



# International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

# News

Number 33

June 2002

Editor: David W. Warne

## Executive Committee 2002

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 Vice-President: Prof. Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I)  
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LOC: Dr Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH)  
 SPC: Prof. Stephen Senn (UK)

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## Editorial

Welcome to the new News. The Society has undergone some administrative changes in the last 6 months and we hope you will benefit from the new Permanent Office. Please send your feedback to the Officers who will make sure it is acted upon.

It's World Cup time once again and I'm sitting at home trying to survive the Genevan heatwave of 35°+... it only seems a few months since the last News when it was some 40° cooler...

As I write, it's only 3 months until our next Meeting, in Dijon, France, and already the programme is almost finalised and the contributed paper authors are being informed of the SPC's decisions as to who be asked to present papers orally and who will be giving poster presentations.

To quote myself from the December News: Q: "Are you enjoying the conference?" A: "I will when I've given my paper!" Well, I'll have to wait through the whole of the Dijon conference before I can relax this year... The reward for being a colleague and former colleague of the organising and scientific chairs?!

Thanks to the other contributors to this News: the numerous book reviewers, our book review reviewer, Caroline Jackson, and John Whitehead, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Stephen Senn, Diana Elbourne, Julia Singer, Michael Schemper, and the ubiquitous Simon Day.

## NEW E-mail & WWW Addresses:

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 News Editor: [david\\_w\\_warne@bluewin.ch](mailto:david_w_warne@bluewin.ch)  
 www: <http://www.iscb-homepage.org>

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## ISCB Membership

If you haven't paid your 2002 subscription, you won't be entitled to the reduced conference fee and this will be the last News you receive.

	end 89	end 92	Dec 93	Dec 94	Dec 95	Dec 96	Dec 97	Dec 98	Dec 99	Sep 00	Nov 00	May 01	Aug 01	Nov 01	Jun 02
	Trento										Stockholm				
Total	261	596	715	698	725	702	685	729	818	360	797	518	426	837	523
# Countries	23	32	32	31	33	34	37	37	41	31	40	36	34	45	37
# Country															
1 UK	50	90	176	120	144	121	128	169	135	78	151	95	93	153	87
2 Germany	30	67	75	84	71	78	72	70	186	31	90	61	25	87	62
3 USA	18	45	40	39	41	40	79	66	76	34	77	52	36	89	57
4 Hungary	1	21	17	18	19	25	27	29	29	3	33	34	5	34	40
5 Poland		11	11	24	24	30	21	19	26	6	34	35	9	37	39
6 Sweden	23	51	53	54	58	64	51	45	38	19	44	31	76	88	34
7 Denmark	4	58	38	31	30	32	26	35	38	16	39	22	21	36	28
8 Belgium	13	22	27	30	30	32	35	29	25	12	33	24	15	36	24
9 France	30	52	62	50	73	67	52	52	49	21	53	21	14	37	19
10 Netherlands	14	30	38	33	36	29	31	39	35	17	33	20	29	38	18
11 Italy	16	33	37	32	32	33	26	33	26	64	63	20	16	29	16
12 Switzerland	14	25	22	80	33	29	24	25	23	5	18	16	11	23	14
13 Austria	4	9	11	13	11	16	13	11	15	15	18	11	10	15	11
14 Norway	13	18	25	22	12	18	10	10	11	4	10	6	9	16	10
15 Japan	2	6	7	5	7	4	10	13	20	1	12	10	1	11	8
16 Spain	10	12	18	12	46	23	14	16	12	5	11	7	5	11	8
17 Australia	6	9	11	6	9	8	11	9	10	1	12	9	1	8	7
18 Canada	6	12	14	14	11	13	15	14	9	4	9	10	4	10	6
19 Israel	1	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	7	10	5	10	13	5
20 Singapore							3	6	4	2	5	3	4	8	5
21 Finland	2	7	7	9	9	9	7	5	10	2	9	6	16	18	4
22 New Zealand		1		1		2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	3
23 Russia					1	3	3	3	2	1	2			1	3
24 China		1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3		3	2	1	3	2
25 Cuba								2	2		2	2		2	2
26 Greece		1	1	1				1	1	4	3	1		1	2
27 Portugal	1	3	5	2	2	2	2	5	5		3	1	1	4	2
28 South Africa		1	4	1	3	2	2	2	2		2	2	1	3	2
29 Czech. Rep.			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1		1	1
30 India		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1		1	1
31 Malawi															1
32 Malaysia					2	1	2	2	1		1			1	1
33 Mexico						1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1
34 Romania						2			4	1	1	1		1	1
35 Slovenia		1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2		1	1	1	2	1
36 Taiwan											1	1		1	1
37 Thailand		1	1		1	1	2	1	1		2	2		2	1
38 Ireland	1	2	3	4	3	4	4	2	3	1	2	2	3	3	
39 Lithuania													2	2	
40 Estonia													1	2	
41 Argentina										1			1	1	
42 Brazil					2								1	1	
43 Kuwait	1												1	1	
44 Ukraine									1				1	1	
45 Saudi Arabia														1	
46 Sudan														1	
47 Egypt													1		
48 Colombia							1	1		1	1	1			
49 Croatia									1	1	1				
50 Indonesia						1									
51 Iran						1	1								
52 Kenya		1	1												
53 Oman	1														
54 Pakistan								1	1		1				
55 Philippines									1						
56 South Korea					3		1								
57 Turkey		1	1						1						
58 Zimbabwe				1											

## **Presidential Observations**

From Simon Day

Please excuse the grand title of this piece but I won't be President for much longer so I want to make the most of my title!

