

BIOMETRIC BULLETIN

International Biometric Society Internationale Biometrische Gesellschaft Société International de Biométrie
 "Biometry, the active pursuit of biological knowledge by quantitative methods." - R.A. Fisher, 1948

President's Corner



New Appointments

Congratulations to Montse Fuentes, who has been appointed Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Sciences (JABES)* from January 2011, when Carl

Schwarz's term finishes. Congratulations also to Russell Millar who will become a Co-Editor for *Biometrics* in January when David Zucker steps down. I am sure that all members join with me in thanking Carl and David for their sterling service to IBS in these important, but very time-consuming, roles.

Congratulations to our Standing Committee Chairs who hold office until the end of 2011:

- H Sridhara (Awards Fund Committee)
- Lothar Kreienbrock (Communications Committee)
- Charles McCulloch (Editorial Advisory Committee)
- Andreas Ziegler (Education Committee)
- Warren Müller (Finance Committee), and
- Richardus Vonk and David Baird (Strategic Planning Committee)

Ashwini Mathur is Chair of the Conference Advisory Committee through his role as IBS General Secretary (until the end of this year).

Many volunteers who responded to my call for assistance have been appointed to these

committees, and the full membership list can be found on our website www.tibs.org. Congratulations! If you were one of the few volunteers whom we were unable to appoint, then please volunteer again when we ask for help in the future.

The above committees will meet in person at IBC 2010, so I hope that as many members as possible will be there. Also listed on our website are other committees that are explicitly linked to our conferences as well as some special purpose committees. My thanks to every individual who has finished his or her term on any of our committees or completed various other roles. We have been well served by their wise counsel.

Highlights from the Recent Executive Meeting New governance structure

The recommendations on a new governance structure for IBS were finalized after two years of review and discussion (mostly under the leadership of Past-President Tom Louis and Vice-President Andrew Mead). Council is currently voting on these recommendations and the results will be available soon.

There were two publication issues that we discussed extensively. Firstly, as we are now responsible for the publication of *JABES* (previously handled by the American Statistical Association) as well as *Biometrics*, we want a single editorial support office. We also intend to move to an electronic editorial management system for both of these journals within the next two years. Exactly which system (or systems) we shall adopt is yet to be determined. A sub-committee

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of the Editorial Advisory Committee will be formed for this purpose. Secondly, it was decided that the *Biometric Bulletin* would be published in electronic-only HTML format from the start of 2011.

Rotation of IBC locations

Several years ago, Council approved a proposal to rotate the IBCs among the three vertical divisions of the world, the Americas; Europe and Africa; and India, Asia and Australasia. An unexpected consequence of this decision is that it is not aligned with membership numbers. Hence it may be better to return to the system whereby we rotated among the following areas: the North American continent, Europe, and the rest of the world. Perhaps we should be more flexible with whatever rotation we

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From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Time is getting short to register for the 2010 IBC in Florianópolis, Brazil! The 2010 IBC promises to be outstanding, with 16 invited sessions, special sessions showcasing papers from the society's journals (*Biometrics* and *JABES*), more than 600 oral or poster presentations of abstracts contributed from 36 countries, and four short courses. In addition, the social program highlights Brazil's culture and natural beauty. The conference location, Santa Caterina Island, offers numerous opportunities to explore its 42 beaches as well as lagoons and trails. More extensive travel to other parts of Brazil and surrounding countries (i.e., Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay) also can be arranged. The "Early Bird" registration deadline is **30 September**. More information about the conference is given in the article by the Local Organising Committee Chair, Dalton Andrade in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Nominations are being sought for two prestigious awards given by the Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health. These awards are described in the Announcements section. The nomination deadline for the Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science is **15 November, 2010**. The nomination deadline for the Myrto Leftkopoulou Distinguished Lectureship is **31 March 2011**.

On a somber note, correspondents have submitted tributes and other information about esteemed statisticians in their regions who are deceased. From the British and Irish Region, John Nelder, former President and Honorary Life member of the IBS (among his numerous honors and achievements) will be remembered by many for his theories of general balance in experimental design, generalized linear models, and hierarchical generalized linear models, and his development of the software to fit them (GenStat and GLIM). He changed the way that people think about (and conduct) analyses of non-normal data. From the Austro-Swiss Region, Anton Formann will be remembered for the authoritative monograph on latent class analysis that he

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SAVE THE DATES

**XXVth International
Biometric Conference**

**5-10 December 2010
Florianópolis, Brazil**

Region/National Group Key

Regions

RArg - Argentinean Region
AR - Australasian Region
ROeS - Austro-Swiss Region
RBe - Belgian Region
RBras - Brazilian Region
BIR - British and Irish Region
RCAC - Central American-Caribbean Region
EMR - Eastern Mediterranean Region
ENAR - Eastern North American Region
RF - French Region
DR - German Region
IR - Indian Region
RIt - Italian Region
JR - Japanese Region
RKO - Korean Region
ANed - The Netherlands Region
NR - Nordic Region
REsp - Spanish Region
WNAR - Western North American Region

National Groups

GBa - Baltic
GBot - Botswana
GCam - Cameroon
GCh - Chile
GCh - China
GETh - Ethiopia
GGha - Ghana
GHu - Hungary
GKe - Kenya
GMex - Mexico
GNa - Namibia
GNI - Nigeria
GPol - Poland
GRo - Romania
GSAf - South Africa
GUgan - Uganda
GZim - Zimbabwe

Networks

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

September 2010 Issue Highlights

The September issue features articles spanning a broad spectrum of methodological areas and applications. Articles in the Biometric Methodology section include "Model-based quality assessment and base-calling for second-generation sequencing data," by Hector Corrada Bravo, and Rafael A. Irizarry; "Estimating haplotype effects for survival data," by Thomas H. Scheike, Torben Martinussen, and Jeremy Silver; "Bayesian analysis of growth curves using mixed models defined by stochastic differential equations," by Sophie Donnet, Jean-Louis Foulley and Adeline Samson; "Bayesian variable selection for multivariate spatially-varying coefficient regression," by Brian J. Reich, Montserrat Fuentes, Amy H. Herring, and Kelly R. Evenson; "Spatial cluster detection for weighted outcomes using cumulative geographic residuals," by Andrea J. Cook, Yi Li, David Arterburn, and Ram C. Tiwari; "Estimating treatment effects of longitudinal designs using regression models on propensity scores," by Aristide C. Achy-Brou, Constantine E. Frangakis and Michael Griswold; and "Open capture-recapture models with heterogeneity: II. Jolly-Seber model," by Shirley Pledger, Kenneth H. Pollock, and James L. Norris. Highlights of the Biometric Practice section include "On efficiency of constrained longitudinal data analysis versus longitudinal analysis of covariance," by Kaifeng Lu; "Dynamic model for multivariate markers of fecundability," by Bo Cai, David B. Dunson, and Joseph B. Stanford; "Case-control studies of gene-environment interaction: Bayesian design and analysis," by Bhramar Mukherjee, Jaël Ahn, Stephen B. Gruber, Malay Ghosh, and Nilanjan Chatterjee; and "Assessing toxicities in a clinical trial: Bayesian inference for ordinal data nested within categories," by L.G. Leon-Novelo, X. Zhou, B. Nebiyu Bekele, and P. Mueller. The issue also features a Reader Reaction article, "On estimating the relationship between longitudinal measurements and time-to-event data using a simple two-stage procedure," by Paul S. Albert and Joanna H. Shih, with a rejoinder by Wen Ye, Jeremy M. G. Taylor, and Xihong Lin.

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.tibs.org/> and selecting "Biometrics Online" from the drop-down menu at the "Members" link at the top of the page.

