COPSS societies, namely the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), American Statistical Association (ASA), Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), and the International Biometric Society (ENAR/WNAR), should feel free to nominate candidates for this award. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 1999. Nominations should include a current vitae for the nominee, nomination letter, and several supporting letters. Nominations may be forwarded to Sue E. Leurgans, Rush Presbyterian - St. Luke's Medical Center, 1725 W. Harrison St. Suite 117, Chicago, IL 60612-3824.

Developments with Biometrics

The Editorial Advisory Committee meeting in Cape Town, with Clarice G.B. Demetrio in the Chair, generated a lot of discussion about our society's main journal, *Biometrics*. As you know from recent newsletter reports, the current editors (Carroll, Calvin and Ryan)

have been doing an excellent job maintaining a fast turnaround time on submitted papers. Unfortunately, this has created a problem in that there is now a backlog of accepted papers waiting to be published. In order to fix this, we have explored the idea of adding some

additional pages in 1999. In doing so, we have found that considerable savings can be recouped by moving to a larger page size (8 1/2 by 11 inch, the same as *JASA*). The IBS Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Editorial Advisory

continued on page 16



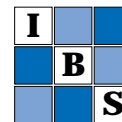
HIGHLIGHTS FROM IBC '98 IN CAPE TOWN



- 1 *Harold Henderson, local organizer IBC, 1992, New Zealand; Niels Keiding, president IBS (then called Biometric Society) 1992-93; Roger Mead, secretary IBS 1985-92; all in their IBC 1992 T-shirts.*
- 2 *Hospitality at the University of Cape Town.*
- 3 *President Susan Wilson (AR) presents an IBC'98 bag to the Mayor of Cape Town at the Thursday night civic reception at the Town Hall.*
- 4 *Linda Young (ENAR) at JABES Special Invited Session.*
- 5 *Pierre Dagnelie (RBe) receives his Life Honorary Membership from the hands of President Susan Wilson. Congratulations, Pierre!*
- 6 *Delegates gather for Conference Dinner on Friday.*
- 7 *Tim Dunne (GSaf), our outstanding local organizer of IBC'98.*
- 8 *IBC2000 Local Chair Joan Hilton (WNAR) and Scientific Chair Sylvia Richardson (RF).*
- 9 *International Business Office Staff at the Closing Banquet.*
- 10 *Tired "adventurers" relax at the bottom!*
- 11 *Some participants of the "adventurers" mid-conference tour enjoy their view from the top of Table Mountain.*

Meetings

Meetings appearing for the first time are shown in blue



1999

March 10-12

Classification and Information Processing at the Turn of the Millennium

23rd Annual Conference of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation • University of Bielefeld, Germany
Some Topics: mathematical and statistical methods for data analysis and classification, computer-aided methods of statistics, pattern recognition and machine learning, information systems and data bases, applications (marketing, Finance, biology, medicine, psychology, linguistics). Information: R. Decker, Lehrstuhl für Betriebswirtschaftslehre und Marketing • Fax: +49-521-106-8050 <gfk199@wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de>
<http://www.wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de/~decker/gfk1de.htm>

March 12-13

Second SFB 475 Conference on Reduction of Complexity in Multivariate Data Structures

University of Dortmund, Germany
Information: Nicole Radtke, SFB 475 Secretary, University of Dortmund, Germany
Fax: +49 (231) 755-5417
<sfb475-verw@amadeus.statistik.uni-dortmund.de>
Sonja Berghoff, SFB 475 Manager, University of Dortmund, Germany
Fax: +49 (231) 755-5417
<berghoff@amadeus.statistik.uni-dortmund.de>
<http://www.statistik.uni-dortmund.de/sfb475/sfb475.htm>

March 28-31

ENAR Spring Meeting

See Region and Group News

April 19-21

Spatial Statistics for Production Ecology

Wageningen, The Netherlands
Information: Alfred Stein
<alfred.stein@bodlan.beng.wau.nl>
www.spg.wau.nl/pe/stats99.htm