What to tell you? Highlights, difficulties, tedious (but necessary) business issues, expectations – all of these really. The biggest issue that has affected me over recent months is a change of job. This is always a chaotic thing to do and it hit me just as hard as I should have (but didn't) expected it to. But around the same time Karsten Schmidt rang me to say, with much regret and apology, that his company (Spadille Biostatistik ApS) would no longer be able to host the Society's Permanent Office. A new office has been secured and I hope very few of you have been inconvenienced by the change. This change of address is described elsewhere in the *News* but here I want – on behalf of the Society – to express our great thanks to Karsten for hosting us for about ten years.

To other matters: our annual scientific meetings – the cornerstone of ISCB. The organisers for the Dijon Conference tell me they received

over 150 Abstracts. On their behalf, thank you for supporting the conference and making them know they are doing a worthwhile and appreciated job. Apologies (on their behalf) to those of you who may not have Abstracts accepted – that's the way it goes I'm afraid. The next thing they want to see is plenty of money rolling in as you all rush to register. You will receive this *News* after the deadline for reduced-fee registrations – but never mind that; you can still send them your Euros.

Things are getting very busy concerning next year's meeting to be held in London, jointly with the Society for Clinical Trials (20–24 July 2003). My change of job (to central London) has made it easier for me to meet the local organisers. Regrettably, I was unable to go to this year's SCT meeting in Arlington but Diana Elbourne (Chair of the Local Organising Committee) was there – flying the ISCB flag. Enthusiasm from our American colleagues is high so we hope for a really big and diverse meeting. You can read more about the plans for the meeting in this issue

of the *News*. Looking further ahead we will hear in Dijon about plans for the meeting in Leiden (16–20 August 2004) and I hope the Executive Committee will have further plans to consider for a proposed meeting in Krakow in 2005. One member of the Society has informally discussed with me a possible venue for 2006. I don't know yet if that idea will progress but further ideas for (or offers to organise) future meetings are always welcome.

Finally, for this page, let me draw your attention to the membership of the Executive Committee. Several members will end either their first or second terms of office and so need re-electing or replacing, as appropriate. Not least, we need to elect a new President-elect (to serve as President during 2005-6 following Grazia Valsecchi) and a new Treasurer since John Whitehead ends his second term of office this year. Further information on this – and other matters of running the Society are presented elsewhere in this edition of the *News*.

## **New ISCB Permanent Office**

From Simon Day

As of 15 April 2002, the ISCB has a new Permanent Office which will handle the day-to-day running of the Society's business.

Since 1992, when Karsten Schmidt was Treasurer of the Society, membership and financial records began to be collected in Copenhagen, at Karsten's company, Spadille. At the Executive Committee meeting held at ISCB–15 in Basle in 1994 it was agreed that Karsten's office should become the Society's permanent home. However, in November last year, Karsten felt that it was time to transfer this service to another group. On behalf of the Society I should like to express my thanks to him for what he has done for us over the last ten years.

Upon hearing from Karsten, I informed the Executive Committee and asked them to consider alternative homes for the Society. Several ideas from several countries were considered including professional management services, part-time use of secretaries in ExCom members' departments, individual offers of help – even offers from ExCom members' spouses!

Eventually we received two formal bids. One was from BioData Services ApS, a new CRO set up in Denmark. Their managing director is Bjarne Nielsen, a member of the Society and former Webmaster and member of the Executive Committee. The other was from Resources for Business Ltd., a small UK company specialising in supplying support services to societies such as ours and in conference organising.

John Whitehead and I met Carole McKellar, the Managing Director of Resources for Business and held a

teleconference with Bjarne Nielsen to clarify aspects of each of their proposals. As a result, both companies revised their proposals and these were then put to the Executive Committee who voted in favour of Resources for Business. The formal contract to run the Permanent Office as of 15 April, for an initial two-year period was then awarded.

Let me, once more, express my thanks to Karsten for hosting the Permanent Office until now. I also wish to thank Bjarne Nielsen for his bid – and for temporarily helping out with the Permanent Office between December last year and April this year.

From now on, enquiries regarding the Society, membership fees, changes of contact details, etc. should be directed to the address below,

ISCB Permanent Office

Resources for Business

South Park Road

Macclesfield SK11 6SH

UK

Tel: +44 1625 267880

Fax: +44 1625 267879

e-mail: [iscb@resources.demon.co.uk](mailto:iscb@resources.demon.co.uk)

The Society's website remains the same:

[www.iscb-homepage.org](http://www.iscb-homepage.org)

## **Thanks to Rita!**

From John Whitehead

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, Simon has expressed his gratitude to Karsten Schmidt for setting up and supervising the Society's Permanent Office within Spadille. I should like to add my own appreciation for this. As Treasurer for the Society for nearly four years, my own contacts with the Permanent Office have almost all been with Karsten's former secretary, Rita Schou.

It has been Rita who has received payments, organised reimbursements, operated the credit card machine, entered new members onto the database and done a hundred other things. Most importantly, it has been Rita who has prepared the neat Financial Statements that are presented by the Treasurer each year at the Conference and published in the Newsletter. *Resources for Business* call this a "Treasurer's Support Service". Well, for nearly four years, I have been unaware of that name, but I have certainly received an excellent and accurate service, conducted with patience and without complaint of my own shortcomings, omissions and procrastinations.

On behalf of the ISCB, thank you very much Rita.

## **Ballot Results: Revised Constitution and Operating Procedures SC**

From Simon Day, on behalf of Nancy Geller, Tony Johnson and Karsten Schmidt.

All of those who were members of the Society as of 31 December 2001 were eligible to vote on eight proposed changes to the Constitution. Thank you to those who took the time and trouble to vote. The required majority (2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the valid votes cast) carried all motions. The Operating Procedures subcommittee has now dissolved.

