Greetings!
I have often heard it said in recent times that the days of the large general international meeting are over and replaced by shorter, smaller more specialised single theme meetings. Well, clearly this is not true in the International Biometric Society (IBS) as demonstrated by the recently highly successful, instructive and enjoyable International Biometric Conference (IBC) in Florence. You will find various reports on aspects of this meeting elsewhere in this Bulletin, but one thing is certain, the IBC remains central to the internationality and diversity of our Society. Among the usual range of invited, showcase and contributed sessions, short courses and a full social programme were a few notable new additions. Young members, and students are the future of our Society and the focusing of various Young Statisticians’ events on the first day of the meeting got things off to a great start – see the report on this by Jennifer Rogers (BIR). Jennifer deserves much praise for the efforts that she put into making these events happen - thank you Jennifer. We also saw the first Statistics in Practice session at an IBC, a welcome addition from the German Region that we hope to see again at future IBCs. This session was delivered by Rod Little (ENAR) and James Carpenter (BIR) – James should be given the award for the busiest person at the meeting as he also co-presented a short course on Sunday (soon to be available as a video on the IBS website), organised an invited session, chaired a contributed session, and went to many committee meetings throughout the week in his role as IBS Secretary/Treasurer! Let me once again thank everyone involved in making this meeting such a success – the Organising President, Clarice Demétrio (BRas), the local organisers led by Adriano Decarli (IR), the scientific programme planners chaired by Brian Cullis (AR), Krista Fischer (NR) and her team for the short courses, the IBS office staff led by Dee Ann Walker, and of course, all of the presenters and participants. I would also like to express my thanks to all of those regions that contributed to the Travel Awards Fund which helped some of our members from developing countries attend the meeting.

As well as the scientific programme, IBCs are also the occasion for governance meetings of the society, with committees able to meet face-to-face rather than by teleconference or email. These meetings are vital to maintaining the vigour of the society and setting agendas for the next two years that can then be taken forward by the various committees, the officers, and the International Office. For many, these meetings are completely unseen, but for those involved they can be a considerable commitment of time and energy, and I would like to express my thanks to everyone who was involved in these and who will now be working to make some of the plans happen. In Florence, we also had an ‘open members meeting’ where the officers reported on the state of the Society, outlined new initiatives and responded to questions from members. We were keen to make the running and management of the Society as open and transparent as possible to those who were interested.

So, what did come out of all of these meetings? Well, let me highlight some of the more significant items. An exciting plan from Education Committee is the formation of an online journal club to provide a forum for presenting and discussing papers from our society publications. We hope to see this kicking off very soon with a selected article, or two, from Biometrics – details will appear on the IBS website. The Education Committee is also working on a scheme to support the delivery of short courses in developing countries, possibly through webinars. In a related initiative, the Awards Committee is setting up a travel scheme for developing country members to attend regional meetings in ‘non-IBC’ years. The Communications Committee has recently taken over responsibility for Biometric Bulletin and is working to develop more general interest content and alternative models of delivery. Representative Council (RC) met for the first time in its newly constituted form and Andrea Berghold (ROeS) as its Chair is to...
Dear Readers,

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We had a great time in Florence. The conference was full of interesting presentations covering the entire field of our society and as always had more fruitful discussions.

Apart from the Florence conference in this issue, you can find significant information from many other events that took place in different months of different years as well as the result of the IBC.

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XXVIth International Biometric Conference Highlights

Report from the IBC2014 in Florence, Italy

Another very successful IBC, the XXVIth International Biometric Conference (6-11 July, 2014) hosted by the Italian Region of IBS is over. Our thanks go out to the Italian Region and its President, Maria Grazia Valsecchi, the International Programme Committee, chaired by Brian Cullis (AR), the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Adriano Decarli (IR), the Education Committee, chaired by Krista Fischer (Nordic-Baltic Region), the Award Committee, chaired by Renato Assunção (RBras) and all participants. As part of the Opening Session, John Hinde (BIR) presented his Presidential Address showing the educational role and evolution of Biometrics on its almost 70 years and future IBS challenges.

There were 930 delegates (79 Italian) from 50 countries with 207 students (47 from SCC), 530 regular members (88 from SCC), 141 non-members and 47 accompanying non-IBS members. Participation in the Short Courses was in line with expectation, with 75 individuals attending; the Education Committee chaired by Pascale Tubert-Bitter (French Region) has been discussing ways to further increase attendance.

The layout of Palazzo dei Congressi ensured that delegates could easily mix without ever crowds building up. The Programme boasted a fine slate of invited speakers together with many high-quality contributions. There were 24 invited sessions, 36 oral contributed sessions and three contributed poster sessions. In addition to this ‘standard’ scientific session’s content, the conference also included some special sessions, including Biometrics and JABES Showcases, an Invited Session from the ISI, an Italian Historical Session, and, for the first time at an IBC, a Statistics in Practice Session that is a regular and popular feature of German Region meetings. The second edition of the Young Statisticians Showcase Session was a great success with five master-level or PhD talks (one each from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America). More details of the IBC2014 Programme and abstracts can be seen at www.biometricsociety.org.

During the Awards Session, the awardees Lutz Edler (DR), Roger Mead (BIR), and Byron J.T. Morgan (BIR), Honorary Life Members, and Linda J. Young (ENAR), Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of the IBS, received their award certificates. A great honour for the Young Statisticians, Vinicius Calsavara (Brasil), Laura Fernandes (USA), Emauele Giorgi (UK), Nikki Sepersad (South Africa) and Gokmen Zararsiz (Turkey) were to have their certificates delivered by Sir David Cox. The co-editors of Biometrics, Russel B. Millar (Australasia), retired December 31, 2013, Jeremy M.G. Taylor (ENAR), retiring December 31, 2014, and the Book Review Editor, Guilherme J.M. Rosa (RBras), retired December 31, 2012, received certificates for their outstanding service to IBS.

The excursion to Siena, San Gimignano and Chianti Landscapes was very well appreciated, and the IBC2014 dinner in Restaurant La Loggia at Piazzale Michelangiolo was an exciting experience with a great view, excellent food and companionship.

At the Closing Session, Best Oral Communications and Best Posters were announced, and Laura Cowen (WNAR), Chair of the Local Committee, offered an exciting preview of IBC2016 inviting everyone to start planning to go to Victoria, Canada, July 10-15, 2016. Also, Clarice G.B. Demétrio (RBras) who is completing her four-year term of service on the Executive Committee received a plaque. She was Vice-President in 2011 and 2014 and President of the Society in 2012-2013.

Clarice Garcia Borges Demétrio IBC2014 Organizing President clarice.demetrio@usp.br

Prizes for Best Student Oral Presentations were Recognized at IBC

More than 35 entrants in the Best Student Oral Presentation Competition resulted in the awarding of prizes to four outstanding students for their presentation. Along with a certificate of accomplishment, John Wiley & Sons awarded $100 gift certificates to the winners. The following are to be congratulated:

- **Linda Altieri, Italy**, for A Changepoint Analysis for Spatio-Temporal Point Processes
- **Brunilda Balliu, The Netherlands**, for Integrating Genetic, Epigenetic, and Transcriptional Factors in Genetic Association Studies of Complex Diseases
- **Emily Dennis, UK**, for Spatio-Temporal Models for British Butterfly Data
- **Chen Yu, UK**, for Parameter Redundancy of Mixture Models in Capture Recapture

Best Posters Announced at the IBC

More than 400 posters were presented at the 2014 IBC, and viewing and judging was spread over three days in order to accommodate all the posters. The winners were announced at the closing ceremony of the IBC with certificates being awarded to the best among them all.

The following are the winners and the titles of the poster presentations:

- **Hsing-Yi Chang, Taiwan**, for Applying Multistate Model to Examine the Development of Diabetic Nephropathy and Its Determinants among Diabetes
- **Marcus Elze, UK**, for Modelling Survival following ‘Bone Marrow Transplantation’ using Longitudinal Immune Measurements at Arbitrary Time Points
Honors Bestowed on Four Outstanding Members

During the 2014IBC in Florence, special recognition was given to several worthy recipients.

Honorary Life Membership, considered the highest honor of the Society, was granted to Lutz Edler, Roger Mead and Byron Morgan. Both Lutz and Byron were in attendance at the ceremony and accepted the award presented by President John Hinde. Andrew Mead accepted the award for his father, Roger, who was unable to travel. Members receiving Honorary Life Membership must be nominated by a Region, supported by at least five members from two additional regions and approved by as 2/3 vote by Representative Council.

