



# International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

# News

Number 26

December 1998

Editor: David W. Warne

## Executive Committee 1998

### Officers

*President:* Dr Nancy L. Geller (USA)  
*Vice-President:* Mr Simon J. Day (UK)  
*Secretary:* Dr Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I)  
*Treasurer:* Prof. John Whitehead (UK)

### Members

*News Editor:* Dr David W. Warne (CH)  
*Past-President:* Dr Karsten Schmidt (DK)  
*1998-1999:* Dr Albert Cobos (E)  
*1999-2000:* Prof. Mike Campbell (UK)  
 Dr Bruno Cesana (I)  
 Prof. Ted Colton (USA)  
 Dr Siem Heisterkamp (NL)  
 Dr Emmanuel Lesaffre (B)  
 Prof. Michael Schemper (A)  
 Dr Jørgen Seldrup (F)

## Correspondence Address:

**Dr David W. Warne (ISCB News),**  
 Home: Chemin Frank-Thomas 40,  
 CH-1208 Genève,  
 SWITZERLAND  
 Tel/Fax: +41 22 700 6380  
 Work: (Ares-Serono, Biometrics Dep't):  
 Tel: +41 22 739 3374  
 Fax: +41 22 739 3330

## email & WWW Addresses:

Permanent Office: [iscb@post3.tele.dk](mailto:iscb@post3.tele.dk)  
 WWW <http://WWW.ISCB-HOME PAGE.ORG>  
 Editor: 100557.2260@compuserve.com  
 or [david.w.warne.ch\\_gva01@serono.com](mailto:david.w.warne.ch_gva01@serono.com)

## Editorial

**ISCB has come of age and in 1999 reaches 21 years of age. It's my pleasure to congratulate Nancy Geller on becoming the new ISCB President, taking us from one millennium to the next!**

**The other Officers have also changed, as you'll see in the left panel. The occasion should not be missed to thank Bernhard Huitfeldt for excellent work as ISCB Treasurer over the last 4 years, and to Marc Buyse who's performed many roles for the Society.**

**Many thanks to Andrew Lawson and Gillian Raab and the organisers of ISCB19-Dundee which was a most enjoyable conference.**

Thanks to the contributors to this News: Karsten Schmidt, Simon Day, Helmut Schäfer, Bela Hajtman, Dario Gregori, John Carlin, Lutz Edler, John Whitehead and Nancy Geller.

In 1999, the News will come out as usual in May/June and December, and the deadlines for contributions are early April and early November.

## Index

ISCB Membership-----	2	Advert: MPS, Reading-----	9
Presidential Address -----	3	Book Review by John Carlin (Melbourne, Australia) -----	10
ISCB Student Conference Awards, 1998-----	4	Books and Software for Review -----	11
ISCB Subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs - Annual Report-----	4	Notes on the Meeting of the Executive Committee of ISCB -----	11
ISCB Subcommittees -----	5	Minutes of the AGM of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics-----	12
Student Conference Awards, 1999 -----	6	ISCB20 Heidelberg: Update -----	13
Announcement: Nordic Network for Biostatistics Research -----	7	How to Contact the ISCB Executive Committee & ISCB20-Heidelberg LOC -----	14
Book Review by Dario Gregori (Trieste, Italy) -----	8	National Groups: A (Relatively) New Form of ISCB Organisation-----	15
ISCB Aims-----	8	ISCB Membership Information-----	18
Information on Submitting Articles-----	8	Membership Subscription -----	19
Advertising Rates-----	8	Calendar -----	20
ISCB19-Dundee Review-----	9		

## ISCB Membership

There were 156 new members who joined ISCB at the Dundee meeting, and another 47 were former members.

	Maastricht		Brussels		Cambridge		Basel		Barcelona		Budapest				
	ISCB10	end	ISCB12	end	ISCB14	Dec	ISCB15	Dec	ISCB16	Dec	ISCB17	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec
	Sep89	89	Jul91	92	Sep93	93	Jul94	94	Jul95	95	Jul96	96	97	98	
	(SCT)														
Total	276	261	859	596	377	715	305	698	425	725	283	702	685	728	
# Countries	19	23	30	32	27	32	22	31	30	33	26	34	37	37	
# Country															
1 UK	33	50	86	90	128	176	51	120	98	144	44	121	128	170	
2 Germany	39	30	80	67	39	75	42	84	23	71	35	78	72	70	
3 USA	13	18	227	45	16	40	14	39	25	41	21	40	79	66	
4 France	29	30	78	52	26	62	21	50	46	73	29	67	52	52	
5 Sweden	14	23	37	51	22	53	20	54	37	58	19	64	51	45	
6 Netherlands	94	14	46	30	23	38	22	33	23	36	10	29	31	39	
7 Denmark	3	4	14	58	23	38	8	31	16	30	11	32	26	35	
8 Italy	11	16	47	33	23	37	8	32	13	32	18	33	26	33	
9 Belgium	5	13	99	22	13	27	13	30	14	30	8	32	35	29	
10 Hungary		1	4	21	1	17	4	18	6	19	25	25	27	29	
11 Switzerland	10	14	24	25	8	22	68	80	14	33	10	29	24	25	
12 Poland	1		3	11	2	11	4	24	2	24	7	30	21	19	
13 Spain		10	14	12	9	18	6	12	71	46	7	23	14	16	
14 Japan	3	2	10	6	4	7	1	5	2	7		4	10	13	
15 Canada	3	6	35	12	5	14	6	14	4	11	4	13	15	12	
16 Austria	7	4	4	9	6	11	6	13	4	11	9	16	13	11	
17 Norway	4	13	17	18	10	25	3	22	3	12	10	18	10	10	
18 Australia	2	6	12	9	2	11		6	3	9		8	11	9	
19 Singapore														3	6
20 Finland	3	2	4	7	4	7	2	9	3	9	2	9	7	5	
21 Portugal		1	4	3	2	5		2		2		2	2	5	
22 Israel		1	3	3	3	4	3	4	1	4	3	4	3	3	
23 Russia									1	1	2	3	3	3	
24 Hong Kong				1		1		2	2	3	1	3	3	3	
25 Slovenia			1	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	3	
26 Ireland	1	1	1	2	1	3		4	4	3	1	4	4	2	
27 South Africa				1	3	4		1	1	3		2	2	2	
28 Malaysia										2		1	2	2	
29 New Zealand				1			1	1			2	2	1	2	
30 Cuba									1					2	
31 Thailand			2	1		1			1	1	1	1	2	1	
32 India	1		1	1		1		1		1		1	1	1	
33 Mexico			1									1	1	1	
34 Czech. Rep.						1		1		1		1	1	1	
35 Colombia			1										1	1	
36 Greece				1	1	1	1	1						1	
37 Pakistan														1	
38 China				1	1	1		1		1		1	1		
39 Iran									1		1	1	1		
40 South Korea									3	3			1		
41 Romania											2	2			
42 Indonesia												1			
43 Brazil									2	2					
44 Zimbabwe								1							
45 Kenya			2	1	1	1									
46 Turkey			1	1		1									
47 Philippines			1												
48 Kuwait		1													
49 Oman		1													

## Presidential Address

*from Nancy L. Geller*

By the time you read this, it will be 1999 and I will be the president of ISCB. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I hope that the society will continue to flourish with this change in leadership.

Let me explain the other changes in the Officers and the Executive Committee (ExCom) membership. Simon Day (UK), formerly Secretary, has become Vice President (President-Elect); John Whitehead (UK), a member of the ExCom for the past two years, is now Treasurer and Maria Grazia Valsecchi (Italy), a former member of the ExCom, is now Secretary. Karsten Schmidt (Denmark), the president in 1997-1998, is now Past-President. Most of the ExCom remains unchanged, except that Simon (Siem) Heisterkamp (The Netherlands) and Emmanuel Lesaffre (Belgium) have now joined. The Officers and ExCom together form the Committee. The list of members of the Committee is on the first page of this Newsletter.

Some of you may realise that we did not hold an election this year. According to our Constitution, a notice requesting nominations was required by the end of June. The posts of Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary required nominations. In addition, all members of the ExCom except one had completed one two-year term and were eligible for a second two-year term. The request for nominations appeared in the last Newsletter (June 1998, p. 20). In response, only those who now hold Committee membership were nominated. Therefore, the President declared that a formal election was not necessary. Next year only one position on the ExCom will be vacant. The year 2001 will require a major change in the Committee, as all officers except the President will need to be elected and all members of the ExCom except one will have served their maximum of four years.

A discussion of the change in the Committee would be incomplete without expressing our thanks to those who have "retired" from office. I want to express ISCB's thanks to Karsten Schmidt for serving us well as president for the past two years and my personal thanks to him for what I have learned from our frequent email contact. We also greatly appreciate Karsten's contribution of space and time and personnel at Spadille for the ISCB permanent office. Also, many thanks to Bernhard Huitfeldt who served four years as Treasurer and leaves the ISCB financial records well organised and the organisation financially stable. Karsten and Bernhard have promised to continue to be active in ISCB, specifically on certain subcommittees. To those who continue to serve on the Committee, thanks for all that you've done and I look forward to working with you.

What are some of the plans for this year? We will have our annual meeting in Heidelberg from September 14-17, together with the German Association for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology (GMDS). The

Local Organising Committee and the Programme Committee are very busy arranging an exciting and stimulating programme. You will find the call for papers on their web site:

<http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/GMDS-ISC99>.