## **Book Review by Carla Rossi (Italy)**

Statistical Science in the Courtroom by Joseph L Gastwirth (ed), Springer (2000)

In contrast with most of the books on statistics in law, which describe the methods used to analyse data rather than how involvement in the area of legal statistics affects statisticians and their research programmes, this book mainly presents a collection of real cases described by the experts or consultants involved in the statistical analyses required by the Court. Some more general articles are written by authors interested in areas of the law that rely on quantitative research and describe how their interest in the use of statistical evidence in legal cases has influenced their research. Some authors focus on just one topic, whereas others present their opinion and comments on several of them.

The list of topics include, among others:

- Basic issues (6 papers)
- Statistical analyses and problems arising in the evaluation of DNA evidence (5 papers);
- The Shonubi case (3 papers) which is particularly interesting as this case concerns sentencing drug offenders, where the standard of proof is less than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" criterion used at trial. The case is also interesting, since the trial judge and the appellate court disagreed on the utility of the statistical evidence. Professor Izenman introduces the case and two articles discussing the statistical issues in the case. His introduction also includes the relevant data sets.

In total the book comprises 22 papers.

Statistical issues and general problems faced by experts involved in discrimination cases are discussed by Drs. Pollard, Rosenblum, Mann and Gastwirth. Professors Loue and Wagner provide surveys of issues related to quantitative toxicology and epidemiology. Professor Izenman discusses several types of cases that rely on evidence based on a sample of the relevant population. As the available data may not be a true random sample, issues concerning the methodology underlying an estimate based on fragmentary data may arise.

Statistical analysis is also used in estimating monetary damages and in determining drug sentences. Professor Rubin and Zeger were opposing experts in the Minnesota tobacco case and both present their views. Professor Aitken and Izenman discuss statistical issues arising in drug sentences, such as the Shonubi case. It must be stressed that in drug trafficking cases, sentences increase sharply at specific drug amounts, so that sampling error and other sources of uncertainty can become critical in determining the amount of drugs ascribed to the defendant.

In summary, the book is of great interest for those involved both in research and consulting in the field of legal statistics.

## **Proposed New National Group: Romania**

From Julia Singer, Michael Schemper and Simon Day

### **A successful experiment with survival time longer than 10 years**

According to Guernsey McPearson (In: The Devil's Drug Development Dictionaries) the global strategy is "a plan which is universally valid except locally". Without contesting the validity of the Dictionary's useful definitions coined at the Panacea Pharmaceuticals (which became the world's greatest company due to a merger with the Elixir Laboratories, the Brew Chemicals and the Dope Cosmetics), we wish to present now a nice counter-example.

In 1990 the ISCB (the president at that time was Prof. Wolfgang Köpcke) reacted to the political changes in East-Europe by deciding to provide support for the countries of this region in our effort to bring clinical biostatistics to a higher level. 'National Groups' were founded to enhance the integration of biostatisticians in the ISCB. Different forms of aid were worked out: support for conference attendants, short courses, book donations and complimentary copies of *Statistics in Medicine* (here we have to thank the publisher, John Wiley). The global strategy of help worked very efficiently. If we want to quantify the viability of these groups we can use the last membership table (ISCB News, December 2001): in November 2001 the Hungarian and the Polish groups had 34 and 37 members, respectively.

Other measures could also be used to characterise the intensive scientific work performed in these groups but this is not our aim now. To our great pleasure we hope to be celebrating the recruitment of a third group, the Romanian National Group. According to our Constitution, a postal ballot will be held to seek approval of the ISCB members. At the same time the vote will also decide about the re-confirmation of the existing National Groups. Please participate in the vote.

So, we look forward to recruiting the Romanian National Group and recruitment is hopefully still not finished.

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ISCB favours the establishment of *National Groups* in countries where there are exchange control restrictions or other barriers (see *Constitution* of ISCB, article 8.01). In this, as chairman of the *National Groups Subcommittee* of ISCB, I have encouraged Romanian colleagues to submit a formal request for founding a third National Group, in addition to the existing Hungarian and Polish ones. This formal request has been received in December 2001 along with a list of 19 interested biostatisticians from various towns in Romania. The group has already elected a *National Representative* (Tiberiu Postelnicu) and a *Deputy* (Cornelia Enachescu), both of the Statistics Centre of the Romanian Academy of Sciences, Bucharest. In accordance with article 8.01 of the *Constitution*, details of concessions, funding and banking, as well the use of these funds have been prepared by the *Executive Committee* and the National Group's Representatives.

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Our Constitution requires a postal ballot of the membership to approve the setting up of new National Groups and also the continuation of groups for periods in excess of four years. Accordingly, enclosed with this mailing is a ballot form (see next page) asking for your approval to set up a new National Group in Romania, to continue the National group in Hungary, and to continue the National Group in Poland. I hope that you will approve all three. The deadline for returning ballot forms to the Permanent Office is Friday 30 August.