Lutz Edler was Head of the Division of Biostatistics at the German Cancer Research Center from 1991 until his retirement in 2010. He is an applied biostatistician with enormous contributions to both basic and clinical cancer research, publishing more than 270 articles in peer-reviewed journals. In the preclinical area, his expertise covers the planning, conduct and analysis of animal experiments, pharmacokinetic and pharmaco-dynamic modeling, dose response models, and, most importantly, quantitative risk estimation. In recent years, his primary methodological interest was the risk assessment in food safety issues. As such, Dr. Edler is head of the ISI Committee on Risk Analysis.

Roger Mead joined the Department of Applied Statistics at the University of Reading in 1966 and had a profound impact on the central role of Statistics at Reading for nearly half a century. His book, Statistical methods in agriculture and experimental biology, jointly authored with Robert Curnow and Anne Hasted, has been popular and influential in encouraging biologists to value and understand statistical methods. Similarly, his work and book on designing experiments have been highly influential.

Professor Mead has published widely in journals on topics as diverse as the design of experiments, statistical ecology, competition experiments, intercropping, and the teaching of statistics. His work has also taken him to various parts of Africa, Asia, South and Central America to give courses and provide guidance on the practical design and analysis of experiments.

Although unable to travel, he asked his son Andrew to read a message to the membership. It said, in part, First, I want to thank the Society for this delightful award. Nothing could give me more pleasure. I enormously enjoyed my time as Secretary of the International Society from 1984 to 1992. I think my greatest thrill was managing to conjure up the 1992 International Conference in Hamilton, New Zealand, when it appeared that we did not have anywhere to hold that 1992 conference; I was, and still am, most grateful to Harold Henderson for offering the possibility while I was spending a sabbatical in New Zealand in 1990. My other great pleasure was the gradual increase of Groups and Regions in developing countries. I am delighted that this growth has continued and expanded.

I am very pleased that the Design of Experiments is included in the citation on my plaque. Design sadly lags far behind Analysis in the perception of most statisticians, and yet, as I remarked at the 1988 Conference, Design is 7.6 times as important as Analysis (for a few conferences this
became an in-joke and I was asked was it still 7.6? The answer, of course, was that the importance ratio varied, getting as high as 8.3, and as low as 6.4). Thank you for this honor.

Byron Morgan is Emeritus Professor and honorary professorial research fellow in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Kent. He is currently Co-director for the National Centre for Statistical Ecology. Well known for his contribution to research in statistical ecology, stochastic modelling in biology and biometry, Professor Morgan has written seven books and almost 200 papers, 30 of which appeared in Biometrics.

Long active in IBS, Byron served as President of IBS from 1996-1997, as Editor of JABES from 2005-2007, and as a member of Council from 1998-2001. His many contributions to the British & Irish Region include a term as President from 2009-2010.

Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of IBS

Linda J. Young received the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of IBS.

Dr. Young’s career and interest in statistical organizations began at WNAR and later ENAR where she served on numerous committees and held several offices, including ENAR President. She continued her service in IBC as a member of Council, Editor of JABES, IBS Treasurer and then Secretary-Treasurer.

Under her leadership as IBS Treasurer, Linda’s focus was on the financial stability of the Society. She worked closely with the Executive Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee, the Conference Advisory Committee, the Council, and IBS Staff to ensure that the financial needs of the Society are met. With her guidance the Society became financially sound and is now able to pursue new strategic initiatives.

Linda has shown a deep commitment to serve IBS, strongly advocating for the global identify of the Society and is devoted to the international reach of IBS.

Along with her many contributions to IBS, Dr. Young’s scholarly career is exemplary. Her research in linear and generalized linear mixed models has impacted many applications in agricultural sciences, ecology, and medicine. She has published extensively in methodological and applied journals, and has served as editor/associate editor of several journals. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, among other honors.

Currently, Dr. Young is Chief Mathematical Statistician and Director of Research and Development of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. She oversees efforts to continually improve the methodology underpinning the Agency’s collection and dissemination of data on every facet of U.S. agriculture.

**Review of Young Statistician Events at the IBC**

Going to a big international conference can sometimes be daunting for anyone, but especially so if you’re a PhD student or only at the very start of your career. Networking events with some of the big names in statistics can be intimidating and major conferences such as the IBC can be a little scary. It is for these reasons that the organisers of the XXVII International Biometric Conference in Florence decided to host an array of events aimed specifically at young statisticians.

A lunchtime ice-breaker got the young statistician proceedings off to a great start, with James Carpenter offering his insider tips and tricks for how to make the most of a conference such as IBC. This was followed by a networking activity; a kind of statistics speed dating, whereby colour coded pairs were given 4-5 minutes at a time to talk about given topics ranging from personal facts to statistical pet peeves.

A highlight in the schedule of talks was the Young Statisticians Showcase Session, which proved to be an excellent way to end the Monday. This session featured the five winners of the Showcase Competition, and PhD students from all over the globe were given the opportunity to present their research. The speakers were: Vinicius Calsavara (University of São Paulo), Laura Fernandez (University of Michigan), Emanuele Giorgi (Lancaster University), Nikiki Sewpersad (Durban, South Africa) and Gokmen Zararsiz (Hacettepe University). A wide ranging variety of topics were up for discussion, including wavelets, modelling toxicity in oncology, spatial referenced prevalence studies, drought tolerance potential of sugarcane and bagging support vector machines. The standard of these presentations was truly outstanding and each of the speakers was a well deserved winner. Following on immediately after this was the Young Statisticians Reception, which offered young statisticians a great opportunity to mingle with their peers and also provided an excellent chance to meet Executive Board Directors, Past Presidents and Editors, who were all invited to attend.

This year, there was only one formal tour organised for the Wednesday and so the organisers of the young statistician events put together an Explore Florence Together day. Local students acted as tour guides and showed a group of young statisticians all the highlights that Florence has to offer. The day was a great success with everyone enjoying the chance to have a gentle stroll through Florence’s cobbled streets taking in all the tourist hot spots!

When thinking about how best to welcome young statisticians to IBC, the conference organisers didn’t just put together a selection of special events. At the conference a group of young statistician volunteers were always on hand to give directions, information and advice and their help throughout the conference was hugely appreciated. In addition, in the run up to the conference an IBS Young Statisticians’ Facebook account was set up (you can still find it here: https://www.facebook.com/ibsyoung.statisticians). This proved to be a great way for young statisticians attending the conference to get in touch with each other in advance of the main event and will continue to be a great tool for communication going forward. Here, Facebook friends can be kept up to date with all things IBS young statistician related and will be used in the run up to the next IBC.
The next IBC will be taking place in Victoria in 2016 and taking a quick look at the plans that are already in place, you can see that there is already a Young Statisticians Showcase Session and a Young Statisticians Mixer scheduled to be taking place. The young statistician events that took place at IBC 2014 were a resounding success and here’s to them continuing to be so in 2016 and beyond!

December 2014 Issue Highlights

The December issue features articles traversing a broad spectrum of applications and methodology. Included in the Biometric Methodology section are “Closed-population capture-recapture modeling of samples drawn one at a time,” by Richard J. Barker; Matthew R. Schofeld, Janine A. Wright, Alain C. Frantz, and Chris Stevens; “Bayesian semiparametric regression in the presence of conditionally heteroscedastic measurement and regression errors,” by Abhra Sarkar; Bani K. Mallick, and Raymond J. Carroll; “Confounder selection via penalized credible regions,” by Ander Wilson and Brian J. Reich; “More powerful genetic association testing via a new statistical framework for integrative genomics,” by ShiAi D. Zhao, T. Tony Cai, and Hongze Li; and “Identifying optimal biomarker combinations for treatment selection via a robust kernel method,” by Ying Huang and Youyi Fong.

The Biometric Practice section features “Estimation of treatment effects in matched-pair cluster randomized trials by calibrating covariate imbalance between clusters,” by Zhenke Wu, Constantine E. Frangakis, Thomas A. Louis, and Daniel O. Scharfestein; “Robust metanalytic-predictive priors in clinical trials with historical control information,” by Heinz Schmidli, Sandro Gsteiger; Satrajit Roychoudhury, Anthony O’Hagan, David Spiegelhalter; and Beat Neuenschwander; “Modeling longitudinal data with a random change point and no time-zero: applications to inference and prediction of the labor curve,” by Alexander C. McLain and Paul S. Albert; and “A Bayesian nonparametric model for spatially distributed multivariate binary data with application to a multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) study,” by Jian Kang, Nanhua Zhang, and Ran Shi.