April 23

The Delaware Chapter of ASA sponsored Spring Conference

Statistical design and Analysis of Life Science Studies of Mice and Men
Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark Delaware • Speakers include: Keith Soper, Joseph Haseman, Mike O'Fallon, Lloyd Fisher, Carl Peck, Paul Albert, and Earl Norbrock • Program chair: John W. Green, DuPont Pharmaceuticals • Fax: 1 (302) 886-4757
<margaret.minkwitz@phwilm.zeneca.com>

April 23-25

Ninth Lukacs Symposium: Frontiers of Environmental and Ecological Statistics for the 21st century

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA • Chair: G.P. Patil
Information: Arjun K. Gupta • <gupta@math.bgsu.edu>
G.P. Patil • <gpp@stat.psu.edu>

May 18-21

11th International Statistical Conference of Genstat Users

Poznan, Poland • Information: Pawel Krajewski, Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznan, Poland • Fax: +48 61 8233671
<pkra@igr.poznan.pl>
<http://www.res.bbsrc.ac.uk/stats/genstat/gencon99.htm>

June 1-4

Third International ICSC Symposia on INTELLIGENT INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION (IIA'99)

<http://www.icsc.ab.ca/iaa99.htm> and SOFT COMPUTING (SOCO'99) • <http://www.icsc.ab.ca/soco99.htm>
Palazzo Ducale, Genova, Italy

June 6-9

Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Local Arrangements Chair: R.J. Tomkins, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan
<ssc99@math.uregina.ca>
Web Site: <http://www.math.uregina.ca/SSC99/>
Programme Chair: A.H. El-Shaarawi, National Water Research Institute, PO Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario
<abdel.el-shaarawi@cciw.ca>

June 8-12

CBMS/NSF Regional Conference on Generalized Linear Mixed Models and Related Topics

University of Florida, Gainesville
Information: Jim Booth • Fax: 1 (352) 392-5175
<jbooth@stat.ufl.edu>

June 9-11

Nordic Regional Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

Local Arrangements: Arne H. Andreasen, Novo Nordisk A/S, Bagsvaerd, Denmark <arha@novo.dk>
Programme Committee Chair: Elja Arjas
<Elja.Arjas@rni.helsinki.fi>

June 18-20

The International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) 1999 Applied Statistics Symposium

Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Information: T.Timothy Chen, University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA • Fax: 1 (410) 328-2578
<tchen001@umaryland.edu> <http://www.icsa.org>

June 22-25

International Congress on Computational Intelligence: Methods and Applications

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, USA
CIMA'99 features the following Symposia:

- ISFL'99
Third International ICSC Symposium on FUZZY LOGIC AND APPLICATIONS
Chair: Hans Bothe, Switzerland/Germany
<http://www.icsc.ab.ca/isfl99.htm>
- AIDA'99
International ICSC Symposium on ADVANCES IN INTELLIGENT DATA ANALYSIS
<http://www.icsc.ab.ca/aida99.htm>
Chair: Erkki Oja, Finland
- SCB'99
International ICSC Symposium on SOFT COMPUTING IN BIOMEDICINE
Chair: Eduardo Massad, Brazil
<http://www.icsc.ab.ca/scb99.htm>
- SCFM'99
International ICSC Symposium on SOFT COMPUTING IN FINANCIAL MARKETS
Chair: Seth A. Greenblatt, USA
<http://www.icsc.ab.ca/scfm99.htm>

July 19-23

14th International Workshop on Statistical Modeling

Graz, Austria
Information: <http://www.cis.tu-graz.ac.at/stat/iwsm>
Chair: Herwig Friedl, Institute of Statistics, Technical University Graz, Lessingstr. 27/1, 8010 Graz.
Fax: + 43 316 873 6977,
<friedl@stat.tu-graz.ac.at>

July 26

Categorical Data Analysis Course

Leicester, UK • Instructor: Alan Agresti
Information: Briony Teather, Dept of Medical Statistics De Montfort University, Leicester, UK
Fax: +44 116 250 6114, <bte@dmu.ac.uk>

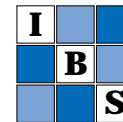
July 28-30

Statistical Issues in Biopharmaceutical Environments: Towards the New Millennium

Leicester, UK • Instructor: Alan Agresti
Information: Briony Teather, Dept of Medical Statistics De Montfort University, Leicester, UK
Fax: +44 116 250 6114, <bte@dmu.ac.uk>

continued on page 15

Region and Group News



Argentina

On October 14-16, 1998 the Third Meeting of the Argentine Group has taken place at the "Universidad Nacional de Rosario", Rosario. Approximately 60 registrants attended. The program included short courses, oral presentations and poster sessions. The invited speakers were: Marta Garcia Ben (survival data), Marta Quaglino (Longitudinal Data Analysis), Ana Haedo (ROC curves) and Monica Balzarini (mixed models).

