Greetings!

Well, the big event of our biennial IBS cycle, the very successful XXVIIIth IBC in beautiful British Columbia, is over. You can read various reports from the IBC elsewhere in the Bulletin, but I would like to give my own thanks to all who helped to make it such a success. From our most senior members to the most junior researchers; from sponsors, organizers, and exhibitors to professional and student participants; from our local host region to those who came from around the world. Even the weather cooperated, with some of the best of what a Pacific-Northwest summer has to offer.

Ever since the first two conferences I attended, Constanza in 1974 and Boston in 1976, IBCs have seemed to me to be the best of what an international conference can be. IBCs are large enough to have a diverse and strong scientific program focused in our shared interest in Biometry but also small enough to be able to meet old friends and make new connections. Several in Victoria, attending their first IBC, commented how very friendly a meeting it was for them, this is something I have found at every IBC. Indeed, in many ways we are a large extended family, with each region a part of that geographically dispersed family. The regional meetings provide opportunities for more local parts of the family to gather, and each IBC is almost like a grand family reunion.

An IBC is a chance to look back as well as forwards, and celebrate our continuing history. This was particularly striking to me at Tuesday’s Awards Session. The first item in the session was a moving memorial tribute to our former President (2002-3) and Honorary Life Member Norm Breslow, led by former Presidents Tom Louis (2006-7) and Geert Molenberghs (2004-5). In this, Tom and Geert noted that they were the two, as President and Past-president, who presented Norm with his Honorary Life Membership in 2006. Ten years later, as the very last item in this 2016 session, Tom was presented with his own Honorary Life Membership.

On another note of history, our Society will be 70 years old in 2017. In reviewing the history and geography of our regions for my Presidential Address, I was struck by the richness of our history and by the risk that we might lose it. Following up on earlier proposals and on discussions between Kaye Basford and Lynne Billard after the IBC in Kobe in 2012, at the IBC in Victoria the Executive Board briefly discussed how to move ahead with establishing an IBS archive. Helping to coordinate this task is something that I expect to be an important part of my IBS work over the next two years.

Of course, our Society must look forward as well as back, and it was great to see so many younger members at IBC. At the excellent Young Statisticians’ Showcase (YSS) (which was initiated at the Kobe IBC in 2012), the five winning representatives from five different major continental areas of the world presented their papers, but this was only a part of YS activities. There were several other YS events at IBC, allowing younger members to get to know each other and also meet with more senior members. These YS IBC activities are still developing; started just two years ago for the IBC in Florence, there continue to be new good ideas for the future. You can read more about the YS activities in Victoria elsewhere in this Bulletin, but special thanks are due to Saonli Basu (ENAR) who coordinated events and also to others, of whatever age, who helped make these events happen or who participated in them. Although the Wednesday walking tour of Victoria was originally proposed for younger members, the wonderful group photo shows that it was happily enjoyed by participants of all ages – another great reminder of our continuity over generations of students and researchers.

Continued on p. 6
From the Editor

Dear Readers,

This issue will include many reports from IBC2016, held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada this past July. Victoria, which is known as “The Garden City”, is a very beautiful city which combines old with new. The scientific program of the conference was very rich. I especially enjoyed the Statistics in Practice Sessions, an initiative of the German Region, which is already a tradition at IBS conferences. This topic was Meta-analysis of Individual Participant Data. It included four talks given by Simon G. Thompson and Mark Simmonds from the UK. The aim was to update participants on statistical methods that can be used for such analyses and the pitfalls to be avoided in contrast to publication meta-analysis. Application to both trials and observational studies was given. The Poster Sessions were also a success, accompanied by stimulating discussions and brainstorming.

Regional Correspondents
Joanna in ‘t Hout (Al), Vanessa Cave (AR), Roland Langrock (BR), Hein Putter (Channel Network), Axel Benner (CR), Giota Touloumi (EMR), Leslie McClure (ENAR), Mamadou Dediouh (GEH), Olaweni Oluwasegbe (GAI), Zofia Hanusz GPol, Cornelia Enachescu (GRe), Goro M. Njoku (GSSh), Wellington Mushayi GZim, Anil Mathew (IR), Satoshi Hattori (JR), Esu Llārā (NR), Cecilia Bruno (RArg), Sophia Vandreire (RBe), Luiza Aparecida Trinca (RBra), Moon Younger (RCAC), Anabel Forte (REsp), Robert Faivre (RF), Livio Finos (RR), Seung-Ho Kang (Rko), Dominik Heinmann (RDe), Henry G. Mwangi (RSaf), Megan Othus (WNAR), Jiajian Li (SING), Dan Kajungu (SGilgan), Agnès Anokmah (SGha), John Mwangangi (SGha), Njoku Ama (GBot), Cristian Meza (GCI), Katja Ickstadt (CEC), Alia Sajjad (PKSTAN), Andrew Zhou (CHINA), Johyun Javer Pambabay Calero (ECO)

International Correspondents
Havi Murad, Biostatistics Unit, The Gertrude Institute for Epidemiology & Health Policy Research, Sheba Medical Center, Email: <Havi.Murad@telsh.org>

Regional Presidents of IBS
- HA - Argentine Region
- AR - Australasian Region
- ROE - Austro-Swiss Region
- RBE - Belgian Region
- GBot - Botswana Region
- BRBr - Brazilian Region
- BIR - British Region
- IR - Irish Region
- BNi - Chinese Region
- EMR - Eastern Mediterranean Region
- ENAR - Eastern North American Region
- ECU - Ecuadorian Region
- ETH - Ethiopian Region
- RF - French Region
- DR - German Region
- GRH - Ghana Region
- IR - Indian Region
- RI - Italian Region
- JP - Japanese Region
- GEK - Kenyan Region
- GKH - Korean Region
- GME - Malawi Region
- GNI - Nigerian Region
- NR - Nordic-Baltic Region
- PKST - Pakistani Region
- GPol - Polish Region
- GRO - Romanian Region
- SING - Singaporean Region
- GSA - South African Region
- RResp - Spanish Region
- ANEd - The Netherlands Region
- GUGan - Ugandan Region
- WNAR - Western North American Region
- GZim - Zimbabwean Region

Networks
- CEN - Central European Network
- CN - Channel Network
- SUSAN - Sub-Saharan Network

Biometric Bulletin Editor, Havi Murad, presenting during the IBC2016 Poster Session.

Various IBS committee meetings were held during the conference in July, including the Biometric Bulletin team. The Biometric Bulletin team meeting was held on Tuesday where correspondents from the following regions participated: Nordic, Brazilian, Australasian, WNAR (Western North American Region), EMR (Eastern Mediterranean Region) and Germany. Alphonso Baggett from the IBO was also present. We discussed adding a blog for Biometric Bulletin readers on the IBS website where readers can comment on the various articles, possible collaborations with ASA and ways to promote reading the Bulletin. One of the ideas raised regarding the region news, which is a basic part of the Bulletin, was that the editor will send a common topic to all regional correspondents such as: advance of new generations, grants, etc. In this issue, a new section on Meet the...
conference in Cappadocia, Turkey and the joint meeting of the Austro-Swiss and Italian Regions held in Milano, Italy in 2015. The very good news that I received in Victoria is that the IBS Executive Board 2017 Meeting will be an in-person meeting during this joint meeting of the EMR and Italian Regions in Thessaloniki. This should bring leading IBS members to EMR, who can also enjoy and participate in our meeting. EMR meetings are known to be intimate and fun, accompanied by traditional Eastern Mediterranean cuisine, food and culture. They attract leading statisticians from all over the world. Together with the Italian Region, I am sure this conference is going to be a great success! More details appear in the EMR news section.

In this issue I am happy to introduce one of our NEW Software Corner correspondents, Garth Tar (University of Newcastle, Australasian Region). This time he has written an article on Getting Data to R. For example, how to read SAS data files with formats quite fast. Although some of the functions are still under progress, I thought it is important to bring them to your awareness. As a SAS-R user, these functions could help me in my work at the Gertner Institute, where SAS-UNIX is the primary software, in addition to using R on our PC.

Also, Daria Steigman, the professional journalist, has written a special feature article entitled Cancer Screening, Overdiagnosis and Policy Implications.

I would like to welcome the new addition to the IBS family, the newly established Malawi Region, which belongs to SUSAN, presided by Jupiter Simbeye. (Read more in the Meet the Regional Presidents of IBS section).

Many thanks are due to Dee Ann Walker, the Executive Director of IBS, for the past eight years. It was a pleasure working with you over these years as the Secretary and then the President of EMR. Your help with everything has been invaluable. We wish you an enjoyable, healthy retirement. Welcome aboard Peter Doherty, her successor, and best of luck in your new position.

Congratulations to EMR’s Malka Gorfine (Tel-Aviv University, Israel) for her appointment for the position of Co-editor of Biometrics for 2017 – 2019.

Once again I would like to remind you that the new HTML version of the Bulletin is very convenient for reading on your mobile phones and laptops. You can access the current issue, without the requirement of a password, by clicking on the picture under ‘Biometric Publications’ on the IBS homepage or through ‘Publications’ on the menu.

Havi Murad
Twitter: @havimurad

XXVIIIth International Biometric Conference Highlights

Report from the IBC2016 in Victoria, Canada

A very successful IBC, the XXVIIIth International Biometric Conference, held in beautiful Victoria was hosted by the Western North American Region (WNAR) and drew an attendance of over 700. Our thanks go to WNAR and its President Suzanne May, the International Programme Committee, chaired by Fred van Eeuwijk (ANed), the Local Organising Committee, co-chaired by Laura Cowen (WNAR) and Youyi Fong (WNAR), the Education Committee, chaired by Pascale Tubert-Bitter (RF), the Awards Fund Committee, chaired by Dan Kajunga (UGDA), and all of the participants. This was also the first time that the IBC worked directly with the International Biometric Office to manage the registration process as well as the abstract submissions. Another first included the use of a new mobile app that helped participants stay informed of the latest updates and changes in the program.