The previously approved subcommittees will also continue to be active in 1999. The student scholarship subcommittee (John Whitehead, chair) will grant five awards this year. The Education subcommittee (Michael Campbell, chair) has plans for a conference on clustered designs to be held in Sheffield. The subcommittee on Fraud (Marc Buyse, chair) has drafted a position paper on the role of biostatistics in the prevention, detection and treatment of fraud in clinical trials and a summary of the survey conducted in 1998 of the membership's experience with fraud.

At last summer's meeting, several new subcommittees were discussed. The procedure for formation of a new subcommittee is for the Committee to decide a subcommittee is needed, give its terms of reference, and appoint a chair and between three and ten members. There was implicit agreement by the Committee about the formation of three subcommittees and I have had preliminary discussions with potential subcommittee chairs. With David Warne I have discussed a subcommittee on communications. This group will discuss the future of the Newsletter and the Web Site (<http://www.iscb-homepage.org/>). Since we have functioned under the new constitution for several years, I have had discussions with Tony Johnson (who played a primary role in the writing of the constitution) about a subcommittee on operations. This group will review the constitution for need for clarifications and consider aspects of the society's operations which were not formalised in the constitution. Last, Bernhard Huitfeldt has proposed a subcommittee on long-term financial policy to assure ISCB continues on firm financial footing. In January, I will continue to communicate with each of these individuals and with the Committee about the terms of reference and members of the subcommittees. I will report on our progress in the next newsletter.

You may wonder how the business of the organisation gets conducted, with Committee members living in different countries and time zones. Much of the business is conducted by email. In the past two years, the officers have had extensive email with one another; I hope to continue this and to communicate in this manner with the ExCom as well. The establishment of the new subcommittees will take place this way.

Having read all of this, I hope you are interested in participating in some of the activities. If you would like to volunteer for one of the new subcommittees, please write me ([ng@helix.nih.gov](mailto:ng@helix.nih.gov)). If you have suggestions of other ISCB activities, I welcome your input and involvement.

Let me close by wishing you a happy, healthy and successful 1999.

## ISCB Student Conference Awards, 1998

from John Whitehead

The ISCB Student Conference Awards Scheme was set up at the Boston conference last year, inspired by a similar competition which has been a successful part of the Society for Clinical Trials Annual Meetings for many years. A subcommittee comprising John Whitehead (Chairman), Marc Buyse, Bjarne Nielsen, and Jørgen Seldrup was appointed to administer it.

By November last year, the rules of the Scheme had been finalised, and they were published in the ISCB News. The Scheme itself was further publicised in the posters and announcements of the Dundee conference. Nine applications were received, 2 from Australia, 3 from Germany, 1 from Sweden and 3 from the UK. The range of topics was wide, and the quality good. All of the entries would have made good conference presentations, but a summary of the Subcommittee's judgements nevertheless showed a clear separation between the three winners (who all tied for first place) and the next batch of submissions.

The three winners, and the titles of their papers, were as follows.

Patrick Kelly, *Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia*

**Multilevel survival models for recurrent childhood infectious diseases**

Mary Oldham, *European Business Management School, University of Wales, Swansea, UK*

**Statistical modelling of asthma episodes and air pollution**

Alex Sutton, *Faculty of Medicine, University of Leicester, UK*

**Meta-analysis of a complex set of studies: what tools are available for the researcher?**

All three talks were presented clearly and confidently. The total budget for the 1998 scheme was £2,800.

For Heidelberg in 1999, five Student Conference Awards will be made available. The Clinical Study Centre, Heidelberg (ZMBT) has generously agreed to support the scheme, contributing 40% of the costs while the ISCB will contribute the remaining 60%. The formal announcement of the 1999 scheme appears elsewhere in this issue.

## ISCB Subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs - Annual Report

from Chairman, **Prof. Dr. Helmut Schäfer**

(Institute of Medical Biometry and Epidemiology, Philipps-University of Marburg, Bunsenstrasse 3, D-35037 Marburg, Tel: +49-6421/28-6207, Fax: +49-6421/28-8921, Email: haegar@mail.uni-marburg.de)

The main task of this subcommittee is to review draft guidelines and draft directives on drug regulation at the European and international levels and to prepare co-ordinated comments of these. In 1996, the subcommittee had prepared comments on the European directive on Implementation of Good Clinical Practice in the Conduct of Clinical Trials, and on the draft guideline ICH-E9 Statistical Principles for Clinical Trials.

It is also one of the major aims of the subcommittee to achieve an official participation of scientific societies such as the ISCB in the consultation process for directives and guidelines on drug regulation on the European and international level. The ratification of the directive on the Implementation of Good Clinical Practice by the German Federal Council (Bundesrat) in December 1997 has given to the chairman of the subcommittee another opportunity to introduce this important demand into an official comment of the German Federal Council. In December 1997, the directive on Implementation of Good Clinical Practice was presented for ratification to the German Federal Council (Bundesrat). For this reason, the chairman of the subcommittee (Schäfer, Marburg) was asked for

comments (not in his function as chairman of the subcommittee, of course). Due to his intervention, the German Federal Council has required in its official comment (decided on 19 December 1997) to give a hearing to relevant scientific societies on the European level before passage or change of this directive and the regulations relevant to this directive.

Meanwhile, the German Society for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology (GMDS) was asked by the German Regulatory Authority (BfArM) to nominate international scientific societies which could contribute to scientific questions in the evaluation of drugs. This possibly includes the participation in the consultation process for international guidelines. The GMDS has nominated the ISCB, under the address of the chairman of the Subcommittee of Statistics in Regulatory Affairs.

This seems to be an important example how activities on the national level may support the aims of the subcommittee. All the members of the ISCB should start similar activities when the occasion arises.

## ISCB Subcommittees

Please contact the chairmen of these subcommittees for further information.

Title	Terms of Reference	Members
<b>Fraud</b>	<p>The Subcommittee on fraud will have the following goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to investigate the role of biostatistics in the prevention and detection of fraud in clinical research, and</li> <li>2. to promote the role of appropriate biostatistical contributions in the assessment of misconduct.</li> </ol> <p>The Subcommittee will produce a position paper reflecting the opinions of its members. A manuscript will be available prior to, or at the next meeting of, the ISCB.</p> <p>The Subcommittee will co-ordinate its efforts with those of the Society for Clinical Trials, which is developing a paper on data integrity.</p> <p>The name of the Subcommittee may have to be changed as a result of its deliberations, as the term "fraud" may have legal implications.</p>	<p>Chair: Dr Marc Buyse, Brussels (Belgium), Secretary: Dr Jane L. Hutton, Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), Dr Lutz Edler, Heidelberg (Germany), Prof. Stephan Evans, London (UK), Dr Nancy Geller, Bethesda (USA), Prof. Stephen L. George, Durham (USA), Prof. Emmanuel Lesaffre, Leuven (Belgium), Prof. Gordon Murray, Glasgow (UK), Dr Jonas Ranstam, Lund (Sweden), Dr Bruno Scherrer, Fresnes (France)</p>
<b>Statistics in Regulatory Affairs</b>	<p>The Subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs will consider and influence the development of regulatory requirements, guidelines and other documents concerning the scientific aspects of data collection, management, analysis, and reporting. Also the Subcommittee will work on issuing new guidelines on these topics, where it is needed.</p> <p>The Subcommittee will serve for four years at which time its existence may be re-approved subject to clause 7.08 of article 7 in the Constitution.</p>	<p>The Subcommittee is chaired by Prof. Helmut Schäfer of Institute of Medical Biometry, Marburg (Germany), Prof. Stephen Senn of University College London (UK) serves as Secretary, and Dr Jørgen Seldrup of Quintiles S.A. Strasbourg (France), and ISCB's President, Dr Karsten Schmidt of Spadille Biostatistics ApS (Denmark), are members.</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>The Subcommittee on Education will assess the feasibility of organising a one or two day course on contemporary methods in Clinical Biostatistics which will involve several members as lecturers and be presented in locations represented by the Society. This includes assessment of costs and organisation of such a course. Once feasibility has been assessed, this subcommittee will be responsible for planning the course curriculum and selecting lecturers. The financial role of ISCB should be considered. The sub-committee will also receive requests from members that this course be given at their location and evaluate them. The first course was presented at Barcelona, Spain from 25-27 June 1997 on the topic "Design and Analysis of Cross-over Clinical Trials" by Stephen Senn, and another is planned for Budapest.</p>	<p>Chairman: Prof. Mike Campbell (UK) Members: Dr Nancy Geller (USA) and Dr Albert Cobos (E)</p>
<b>Student Conference Awards</b>	<p>A new group was set up in Boston to look at how ISCB should encourage students to attend meetings.</p> <p>Please see the announcement in Dec 97 News.</p>	<p>Chair: Prof. John Whitehead (UK). Members: Marc Buyse (B), Jorgen Seldrup (F, rep. ISCB Pres.), Bjarne Nielsen (DK, sec.).</p>

The Communications, Operating Procedures and Long-term Financial Policy Subcommittees are in the process of being formed.