The General Assembly of GArg (GAB) was also held and the National Committee was reelected. It was decided to initiate the demand for Regional status at the IBC98.

The 1999 Meeting will be held in U.N.La Plata, jointly with the First Iberoamerican Conference on Statistical Methods in Environmental Studies.

Nelida Winzer

Austro-Swiss

1999 Biennial Biometrical Seminar

The next Biometrical Seminar of the Austro-Swiss Region (ROeS) will take place at the University of Basel/Switzerland on 27-30 of September, 1999. The seminar is about 'Advances in Biometry' in general; however, some emphasis is given to the area of medical research (Don't forget: Basel is the hometown of Novartis and Roche!). It will include the following invited sessions (speakers):

Statistics in Agriculture and Forestry (A. Ploner, U. Roemisch, S. Dahms); Statistical Methods I: Data Mining (M. Hudec, M. Kloesgen, R. Nakhaeizadeh); Generalized Estimating Equations in Epidemiology and Clinical Research (K.-Y. Liang, C. Schindler, H. Burger); Clinical Research I: Innovative Study Designs (A. Racine-Poon, P. Thall, P. Bauer, S. Todd); Statistical Methods II: Bootstrapping (A. Davison, I. Pigeot); Clinical Research II: Study Simulation Using Pharmacology Data (J.-L. Steimer, N. Holford, M. Hale, S. Senn). The purpose of the meeting is to gather together statisticians involved in these topics and to present and discuss the modern techniques and recent contributions to the solutions of problems in these areas.

In addition to the invited talks, there will be also space in the scientific program for contributed papers and posters on 'Statistics in the Life Sciences'. Abstracts of contributed papers or posters should be submitted either by internet (see homepage below) or by sending an email to roth@stat.math.ethz.ch till 31 March, 1999. Conference languages are English and German.

There will be a half-day excursion on Wednesday afternoon to Basel's surroundings which includes walking and visiting sights of the region to develop personal contacts further in a relaxed seminar atmosphere.

For a more detailed information check out our homepage at <http://www.akh-wien.ac.at/ROeS> or contact the local organizer: Ursula Ackermann-Liebrich, Inst. f. Sozial- und Praeventivmedizin, Basel, Switzerland. Fax: +41 (61) 267 61 90 roes@bs.ch.

H. Friedl

Brazil

The 44th meeting of the Brazilian Region will be held jointly with the 8th Symposium of Applied Statistics in Agronomy (SEAGRO) in Botucatu, a city of Sao Paulo State, from 26 to 30 July 1999, at the Campus of UNESP (Rubiao Junior), organised by the Biostatistics Department. The program will include short courses, conferences and communications (oral and poster). Some cases will be included to be discussed by specialists. The final program is not available yet but will be published soon. More information can be obtained from Luzia Trinca <rbras98@ibb.unesp.br>.

Lisbeth Cordani

British

The AGM and 188th meeting of the British Region was held on Thursday 15th October at the Royal Entomological Society, London. The Presidential Address was given by Dr. Douglas Altman. "Correct and Incorrect Statistics: How Important is the Difference?" The discussion was opened by Prof. Peter Armitage who proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Prof. Rob Kempton.

The 189th Ordinary General Meeting of the British Region was held on Thursday, 3 December 1998 at the Royal Entomological Society, London. The following talks were given: "How Should We Consider the Implications to Agriculture of the Introduction of Genetically Modified Crops" (John Fenlon, Horticulture Research International), "Linear Scores And Roc Curves" (John Copas, University of Warwick), "Public Attitudes to Emerging Technologies - Why Public Involvement Is Necessary" (Lynn Frewer, Institute of Food Research). Discussion by Robert Curnow, University of Reading.