The Victoria IBC brought together a total of 720 participants (118 Canadian) from 44 countries with 162 students (21 from SSC), 408 regular members (51 from SSC), 180 non-members and 28 accompanying non-IBS members. There were also four very successful and well-attended short courses on the Sunday, prior to the main conference. With nearly 120 attendees for these courses, this was nearly double the number that the courses attracted in 2014.

The Victoria Convention Centre provided an excellent venue for the meeting, with plenty of space for the full program of talks, posters and IBS governance meetings. The meeting kicked-off on Monday morning with an Opening Session in which Elizabeth Thompson (WNAR) presented her Presidential Address focusing on the diversity and growth of our regions and the diversity of biometry in biology. The main IBS scientific program then included 17 invited sessions, 40 oral contributed sessions and two contributed poster sessions. There were also a number of special sessions, including Biometrics and JABES Showcases featuring selected best papers from 2014 and 2015, an ISI Invited Session, and a Statistics in Practice session, kindly sponsored by Wiley and organized by the German Region. Once again, Monday included a special emphasis on young statisticians with an ice-breaker at lunchtime, a Young Statisticians Showcase session featuring talks from five winners (one each from Africa, Asia/ Australasia, Europe, North America, and South America) and a mixer reception at a local pub in the evening. Alongside this full IBS program, WNAR (led by Marco Carone) also organized 12 invited sessions and Young Investigator Sessions for awardees.

Dr. Hutton is Professor of Statistics at the support and mentorship of colleagues in projects and theses in Africa and provided eight year period. She has supervised MSC South African Ghana and Tanzania over an courses in She also coordinated six AIMS in South Africa. African Network) Conference the organizer of the from 2002-05 and from 2013-16. She was (2002-03) and served on the committee She chaired the IBS Education Committee to the development of biometry in Africa. Jane has made major contributions to IBS and to the development of biometry in Africa.

She chaired the IBS Education Committee (2002-03) and served on the committee from 2002-05 and from 2013-16. She was the organizer of the SUSAN (Sub-Saharan African Network) Conference in South Africa. She also coordinated six AIMS courses in South African Ghana and Tanzania over an eight year period. She has supervised MSC projects and theses in Africa and provided support and mentorship of colleagues in Africa and encouraged others to do likewise.

Dr. Hutton is Professor of Statistics at the University of Warwick, UK, and her research is in statistical methods, with applications of statistics to health care, and ethics. She has developed statistical methods in survival analysis, meta-analysis and non-random data. Dr. Hutton is known for statistical modelling and management of chronic diseases, and she has major collaborations with health-care specialists in cerebral palsy and epilepsy. Her research has had an impact through clinical guidelines and in legal cases.

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Dr. Hutton is the coordinator of the Royal Statistical Society partnership with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS).

Congratulations to Dr. Hutton on being named recipient of the Rob Kempton Award.

Society Bestows Awards and Honors in Victoria

During the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the IBC, four distinguished members of the Society were recognized.

The Rob Kempton Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Development of Biometry in the Developing World was bestowed upon Jane Hutton, of the British & Irish Region.

Jane has made major contributions to IBS and to the development of biometry in Africa.

On Tuesday evening the Society’s Awards Session began with a special memorial tribute to Norm Breslow, organized and presented by Tom Louis (ENAR) and Geert Molenberghs (RBe), and we were pleased to have some of Norm’s family with us for this special occasion. IBS Honorary Life Memberships were conferred on Kaye Basford (AR), Peter Bauer (ROeS), and Tom Louis (ENAR). The IBS Rob Kempton Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Biometry in the Developing World was made to Jane Hutton (BIR).

The Thursday night Gala, held at the Royal BC Museum, proved to be an extremely well attended event with nearly 250 attendees. The gala provided attendees a unique view into the museum’s collection of artifacts and specimens of British Columbia’s incredible natural and human history. While enjoying an array of locally inspired food and drinks the gala allowed delegates and guests to network and take in the beauty of some of British Columbia’s greatest cultural treasures.

At the closing session on Friday, retiring Co-editors of Biometrics, Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat (RNeD) and Yi-Hau Chen, Editor of JABES, Montse Fuentes (ENAR), Biometrics Book Review Editor Taesung Park (RKo) and Biometric Bulletin Editor; Dimitris Karlis (EMR), were recognized for their service to the Society. Certificates were also presented to the Young Statisticians Showcase awardees: Fernando Aguate (RArg), Bekir Çetintav (EMR), Linda Chaba (GKe), Edward Kennedy (ENAR) and Fayne Williamson (BIR). The IBC prizes for Best Student Oral Presentations and Best Poster Awards were announced, see below for details, and also WNAR Student Awards (reported on elsewhere in this Bulletin). Dee Ann Walker; the IBS Executive Officer; was thanked for her eight years of service to the Society and wished the best for her forthcoming retirement. John Hinde (BIR) was presented with a plaque in recognition of his service to the Society as President (2014-2015). The conference was then brought to a close with a preview of the plans for IBC2018 in Barcelona, Spain, 8-13 July, 2018.

IBS President, Elizabeth Thompson and IBC2016 Organizing President John Hinde.

John Hinde
IBC2016 Organizing President
john.hinde@nuigalway.ie

IBC2016 short course presenters, Andrew Mead and Fred van Eeuwijk.

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John Hinde
IBC2016 Organizing President
john.hinde@nuigalway.ie

Basford, Bauer and Louis Named Honorary Life Members

Dr. Kaye Basford is Professor of Biometry at the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland, Australia where she is President of the Academic Board. Dr. Basford has an extensive record of research and publication in applied statistics and quantitative genetics, plant breeding and genotype by environment interaction, and multivariate methodology for large-scale breeding experiments. Kaye was awarded the Australian Medal for Agriculture from the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology in 1998 and the Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 2006.

Kaye’s contributions to IBS are enormous. She served as Chair, Organizing Committee of the Australasian Region Meeting in 1995 and as President, Australasian Region (1997-98). She was a member of IBS Council (2000-2007); Associate Editor of Biometrics (2000-2003); Chair of the LOC for Cairns IBC (2004); Member of the IPC for Cairns and Montreal IBC (2006) and has served as a member of several IBS Standing Committees. Finally, Kaye served as IBS
Dr. Peter Bauer is Professor Emeritus of the Institute for Medical Statistics, at the Medical University of Vienna, where he was Head of the Department of Medical Statistics, Head of the Section of Medical Statistics in the Core Unit of Medical Statistics and Informatics and then Head of the Core Unit.

The inscription on Kaye’s plaque read: For outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of the discipline of Biometry and for exemplary service and leadership to the Society, particularly as the driving force in the major restructuring of the Society’s governance.

Dr. Peter Bauer is the Founder of the Viennese Biometric Section and served as Secretary (1984-86) and President (1986-88). He was President of the Austro-Swiss Region (RoES) (1980-81), member of the Editorial Advisory Board for Biometrics (1985-90) and Editor in Chief, Biometrical Journal (2000-2003).

Dr. Tom Louis is Professor of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Distinguished Senior Research Fellow, US Census Bureau and Core Faculty Member; Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality.

Dr. Louis’ research is in developing and evaluating statistical methods in the presence of non-representative population sampling, missing data and other potential selection biases; analyzing longitudinal, spatial, and survival data; ranking and randomized trial design and analysis.

Dr. Louis is a Fellow of the ASA, the ISI and the AAAS.

Tom’s prolific professional service has had a broad, deep and positive impact on the discipline of Biometry and on IBS.

He served on the ENAR Executive Committee (1991-3) and as ENAR President (1992). He was IBS President-elect (2005), President (2006-7) and Outgoing President (2008). Tom served as Biometrics Co-editor (2009-2011) and on the IBS Editorial Advisory Committee (2009-2015).

He has given his service to numerous IBS and ENAR committees for more than 40 years and promoted IBS and Biometry internationally.

Congratulations to our three newest and highly distinguished Honorary Life Members of IBS.

Dr. Bauer has made many substantial contributions to clinical trial design through his research is in Adaptive Design, Multiple Testing, Sequential Designs, Clinical Trials, Quality Control and Longitudinal Data. As a communicator and teacher, Dr. Bauer established statistics as a part of the medical curriculum in Vienna. He served as statistical expert to the Biostatistics Working Party and Paediatric Committee of the European Medicines Agency.

Peter’s contributions to IBS and the Austro-Swiss Region are noteworthy. He was a member of IBS Council (1978-81). He was a Founder of the Viennese Biometric Section and served as Secretary (1984-86) and President (1986-88). He was President of the Austro-Swiss Region (RoES) (1980-81), member of the Editorial Advisory Board for Biometrics (1985-90) and Editor in Chief, Biometrical Journal (2000-2003).

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Prizes for Best Student Oral Presentations at the IBC

The Best Student Oral Presentation Competition resulted in a tie and the awarding of prizes to two outstanding students for their presentations. Along with a certificate of accomplishment, Springer kindly donated book prizes. The winners were:

- Sahir Bhatnagar (Canada) for A model for interpretable high dimensional interactions.

- Peter DeWitt (USA) for Parsimonious B-spline regression models via control polygon reduction.