Editorial Board News

The following Associate Editors will join the Editorial Board as of 1 July 2010: Paul Albert, Heejung Bang, Thomas Braun, Brian Caffo, Olivier Gimenez, Raphael Gottardo, Andres Houseman, Lawrence Joseph, Christina Kendzierski, Gang Li, Jialiang Li, Stefan Michiels, Annette Molinaro, and Rob Weiss.

The following Associate Editors have retired from the Editorial Board: Ivan Chan, Jeng-Min Chiou, Michael Fay, Eleanor Feingold, Debashis Ghosh, Jeff Morris, Susan Murray, Dan Nettleton, Mike Proschan, Paul Rathouz, Sanjay Shete, Dylan Small, Gordon Smyth, Weng Kee Wong, Daniel Yekutieli, and Jun Zhu.

"Best Paper in Biometrics by an IBS Member"

As the 2010 International Biometric Conference (IBC) in Florianópolis - SC, Brazil, 5 - 12 December approaches, we remind readers that the IBS presents two awards at each IBC for the "Best Paper in *Biometrics* by an IBS Member," to papers appearing in *Biometrics* in each of the two years preceding the IBC. The authors of two papers, one published in *Biometrics* in 2008 (Volume 64) and one published in 2009 (Volume 65), will be recognized formally by this award at the 2010 IBC, and the winning papers will be presented in the Invited Biometrics Showcase session during the conference.

The Executive Editor Position

Marie Davidian has served as Executive editor since the creation of this position in 2006, and is in the midst of her second three-year term ending 31 December 2011. The role of the Executive Editor has been the source of some confusion for readers and authors alike. In our column in the January - March 2009 issue of the *Biometric Bulletin*, we briefly described of the responsibilities this position carries (and those it does not!). As we continue to encounter authors and readers unfamiliar with the role of the Executive Editor, we repeat highlights from that column here.

The official description of the position, as approved by the IBS Council, is as follows. "The Executive Editor of *Biometrics* shall coordinate the activities of the three scientific Co-editors to ensure consistency of practices and performance and to achieve scientific balance in terms of manuscript assignments. S/he shall also oversee all administrative functions, including monitoring journal performance and working with the journal Editorial Manager, IBS Officers, the International Business Office (IBO), and the Publisher." Thus, the Executive Editor is not the "head" editor; rather, s/he is to serve in an administrative role on equal footing with the Co-Editors, complementing their efforts to oversee the scientific aspects of the journal and freeing them from the burden of administrative activities. As such, the Executive Editor 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 Co-Editors. The only scientific duty of the Executive Editor is to assign incoming submissions to Co-Editors on the basis of scientific expertise; thereafter, s/he is to play no role in the fate of submissions. Otherwise, the Executive Editor is to function in a purely administrative role, with duties including compiling and monitoring journal performance statistics, 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.

From time to time, authors contact the Executive Editor directly, expressing dismay over a Co-Editor's scientific decision on a particular submission and requesting the Executive Editor's intervention, with the expectation that she can review and overrule Co-Editor actions. As should be clear from the above description, the Executive Editor has no such authority in such scientific matters. Likewise, authors contemplating a submission to *Biometrics* sometimes contact the Executive Editor, asking her to "pre-screen" the paper's suitability

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Dear IBS Colleagues,

The Brazilian and Argentinean Regions of the society are delighted to be hosting the XXVth International Biometric Conference, IBC-Floripa-2010, from 5 - 10 December. The conference will be held at the Convention and Cultural Center of the Federal University of Santa Catarina, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

The scientific programme will include four short courses on Sunday, 5 December, sixteen invited sessions covering a variety of important current topics, and Showcase Sessions for both of the society's journals (*Biometrics* and *JABES*). Full details can be found on the conference web-site (see below).

Over six hundred contributed abstracts were received from authors from 36 countries, and the scientific programme coordinators have now arranged these into over 50 contributed oral sessions and four contributed poster sessions. As at the last two IBCs, the society will be making awards for the best oral presentations made by student delegates, and for the best poster presentations. Details about eligibility and applications to be considered for these awards are available on the conference web-site. The conference also will include the presentation of awards for the best papers published in the society's journals in 2008 and 2009, for contributions made to the development of the society, and the announcement of the latest award of Honorary Life Membership of the society. These latter awards will be made on the evening of Tuesday, 7 December, in conjunction with a celebration of the development of the society through our first 25 IBCs.



To help you face all this “hard work” we offer you the delights of Santa Catarina Island, where Floripa is located, with its 42 beaches, two lagoons, and temperatures ranging from 20 to 28 degrees Celsius. The Social Programme for the conference includes eight Mid-Conference Tours, including two exciting trails. The Conference Party with live Brazilian music will be held at Conceição Lagoon waterfront, where you will taste some of the rich



traditional food of the Island and a range of Brazilian drinks. See the menu on the conference web-site. Join us to celebrate this moment of union and relaxation, where you will be able to experience the real carnival spirit with the performance of an “Escola de Samba”, the most important manifestation/demonstration of Brazilian culture. After you collect your conference registration packets, the social programme starts with the Welcome Reception late on Sunday afternoon, right after the short courses.

Besides meeting interesting people from all over the world, you will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience one of the most desired places in Brazil for summer vacations. If you have time, we recommend you to travel around Brazil, visiting our State of Santa Catarina with its different cultures, the Iguazu Falls at the three point border (Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay), the Pantanal region in the states of Mato Grosso Sul and Mato Grosso, and of course, Amazonas and Rio de Janeiro. From Floripa you can travel easily to Montevideo (Uruguay) and Buenos Aires (Argentina). We are sure you won't regret taking advantage of the opportunity to attend this conference and learn more about the delights of Brazil and other parts of South America.

Please visit the conference website <www.ibc-floripa-2010.org> for more information and to complete your online registration for the conference. We remind you that the deadline for Early Bird Registration is 30 September. Feel free to contact me at dandrade@inf.ufsc.br if you need any additional information and/or suggestions about where to stay or visit during your time in Brazil.

Best Regards,
Dalton F Andrade
Local Organising Committee Chair



Region & National Group News

Australasian Region (AR)

Next Regional Conference

Philip McCloud, the Asia-Pacific Head of Biostatistics at Roche in Sydney will chair the Local Organising Committee of the next conference, which will be held in the vicinity of Sydney in November/December 2011. A venue and date for the conference are not far off – keep an eye on <http://www.biometrics.org.au/conferences.html>.

Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (GenStat & ASReml)

The Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (GenStat & ASReml), formerly known as the Australasian GenStat Conference, will be held on 12 – 15 July 2011 at Novotel Rockford Palm Cove Resort, Palm Cove, Tropical North Queensland, Australia (approx 20 km north of Cairns). Major themes for the conference include Genetics, Climate Change, and Marine and Environmental Statistics. The keynote speakers include Professor Fred Van Eeuwijk (Wageningen University, Netherlands), Professor Steve Williams, (Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change, James Cook University, Queensland), Professor You-Gan Wang (Centre for Applications in Natural Resource Mathematics, University of Queensland), Dr Roger Payne (VSN International, United Kingdom), and Dr Peter Johnstone (AgResearch, New Zealand).

Four workshops will be offered in conjunction with the conference. Workshop topics are: QTL analysis, Generalised Linear Models,

GenStat graphics and ASReml.

The active social program will explore the fantastic tourist attractions tropical North Queensland has to offer! Registration will be open in September 2010. Contact Carole Wright, the Conference Secretary, at Carole.Wright@deedi.qld.gov.au for more information.