Forthcoming meetings:

- On March 23, 1999 a joint meeting will be organised with RSS Medical Section on Modern approaches to analysis of genetic data. The RSS and Biometric Society will hold a meeting on "Modern approaches to analysis of genetic data" on March 23, 1999. There will be three expository talks by David Clayton, Françoise Clerget Darpoux and Elizabeth Thompson. Each will be followed by discussion. There will also be a contributed poster session during an extended lunch time.
- The 190th Ordinary General Meeting of the British Region will be held at Horticulture Research International, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire on June 23, 1999. This will be a one-day meeting on 'New Directions in Plant Biology' and will include a celebration of 50 years of statistics and biometry at the Wellesbourne site (which used to be called the National Vegetable Research Station (NVRS)). The organisers hope that many former members of the biometrics / statistics department at Wellesbourne will be able to attend the meeting, which will include a short review of the biometrical achievements of the site. For more details, please contact the local organiser for the meeting, Andrew Mead. <andrew.mead@hri.ac.uk>
- AGM and 191st Ordinary General Meeting. October 12, 1999 at the Royal Entomological Society, London.

C.B. Moncrieff

Central America and the Caribbean

Sixth meeting of the IBS Network for Central America and the Caribbean June 28-30, 1999 Tobago, West Indies

The themes of the meeting are the application of biometry to Biodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture and Epidemiology. The meeting is open to all interested persons whether they reside in the network area or not and contributed papers on those themes as well as on other applications of biometry are welcome.

The LOC is formed by Mr. Hydar Ali (University of the West Indies), Mr. Bruce Lauckner (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute), Dr. George Legall (Caribbean Epidemiology Centre), Dr. Laura McDougal (Mount Hope Medical School), Dr. Donald Simeon (Mount Hope Medical School), Dr. Robin Young (University of the West Indies). Further information from the convenor of the local organizing committee: Bruce Lauckner, CARDI, University Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. Fax: 1 (868)645-1208 <biometrics@cardi.org>

Publication on Biometrical Education

The International Biometric Society Network for Central America and The Caribbean, with the support of Universidad Nacional-UNA- (Costa Rica) and the Tropical Agronomic Center for Research and Education (CATIE), published recently a bilingual (Spanish-English) volume on "BIOMETRICAL EDUCATION: PROBLEMS, EXPERIENCES AND SOLUTIONS"; which includes the lectures of a roundtable on this topic held recently on Jalapa, México, during the last Meeting of the Network.

Contents:

- Statistical Usage in Biological Sciences: Main Problems and Solutions. Janet Riley, Statistics Department, IACR-Rothamsted, Harpenden, UK.
- My Experiences with Biometrical Education in the Caribbean and Central America. Larry A. Nelson, Professor Emeritus, North Carolina State University, USA.
- Misuse of Statistical Methods in Agricultural Research. Emilio Carbonell, Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias, Valencia, Spain. Jorge A. Camacho, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.
- Biometrical Education: Problems, Experiences and Solutions. Carlos Barahona, Statistical Services Centre, The University of Reading, UK.

- Teaching Biometry to Agricultural Research Scientists in The Caribbean. Frank B. Lauckner, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Trinidad.
- A Reformulation of the Problem of Statistical Education: A Learning Perspective. Hardeo Sahai, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico. Roberto Behar, School of Engineering, Universidad del Valle, Colombia. Mario M Ojeda, School of Statistics, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico.
- Biometrical teaching : Why and How? Laura Pla, Universidad Nacional Experimental "Francisco de Miranda", Venezuela.

THE PUBLICATION COST IS US\$10 PLUS US\$5 SHIP & HANDLE. Please, send your bank draft or money order to "FUNDACION UNA" to the following address: Jorge Camacho-Sandoval Escuela de Ciencias Agrarias Universidad Nacional, Heredia 3000 COSTA RICA. Fax: 1 (506) 260035 <camachoj@sol.racsa.co.cr> <jcamacho@una.ac.cr>

ENAR

The Spring 1999 ENAR meeting will take place in Atlanta, Georgia, March 28-31, at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers Hotel. ENAR has developed an exciting invited program that offers a mix of sessions focusing on new methods development with sessions describing particular applications. Growing areas of research and application, such as gene mapping and analysis of spatial data, are program highlights. ENAR 1999 will also feature a full program of short courses, tutorials, and luncheon roundtables. In addition, ENAR Student Awards will be offered to up to 20 students submitting manuscripts. For more information, please contact the ENAR office at (703) 437-4377 or <ENAR@aol.com>.