Best Posters at the IBC

Approximately 200 posters were presented at the IBC2016, and viewing and judging was spread over three days in order to accommodate all of the posters. The winners were announced at the closing ceremony of the IBC with certificates being awarded to the best among them, along with a book prize from Springer. The winners were:

Best Poster by a Professional
- John Michael Ranola (USA) Fast spatial ancestry of human populations of Africa: an Update to OriGen

Best Poster by a Student (tie)
- Koen Van den Berge (Belgium) A stage-wise procedure for assessing multifactorial RNA-Seq experiments
- Yue Yin (Canada) Optimal designs for regression models using the second-order least squares estimator

Young Statisticians Provided a Spark at IBC2016

With a superb lineup of talks, and with the weather being so cooperative, IBC2016 became an ideal setting for young statisticians to get to know their peers from around the world, exchange ideas, meet with mentors and learn from experienced presenters, all while taking in one of the most beautiful settings in all of North America. All of these factors contributed to a highly successful biennial conference! Of course, the extraordinary support received from our Local Organizing Committee and our hosts, the Western North American Region (WNAR), also contributed to this success. Special praise should also be extended to the chief organizer of the Young Statisticians’ Program, Saonli Basu, Associate Professor from the Division of Biostatistics at the University of Minnesota. Thank you also to Mik Bauer in the International Business Office, Jason Xu, Amit Meir, Paul van Dam-Bates, Laura Cowen and Dee Ann Walker for their assistance in making these events happen.
Continuity is not stagnation however, and there are big upcoming changes in week-to-week operations. The biggest change is that our Executive Director, Dee Ann Walker; retired at the end of August. Dee Ann has been central to IBS activities for eight years. She has a huge accumulated knowledge of our Society in all its aspects, and has seen first-hand the before, during, and after, of our governance reorganization. She interacts not only with the Officers, but with the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, Council, Regional Officers and with individual members. She knows so many of you, and so many of you know her; we all wish her a long, healthy, happy and active retirement. We welcome her successor, Peter Doherty. At the IBS Board Meeting on July 10, Peter was officially appointed Executive Director of IBS with effect from the close of the IBC on July 15.

Peter has been learning about us for several months and is now working closely with Dee Ann to make this big transition as smooth as possible. It was great to have both Dee Ann and Peter assisting at the IBC in Victoria, as well as other members of the IBC Staff. In other changes, we welcome a new President-elect, Louise Ryan (AR) and new Secretary-Treasurer; Brad Biggerstaff (WNAR), as well as new Board members announced elsewhere in the Bulletin. Officially, they do not take up their new duties until January 2017, but with so many changes it will be important for Louise and Brad to have as much interaction with current Officers and the Board as possible – no easy matter while the Officers are spread from Australia, to North America, to Europe, although slightly easier once the clocks in both hemispheres change in November.

Alongside the scientific and social activities of the IBC, there are many committee meetings that continue the work of the Society and set things in place for the next two years. While the Board meets in person every year (in addition to at least one other teleconference meeting), the IBC is the only time when members of the Council, of the six Standing Committees, and the Presidents and Officers of different regions can meet in person. While useful, teleconferences and Skype meetings are never the same, and these in-person meetings are important in enabling committee members to get to know each other; to discuss new initiatives and to find how each member may best contribute to the committee’s ongoing work. I would like to thank all those who put time and energy into participating in these meetings at IBC as well as those members who were unable to attend the IBC but who nonetheless contributed their ideas and thoughts by email or phone.

Each Committee did its work, and we look forward to the implementation of several new ideas. Even better yet is when we see synergy between committees: the Committee on Communications and the Education Committee shared ideas on the use of the web, social media and the Bulletin as venues for both educational materials and more general scientific news and information. There is also synergy between the Awards Fund and Education Committee. The new Awards Fund Program to provide travel funds to members from developing countries to attend regional meetings in non-IBC years got off to a great start in 2015; and one travel award to a member to attend the 2015 EMR Meeting then led to a highly successful small short course in Bulgaria, funded by the Education Committee. Again, you will find this report elsewhere in the Bulletin.

With regard to the IBC, the main work of the Awards Fund Committee is done beforehand in selecting the IBC Travel Fund awardees. Although, in the end, very few members of the committee could be at IBC, most of the awardees succeeded in arriving. Meeting with them and listening to them tell us a bit about themselves is among my best IBC memories. I do believe very strongly that this program is one of the most important things we do as a Society. As mentioned in the last Bulletin and at the IBC by our Treasurer, the new programs of the Awards Fund Committee do require funds. After IBC, this fund is quite depleted. I thank all those regions that have given funds for this purpose and encourage other regions to do likewise – all funds given by regions for this purpose are matched by IBS.

The Editorial Advisory Committee and the Publications Task Force coordinated by Outgoing President John Hinde have had some more serious issues to consider. In some ways things do not change; the Board has approved in principle new five-year contracts with Wiley for Biometrics and with Springer for JABES. However, the world of academic publishing is changing very fast, with ever more journals to publish in and new online outlets for our work. The ongoing slide of Biometrics in the ranking of statistics journals is a concern. Such things have continuing negative feedback and become harder to turn around, and our flagship journal Biometrics is a financial mainstay of the IBS. That we still have outstanding papers published in JABES and in Biometrics by IBS members was shown in the two excellent journal showcase sessions at IBC, but now often other venues seem easier or more relevant. I am myself as guilty as anyone. I have had quite a few papers in Biometrics over the years, including my all-time favorite in 1974 and my most cited paper in 1992, but I was shocked to discover that the last was in 2010, and only two others have been in this century. So let us all make a resolution to support our Society journals, Biometrics and JABES. Consider these journals when advising your students where to submit their work, and consider them for your own best papers also.

In overall reports made at IBC, the health of our Society was shown to be in good shape. Although investments have had hard times this year (a problem not specific to IBS), our Treasurer reported that our finances are sound and will be little changed when all the final IBC accounting is completed. Our membership is also stable, the small apparent decrease being due to clearing a backlog of long-past ‘At Large’ Student Members. However, as always, we need to encourage student members to continue their memberships once they graduate – they are the future of our Society. There were many excellent student posters and presentations at IBC. To all IBS Regular Members – if you had students at IBC please encourage them to remain active in their IBS Region. Students, if you were there and enjoyed IBC, please remember to join your IBS Region when you go to your first ‘real’ job.

And to everyone, plans are underway for another great IBC in two years’ time. The venue is secured, and the International Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee are already in place. Please mark your calendars for the XXIXth IBC in Barcelona, Spain, 8-13 July 2018. I look forward to seeing you there.

Elizabeth Thompson
For young professionals at the start of their career, a large international conference can be an experience too valuable to pass up. Even so, attending a conference such as this can sometimes be a little intimidating. It was precisely for this reason that the organizers of IBC2014 in Florence decided to host our first-ever young statistician events, and IBC volunteers will continue to support this activity, now and into the future. It was important for the IBS to show our newest participants just how important they are to the future of this association and our profession. We hope that this message was heard loud and clear; starting Sunday with a fabulous Welcome Reception in our home for the IBC week, the Fairmont Empress Hotel. One stroll through the Crystal Ballroom, and our attendees knew they were in for a treat over the next five days.

We kicked off our official young statisticians’ events on Monday with a Young Statisticians’ Warm-up Lunch, hosted by Saonli Basu. The luncheon included participation of several IBS Board members including the President Elizabeth Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer James Carpenter, Joel Greenhouse and Andreas Ziegler. Dr. Carpenter provided useful tips and tricks to help our attendees make the most of their time at IBC. The luncheon also included a panel discussion of important issues/challenges faced by our young investigators. Young statisticians were asked to send their questions to the panelists ahead of the conference, and they showed great participation through Facebook and emails. The Young Statisticians’ Showcase followed, with five winning representatives of the Showcase Competition, from all corners of the world, presenting excellent papers. Special thanks go to the Chair, Immaculada Arostegui from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics and OR at the University of Basque Country Spain, for organizing the showcase and our attendees knew they were in for a treat over the next five days.

As is tradition, we took a break from scientific sessions on Wednesday. Young statisticians were on the move that day, taking advantage of a few hours of freedom by enjoying the beauty of Victoria and the great outdoors. A very popular walking tour, in one of North America’s most walkable cities, included not only many of our young statisticians, but attendees from every generation. It was wonderful to see. A wide variety of topics and new insights continued into Thursday and Friday, with Thursday evening’s Gala Dinner proving to be a high point of the conference for many of our young participants.

How many young professionals joined us? Preliminary numbers indicate that one third of our IBC2016 attendees are currently studying at the Undergraduate or Graduate level. They provided a welcome spark and insight well beyond their years. We hope you will continue to share your happy memories with colleagues back home and online! Have you posted comments on the official IBC2016 Young Professionals page yet (https://www.facebook.com/IBS-young-statisticians-2016-1779794035583312/?fref=nf)? If not, you should!

On behalf of the Executive Board and our headquarters team in Washington, DC, thank you all for joining us. The bar has been raised as we begin planning for IBC2018 in Barcelona. We encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas for making the IBC even more useful and fun for young professionals.

Peter Doherty

Election for Directors of the IBS Board

Results

We are pleased to announce that the following members have been elected to the Board:

President-elect: Louise Ryan (Australasian Region, announced previously)

Secretary/Treasurer: Brad Biggerstaff (Western North American Region)

Executive Board Director Asia/Australasia: Brian Cullis (Australasian Region)

Executive Board Director Europe: Andreas Ziegler (German Region)

Mark Brewer (British & Irish Region)

Executive Board Director North America: José Pinheiro (Eastern North American Region) and Elizabeth Brown (Western North American Region)

Executive Board Director South/Central America: Luzia Aparecida Trinca (Brazilian Region)

The President-elect shall serve a one-year term starting on 1 January 2017 and shall automatically succeed to the office of President, serving for two years. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve a three-year term starting on 1 January 2017. All new Directors will serve a four-year term, starting on 1 January 2017 and ending 31 December 2020.