IBC 2010 Travel Award

The Australasian Region offered a travel award to enable a student member of the society or an early career regular member to present a talk or poster at the IBC in Florianópolis, Brazil, in December. The winner of this award was Kevin Chang, a PhD student in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland. Kevin has submitted an abstract entitled “Handling missing data from high-throughput protein abundance experiments”, with co-authors Richard Jarrett and Kathy Ruggiero.

A second award was made to Stephen Bush, a lecturer in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney. Stephen has submitted an abstract on the design of efficient stated choice experiments.

Retirement of G. Peter Y. Clarke

Professor Geoffrey Peter Young Clarke retired on 24 June 2010 in Perth, Western Australia, at the age of 72 years. He was Emeritus Professor in Biometry at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg until 2000, before moving to the Biometrics unit in the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) at South Perth, Western Australia. Peter has been a member of the International Biometric

Presidents Corner

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adopt. Although this needs to be discussed widely among our members, the ongoing discussion will not affect the location of IBC 2012 (in Kobe, Japan) and probably not that of IBC 2014 (for which a bid has been received).

IBC 2010

The XXVth International Biometric Conference, organised by the Brazilian and Argentinean Regions, will be held in Florianópolis, Brazil on 5–10 December. Preparations are well advanced and more details can be found elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. Come along to update your knowledge, meet old and new friends, and generally enjoy yourself.

Kaye Basford

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From the Editor

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wrote in 1984, as well as his work on Rasch models, item response theory, research synthesis, software development, and applications of his methods to psychological research.

The Announcements section also includes details about two upcoming symposia in honor of the late Stephen Lagakos. A one-day symposium will be held on 22 October 2010 at Harvard Medical School and a two-day symposium will be held 2-3 October 2010 in Athens, Greece.

The *Bulletin* relies on the Regional Correspondents for the international news. I would like to thank the outgoing ENAR correspondent, Lillian Lin, for her contributions and welcome the new correspondent for ENAR, Dionne Price. As always, the *Bulletin* welcomes announcements, news, and comments from other readers as well as the designated correspondents.

Starting in 2011, the *Biometric Bulletin* no longer will be distributed in a paper format to those of you who receive paper copies of the journals. The *Bulletin* will be published only in an electronic-only HTML format accessible from the International Biometric Society website. We hope that this will promote the timely dissemination of information.

Biometrics

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for the journal. Again, this determination is a scientific issue outside the realm of the Executive Editor's charge and can only be made by a Co-Editor once the paper has been formally submitted. In short, contacting the Executive Editor regarding scientific matters is fruitless, as the position carries no mandate for involvement in such situations.

All queries or comments directed to the Executive Editor and Co-Editors 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.

Sincerely,
Roslyn Stone

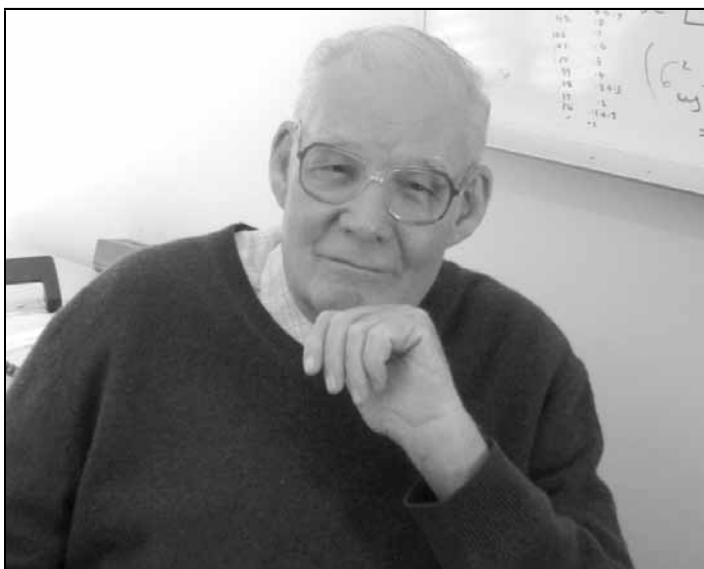
Society (IBS) since 1969, and was active in the establishment of the Sub-Saharan branch (SUSAN) of the IBS.

Peter received his PhD from the University of London under the supervision of Dr A. Mitchell, and wrote his thesis on 'The analysis of non-linear regression models'. He was an elected fellow of the South African Statistical Association, an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, and served on the Central Council of the IBS from 1991 to 1994. He was Editor of the South African Statistical Journal (1991 to 1994), an Editorial Board member of Statistical Theory and Methods Abstracts (1995 to 2000); and Associate Editor of JABES (1996 to 2000).

During his earlier days he held a number of visiting professorial positions in various departments including: Department of Statistics, University of Wisconsin (1984); Department of Agronomy and Soils, Auburn University (1988); Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University (1991); Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Victoria (1996); and Department of Forest Science, University of British Columbia (1996). Since coming to Australia he has been active in the Australasian Region of the IBS, and the GenStat meetings, with a number of invited and ordinary contributed paper presentations. His main work in Perth has involved the annual publication of the Crop Variety Sowing Guide (2000 to 2008) and the planning and analysis of Western Australian and National crop breeding trials.

He has published a number of papers including a classic paper on estimating the age of rhinoceroses by the length of their horns. It has been cited by Rolf Sundberg's work on multivariate calibration and others, such as Geoff Jones at Massey University. Peter tells me that his shoes are from elephants but I wonder if there may be some rhinoceros in there somewhere! Those shoes are ageless!

But his important and perhaps satisfying role has been the mentoring of many students in statistics, forestry and agriculture, including Mario D'Antuono and Alan Welsh, now Professor of Statistics at Australian National University in Canberra.



Peter was very thorough in his work and would many times write on paper or whiteboard the steps of a problem converted to a statisti-

cal framework. His whiteboard (pictured above) still has steps that we discussed since 2001!

On behalf of all IBS members, we would like to wish Peter the best in his retirement!

Duncan Hedderley

Austro-Swiss Region (ROeS)

In Memoriam: Anton K. Formann (1949-2010)

Anton ("Toni") K. Formann was born on August 27 1949 in Vienna, Austria. Finishing his studies (Psychology, Statistics, and Studium irregulare) in 1973, he earned his Ph.D. degree at the University of Vienna under the supervision of Gerhard H. Fischer, the renowned, long-standing Chair of Research Methods and Mathematical Psychology, at what was then the university's Department of Psychology. Since then, Formann was a staff member at Fischer's division within



Anton ("Toni") K. Formann (1949-2010)

the department; initially, during the period 1973-85, as a Postdoc researcher and Assistant Professor; and, since 1985, as Associate Professor. He earned an additional M.Sc. degree (in Applied Statistics, with Distinction) from Sheffield Hallam University (Sheffield, UK) in 1998 and twice the *venia docendi* (1985 in Psychology, 1999 in Applied Statistics, both at the University of Vienna).

In 2004, Formann became the successor of Fischer at the Chair of Research Methods and Mathematical Psychology, after being several years substitute chairholder (Fischer retired in 1999). From 2005 onwards, Formann was Vice Head of the present Department of Basic Psychological Research within the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Vienna, and during 2006-08 additionally Vice Dean of the Faculty.

His Ph.D. research resulted in the publication of a Rasch-scaled abstract reasoning test based on Raven's Matrices Test (Formann & Pischwanger, 1979), which has been widely used ever since in research and practice. A revised and renamed version of this language-free intelligence test is currently in press. For his first *venia docendi*, he published an authoritative monograph on latent class analysis (Formann, 1984) which continues to be widely cited and is regarded as a modern classic on this topic.