# Student Conference Awards, 1999

*International Society for Clinical Biostatistics  
Clinical Study Centre, Heidelberg (ZMBT)*

## Introduction

Student Conference Awards are available for registered postgraduate students to attend and present a paper at ISCB20 in Heidelberg, 14-17 September 1999. It is intended that five Awards will be made. Selection will be on the basis of a summary of the paper to be presented, which must concern the application of statistical methodology to clinical or epidemiological research. Applications, prepared as described in Rule 4 below, should be sent to

Professor John Whitehead  
Chairman, ISCB Student Conference Awards Subcommittee  
MPS Research Unit  
The University of Reading  
PO Box 240  
Earley Gate  
Reading, RG6 6FN  
UK

Tel: +44 118 931 8027  
Fax: +44 118 975 3169  
Email: [j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk)

The closing date for applications will be Friday, 12 February 1999

## Rules

1. The ISCB Student Conference Award Scheme is administered by a Subcommittee established by the Executive Committee of the ISCB.
2. Any student registered for a postgraduate degree is eligible to apply for an ISCB Student Conference Award.
3. Applications should be received by the Chairman of the Awards Subcommittee, prior to the closing date: Friday, 12 February 1999.
4. Applications should consist of
  - (a) a short abstract of the paper prepared according to the standard conference format.
  - (b) a summary of the paper to be presented of between 3 and 5 sides of A4 paper in length.
  - (c) a statement from the student's supervisor, on official notepaper of the student's institution, confirming that the student is registered for a postgraduate degree, and that the paper to be presented is original, not previously published, not the subject of any other award and is predominantly the student's own work.
5. Applications for Awards will be judged by the Awards Subcommittee, and applicants will be notified of the results as soon as possible, usually within six weeks of the closing date for applications. Judgement will concern the quality of the research described, and its relevance to the application of statistics to clinical and epidemiological research. The presentation of the application documents and the interest of the work to ISCB members will be taken into consideration. The decisions made by the Awards Subcommittee will be final.
6. In selecting papers for Awards, each member of the Awards Subcommittee will independently grade each paper submitted. In the case of ties in total grades, the Awards Subcommittee will make the final selection through discussion.
7. Members of the Awards Subcommittee must declare an interest in submissions from students with whom they have had substantial contact. Such contact would certainly include students supervised by or in the same department as Subcommittee members and might also include professional contact with the project as well as family links. The Subcommittee member with an interest in the submission would not grade it, other grades being scaled accordingly, and would not participate in discussions of that submission.

## **Student Conference Awards, 1999 (continued)**

8. For 1999 it is intended to make five awards. However, the Awards Subcommittee reserves the right, subject to the approval of the President of the ISCB, to make more or fewer Awards, or even none at all.
9. The Award Winners will have their papers scheduled in appropriate Contributed Paper Sessions. Their status as Award Winners will be indicated in the Conference Programme.
10. The ISCB will waive the registration fee of Award Winners, and will pre-pay their hotel accommodation. Full travel costs will be reimbursed, provided that these are incurred economically. Thus full advantage of Apex fares, student discounts and so on should be taken. Adequate insurance cover should be arranged, and will be reimbursed. A fixed pre-diem to cover meals will be paid, and the ISCB will pre-pay for attendance at the Conference Dinner. The ISCB will not pay for any excursions for the student.
11. On being selected, a student would submit a travel budget to the Awards Subcommittee for approval. If it proves more economic to make a longer visit in order to secure bargain fares, the cost of extra accommodation and meals will be borne by the ISCB. Once a budget is approved, additional travel costs will be reimbursed only if a convincing case of their necessity is made.
12. Normally, it is expected that students will pay for travel, insurance and meals in the first instance. The ISCB will make a reimbursement soon after the conference, on the basis of appropriate receipts. In the case of hardship, advance payments will be considered. If for good reason a student has to cancel the visit, then the ISCB will consider the reimbursement of costs incurred other than those recoverable from insurance.

## **Announcement: Nordic Network for Biostatistics Research**

Two-day workshop on PREDICTION IN MEDICAL STATISTICS  
at The Department of Statistics and Demography, Odense University, 4-5 February 1999  
from Werner Vach

The problem of the construction and validation of predictors has recently been paid increasing attention in the biometrical community, especially in connection with the construction of prognostic indices and diagnostic scores. The research frontier for these topics will be introduced, including applications and case studies. The benefits of new approaches will be critically discussed and open questions deserving future research will be identified.

### Invited speakers:

Doug Altman, David Hand, Hans van Houwelingen, Martin Schumacher

### Final program:

The final program will be available on the Internet no later than January 5, 1999, under <http://www.ou.dk/tvf/statdem/prediction.html>. There you will also find further information about the location and the social programme.

### Time and Place:

The workshop takes place at Odense University, Department of Statistics and Demography, Hollufgaard, Hestehaven 201, DK-5220 Odense SO, Denmark, starting February 4 at 9 a.m. and ending February 5 at 4 p.m.

### Registration:

Registration in free format, including name, address, telephone number, fax number and email address should arrive before January 21, 1999 at the following address:

Department of Statistics and Demography  
c/o Per Berg  
Odense University  
Hestehaven 201  
DK-5220 Odense SO, Denmark

Fax: +45 65 95 77 66, email: [per.b@demfo.ou.dk](mailto:per.b@demfo.ou.dk)

No fee is charged for attending the workshop. Participants are expected to arrange for their own travel and accommodation. A social program will be arranged for the evening of February 4. To facilitate workshop arrangements, please send in your registration in time!

Welcome to Odense in February 1999!

The Nordic Network for Biostatistics Research was established in January 1998 by the Departments of Biostatistics and the Biostatistics Research Groups at the Nordic universities. The aim is to co-ordinate and promote postgraduate training and research in Medical Statistics through workshops, mobility stipends and PhD courses. The network is funded by NorFa for the period 1998-2000. More information on

<http://www.matematik.su.se/matstat/biostat/network.html>

Werner Vach Department of Statistics and Demography Odense University Hestehaven 201 DK-5220 Odense SO Denmark  
Phone: +45 65 57 33 83 Fax: +45 65 95 77 66 email: [werner.v@statdem.ou.dk](mailto:werner.v@statdem.ou.dk)

## Book Review by Dario Gregori (Trieste, Italy)

R. Rajagopalan, E. Sherertz, R. T. Anderson (Eds):  
Care Management of Skin Diseases: Life Quality and Economic Impact, Marcel Dekker

This book is a collection of 30 contributions from the major expert in the field of quality of life, cost-effectiveness and care management assessment, with reference to the skin diseases. The book will be presented shortly discussing its organisation. Then, there will be a description of each section in some detail, followed by a general discussion.

### Organisation of the book

The book is divided into 4 specialised parts, plus an introduction (made of 4 contributions) a conclusive discussion and an appendix. The contributions related to quality of life are the majority, concentrated in the first 20 chapters. Cost-effectiveness is discussed through 5 chapters and care-management through other 4 chapters at the end of the book.

### Quality of life

Chapters 2-4 are devoted to give an overview of the state of the art of quality of life measurement in skin diseases. The contribution of Doward et al. is in particular a very general and complete introduction of the concept and the evolution of quality of life measures in the last 20 years. The patients' perspective of quality of life, which is usually neglected in studies where QoL is one of the various research outcomes, is addressed in two nice chapters. Among other things, they have the merit of introducing issues related to counselling for quality of life. Chapter 7-20 are more technical and they discuss in great detail several QoL measures like for instance DLQI, DSQL, the PLSI and SKINDEX, applied to a variety of diseases like Acne, Psoriasis, Cancer, Pruritus and others.

### Economic assessment

Chapters 21-25 are focused on the presentation of some results, coming out both from epidemiological studies and clinical trials, related to costs and effectiveness evaluation in treating patients with skin diseases. The discussion is limited to the presentation of case studies related to specific pathologies, like Psoriasis, Dermatitis and Cancer. Problems related to the efficient management of skin disease. This section, discussed through chapters 26-29 is more focused on public health problems, like for instance use of resources in Hospital or Land-based care of patients.

### Overall remarks

The book is of excellent quality, and most of the contributions are of outstanding level. The sections devoted to QoL are in particular offering an almost exhaustive overview, discussing not only issues related to philosophical and conceptual definitions of QoL, but also technical issues related to the psychometric evaluation of the proposed instruments.

The sections related to economics, although made of contributions of high scientific interest, do not offer a very complete description of the full issue of cost-effectiveness evaluation in skin disease. This most probably reflects a lack in the general literature, which is dealing with these aspects from a relatively short time. From a pure statistical point of view, the book is not offering novelties from a methodological point of view, but this was most probably not the first goal of the editors in choosing the contributions. From an applied point of view, the book is a good way to see how existing methods can be implemented in a series of state-of-the-art contributions. In this sense both a statistical and economical audience will benefit from reading the book.

## ISCB Aims

*The Society* is organised and shall be operated for educational and scientific purposes with the following Aims:

- to stimulate research on the biostatistical principles and methodology used in clinical research;
- to increase the relevance of statistical theory to clinical medicine;
- to promote high and harmonised standards of statistical practice;
- to work with other societies and organisations in the advancement of biostatistics;
- to promote better understanding of the use and interpretation of biostatistics by the general public, and by national and international organisations and agencies within the public and commercial sectors with an interest in, and/or responsibilities for, public health; and
- to provide a common forum for clinicians and statisticians through meetings, seminars and publications.

## Information on Submitting Articles

Articles sent via email or on diskette (Word, WordPerfect or text) on almost any topic are most welcome. This is an informal newsletter for you the readers, so please join in and make ISCB News a magazine that's even more interesting and fun to read.