The remaining members of the Executive Board are: Elizabeth Thompson (WNAR), President; Karen Bandeen-Roche (ENAR), Director; Tae Rim Lee (RKo), Director; Frank Bretz (ROeS), Director; Freedom Gumedze (GSaf), Director; Krista Fischer (NR), Director and Joel Greenhouse (ENAR), Director. The Executive Director shall serve as an ex officio of the Board.

Please join me in congratulating all of our newly elected Executive Board for 2017. If you have ideas on how to make the IBS even more useful to you or wish to contribute to IBS as a volunteer in some manner, please contact a member of the Executive Board, and let them know. The first in-person meeting of the new Executive Board will be in May 2017 in Thessaloniki, Greece during the upcoming Eastern Mediterranean Region Conference.

Biometrics

December 2016 Issue Highlights

We are grateful for the continued support of the IBC!

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Lola Ugarte (Spain)
Xiao Hua A. Zhou (China)
Fred van Eeuwijk (The Netherlands)
New Feature:
Cancer Screening, Overdiagnosis and Policy Implications

By Daria Steigman

Ruth Etzioni is a woman on a mission. A mission to combat misleading statistics, and the poor decision making that often results.

Just look at the damage done as a result of the infamous study on autism and vaccines. Despite being discredited over and over, and the researcher admitting he falsified data, thousands of parents refuse to vaccinate their children today. As a result, childhood diseases once thought eradicated are making a comeback.

In the world of cancer research and treatment, bad science can have a direct impact on screening—when it happens, how it happens, and who will pay for it.

Etzioni, a biostatistician and cancer modeler in the Public Health Sciences Division at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, has focused on developing tools and methodologies to accurately understand the risk of overdiagnosis due to cancer screening. An overdiagnosed cancer is defined as one that would never cause symptoms or pose a risk to the patient in the absence of screening. Treatment of such cancers provides no benefit—but can cause harm.

In 2002, Etzioni and her team were the first to quantify the risk of overdiagnosis due to PSA screening for prostate cancer. Their estimate was based on a model for predictable population dynamics in incidence following the uptake of a novel screening test. Their methods were formalized in 2008 in a Biometrics article.

Then, in 2014, Etzioni and her colleagues developed a tool to determine the individualized risk of prostate cancer overdiagnosis via a nomogram (a graphical calculating device) based on their modeling work: the nomogram incorporates a patient’s age, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level, and Gleason score (a measure of cellular dedifferentiation). They estimated that the likelihood of overdiagnosis ranges from 2.9 to 88.1 percent depending on age, PSA level, and Gleason score at diagnosis. The nomogram is intended to help patients choose the treatment that is targeted to their personalized overdiagnosis risk and not to be afraid to consider conservative management if their risk of overdiagnosis is elevated.

Turning Attention to Breast Cancer Overdiagnosis

As Etzioni was working on the prostate cancer model, she was hearing a lot of chatter about research into breast cancer overdiagnosis. A number of studies of screening in breast cancer around that time were looking at the incidence in women undergoing screening and subtracting the incidence in women not undergoing screening.

One study in particular created a huge stir: the New England Journal of Medicine in late 2012 published the results of a study that estimated that 31 percent of all breast cancers diagnosed in women age 40 and older in 2008 were overdiagnosed. This estimate implied that a whopping 50 percent of all screening-detected cancers are overdiagnosed. The study ignited a debate over the use of mammography.

The problem is that the study was deeply flawed.

“They used incidence data from the U.S. population over 40 that had been screened,” Etzioni told Biometric Bulletin. “They had no control data so they used incidence trends in women under 40, who were generally never screened, to estimate the incidence trend that would have been observed without screening. This is really nothing more than a guess.”

This was not, however, the only study that yielded questionable or provably wrong results.

In frustration, Etzioni published a series of research methods papers in the Annals of Internal Medicine, JNCI, and the American Journal of Epidemiology on the estimation of overdiagnosis. The latest, published in July 2016, uses a mathematical framework to conclude that “no trial or population setting automatically permits unbiased estimation of overdiagnosis.” Etzioni also worked with the American Cancer Society (ACS) on its updated Breast Cancer Screening Guideline, which provides recommendations on who should get mammograms and how often based on a weighing of benefit versus harms, including overdiagnosis.

Guidelines and Public Policy

Robert Smith, vice president of cancer screening, American Cancer Society, operates at the intersection of science and public policy. He points out that many people bring their own inherent biases to conversations about screening, benefits, and harms. So if you’re not enthusiastic about screening, then you’re more inclined to embrace the data that say benefits aren’t very high but the harms are so.

With rates of overdiagnosis all over the map, how do you make decisions about who gets screened and when?

For one thing, it’s important to frame the issue. Smith notes that, apart from the enormous difficulty in determining the fraction of cancers that may be non-progressive (as well as the discouraging number of flawed studies estimating high rates of overdiagnosis), the way rates of overdiagnosis are expressed is both alarming and misleading.

“Because most women will never be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, even an excessively high estimate of 19 percent of breast cancers being overdiagnosed is only about a 1-percent lifetime risk of being diagnosed with a non-progressive cancer,” Smith told Biometric Bulletin. So we’re really not talking about all women, but the tiny subset who have breast cancer—but not the kind that can kill you.
Continued from p. 7

“Comparing biomarkers as trial level general surrogates,” by Erin E. Gabriel, Michael J. Daniels, and M. Elizabeth Halloran.


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.biometricssociety.org/, selecting “Biometrics” from the drop-down menu at the “Publications” link at the top of the page, and accessing the “Click here” link.

Editorial Board News

As we reported previously, Co-editor Yi-Hau Chen’s term will end 31 December 2016. According to geographic convention, Yi-Hau’s successor should reside outside of North America or Europe. We are delighted to report that the search committee nominated Malka Gorfine, Associate Professor of Statistics at the Department of Statistics and Operations Research at Tel-Aviv University Israel, and a long-standing Biometrics AE, as the next CE. The nomination was approved by the IBS Executive Board. Malka’s term will begin 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2019. We look forward to working with her.

We welcome a number of new AEs to the Editorial Board with terms beginning 1 July or later: Rhian Daniel, Thomas Gerds, Michele Guindani, Sebastien Haneuse, Xueling Huang, Hyunseung Kang, Torben Martinussen, Tom Nichols, Dan Sargent, Jonathan Schildcrout, and Arvid Sjolander.

While Etzioni is focused on providing sound statistical methodology on which to make wise public policy decisions, Smith’s job is to support the ACS Guidelines Development Group, of which Etzioni is a member, to issues guidelines based on the best science, and to equip the public and providers with the best information for making informed decisions when decisions are not so clear and need to be based on personal preferences and values. He points out that societies with surplus wealth have choices to make: one of them is to spend that money on health to save a life. “Most cancer screening meets this standard very easily,” says Smith.


“In breast cancer, you are screening the many to find the few,” says Smith. “But breast cancer is also the leading cause of premature mortality in women. We don’t do a good job of measuring that value in monetary terms—and it is enormous.” What’s the value of one life? What’s the cost to a child to have his mother around? What’s the impact of a terminally ill person on her partner, family, friends, workplace, and the larger community?

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rather, s/he serves in an administrative role on equal footing with the CEs, complementing their efforts to oversee the scientific aspects of the journal and freeing them from the burden of administrative activities. As such, the EE is not to be involved in scientific activities related to review of and editorial decisions on papers submitted to the journal; these are the sole purview of the CEs. The only scientific duty of the EE is to assign incoming submissions to CEs on the basis of workload balance and scientific expertise; thereafter, s/he plays no role in the fate of submissions. Otherwise, the EE has a purely administrative role, with duties including compiling and monitoring journal performance statistics, assisting authors with queries and difficulties in preparing manuscripts using the journal’s LaTeX document class, coordinating CE activities such as the annual reconstitution of the Editorial Board, arranging editorial board meetings and handling the logistics of Biometrics-sponsored events, working with the publisher, serving as the liaison to the IBS, and writing reports such as this one.

Frequently, authors contact the EE directly, expressing dismay over a CE’s scientific decision on a particular submission and requesting the EE’s intervention, with the expectation that she can review and overrule CE actions and decisions. As should be clear from the above description, the EE has no such authority in these scientific matters. Likewise, authors contemplating a submission to Biometrics sometimes contact the EE, asking her to “pre-screen” the paper’s suitability for the journal. Again, this determination is a scientific issue outside the realm of the EE’s charge and can only be made by a CE once the paper has been formally submitted. In short, contacting the EE regarding scientific matters is fruitless, as the position carries no mandate for involvement in such situations.

All queries or comments directed to the EE and CEs should not be sent to them at their personal email addresses, but rather should be sent to the journal Editorial Manager; Ms. Ann Hanhart, at biometrics@tibs.org. Please do not attempt to contact any of the Editors by telephone, as journal policy prevents them from discussing editorial matters directly with authors or readers.

**News from Our Publisher**

As an incentive to serve as a referee and submit a report in a timely fashion, Wiley is offering reviewers a 30% discount on Wiley books for a limited time. If a referee returns his or her report by the due date, he/she will be provided with a promotion code that can be used to purchase Wiley books at this discount. The discount excludes major reference works.