## Motion to establish a new National Group in Romania

### Motion 1

A new National Group should be established in Romania

For                  Against

## Motions to continue the existing National Groups in Hungary and Poland

### Motion 2

The Hungarian National Group should be continued for a further four years

For                  Against

### Motion 3

The Polish National Group should be continued for a further four years

For                  Against

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Ballot forms to be returned to:*

*ISCB Permanent Office, Resources for Business, South Park Road, Macclesfield, SK11 6SH, UK, by Friday 30 August 2002.*

## **ISCB Communications SC Seeks Your Input**

From David W. Warne

*The Society will meet in Dijon and as well as enjoying the scientific and social programmes, SC members will meet to discuss issues affecting the Society.*

*For the Communications SC meeting, I'd like to ask if you have any opinions on the topics which were discussed last year in Stockholm and printed in the December News. In particular, we want to know if you mind receiving adverts for commercial courses or conferences via the egroup?*

*Should we limit this to so many per quarter or charge for adverts? What about the webpage - would you like to see adverts there or links to commercial webpages and should we charge for this?*

*Please send me an e-mail with your ideas on all or any of the topics.*

*If you really feel strongly and would like to discuss the ideas in person and even join the SC, you would be most welcome to join us in Dijon. Again, please contact me.*

*Finally, I'd like to mention that I would like to hand over the Editor's job to someone else in the next 12-18 months. I'm more than willing to do this step-by-step, gradually handing over more and more responsibilities. If you are interested, but maybe are not sure what the job involves, please ask me for a list of tasks.*

## **Wiley Discount on Books**

From Zoë Mitchell, Marketing Executive at John Wiley and Sons.

As you may know, members of the ISCB receive a 20% discount on all titles purchased from John Wiley and Sons. We have recently improved this process so that they may order directly from our new website, and receive their discount simply by keying in a code - Z007N.

<http://catalog.wiley.com/>

## Books for Review

Reviews awaited:

Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year)	Reviewer
Peter Armitage (ed)	Encyclopedia of Biostatistics: Vol. 4: Med-Pre	John Wiley (1998)	Aurelio Tobias
Michael R Hamrell (ed)	The Clinical Audit in Pharmaceutical Development	Marcel-Dekker (2000)	Marc Buyse
Shein-Chung Chow & Jen-Pei Liu (1)	Design and Analysis of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence Studies	Marcel-Dekker (2000)	Laszlo Endrenyi
James E. De Muth	Basic Statistics and Pharmaceutical Statistical Applications	Marcel Dekker (1999)	Ann Martin
CF Jeff Wu & Michael Hamada	Experiments: Planning, Analysis, and Parameter Design Optimisation	John Wiley (2000)	Gilg Seeber
Shein-Chung Chow & Jen-Pei Liu (2)	Design and Analysis of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence Studies	Marcel-Dekker (2000)	Graham Kimber
Michael Healy	Matrices for Statistics	Oxford (2000)	Istvan Janosi
Donald C Monkhouse & CT Rhodes (Eds.)	Drug Products for Clinical Trials	Marcel Dekker (1998)	Koos Lubsen
Martin Bland and Janet Peacock	Statistical questions in Evidence Based Medicine	Oxford (2000)	John Carlin
David W Hosmer & Stanley Lemeshow	Applied Logistic Regression (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed)	John Wiley (2000)	Jørgen Seltrup
Simon Day	Dictionary for Clinical Trials	John Wiley (1999)	Rolf Holle
Alex J Sutton, Keith R Abrams, David R Jones, Trevor A Sheldon & Fujian Song	Methods for Meta-Analysis in Medical Research	John Wiley (2000)	Tim Friede

Books recently sent for review:

Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year)	Reviewer
JK Lindsey	Nonlinear Models in Medical Statistics	Oxford (2001)	Alex Pedan
DM Titterton & DR Cox	Biometrika: 100 Years	Oxford (2001)	Ioana Moisil
Stephen W Duffy, Catherine Hill & Jacques Esteve	Quantitative Methods for the Evaluation of Cancer Screening	Arnold (2001)	Hanno Ulmer
Fotunato Pesarin	Multivariate Permutation Tests	John Wiley (2001)	Paul Johnson

Reviewers wanted:

Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year)	Reviewer
Kirkwood	Essentials of Medical Statistics	Blackwell	
Daly	Interpretation and Uses of Medical Statistics, (5 <sup>th</sup> ed.)	Blackwell	
Farmer	Lecture Notes on Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine	Blackwell	
Petrie	Medical Statistics at a Glance	Blackwell	
P Armitage, G Berry, JNS Matthews	Statistical Methods in Medical Research (4 <sup>th</sup> ed.)	Blackwell (2002)	
George A Milliken, Dallas E Johnson	Analysis of Messy Data, vol. 3: Analysis of Covariance	CRC	
Martin J Crowder	Classical Competing Risks	CRC (2001)	
Jay E Gould	Experimental Methods for the Behavioural and Biological Sciences	CRC (2001)	
Robert Elston, Jane Olson, Lyle Palmer (eds.)	Biostatistical Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology	John Wiley & Sons (2002)	
Mikel Aickin	Causal Analysis in Biomedicine and Epidemiology	Marcel-Dekker (2001)	
Henry C Thode, Jr	Testing for Normality	Marcel-Dekker (2001)	
Allen Cato, Lynda Sutton	Clinical Drug Trials and Tribulations	Marcel-Dekker (2002)	
Shein-Chung Chow, Jun Shao	Statistics in Drug Research	Marcel-Dekker (2002)	
RW Farebrother	Visualizing Statistical Models and Concepts	Marcel-Dekker (2002)	
Alan Grafen, Rosie Hails	Modern Statistics for the Life Sciences	Oxford (2002)	
B Everitt, S Rabe-Hesketh	Analysing Medical Data using S-Plus	Springer (2001)	
Joseph Glaz, Joseph Naus, Sylvan Wallenstein	Scan Statistics	Springer (2001)	
Michael Finkelstein, Bruce Levin	Statistics for Lawyers (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Springer (2001)	
Kenneth Lange	Mathematical and Statistical Methods for Genetic Analysis (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Springer (2002)	
Javier Carbera, Andrew McDougall	Statistical Consulting	Springer (2002)	
Charles S Davis	Statistical Methods for the Analysis of Repeated Measurements	Springer (2002)	