## Advertising Rates

<b>The prices are:</b> Full A4 page: £ 200 Half A4 page: £ 150 Quarter A4 page: £ 100	<b>Additionally, we will include loose flyers with the distribution of the newsletter at an initial handling cost of £ 150. However, if the addition of the flyers increases the postal charges, the advertiser will also be charged the difference in distribution costs. For further information, please contact the Editor.</b>
<b>Publishing dates (and deadlines)</b> 1999:	(early April) May/June. (early November) December,



*From ISCB's globe-trotting reporter*



*ISCB19 search party (led by Stephen Senn) at Glen Cova, looking for Guernsey McPearson (John Whitehead)*

A trip report often claims the conference was memorable, but looking back to August, I do remember so many things unusually clearly...

Dundee is 9 hours behind Melbourne for instance, something rather important when you've just been to the latter and are trying to stay awake in the evenings...

Also to get to Dundee, you probably have to fly via London Heathrow, something not to be recommended if you hope to arrive the same day as your clothes (all the more strange having flown round the world and not having lost a thing in the month beforehand).

And the weather... a Scottish summer was somewhat colder than an Australian winter. This may explain the need for the Scottish breakfast, something that has to be experienced to be believed.

But despite these minor hardships, I have lot of fond memories of Dundee: discovering the ship Discovery, attending the Tattoo in Edinburgh.

And the watching some of ISCB's braver members taking to the floor at the Ceilidh and performing some exceedingly complicated Scottish dancing... whilst talking to a statistician from Sydney.

The Welcome by the Lord Provost of Dundee at the city's McManus Galleries was enjoyable, with the revelation that this was the first invasion by statisticians, from 28 countries all over the world (most of whose countryman had apparently invaded Dundee before).

As always there were some statistical talks between the social events (!), and it was possible to enjoy a fine mixture of topics.

Many thanks to Andrew Lawson and Gillian Raab for another excellent ISCB conference.

"Bis bald in Heidelberg..."

Donald A. Berry & Darlene K. Stangl (eds): Bayesian Biostatistics, Marcel Dekker

The last decade of the twentieth century has seen considerable growth of interest in the Bayesian approach to statistics (although not quite to the point where the famous prediction of D.V. Lindley that the "21<sup>st</sup> century will be Bayesian" appears likely to be completely borne out!). In biostatistics, the impact may have been less marked than in other areas, but even so we have come to the point where respected senior figures in the field now pay much more attention to Bayesian ideas than in the past. Donald Berry and colleagues have been proponents and exponents of the Bayesian way for a long time, but the current weighty volume (704 pages) would have been hard to imagine even just a few years ago.

Berry and Stangl have assembled an impressive collection including contributions from many prominent Bayesian practitioners in both North America and the U.K. The book is a loosely structured anthology that begins with a lengthy overview by the editors, followed by two further overview pieces, one on clinical trials by Spiegelhalter, Freedman and Parmar (which appears rather curiously to be a reprint of a well-known 1994 discussion paper in JRSSB, although this is not explicitly stated), and the other on non-experimental epidemiological applications by Ashby and Hutton. These overviews are by no means an adequate replacement for a more organised and detailed introduction to Bayesian inference but should serve to give a reader unfamiliar with the Bayesian approach a useful insight into the frame of thinking and some of the key issues that arise.

For example, Berry and Stangl discuss the dilemma of how to handle historical information in analysing a new study, and make the important point that Bayesian or hierarchical modelling ideas provide a technology for *compromising* (or *smoothing*) between traditional extremes of either ignoring the previous data or pooling it indistinguishably with the new. I had more difficulty with some of their other discussions, especially the material on decision problems and adaptive design. It was not clear why considering predictive distributions for observable quantities (such as the next 10 patients) would facilitate decisions, and in general these examples seemed contrived. This criticism touches on a dilemma that seems to present itself repeatedly throughout the book. A lot of the "selling power" of the Bayesian argument needs to come from its real-world impact with examples, and yet there rarely seems enough room in each example to inject enough realistic detail to make the argument persuasive. It is hard sometimes to avoid the impression of statisticians "abstracting" a problem from the real-world context, but never bringing the answer back again (to find out for example whether clinical colleagues can really use the results in practice or in a substantive publication).

On the other hand, Spiegelhalter et al's paper may turn out to be a landmark in the history of clinical trials (and, perhaps because of its gestation, is better written than some of the other chapters). It spells out a very clear and pragmatic alternative to the current rather unsatisfactory range of frequentist practices, especially in relation to stopping rules. Later chapters by Qian et al, and Lewis and Berry return to the important topic of monitoring clinical trials. Ashby and Hutton's review of applications in population epidemiology serves mainly to highlight the lack of impact of Bayesian ideas in this field, with some notable exceptions such as mapping and small-area estimation.

The second section of the book contains two chapters on the assessment of prior distributions, a topic that will no doubt concern the non-Bayesian sceptic. Chaloner's chapter is an extensive review, while Kadane and Wolfson

provide more specific examples and an emphasis on the use of predictive distributions. Unfortunately, the two contributions appear to contradict each other on one important point: Chaloner writes that "Asking for quartiles is difficult" and recommends eliciting 2.5<sup>th</sup> and 97.5<sup>th</sup> percentiles, while the other authors warn explicitly against trying to assess the tails of distributions. Along with the extensive cited literature on the pitfalls of most subjective probability assessments, this is not likely to inspire confidence!

The third section of the book discusses decision problems, in the context of four extended case studies, and the fourth contains two chapters illustrating Bayesian approaches to design problems. Section V is a stand-alone chapter by Raftery and Richardson, which reviews important work on methods for model selection in regression modelling (surely the "bread-and-butter" of applied biostatistics, at least in non-experimental epidemiology). Raftery's GLIB software (freely available on StatLib) makes it possible for Bayesian ideas to be used in making those familiar and difficult choices about how to code risk factors and which factors to include in a model. A worked example examining the analysis of a case-control study of dietary factors in breast cancer is very clear and the authors argue with some force that the methods provide substantial new insight into the data.

The sixth and seventh sections comprise the last half of the book and consist of 13 chapters on particular applications (under the headings "Hierarchical Models" and "Other Topics"), ranging over topics including pharmacokinetics, meta-analysis, hierarchical models for mortality and risk of schizophrenia, drug interactions, perinatal mortality, crossover trials, and change-point analysis. There should truly be something here for everybody, and there was certainly far too much for me to absorb even a fraction of it. I will look forward however to referring to various chapters on occasions for specific problems.

The reader may wonder about my view of the role of Bayesian inference in biostatistics (I often wonder myself!). As an applied statistician, the bulk of whose work is close collaboration with epidemiologists and clinical researchers, I have never yet got around to trying to elicit a real prior distribution. On the other hand, I generally allow colleagues to relax with casual "pseudo-Bayesian" interpretations of confidence intervals (especially if their sample sizes are large and study design strong!). Ultimately, the Bayesian view of statistics is the only one that seems to make (common)sense, but how quickly will it make a real difference to the kind of biostatistics that gets published in the *Lancet* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*? I find this hard to judge, but believe the main impact will be in the synthesis and accumulation of research evidence, and in examining complex hierarchical data structures, rather than the analysis of simple studies such as randomised trials, where a reasonable sample size should usually allow standard diffuse prior (also known as likelihood-based) methods. The book under review makes an important contribution to the field. It is an uneven collection and perhaps not sufficiently coherent to make a persuasive Bayesian case to a sceptic, but it will make a useful reference on library shelves. At the price (quoted as \$165 on my review copy), it is hard to recommend purchase by individuals.

## Books and Software for Review

### Books

Author	Title	Publisher
Shein-Chung Chow & Jen-Pei Liu (Eds)	Design and Analysis in Pharmaceutical Development	Marcel Dekker (1998)
GA Lewis, D Mathieu & R Phan-Tan-Luu	Pharmaceutical Experimental Design	Marcel Dekker (1999)
Donald C Monkhouse & CT Rhodes (Eds)	Drug Products for Clinical Trials	Marcel Dekker (1998)

Reviews still awaited:

Reviewer	Author	Title
Maria Antonia Barcelo	Wang C	Sense and nonsense of statistical inference
Antonio Ciampi	Joe H	Multivariate models and dependence concepts (Chapman and Hall)
Albert Cobo	Steven Piantadosi	Clinical Trials: A Methodologic Perspective

**Publishers: I would be very grateful if you would send some new books or software to the Society's Permanent Office!**

## Notes on the Meeting of the Executive Committee of ISCB

Held at the Dundee Stakis Hotel, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1998  
from Simon Day

Members Present:

Karsten Schmidt, Nancy Geller, Simon Day, Bernhard Huitfeldt, David Warne, Marc Buyse, Mike Campbell, Bruno Cesana, Michael Schemper, John Whitehead

Members unable to attend:

Albert Cobos, Ted Colton, Jorgen Seldrup

The following topics were discussed in a long meeting lasting from 1500-1845:

1. **Closure of Boston Meeting**
2. **Subcommittee Reports**
  - 2.1 Education
  - 2.2 Regulatory Affairs
  - 2.3 Fraud
3. **Terms of Reference of Education subcommittee**

4. **Student Scholarship (Student Conference Awards)**
  5. **National Groups**
  6. **Newsletter**
  7. **Communications Subcommittee**
  8. **Bylaws Subcommittee**
  9. **Theme Meeting**
  10. **Nominations/elections**
  11. **Treasurer's Report**
  12. **AGM Preparation**
  13. **AOB**
  14. **Future Meetings**
    - 14.1 Heidelberg 1999
    - 14.2 Trento 2000
    - 14.3 Joint Meeting with SCT
    - 14.4 Stockholm 2001
- The meeting closed at 18:45.