Apart from his long-standing interest in latent class analysis (cf. his respective article in the *Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences*; Formann, 1999), his other main research interests were item response theory (Rasch models), the measurement of change, mixture models, and categorical data analysis, including software development and applications for psychological research. His contributions to these fields are documented in numerous publications in leading journals in psychometrics and statistics, including *Biometrics* (Formann, 1993, 1994, 2003).

Formann enjoyed diverse research collaborations with colleagues in the statistical, medical, and psychological sciences and was dedicated to student and graduate mentoring. Late in his career, he became increasingly interested in contemporary quantitative methods for research synthesis (e.g., devised a novel statistical test for detecting publication bias in meta-analyses; Formann, 2008).

Unexpectedly and much too early, after a short, severe illness Anton K. Formann passed away on 12 July 2010 in Vienna. Tragically, this occurred in close anticipation of his sabbatical leave (for which he had manifold plans for research), amidst a career peak of scientific creativity and productivity (hence, his posthumous papers will be many), and only weeks after taking great pride in seeing world-wide media coverage (700+ media items in 70+ countries around the world) in response to the publication of a meta-analysis originating from his research team (Pietschnig, Voracek, & Formann, 2010. Mozart effect—Shmozart effect: A meta-analysis. *Intelligence*, 38, 314-323.) His delightful, dry sense of humor, his benevolence and integrity, and his scientific rigor and wise counsel will be deeply missed by his staff, colleagues, and friends.

Martin Voracek

Brazilian Region (RBras)

The 2010 RBras Annual Meeting will be held at the Culture and Events Center within the main campus of the Federal University of Santa Catarina, UFSC, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina State, Brazil, on 8 December 2010. The chairman is Paulo José Ogliari <ogliari@inf.ufsc.br>.

The meeting will happen jointly with the Argentinean Region Meeting. We encourage all members to participate in this meeting and also join the 2010 IBC from 5 - 8 December 2010.

Programme, registration and paper submission information are available from <http://www.rbras.org.br/~ibcfloripa2010/RbrasRarg/index.php>. We look forward to meeting you all in Florianópolis in December!

Luzia Trinca

British and Irish Region (BIR)

In Memoriam: John Ashworth Nelder

John Ashworth Nelder died on Saturday 7 August 2010 at the age of 85 in Luton and Dunstable Hospital, where he was recovering from a fall. He was one of the most influential statisticians of his generation, and one whose work will continue to have an important and widespread effect on statistical analysis. The following tribute was submitted by Roger Payne.



John Ashworth Nelder (1924-2010).
Photo courtesy of GenStat,
<http://www.vsnl.co.uk>

John Ashworth Nelder: 8 October 1924 – 7 August 2010.

John Nelder died on Saturday 7th August 2010 in Luton & Dunstable Hospital UK, where he was recovering from a fall. John

was very active even at the age of 85, and retained the strong interest in our work – and statistics generally – that we will all remember with deep affection. However, he was becoming increasingly frail and it was a shock but perhaps, in retrospect, not a surprise to hear that he had died peacefully in his sleep.

John was born on 8th October 1924 in Dulverton, Somerset, UK. He was educated at Blundell's School and at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge where he read Mathematics (interrupted by war service in the RAF) from 1942-8, and then took the Diploma in Mathematical Statistics.

Most of John's formal career was spent as a statistician in the UK Agricultural Research Service. His first job, from October 1949, was at the newly set-up Vegetable Research Station, Wellesbourne UK (NVRS). Then, in 1968, he became Head of the Statistics Department at Rothamsted, and continued there until his first retirement in 1984. The role of statistician there was very conducive for John, not only because of his strong interests in biology (and especially ornithology), but also because it allowed him to display his outstanding skill of developing new statistical theory to solve real biological problems. At NVRS, John developed the theory of general balance to provide a unifying framework for the wide range of designs that are needed in agricultural research (see Nelder, 1965, Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series A). Then, at Rothamsted, he developed the theory of generalized linear models with the late Robert Wedderburn, to overcome the problems of analysing response variables like counts and proportions that do not come from Normal distributions; see the citation classic Nelder & Wedderburn (1972, JRSSA) or the book by McCullagh & Nelder (1989).

This idea of directing statistical research at real biological problems began with the two earlier Heads of Statistics at Rothamsted, R.A Fisher and F. Yates, to whom John became such a worthy successor. However, John emphasized an important additional aspect, namely that the new theory should be implemented in widely-distributed statistical software to enable it to become widely used in practice.

The initial aim for John's first statistical program, GenStat, was to provide analysis of variance for generally balanced designs. The underlying ideas took shape in 1965–1966 when John visited the Waite Institute of the University of Adelaide to work with Graham Wilkinson, who was then on secondment there from CSIRO. More intensive development began in 1968 when John joined Rothamsted, and the wider statistical and computing expertise available at Rothamsted allowed him to develop GenStat as a truly general-purpose statistical system. GenStat continues in widespread use today, and is distributed by VSN International to users in more than 120 countries. I was honoured to take over leadership of the GenStat development in 1985, after John's retirement from Rothamsted, and glad that John continued as an enthusiastic (although sometimes critical!) user.

John's other two major contributions to statistical computing came about while he was Chairman of the Royal Statistical Society's Working Party on Statistical Computing (1967-1984). The first, in 1968, was the Applied Statistics Algorithms, which aimed to support good computing practice by providing implementations of the basic building blocks of a statistical program. Later much more

complicated techniques were added, and the publication of an algorithm for a new piece of methodology became an equally valid (and perhaps more effective) way of registering a new idea. The second contribution was the program GLIM, which first appeared in 1974 with 4 further releases up to the final GLIM4 in 1993. This implemented Nelder & Wedderburn's generalized linear models, and led to a dramatic improvement in the quality of statistical analysis. It had an immense influence on the new generation of practical statisticians. For many it provided their first experience of analysing data interactively, encouraging them to think about each data set, instead of directing it at a black box with a request for "statistics all".

John retired from Rothamsted in 1984 at the age of 60, but continued his research at Imperial College (of Science, Technology, & Medicine, London) where, since 1972, he had been a Visiting Professor. He retired from Imperial College in October 2009. His first task there was to lead the GLIMPSE project, which was funded by the UK Government's Alvey programme to produce a knowledge-based front-end for GLIM. The GLIMPSE system provided advice on data validation, data exploration and model selection. It contained many very interesting and far-sighted ideas and, when it was released in 1989, it was one of the first statistical expert systems to be made available commercially – and perhaps one of the few to deliver what the originators had promised.

John's other major activity at Imperial College was his collaboration with Youngjo Lee to develop the theory of hierarchical generalized linear models (HGLMs); see the papers by Lee & Nelder (1996, JRSSB; 2001, *Biometrika*; 2006 *Appl. Statist.*) or the book by Lee, Nelder & Pawitan (2006). HGLMs aimed to provide satisfactory methods of analysis for non-Normal data when there is more than one source of random variation. John viewed generalized linear models as a way of liberating statisticians from the "tyranny" of the Normal distribution, and was a little bemused to see this same tyranny reestablished in methods that were devised initially to extend them. These generalized linear mixed models (GLMMs) catered for additional random variation by adding additional Normally-distributed random effects into the linear model of the generalized linear model. John and Youngjo's new HGLMs extended the methodology to include the beta-binomial, gamma and inverse-gamma distributions, and showed that the conjugate HGLMs (namely binomial GLM with additional beta-binomial random effects, or Poisson with gamma, or gamma with inverse gamma) had attractive advantages in their mathematical theory, computing algorithms and philosophical interpretation. HGLMs can be fitted very efficiently by two interlinked generalized linear models. So we have access to a familiar repertoire of model checking techniques, and can base our choice of models on the data rather than on prejudice or software limitations. Also, the analysis can still be carried out interactively – always a very important consideration for John.