**Yes! The last books are new and are available for review. Deadline for requests: 30 September 2002.**

Book publishers' webpages:

Arnold	<a href="http://www.arnoldpublishers.com/">http://www.arnoldpublishers.com/</a>
Blackwell	<a href="http://www.medirect.com/">http://www.medirect.com/</a>
Chapman & Hall, CRC	<a href="http://www.crcpress.com/shopping_cart/categories/categories_products.asp?parent_id=104">http://www.crcpress.com/shopping_cart/categories/categories_products.asp?parent_id=104</a>
Marcel Dekker	<a href="http://www.dekker.com/catalog/search.jsp?category=%2FStatistics">http://www.dekker.com/catalog/search.jsp?category=%2FStatistics</a>
Oxford University Press	<a href="http://www4.oup.co.uk/">http://www4.oup.co.uk/</a>
Springer	<a href="http://www.springer.de/statistic/books/newbooks.html">http://www.springer.de/statistic/books/newbooks.html</a>
John Wiley & Sons	<a href="http://catalog.wiley.com/">http://catalog.wiley.com/</a>

Important note to potential reviewers:

We regularly receive books from publishers for review in the Newsletter. We are most grateful for these "donations", the reviews of which we regard as a service to you, our members. Regrettably, some individuals, despite repeated reminders, neither return a review, nor the book to ISCB... When requesting a book, please remember that you're making a commitment to the Society to do a little work in return for keeping the book.

**Please do a little work in return for keeping the book and your name will be published in the News!**

For the format and length, please see recent issues of ISCB News. You can send the review in a variety of formats but plain text e-mail, html, RTF or Word are preferred. The reviews may be edited for clarity (English grammar and spelling, punctuation etc.).

## Bienvenue, Willkommen & Welcome to ISCB23 in Dijon 2002

From Stephen Senn

The 23rd annual meeting of the Society will take place in Dijon 9-13 September. We hope to be able to welcome you there. We have a full and exciting programme, both scientific and social. Our topics for the former are, statistical modelling, infectious diseases, sample-size determination and causality assessment. We will also be marking the 30th anniversary of Sir David Cox's famous proportional hazards paper. Some members will no doubt recall the 20th anniversary session in Copenhagen. The mini-symposium is on human fertility and fecundity and will give biostatisticians the chance to hear some of the concerns of demographers. Our pre-conference courses are on adaptive and sequential procedures for clinical trials and on methods for interval censored data. There should be something for everyone in this varied programme as we hope you will agree.

For our social programme, please choose between, a wine-tasting, a tour of Dijon, a visit to Fontenay abbey or a post-conference tour by balloon and boat! Of course, we shall also have our traditional welcome reception and the conference dinner. For the latter, we will move from the capital of Burgundy to the capital of burgundy, to be received in the beautiful courtyard of the famous Hospice: the sort of place you go to if your Beaunes need Fixin. This is forever associated in my mind, being stuffed as it is with trivia, with that wonderful French film "La Grande Vadrouille" [17 Million tickets sold - an all-time French record] and a scene involving Terry Thomas, a bottle of wine and a disapproving mother superior. If you come to Dijon, as I hope you will, please ask me about it!

Finally, elsewhere in this issue, you will find the answer to the probability conundrum I set last time. Let me give you another. A Chevalier du Tastevin is challenged to distinguish Nuits St-Georges from Pommard. He is to be

given ten pairs of glasses to taste, one of each sort. In each case he has to identify which (say) is Pommard. If (no doubt quite inappropriately) we model his ability to distinguish the one from the other using the famous rule of the Marquis de Laplace (after all we are in France), which corresponds to using an uninformative prior, which of the following two events is more likely? A. He identifies the Pommard correctly ten times out of ten. B. He does so exactly five times out of ten. Answers not involving the use of calculus, or indeed mathematics of any sort, are preferred!

In the June 2001 News, I wrote "... for the benefit of those who regard significance tests as an abomination, and prefer more Bayesian modes of reasoning, let me repeat an old conundrum in probability. M. Dupont has two children at least one of whom is a boy. What is the probability that the other is a girl?\*" Answers on a postcard to the editor please!"

Too difficult or too easy? Some further assumptions should really be made: we should ignore the problem of twins, some of whom are identical and hence of the same sex and we should also assume that decisions on family size are independent of sex mix of children to date. If B=Boy and G=girl and we consider that the four combinations BB,BG,GB,GG are equally likely a priori, then we have been informed that Mr Dupont does not have the combination GG. Of the three combinations that remain, in two the other is a girl. Hence the requisite probability is 2/3.

If you wish to hear more about such topics, don't forget the Mini-Symposium on "Human Fertility and Fecundity" to be held on Friday 13 September in Dijon.

## Looking Forward to ISCB24 in London 2003

From Diana Elbourne

3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting of ISCB and SCT London 20-24 July 2003

This is a very special event for ISCB as 2003 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society – and also, co-incidentally, the same anniversary for Society for Clinical Trials (SCT), makes it a double silver jubilee. Is it then a golden jubilee?

The first and second joint meetings were in Brussels, and in Boston, respectively. I remember them both as being great occasions – both scientifically and socially. I am sure that the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, in London will be just as memorable – if not more so.

The programme committee (jointly chaired by Professor Deborah Ashby, London (ISCB) and Dr Mary Foulkes, Washington (SCT)) has been working hard at producing an exciting range of topics and invited speakers relevant to both societies. The presidents of the two societies for 2003 (Maria Valsecchi and John Lachin) have been discussing the Presidents' Invited Speaker. There will also be workshops and plenty of time for contributed papers and posters. The abstract submission deadline is 15 January 2003.

