

British & Irish Region Newsletter — January 2011



Florianópolis bay and promenade, and conference venue (Photos Byron Morgan and Chris Glasbey)

IBC Florianópolis

Mike Kenward writes— Our biennial international meeting is truly a window on our discipline and for this it has, I believe, no real competitor. At Florianopolis the 16 invited and 54 contributed sessions, not to mention the four short courses on Sunday, and the very many posters, spanned an enormous range of application areas and statistical and mathematical methodologies. In addition there were two showcase sessions for the journals associated with our society, one for Biometrics, and one for JABES.

Numerically as well the contributions appear to match well the degree of activity in the different areas. Unsurprisingly five of the invited sessions had links to genetics, but reflected very different aspects of this with two on genomics, and one each on eQTL mapping, heteroscedasticity and the design of breeding experiments. Similarly three were in the broad area of clinical trials, but again reflecting very different issues: dose finding, vaccine studies, and missing data. The last of these had three talks and a discussion, without a single equation. Is this a record at IBC?

One of the great pleasures of IBC, and a great source of cross-fertilization, is the chance to dip into areas outside one's usual remit. This year's meeting provided ample opportunity for this. Contributed sessions are usually either built around a particular class of

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Prize nominations by 14th February

Members are invited to submit nominations of career young biometricians for the new IBS-BIR & Fisher Memorial Trust prize. The deadline for nominations is Monday 14th February.

Nominations should be emailed to B.J.T.Morgan@kent.ac.uk. Full details of the nomination process are on the regional website <http://bir.biometricsociety.org/award>

President's corner



Regional President John Hinde writes:— My first President's Corner sees me on an extended trip to Brazil for the IBC in Floripa. After being heavily involved in the last IBC in Dublin it was good to have no responsibilities and to be able to just enjoy the meeting. As always it included very full scientific and social programmes. I was particularly impressed by the quality of some of the contributed sessions and the huge poster sessions, always a prominent feature in Brazilian statistics meetings. The BIR was well represented in all aspects—a short course by James Carpenter and Mike Kenward, invited sessions, contributed talks and posters, and the region's investment in travel bursaries was rewarded by a Student Prize for Jos Lahoz Monfort (University of Kent). Congratulations!

The region also featured in the IBS Awards Ceremony. We were especially delighted that our nomination of Robert Curnow for an Honorary Life Membership of the Society was successful, a great and well-deserved recognition for a lifetime devoted to biometry both in Britain and abroad. Robert was unable to attend and accept the award in person, but we will celebrate this with him again at a future regional meeting. The BIR was also successful in its

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Please pay your subs today!

Peter Rigsby

Full and retired members are reminded that subscriptions for 2011 are due on 1st January 2011. The current annual subscriptions rates—**which compared with other societies represent excellent value**—are

- £40 (50 euros) for full members
- £20 (25 euros) for retired members.

Full, student and retired members are entitled to on-line access to Biometrics, JABES and the Biometric Bulletin, together with the regional newsletter.

Members can also elect to receive paper copies of journals are available at the following costs:

- Biometrics and the Biometric Bulletin: £7 (10 euros) extra
- JABES and the Biometric Bulletin: £7 (10 euros) extra
- JABES, Biometrics and the Biometric Bulletin: £14 (20 euros) extra

For those who wish to pay by cheque, a membership renewal form should be completed and returned to the address shown. We can accept cheques or bank transfers in Euros. If you have any questions please email me at Peter.Rigsby@nibsc.hpa.org.uk ■

President's corner (continued)

John Hinde

(continued from page 1) nomination of Clarice Demétrio for the Rob Kempton Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Biometry in the Developing World. Clarice has had a long association with the BIR since her time at Imperial College in the 1980s. She has been instrumental in inviting many BIR (and other region) members to visit Brazil to present short courses and engage in collaborative research and has also used these links to send students to the region for PhD and postdoctoral research. Again a well deserved award for someone who has worked in the same spirit as Rob to further biometry.