With John's many achievements in statistics, it is important not to forget his other interests. He shared a keen interest in gardening with his wife Mary (nee Hawkes), whom he met and married in 1955 while he was at NVRS; they have a son Jan and a daughter Rosalind. John and Mary were also keen birdwatchers, John combined ornithology with statistics by making a rigorous statistical assessment of the implausibility of the many rarities reported from

Hastings during 1892-1930 (the "Hastings Rarities"); this provided convincing evidence for their subsequent rejection (see Nelder, 1962, *British Birds*). Finally he was a very keen musician and a virtuoso piano player; and his musical soirees at his house in Redbourn will be remembered by the attendees with lasting pleasure.

John received many honours during his career. He had a DSc from University of Birmingham, and received an honorary DSc. from Universite Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, in 1981. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1981. He was President of the International Biometric Society from 1978-1979, and was made an Honorary Life Member in 2006. He was President of the Royal Statistical Society from 1985-1986, and was awarded Guy Medals of the Society in Silver in 1977, and in Gold in 2005. He wrote three books and over 120 papers in statistical and biological journals, including two citation classics: the Nelder & Wedderburn (1972, JRSSA) paper on generalized linear models already mentioned, and his paper written with Roger Mead while at NVRS describing their now very widely-used adaptive simplex optimization algorithm (see Nelder & Mead 1965, *Computer Journal*).

More important perhaps is his statistical legacy of general balance, generalized linear models, hierarchical general linear models – and GenStat – which will keep him always in our thoughts.

Roger Payne

Rothamsted and VSN International

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)

6th EMR-IBS meeting to be held 8 - 13 May 2011 in Crete

The 6th EMR-IBS conference will be held in Hersonissos, Crete, between 8 - 13 May 2011. The conference venue is the Aldemar Knossos Royal Hotel, Hersonissos, Heraklion, Crete.

The scientific committee of the conference is currently: Urania Dafni, University of Athens, Greece; Christel Faes, Hasselt University, Belgium; Costas Fokianos, University of Cyprus; Laurence Freedman, Bar Ilan University, Israel; Constantine Gatsonis, Brown University, USA; Lupe Gomez, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain; Ergun, Karaağaoğlu, Hacettepe University, Turkey; Klea Katsouyanni, University of Athens, Greece; Geert Molenberghs, University of Hasselt, Belgium; Dimitris Karlis, Athens University of Economics, Greece; Ioannis Ntzoufras, Athens University of Economics, Greece; Sharon-Lise Normand, Harvard University, USA; Markos Koutras, University of Pireaus; Benjamin Reiser, University of Haifa, Israel; Stergios Tzortzios, University of Thessaly, Greece; Maria-Grazia Valsecchi, Prevenzione e Biotechnologie Sanitarie, Italy; Constantin Yannoutsos, Indiana University, USA; Marvin Zelen, Harvard University, USA; and David Zucker, University of Haifa, Israel.

The conference will cover several topics, including: Actuarial Statistics, Epidemics, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Markov and Semi-Markov Models, Categorical Data Analysis, Measurement Error, Capture/Recapture Methods, Medical Informatics, Meta Analysis, Clinical Trials, Mixture Models, Clustering and Classification, Model Uncertainty and Diagnostics, Computational Methods, Multiple Testing, Data Mining, Nonparametric Methods, Diagnostic and Screening Tests, Missing Data Methods, Epidemiological Methods, Pattern Recognition, Experimental Design, Pharmaceutical Statistics, Functional Data

Analysis, Graphical Methods, Robust Analysis Methods, Genetics, Survey Methodology, Genomics, Proteomics and Microarray Data, Health Economics, Spatial Modeling, Health Information System, Health Insurance, Survival Analysis, Health Services Research, and Time Series Analysis.

During the conference, one day of the meeting will be devoted in honor of Prof. Lagakos. This is funded by Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation.

Details about invited speakers, special sessions, and important dates will be posted in our website soon: <http://stat-athens.aueb.gr/~emribs/page/emr2011.html>. Please mark your agenda for this meeting.

Other Conferences in the Area: 4th International Conference on Risk Analysis (ICRA4) in Biomedicine, Environmetrics, Economics, Finance and Reliability

The 4th International Conference on Risk Analysis (ICRA4) in Biomedicine, Environmetrics, Economics, Finance and Reliability will be held in Limassol, Cyprus 26 - 29 May 2011. For more information please visit <http://www.ucy.ac.cy/icra4>.

Dimitris Karlis

Eastern North American Region (ENAR) Report on ENAR 2010 Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop by co-chairs Drs. René Moore and Adriana Pérez

The 11th ENAR Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop, held on Sunday, 21 March 2010 at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans, LA, was a complete success! For the second year in a row, attendance was recording breaking with 88 participants representing 22 different states, 37 colleges/universities, and several government and industry organizations (see picture below). The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Javier Rojo, Professor of Statistics at Rice University. Dr. Rojo spoke about "the good news- it is a great time to be a statistician, some not so good news- the pipelines seem to be leaking, or are we not mentoring correctly, and good opportunities to change the not so good news to very good news through research, mentoring, and opportunities." Carmen Smith (U. of Iowa), Che Smith (UNC-Chapel Hill), and Angel Avalos (U. of Texas- El Paso) shared their journey from high school to college to graduate school. In another panel discussion, professionals from academia, government, industry, and consulting shared their experiences and described a typical work day/week in their positions. All concluded that one beauty of the field of biostatistics is that there really is no "typical" day because there are so many different and exciting projects and collaborations. Participants indicated one particular highlight of the Workshop was breaking up into small groups for more focused discussions and sharing of perspectives and experiences. During these small group discussions, high school, college, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows learn more about the next step(s) in their journey to become a biostatistician and also have the opportunity to ask any remaining questions about the field. In addition to the enjoyment of interacting with students, some more senior Workshop attendees gained a graduate student, a summer intern, and a job candidate through the small group discussions.

Drs. René H. Moore and Adriana Pérez, the co-chairs, would like to thank all of the committee members, program participants, and attendees for helping to make the 2010 ENAR Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop a great success; special thanks to ENAR staff and officers (Kathy Hoskins, Lance Waller, Amy Herring), ASA President and past keynote speaker Sastry Pantula, Scarlett Bellamy, who is the principal investigator of the NIGMS(R13 GM075338) grant that provides travel reimbursement, and Glaxo Smith-Kline, who provided the lunch at the 2010 Diversity Workshop. We look forward to the 2011 ENAR Diversity Workshop that will be held on 20 March 2011 in Miami, Florida. As always, undergraduates and faculty from undergraduate institutions especially are encouraged to attend. Please register early (October) as registration closes once full capacity is reached (in December last year!).



Participants in the ENAR 2010 Workshop on Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics .

2010 Joint Statistical Meetings, 31 July – 5 August, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

ENAR sponsored 10 invited, 5 topic contributed, 7 contributed sessions and some posters at this meeting, and co-sponsored many other sessions. Yulei He of Harvard Medical School was the ENAR Program Chair for this meeting.

2011 ENAR Spring Meeting 20-23 March in Miami, Florida, USA

Planning is underway for the 2011 ENAR Spring Meeting from 20-23 March at the Hyatt Regency Miami, Miami, Florida, USA. Program Chair Ciprian Crainiceanu and Co-Chair Eugenio Andracá-Carrera are reviewing submitted proposals for invited sessions. The Co-Chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee are Tulay Koru-Sengul and John Kairalla. Submissions for the ENAR Student Paper Competition are due 15 October 2010. Further information about the 2011 meeting will be posted on the ENAR website, <http://www.enar.org>.