The venue (the Hilton London Metropole, near Marble Arch) is in the centre of London, right by the Paddington Basin of the historic Regent's canal, featuring water taxis and waterfront cafes and restaurants, as well as a canal-side walkway to one of London's most attractive neighbourhoods, "Little Venice". The hotel is also very close to Hyde Park, as well as to the shopping district of Oxford Street, and in easy reach of all the major theatres, museums, galleries and other attractions that London offers. There are also plenty of pubs and good places to eat nearby. Transport to the hotel is very easy, whatever your travel arrangements. For those not staying at the Hilton Metropole, an accommodation booking system will be provided.

Further details are in the enclosed leaflet, and will also be in the websites for each society [www.iscb-homepage.org](http://www.iscb-homepage.org) and [www.sctweb.org](http://www.sctweb.org)



## **AGM of ISCB23 in Dijon 2002**

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the main conference hall following the President's Invited Keynote Lecture on Wednesday 11 September. The agenda is the following:

1. President's report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Subcommittee reports: Statistics in Regulatory Affairs, Education, National Groups, Communications, Student Conference Awards
4. Nominations for the Executive Committee
5. Future ISCB meetings: 2003 London (UK), 2004 Leiden (NL), 2005: ?
6. Any other business

ALL participants of the Dijon meeting, even newcomers to ISCB are, by definition, full ISCB members and are, therefore, most welcome to attend the AGM. Please plan to take part !

## **Call for Nominations for Positions on the ExCom**

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

In accordance with the Constitution, we ask for nominations for positions on the Executive Committee for 2003. Several of the current members end terms of office, although many of them are eligible to be nominated for 2nd terms. The current situation is:

Simon Day will end term as President and become Past President for one year

Grazia Valsecchi will become President for two years

Emmanuel Lesaffre eligible to stand for a 2nd term as Secretary

John Whitehead ends his 2nd term as Treasurer

Siem Heisterkamp ends his 2nd term as an Ordinary member

Norbert Victor continues as an Ordinary member

Elia Biganzoli, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Stephen Evans, Carol Redmond, Julia Singer, Elisabeth Svensson all are eligible to stand for 2nd terms as Ordinary members

Nominations for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 7 ordinary members are therefore sought.

Nominations, in writing, giving the names of two nominating persons and the agreement of the nominee should be sent to me, the Secretary, to arrive no later than 30 August 2002. (Note that a letter, fax, or e-mail forwarded from the nominating and nominated persons are acceptable.) If there are more nominees than vacant positions, a postal ballot will be held.

The Webmaster, Silvia Codony, and News Editor, David W. Warne, continue in their positions.

E-mail: Emmanuel.Lesaffre@med.kuleuven.ac.be, Fax: +32 16 336900

## **Proposed New SC on Statistical Methods in Dentistry**

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

For the last 5 years, I have been heavily involved with the statistical analyses of dental data. It became clear that analysing dental data quite quickly involves complicated analyses, especially when the analyses need to address questions that are really of interest to the dentists, i.e. on tooth and tooth surface level. Indeed, dental data often show a complex hierarchical structure and my experience with a particular longitudinal dental study is that many dental questions could only be solved by new statistical research.

Furthermore, although I have less experience here, the times I have been involved gave me the

impression that there are no clear guidelines in dental clinical trials like in studies on medicinal products.

Finally, when looking at the literature there seems to be an enormous lack of statistical handbooks on an elementary level (for dentists) as well as on an advanced level.

Therefore, I would like to invite all who are interested in exchanging ideas in the context of statistics in dentistry. If you are interested, you should contact me.

## Multilingual Statistics

From David W. Warne

Recently I was asked to do check some statistical translations, both to and from French and German. Not at all easy, especially when a court case could have depended on the outcome. I tried the web to find a book I'd used several years before, but in the end turned to ISCB colleague, Lutz Edler and he put me in touch with Daniel Berze of ISI. Here's what they came up with:

The ISI has developed a Glossary of Statistical terms. This is a complimentary service which can be accessed via <http://www.europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/research/isi/> and indeed that's just what I needed.

A more comprehensive but more expensive alternative is the following hardback book (\$217.50) or CD (\$122.00): Elsevier's Dictionary of Biometry, by D. Rasch, M. L. Tikou, and D. Sumpf

[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0444501630//ref=sr\\_1\\_4\\_1/102-6492401-1734559](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0444501630//ref=sr_1_4_1/102-6492401-1734559)

"A dictionary that covers all areas of biometry, including agricultural and medical sciences, clinical and epidemiological studies, ecology, population and quantitative genetics, population dynamics, survival analysis, and growth curve analysis. General statistical methodology is also covered, e.g., experimental design, probability theory, stochastic processes and time series analysis, distribution theory, point and interval estimation, selection theory, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, analysis of variance, and multivariate analysis. The explanations are on a low mathematical level that assumes only an introductory knowledge of statistics. All the terms are explained in English and translated into French, Spanish, Dutch, German, Italian, and Russian by specialists from the corresponding countries. An index in each language facilitates translation from one language to another".