We wish her well for her future term as IBS President.

The coming year has a busy programme of meetings, including the Channel Network Meeting in April in Bordeaux. Other planned meetings are detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter and we will also be awarding, together with the Fisher Memorial Trust, the first Regional Prize for good biometry by career-young biometricians. So be sure to renew your membership to take advantage of these events and to support the regions activities. All the best for 2011 and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings, not least this year's Summer Meeting in Galway. ■

CHANNEL NETWORK CONFERENCE: 11–13 APRIL 2011, BORDEAUX

New abstract deadline: 25th January

James Carpenter

A stimulating scientific programme for this April's Channel Network Conference (co-ordinated by the Belgian, British and Irish, French and Dutch regions of the Society) has been put together by Daniel Commenges and colleagues on the scientific committee.

Invited sessions cover:

- The evaluation of prediction models with censored data (speakers: Patrick Heagerty (Seattle, US), Thomas Gerds (Copenhagen, DK) Niels Keiding & Suzanne Rosthøj (Copenhagen, DK));
- statistical methods in system biology (speakers Carsten Wiuf (Aarhus, DK), Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat (Leiden, NL)) and
- Joint modelling of longitudinal and time-to-event data (speakers Dimitris Rizopoulos (Rotterdam,

NL), Cecile Proust-Lima (Bordeaux, Fr) , Paula Williamson (Liverpool, UK)).

The two pre-conference courses are:

- Inference in multi-state models from interval-censored data (presenters Ahmadou Alioum & Daniel Commenges (Bordeaux, Fr)) and
- Statistical programs and packages with R (presenter Uwe Ligges (Dortmund, Ge))

The deadline for contributed abstracts 20th January and the earlybird registration deadline is March 1st.

The local organising committee have also worked hard to prepare a very enjoyable conference in a beautiful setting.

Visit the website www.ibs-channel-bordeaux2011.fr now and submit your abstract! ■

NEXT REGIONAL MEETING: FRIDAY 11TH MARCH, MANCHESTER

Time varying confounding in medical research

Richard Emsley

The next regional meeting will be on Friday 11th March, 12.00–16.30, at University Place, the University of Manchester. The programme is

12.00–13.00 Lunch

13.00–13.40 Methods for dealing with time-varying confounding,
Rhian Daniel, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

13.40–14.20 G-estimation in practice,
Kate Tilling, School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol

14.20–14.40 Tea

14.40–15.20 Inferring the effect of dynamic treatment strategies from observational data,
Vanessa Didelez, School of Mathematics, University of Bristol

15.20–16.00 *Roseanne McNamee, University of Manchester*

16.00–16.30 Discussion, facilitated by
Richard Emsley, University of Manchester

16.30 Close

The abstracts are available from
<http://bir.biometricsociety.org>

Cost

Members of the British and Irish Region: £20; non-members £40; Students: £10.
The cost includes lunch and tea/coffee.

Please pay by cheque, made out to the Biometric Society. We greatly appreciate payment in advance. Please send cheques to

Dr Richard Emsley
Biostatistics Health Sciences Research Group
School of Community Based Medicine
University of Manchester
4.304 Jean McFarlane Building
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.

Registration

Pre-registration is *essential*. To register, please email Richard.Emsley@manchester.ac.uk with the subject heading 'Time varying confounding' and include your name, contact telephone number and any dietary requirements for lunch.

Directions

The meeting will be held at: University Place, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.

The University of Manchester is located on the south side of Manchester city centre and University Place is the focal building on the central Oxford Road campus (formerly The Victoria University of Manchester campus).