# Minutes of the AGM of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

Dundee Stakis Hotel, 26<sup>th</sup> August 1998  
From Simon Day

Karsten Schmidt in the chair, Simon Day taking notes

## Attendees:

Karsten Schmidt (Denmark)	Galimberti Stefania (Italy)
Simon Day (UK)	Erika Graf (Germany)
Nancy Geller (USA)	Martin Kulldorff (USA)
Bernhard Huitfeldt (Sweden)	Wim van Putten (Netherlands)
Jorgen Seldrup (France)	Emanuel Lesaffre (Belgium)
Bruno Cesana (Italy)	Hans van Houwelingen (Netherlands)
Stephen Evans (UK)	Theo Stijnen (Netherlands)
John Whitehead (UK)	Stephen Senn (UK)
David Warne (Switzerland)	Carol Redmond (USA)
Mike Campbell (UK)	Jean Christophe Thalabard (France)
Barbara Hawkins (USA)	Andrew Lawson (UK)
Gillian Raab (UK)	Bjorn Straume (Norway)
Richard Mowery (USA)	Marc Buyse (Belgium)
Maria Pritsch (Germany)	Walter Lehmacher (Germany)
Kristina Meyer (Germany)	Werner Vach (Denmark)
Bjarne Nielsen (Denmark)	Maria Grazia Valsecchi (Italy)
Marianne Frisén (Sweden)	Catherine Klersy (Italy)
Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (France)	Chris Palmer (UK)
Michael Schemper (Austria)	Tony Johnson (UK)
Graham Wetherill (UK)	Norbert Victor (Germany)
Zhaohai Li (USA)	Paul Mulder (Netherlands)
	Bela Hajtman (Hungary)

The meeting opened at 12:45.

## 1. President's Report

Karsten Schmidt reported a year of busy communication within the Executive Committee, and particularly between the Officers. Much attention has been paid to the detail of the new Constitution and a new subcommittee on Operating Procedure is to be set up with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1999, chaired by Tony Johnson.

A new home page has been set up at [www.iscb-homepage.com](http://www.iscb-homepage.com). David Warne was thanked for his work producing the newsletter and a subcommittee on Communications is to be set up to consider wider aspects of communication. David Warne will chair the subcommittee.

A further subcommittee on long-term financial policy will be set up and chaired by Bernhard Huitfeldt.

The student conference award scheme had been very successful and three excellent presentations had been made at the scientific meeting.

Subcommittees on Fraud, Education and Regulatory Affairs were recognised - see notes later on their activities.

The death of Irene Guggenmoos-Holzmann was reported and her contributions to the Society were praised.

Andrew Lawson and Gillian Raab and their respective committees were greatly thanked for the work that had gone into organising the 1998 conference.

Future meetings of the Society were reported as

1999 Heidelberg  
2000 Trento  
2001 Stockholm  
2002 not yet fixed  
2003 UK (joint with SCT)

Marc Buyse and Bernhard Huitfeldt will be retiring from the Executive Committee at the end of 1998 and their contributions were recognised and appreciated.

The Report was accepted by a show of hands.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Bernhard Huitfeldt reported. The membership stays very stable at around 700 but there are a lot of new members each year and, therefore, also a lot of members leaving each year. Various incentives were considered to encourage continuity of membership. Such ideas will be explored by the Financial Planning Subcommittee.

The account to end of 1997 was presented. There has been a £20,000 net loss during 1997 (on a turnover of approximately £67,000). This was based on a variety of factors including two unpaid invoices, a small loss on the Boston meeting and additional expenses incurred as a result of the new Constitution. The balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1997 was £118,302.

The Report was accepted by a show of hands.

## 3. Subcommittee Reports

### 3.1 Education

Mike Campbell reported. Stephen Senn has given two very successful courses. We wish to give general courses in Eastern Europe; to give a course on statistical refereeing for medical journals; and to support a research symposium on cluster randomised trials.

### 3.2 Fraud

Marc Buyse reported. A position paper has been drafted for submission (probably) to *Statistics in Medicine*. A survey of opinions and experiences of fraud was circulated and a poster presented at the scientific meeting summarising the results. Statistical methods for the detection of fraud was the next topic to be considered.

It was requested that the Constitution relax the rule for having a maximum of 10 members in a subcommittee. This will be considered by the Operating Procedures Subcommittee.

### 3.3 Regulatory Affairs

Karsten Schmidt reported. It was reported that although ISCB had been recognised by the German authorities, little further action had taken place.

### 3.4 Student Conference Awards

John Whitehead reported. Shortly after the Boston meeting the rules were finalised and published. Nine submissions were received, all of a very high standard and three winners were agreed. The winners were PJ Kelly, MA Oldham and AJ Sutton.

For the Heidelberg meeting in 1999 it is intended that 5 awards will be granted; ISCB to cover 60% of the costs and the Clinical Studies Centre, Heidelberg, to cover 40% of costs.

Continuation of each of the subcommittee was approved by a show of hands.

## 4. Newsletter

David Warne reported. Two editions will appear this year. It is hoped that either two or three will appear next year. Everyone was asked to send suitable short articles for inclusion.

David Warne was warmly thanked for his work.

## 5. Future Scientific Meetings

### 5.1 Heidelberg: 14-17 September, 1999

Norbert Victor presented. This meeting will overlap with the GMDS. Details were presented of members of scientific and organising committees and of the programme topics and social events. Copies of the first announcement were available at the registration desk.

### 5.2 Trento: 4-8 September, 2000

Maria Grazia Valsecchi briefly outlined plans for

### 5.3 Stockholm: 27-31 August, 2001

Bernhard Huitfeldt confirmed plans.

### 5.4 Year 2002

is not yet booked.

### 5.5 2003

Probably UK, joint meeting with SCT.

The meeting closed at 13:45.

from Annette Kopp-Schneider, Anke Buchauer, Thomas Wetter and Lutz Edler (LOC)

Dear ISCB Members,

The turn of the year is approaching and we are getting ready for you to come to Heidelberg to participate in the ISCB-GMDS 99 conference.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

With this issue of the ISCB newsletter you will find the Call for Papers for the ISCB-GMDS 99 conference which contains information about the conference, its scientific topics, various organisational aspects and some information about Heidelberg and how to reach us, and where to stay in Heidelberg. Please comply with the deadline of the abstracts of January 31, 1999. We strongly encourage you to submit your abstracts using the online abstract submission form

([www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gm99/submission\\_form.html](http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gm99/submission_form.html)), entering your abstract as plain ASCII text. This site is already active and waits for your contribution,

### SOCIAL PROGRAMME

In addition to the information provided in the Call for Papers, we have an update on the social events that we have planned for you. These events happening all over our conference week intend to combine the two annual meetings, that of the ISCB officially from 14th to 17th and that of the GMDS officially from 13th to 16th and it is our serious aim to bring by these event scientist from both societies together.

On Sunday 12 Sep. 1999

We have arranged an informal get together at an old brewery. On the eve of the GMDS part this might be also attractive for ISCB's early night birds.

Monday 13 Sep. 1999: The mayor of Heidelberg Beate Weber, just re-elected for another term of eight years, will give a reception at the town hall.

Tuesday 14 Sep. 1999: All participants are invited to join a choir to sing pieces of Bach and other contemporary composers. This is combined with the reception of the Heidelberg University Rektor in the Old University Hall (Aula).

Wednesday 15 Sep. 1999: The Conference Dinner (Gesellschaftsabend) takes place in the famous Heidelberg castle, Königssaal.

Thursday 16 Sep. 1999: Three different excursions are planned at the moment. You can either take a (strenuous) bicycle trip to Speyer, or you can participate at a boat tour on the Neckar river in the spirit of Mark Twain, or you can take a trip into the 'Pfalz', one of the main and most famous wine-growing regions in Germany, and taste wine there.

We have arranged several guided walks around the old city centre of Heidelberg during the conference. In addition, we offer you three different two-day trips to famous areas of Germany that you can book either as pre or post conference tours. At the present stage of planning we think on visiting Trier, the oldest Roman city north of the Alps followed by a scenic drive along the Mosel with wine tasting, touring the Romantic route to the baroque Würzburg and the medieval Rothenburg o Tauber or visiting the Bavarian Castles in the German Deep South.

All accompanying people are invited to participate in the above listed events. Further we recommend the following activities for the time being:

Shop at Europe's longest pedestrian precinct the 'Hauptstraße'. Look at the famous Manesse signatures at the University's library. Take the cable car up to the Königsstuhl and have lunch at one of the restaurants up there. Walk along the Philosopher's Walk, maybe with an outing to Bismarcksäule.

On Wednesday there a weekly food and fruit markets in Neuenheim and on the marketplace in the old city centre.

You might visit one of the many Museums located in Heidelberg or nearby.

We are in negotiations with the local traffic organisation (Verkehrsbetriebe) to provide each participant with a one-week ticket which would enable her/him to use an excellent public transportation system with a radius of more than 20 km around Heidelberg.

### TUTORIALS

The planning of the tutorials is going now into its final phase. From the ISCB Programme Committee chaired by Martin Schumacher three tutorials have been provisionally scheduled for Monday 13 Sep. 1999:

- (i) Introduction to Frailty Models (Philip Hougaard, Copenhagen)
- (ii) Statistical Methods in Genomics and Computational Biology (Richard Simon, Bethesda)
- (iii) Developing and Validating Clinical Prediction Models (Frank Harrell JR, Charlottesville).