## Advert: MPS, Reading, UK

# **MP S** Medical and Pharmaceutical Statistics Research Unit

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES 2002 AT READING, UK

**23 - 24 SEPTEMBER**

### **Meta-analysis of Clinical Trials**

*Presenters: Anne Whitehead, John Whitehead*

**25 NOVEMBER**

### **Data and Safety Monitoring Board Workshop**

*Presenters: John Whitehead, Sue Todd*

*Guest Presenter: Julian Bion, Queen Elizabeth Hospital*

**28-29 NOVEMBER**

### **Group Sequential Clinical Trials – Design, Interim and Final Analyses**

*Presenters: John Whitehead, Kim Bolland*

**25-27 SEPTEMBER**

### **Statistical Methods for Ordered Categorical Data**

*Presenters: Kim Bolland, John Whitehead*

**26-27 NOVEMBER**

### **Dose-escalation Procedures in Phase I Clinical Trials**

*Presenters: John Whitehead, Yinghui Zhou*

*Guest Presenters: Sally Ritchie, GSK*

**For further details please contact:**

Mrs Barbara Dodds, **MPS Research Unit**

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# ISCB23 Dijon: Draft Programme

From the Dijon Team, 15 June 2001:

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Day Time	Monday 9 Sep.	Tuesday 10 Sep. Poster Session 1	Wednesday 11 Sep. Poster Session 2	Thursday 12 Sep. Poster Session 3		Friday 13 Sep.
09.00-10.15	Pre-Conference Courses	Invited Session 1	Contributed Oral Sessions 8-11	Invited Session 4	Contributed Oral Sessions 12-14	Mini Symposium
10.15-10.30			Coffee			
10.30-10.45	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee		Coffee
10.45-11.00						
11.00-12.30	Pre-Conference Courses	Invited Session 2	Keynote Lecture Annual General Meeting	Invited Session 5	Contributed Oral Sessions 15-17	Mini Symposium
12.30-12.45						Close
12.45-14.00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
14.00-15.30	Pre-Conference Courses	Invited Session 3	Contributed Oral Sessions 1-3	Excursions	Contributed Oral Sessions 18-21	
15.30-16.00	Coffee	Coffee		Excursions	Coffee	
16.00-17.30	Pre-Conference Courses	Contributed Oral Sessions 4-7		Excursions	Contributed Oral Sessions 22-24	
17.45	Executive Committee Meeting					
18.30		Reception Dijon City Hall				
19.00				Conference Dinner Bastion de Beaune		

**Pre-Conference Courses: Monday 9 September 2002, 09:00-17:30**

Course 1

**ADAPTIVE AND SEQUENTIAL PROCEDURES FOR CLINICAL TRIALS**

Lectures by Hans-Helge Müller and Helmut Schäfer, Institute of Medical Biometry and Epidemiology, University of Marburg, Germany, [muellerh@mail.uni-marburg.de](mailto:muellerh@mail.uni-marburg.de) and [hsimbe@mail.uni-marburg.de](mailto:hsimbe@mail.uni-marburg.de)

Interim analyses are performed in long-term clinical trials for ethical and economic reasons. They aim at the reduction of risks for patients, the reduction of the number of patients needed to be recruited, and at the reduction of costs of the trial. In addition, the correction of insufficient specification of design elements such as the residual sample size is important. Thus the statistical analysis plan involves confirmatory adaptive and sequential procedures to achieve a clinical claim. To meet these monitoring issues in a practical way, group sequential designs with few stages are used in many trials.

The course will review two different statistical approaches for group sequential procedures which have been proposed. The more classical procedure is a group sequential test as developed by Pocock and by O'Brien and Fleming and subsequently refined by many further authors. The more recent procedure is an adaptive design as introduced by Bauer and Köhne and, in a different way, by Proschan and Hunsberger. We will contrast the advantages and weaknesses of these approaches. Then we will present a method combining the advantages of both approaches and generalise it to a general principle for design changes, applicable at any time of an interim look during the course of the trial (Müller and Schäfer, 2001). Our emphasis is on both, the principles of study design and the required computational tools for data analysis. The presentation and illustration of methods will be based on our experience in concrete designing, monitoring and analysing controlled clinical trials in a wide field of medical disciplines.

**References**

Müller H-H, Schäfer H. Adaptive group sequential designs for clinical trials: combining the advantages of adaptive and of classical group sequential approaches. *Biometrics* 2001; 57:886-891.  
 Schäfer H, Müller H-H. Modification of the sample size and the schedule of interim analyses in survival trials based on data inspections. *Statistics in Medicine* 2001; 20:3741-3751.

Course 2

**METHODS FOR INTERVAL CENSORED DATA**

Lecture by Philip Hougaard (Novo Nordisk, Bagsvaerd, Denmark) [pho@novonordisk.com](mailto:pho@novonordisk.com)

Interval censored data occur when the time to an event is assessed by means of blood samples, urine samples, X-ray or other screening methods that cannot tell the exact time of change, but only that the change has happened since the last examination. This is in contrast to standard thinking that assumes that the change happens at the time of the first positive examination. Even though this is a very common setup and methods to handle such data non-parametrically in the one-sample case have been suggested more than 20 years ago, it is still not a standard method. The reason is that non-parametric analysis of such data is intrinsically more complicated than standard survival methods based on exact times. The same applies to proportional hazards models.

The course will consist of an introduction to this type of data, including a discussion of the issues. The theory will not be dealt with in detail. Parametric, non-parametric and semi-parametric (proportional hazards) models will be covered. Various estimation methods will be described and discussed. The course will emphasize the applications, using examples from the literature as well as from the lecturer's own experience.

**Tuesday 10 September 2002 am**

***Invited Session 1: 09:00-10:30***

**I01 ● CAUSALITY ASSESSMENT AND OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES**

**Organiser:** Andre Bouckaert (Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) [bouckaert@stat.ucl.ac.be](mailto:bouckaert@stat.ucl.ac.be)

Els Goetghebeur (University of Ghent, Belgium). [els.goetghebeur@rug.ac.be](mailto:els.goetghebeur@rug.ac.be)

Generalized structural mean models for causal inference with observed exposures.