As always, lists of papers to appear can be found at the Biometrics website. Papers to appear in future issues may also be found under the “Early View” link at the Wiley-Blackwell website, which may be accessed by IBS members by visiting http://www.biometricsociety.org/, selecting “Biometrics” from the drop-down menu at the “Publications” link at the top of the page, and accessing the “Click here” link.

News from Our Publisher

Our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, has partnered with Altmetrics for all of its journals, including Biometrics. Altmetrics is a company that uses an alternative method to the Impact Factor for measuring the impact of an article. The Impact Factor is based on the overall journal citation rate, while Altmetrics looks at an individual article and its impact of an article. The Impact Factor is based on the overall journal citation rate, while Altmetrics looks at an individual article and its impact of an article. The December issue features articles traversing a broad spectrum of applications and methodology. Included in the Biometric Methodology section are “Closed-population capture-recapture modeling of samples drawn one at a time,” by Richard J. Barker; Matthew R. Schofeld, Janine A. Wright, Alain C. Frantz, and Chris Stevens; “Bayesian semiparametric regression in the presence of conditionally heteroscedastic measurement and regression errors,” by Abhra Sarkar; Bani K. Mallick, and Raymond J. Carroll; “Confounder selection via penalized credible regions,” by Ander Wilson and Brian J. Reich; “More powerful genetic association testing via a new statistical framework for integrative genomics,” by ShiAi D. Zhao, T. Tony Cai, and Hongze Li; and “Identifying optimal biomarker combinations for treatment selection via a robust kernel method,” by Ying Huang and Youyi Fong.

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To see examples, click on the AM score logo on recent Biometrics papers at Wiley Online.

Editorial Board News

As we reported previously, Co-Editor Jeremy Taylor’s term will end 31 December 2014. According to geographic convention, Jeremy’s successor should reside in North America. We are delighted to report that the committee nominated Michael J. Daniels, Professor of Statistics and Professor of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas at Austin, a current Biometrics AE, as the next Co-Editor, and the nomination was approved by the IBS Executive Board at its meeting in Florence. Mike’s term will be 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2017. We look forward to working with him.

We welcome a number of new AEs to the Editorial Board with terms beginning 1 July: Genevera Allen, Simon Bonner; Xavier de Luna, Johannes Forkman, Huazhen Lin, Qi Long, Fabrizia Mealli, Cecile Proust-Lima, Shaun Seaman, Xinyuang Song, Jacobo de Una-Alvarez, Ernst Wit, and Menggang Yu. We also welcome Jeff Leek, whose term will begin 1 August 2014.

We also recognize AEs who have retired from the Editorial Board in 2014: Heejung Bang, Howard Bondell, Kate Calder, Jinbo Chen, Bob Dorazio, Richard Emsley, Olivier Gimenez, Helene Jacqmin-Gadda, Annette Molinaro, Hans-Georg Mueller, Paul Rathouz, Philip Reiss, Ingo Ruczinski, Colin Wu, and Helen Zhang. We thank them for their dedicated and outstanding service to the journal.

President’s Corner

Continued from p. 1

be congratulated in setting out a clear agenda to give this body a key role in linking the regional and international aspects of the society. RC is already responsible for managing the Society’s awards and forming the Nominating Committee for Executive and Officer elections, meanwhile the Executive is considering how to expand its roles and responsibilities.

As one IBC ends, we are already well advanced with plans for the next IBC with the local organisation under Laura Cowen (VNAR) and the International Programme Committee chaired by Fred van Eeuwijk (RNed). Calls for Invited Sessions and Short Courses have already gone out and are also in this Bulletin. So do make sure to make it a date in your diary: 10-15 July 2016 for the 28th IBC, in Victoria, Canada. Time to begin to make plans for what I am sure is going to be another memorable IBC. But between now and then we have almost two years of regional activities – great opportunities to make the most of your membership and to encourage your colleagues and students to join us.

John Hinde
john.hinde@nuigalway.ie

From the Editor

Continued from p. 2

I hope to enjoy this issue. Once more thank you Florence, Italy. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada is coming in two years to host the 28th IBC, July 10 – 15, 2016.

Dimitris Karlis
Cheers!

Please consider submitting your work to JABES. If you do so, please contact Mikyoung Jung at mjun@stat.tamu.edu.

editorialmanager.com/jabe. We also accept submissions of books to the aims and scope of the journal please visit our website www.ibschannel2015.nl/. For more information on upcoming issues, the editorial board, and Editors for working hard on these two important events.

JABES had a very successful showcase session at the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) in August 2014 in Boston. JABES presented several papers at this Invited Session, including “Experiments in Rectangular Areas: Design and Randomization” by Rosemary Bailey, “Identifying Genes Differentially Expressed in Both of Two Independent Experiments” by Megan Orr, and “Bayesian 2-Stage Space-Time Mixture Modeling with Spatial Misalignment of the Exposure in Small Area Health Data” by Andrew B. Lawson and Jungsoon Cho. Scott Holan led a very engaging discussion session of the three JABES papers. This showcase was organized by Jun Zhu. Also at JSM, there was an invited luncheon sponsored by Springer on August 5 to honor our Associate Editors.

This year JABES is planning a special issue co-edited by Dan Nettleton and Rob Tempelman titled “Statistical Genomics and Transcriptomics in Agriculture”. Any interested authors are encouraged to email jabes.editor@gmail.com to submit their work to this special issue.

JABES is beginning to plan several exciting events for next year: There will be an invited session at ENAR 2015 that is being planned and organized by Murali Haran. Also, JABES will have their first ever “allocated” invited session for JSM 2015; in the past JABES held invited sessions at JSM going for competition. This event is being organized by Dipankar Bandyopadhyay. Many thanks to these two Associate Editors for working hard on these two important events.

For more information on upcoming issues, the editorial board, and the aims and scope of the journal please visit our website www.editorialmanager.com/jabe. We also accept submissions of books to review in the upcoming issues of JABES, to submit a book for review please contact Mikyoung Jung at mjun@stat.tamu.edu.

Please consider submitting your work to JABES.

Cheers!

**Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) Editor Report**

**Region News**

**Dutch Region (ANed)**

**Spring/Summer Meeting**

The Annual Spring Meeting of BMS-ANed (BMS-ANed is the union of the Dutch region of the IBS and the biometrical section of the Dutch Society for Statistics and Operations Research) took place on June 13 at the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam. The topic of this meeting was ‘When Biostatistics meets Omics.’ After the introductory talk of Jeanine Houwing, President of BMS-ANed, four established researchers talked about their experience with omics datasets, namely Claus Thorn Ekstrom (Department of Biostatics, University of Copenhagen), Renee de Menezes (Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, VUMC), Lieven Clement (Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Gent) and Max Welling (Informatics Institute, UvA). Different aspects were touched upon, such as the difficulty of computing p-values when using penalization methods, the development of powerful score test for high-dimensional settings, using functional data analysis methods and the use of machine learning tools in an omics setting.

Apart from the talks, there was also the announcement of the BMS-ANed Biometry Award winner of 2014. This award goes to the best paper that was published in a referred journal in the biometrical field during the years 2012 and 2013, written by either a Dutch author or someone employed by a Dutch institution. Out of 20 submitted papers, the jury consisting of Claus Thorn Ekstrom, Lieven Clement and Theodore Kypriasos (School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Nottingham) decided the best Dutch paper was the paper of Fentaw Abegaz and Ernst Wit, entitled ‘Sparse time series chain graphical models for reconstructing genetic networks.’

**September, 11 and 12: 50 Years Medical Statistics in Leiden**

Celebrating the fact that the Department of Medical Statistics of the Leiden University Medical Center was founded 50 years ago, a jubilee symposium and two satellite symposia were organized. The main symposium took place on Friday, September 12, 2014. Thursday afternoon, September 11 two satellite symposia, one on the topic ‘Data Management’ and one for PhD students in Medical Statistics, were planned.

**Fall/Winter Meeting**

The Fall/Winter Meeting will be held in December this year. The meeting will most likely be organized in collaboration with the Social Sciences Section of the VVS-OR (Dutch Society for Statistics and Operations Research).

**IBS Channel Network Conference 2015, April 20-22**

In April 2015, the biennial Channel Network Conference will be held in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The keynote speaker is Sylvia Richardson (MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge). More information will follow and can be found on the website: http://www.ibschannel2015.nl/.