2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) 30 July-4 August in Miami, Florida, USA

The 2011 JSM will be held from 30 July – 4 August at the South Beach Convention Center in Miami, Florida, USA. The ENAR representative to the 2011 JSM Program Committee, Bhramar Mukherjee, is evaluating submitted proposals for the ENAR invited sessions.

2012 ENAR Spring Meeting 1-4 April in Washington, DC, USA

The 2012 Spring Meeting will be held in the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, USA, from 1-4 April.

Roslyn Stone

Japanese Region (JR)

The Biometric Society of Japan (BSJ) Awards 2010

The Biometric Society of Japan (BSJ, Japanese Region of the IBS) is pleased to announce that the society conferred the BSJ Award for the Young Biostatisticians Award and the BSJ Honorary Award to the following recipients on 22 May at the annual meeting of the society, which was held at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo.

The BSJ Award for the Young Biostatisticians Award was given to Dr. Atsushi Kawaguchi of Kurume University and Dr. Kohei Uemura of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency. Dr. Atsushi Kawaguchi received his award for the publication: Kawaguchi A, Koch GG, Ramaswamy R. Applications of extensions of bivariate rank sum statistics to the crossover design to compare two treatments through four sequence groups. *Biometrics* 2009; 65: 979-988. Dr. Kohei Uemura received his award for publication: Uemura K, Matsuyama Y, Ohashi Y. A modification of the 50%-conditional power approach for increasing the sample size based on an interim estimate of treatment difference. *Japanese Journal of Biometrics* 2008; 29: 19-34.



The 2010 Annual Meetings of the Biometric Society of Japan and Tutorial Seminar

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan was held on 21 - 22 May 2010 at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics in Tokyo, Japan with approximately 200 participants.

Dr. Toshiro Tango (Center for Medical Statistics, Tokyo) gave an exciting talk on "Statistics in Medicine" as the BSJ Award winner for the Outstanding Scientific Contribution in 2009. Dr. Tango talked about topics related to his own research on biostatistics, medical statistics, and theoretical epidemiology. Six presentations were given in a special session on "Various issues for applications of Bayesian approach in agriculture, ecology, and evolutionary biology". Nineteen presentations in contributed sessions also covered interesting topics in pharmaceutical and clinical trials, statistical inference, bioinformatics, and epidemiology.



The BSJ Honorary Award was conferred on Mr. Tohru Uwoi of Uwoi Professional Engineer Office. Mr. Tohru Uwoi had been engaged in research and educational activities in various fields of Pharmaceuticals and Biometrics. At the annual general meeting held on 22 May, he was elected as an honorary member of the society.



Nobuhiro Minaka from the National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba, gave a tutorial seminar on "Statistical Thinking and Classification Thinking: cognition of classification patterns using R," on 21 May at the same place. The room was filled with people who enjoyed a very interesting and comprehensive lecture. Special thanks go to our meeting organizers: Shizue Izumi from Oita University, Hiroyuki Uesaka from Osaka University, Takashi Omori from Doshisha University, Satoshi Hattori from Kurume University, and Nobuhiro Minaka from the National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences.

The 2010 Special Seminar

On 29 July, a special seminar was held at Campus Plaza Kyoto. Professor Andrew P. Grieve (King's College, UK) gave a special talk entitled "Bayesian approach to planning and analysis of clinical trials."

The 2010 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting

The 2010 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting will be held 5 - 8 September at Waseda University Waseda Campus, Tokyo, Japan. The Biometric Society of Japan is one of the six sponsoring organizations of the meeting and will have several sessions related to biometrics and epidemiology. We also will have the lectures by winners of the Biometric Society of Japan Award for Outstanding Scientific Contribution and by the Young Biostatisticians Award. Website: <http://www.jfssa.jp/taikai/>.

Kazue Yamaoka

Western North American Region (WNAR)

2010 WNAR/IMS Spring Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the WNAR/IMS was held at University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA from 20 - 23 June, with approximately 200 participants.



University of Washington Campus

The meeting began with a short course on Multiple Imputation and Survey Analysis in Stata 11 by Bobby Gutierrez from Stata. As the WNAR Presidential Invited Address, Alicia Carriquiry from Iowa State University gave a stimulating presentation on "How are Women Faring at Research Intensive Universities? An Analysis of Two Recent National Surveys". For the Medallion Lecture, Jonathan Taylor from Stanford University gave an exciting presentation on "Random Fields, Brain Imaging and Geometry".



Alicia Carriquiry giving the WNAR Presidential invited Address

Excellent presentations were given by invited speakers: Jessica Chubak from the Group Health Research Institute and the University of Washington, Ruth Etzioni from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and University of Washington in the session "Statistical Challenges in Comparative Effectiveness Research;" Peter Gilbert from the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Bryan Shepherd from Vanderbilt University, Jennifer Nelson from the Group Health Research Institute, Andrea Cook from the Group Health Research Institute in the session "Statistical Methods in Vaccine Research;" Hulin Wu from the University of Rochester, Jie Peng from the University of California, Davis, Jiguo Cao from Simon Fraser University, Liangliang Wang from the University of British Columbia in the session "Statistical Inference for Dynamic Models;" Jason Roy from the University of Pennsylvania, Yun Li from the University of Michigan, Danping Liu from the University of Washington, Weihua Cao from the FDA in the session "Statistical Methods for Missing Data;" Martin T Morgan from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Hui Jiang from Stanford University, Elizabeth Purdom from the University of California, Berkeley, Ci-Ren Jiang from the University of California, Berkeley in the session "Statistical Methods for High-throughput Sequencing;" Mei-Ling Ting Lee from the University of Maryland, Jason Fine from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mei-Chiang Shih from Stanford University, Gary Chan from the University of Washington in the session "Survival Methods;" Mourad Tighiouart from Emory University, Karen Messer from the University of California, San Diego, Antje Hoering from Cancer Research and Biostatistics, Larry V Rubinstein from the National Cancer Institute in the session "Statistical Methods for Early Phase Clinical Trials;" Margaret Pepe from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Ying Huang from Columbia University, Holly Janes from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Yingye Zheng from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in the session "Assessing Accuracy and Performance of Markers;" Paul Gustafson from the University of British Columbia, Daniel Stram from the University of Southern California, Pamela Shaw from the National Institutes of Health, Adam Szpiro from the University of Washington in the session "Measurement Error: Challenges and Implications;" Lisa Ganio from Oregon State University, Alix Gitelman from Oregon State University, Lisa Madsen from Oregon State University, Kathi Irvine

from Montana State University in the session "Spatial Dependence in Ecological Data;" Robert Krafty from the University of Pittsburgh, Li Qin from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Pang Du from Virginia Tech, Anna Liu from the University of Massachusetts in the session "Smoothing Methods for Medical Data;" and E Ashley Steel from the USDA Forest Service, Bianca Eskelson from the Oregon State University, David Marshall from Weyerhaeuser Company, Lisa Ganio from Oregon State University in the session "Statistical Methods in Forestry."



WNAR Conference Participants Enjoying the Banquet

2010 WNAR Student Paper Competition

Congratulations to Jennifer Tom from UCLA for winning the 2010 WNAR Best Student Paper Competition (oral and written) for her paper entitled "Influenza A: Antigenic Shifts and Diversity through Time". Congratulations to the runner-ups for the written paper: Gen Novak from the Harvard School of Public Health and Charlotte Gard from the University of Washington. Congratulations also to Jacob Bien from Stanford University and to Aasthaa Bansal from the University of Washington, the runner-ups for the oral presentation. The students received their awards at the conference banquet.



