



International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

Number 3 July 1986

Editor: J. Seldrup

The Tenovus Organisation for Cancer Research at the Welsh National School of Medicine will host the Seventh Meeting of the ISCB, from 15-19 September, 1986, in Cardiff, the Capital City of Wales.

ISCB-7 Cardiff

15-19 September 1986



The Tenovus Institute for Cancer Research, Heath Park, Cardiff.

The Tenovus Organisation, comprising of ten businessmen was founded in 1943 in appreciation of the nursing care one of them received when he became critically ill. This philanthropic organisation undertook many charitable works over the years, the most notable of which was the building of the Tenovus Institute for Cancer Research in 1966.

Under the leadership of Professor Keith Griffiths, the Institute soon gained an international reputation for work related to the understanding and treatment of endocrine cancer. The importance of clinical biostatistics in cancer research was soon realised and important contributions in the development or application of statistical methods in areas of quality control, time series analysis, multivariate analysis, clinical trials and survival analysis, have been important features in many of our cancer research programmes.

It seems appropriate that during its 20th anniversary year the Institute should host the 7th Meeting of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics. On behalf of Professor Griffiths, his staff, and the Local Organising Committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome and a pleasant stay to all participants during their visit to Cardiff.

Douglas W. Wilson
President

Executive Committee 1985 / 86

President

Dr. D.W. Wilson (Cardiff)

Vice-President

Dr. H. Sancho-Garnier (Villejuif)

Secretary

Dr. R.A. Dixon (Sheffield)

Treasurer

Dr. W. Koepke (Munich)

Committee Members

Professor R. van Strik (Rotterdam)

Dr. J. Seldrup (Horsham)

Professor E. Gehan (Houston)

Professor G. Gallus (Milan)

Co-option

(Immediate past President)

Professor H.J. Jesdinsky (Düsseldorf)

New ISI Section on Official Statistics

The International Statistical Institute has established a new Section named:

International Association
for Official Statistics (IAOS)

The objectives of the Association shall be to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects, and to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services through international contacts among individuals and organisations.

The IAOS is an international association open to all those who are interested in official statistics in the broadest sense: the membership is not to be restricted to official statisticians but in particular academic statisticians and others using official statistics are also encouraged to join the IAOS.

The ISI Bureau has appointed a Provisional Executive Committee charged with the task of making the IAOS operational.

The annual membership dues for 1986 and 1987 are fixed at 35 Swiss Francs. UNESCO coupons may be used for dues payments.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, PO Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands.

BECOME A MEMBER OF ISCB International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

Support our aim to stimulate research on the principles and methodology in the design and analysis of clinical research, to increase the relevance of statistical theory to the real world of clinical medicine; and, through scientific meetings to create an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas among clinicians, statisticians and members of other disciplines (e.g. epidemiologists, clinical chemists and clinical pharmacologists) working in, or interested in, the field of clinical biostatistics.

For only £10 you may take out ordinary membership.

If, at the same time, you take out a subscription to 'Statistics in Medicine' (Volume 1986), this will only cost you an additional £39.50, if you live in the UK (as against the ordinary subscription rate of £79), and £47.50 elsewhere (as against the ordinary rate of \$145, just over £100, although dependent on exchange rates).

For application of membership contact the Honorary Secretary.

ISCB-7 Main Meeting

Including a Mini-Symposium on Human Prostatic Disease

Cardiff, 15-19 September 1986

Programme*

Monday 15th September

- 09.00 - 17.30h **ISCB Course** (please see adjacent panel)
17.00 - 19.00h **Registration** (Aberdare Hall)
19.00h **Welcoming Reception**
at the Viriani Jones Gallery, University College, Cardiff

Tuesday 16th September

- 08.30 - 09.00h **Registration** (Law Building)
09.00 - 09.30h **Opening Ceremony**
09.30 - 17.15h **Scientific Sessions**
Invited Speakers include:
T. Chalmers (USA), R. Collins (UK), D. Demets (USA)
S. Pocock (UK), K. Schumacher (W. Germany)
19.30h **Special Reception**
at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Wednesday 17th September

- 09.00 - 17.15h **1. Quality Assessment in Health Care**
2. Statistical Modelling in Medicine
Scientific Sessions
Invited Speakers include:
C. Begg (USA), I. Chalmers (UK), D. Wilson (UK),
V. Capasso (Italy), C. Hill (France), R. Wegmann (France)
20.00h **Free Evening**
Invitation to a special Cardiff Scientific Society Lecture