Rosa Meijer
Florence – what can I say? A city steeped in amazing architecture, museums showing off Firenze’s rich history, the best pasta and pizza on pretty much every street, and my brain more or less frozen from consuming way too much gelato...such a shame there was a conference going on!

IBC has been nothing short of a spectacular experience. There were some fantastic talks and posters, and it’s only at such an international conference where you get to appreciate the breadth of research biometricians all around the world are doing – from topics I was more familiar with such as hierarchical modeling for species communities, to areas totally foreign to me like analysis of adaptive clinical trials with biomarkers in oncology. The diverse nature of the IBC program (although I would have liked to have seen more non-medical sessions) was one highlight for me – it was ‘dauntingly fun’ to attend a talk and read a poster where the title makes completely no sense to me, because those were usually the ones where you learned the most and realize ‘Hey! That idea might just be something I could try and adapt to my research.’

I have to confess though that the real highlight of the conference was not the talks but the networking. As a young statistician, it’s amazing to be able to put faces to names you’ve seen in textbooks or Google Scholar and realize that these big time academicians are just folks you can talk to informally without feeling overawed. And then of course there are my fellow young statisticians – a cohort I will ‘grow old together with’ in the academic world and who share the same joys (‘Yeah! My first ever accepted paper!’) and worries (‘Oh no! I need to find a job post PhD!’) that I have. For me, that’s the greatest benefit of attending the IBC – sowing the seeds for potential lifetime collaborations with young statisticians all around the world and giving me a good excuse to do more traveling. See you at the next IBC!

Francis Hui was awarded an AR travel grant to attend the IBC in Florence.

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The young statisticians group at the Piazzale Michelangelo – image courtesy of Tito Manrique.

Daniel Fernandez receiving a student presentation prize from Renate Meyer.

Australasian Applied Statistics Conference, 1-5 December 2014

The Australasian Applied Statistics Conference is an excellent opportunity to liaise with fellow statisticians within the agricultural, biological and environmental sciences and to keep abreast of the most recent developments in statistics within this context.
Join us for AASC ’14 and pre-conference workshops, being held at Port Lincoln (Australia), located on the southern tip of the amazing Eyre Peninsula, on 1-5 December 2014.

The theme of AASC ’14 is Frontiers in Statistics and Biology – Call for Closer Collaboration.

For further information, visit www.aasc.org.au.

Vanessa Cave

**Brazilian Region (RBras)**

The 2014 Brazilian Region Conference was held in the Federal University of Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, between 19-21 May. Roseli Leandro, the President of the Region, and Fernando Luiz Pereira de Oliveira, on behalf of the local organizers welcomed the invited speakers, as well as the 350 attendees. All enjoyed a very lively and well organized meeting in the beautiful historical Ouro Preto. The IBS President, John Hinde, delivering the Opening Conference on the latest developments for modeling count data was an honor to the Region.

The central theme of the meeting was ‘Spatial modeling applied to socio-environmental studies,’ but the program also included a wide range of areas distributed in several invited sections, short courses and conferences. There were several speakers from abroad, including Martin Kulldorff (Harvard University), Stefan Walter (University of California San Francisco), Edgard M. Maboudou (University of Central Florida) and María Durbán (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid). A pre-meeting workshop on ‘Generalized Additive Models with P-splines’ by María Durbán was held in ESALQ/USP, Piracicaba, from 13–16 May 2014, gathering around 40 people. During the RBras General Meeting the RBras elected officers for the next period were presented. We are pleased to announce Paulo Justiniano Ribeiro Junior (paulojus@ufpr.br) as President; Joel Augusto Muniz (joamuniz@dex.ufla.br) as Vice-President; Afrânio Márcio Corrêa Vieira (afranio@ufscar.br) as 1st Secretary; Roseli Aparecida Leandro (raleandr@usp.br) as 2nd Secretary; Luzia Aparecida Trinca (ltrinca@ibb.unesp.br) as 1st Treasurer and Euclides Braga Malheiros (euclides@fcav.unesp.br) as 2nd Treasurer.

Welcome by Roseli Leandro and Fernando Oliveira.

Attendees of the Workshop on Generalized Additive Models with P-splines by María Durbán held in ESALQ/USP, Piracicaba.

Next year’s RBras meeting is being organized (Chair: Aparecida Souza, adps@fct.unesp.br) by the Statistics Department of Unesp, Campus of Presidente Prudente, SP. Further information will appear at http://www.rbras.org.br/site/ in due time.

Luzia Trinca

**British and Irish Region (BIR)**

**Clinical Trials: Past, Present & Glorious Future?**

More than 200 guests gathered at the John Snow Lecture Theatre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) on 4 June and dedicated an afternoon to celebrating the history, achievements and challenges of randomized controlled trials. The meeting was the finale of a series that marked the centenary of the MRC Biostatistics Unit (BSU) and was jointly organized by the International Biometric Society (BIR), the Royal Statistical Society (Medical Section), and PSI (Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry).

The ‘Clinical Trials: Past, Present & Glorious Future?’ meeting saw an opening trio of talks — thoughtful, engaging and reflective — on Randomized Controlled Trials. Linda Sharples opened the meeting with ‘Clinical trials are not enough.’ Stephen Senn then enlightened us as to why “Some are wise and some are otherwise: a defence of randomization,’ and David Spiegelhalter attempted to answer the question ‘Why aren’t all clinical trials Bayesian?’

After a tea break, the audience heard from Sir Iain Chalmers about ‘UK Medical Research Council and Clinical Trials, 1934-1960’ and how alternation between experimental and conventional treatment in the late 19th century had evolved into randomization.

This opened the way for the delightful and memorable three-way conversation between Vern Farewell, Peter Armitage and Iain Chalmers on Armitage’s way in to biostatistics, how his work in sequential medical trials had come about and the key 1959 Vienna conference (under the chairmanship of Austin Bradford Hill) on controlled clinical trials.

The meeting concluded with the 23rd Bradford Hill Memorial Lecture, this year jointly organized by the BSU and the LSHTM. Stuart Pocock, LSHTM’s current Professor of Medical Statistics, offered a very engaging lecture on ‘Controversies, calamities and celebrations in clinical trials research,’ which offered a critical review of clinical trials recent practice, focusing on examples in cardiology, and covering several controversies. He concluded that while there’s much to celebrate in clinical trials research, there is also definite room for improvement.
Chinese Region (CHINA)

The Third Joint Biostatistics Symposium

The Third Joint Biostatistics Symposium was held between June 26 – 28, 2014 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. The symposium was jointly sponsored by International Biometrical Society – China Region (IBS-CHINA), The Health Statistics Education Committee, Chinese Health Information Association. Other co-sponsors of this conference included American Statistical Association, Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington, Chinese Society of Probability and Statistics, Chinese Center for Health Statistics and Information’s Statistical Theory and Methods Committee, Chinese Society of Preventive Medicine, Health Statistics Committee. The conference was hosted by West China School of Public Health, Sichuan University, Professor Li Xiaosong, Vice-President of IBS-China and Dean of West China School of Public Health, Sichuan University and Professor Chen Pingyan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at Southern Medical University, jointly served as the Program Chairs of the conference.

More than 200 participants from 50 overseas universities attended the conference, including Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University and UC Berkeley and 70 universities from China including Peking University, Fudan University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University.

The Third Joint Biostatistics Symposium attendees.

In the morning of June 27, Lee-Jen Wei, Professor from the School of Public Health, Harvard University, Nicholas P. Jewell, Professor from the School of Public Health, University of California at Berkeley, and Xiao-Hua (Andrew) Zhou, Professor from the Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington and President of International Biometrical Society – China Region (BS-China) gave keynote speeches in frontier problems of clinical trials, large data and causal inferences.

In the afternoon of the 27th and in the morning of the 28th, a total of 32 sessions, including 136 presentations, were held. The topics included statistical issues in medicine and public health, latest clinical trials designs, Bioinformatics, statistical methods in medical research, statistical methods in disease prevention and control.

The Award Committee of the Third International Symposium on Biostatistics selected two outstanding paper awards by anonymous vote. Zheyu Wang, Assistant Professor from the Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University won The Best Paper Award for Young Scholars. Zhao Xing, doctoral student from the West China School of Public Health, Sichuan University won The Best Graduate Paper Award.

Full details of the conference can be found at http://www.ibs-china2014.com/.