Jennifer Tom, winner of the 2010 WNAR Student Paper competition and Peter (Tony) Lachebruch, 2010 WNAR President at the Banquet

Special thanks to this year's chairs of the student paper competition, Sandra Catlin from the University of Nevada and Elizabeth Thompson from the University of Washington. We are indebted to the team of student paper reviewers and judges for the students' oral presentations and papers: Todd Alonzo from the University of Southern California and Lisa Ganio from Oregon State University. Students and recent graduates are encouraged to submit their manuscripts for the 2011 WNAR/IMS Student Paper Competition. Details on the submission process can be found as they become available at the WNAR website at www.wnar.org under the link, Student Paper Competition. Students are encouraged to submit their papers early.

Special thanks go out to our local organizers Gary Chan (University of Washington) and Ying Quing (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center); Program Chairs Carolyn Rutter from the Group Health Institute (WNAR) and Brenda Kurland from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (IMS); the invited session organizers: Andrea Cook from the Group Health Research Institute, Holly Janes from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Jiguo Cao from Simon Fraser University, Leslie Taylor from the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Elizabeth Purdom from the University of California, Berkeley, Gary Chan from the University of Washington, Brenda Kurland from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Mei-Yin Polley from the University of California, San Francisco, Todd Alonzo from the University of Southern California, Adam Szpiro from the University of Washington, Alix Gitelman from the Oregon State University, Li Qin from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Lisa Ganio from the Oregon State University, and all our contributed session organizers, chairs and discussants. Thanks to the entire faculty volunteer staff and the conference center staff of the Biostatistics Department at the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

2011 WNAR Spring Meeting

The 2011 WNAR spring meeting will be held 19 - 22 June on the campus of Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California. Located halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo County is the heart of California's Central Coast where you can spend your day exploring miles of white, sandy beaches, browsing through unique stores and museums, wine tasting or hiking or bicycling in and around the rolling hills – the choices are endless. The local organizer is Jimmy Doi. Program details will be posted on the WNAR web page, <http://www.wnar.org> as they become available.

2011 WNAR Student Paper Competition

As a reminder, WNAR sponsors students who enter the student paper competition. All entrants receive their registration fees and banquet dinner tickets for free. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the best papers in written and oral competitions. Information on the 2011 WNAR Student Paper Competition, registration information and program details for the meeting will be posted as they become available: <http://www.wnar.org>. We look forward to seeing you there!

Antje Hoering

Announcements and News



Symposium in Honor of Stephen Lagakos

Co-sponsored by the Department of Biostatistics (Harvard School of Public Health), the Center For AIDS Research and the New England Journal of Medicine

There will be a one day symposium on Friday, October 22, 2010 in honor of our colleague Stephen Lagakos who died tragically in an accident in October of 2009. The symposium will be held in the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at the Harvard Medical School, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA, USA, 02115. The topics to be discussed reflect Steve's interests and include: HIV Prevention, Biostatistical Education in the 21st Century, and Clinical Trials.

Robert Gallo (University of Maryland) will be the keynote speaker. A dinner will follow the symposium at which Harvey Fineberg (Institute of Medicine) will be the guest speaker.

The symposium will be free of charge, and all are invited. Please direct any inquiries to Leah Segal, e-mail: lsegal@hsph.harvard.edu.

Two-Day Symposium honouring Stephen Lagakos 2-3 October 2010 in Athens, Greece: Impact of Biostatistical Science - Advances in Research: AIDS, Cancer, Environment

Frontier Science Foundation-Hellas (FSF-H), a non-profit company for the advancement of Clinical Research that was established in Athens in September 2007, and the University of Athens are organizing a two-day symposium in Athens honouring Stephen Lagakos. The topic is Impact of Biostatistical Science - Advances in Research: AIDS, Cancer, Environment. The meeting will take place in 2-3 October 2010 in Athens Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens, Greece.

Professor Lagakos was a great supporter and initiator of the foundation of FSF-Hellas, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors until his unexpected death. He also had received an honorary doctorate from the University of Athens. He visited the University of Athens often, to teach in the postgraduate program in biostatistics.

The symposium is addressed to scientists with interest in clinical trials, especially Oncology and AIDS clinical trials, as well as in environmental research. Professor Lagakos was a pioneer in these areas of research. The symposium is sponsored by Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation.

The program of the Symposium will cover some of the most challenging subjects of Biostatistical Science. Lectures will be given on original contributions in the field. The invited speakers are:

- **Marvin Zelen, PhD**, Lemuel Shattuck Research Professor of Statistical Science and Member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **Victor Degrutolla**, Chair, Department of Biostatistics, Professor of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **Rich Gelber, PhD**, Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **David Schoenfeld**, Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **Dianne Finkelstein**, Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **Sharon-Lise Normand**, Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **Rui Wang**, Research Associate, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

- **David DeMets**, Professor of Statistics and Biostatistics, Chair, Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

- **Lupe Gomez**, Professor, Technical University Catalunya, Statistician at Fundacio de Lluita contra la SIDA, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain

- **Colin Begg**, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA

- **Joan Hu**, Associate Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada

- **Kim KyungMann**, Interim Department Chair of Biostatistics & Medical Informatics, Professor, Departments of Biostatistics & Medical Informatics and Statistics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

- **Ori Davidov**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Statistics, University of Haifa, Israel

- **Klea Katsouyanni**, Chair, Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

- **Urania Dafni**, ScD, Professor of Biostatistics and Director of the Laboratory of Biostatistics, Faculty of Nursing, School of Health Sciences, University of Athens

The program and more details are available in http://www.frontier-science.gr/Lagakos_symposium.html. For questions, please contact Prof. Dafni at udafni@frontier-science.gr.

David B. Dunson Named This Year's Myrto Lefkopoulou Distinguished Lecturer at Harvard School of Public Health

The Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, has named David B. Dunson Ph.D., Professor of Statistical Science at Duke University, as the 2010 Myrto Lefkopoulou Distinguished Lecturer. Professor Dunson will present a lecture on 23 September 2010, at the Harvard School of Public Health. The title of his lecture is "Building Crystal Balls: Learning from Pictures, Curves & Needles in

Haystacks." A reception will be held following the lecture.

The lectureship was established in perpetuity in memory of Dr. Myrto Lefkopoulou, a faculty member and graduate of Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Lefkopoulou tragically died of cancer in 1992 at the age of 34 after a courageous two-year battle. She was deeply beloved by friends, students, and faculty.

Each year the Myrto Lefkopoulou Lectureship is awarded to a promising statistician who has made contributions to either collaborative or methodologic research in the applications of statistical methods to biology or medicine and/or has shown excellence in the teaching of Biostatistics. Ordinarily, the lectureship is given to a statistician within 15 years of receiving an earned doctorate.

Nominations for next year's lectureship are currently being solicited and should be sent to the Myrto Lefkopoulou Lecture Committee, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 or to the attention of Artemis Moore at aemoore@hsph.harvard.edu. Nominations should include a letter of nomination and a C.V. The deadline for submission of nominations is **31 March 2011**.

Statistics Without Borders: Latest Projects

Gary Shapiro, Chair

As discussed in the June issue of the Biometric Bulletin, Statistics Without Borders (SWB) is an all-volunteer group interested in providing statistical consulting and assistance in the area of international health (broadly defined). We have more than 130 members to date, have become an official group of the American Statistical Association, and have had our first election of officers.

Our new projects include the following:

UNICEF is doing an intervention to improve the health of young children in Sierra Leone. To help with the evaluation of the intervention, we have assisted them in estimating the sample size for the baseline survey, commented on the design plan, traveled to Sierra Leone to help with data cleaning activities and capacity building of Sierra Leone statisticians, and worked on developing an analysis plan.