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

The **Special Issue** on “Space-time Analysis of Natural or Anthropogenic Catastrophes”, edited by Jorge Mateu and Emilio Porcu, will appear in September. It will comprise an introduction by the Guest Editors, together with six papers: “Effective sample size for line transect sampling models with an application to marine macroalgae” by J. Acosta, F. Osorio and R. Vallejos; “Testing self-similarity through Lamperti transformations” by M. Lee, M.G. Genton and M. Jun; “Composite likelihood inference for multivariate Gaussian random fields” by M. Bevilacqua, A. Alegria, D. Velandia and E. Porcu; “Non-stationary dependence structures for spatial extremes” by R. Huser and M.G. Genton; “European population exposure to airborne pollutants based on a multivariate spatio-temporal model” by A. Fasso, F. Finazzi and F. Ndongo; and “Point pattern analysis of spatial deformation and blurring effects on exceedances” by A.E. Madrid, J.M. Angulo and J. Mateu.

There will also be four standard papers in the September issue: “Latent process modelling of threshold exceedances in hourly rainfall series” by P. Bortot and C. Gaetan; “A varying coefficients model for estimating finite population totals: a hierarchical Bayesian approach” by C. Velasco-Cruz, L.F. Contreras-Cruz, E.P. Smith and J.E. Rodriguez; “A fused lasso approach to nonstationary spatial covariance estimation” by R.J. Parker; B.J. Reich and J. Eidsvik; and “A note on the Royle-Nichols model for repeated detection-nondetection data” by L.M. Haines.

The **Invited Session** at this year’s **International Biometric Conference** in Victoria, Canada featured two papers that won Best Paper Awards. For 2014, the award went to Gurutzeta Guillera-Arroita, Martin Ridout and Byron Morgan for their paper on “Two-stage Bayesian Study Design for Species Occupancy Estimation”, and the 2015 award winners were Gustavo de los Campos, Yogasudha Veturi, Ana Vazquez, Christina Lehermeier and Paulino Pérez-Rodriguez, whose paper on “Incorporating Genetic Heterogeneity in Whole-genome Regressions using Interactions” appeared in the genomics special issue.

We are keen to publish papers that summarize the state of methodological development in subject areas for which technological advances are generating a demand for new statistical approaches. If such papers also speculate on likely future developments, so much the better. If you feel that you could offer such a paper, or can suggest a topic together with possible authors, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

For more information on upcoming issues, the Editorial Board, and the aim and scope of the journal, please visit our website http://link.springer.com/journal/13253. We also accept submissions of books to review in the upcoming issues of JABES; to submit a book for review, please see the above website (click on “Editorial Board”) or contact Ken Newman (ken_newman@fws.gov).

**Steve Buckland**

**Editor in Chief**
Software Corner

How to Get Data to R

Garth Tarr

Getting data into R

One of the biggest hurdles that students and novice R users have is importing data into R. A number of recent packages have made this process easier and, importantly in the age of big data, faster. Most of the packages outlined below are part of Hadley Wickham’s tidyverse and owe their speed to calling C or C++ libraries from R.

The readr package

The readr package provides new functions for importing tabular data into R. Specifically, the functions read_table(), read_csv(), and read_delim() are intended as fast (around 10 times faster) replacements for the base R read_table(), read_csv(), and read_delim(). The readr functions do not convert strings to factors by default, are able to parse dates and times and can automatically determine the data types in each column (it does this by parsing the first 1000 rows). You can even import compressed files and they will be automatically decompressed and read into R. There is also file writing functionality, with write_csv(), write_tsv() and write_delim(). If you want even more speediness in your data importing, you might also consider the fread() function from the data.table package.

The readxl package

It used to be that the most reliable way to get data from Excel into R was to save it as a tab (or comma) delimited text file. While there are alternatives, such as the xlsx XLConnect and gdata packages, that have other features (e.g. the ability to write excel files), if all you need is an easy way to import tabular data from xlsx and xls formats files, then the readxl package is for you. Importantly it has no external dependencies, so is very straightforward to install and use on all platforms. The syntax is very similar to the base read functions, for example you specify the file name and the sheet of interest, read_excel(“spreadsheet.xlsx”, sheet = “data”).

The haven package (in progress work)

The haven package provides functions for importing from SAS, SPSS and Stata file formats, read_sas(), read_sav() and read_dta(). This functionality is similar to that available in the base R foreign package but is often faster; can read SAS7BDAT files and formats, works with Stata 14 and 14 files. Following is the code to read SAS7BDAT.

devtools::install_github(“hadley/haven”)

The rio package

The rio package describes itself as “a Swiss army knife for data I/O”. It unifies many of the above methods by providing the wrapper function import() that takes as an input the path to a data file. It then uses the file extension to determine the file type and imports the data into R. The one function can be used to import standard text files, RData, JSON, Stata, SPSS, Excel, SAS, XML, Minitab and many more. There is an analogous export() function that allows users to similarly easily export data to various file types.

Using RStudio to import data

Recent versions of RStudio allow users to import various file types via a graphical user interface, which is perfect for novice users and experts alike as they get used to the new functions and customization options. Once you’ve clicked through the various options, it will output the required code at the console so that you can see exactly what was done to get the data in and edit the code as necessary for next time.

The team at RStudio have put together a webinar on getting data into R which is well worth watching.

Once you’ve got your data into R, you’ll probably need to restructure it in some way prior to analysis. To help with this, you may want to take a look at the tidyverse package provides a suite of functions to get your data set in a standardized format, such that each observation is a row, each variable is a column and there are no data in the labels.
Garth is a lecturer in statistics at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Previously he has been a research fellow at the University of Sydney and a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University. His research interests include: robust statistics, data visualisation, model selection, econometric modelling, educational research, meat science and biostatistics. He is an R enthusiast with three contributed packages on CRAN.

Regions

Meet the Regional Presidents of IBS (Part I)

German Region (DR)

847 regular members
38 retired members
50 student members
10 honorary members
6 supporting members

Total: 951 members

President: Tim Friede (2014 – 2018)
Professor of Biostatistics and Chair, Department of Medical Statistics, University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany

He is a principal investigator in the DZHK (German centre for cardiovascular research) and serves as trial statistician for a number of clinical studies.

Research Interests:
• Clinical biostatistics including designs for clinical trials (in particular flexible adaptive designs)
• Systematic reviews / meta-analyses
• Generalized evidence synthesis as well as applications in rare diseases

IBS Activities During Presidency:
• He continued to foster a close collaboration with various IBS committees through regular exchange of visions and ideas for the region and the international society between officers and council members of the DR and members of the DR serving on Representative Council, Executive Board or committees of the international society.
• He was involved in organizing the conference of the Central European Network (CEN) and the International Society of Biopharmaceutical Statistics (ISBS) to be held in Vienna in 2017.
• He has supported and continues to support activities by the IBS-DR in professional training and education, including summer schools for young statisticians, professional training courses and the Statistics in Practice sessions at national and international conferences.

Polish Region (GPol)

4 regular members
11 retired members
0 student members

Total: 15 members

Professor, Poznan University of Life Sciences Department of Mathematical and Statistical Methods Poznan, Poland

Research Interests:
• Mathematical statistics and its application in natural sciences
• Biometry
• Computational Statistics
• Environmental Statistics

IBS Activities During Presidency:
• He is making efforts to increase the number of members in GPol-IBS.
• He promotes participation in CEN-ISBS Vienna 2017 Conference.
• He promotes organization of the Portuguese-Polish Conference on Biometrics.
• He promotes the Polish journals:
  2. *Colloquium Biometricum* (online)
     http://collbiom.up.lublin.pl/.

NEW Malawi Region (GMal)
Malawi is a country in southeast Africa that is bordered by Zambia to the northwest, Tanzania to the northeast and Mozambique on the east, south and west. The name Malawi comes from the “Marawi”, an old name of the Nyanja people that inhabit the area.

**Total: 12 regular members**
**President:** Jupiter Simbeye (2016 – 2018)

Lecturer in Statistics, University of Malawi
Zomba, Malawi

**Research Interests:**
• Complex Survey Designs and Analysis
• Generalized Linear Models
• Spatial Data Analysis with Public Health applications, including HIV & AIDS

**IBS Activities During Presidency:**
This is a new region that was formed earlier this year and belongs to the Sub-Saharan Africa Network (SUSAN) of IBS. Among the activities are:

• He is planning for the *2017 IBS-SUSAN Conference* that will take place in Lilongwe in August 2017.
• He is making efforts to increase the number of members in the region, especially student members.

Western North American Region (WNAR)

160 regular members
4 retired members
63 student members
3 honorary members
3 supporting members

**Total: 233 members**
**President:** Susanne May (2016 – 2017)

Professor, Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington,
Seattle, USA

**Research Interests:**
• Clinical biostatistics, including designs for clinical trials (in particular flexible adaptive designs)
• Systematic reviews / meta-analyses
• Generalized evidence synthesis as well as applications in rare diseases

**IBS Activities During Presidency:**
• She participated in organizing and running *IBC2016*, which was hosted by WNAR in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. This year, WNAR’s annual meeting (WNAR’s largest annual event), including the *WNAR Student Paper Competition*, was held in conjunction with *IBC2016*.
• She is working with WNAR Past-president Kate Crespi to develop a *WNAR Student Caucus*.
• She is working with local organizers Cristina Murray-Krezan and Erik Erhard and WNAR President-elect Sarah Emerson to organize the *2017 WNAR Meeting* in Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 25 – June 28, 2017.
Region News

Australasian Region (AR)

IBS-AR Travel Awards
The Australasian Region offers travel awards to assist outstanding students and/or early career members to attend international meetings of the Society. Garth Tarr, a lecture in statistics at the University of Newcastle, and Lee Yan (Jarod) Liang, a PhD student at the University of Technology Sydney, were awarded travel grants to attend the IBC2016 in Victoria, Canada. Jarod and Garth write:

In July we were fortunate enough to attend the International Biometric Conference. It was an excellent conference with a diverse range of talks and posters.