Mendelian Randomisation: Past Success & Future Challenges – Friday, 14 November 2014

The IBS-BIR is pleased to announce a meeting on the topic of ‘Mendelian Randomisation (MR)’ taking place on Friday, 14 November at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Professor Simon Thompson (University of Cambridge) will open the afternoon meeting with his Presidential Address and talk about extending the basic methods of MR. A number of distinguished researchers in the field of MR will then speak on its success over the past 10 years and the statistical challenges and controversies that remain. Speakers include Dr. Vanessa Didelez (University of Bristol), Professor John Thompson (University of Leicester) and Professor George Davey-Smith (University of Bristol).

The meeting will be preceded in the morning by an introductory session on ‘Instrumental Variables and MR’ to be given by Dr. Richard Emsley (University of Manchester) and Dr. Stephen Burgess (University of Cambridge). The morning session is specifically aimed at career-young researchers and students wishing to learn the basics of the MR approach, although all registrants are welcome to attend.

Please visit http://biomtericssociety.org/events/nov2014mtg to register and for further details.

Michael Sweeting
The Chinese Health Statistics Academic Conference 2014
The Chinese Health Statistics Academic Conference 2014 successfully ended on July 26, 2014 in Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, China. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association Professional Committee for Health Statistics, China Institute of Health Information and Statistics Theory and Methods of Professional Committee, China Health Statistics Health Information Society Board of Education, and the IBS-China, and the conference was hosted by the Biostatistics Department of Public Health and Tropical Medicine School in Southern Medical University. The six-day conference attracted 452 participants from 80 different domestic and foreign universities, research institutions, pharmaceutical companies, CRO companies, hospitals, etc. This conference created a new model for the annual biostatistics meeting in China by combining the academic and industry professionals, with the active participation of 10 well-known pharmaceutical companies and CRO companies. Delegates agreed that the meeting was a great success!

At the opening ceremony of the conference, President of Southern Medical University, Professor Yanhong Yu, gave a passionate speech to the biometrics’ elites from both domestic and abroad, extending her heartfelt wishes to the rapid development of our nation’s biometrics in recent years. The Chairman of Chinese Preventive Medicine Association Professional Committee for Health Statistics, Associate President of Xi’an Jiaotong University, Professor Hong Yan, summarized the work of past years and highly affirmed the preparation of Biostatistics Department team on behalf of the sponsors. The Executive Committee of the conference consists of Professor Pingyan Chen, Chair of the Executive Committee, Professor Feng Chen, Chairman of China Institute of Health Information and Statistics Theory and Methods of Professional Committee, Professor Xiaosong Li, Chairman of China Health Statistics Health Information Society Board of Education, Professor Yongyong Xu, Chairman of Chinese Health Information Association and Professor Xiao-Hua Zhou, President of the IBS-China.

IBS-CHINA All Members Conference 2014
During the Chinese Health Statistics Academic Conference 2014, IBS-CHINA held its All Members Conference on July 22. On the conference, Professor Xiao-Hua Zhou, President of IBS-CHINA and Professor of University of Washington, gave a keynote speech of ‘Frontiers of Biometrics Research’ and then gave an outline of future work of IBS-China. Dr. Jianxin Yin gave a summary of the previous work in year 2013 on behalf of the Secretory Committee of IBS-China.

German Region (DR)
European privacy regulation went through its first parliamentary reading. Much will improve, but one word was chosen, so that registries and biomaterial banks could become illegal. President Jürgen Kübler signed on behalf of the region a petition carried by a wide array of learnt societies.

From the Working Groups
Workshop Statistical Computing 2014 at Reisensburg-Castle, Germany, July 20-23, 2014
From July 20-23, 2014, the working groups ‘Statistical Computing’ of the German Region of the International Biometric Society and ‘Biostatistics’ of the German Classification Society organized the workshop ‘Statistical Computing 2014’ at Reisensburg-Castle, Germany. The workshop provided a platform for discussing recent developments in the fields of statistical computing and computational statistics.

Invited speakers were Ulrich Mansmann (Munich), Tony Rossini (Basel) and Axel Benner (Heidelberg). Hands-on tutorials were given by J. Mazur / A. Gerhold-Ay (Mainz, “Statistical Workflows for Sequencing Data”), C. Müssel / L. Lausser (Ulm, “Boolean Networks”) and B. Bischi / F. Schmid (Munich / Ulm, “Algorithm Configuration / Tuning with R”). In total there were 31 talks; 52 scientists took part in the workshop.

Matthias Schmid, Bonn
Hans A. Kestler, Ulm
Bernd Bischi, Munich
Harald Binder, Mainz

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)
Conferences in the Region
The 8th EMR Conference will be held in Cappadocia, Nevsehir, Turkey May 11-15, 2015. The Call for Submissions of Abstracts opened on September 1, 2014 and the early bird registration date is January 31, 2015. A pre-conference short course ‘Joint Latent Class mixed models with application with the R-package lcmm’ by Hélène Jacqmin-Gadda and Cecile Proust from Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux, France, will take place on Monday, May 11, 2015. More details can be found at http://biostat.cu.edu.tr/emr2015.

Anil Dolgun
Eastern Conference of European Mediterranean Region International Biometric Society
11-15 May 2015, Cappadocia, Nevsehir, Turkey

Andrew Zhou

Biometric Bulletin
Eastern North American Region (ENAR)

ENAR Member Receives Distinguished Service Award from the IBS
Dr. Linda J. Young, Chief Mathematical Statistician and Director of Research and Development at the National Agricultural Statistical Service, was named the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of the IBS for 2014. The award is in recognition of Dr. Young’s service as Treasurer and then Secretary-Treasurer of IBS, as Past-editor of *Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics,* and numerous other contributions to the IBS.

ENAR Member Receives Mortimer Spiegelman Award from American Public Health Association
Dr. Tyler VanderWeele, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health and ENAR member, received the 2014 Mortimer Spiegelman Award from the American Public Health Association (APHA). The award is given to a statistician under 40 years old who has made outstanding contributions to statistical methodology and practice within the field of Public Health and will be presented during the 2014 APHA Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana in November.

2014 JSM 2-7 August, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
The 2014 JSM was held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center from 2–7 August. The theme of the 2014 meeting was “Statistics: Global Impact – Past, Present, and Future,” and this year’s meeting marked the 175th anniversary of the American Statistical Association (ASA). ENAR was instrumental in helping to put together an outstanding program, including sponsoring many sessions on topics such as: missing data, statistical methods in kidney disease, statistical methods for large-scale data analysis, and advances in the analysis of lifetime data. ENAR also co-sponsored many contributed sessions, as well as special presentations, such as: introductory overview lectures (astrostatistics, privacy and big data, perspectives on estimation for surveys, and the industrial internet and cyber-physical systems), the ASA President’s Invited Address (‘The Seven Pillars of Statistical Wisdom,’ delivered by Stephen M. Stigler from the University of Chicago), the Deming Lecture (‘Red Beads And Profound Knowledge: Deming And Quality Of Education,’ delivered by Sharon Lohr from Westat), the ASA President’s Address (‘Why Your Involvement Matters,’ delivered by ASA President Nathaniel Schenker from the CDC/NCHS), and the Fisher Lecture (‘Positive Definite Functions, Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces and All That,’ delivered by Grace Wahba from the University of Wisconsin-Madison). ENAR extends a huge thank you to Doug Schaubel from the University of Michigan for serving on the Program Committee for the 2014 JSM.

2015 ENAR Spring Meeting, 15–18 March, Miami, Florida, USA
The 2015 ENAR Spring Meeting will return to Miami, to be held at the Hyatt Regency. There will be over 50 invited sessions on the program, and the submission deadline for contributed abstracts is 15 October. ENAR is excited to announce that the President’s Invited Speaker is Dr. David DeMets, Professor in the Department of Biostatistics & Medical Informatics at the University of Wisconsin Madison. The IMS Medallion Lecture will be given by Dr. Tilmann Gneiting, Professor of Mathematical Statistics at the University of Heidelberg.

ENAR will be trying something new at the Spring Meeting: a contributed oral poster session on Monday during the meeting, which combines the benefits of both oral and poster sessions. During these sessions, presenters will have an opportunity to give a two minute or less ‘elevator speech’ to share the highlights of their work with the entire audience, and then subsequently interact with individual members of the audience while standing by their poster. Additionally, presentations will be given side-by-side with a well-known leader in biostatistics who will present an invited poster in the session and be present during the presentations and throughout the session. This new presentation modality will allow for an extended amount of time to exchange ideas with the audience and leaders in biostatistics. Oral poster presentations will be thematically related so that presenters can learn from other presenters about advances in specific fields.