There are two large multi-storey car parks on site as well as a ground level car park and the campus is well served by public transport, being on the busiest bus route in Europe, and only 10 minutes walk from Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Oxford Road stations. Further directions to The University of Manchester by road, rail and air are available at: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/> and University Place is Building 37 on the campus map at: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/maps/az/> ■

SUMMER MEETING UPDATE

Summer meeting: Friday 10th June, Galway, Ireland

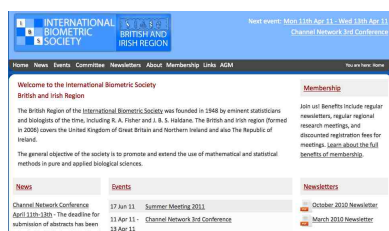
John Hinde



The 2011 meeting is planned for Friday 10th June (please note the change of date) in Galway, Ireland. This coincides with a visit by Ray Carroll, and will include a visit to NUIG's Carna Aquaculture Research Facility, Ireland's leading facility for the diversification of marine fish, shellfish and seaweed species. This will also be an opportunity to explore some of the coast and mountains of Connemara. Please book the date and watch the regional website for more developments. ■

New website launched

James Carpenter



We were delighted to launch the new regional website, <http://bir.biometricsociety.org/> at the AGM. This is the fruit of more than a year of work by Peter Colman, Robin Thompson, Byron Morgan, Diana Cole and myself. At the AGM, members were delighted with both the design and functionality, for which we are very grateful to Paul Fearn (<http://www.fearntech.co.uk/>).

Besides the obvious improvements, there are a number of behind-the-scenes changes. The site

- can be updated from any web browser;
- automatically sorts and displays news and meeting information in chronological order, archiving information on past events;
- will in due course allow each regional member to have their own login, enabling access to the members area where—for example—slides from meeting presentations will be available, and
- has the potential for on-line registration and payment for meetings.

Taken together, this represents a major new resource for the region. Visit now, visit often, and encourage colleagues to do the same! ■

News from the AGM

James Carpenter

The AGM took place on Thursday 26th November at Rothamsted, and around 25 members were present. Full details are on the regional website.

At the meeting, members thanked Byron Morgan for his committed and enthusiastic leadership of the region over the last two years; highlights of his presidency have included

- the re-introduction of Summer meetings, and in particular the memorable meeting at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in June 2010;
- free membership for students, and online only access to journals, both of which the region has argued for over a number of years;
- the new regional prize;
- the new website, and
- the increase in regional membership.

Members then welcomed John Hinde the new regional president.

The AGM also accepted the annual accounts, with thanks to the auditor Geoff Freeman, and made the following elections:

- to the regional committee:
Rachel McCrea (University of Kent) and Vincent Plagnol (University College London);
- to represent the region on the new International Representative Council:
Ruth King (St Andrews), Sue Welham (Rothamsted Research), Chris Glasbey (Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland)
- and as auditor for 2011
Geoff Freeman (University of Warwick)

Regional materials to be archived

James Carpenter

The picture shows former treasurer, Gillian Arnold, still smiling after one and a half days sorting through accumulated regional materials. Some members may know that the region maintains an archive at the Royal Statistical Society, and Gillian has reviewed this material, and will



be adding similar material up to the end of 2009. This primarily consists of committee minutes, AGM minutes, newsletters and information about regional conferences. Sorting this material was no mean feat, and Gillian very kindly gave freely of her time and energy, for which we are very grateful. ■

IBC Florianópolis

Mike Kenward

(continued from page 1) methodology, such as time series analysis, with a range of applications, or centred on one application area, such as statistical ecology and conservation, with a range of methodologies. Both can bring surprises and insights. Inevitably there was a rich Brazilian and South American contribution, especially in the

poster sections, and to me this was one of the great successes of the meeting. It is careful work of the organisers in assembling the programme that makes this a success, and great credit is due to this year's scientific committee for providing such an interesting and well balanced mix. ■