Abby Goldstein

Indian

The Indian Region of the International Biometric Society and the Indian Society for Medical Statistics have planned to organize a joint meeting during the Fall of 1999 in relation to the organization of their 5th and 17th conferences, respectively. Its formal approval has been taken by the Indian Society for Medical Statistics during the 16th conference held at CMC, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, November 19-21, 1998. Dr. D.K. Subbakrishna, Dept. of Biostatistics, NIMHANS, Bangalore,

India will be the organizing secretary. He will be glad to provide further information: <subba@nimhans.re.nic.in> Fax: 91-806631830

S.N. Dwivedi

Korean

The Biometric Society, Group Korea, had its fourth seminar on November 27, 1998 at the School of Public Health of Seoul National University. 30 members attended. Prof. Xizhi Wu from Nankai University, Tianjin, China,



talked on "Introduction of Biostatistics and Clinical Trials in China". After the talk the speaker (third from the left at the front row) and the participants took a picture.

Byung-Soo Kim

Nigeria

GNI had her last meeting for the year on the 11th of November at the University of Ilorin, with S. B. Adebayo giving a seminar on 'Validity consideration on agreement index in Ploychotomous variables'. The group also discussed at length on the SUSAN meeting to be held 23-27 August 1999. The host (i.e. Dept. of Statistics, Unilorin) gave the group a nice entertainment. GNI is actively preparing to host the SUSAN meeting next year. Other IBS members that are not part of SUSAN are invited to attend the meeting. It is going to be a great one!

Taiwo Onibokun

Nordic

A Nordic Regional Meeting will be held 9-11 June 1999 at Novo Nordisk A/S, Bagsvaerd, Denmark. To retain future information please send e-mail or address to Arne H. Andreasen, Novo Nordisk A/S, Novo Allé, 2880 Bagsvaerd, Denmark <arha@novo.dk>.

Arne H. Andreasen

Nominations Sought for the Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science



The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health named John Tukey, Donner Professor of Science, Emeritus, Princeton

University, the recipient of the 1999 Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science. Professor Tukey will deliver a lecture on June 4 at Harvard University.

This annual award, supported by colleagues, friends and family, was established to honor Dr. Marvin Zelens long and distinguished career as a statis-

tician and his major role in shaping the field of biostatistics.

The award recognizes an individual in government, industry, or academia, who by virtue of his/her outstanding leadership, has greatly impacted the theory and practice of statistical science. While individual accomplishments are considered, the most distinguishing criterion is the awardee's contribution to the creation of an environment in which statistical science and its applications have flourished. The award recipient will deliver a public lecture on statistical science at the Harvard School of Public Health and will be presented with a citation and an honorarium.

Nominations for next year's award, to be given in May, 2000, should be sent to the Marvin Zelen Leadership Award Committee, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Nominations should include a letter describing the contributions of the candidate, specifically highlighting the criteria for the award, and a curriculum vita. Supporting letters and materials would be extremely helpful to the committee.

All nominations must be received by September 1, 1999.



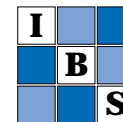
Announcement

The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard school of Public Health announces the availability of a new position at the full professor level. The successful candidate should have an outstanding record of methodological research with an international reputation and demonstrated leadership in addressing important public health problems. The candidate should provide evidence of commitment to, and success in, teaching and supervision of doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows. Responsibilities will include teaching, student supervision, and scientific leadership in methodological research and applications to public health.

■ ***Send curriculum vitae, including bibliography to the address below:***

Senior Search Committee for Biostatistics Faculty
Department of Biostatistics
Harvard School of Public Health
655 Huntington Avenue, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02115

Applications from minority and female candidates are especially encouraged.



Announcements

Statistical Issues in Biopharmaceutical Environments: Towards the New Millennium July 28-30, 1999 De Montfort University, Leicester, UK

Topics: Regulatory and Statistical Issues in Drug Development, Impact of International Guidelines, Data Monitoring Committees, Data Management and Technology, Categorical Data and Repeated Measures, Exact Methods, Sample Size Re-estimation, Bioequivalence.