Special thanks to those who are working hard to help plan the ENAR Spring Meeting: Jose Pinheiro; Program Committee Chair and Associate Chair Mithat Gönen, and Brisa Sánchez; IMS Program Chair Lurdes Y.T. Inoue; local arrangements Chair Tülay Koru Şengül, and all of the committee members. More details about the 2015 Spring Meeting can be found at: http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm.

2015 JSM 8-13 August, Seattle, Washington, USA
The Joint Statistical Meetings will return to Seattle, Washington in 2015, and ENAR is fortunate to have Olga Marchenko be our representative to the Program Committee. If you have ideas for the meeting, feel free to contact Olga: olga.marchenko@quintiles.com.

2016 ENAR Spring Meeting, 6-9 March, Austin, Texas, USA
Stay tuned for information about the 2016 ENAR Spring Meeting in Austin, Texas!

Leslie McClure

Indian Region (IR)

In order to enhance the knowledge in the advance level of multivariate statistical analysis, International Biometric Society (IR) and the Department of Statistics (Host Department), National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India in collaboration with Department of Statistics, Presidency College, Chennai organized a three day national workshop on ‘Statistical computing using R-software’ during 17–19 July 2014.

This workshop was designed for the faculties and researchers in Biostatistics who work in the areas such as Public Health, Medicine, Biology, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. The workshop was inaugurated with the Welcome Address by Dr. P. Venkatesan, President, IBS-IR. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director, NIRT presided over the inaugural function and delivered the inaugural address. In her speech, she stressed upon the topic and also insisted the need of the topic since the R-Software is an open source and free of cost. Dr. M. Mohamed Ibrahim, Principal, Presidency College, Chennai delivered the keynote address and motivated the researchers and faculties by explaining the importance of the topic of the workshop. Dr. V.G. Kaliaperumal, Past-president, IBSIR, and Dr. R.J. Yadav Scientist-G,
NIMS, ICMR, Delhi explained the role of IBSIR in conducting such workshops. Dr. Ravannan, Head of the Department of the Statistics gave a vote of thanks.

The resource persons for this workshop were Dr. Anbupalam Thalamuthu, who is a Research Fellow and Statistical Geneticist at the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CheBA), School of Psychiatry, UNSW Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia. His area of interest is on Genetics and Genomics. Dr. Indranil Mukhopadhyay is an Associate Professor at Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata. His major research interest involves the area of statistical genetics, especially the genetic association study. Dr. Anil K. Ghosh is an Associate Professor at the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Unit in ISI, Kolkata. His research interests include statistical pattern recognition, robust and non-parametric statistics, statistical computing and analysis of high dimensional data.

The workshop was structured to cover topics in multivariate Data analysis with hands on training in R. Model building in high-dimensional data analysis and Classification and Prediction modeling were also covered. The feedback of the workshop was very useful for the participated Biostatisticians and call for more workshops of the same.

**Italian Region (IR)**

**A Note from IBC Florence**

It was great for our Italian Region of IBS that, after 61 years, the IBC was hosted again in Italy, in the beautiful city of Florence.

The meeting was attended by 930 participants from all over the world, 49 different countries, and many attendees were young statisticians who, we are sure, will make the progress of our subject in the future.

One attendee we were particularly happy to host was Sir David Cox, who showed how bright and expiring one can be at the age of 90! Many people were thrilled to be able to talk to him, including the young Italian PhD students who were helping during the conference and who were happy to take a picture together.

**Florence view from the rose garden of Piazzale Michelangelo — sculpture by Folon.**

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**Attendees of the Three Day National Workshop on ‘Statistical computing using R-software.’**

**PhD students with David Cox.**

We hope that all participants enjoyed the scientific programme, the possibility to exchange ideas even beyond historical controversies…
Bayesian vs. Frequentist ‘diatribe.’

People seemed to enjoy also the relaxed time together in the beautiful rooms and park of Villa Vittoria, the historic building where the auditorium was located. The Villa, built in 1886 for the noble and powerful Strozzi Family, was later owned by another noble family, Contini Bonaccossi, that took care of restoring it with the famous architect Giò Ponti in the 1930s, to its present form, so well preserved by the Municipality.

Welcome Reception in the park of the Villa Vittoria.

We are happy to be an active part of IBS and to have hosted its truly international conference.

Adriano Decarli
Chair of the LOC

Maria Grazia Valsecchi
IBS Italian Region President

Japanese Region (JR)

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan was held on 23-24 May at Institute of Statistical Mathematics in Tokyo, Japan. 174 people attended the meeting. In Japan, inappropriate handlings of data in clinical trials of Diovan have been a great social issue. The Biometric Society of Japan has released a statement on clinical research and an ethical guideline for biostatisticians. In the invited session, ethical issues in clinical researches were discussed, including these guidelines. In the other invited session, various issues in statistical modeling in agricultural or ecological researches were discussed by four speakers. In addition, 12 oral and 13 poster presentations were made.

The Biometric Society of Japan is pleased to announce that the BSJ Award was conferred on Professor Shigeyuki Matsui (Nagoya University) for a series of his contributions to statistical methodologies and applications, in particular, in statistical methods in macroarray data analyses. The Society also conferred the BSJ Honorary Award on Dr. Toshihiko Monkawa for his contributions to the Society and the Young Biostatisticians Award on Dr. Hisashi Noma for his publication in a recent issue of Japanese Journal of Biometrics.

The 2014 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting

The Biometric Society of Japan is one of the six sponsoring organizations of the meeting and the 2014 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting will be held on 13-16 September at Hongo Campus of University of Tokyo. The Biometric Society of Japan will organize the Biometric Symposium on recent advances in meta-analysis, whose topics include network meta-analysis, meta-analysis of dose-response analysis and evaluation of surrogacy of endpoints. The Society will also organize a session for a lecture by the winner of the Young Biostatisticians Award presented by the Biometric Society of Japan. Dr. Noma will make a presentation on his research on statistical methods for epidemiologic researches. Two tutorial seminars will be provided. One topic is on secondary use of official statistics and the other is on matching techniques in observational studies.

The 2014 Biometric Seminar

The Biometric Seminar will be held on 8-9 December, 2014 at Campus Plaza Kyoto. The seminar will provide tutorial lectures on multiplicity issues in clinical researches. The lectures will begin with classical closed testing procedures and cover advanced methodologies including gate keeping methods and graphical approaches. Practical issues are also discussed both from sponsor and regulatory viewpoints.

Satoshi Hattori

Spanish Region (REsp)

FreshBiostats: A Blog for Young Researchers

Celebrating two years since first getting together, FreshBiostats blog...
gers marked the occasion at the JEDC III Conference in Pamplona (Spain) last July by presenting an overview of their project to friends and peers within the biostatistics community.

The blog started as a forum for online collaboration. Now, after more than 70 published posts, it has evolved into a virtual meeting point where the authors and other young researchers can comment on current topics in biometrics and related disciplines. Beyond this topical content, the bloggers share tips on statistical techniques and software, and make recommendations on general resources as they strive to facilitate the development and spread of research outputs.

While they all come from different areas of expertise, they share an interdisciplinary and collaborative spirit. This passion finds a voice through their web-based platform, inspired by popular virtual channels of dissemination and discussion of research that have become increasingly important in academic communication.

Despite acknowledging the difficulty of estimation of the real impact of this sort of resource and taking into careful consideration webometrics and altmetrics figures, the bloggers are nevertheless encouraged that more than 54,000 visits have been received from over 160 countries so far. Spurred on by this number of readers and followers across the different social media, the authors are hopeful of greater things to come for FreshBiostats and would like to invite any other IBS members interested in getting involved to leave their comments directly on the blog website at freshbiostats.wordpress.com or by email freshbiostats@gmail.com.

Anabel Forte

Western North American Region (WNAR)

2014 WNAR/IMS Spring Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the WNAR/IMS was held at University of Hawaii from June 15-18 with over 180 participants.

Figure 1a-b University of Hawaii campus.

The meeting began with a short course on ‘Introduction to large-scale genetic association studies’ presented by Thomas Lumley from the University of Auckland and the University of Washington, and Christl Donnelly from Imperial College London presented ‘Statistical Challenges in Understanding Disease Transmission and Control’ for the WNAR Presidential Invited Address.