IBC IMPRESSIONS

Magical Island

Sara Geneletti



Dropping through the clouds, the first thing the visitor to Florianópolis sees is the rainforest give way to a city spanning a thin strip of sea joined by two bridges between the mainland and the island of Santa Catarina. Although Santa Catarina is long (54km) and thin (18km) it has a variety of environments and views. In the north are the posh tourist beaches of Jurere and Ingleses, with white sand so fine it almost seems like icing sugar, to the south the marshier Pantanal do Sul. In the centre, behind the city of Florianópolis is the Lagoa da Conceicao, a large sweet water lake dotted with hotels and seafood restaurants. Like the rest of Brazil, Santa Catarina is hilly and the tops of the ridges afford breathtaking views of the lake, the sea and the rainforest in between. The city of Florianópolis itself, the capital of the state of Santa Catarina and the seat of the Universidade Federal da Santa Catarina which hosted the IBS conference, is a small bustling metropolis. It has a busy central shopping area, a long seafront promenade and intense traffic. The centre of Flo-

rianópolis is the square Praça XV Novembre which has what remains of the original colonial town from the 1670's and a beautiful 100 year old fig tree. Local folklore has it that couples who walk around this tree together will eventually get married. Walking down towards the seafront is the market which sells anything from souvenirs to shoes, boa constrictors, toucans, shoes, fried and fresh fish and Avai FC (the local football team) kit. North of the market is the seafront promenade, usually full of joggers, and a large dual carriage way as well as some of the city's most exclusive residences: apartment blocks with views over the strait to the city of Sao Jose (Florianópolis' sibling on the mainland) and the rainforest beyond. The food in Florianópolis is generally good if not very varied. Fish, fried or stewed with sides of vegetables are the local staples. What is varied are the people. Every ethnicity and their possible combinations is represented and there appears to be a feeling of equality amongst them. It was a pleasure to be identified as a foreigner only when I spoke. The locals call the island Ilha da Magia and in many ways it is a magical island. ■

In Brief

Call for Invited Session Proposals IBC Kobe 2012

The International Program Committee (IPC) of the XXVIth International Biometric Conference (IBC), 26–31 August, 2012 in Kobe, Japan, is calling for invited session proposals. An invited session typically brings together a group of speakers (and possibly discussants) to present the latest research in an area of statistical theory or application, and make it accessible to a non-expert audience. We encourage topics addressing a wide variety of emerging issues in biological sciences and life sciences. Visit <http://tibs.org/interior.aspx?id=3024> the official

proposal template. The deadline for receipt of Invited Session Proposals is Friday, 1 April, 2011.

Regional Secretary and Treasurer to stand down in 2011

At the AGM, James Carpenter (secretary) and Peter Rigsby (Treasurer) both indicated their wish to stand down at the AGM in 2011. James will have served 4 years, and Peter 8. If you would be interested in considering these roles, please contact james.carpenter@lshtm.ac.uk

Copy Deadline for next issue: Monday March 15th
Production: James Carpenter & Sara Geneletti

Happy New Year!



International Biometric Society, British and Irish Region

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP for (name)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: Please check

FULL member

☐

(Annual Subscription 40 pounds sterling) Full benefits of the Society including electronic subscription to Biometrics, Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) and the Biometric Bulletin, voting privileges and the right to hold elective office.

RETIRED member

☐

(Annual Subscription 20 pounds sterling) All the rights of Full Membership. The retired category is open to anyone who has been a member for at least 10 years, and who is no longer in paid employment (working less than 0.2FTE).

Members have the options of receiving paper copies of the journals. Please check if applicable:

Biometrics and
Biometric Bulletin
£7 extra

☐

JABES and Biometric
Bulletin £7 extra

☐

Biometrics, JABES and
Biometric Bulletin
£14 extra

☐

Please detail any changes to contact details here:

Title

Organization

Address

Telephone

Fax

Email

Please send this form with a cheque made payable to 'BIOMETRIC SOCIETY' to Peter Rigsby,
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire, EN6 3QG



International Biometric Society, British and Irish Region

APPLICATION FOR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP.