The GMDS Programme Committee will propose soon (see our [www](http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gm99/registration_form.html) page in January) 2-4 half-day tutorials scheduled for Sunday 12 Sep. 1999, on topics of Medical Informatics and also Epidemiology and Biometry.

### WWW

The conference webpage is ready and currently offers you all the information you need at present. The webpage will be updated as more information becomes available. So please check it every once in a while.

### WWW-REGISTRATION

We also encourage you to register via internet:

([www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gm99/registration\\_form.html](http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gm99/registration_form.html)), starting 1 January 1999.

### WWW-HOTEL-BOOKING

All hotel reservations will be made through the Heidelberg tourist office. For reasons of costs and not increasing the registration fee the LOC will not arrange accommodation and the participants are called to take care by their own. In our website you will find a link to the tourist office booking form ([www.heidelberg.de/verkehrsverein/english/iscb-buchung.html](http://www.heidelberg.de/verkehrsverein/english/iscb-buchung.html)).

At this site you can book online very conveniently. You may contact the Verkersverein also via mail, fax or phone. The address is on page 10 of the enclosed Call for Papers. Heidelberg is in the summer a very attractive city and visited by many tourists. Please make your hotel arrangements as soon as possible. If you wait too long, you will either not be able to stay in Heidelberg city or you will have to pay much higher prices. For those who register early enough, single hotel rooms will be available for about DEM 100 per night.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Heidelberg.

Seasonal Greetings from the ISCB-GMDS-99 Local Organising Committee.

## How to Contact the ISCB Executive Committee & ISCB20-Heidelberg LOC

	Address	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
<b>ISCB Permanent Office: (Ms Rita Schou)</b>	ISCB, PO Box 25, DK-3480 Fredensborg, Denmark	+45 48 484100	+45 48 484200	Iscb@post3.tele.dk
<i>President:</i> Dr Nancy L. Geller (USA)	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute, Office of Biostatistics Research, 2 Rockledge Centre, Room 8210, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892-7938, USA	+1 301 435 0434	+1 301 480 1862	Ng@helix.nih.gov
<i>Vice-President:</i> Mr Simon J. Day (UK)	LEO Pharmaceuticals, Longwick Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9RR, England-UK	+44 1844 276215	+44 1844 346088	Simond@leopharm.co.uk
<i>Secretary:</i> Dr Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I)	Instituto Statistica Medica & Biometria, Via Venezian 1, I-20133 Milan, Italy	+39 02 70600908	+39 02 2362939	Biometri2@imicilea.cilea.it
<i>Treasurer:</i> Prof. John Whitehead (UK)	MPS Research Unit, The University of Reading, PO Box 240, Earley Gate, Reading RG6 6FN, England-UK	+44 118 9318027	+44 118 9753169	j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk
<i>News Editor:</i> Dr David W. Warne (CH)	Chemin Frank-Thomas 40, CH-1208 Genève, Switzerland	+41 22 700 6380 +41 22 739 3374	+41 22 739 3330 +41 22 700 6380	100557.2260@compuserve.com david.w.warne.ch_gva01@serono.com
<i>Past-President:</i> Dr Karsten Schmidt (DK)	Spadille Biostatistik ApS, Jernbanegade 34C, DK-3480 Fredensborg, Denmark	+45 48 484100	+45 48 484200	Spadille@post4.tele.dk
Prof. Mike Campbell (UK)	Division of General Practice, Community Sciences Centre, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield S5 7AU, England-UK	+44 114 271 5919	+44 114 242 2136	m.j.campbell@sheffield.ac.uk
Dr Bruno Cesana (I)	Ospedale Maggiore di Milano, Laboratorio Epidemiologico, Via F. Sforza 28, I-20122 Milano, Italy	+39 2 5503 8283	+39 2 5830 3831	Cesana@telemacus.it
Dr Albert Cobos (E)	RDES, S.L., c/ Tarragona 84, 2º 1a, E-08015 Barcelona, Spain	+34 93 226 7496	-	Alberto.cobos@Pharma.Novartis.com
Prof. Theodore (Ted) Colton (USA)	Boston University, School of Public Health, 80 E. Concord St., Boston, MA 02118, USA	+1 617 638 5172	+1 617 638 4458	Ted@med-busphueb.bu.edu
Dr Simon (Siem) Heisterkamp (NL)	Dept of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Amsterdam, PO Box 22700, NL-1100 DE, Amsterdam, Netherlands	31 20 566 8520	31 20 691 2683	s.heisterkamp@amc.uva.nl
Dr Emmanuel Lesaffre (B)	Catholic University Leuven, Biostatistics Centre for Clinical Trials, U.Z. St. Rafael, Kapucynenvoer 35, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium	-	-	emmanuel.lesaffre@biostat.be
Prof. Michael Schemper (A)	Section of Clinical Biometrics, Dept of Med. Computer Sciences, Vienna University, Spitalgasse 23, A-1090 Vienna, Austria	+43 1 40400 6689	+43 1 40400 6687	Michael.schemper@AKH-Wien.ac.at
Dr Jørgen Seldrup (F)	Quintiles SA Strasbourg, 4 Route de la Rivière, Parc Club des Tanneries, Lingolsheim, BP 306, F-67832 Tanneries Cedex, France	+33 3 8877 4531	+33 3 88774469	Jseldrup@qstr.quintiles.com

<i>ISCB20-Heidelberg LOC:</i> Prof. Norbert Victor	-	-	+49 6221 56 4195	victor@sol.imbi.uni-heidelberg.de
---	---	---	------------------	-----------------------------------

### ISCB

#### ISCB Changes of Address

Please inform the Permanent Office that looks after money, the membership and mailing list databases.

## National Groups: A (Relatively) New Form of ISCB Organisation

From Bela Hajtman, (Hungarian National Group)  
(Revised and slightly extended version of a poster presented at ISCB-19)

1 ISCB celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. It may be regarded a modest and unpretentious behaviour to avoid solemn commemoration but also it can be a sign of an unhealthy state of this society. Twenty years is a remarkable period, not only in a person's life, but even in the history of nations as well. What is the real reason of this silent, unobservable anniversary?

I shall try to define what has been called 'unhealthy state' in the first paragraph. Be far from it for me to diminish this Society which is so highly esteemed by me and honoured worldwide. In the contrary: I should like to add some small stones to the (hopefully soon unveiled) building of this hidden anniversary.

Shortly speaking: 'S' has less emphasis in the name than the other letters do. ISCB is international in all meanings, the best representative and often pioneering on Clinical Biostatistics – but is it a **Society** indeed? Reading the year by year thicker volumes of ISCB News, you find the question in almost all issues: is it enough to organise a yearly (otherwise very important and high level) conference? Does the word 'Society' not oblige us to do more?

The answers usually are general and not very satisfactory, in other cases they list the Chairs and Boards where delegates of ISCB have very important roles and increase the renown of the Society. It is fine – but will all this form a *Society* from ISCB? Members in SEDREG and in other places represent a very narrow stratum of ISCB's several hundreds membership. Do these hundreds feel they are part of a Society? It can also be queried that recruiting new members by joining *everybody* attending an ISCB conference is a good method or not. This is simply a contradiction to the custom stressed repeatedly, that an advantage of being a member is to pay reduced registration rates at ISCB conferences.

Additionally, many from these new members do not renew their membership next year. On the other hand, some of them become devoted ISCB members and take part in the leadership of the Society in some years. They *get* something that is more than participation in the meeting. How could the others get this hardly definable thing?

It would be an injustice not to mention those features of ISCB's organisation which form a good base of truly being a Society. The Officers and all the leaders (the Executive Committee) change frequently and regularly. All members are eligible, even more: who feels strength and ability of working for the Society as an ExCom member, can 'recommend' himself and can be elected, in a totally democratic way, by the membership. They will be really active members of the Society for two or four years, and this feeling will last for years after their term has ended. The majority, however, are reluctant from this 'self-recommendation', and anyway: not everybody wants to be a leader, rather an ordinary member of the Society. And so we are here at our original problem: is this society a Society? Even if it is, what can be done to make it a real community with stronger relationships among members?

After plenty of questions and criticism, it is time to come to my closer subject outlined in the title.

2 **National Groups** have been proposed in 1989 by Wolfgang Köpcke, then President of ISCB. His article 'From the Pulpit of the President' (ISCB News, no. 8, May 1990) deals almost entirely with this subject. The new ISCB Constitution (adopted in 1996) accepts the idea of National Groups and formalises the conditions and function of these groups. Although ISCB members are informed about the existence of National Groups (they

have approved them a year ago by postal ballot), it seems they know very little of the aim and work of these groups.

The original aim was 'to increase the number of ISCB members from Eastern European countries' (Köpcke, loc. cit.). These countries were isolated from the main stream of scientific life for decades. Some books and journals were available but personal contacts were hindered not only by financial reasons (mentioned by Köpcke) but also by political ones. Participation in conferences was very difficult, sometimes impossible. I don't want to list the difficulties of working as a biostatistician in such a country; this can perhaps be the topic of *another* article. Just an interesting – and quite unbelievable – example from the early (so-called 'Stalinist') years: biostatistics (biometrics) was forbidden. It has been regarded – together with several other fields, e.g. genetics – as a 'bourgeois and anti-materialist science'. Everyone knows how long the late effects of such an opinion last in the minds and in the education.