Keynote speakers: Alan Agresti, Peter Armitage, Susan Ellenberg, Stephen Senn
Invited speakers include: Mark Becker, Jon Denne, Greg Enas, Karen Facey, Gary Koch, Larry Gould, Andy Grieve, Byron Jones, Lisa Lavange, Jim Lindsey, Bill Louv, Ron Marks, Cyrus Mehta, Yasuo Ohashi, Joachin Rohmel, Steve Ruberg, Tosiya Sato.

Information: Briony A Teather, Department of Medical Statistics, Faculty of Computing Sciences and Engineering, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester, England.
Fax: +44 (0) 116 250 6114
<bte@dmu.fac.uk>

Pre-Conference Course: Categorical Data Analysis with Alan Agresti (University of Florida) De Montfort University, Leicester, UK July 26-27, 1999

Topics: logistic regression, log-linear models, Mantel-Haenszel, ordinal responses, exact methods

Prediction in Medical Statistics

The Nordic Network for Biostatistics Research arranged a two-day Workshop at Odense University, February 4-5, 1999.

The problem of the construction and validation of predictors has recently been paid increasing attention in the biometrical community, especially in connection with the construction of prognostic indices and diagnostic scores. The research frontier for these topics will be introduced, including applications and case studies. The benefits of new

approaches will be critically discussed and open questions deserving future research will be identified.

Invited speakers were Douglas Altman (Oxford), David Hand (The Open University), Hans van Houwelingen (Leiden), Martin Schumacher (Freiburg).

The Nordic Network for Biostatistics Research was established in January 1998 by the Departments of Biostatistics and the Biostatistics Research Groups at the Nordic universities. The aim is to coordinate and promote post graduate training and research in Medical Statistics through workshops, mobility stipends and PhD courses. The network is funded by NorFa for the period 1998-2000. More information on <http://www.matematik.su.se/matstat/biostat/network.html>.

Call for papers

Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv

Editor: Karl Mosler

The editorial board of the Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv, the Journal of the German Statistical Society, has been continuing its efforts to solicit high quality articles on statistical theory, methods, and applications. The journal provides a scientific forum for researchers and users from all branches of statistics with a social phenomena and in official statistics.

We are especially interested in contributions which present a novel methodological approach as a result, obtained by a substantial use of statistical method, which has a significant scientific or societal impact. Occasional review papers are also welcome.

Authors of appropriate papers are encouraged to submit their work. Detailed instructions may be obtained from the net: <http://www.uni-koeln.de/wiso-fak/wisostatsem/>

Three copies of the manuscript should be sent to the editor: Prof. Dr. Karl Mosler, Universität zu Köln, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, D-50923 Köln, Germany. E-Mail: mosler@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Meetings

continued from page 10

July 26-30

Botucatu, São Paulo State, Brazil

44rd Meeting of the Brazilian Region (RBRAS)
8th SEAGRO • Universidade Estadual Paulista(UNESP)
Information: Luzia Trinca
<rbras98@ibb.unesp.br>

September 13-17

Heidelberg, Germany

ISCB-GMDS 99

September 13-16

44th Annual Conference of the German Society of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology (GMDS)

September 14-17

20th Annual Conference of the International Society of Clinical

Biostatistics (ISCB) • Information:
Norbert Victor, University of Heidelberg
Lutz Edler, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg
FAX: +49-6221-56-4195
<ISCB-GMDS-99@dkfz-heidelberg.de>
<http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gmds-99>

September 22-24

Leading survey and statistical computing into the new millenium

University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Invited speakers: M. Couper, I. Durrell, D. Hand, R. Morgan, A. Teague
Information: ASC
Fax: +44 1494 793033
<asc@essex.ac.uk>
<asc99-info@essex.ac.uk> (automatic reply)
<http://www.assurcom.demon.co.uk/Events/Sep99/index.htm>

September 24-25

Fifth Workshop on Case Studies in Bayesian Statistics

Information: Rob Kass, Bayes Workshop, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh,
<kass@stat.cmu.edu>
Fax: 1 (412) 268 7828.