The conference included twelve invited sessions sponsored by WNAR, five invited session sponsored by IMS, four student paper competition oral sessions, twelve contributed paper sessions, and a poster session with more than twenty participants.
Figure 2a-d Conference participants enjoying the WNAR mixer and poster session.

**Student Paper Competition**

Congratulations to the winners of this year’s Student Paper Competition. The winner for the written paper was Mathew Conomos from University of Washington. The runners-up for the written paper were Sepehr Aknavan Masouleh from the University of California, Irvine and Ashley Peterson from the University of Washington. The winner for the oral presentation was Jacob Konikoff from the University of California, Los Angeles. The runner-up for the oral presentation was Kean Ming Tan from University of Washington. The students received their award at the conference banquet.

We give a special thanks to the Chair of the Student Paper Competition, Kathryn Prewitt from the Arizona State University. We are indebted to the team of student paper reviewers and judges for the students’ oral presentations and papers: Sonya Heltshe (Seattle Children’s Hospital), Christine McLaren (University of California, Irvine), and Brad Biggerstaff (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

WNAR thanks the invited session organizers, invited session chairs, contributed session chairs, and discussants. WNAR also thanks the faculty, volunteers, and conference center staff at the University of Hawai'i. WNAR gives a particular thank you to the Local Organizer, Dongmei Li.

**2015 WNAR/IMS Meeting**

The 2015 WNAR/IMS Meeting will be in Boise, Idaho from 21-24 June hosted by Boise State University. Boise is located on the Boise River in southwestern Idaho and is the capital and most populous city in Idaho. There are a number of recreational activities available in Boise, including extensive hiking and biking opportunities in the foothills north of the town. The Boise River is a common destination for fishing, swimming, and rafting. The local organizer is Kyungduk Ko. Details about the meeting will be posted on the WNAR web page, www.wnar.org, as they become available.

*Megan Othus*
Announcements and News

IBS on LinkedIn - Join our Group & Get Connected to Colleagues Across the Globe

IBS has created a LinkedIn Group for biometrics industry professionals to become a part of…and network with your colleagues instantaneously! Post discussions to the Group and get comments/feedback from Group members on their perspectives or experiences. A great benefit of this Group is that it’s a very easy and free way to communicate with your colleagues who live all around the world. Being connected to the IBS Group will allow you to see other connection possibilities as well and broaden your professional network. The possibilities are endless. Join our Group today by visiting www.linkedin.com, and search under Groups for ‘International Biometric Society.’

C.R. Rao Receives Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, awarded C.R. Rao an Hon. D.Sc. at its convocation held on 26 July 2014 with the citation, ‘for his contribution to the foundations of Modern Statistics through the introduction of concepts such as Cramer-Rao inequality, Rao-Blackwellization, Rao Distance, Rao Measure and for introducing the idea of Orthogonal Arrays for the industry to design high quality products.’ This is Rao’s 38th Hon. Doctorate Degree he’s received from universities in 19 countries spanning six continents.

International Conference on Robust Statistics 2015

The International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) has been an annual international conference since 2001. The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers interested in robust statistics, data analysis and related areas. Traditionally this conference has involved theoretical statisticians, applied statisticians and data analysts, ranging from leading experts to junior researchers and graduate students. The 2015 version will be held at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Abstract submission and registration began in late July 2014. This conference will cover all areas of statistics having a robustness component or robustness perspective.

For further details visit the website of the conference, www.isical.ac.in/~icors2015/, or write to Dr. Ayanendranath Basu/Dr. Diganta Mukherjee at icors2015@gmail.com.

Call for IBC2016 Short Course Proposals

The IBS Education Committee, together with the International Program Committee of the 28th International Biometric Conference (IBC2016), to be held July 10–15 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, is calling for proposals for short courses.

Our goal is to provide courses that will attract registrants from a number of different application areas. We also want to reach out to potential participants from economically developing countries. Course selection will be by committee consensus and will take into account how the courses complement and enhance the scientific program of the IBC. A conference course is usually taught by one or more instructors on a topic that is of interest to many potential IBC participants. Normally, short courses are held on the Sunday before the start of the Conference, which will be July 10, 2016. The course can either last the full day (six – eight hours) or a half day (four hours).

Proposals should include motivation, proposed content(s), and potential target audience of the course, as well as a description of the previous teaching experience and subject area expertise of the instructor(s). We also ask that the proposal include contact details of one – two participants of a previous course taught by the instructor(s) whom we may contact if needed.

Please use the form (Please click here for the proposal template.) for the proposal and send it, preferably by email, to the Education Committee Chair, Pascale Tubert-Bitter at pascale.tubert@inserm.fr with a copy to the IBS office at ibs@biometricsociety.org.

Proposals for short courses should be submitted electronically before March 16, 2015, and proposals will be selected by the Education Committee by June 15, 2015.

Terry Speed (L) accepts the ‘Jerome Sacks Award’ for ‘Cross-Disciplinary Research’ from Mary Batcher (R), chairwoman of NISS.
**2016 International Biometric Conference Call for Invited Session Proposals**

The International Program Committee (IPC) of the XXVIIIth International Biometric Conference (IBC2016) calls for invited session proposals. IBC2016 will be held July 10–15 at the Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Victoria is named the ‘City of Gardens’ and provides easy access to recreational activities like kayaking, whale watching, hiking, and more.

An invited session brings together a small number of speakers (two – four) on a particular statistical topic. In addition, a discussant may form part of a session. A discussant describes the latest research in an area of statistical theory or application and makes it accessible to a ‘non-expert’ audience.

We encourage the submission of proposals covering a wide range of topics in the theory and application of statistics to biological and life sciences. Sessions that involve speakers from diverse geographical regions are encouraged where possible.

Invited session proposals should be sent by email to the IBC2016 IPC Chairman, Fred van Eeuwijk: fred.vaneewijk@wur.nl.

Proposals should include:

- Your name, affiliation, contact address, and email address
- Suggested session title and keywords
- Motivations for the proposed invitation
- Suggested organizer (possibly yourself), speakers, and discussant
- Tentative titles for the talks of invited speakers

Use of a specific template is compulsory, see the IBC2016 website.

Please note that a session organizer cannot be an invited speaker of the same session.

**Proposals should be submitted before 1 February 2015.** Proposals will be evaluated by the IPC, and the authors will be informed by early March 2015 of acceptance, rejection or revision (on topic and speakers). Revised proposals will need to be resubmitted by 15 March 2015. By early April 2015, authors of revised proposals will be informed about the decision of the IPC for acceptance or rejection. (Acceptance of a proposal comes without financial compensations for the proposers of the session.)
“I warmly invite you to the XVIII\textsuperscript{th} International Biometrics Conference in Victoria, Canada, traditional territory of the Lekwungen First Nations, and capital city of British Columbia. Victoria is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, off Canada’s Pacific Coast. The conference will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre, adjacent to the famous Empress Hotel. Victoria is named the City of Gardens and has easy access to recreational activities such as kayaking, whale watching, hiking, and much more. The temperate climate and relaxed island lifestyle should make for a memorable 28\textsuperscript{th} IBC.”

— LAURA COWEN, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, LOCAL ORGANIZING CHAIR

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME**

- Opening Ceremony & Presidential Address
- Invited Oral Sessions
- Contributed Oral and Poster Sessions
- Young Statisticians Showcase Session
- Biometrics and JABES Showcase Session
- Short courses

**SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY JULY, 10</th>
<th>MONDAY JULY, 11</th>
<th>TUESDAY JULY, 12</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY JULY, 13</th>
<th>THURSDAY JULY, 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
<td>Young Statisticians Mixer</td>
<td>Regional Officers’ Reception</td>
<td>Range of social excursions</td>
<td>Gala Cultural Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For constantly updated information, please see the website [www.biometricsociety.org](http://www.biometricsociety.org)
Dr. Judith D. Singer, the Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity and James Bryant Conant Professor of Education at Harvard University, is the recipient of the Thirteenth Annual Janet L. Norwood Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in the Statistical Sciences. She will accept the award at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

An internationally renowned statistician and social scientist, Singer’s scholarly interests focus on improving the quantitative methods used in social, educational, and behavioral research. She is primarily known for her contributions to the practice of multilevel modeling, survival analysis, and individual growth modeling, and to making these and other statistical methods accessible to empirical researchers. Singer is an elected member of the National Academy of Education, Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). AERA has given her the Raymond B. Cattell Award, the Review of Research Award and the Palmer O. Johnson Award. She has also been selected to be a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. She is on the founding board of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness and in 2012, her nomination by President Obama to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Education Sciences was confirmed by the US Senate.