Garth Tarr giving his talk.

Jarod Liang giving his talk.

Honours for Regional Members
The Australasian Region congratulates Kaye Basford (from the University of Queensland) on receiving Honorary Life Membership to the IBS. This accolade is in recognition of Kaye’s outstanding contributions to the development and promotion of the discipline of Biometry and for exemplary service and leadership to the IBS.

We also congratulate James Curran (from the University of Auckland) on his election as President of the New Zealand Forensic Science Society and Vice-president (New Zealand) of the Australia and New Zealand Forensic Society.

James Curran.

Australasian Applied Statistics Conference
Join us for the 2016 Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (AASC’16) being held from 28 November – 2 December 2016 at The Windsong Pavilion, Barragga Bay, New South Wales, Australia. The conference provides 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. The themes of AASC’16 are “Big data and innovative consulting, Statistics in fisheries and ecology, Statistical genetics and Modern approaches to smoothing complex data”.

For more information visit: http://aasc.org.au/.

Vanessa Cave

Austro-Swiss Region (ROeS)
All the subsections within the ROeS have been quite active, including for example workshops and seminars on statistical innovation by all sections. To highlight some, the Viennese section organized a seminar to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Section for Clinical Biometrics at the Medical University of Vienna with presentations by collaborators of Professor Michael Schemper who retired last year. And the BBS organized a successful, full day meeting on topics of immunotherapy and drug combination development.

A key highlight for the ROeS is the upcoming ROeS meeting which will take place in Vienna from August 28 to September 1, 2017 as Joint Conference of the Central European Network of the International Biometric Society and the International Society of Biopharmaceutical Statistics (www.cenisbs2017.org). A satellite symposium will be co-organized by the European Medicines Agency.

Dominik Heinzmann, Basel
Belgian Region (RBe)

Bayes 2016
From May 17-20, the 7th Edition of Bayes 2016 took place. This year the meeting was held in Leuven, jointly organized by KU Leuven and Janssen, sponsored by the Quetelet Society, the Belgian Region of the International Biometric Society (IBS), and supported by the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) and the Royal Statistical Society. Throughout, the focus of the workshop has been on applications of Bayesian methodology fulfilling the aim to illustrate the potentials of Bayesian methodology to pharmaceutical research with contributions from both pharma as well as academia; and this year including regulatory as well.

At the joyful location of the Irish College, one short course, six invited presentations, twenty contributed and ten poster presentations were laid out for an audience of approximately 100 participants with a variety of academia, pharma and regulatory folks.

The meeting started with a one-day short course on Bayesian methods in longitudinal studies and flexible missing data mechanisms, instructed by Mike Daniels from the University of Texas. While the Bayesian approach has still difficulties penetrating into the design and analysis of phase III drug clinical trials, it is a generally accepted methodology for medical device trials. Gregory Campbell, formerly from the FDA, gave an overview of the Bayesian approach in this area thereby highlighting the challenges to deal with in the context of medical device trials. Later in the day, Tarek Haddad (Medtronics) continued on stochastic engineering models in Bayesian medical device trials.

Opening Talk by Gregory Campbell.

Day 2 covered a wide variety of methodological as well as applied areas and started with Martin Posch from the University of Vienna on an extrapolation framework employing Bayesian methods in pediatric development. Furthermore, Alberto Sorrentino (University of Genova, Italy) illustrated a computational aspect of Bayesian calculations on sequential Monte Carlo algorithms to model ECG data. The third invited speaker of that day Kyle Wathen (Janssen) illustrated how Bayesian methods were incorporated into clinical trial monitoring of data quality risks before they become a concern.

On Day 3, a virtual presentation was given by Robert Noble from GSK via Skype about Bayesian sequential designs to investigate delayed graft function after renal transplantation. At the end of meeting the best student oral/poster presentation was selected and was awarded to Luis Adrian Quintero from L-Biostat (KU Leuven). Last but not least, to strengthen connectivity and mitigate the scientific load of novel methodology on the brain, a beer sampling experiment with up-titration of alcohol doses was organized at the Domus Pub followed by a dinner on Day 2 to relax and enjoy the city of Leuven.

Beer Tour at DOMUS Pub.

The organizers are indebted to the Scientific Committee members (Gianluca Baio, Norbert Benda, Alun Bedding, Bruno Boulanger, Tom Jacobs, Astrid Jullion, Philippe Lambert, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Harry Mager, Ziv Shkedy, An Vandebosch, Simon Wandel). The organization of the meeting would have not been possible without the invaluable help of Amélie Henroteaux (Arlenda), Kirsten Verhaegen (KULeuven) and Ellen Boven (Janssen). The program and PDFs of some of the talks can be found on the website of the meeting: [http://www.bayes-pharma.org/](http://www.bayes-pharma.org/). We look forward to the 8th Edition of the workshop, which will be hosted by Virgilio Gomez Rubio in Castilla-La Mancha (Spain).

Local Chairs, An Vandebosch and Emmanuel Lesaffre

Sophie Vanbelle

Brazilian Region (RBras)

RBras Annual Meeting 2016
The Brazilian Region held its 61st Annual Meeting in the Gran Hotel Stella Maris Resort & Conventions, Salvador, BA, from 23-25 May 2016. The meeting whose theme was “Biometry and Biostatistics in the Era of Big Data” gathered 264 participants among Brazilians and representatives from 10 other countries. The Opening Address was delivered by IBS President Elizabeth Thompson on “Gene mapping in the era of SNP marker data”. There were eight invited paper sections and eight short courses offering wide subject diversity. The talks covered applications in many areas, modern modelling/analysis tools and statistical education. Participation of students was strong with 182 posters being presented.

The committee and RBras participants greatly acknowledge the sponsors of the meeting: CAPES (Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education within the Ministry of Education of Brazil), São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) grant #2016/01516-9, Minas Gerais Research Foundation (FAPEMIG), Bahia Education Secretary, Anísio Teixeira Institute, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador Destination, Timberlake Brasil and SALTUR.

The winners were, respectively: Lilia Costa from UFBA, with her thesis “Studying effective brain connectivity using multiregression dynamic models”; Marcelo Bourguignon Pereira from UFRN, with his paper “A new process for modeling count time series with overdispersion”; Vivian Aparecida Brancaglioni from Unesp, with her poster “Canonical correlation analysis applied to CO2 emissions and soil attributes for an area of soya bean plantation in the Cerrado region” and João Vitor Ribeiro Silva from ESALQ/USP, with his poster “Different techniques for selection in AMMI models”. All winners were awarded with a year RBras membership and had partial travel expenses covered by Local Committee funds.

Awards for best thesis, best oral communication and best posters for master student and for undergraduate student were conferred. The winners were, respectively: Lilia Costa from UFBA, with her thesis “Studying effective brain connectivity using multiregression dynamic models”; Marcelo Bourguignon Pereira from UFRN, with his paper “A new process for modeling count time series with overdispersion”; Vivian Aparecida Brancaglioni from Unesp, with her poster “Canonical correlation analysis applied to CO2 emissions and soil attributes for an area of soya bean plantation in the Cerrado region” and João Vitor Ribeiro Silva from ESALQ/USP, with his poster “Different techniques for selection in AMMI models”. All winners were awarded with a year RBras membership and had partial travel expenses covered by Local Committee funds.

The Local Committee chaired by Paulo Canas Rodrigues, together with the Scientific Committee, offered an excellent environment in all aspects, from scientific to social activities. It was such that it was really hard to answer the question about what each participant liked less in the satisfaction survey. Paulo Canas Rodrigues kindly would like to share with you the 61st RBras atmosphere at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XM2Ke70acw with further pictures at https://www.flickr.com/gp/142976740@N05/1UD8yx and https://flic.kr/s/aHskzpmQEF, https://flic.kr/s/aHskC6j3Hf.

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RBras Election
During the meeting, RBras officers and council members for the next period were elected. The incoming team is formed by Alessandro Dal’Col Lúcio (President), Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Vice-president), Taciana Villela Savian and Renato Ribeiro de Lima (1st and 2nd Secretaries), Luzia Aparecida Trinca and Euclides Braga Malheiros (1st and 2nd Treasurers) and Roseli Aparecida Leandro, Joel Augusto Muniz and Walmes Marques Zeviani (Council Members). We thank the past, and welcome the elected team.

RBras Annual Meeting 2017
It is now time to move forward to the 62nd RBras Meeting to be held from 24-28 July 2017 in Federal University of Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Next year the meeting will be jointly held with the Symposium of Statistical Applications in Agriculture. Further information will appear in due time at www.rbras.org.br.

Luzia Trinca

Central American-Caribbean Region (RCAC)

RCAC – Symposia for the 2015-16 Period

RCAC Members Participate in JASSYM 2015
Held on 27-30, October 2015 at the Mona Visitor’s Lodge and Conference Centre on the University of the West Indies (UW) Mona Campus in Jamaica, the Jamaica Statistical Symposium and Pre-Conference workshop Series (JASSYM 2015), organized by the Jamaica Statistical Society was a huge success. JASSYM 2015, under the theme “Statistics in Support of Policy”, was aimed at highlighting appropriate ways of handling data when preparing and using it for policy development. Members of the RCAC gave oral presentations at this meeting. Carlos Eduardo Alonso-Malaver of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia gave an oral presentation entitled “Convergence of Wald and Score Statistics in Logit Model”. His talk highlighted the similarity between the Wald and Score Statistics in terms of the rate at which estimation of these statistics converge when they are being used in logistic regression models. His results suggested that convergence of the Wald test statistics required equal or smaller sample sizes compared with that required for convergence of Score test statistics in the estimation of proportions. The smaller sample sizes required for the Wald test statistic were more noticeable as the proportion being estimated fell below 10%. IBS-RCAC, Biometric Bulletin Correspondent, Novie Younger-Coleman, led the planning team responsible for the symposium and also gave a presentation entitled “Data Management Challenges: Stata to the Rescue”. The presentation illustrated use of Stata software to carry out data cleaning and correction of data entry errors using readily available programming language to mechanize this process.