Thursday 18th September

- 1. Mini-symposium on Human Prostatic Disease**
2. Workshop on Consulting and Teaching Biostatistics in Medicine
08.30 - 09.00h **Registration for Mini-symposium** (Law Building)
09.00 - 17.00h **Scientific Sessions**
Invited Speakers include:
J. Wennberg (USA), D. Byar (USA), A. Turkes (UK),
M. Palmer (UK), T. Coitton (USA), D. Clayden (UK)
20.00h **Conference Dinner** (Angel Hotel)

Friday 19th September

- 1. Assessment of Risk Factors and Prognosis**
Scientific Sessions
Invited Speakers include
M. Vessey (UK), J. Thalabard (France), G. Gallus (Italy)
16.00h **Presidential Closing Address**

The cost of the Main Meeting (including the Mini-symposium) is **£130**
The cost of the Mini-symposium only is **£45**

The Registration Fee covers registration, lunch at University College, morning coffee and afternoon tea, the Conference Dinner, and - for participants attending the whole meeting - the other evening functions.

The list of speakers and function venues are correct at the time of going to press. Details of the final programme will be available from 1st August, 1986.

* Times quoted are approximate and may vary slightly.

ISCB Course on Selected Topics in Clinical Biostatistics

Monday 15th September

It has long been recognised that many individuals cannot take full advantage and learn from International Experts in the field who attend conferences and workshops world-wide.

For this reason the ISCB has taken the initiative to run a course on topics in biostatistics which reflect the more pressing problems posed in the clinic or research institution. Details of the course and the cost are given below. Please support this ISCB venture.

Douglas W. Wilson (President)

Provisional Programme

09.00 - 10.30h	1. Design Elements of a clinical trial, guidelines for preparing protocols, types of clinical trials, randomised versus non-randomised studies. <i>Speaker:</i> Edmund Gehan (University of Texas, System Cancer Center)
10.30 - 10.45h	Coffee
10.45 - 12.15h	2. Conduct Monitoring and stopping rules in clinical trials. <i>Speaker:</i> David Demets University of Wisconsin
12.15 - 14.00h	Lunch
14.00 - 15.30h	3. Analysis Identification and assessment of prognostic factors, analysis of survival data using Cox and Weibull models with covariates, interpretation of apparent treatment-covariate interactions. <i>Speaker:</i> David Byar National Cancer Institute
15.30 - 15.45h	Tea
15.45 - 17.15h	4. Interpretation How to write up a clinical trial, critical assessment of published trials. <i>Speaker:</i> Theodore Colton Boston University
17.15 - 17.30h	President's Closing Remarks

The cost of the above Course is **£50**, which includes lunch, morning coffee and afternoon tea.

Accommodation

Delegates' accommodation will be at either:

Aberdare Hall (Students' Residence).

Cost: **£20** inclusive of VAT, evening meal, single bed and breakfast for the night of 14th September

The Holiday Inn Hotel, Cardiff

Cost: **£37.50** approx/night
(excluding VAT, evening meal and breakfast)

Please note that evening social functions are for registered delegates to the ISCB-7 Main Meeting only.

Organizing Secretariat:

ISCB Conference, c/o Dr D.W. Wilson,
Tenovus Institute for Cancer Research, Heath, Cardiff CF4 4XX, UK.
Telephone: Cardiff (0222) 755944 (Extn. 2612), Telex: 497538

Indian Society for Medical Statistics

The Indian Society for Medical Statistics came into existence in November 1983 during a scientific meeting at the M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi, of biostatisticians, medical teachers/researchers and scientists from related disciplines on the subject of 'Statistics in Medicine'.

The Society aims at contributing to the development of medical statistics and to strengthening applications of statistics in medicine, health and related disciplines.

Fourth Annual Conference:

The fourth annual conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics is to be held at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India in the second half of November 1986.

Further details of the conference can be obtained from: Mr V.G. Kaliaperumal, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Biostatistics, NIMHANS, Bangalore - 560 029, India.

All correspondence related to the Society should be addressed to:

Dr B.L. Verma, General Secretary,
Indian Society for Medical Statistics,
Department of Social and Preventive
Medicine, M.L.B. Medical College,
Jhansi 284 128 (U.P.), India.