October 28-31

1999 International conference on survey nonresponse

Portland Hilton, Portland, Oregon, USA
<http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/icsn99>
<ICSN@SURVEY.UMD.EDU>

SUSAN



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

The network held its first meeting on Tuesday 15 December 1998, between 17:15 and 18:45, at the University of Cape Town, during IBC '99. Twenty-four people attended the meeting. The following are the highlights of the minutes of this meeting:

Copies of the draft constitution of SUSAN were given to group secretaries for discussion in their various groups meetings. Suggestions for modifying the constitution are expected from the different groups and individual members.

The Group Secretaries or their representatives gave news about the progress of the various groups. Overall, all the groups are doing well. However, the continual depression in the continent's economy, resulting in harsher living conditions for our members, pose a threat to increase and sustenance of the memberships. The meeting hoped that the establishment of the Associate membership category by the IBS would enable African members, who choose to, pay lesser fees but not receive the Biometrics. Group Ethiopia is expected to officially join SUSAN soon after its approval by the IBS council.

On SUSAN '99, the meeting was informed that arrangements are in top gear to hold the conference at the IITA premises in Ibadan (about 120 km North of Lagos), Nigeria. The current issue of the Biometric Bulletin contains an announcement of this meeting. Efforts are being made to obtain sponsorship from donors towards this conference.

The Coordinator informed the meeting about the course on 'Modern statistical methods in medical research' being organized by UNESCO

and IAEA. Group Secretaries were urged to widely circulate the course bulletin among their members and encourage many people to apply for the course.

The meeting ended at 18:45 hours.

ADEDAPO ODULAJA Coordinator, SUSAN

Biometry and Quality of Life

The sixth meeting of the network in Africa will definitely hold in Nigeria from the 23-27 August, 1999. The venue is the headquarters of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan. Most of the 140 participants expected will be accommodated at the IITA campus. Full board will be arranged for sponsored participants, while all registered participants will be given lunch during the conference period. A half-day excursion to Oshogbo (a historical town) and Ibadan township is also planned.

Costs of accommodation and registration are as follows:

- Registration with five lunches \$90 (includes IBS 1999 registration).

Accommodation:

- IITA Dormitory (single): \$25 (without A/C), \$32 (with A/C)
- IITA Dormitory (double): \$32 (without A/C), \$45 (with A/C)
- International House (hotel style with A/C): \$32 (single), \$45 (double)
- Dinner at International House, IITA \$5 per person.

All rates may change slightly.

Participants arriving at Lagos airport will be met by IITA Liaison staff, and transported to Ibadan (120 km away) in secured vehicles. Those arriving in the evening or at night will stay overnight at IITA Guest House, Ikeja or at an arranged nearby hotel. Ikeja charges are the same as for International House.

Abstracts (in English or French) and indication of interest to participate may be sent to me by email <s.nokoe@cgiar.org> or by mail c/o IITA-LW Lambourn & Co., 26 Dingwall Road, Croydon, CR9 3EE. Please do not send registra-

tion money with neither abstract nor intent to participate. Guidelines for payment will be sent in the next bulletin.

Sponsors to date include CTA, IITA, Federal Office of Statistics (Nigeria). This will be the first bilingual (English and French) meeting of the network. There will be simultaneous translation.

Sagary Nokoe

Developments with Biometrics

continued from page 8

Committee all liked the idea and as of 8 January 1999, Council has approved these changes. The immediate future plan is to keep the cover design and color unchanged, at least for now.

Another development in the works is the idea of changing the editorial structure of Biometrics. Right now, we have an Editor of the main section (Raymond Carroll, along with Executive Editor, Jim Calvin), an Editor of Shorter Communications (Louise Ryan) and a Book Editor (jointly handled by C.D and A.W. Kemp). But, many of us have been wondering whether or not we really need Shorter Communications. Many of these papers are not that much shorter than regular submissions. We are thinking instead that it might make more sense to go to a Joint Editor system, along the lines of what is already done by the journals of the Royal Statistical Society and also Statistics in Medicine. A committee has been recently appointed to explore these ideas further and to start looking for people to replace the current editors whose terms will expire some time next year.

We would be very interested to hear the thoughts of any interested IBS members. Please send your comments to the Editor of the Biometric Bulletin (<geert.molenberghs@luc.ac.be>). A selection will be published.

We look forward to hearing from you!