To see how these aims were formulated it is worth to cite a whole paragraph from Professor Köpcke's article mentioned above. "In order to solve this problem we created the following model for such a country. One colleague is acting as the National Representative of the ISCB in that country. He gives information about the ISCB to interested scientists in that country and tries to recruit them for the ISCB. He opens an ISCB-account, where all ISCB-members from that country can pay the membership fee in their own currency. For participants of ISCB-meetings it is also possible to pay for registration and housing into that account. The costs for registration and housing for the National Representative is paid by the ISCB. Additionally, if a national section of ISCB is built up, one free subscription of 'Statistics in Medicine' for this section goes to the National Representative. The final aim is to organise in some future years an ISCB-meeting in that country."

As the only ISCB member in Hungary (since ISCB-9, Innsbruck, 1988) I was happy to undertake the task of organisation (see Section 3). My letter to the ExCom on establishment of the Hungarian National Group has been published in Number 10 of ISCB News, May 1991. The Polish National Group was established in 1990 and still exists, and for a short period, an East German Group existed as well; after the unification of the two Germanies, however, the latter has automatically dissolved. All these happened more than seven years ago – and no other National Group was founded. Some representatives of ISCB have had negotiations with scholars of different countries but the process, initiated in 1990 and gladly accepted by many members seems to be stopped. For myself, as an ExCom member, I tried to join some countries but I failed in Slovakia, Romania and in the Czech Republic. The only real wish to form a National Group was found in Russia; when I left my chair in the ExCom the correspondence so far was forwarded to the new Officers. This happened two years ago; I am afraid of a failure again.

To prevent the (perhaps reproachful) question of some members ('Why do National Groups still need support, several years after the political change?') I am in a hurry to assert that without the support outlined above by Professor Köpcke – for which we are very indebted and grateful to him and the ISCB – practically no member from these countries could attend the meetings. It is not, however, the subject of this paper to discuss the poverty and other difficulties.

**3 Organisation** of the Hungarian National Group started in the summer of 1990 and our first meeting was held in February 1991. In the meantime, an intensive correspondence was carried out between Professor Köpcke and me on the one hand, and between me and several dozen of Hungarian scholars on the other. Mathematicians have shown significant interest at the beginning, but later, when the actual meetings were on the floor, most of them disappeared. What remained: the most important and precious part of the stock: people working in medical statistics. Mostly from University Departments but few people from the Pharmaceutical Industry as well. It was very nice to see how the members called their friends (unknown by me) and recruited them for the Society. Fortunately, this process has been maintained in the years what followed as well.

If the recruiting process has been so successful: why is our group so small? The answer is simple. There are less than twenty people in the whole country who deal with Medical Statistics and the related topics professionally. This number is slowly increasing, due to the fact that leaders in pharmaceutical industry realised: they cannot work longer without an expert statistician (as they have done for years). In the first year, we had two members from this area; now we have eight. (Partly those people, members from the beginning, who moved from University to different pharmaceutical companies.) I may say that practically all people in the country who have Clinical Biostatistics as their main profession are members of ISCB (and in the same time, are members of the Hungarian National Group, of course). From 1991, four persons left the Society and the reason was the same in all cases: they changed their job and started to work in a different field.

Nevertheless, I am dissatisfied with the composition of the Group and make efforts from the beginning to change this situation. More exactly: it is a pity that we cannot join *physicians* in a higher number. In the first year we had two – and this number did not increase till now. They cannot take part in all activities of the Group (see Section 4) but they have a very important role in the Society: to propose problems, to control intelligibility of our (verbal and written) products, to prevent development of a gap between medical statisticians and clinical (and other) practitioners in medicine.

**4** What is meant by **activities** of the group? It was clear for us from the first moment that being a member of a Society is an *obligation* to do something and, in the same time, a fine opportunity *to profit* from the benefits such an organisation may provide.

We decided to meet monthly. Some members proposed bimonthly meetings but it was refused and kept for emergency cases. (Later we had such a period, indeed!) Christmas and summer holidays regarded, monthly meetings mean eight or nine 'coming together' per year. To have frequent meetings, however, is not unaccustomed in a society's life. From time to time, there are such proposals in ISCB as well. The most pregnant formulation can be read in ISCB News, Number 16, p.18. The editor, David Warne risked to make a survey among ISCB members; he published his uncommented results in the issue mentioned. One member wrote, answering Q6: 'perhaps we need national meetings for ISCB members (sub-groups).' Yes, our National Group is truly such a 'sub-group' from the beginning and plans to keep this feature in the future as well.

Our monthly meetings were of different types and their diversity has increased year by year. The short description that follows concentrates to the conclusions: which have proven to be successful and which ones failed; one could perhaps draw some lesson from our experiences.

The principal form in the first years was the same as we have learnt in our other – mathematical, medical,

biological, which one was the case – societies: there is a paper, given by a member or by an invited speaker, and it is followed by an intensive discussion. This is a well-defined and useful form of scientific meeting and time to time it is still used in our Society as well. Due to the small number of *medical* statisticians, we sometimes organised our meetings together with the Biometrical Session of Hungarian Biological Society or with the Hungarian Region of International Biometrics Society. It has to be confessed: our hopes to increase the audience have not been really fulfilled. In the societies mentioned the majority of the members work in agriculture or in the non-human biology (botany, zoology). Therefore, if the title of the presentation promised a lecture on medical statistics, they did not come. If a botanical or agricultural subject was dealt with, many from our members remained at home. Finally, if the title did not outline clearly what will be given by the author, practically nobody was present...

It seemed to be a better form to organise 'open meetings' for problems brought by the audience. It is very fine if you have time enough (a half or a whole day, for example). In our two-hours sessions it happened that biostatisticians argued and quarrelled on the topic the first 'brave' biologist has put on the floor and the others – many of them bringing open problems as well – were bored and impatient. They tried to intervene, to find some biostatisticians listen to them, and finally the meeting fell out to small discussing groups, loud enough to disturb each other but not loud enough to be attended by the others. Nevertheless, it was a good initiative, and some people have found a statistical consultant and some scientific co-operation also have commenced.

Another form, which seemed to be promising but usually failed, is a kind of a 'self-building' group. An important but not too easy statistical book was chosen. Members were supposed to read some selected chapters for the next meeting and then discuss it commonly, to clear up obscure points or to explain the subject for those who could not follow. In my view, the failure is not primarily due to the laziness of those not reading the proposed chapters. For such an activity a homogeneous group is needed: if absurdly long parts are required (by leading persons who have chosen the book and even had read it earlier) the others are discouraged and either do not read or they cannot consume the content in the short time given.

Much promising is our activity of the last two years. One of our leading medical journals publishes a series of papers on biostatistics, translated from the English original. After each article, a 'statistical dictionary' is given: simple explanations (with medical examples) to the technical words used in the text. These explanations are written by members of our National Group: the words are distributed to volunteers and the explanations are discussed commonly by the Group (and rewritten again and again, if necessary).

Another programme of last year was to elaborate guidelines for editors of medical journals. What do they have to check in the papers and in the adjudicators' opinion from the statistical point of view? When is recommended and when is necessary to send the paper to a specialist in medical statistics? After this, a half-day meeting was organised for editors of medical journals and periodicals. I was surprised when 25 people gathered representing 21 journals. (Do not forget: we are a small country.) They all were positive to our guidelines, had plenty of questions, asked advises, and we parted among promises of further, closer collaboration.



This 'editorial meeting' was not the only one organised for people out of the Society. A two-day national conference was also organised on medical statistics. It was a real success. Also we had a two-part course for medical doctors on survival methods. The room was full and the course had to be repeated for the late applicants refused. We plan to organise similar courses on other topics as well. I have to emphasise that our members also participated in the course; in our view, it is a good method to learn from each other, even on an elementary level.

This is not the only example of mutual help of our members. They help each other, for instance, to find a new job. They support each others' scientific work, if necessary: members often circulate their manuscripts, before publication, among colleagues in the National Group. This is followed by an open discussion at the next regular meeting.

A close community, a real Society will never be born based on strictly scientific meetings only, I think. The idea of adopting different forms, let's call them *excursions*, has developed 'stepwise'. Most members live and work in Budapest, but those coming from the country have to reach the last train. After few years it happened that some members from country towns were invited by one member or another (or we may call them 'friend' already) to stay in their home for night, after a longer meeting. This was the first step.

Then one of our members, working at a distant university, invited the whole group to visit their department. The head of the department was our host, we were acquainted with their work and plans, and in the afternoon, we still had some time to see the beauties of the town. This excursion was a purely scientific one, however.

The next occasion was the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the group. It was 'half-scientific': after a welcome drink and snack, several talks were given by the members on their comic or funny experiences in biostatistical work. (Famous misunderstandings, ridiculous misinterpretations, humorous views on biostatistics; it is better that medical doctors were not present.) The evening ended with an optional supper.

The third excursion was not scientific: one of the members invited the group (into the huge park of their Institute) to relax only. It was a marvellous day again. All three kinds of country meeting are planned to be repeated. I think this friendly relationship among our members helped us in organisation of ISCB meeting in Budapest. I remind the reader of the last sentence in the quotation from Wolfgang Köpcke's article. (See the third paragraph of Section 2.) According to our interpretation, it means that in return for the many supports from ISCB we *ought* to organise an international ISCB conference. During the organisation of the group, in August 1990 already, I wrote to the President and the Treasurer (Professor Köpcke and Dr. Wilson) that we are ready to organise a conference in 1995. As you know, it has been accepted for 1996 – and many ISCB members assert it was not a bad meeting.