NEI Epidemiologist Retires

Fred Ederer, associate director for biometry and epidemiology at the National Eye Institute (NEI), retired recently after 28 years of service at the National Institutes of Health, including 14 at NEI.

A pioneer in clinical trials at NEI, and an internationally recognized expert in this field, Mr Ederer will continue to pursue his interest in epidemiological research during his retirement. He will consult with universities and private organizations in the design, development, conduct, and data analysis of numerous studies. He also has accepted two appointments - one as adjunct professor in the division of biometry at the University of Minnesota, the other as adjunct professor in the department of ophthalmology at Georgetown University.

Understanding Risks !!!

(Read in the New Scientist, 29 May 1986)

"... The Study had an 80 per cent chance of detecting a three-fold increase in the relative risk of lung cancer. But to have a similar chance of picking up an increase in cancer of the larynx, the workers would have to be at 42 times the risk. For cancer of the pharynx, the risk would be 57 times the average before you could be 80 per cent sure of picking up the difference."

Book Reviews

As a service to our members and readers of ISCB-News we intend to start a series of book reviews. To this end a number of publishers were invited to send appropriate books to the Editor for reviewing. At the time of going to press four books had been

received from Marcel Dekker Inc. Below is a short review of these books. Should anyone be interested in reviewing these more fully for publication in these columns, please contact the Editor. The prize: YOU KEEP THE BOOK !

- Bergman/Gittens : **Statistical Methods for Pharmaceutical Research Planning**
Cox/Cohen : **Methodological Issues for Health Care Surveys**
Petersen : **Design and Analysis of Experiments**
Cornell : **Statistical Methods for Cancer Studies**

Stan W. Bergman and John C. Gittens **Statistical Methods for Pharmaceutical Research Planning**

Statistical methods are relevant throughout the process of developing a new pharmaceutical product to marketing. This book is chiefly concerned with the early speculative phase of research. It considers four decision-making areas: *the selections of compounds for testing, the design of a screen, the sequencing and allocation of resources between a set of related screens and the allocation of effort between different projects.*

This book is aimed at scientists engaged in the early phase of new product chemical research, particularly those with a responsibility for any kind of planning, together with the statisticians and operational researchers who advise them.

Roger G. Petersen

Design and Analysis of Experiments

This book claims to provide a textbook in modern experimental design for students both in statistics and fields of applied science and to serve as a reference book for research scientists faced with the necessity of obtaining and interpreting precise data in an efficient way. The material forms the basis of two courses at Oregon State University. The first seven chapters form a one-term course in experimental design and analysis for students in the applied sciences. The remainder serves as the basis of an intermediate level one-term course for statistics majors and graduate students in in applied sciences. Following an introductory chapter the book contains chapters on:

Completely Randomized Design, Randomized Block Design, More Restrictive Designs, Separation of Means, Factorial Experiments, Data Interpretation: Some Examples, Multifactor Experiments, Confounding, Split-Plot Design: Variations, Response Surfaces, Change-Over Trials, Incomplete Block Designs.

Brenda G. Cox and Steven B. Cohen **Methodological Issues for Health Care Surveys**

The material presented in this book was developed as a part of the authors' research activities for the 1977 National Medical Care Expenditure Survey (NMCES) and the 1980 National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey (NMCUES). Firstly, methodological issues are addressed followed by the specific problems and solutions for the NMCES and NMCUES studies. Background material relating to sample design, weighting, missing data replacement and data analysis is also presented. The book is written primarily for health care professionals who wish to learn more about methodological issues associated with health care surveys. However, sampling statisticians and other survey researchers may also find much of the material of interest.

Richard G. Cornell (Editor)

Statistical Methods for Cancer Studies

The major emphasis of this book is on public health and epidemiologic aspects rather than medical aspects of cancer. However the book also addresses the primary methods for the evaluation of treatment regimens. Randomized clinical trials and survival analysis are discussed, but the former is presented in the context of the evaluation of screening programs and the latter in the context of animal carcinogenesis. The book describes the statistical methodology associated with the specialized nature of cancer studies in chapters contributed by sixteen authors:

Assessing the Occurrence of Cancer in Human Populations, Statistical Evaluations of the Risk of Cancer Mortality among Industrial Populations, Statistics of Case-Control Studies, Methods of Survival Analysis, Time-Space Clustering of Disease, Statistical Methods for Genetic Studies of HLA and Cancer, Evaluation of Screening Programs for the Early Detection of Cancer, Models to Aid in Planning Cancer Screening Programs, The Analysis of Animal Carcinogenicity Experiments.