The UAB School of Public Health has a fund-raising effort to grow the endowment for this award in honor of Dr. Norwood and her influence on women in the statistical sciences. For more information about this effort, please contact Dr. David Allison at dallison@uab.edu.
For Immediate Release

Ellenberg and Soper Win 2014 NISS Distinguished Service Awards

August 25, 2014, Research Triangle Park, NC: Susan Ellenberg and Keith Soper have received the 2014 Distinguished Service Awards from the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS). Alan Karr, Director of NISS, presented the awards on August 4, 2014 at the NISS/SAMSI (Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute) reception, held at the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston, Massachusetts.

The NISS Distinguished Service Awards were established by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to recognize individuals who have given extraordinary service that significantly advances NISS and its mission. Karr states, “These individuals didn’t have to do what they did, but they did it because they believe in NISS and its role in the statistics community.”

Ellenberg, who chaired the NISS Board of Trustees from 2011 to 2014, was given the award for helping lead NISS through “exciting and challenging times, always with common sense, wisdom and good humor,” noted Karr. Ellenberg is Professor of Biostatistics, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, and formerly held leadership positions at the FDA and NIH.

Soper, Senior Director at Merck, was recognized for his long-term service to NISS as a two-term member of the Board of Trustees. He served on the executive committee and was also chair of the affiliates committee during 2013-14. Karr said, “You have helped NISS re-invigorate the Affiliates Program, and to move it in new and important directions.”

Ellenberg and Soper’s names will be added to a plaque that is displayed in the lobby of the NISS building in Research Triangle Park, which lists the names of all recipients, of which there are now twenty-five.

About NISS
The National Institute of Statistical Sciences was established in 1990 by the national statistics societies and the Research Triangle universities and organizations, with the mission to identify, catalyze and foster high-impact, cross-disciplinary and cross-sector research involving the statistical sciences. NISS is dedicated to strengthening and serving the national statistics community, most notably by catalyzing community members’ participation in applied research driven by challenges facing government and industry. NISS also provides career development opportunities for statisticians and scientists, especially those in the formative stages of their careers. In particular, NISS has appointed more than 70 postdoctoral fellows with graduate training in statistics, computer science, mathematics, environmental sciences, psychometrics and transportation. NISS is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

For more information about NISS, go to the website www.niss.org. You can also learn more about NISS by following our Twitter account, @NISSSAMS, join the NISS group on LinkedIn and on Facebook.

# # #
Terry Speed Recipient of the 2014 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research

August 25, 2014, Research Triangle Park, NC - Dr. Terry Speed, head of bioinformatics at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research in Melbourne, Australia, is the recipient of the 2014 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research. The award is given by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) to recognize “sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences.” The award was announced at the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Awards Committee of the NISS Board of Trustees selected Speed as this year’s award winner, citing him as “a pioneer in the development and application of statistical methods for the analysis of biomedical and genomic data. His work exemplifies the best of applied statistics in cross-disciplinary research and is notable for its creativity, rigor, and relevance.”

Professor Speed’s research focuses on the application of statistics to problems in genetics and molecular biology. He has spent years looking at the mapping and expression of genes in mice and humans, including disease genes and genes contributing to other traits.

He spent much of his career at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Sheffield, the University of Western Australia and the CSIRO. Speed’s mathematical expertise also has been used in many high-profile court cases including the 1994 O.J. Simpson trial. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Computational Biology, JASA, Bernoulli* and the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics.*

Speed was recently awarded the prestigious Australian Prime Minister’s Prize for Science.

The Jerome Sacks Award was created in 2001 in honor of Jerome (Jerry) Sacks, the founding director of NISS. As Sacks award recipient, Speed receives $1,000, and his name is added to a plaque at NISS that lists all recipients of the award.

Past winners of the Sacks Award include:


About NISS

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences was established in 1990 by the national statistics societies and the Research Triangle universities and organizations, with the mission to identify, catalyze and foster high-impact, cross-disciplinary and cross-sector research involving the statistical sciences. NISS is dedicated to strengthening and serving the national statistics community, most notably by catalyzing community members’ participation in applied research driven by challenges facing government and industry. NISS also provides career development opportunities for statisticians and scientists, especially those in the formative stages of their careers. In particular, NISS has appointed more that 70 postdoctoral fellows with graduate training in statistics, computer science, mathematics, environmental sciences, psychometrics and transportation. NISS is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

For more information about NISS see www.niss.org. You can also learn more by following our Twitter account, @NISSSAMSI, or by joining the NISS group on LinkedIn and on Facebook.

# # #
## OFFICERS AND SUMMARY OF 2013 ACCOUNTS

President 2014-2015  
**John Hinde (British and Irish Region)**

Past President: **Clarice Demétrio (Brazilian Region)**; President Elect: **Elizabeth Thompson (Western North American Region)**

Secretary/Treasurer 2014-2016: **James Carpenter (British and Irish Region)**; Executive Director: **Dee Ann Walker**

Registered office: 1444 I Street, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005, USA

### Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hendriek Boshuizen (Netherlands Region)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Vicente Núñez-Antón (Spanish Region)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Johnson (Western North American Region)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>José Pinheiro (Eastern North American Region)</td>
<td>2013-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Lavange (Eastern North American Region)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Paulo J. Ribeiro (Brazilian Region)</td>
<td>2013-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerrie Mengersen (Australasian Region)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Michael Schenper (Austro-Swiss Region)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Njuho (South African Region)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Alan Welsh (Australasian Region)</td>
<td>2013-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon-Lise Normand (Eastern North American Region)</td>
<td>2013-16</td>
<td>Andreas Ziegler (German Region)</td>
<td>2013-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary Accounts for 1 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2013

The full financial report is available on request from James.Carpenter@lshtm.ac.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% Of Total</th>
<th>Expense category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% Of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$182,501.20</td>
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<td>Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$820,720.59</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$89,801.78</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBERSHIPS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Membership</strong></td>
<td><strong>$55,304.45</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.4%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publications</strong></td>
<td><strong>$131,635.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>24.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Publications</strong></td>
<td><strong>$131,635.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>24.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$532,440.65</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$532,440.65</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income 2013 | Expenditure 2013 | 2013 Surplus | Net Assets 1 Jan 2014 |
------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
$820,720.59 | $532,440.65 | $288,279.94 | $2,196,125.84 |

For more information, please come to the Members’ General Meeting:

Tuesday 8th July, 12:45, Villa -Sala ONICE
MEETINGS

2014

9 – 11 October
Annual Meeting of Working Group Spatial Statistics
German Society for Geography
Remagen, Germany

16 – 17 October
Workshop on Multivariate Inference Methods with Applications
Düsseldorf, Germany

14 November
Mendelian Randomisation (MR) Meeting
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
http://bir.biometricsociety.org/events/nov2014mtg

20 - 21 November
Fall Workshop: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology,
Statistical Methods in Medicine, Statistical Methods in Clinical Research (gmds), and Epidemiologic Methods (DGEpi)
Münster, Germany
http://statmethepi.uni-muenster.de/
Herbstworkshop2014

20 - 22 November
Workshop: Teaching Biometry with Examples and Illustrations
Göttingen, Germany

28 November
Workshop: Subgroup Analysis and Experiences with the Missing Data Guideline
Munich, Germany

1 – 5 December
Australasian Applied Statistics Conference
Port Lincoln, Australia
http://www.aasc.org.au

8 – 9 December
The 2014 Biometric Seminar
Campus Plaza Kyoto
Kyoto, Japan

2015

12 – 16 January
International Conference on Robust Statistics 2015
Indian Statistical Institute
Kolkata, India
www.isical.ac.in/~icors2015/

26 – 27 February
Workshop: Semiparametric Methods in Survival Analysis
Ulm, Germany

15 – 19 March
61st Biometric Colloquium
Dortmund, Germany
http://www.statistik.tu-dortmund.de/Biom2015

15 – 18 March
2015 ENAR Spring Meeting
Hyatt Regency Miami
Miami, Florida
http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm

20 – 22 April
IBS Channel Network Conference
Nijmegen, The Netherlands
http://www.ibschannel2015.nl/

11 – 15 May
8th Eastern Mediterranean Region Conference
Cappadocia, Turkey
http://biostat.cu.edu.tr/emr2015

8 – 13 August
2015 JSM
Washington State Convention and Trade Center
Seattle, Washington

2016

6 – 9 March
2016 ENAR Spring Meeting
Austin, TX