The year of organisation ISCB-17 was an 'emergency period' in the life of our National Group. Regular meetings were rare (two or three months elapsed between them) but personal meetings with one or another member were very frequent. A smaller group – the local organisers – gathered often. However, just after the conference the social life of the Society revived, new activities were commenced, and monthly meetings were again organised. The conference pointed the attention of 'hidden biostatisticians' to the Society and the membership remarkably increased. Most of these new members adapted to the Society and take part in the activities. We did not, however, find the cue to everyone.

5 I have to speak of the **supports** mentioned in the quotation (Section 2, third paragraph) and detailed in my correspondence with ISCB officers.

Inevitably, the main support is covering the registration fee and housing for some members of the Group. The contingent given to us, however, was never filled and usually only one or two members used this opportunity. The principal reason, we must confess shamefacedly, was that occasionally even travel expenses exceeded the capacity of our members' budget. ISCB, however, has accepted all applications until now: no member of our National Group who wished to attend an ISCB conference was refused.

We obtain and collect the issues of *Statistics in Medicine*. The National Group has a (small) library where additional books and periodicals – donations from our members – are also available. We are proud to have some new books purchased (partly) with the aid of ISCB: Stephen Senn's *Statistical Issues in Drug Development* and – last but not least – the *Encyclopaedia of Biostatistics*!

Most recently, we also got a big donation from ISCB in the form of a fine two-day course given by Professor Senn. I think these donations are not restricted to National Groups: they are given time to time to developing (or underdeveloped) countries by the courtesy of ISCB. Anyway, the local organisation was made by our group and the audience consisted mostly of our members.

6 An attempt was made in Section 4 to sketch some advantages of having a **Local Group** (not necessarily an 'authorised' National Group). Small countries with few ISCB members can try to adopt the idea easily. In a big country, full of biostatisticians (as the UK for example) smaller regions, or cities may form a local community. What might happen, dear Reader, if YOU will try to organise such a Group? Why not?

Supports and donations can perhaps not be expected from ISCB; this is the main reason why I have treated this topic so shortly. The scientific and personal advantages mentioned and not mentioned above, are at least as valuable and joyful as the donations (always accompanied with some feeling of shame).

Do not expect that everybody will join, and that all who do will take part in the activities proposed. Don't worry! There are some, the 'active members', who will follow you and remain together. Once in a report to an ISCB officer I mentioned that we have over twenty members, but only about a dozen of them are active members. He did not understand what I mean; I had to explain. I hope this paper is also an answer.

## ISCB Membership Information

The **International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB)** was founded in 1978 to stimulate research into the principles and methodology used in the design and analysis of clinical research and to increase the relevance of statistical theory to the real world of clinical medicine.

The ISCB organises an annual scientific meeting which members and non-members are able to attend. The main objective of the annual scientific meetings is to create an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas among clinicians, statisticians and members of other disciplines, such as epidemiologists, clinical chemists and clinical pharmacologists, working or interested in, the field of clinical biostatistics.

The scientific meetings cover a broad spectrum of biostatistical interests and regularly include sessions on the design and analysis of clinical trials, epidemiology and statistical methodology, as well as from time to time considering more specialist issues such as, for example, education of biometricians and biometrics users, pharmacokinetics, medical data-bases and pharmaco-epidemiology. Each meeting includes a mini-symposium devoted to a particular medical or statistical field.

Previous meetings in recent years have been held recently in Budapest (1996), Boston (1997) and Dundee (1998). A selection of talks at the meetings, for which papers are submitted for review and which are eventually accepted, are published in *Statistics in Medicine*. The ISCB benefits from a special journal concession from John Wiley & Sons Limited, the publishers of *Statistics in Medicine*, so that members are able to subscribe to the journal at a preferential rate.

The ISCB also organises courses to cover particular statistical topics. These are run to precede or follow on from the annual scientific meeting and are given by the foremost researchers in the field. Recent courses have included Analysis of Ordered Categorical Data, Cross-over Trials in Clinical Research, Analysis of Repeated Measures, Survival Analysis, Extending the Cox Model, and Statistical Methods for Genetic Epidemiology.



The current composition of the **Executive Committee (ExCom)** is as follows: **Officers:** President, Dr Nancy Geller (USA), Vice-President, Mr Simon Day (UK), Secretary, Dr Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I), Treasurer, Prof. John Whitehead (UK), and **Members:** Newsletter Editor, Dr David Warne (Switzerland), Past President, Dr Karsten Schmidt (Denmark), and Prof. Mike Campbell (UK), Dr Bruno Cesana (I), Dr Albert Cobos (Spain), Prof. Ted Colton (USA), Dr Siem Heisterkamp (NL), Dr Emmanuel Lesaffre (B), Prof. Michael Schemper (Austria) and Dr Jørgen Selstrup (F).

The annual general meeting of the ISCB is organised to coincide with the scientific meeting. Membership of the Society is drawn from over 30 countries worldwide and the number of members is over 700.



The ISCB also has special **Subcommittees** dealing with particular aspects of biostatistics. The first of these is on **Fraud**: The Subcommittee will have the following goals: 1. to investigate the role of biostatistics in the prevention and detection of fraud in clinical research, and 2. to promote the role of appropriate biostatistical contributions in the assessment of misconduct. The Subcommittee will produce a position paper reflecting the opinions of its members. The chairman is Dr Marc Buyse (Belgium).

**Statistics in Regulatory Affairs:** this Subcommittee will consider and influence the development of regulatory requirements, guidelines and other documents concerning the scientific aspects of data collection, management, analysis, and reporting. Also the Subcommittee will work on issuing new guidelines on these topics, where it is needed. The Subcommittee is chaired by Prof. Helmut Schäfer of Institute of Medical Biometry, Marburg (Germany).

**Education:** The Subcommittee will assess the feasibility of organising courses on contemporary methods in Clinical Biostatistics which will involve several members as lecturers and be presented in locations represented by the Society. This includes assessment of costs and organisation of such a course. The sub-committee will be responsible for planning the course curriculum and selecting lecturers. The sub-committee will also receive requests from members that this course be given at their location and evaluate them. The first course was presented in Barcelona, Spain from 25-27 June 1997 on the topic "Design and Analysis of Cross-over Clinical Trials" by Stephen Senn. Chairman: Mike Campbell (UK).

John Whitehead chairs the **Student Conference Awards** Subcommittee that looks at ways of encouraging students to attend meetings.



The Society publishes a **Newsletter** 2 or 3 times a year. The editor is Dr David Warne, Chemin Frank-Thomas 32, CH-1208 Genève, Switzerland. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to him (if possible on a 3.5" disk, Word format or text, or email to: email: 100557.2260@compuserve.com).

A **Communications** Subcommittee will look after the newsletter and communications in general. An **Operating Procedures** Subcommittee will consider planning future meetings, Officer liaison with meeting organisers, Subcommittee process, etc. The subcommittee will consider guidelines as well as possible changes to the Constitution. It has been proposed that a subcommittee on **Long-term Financial Policy** be formed to assure ISCB continues on a firm financial footing.

**Membership** of the Society is open to all with an interest in biostatistics. The current annual (to 31 December 1998) Ordinary membership fee is £15. The Full-time Student Membership fee is £7.50. Members can also choose to receive *Statistics in Medicine* at a reduced cost (see above), and benefit from the reduced conference fee, at least £15 less than for non-members. **Applications** for membership should be addressed to: ISCB Permanent Office, PO Box 25, DK-3480 Fredensborg, Denmark.  
Tel: +45 48 484 100, Fax: +45 48 484 200,  
email: lscb@post3.tele.dk



## Calendar

**12-15 July 1999**

**Warwick, ENGLAND-UK**

RSS99 Theme conference on "Risk"

Info: Henry Wynn

email: [wrsau@csv.warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wrsau@csv.warwick.ac.uk)

**19-23 July 1999**

**Graz, AUSTRIA**

14<sup>th</sup> International workshop on Statistical Modelling

Info: Fax: +43 316 873 6977, email: [friedl@stat.tu-graz.ac.at](mailto:friedl@stat.tu-graz.ac.at),

<http://www.cis.tu-graz.ac.at/stat/iwsm>

**28-30 July 1999**

**Warwick, ENGLAND-UK**

*Statistical Issues in Biopharmaceutical Environments: Towards the New Millennium*

Info: Briony Teather, Dep't of Medical Statistics, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK

Fax: +44 116 250 6114, email: [bte@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:bte@dmu.ac.uk)

**13-17 September 1999**

**Heidelberg, GERMANY**

ISCB20

Info: Prof. Norbert Victor

Fax: +49 6221 56 4195, email: [victor@sol.imbi.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:victor@sol.imbi.uni-heidelberg.de)

<http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/GMDS-ISCB99>.

**Summer 2000**

**Trento, ITALY**

ISCB21

Info: Maria Grazia Valsecchi, Istituto Statistica Medica & Biometria, Via Venezian 1, I-20133

Milan, Italy

Tel: +39 02 70600908, Fax: +39 02 2362939, email: [Biometri2@imicilea.cilea.it](mailto:Biometri2@imicilea.cilea.it)

**Summer 2001**

**Stockholm, SWEDEN**

ISCB22

Info: Juni Palmgren c/o ISCB Permanent Office, PO Box 25, DK-3480 Fredensborg, Denmark.

Tel: +45 48 484 100, Fax: +45 48 484 200, email: [iscb@post3.tele.dk](mailto:iscb@post3.tele.dk)