Charles Griffin & Company Limited, founded in 1820, and with a reputation for scholarly books, are actively expanding their list of statistical and mathematical titles. Any would-be authors in these fields, whether theoretically or practically minded, should write to James Griffin, 30 Disraeli Crescent, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5EJ, UK.

Correspondence for, or about, the newsletter should be sent to
Dr. J. Seldrup
Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals,
Wimblehurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex.
RH12 4AB United Kingdom.

Other enquiries, for instance about membership should be sent to
Dr. R.A. Dixon
University of Sheffield Medical School,
Beech Hill Road, Sheffield,
S10 2RX United Kingdom.

1986 Calendar

August 7-9

2nd International Meeting of Statistics in the Basque Country
Bilbao, Spain

Contact: The Secretary IMSIBAC-3, PO Box 32, Lejona/Leioa (Vizcaya), Spain.

August 21-27

14th International Cancer Congress

Budapest, Hungary
Contact: Professor SE Eckhardt, Secretary General, National Institute of Oncology, Rath Gyorgy, U 7/9, 1525 Budapest, Hungary.

August 27-30

International Symposium: Health and Environment in Developing Countries
Haikko, Finland

Contact: Congress Office, HEDC '86, PO Box 189, SF 00171, Helsinki, Finland.

September 1-5

COMPSTAT

Rome, Italy
Contact: Compstat, Dipartimento di Statistica, Probabilità e Statistiche Applicate, Università degli studi di Roma, "La Sapienza" Piazzale, Aldo Moro 5, 00185 Roma, Italy.

September 8-14

1st World Congress of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability
Tashkent, USSR

Contact: Professor Krickeberg, UER de Math, Université de Paris, 12 Rue Cujas, S-75005 Paris, France, or S. Kh. Sirajdinov, Institute of Mathematics of the Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences, Hodjaev F., 29 Tashkent, 700143, USSR.

September 22-26

Institute of Statisticians:

Experimental Design (Course)

Lancashire Polytechnic at Preston, UK.
Contact: Mrs L Butterworth, The Conference Secretary, The Institute of Statisticians, 36 Churchgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1RD, UK.

September 23-26

Methods and Management of Clinical Trials (Course)
Contact: Sussex Clinical Research Consultants Ltd., Loxfield Chambers, Grange Road, Uckfield, East Sussex, UK.

September 23-26

International Symposium on Probability and Bayesian Statistics
Innsbruck, Austria

Contact: R. Viertl, Institut für Statistik und Wahrscheinlichkeitstheorie, Technische Universität Wien, A-1040 Wien, Austria.

September 25-26

PSI - Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry: Annual Conference

Southampton, UK
Contact: Lilly Research Centre, Erl Wood Manor Windlesham, Surrey, UK.

October 6-8

Statistical Methods in Medicine and Pharmacology

Køge, Denmark
Contact: Philip Hougaard, Biostatistical Dept., Novo Research Institute, DK-2880, Bagsvaerd, Denmark.

October 12-16

15th International Congress of Life Assurance Medicine

Tokyo, Japan
Contact: Masaharu Hirao, Chairman, Organising Committee, c/o The Life Insurance Association of Japan, Shinkokusa Building 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

October 26-31

MEDINFO '86 - 5th World Conference on Medical Informatics

Washington DC, USA
Contact: MEDINFO '86, George Washington University, Medical Centre, 2300 K Street, NW, Washington DC 20005, USA.

November 13-14

Mieux vivre sa vieillesse /Aspects épidémiologiques (Better life for the elderly /Epidemiological aspects)
Paris, France

Contact: Association des Epidémiologistes de la Langue Française, 44 Chemin de Ronde, 78 110 Le Vesinet, France.

December 3-5

42nd Annual Conference on Applied Statistics
Atlantic City, NJ, USA

Contact: Walter R Young, Medical Research Division, American Cyanamid Co., Building 60, Room 203, Pearl River, NY 10965, USA.