RCAC Members Participate in Statistics Symposia in Colombia

Members of the RCAC, affiliated with the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Bogotá, and Universidad del Quindío, Armenia, were also members of the organizing committees for two statistics symposia held in the Colombia during the past year: These events were the XXV Colombian Statistical Symposium, and the VII Regional Biometric Meeting of the IBS-RCAC, held August 5th to 8th, 2015. The symposia featured a number of short courses on: B-Splines Regression given by María Durbán (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain); GAMLSS Models given by Mikis Stasinoupulos (London Metropolitan University, UK); Complex probability given by Osvaldo Aníbal Rosso (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil); and Industrial statistics given by Geoffrey Vining (Virginia Tech University, USA).

RCAC members also chaired sessions. Raúl Macchiaveli (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico) chaired an invited session featuring 11 international speakers in the field of Biometry as part of the XXV Colombian Statistical Symposium. During the VII Regional Meeting

Local Organizing Committee, the incoming RBras President and the IBS President – from left to right: Alessandro Dal’Col Lúcio, Cristiane Souza, Alex Teles de Oliveira, José Luiz, Elisabete Sampaio, Roberto Santos, Jairan Dionizio, Rodrigo Bulhões, Paulo Canas Rodrigues and Elizabeth Thompson.
of Biometry of IBS-RCAC, Jaime Huertas (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Bogotá) chaired a session on Survival Analysis; Gladys Salcedo (Universidad del Quindío, Colombia) chaired a session on Time Series Data Analysis and Oscar Melo (Universidad Nacional, Bogotá) and Carlos Melo (Universidad Distrital, Bogotá) co-chaired a session on Spatial Statistics.

Of the 290 participants in at the symposia, 30 were members of IBS, Central American and Caribbean Region. Proceedings from the symposia can be obtained from http://simposioestadistica.unal.edu.co/memorias-simposio-internacional-de-estadistica-2015/contenedo-memorias-2015/.

The XXVI Colombian Statistical Symposium
The XXVI Colombian Statistical Symposium was held August 8 to 12, 2016, in Armenia, Quindío, Colombia. The event was organized by Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Bogotá, and Universidad de Sucre, Sincelejo, Colombia and featured presentations and short courses on topics such as Machine Learning; Probability: Theory and Applications; Bayesian Statistics Sampling; Finance and Actuarial Statistics Time Series; Applied Stochastic Processes in Functional Geostatistics; and Education in Statistics Biometry/Biostatistics. Members of the Organizing Committee belong to the RCAC-IBS.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities
Call for Publications
All are invited to send manuscripts to be considered for publication in the Colombian Journal of Statistics (Revista Colombiana de Estadística, RCE). RCE is a publication originated at the Department of Statistics of Universidad Nacional de Colombia-Bogotá in 1969. It publishes results, theory and applications within Statistics and all its inter-relations with other sciences. New methods on Statistical teaching are also considered.

Online submission through a web service is also available (http://www.revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/estad/about/submissions/onlineSubmissions), which aims to improve efficiency of the revision and publication process. RCE is an open access journal. Please visit the website (http://www.revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/estad). The Revista Colombiana de Estadística is also indexed in the Journal Citation Reports and Scimago Journal.

Employment Opportunities
The Sickle Cell Unit in the Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR), formerly called Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI), at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica (West Indies) has a position open for a statistician. Further information can be obtained by sending an email to Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden (jennifer.knightmadden@uwimona.edu.jm ), Director of the Sickle Cell Unit.

The St. Georges University School of Medicine in Grenada has a position open for Biostatistician in the Department of Public Health & Preventive Medicine. Further details can be obtained from http://www.sgu.edu/employment/job-som-biostatistician.html.

Obituary
Jhony Rafael Demey, 1963–2016

It is with deep sadness that we inform about the passing of our Regional Vice President, Dr. Jhony R. Demey, in Salamanca, Spain, on July 27, 2016. Jhony was a very active member of the IBS, both at the regional level (founding member of the region and its predecessor network since 1992, regional president and vice president) and at the international level (member of the Education Committee, Council and Representative Council member for several years and was also currently a member of the International Program Committee for IBC2018). He worked very hard for the Caribbean and Central American Network to transform into a region in 2001, and since 2006 he was one of the key persons organizing the biennial Iberoamerican Biometrical Meetings.

At the time of his death, he was a Senior Researcher at the Prometeo Program, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Lab, FCNM-ESPOL, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Previously he worked as a professor, researcher and dean at the Instituto de Estudios Avanzados (IDEA, Caracas, Venezuela) and as a professor at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He also held visiting research and teaching positions at Universidad de Salamanca (Spain), at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (Spain) and at Cornell University (USA).

He was a very sincere and cheerful person, with a big heart. He was an honest and loyal friend, who put family and friendship above all things. His passion for Biometry and Computing had him working tirelessly almost all day and night, but he always took things with a keen sense of humor.

He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, friend.

Novie Younger

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)
9th EMR-IBS and Italian Region Conference
The 9th Eastern Mediterranean Region – International Biometric Society Conference will be held jointly with the Italian Region Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, 8 – 12 May 2017. As always, we aim at bringing together statisticians and other researchers from around the world to a beautiful venue. As in previous EMR meetings, there will be sessions from other regions of IBS, student travel awards, invited lectures and some pre-conference courses.
Thessaloniki is an international city and crossroad of different civilizations, and with a long history related to all countries belonging to the EMR. Thessaloniki is also a beautiful city combining a lot of different activities and sightseeing. The venue of the meeting will be the MET Hotel at the heart of the city. The entire meeting is devoted to the memory of Prof. Marvin Zelen (Harvard University), a keen supporter of EMR, who passed away in November 2014.

Details about the meeting are already available here. Please visit the meeting website for updated information. On the weekend before the conference there will be a symposium honoring Marvin Zelen at the same venue.

Symposium Honoring Prof. Marvin Zelen
Frontier Science Foundation Hellas (FSFH), a non-for-profit organization, is holding a symposium to honor Marvin Zelen, Co-founder of FSFH. The symposium will take place on 6 – 7 May 2017, adjacent to the 9th EMR-IBS and the Italian Region Conference. Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation, Inc. (FSTRF) and Frontier Science Scotland (FSS) are co-sponsoring this symposium. The venue will be the same as for the conference. Details will be posted at: www.frontier-science.gr.

Bulgaria
A Short Course on Survival Analysis
Denitsa Grigorova (Main organizer & Bulgaria Representative in EMR)
The short course on Survival analysis was held at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI), Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria on July 18-20, 2016. The speakers were Laura Antolini (Associate Professor in Medical Statistics, Department of Medicine and Surgery) and Davide Bernasconi (Post-doctoral fellow at the Department of Health Sciences) from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy. The course was financially supported by the International Biometric Society, and registration to the course was free of charge. There were 33 registered people: three from Israel, three from Turkey, one from Greece and the rest from Bulgaria. Eventually, a total of 17 attended the short course.

The detailed program of the course can be found here.

The speakers provided lecture materials in advance and some R tutorials during the course.

The speakers will send assignments to the participants to evaluate how well the attendees master the material presented.

During the short course there was another educational activity at FMI. We jointly organized a social event in the evening of July 20 with some food, beverages, wine and Bulgarian folk dance instructors.

Photographs from the short course are uploaded here.

Israel
The Israeli Biostatistics Forum (IBF) is a branch of the EMR-IBS, an informal group of biostatisticians who work in universities, industry and government. Havi Murad (Gertner Institute, Israel) renewed the meetings of the forum in 2013 during her EMR-IBS presidency and has served as its chair since then. The 4th Meeting of the Renewed IBF will be held on November 27, 2016 in Jerusalem, Israel. The local organizers are: David Zucker, Micha Mandel and Or Zuk from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The topic will be “Analysis of Medical Record Data from Hospitals and Health Care Services (Kupot Holim)”. The speakers, all from Israel, will be Netanel Goldschmidt (Ministry of Health), Avishai Mandelbaum (Technion), Dan Turner (Shaare Zedek Hospital), Michal Shauly-Aharonov (Hebrew University), Laurence Freedman and Havi Murad (Gertner Institute). The discussant will be Orly Manor (School of Public Health, Hebrew University of Jerusalem). The meeting will be closed by a floor discussion.