The subscription for student membership of the International Biometric Society, British and Irish Region is FREE. It includes electronic subscription to Biometrics, Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) and the Biometric Bulletin. However as a student member you do not have voting privileges and cannot hold elective office.

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Course _____ (eg PhD in statistics)

End date _____ (date your course is due to end)

Check 3 in each category if applicable:

Fields of Application		M. Marketing	i. Operations Research
A. Agriculture		N. Business	k. Statistical data processing
B. Biology		O. Other	Activities
C. Chemistry	Methodological Techniques		1. Research
D. Demography	a. General		2. Professional consulting
E. Economics	b. Sampling		3. Administration
F. Engineering	c. Design of Experiments		4. Operational activity
G. Genetics	d. Tests		5. Teaching
H. Medicine, Public Health	e. Forecasting		6. Professional writing/editing
I. Psychology	f. Research in Stat. Methods		7. Student
K. Physical Science	g. Theory		8. Other
L. Sociology	h. Quality Control		

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form must be signed by your supervisor to certify that you are a full-time student.

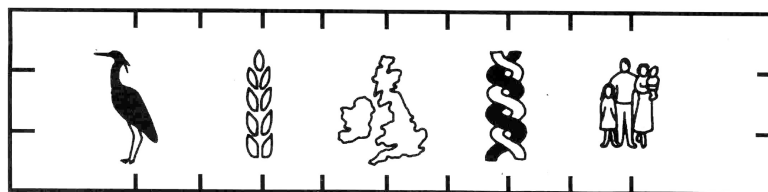
Name of supervisor _____

Supervisor's signature _____

Date _____

This form should be returned to Diana Cole, School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NF, UK.

As a student member you do not need to notify us each year. Your free student membership will end at the date given above, unless you inform us of an extension or continuation of your studies. Once you have finished your studies you can choose to upgrade your membership to full membership, by notifying Diana Cole (d.j.cole@kent.ac.uk) and by paying the full membership fee (currently £40).



International Biometric Society, British and Irish Region

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

The annual subscription for full membership of the International Biometric Society, British and Irish Region is £40. It includes electronic subscription to Biometrics, Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) and the Biometric Bulletin, voting privileges and the right to hold elective office.

Name _____ Title _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____

 Telephone _____ Fax _____
 Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: Please check

FULL member ☐ (Annual Subscription 40 pounds sterling) Full benefits of the Society including electronic subscription to Biometrics, Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) and the Biometric Bulletin, voting privileges and the right to hold elective office.

Full members have the options of receiving paper copies of the journals. Please check if applicable:

Biometrics and
Biometric Bulletin
£7 extra

☐

JABES and Biometric
Bulletin £7 extra

☐

Biometrics, JABES and
Biometric Bulletin
£14 extra

☐

Check 3 in each category if applicable:

Fields of Application		M. Marketing	i. Operations Research
A. Agriculture		N. Business	k. Statistical data processing
B. Biology		O. Other	Activities
C. Chemistry	Methodological Techniques		1. Research
D. Demography	a. General		2. Professional consulting
E. Economics	b. Sampling		3. Administration
F. Engineering	c. Design of Experiments		4. Operational activity
G. Genetics	d. Tests		5. Teaching
H. Medicine, Public Health	e. Forecasting		6. Professional writing/editing
I. Psychology	f. Research in Stat. Methods		7. Student
K. Physical Science	g. Theory		8. Other
L. Sociology	h. Quality Control		

Signature:.....

Date:.....

New member introduced by:.....

This form should be returned with a cheque made payable to the Biometric Society, British Region, for the appropriate amount to: Peter Rigsby, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 3QG

Notes:

Please note that the membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

Applications dated on or before 30th September will be assumed to be for the current year (unless specified otherwise).

For applications dated on or after 1st October, please indicate (by circling the required option) whether you wish your membership to:

(a) be backdated to the 1st January of the current year

(b) start on 1st January of next year