The planned post-earthquake survey in Haiti has now been conducted, and we are now helping with the analysis of the data.

SWB continues to invite members of the International Biometric Society to get involved by becoming members, by suggesting entities (such as non-governmental organizations and government agencies in developing countries) that are working on health-related issues that could benefit from SWB assistance, and by helping SWB volunteers understand the environment in the countries in which they are working. We welcome you to contact us, either by sending an email to the Chair, Gary Shapiro, at gshapiro4@verizon.net or by visiting the SWB website at <http://community.amstat.org/amstat/StatisticsWithoutBorders>.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE MARVIN ZELLEN LEADERSHIP AWARD IN STATISTICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health named Ingram Olkin as the recipient of the 2010 Marvin Zellen Leadership Award in Statistical Science. Dr. Olkin, Professor of Statistics and of Education and CHP/PCOR Fellow of the Department of Statistics, Stanford University, delivered a lecture entitled "Measures of Heterogeneity. Diversity and Inequality" on May 21 at Harvard University.

This annual award, supported by colleagues, friends and family, was established to honor Dr. Marvin Zellen's long and distinguished career as a statistician and his major role in shaping the field of biostatistics.

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

Nominations for next year's award, to be given in May 2011, should be sent to the Marvin Zellen Leadership Award Committee, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 or via email to aemoore@hsph.harvard.edu. Nominations should include a letter describing the contributions of the candidate, specifically highlighting the criteria for the award, and a curriculum vitae. Supporting letters and materials would be extremely helpful to the committee.

**All nominations must be received by
November 15, 2010.**

MEETINGS

2010

2-3 October

Two-Day Symposium honouring Stephen Lagakos

Frontier Science Foundation-Hellas and the University of Athens

Athens Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens, Greece
http://www.frontier-science.gr/Lagakos_symposium.html

5-10 December

**XXVth International Biometric Conference
Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC)**

Florianópolis, Brazil
<http://www.rbras.org.br/~ibcfloripa2010/>

6-10 December

Australian Statistics Conference 2010

Freemantle, Western Australia
<http://www.promaco.com.au/2010/asc>

8 December

2010 Joint Meeting of the Brazilian & Argentinean Regions

Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil
<http://www.rbras.org.br/#eventos>

2011

20-23 March

ENAR Spring Meeting

Hyatt Regency Miami, Miami, Florida, USA
<http://www.enar.org>

11-13 April

Third International Biometrics Society Channel Network Conference

Bordeaux, France
www.ibs-channel-bordeaux2011.fr

8-13 May

6th EMR-IBS conference, Aldemar Knossos Royal Hotel

Hersonissos, Heraklion, Crete
stat-athens.aueb.gr/~emribs/page/emr2011.html

26-29 May

International Conference on Risk Analysis – ICRA4, Biomedicine, Environmetrics, Economics, Finance and Reliability

Limassol, Cyprus
Contact: Alex Karagrigoriou, University of Cyprus,
alex@ucy.ac.cy
www.ucy.ac.cy/icra4

2-3 June

**Japanese Regional Biometric Conference
Osaka, Japan**

6-9 June

3rd Nordic Baltic Biometric Conference

Turku, Finland

www.nbbcll.utu.fi/

19-22 June

Western North American Region Spring Meeting

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California, USA

www.wnar.org

1-15 July

Australasian GenStat Conference

Tropical North Queensland, Australia

Carole.Wright@deedi.qld.gov.au

30 July – 4 August

Joint Statistical meeting (JSM)

South Beach Convention Center

Miami, Florida USA

www.amstat.org

12-15 September

2011 ROeS Seminar and 2nd Central European Network Meeting (CEN)

Joint meeting with German Region and Group Poland

2012

1-4 April

ENAR Spring Meeting

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill

Washington, DC USA

<http://www.enar.org>

28 July – 2 August

Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM)

San Diego Convention Center

San Diego, CA USA

www.amstat.org

26-31 August

XXVIth International Biometric Conference

Kobe, Japan

What does it take
to find the career of a lifetime?

CHAIR: DEPARTMENT OF BIostatISTICS AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, New York, invites applications and nominations for Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology. The department is one of the top ranked NIH-funded Medical School Departments of Biostatistics in the country. Current faculty include 21 tenured (or tenure-track), 7 affiliates, and 7 non-tenure track positions. Major funded research programs emphasize biostatistics, clinical trials and computational genome and systems biology. The department serves as a vital component to the University of Rochester Clinical and Translational Science Institute. It is central to fulfilling the promise of the Medical Center's Strategic Plan to transform the conduct of clinical and translational research and is key to development of quantitative approaches in biomedicine. The Department has long-standing doctoral and master's programs and a number of graduates have achieved high distinction in the profession.

The ideal candidate will be a leader with strong academic credentials who is committed to growing the research and educational programs and who thrives in a collaborative environment of scholarship and mentorship. The candidate must hold a Ph.D. in biostatistics or a related field and must qualify for the rank of full Professor at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest with a curriculum vitae to: Robert Holloway, MD, MPH, Chair, DBCB Chair Search Committee, c/o Sharon Kubiak, Manager, Candidate Administration Services, University of Rochester Medical Center, Box 706, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14642. Phone: 585-275-1018. E-mailed applications are welcome; send to Sharon_Kubiak@urmc.rochester.edu.

The University of Rochester is an Equal Opportunity Employer and women and minorities are encouraged to apply. To learn more about the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, please visit our website at <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/smd/biostat/>.

To learn more about the University of Rochester Medical Center Strategic Plan, please visit our website at <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/strategic-plan/>.



SCHOOL OF
**MEDICINE &
DENTISTRY**
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
MEDICAL CENTER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

**Oncology Biostatistics & Bioinformatics
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center**

BIostatisticians
Staff (MS) and Faculty (PhD) Level Positions

The Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, founded in 1988, is a leader in statistical applications in cancer research. We conduct methodologic research in biostatistics and bioinformatics to advance cancer research, provide biostatistics and bioinformatics support to medical investigators in cancer and other conditions, and teach research methodology in a wide variety of academic programs in the Johns Hopkins Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The Division currently has 10 doctoral-level and 6 masters-level biostatisticians or bioinformaticians and has strong research and teaching connections with the Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Please visit our website: www.cancerbiostats.onc.jhmi.edu

Tenure Track Faculty: Suitable candidates will hold a Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology or related quantitative fields, with interest and experience in clinical trials, diagnostic/screening studies, or translational research, primarily in cancer. We welcome applications from candidates at any academic rank. At this time we are not recruiting for individuals whose primary interest and experience is in Bioinformatics.

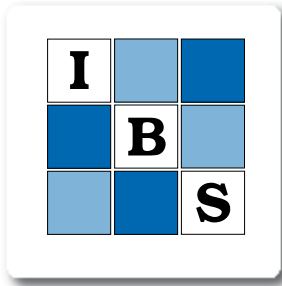
Staff Biostatistician: We are recruiting a MS-level statistician to work with faculty on collaborative biomedical research and methodologic development. This new position will expand a highly successful group of quantitative scientists working collaboratively with both clinical and basic science faculty in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The position requires a Master's degree in biostatistics, statistics, or computer science and practical experience in biomedical study design and analysis. Strong written and oral communication skills are necessary.

Application Procedure: Applicants should send a Curriculum Vitae (including personal website URL if available), letter of application and two or more letters of reference to:

**Search Committee
Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
550 North Broadway, Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD, 21205-2013
OncBioSearch@jhmi.edu**

Applications will be considered until the positions are filled.

The Johns Hopkins University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. We strongly encourage qualified women and under-represented minorities to apply.



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