Giota Touloumi
2016 JSM
The 2016 JSM was held at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois from 30 July – 4 August. The theme of the 2016 meeting was “The Extraordinary Power of Statistics”. ENAR helped to put together many sessions, including invited presentations about analytics for personalized medicine, integrative genomics, advances in spatial and spatio-temporal data, cancer genomics, evaluating biomarkers for precision medicine, dynamic prediction in clinical survival analysis, dynamic treatment regimes, big and complex data inference, enrichment designs in clinical development, and challenges of analyzing high-dimensional and big data. ENAR also co-sponsored many contributed sessions, as well as special presentations, such as introductory overview lectures (adaptive clinical trial design, data science, casual inference, spatio-temporal data analysis), the ASA President’s Invited Address (an extremely interesting talk called “Science and News: A Marriage of Convenience”, delivered by Joe Palca from National Public Radio), the Deming Lecture (“Profound Knowledge from a Knowledge Use Perspective”, delivered by Vincent P. Baraba from Market Insight Corporation), the ASA President’s Address (“Appreciating Statistics”, delivered by ASA President Jessica Utts from UC Irvine), and the Fisher Lecture (“Personalizing Disease Prevention: Statistical Challenges”, delivered by Alice S. Whittetmore from Stanford University School of Medicine). ENAR received many proposals for invited and topic-contributed sessions and thanks everyone who put forth an idea. ENAR extends a huge thank you to Bin Nan from the University of Michigan for serving on the Program Committee for the 2016 JSM.

2017 ENAR Spring Meeting
The 2017 ENAR Spring Meeting will take place in Washington, DC at the Washington Hilton in the heart of the vibrant Dupont Circle neighborhood. There will be over 40 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 Louise Ryan, former ENAR President and current IBS President-elect.

The ENAR Spring Meeting will open with the Junior Researchers’ Workshop Friday – Saturday nights, and the ENAR Diversity Workshop on Sunday. Plans are coming together for each, and both will be exciting and enlightening.

Special thanks to those who are working hard to help plan the ENAR Spring Meeting: Nandita Mitra (nanditam@mail.med.upenn.edu), Program Chair and Andrea Foulkes (afoulkes@mtholyoke.edu), Associate Chair; the Education Advisory Committee – Lance Waller, Amy Xia, Ruthanna Davi, Manisha Desai and Joan Buenconsejo; and the Local Arrangements Co-chairs, Matthew Guerra and Clara Kim. More details about the 2017 Spring Meeting can be found at: http://www.enar.org/meetings.cfm.

2017 JSM
The 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, and ENAR is fortunate to have Dionne Price as our representative to the Program Committee. Questions should be directed to Dionne at dionne.price@fda.hhs.gov.

2018 ENAR Spring Meeting
Stay tuned for information about the 2018 ENAR Spring Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia!

Indian Region (IR)
Dr. Babu L. Verma Receives Lifetime Achievement Award IBS Indian Region
Babu L. Verma received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the 13th Annual National Meeting of International Biometric Society (Indian Region), held on 11-12 January 2016 in Manipal University, Manipal (Karnataka State), in recognition of his significant contributions in medical biostatistics.

Dr. Verma has contributed to the discipline of medical biostatistics in this part of the globe in many ways. He formed with his two other faculty colleagues, a national professional society in medical biostatistics, namely the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS) at Jhansi in 1983. It is the only professional society of this type in the Region, which has currently around 1,000 life members. He has been its Founder Secretary (for eight years) and thereafter its President (for two years) and has attended all its 31 national conferences.

In addition, Dr. Verma has been in the Council of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) – a global organization in epidemiology & biostatistics, having its official relations with the WHO, for 12 years; for nine years as its SEA Regional Councillor; and three years as IEA & INCLEN Global Liaison Officer. While being in the IEA Council, Dr. Verma took several steps for strengthening the biostatistics component in epidemiological research and training. He organized a series of IEA meetings, regional conferences, workshops and symposia on topics related to biostatistics & epidemiology, not only in India but also in countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Canada, Thailand, Scotland, Brazil and Nepal.

Japanese Region (JR)
The 2016 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting
The Biometric Society of Japan was one of the six sponsoring organizations of the 2016 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting held on 4-7 September at Kanazawa University in Kanazawa, Japan. The Society
organized the Biometric Symposium entitled “Statistical monitoring for quality control and assurance in clinical trials”. Five speakers gave presentations on methodologies and applications for safety monitoring and fraud detection. After a general overview, two methodological presentations were provided. Two pharmaceutical statisticians argued about applications of fraud detection in pharmaceutical development. The Biometric Society of Japan also organized a session for the winners of the Young Biostatistician Award conferred by the Society. Three young statisticians talked about their recent research on a new classification method accounting for heterogeneity of distributions, Bayesian methods in cancer phase I trials and a causal inference approach to surrogate endpoint evaluation, respectively.

The 2016 Special Lecture Meeting
The 2016 Special Lecture Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan will be held on October 12, 2016 at Life Science Building in Tokyo. The Society will invite two well-known researchers. Dr. Virginie Roudeau (the INSERM institute) will give a talk on joint modeling of longitudinal, recurrent events and terminal event. The second talk will be given by Dr. Frank Bretz (Novartis Pharma AG), who will discuss testing hypothesis of similarities in dose-response analysis.

The 2016 Biometric Seminar
The 2016 Biometric Seminar entitled “New statistical challenges on ICH E17 guideline” will be held in the afternoon, December 7, 2016 at Life Science Building in Tokyo. Several speakers from pharmaceutical companies, regulatory and academia will discuss methodological and practical issues and experiences in multi-regional clinical trials. The program will be published soon.

Western North American Region (WNAR)

2016 WNAR Meeting
The 2016 WNAR Meeting was recently held in conjunction with the 2016 International Biometric Conference. The conference included twelve invited sessions sponsored by WNAR and three student paper competition oral sessions, three contributed paper sessions, and a poster session. WNAR thanks Marco Carone for organizing the WNAR invited sessions.

WNAR thanks the invited session organizers, invited session chairs and contributed session chairs. WNAR gives a particular thank you to the Local Organizer Laura Cowen and to Youyi Fong for helping Laura.

Student Paper Competitions’ Results
Congratulations to the winners of this year’s student paper competition. The Most Outstanding Written Paper winner was Aaron Scheffler from University of California Los Angeles. The Distinguished Written Paper winner was Joshua Keller from University of Washington. The Most Outstanding Oral Presentation winner was Jonathan Fintzi from University of Washington. The Distinguished Oral Presentation winner was Peter DeWitt from University of Colorado Denver.

We give a special thanks to the chair of the student paper competition, Adam Branscum (Oregon State University). We also thank

the team of student paper reviewers and judges for the students’ oral presentations and papers: Tomi Mori (Oregon Health Sciences University) and Andrea Cook (Group Health).

WNAR Student Paper Competitions’ participants.

2017 WNAR/IMS Meeting
The 2017 WNAR/IMS Meeting will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico from 25-28 June hosted by University of New Mexico and will be held at the Eldorado Hotel and Spa. Santa Fe, New Mexico’s capital, is at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. It is known for its Pueblo-style architecture and for being a center for multicultural arts. There are many recreational activities available around Santa Fe, including hiking, mountain biking and river rafting. The local organizer is Christina Murray-Krezen. Details about the meeting will be posted on the WNAR web page www.wnar.org as they become available.

Megan Othus

Announcements

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.’

Satoshi Hattori

Megan Othus

Biometric Bulletin 22
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
C. R. AND BHARGAVI RAO PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH IN STATISTICS
to be awarded by
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

The C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize was established to honor and recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership in directing statistical research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics. The Rao Prize is awarded by the Department of Statistics at Penn State University to a nominee selected by the members of the Rao Prize Committee. C. R. Rao, Emeritus Professor of Statistics at Penn State, held the Eberly Chair in Statistics at Penn State from 1988 to 2001.

Previous Rao Prize recipients are:

2003: Bradley Efron, Stanford University
2005: Jayaram Sethuraman, Florida State University (emeritus)
2007: Lawrence D. Brown, University of Pennsylvania
2009: Peter J. Bickel, University of California, Berkeley
2011: James O. Berger, Duke University
2013: Herman Chernoff, Harvard University (emeritus) and MIT
2015: Sir David Cox, University of Oxford

For additional information, see http://stat.psu.edu/rao-prize.

Nominations for the 2017 Rao Prize should be submitted by December 31, 2016 by email to depthead@stat.psu.edu or by regular mail to:

Chair, Rao Prize Selection Committee
326 Thomas Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802-2111

The Rao Prize shall be awarded in odd numbered years. The award recipient will receive a medal, a cash prize, and an invitation to visit Penn State and give a talk as part of a daylong workshop.

Nominations should include a letter describing the nominee’s outstanding contributions to leadership and research in statistics, a current curriculum vita, and two supporting letters.
2016

28 November – 2 December
Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (AASC’16)
Barragga Bay, NSW, Australia
http://aasc.org.au/

1 – 3 December
34th Annual National Conference Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS)
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India
Prof. Saurabh Ghosh (saurabh@isical.ac.in)

2017

12 – 15 March
ENAR Spring Meeting
Washington, DC, USA
http://www.enar.org/meetings/index.cfm

6 – 7 May 2017
Symposium Honoring Prof. Marvin Zelen
Thessaloniki, Greece
www.frontier-science.gr

8 – 12 May
9th EMR-IBS and Italian Region Conference
Thessaloniki, Greece

24 – 28 July 2017
62nd RBBras Meeting
Minas Gerais, Brazil
www.rbras.org.br

29 July – 3 August
Joint Statistical Modeling
Baltimore, MD, USA
Dionne Price (Dionne.Price@fda.hhs.gov)

21 – 25 August
International Society for Clinical Biostatistics 38th Annual Conference
Vigo, Spain
http://www.iscb.info/

2018

25 – 28 March
ENAR Spring Meeting
Atlanta, GA, USA

8 – 13 July
XXIXth International Biometric Conference
Barcelona, Spain
http://www.biometricsociety.org/meetings-events/ibcs/

July 28 – August 2
Joint Statistical Modeling
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

28 August – 1 September
Joint Conference of the Central European Network of the International Biometric Society and the International Society of Biopharmaceutical Statistics
Vienna, Austria
www.cenisbs2017.org