J.M. Robins (Harvard School of Public Health, Boston MA 02115 USA) [robins@epinet.harvard.edu](mailto:robins@epinet.harvard.edu)

Estimation of causal effects of time-varying treatments.

Andre Bouckaert & Michel Mouchart (Univ Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) [mouchart@stat.ucl.ac.be](mailto:mouchart@stat.ucl.ac.be)

Causality assessment: inside or outside the model ? The case of the SORE (sure outcomes of random events) model.

***Invited Session 2: 11:00-12:30***

**I02 ● THIRTY YEARS of the COX MODEL**

**Organiser:** Michal Abrahamowitz (McGill University, Montreal, Canada) [michal@michal.ri.mgh.mcgill.ca](mailto:michal@michal.ri.mgh.mcgill.ca)

David Cox (Nuffield College, Oxford, UK)

Some open problems and recent developments in the analysis of survival data

Douglas Altman (Centre for Statistics in Medicine Institute of Health Sciences, Oxford, UK)

The impact of the Cox model on medical research

David Harrington (Dana-Faber Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Public Health)  
Regression Regularization with Censored Data: Introducing Bias to reduce mean-squared Estimation and Prediction Error

**Tuesday 10 September 2002 pm (1)**

**Invited Session 3: 14:00-15:30**

**I03 ● SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION IN CLINICAL TRIALS**

**Organiser:** Steven Julious (GlaxoSmithKline, Harlow) [Steven\\_A\\_Julious@gsk.com](mailto:Steven_A_Julious@gsk.com)  
 Steven Julious (GlaxoSmithKline, Harlow) [Steven\\_A\\_Julious@gsk.com](mailto:Steven_A_Julious@gsk.com)  
 Designing early clinical trials with uncertain estimates of variability.  
 John Whitehead (University of Reading) [j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk)  
 Sample size determination in phase II using Bayesian decision theory.  
 John Stevens (AstraZeneca R&D Charnwood, UK.) [John.W.Stevens@astrazeneca.com](mailto:John.W.Stevens@astrazeneca.com)  
 Bayesian sample sizes in the real world.

**Contributed Sessions 01-03: 14:00-15:30**

**O01 SURVIVAL MODELS 1**

O:1 **Parinello Giovanni, Cimino A, Girelli A, Valentini U, Decarli A:** Survival data with competing risks and interval-censored measures  
 O:2 **Walker Ann Sarah, Babiker AG:** Proportional hazards models for cumulative incidence with right censoring  
 O: 3 **Parinello Giovanni, Cimino A, Girelli A, Valentini U, Decarli A:** Long-survivors in Type II diabetes mellitus patients  
 O:4 **Benner Axel:** Survival analysis using multiple additive regression trees

**O02 EPIDEMIOLOGY 1**

O:5 **Abrams Keith, Sutton AJ, Torgerson D:** Bayesian approaches to meta-analysis of pharmacovigilance data  
 O:6 **Edler Lutz:** On the risk and on the benefit, if any, of matched-pair designs or other designs with retrospective elements for therapeutic research  
 O:7 **Eide Geir Egil, Heuch I:** Illustrating attributable fractions using the scaled Venn cube  
 O:8 **Dunstan Frank:** Spatial epidemiological investigations – the effect of migration

**O03 STATISTICAL MODELLING 1**

O:9 **SaintPierre Philippe, Combescure C, Daures JP, Godard P:** The analysis of asthma control under Markov assumption with use of covariates  
 O:10 **Manktelow Brad, Lambert PC, Abrams KR:** A comparison of methods of estimating confidence intervals for an indirectly standardized outcome ratio based on logistic regression models: a simulation study  
 O:11 **White Sarah, van den Broek NR:** Methods for assessing reliability and validity for a measurement tool: a case study and critique using the WHO haemoglobin colour scale  
 O:12 **Harbo Ingrid, Knudsen KM, Scheike TH:** Analysis of variance for longitudinal data applied to growth curves and pharmacokinetics

**Tuesday 10 September 2002 pm (2)**

**Contributed Sessions 04-07: 16:00-17:30**

**O04 MISSING DATA 1**

O:13 **White Ian, Moodie E, Thompson S, Croudace T:** Dealing with missing baseline measurements in randomised trials  
 O:14 **Hebert RL, Palesch Yuko:** Assessment of robustness of Markov model to missing data in repeated measures studies  
 O:15 **Meyer Nicolas, Meyer P, Oudet P:** Analysis of incomplete categorical data by complete enumeration of missing patterns  
 O:16 **Listing Joachim, Schlittgen R:** Tests if dropouts are missed at random

**O05 EPIDEMIOLOGY 2**

O:17 **Vail Andy, Gardener E:** Common statistical errors in the design and analysis of subfertility trials  
 O:18 **Eijkemans Marinus, Habbema JDF:** The analysis of crossover trials for infertility treatment  
 O:19 **Murad Havi, Davidov O, Luskay A, Shinwell ES, Reichman B, Freedman L:** Conditional logistic regression versus generalized estimating equations in the analysis of binary outcomes among multiple births  
 O:20 **Reilly Marie, Salim A, Pawitan Y, Lawlor E:** Nonlinear mixed model for attributing risk to identifiable exposures with application to identification of HIV-infected blood products

**O06 SURVIVAL MODELS 2**

O:21 **Sinha Debajyoti:** Analysis of grouped recurrent survival data with dependent termination time  
 O:22 **Friede Tim, Henderson R:** Things can only get better? Calendar time effects for revision times of hip replacements  
 O:23 **Sypsa Vana, Touloumi G, Babiker A, Hatzakis A:** Markov models with binary frailty  
 O:24 **Abrahamowicz Michal, MacKenzie T:** Joint modeling of time-dependent and non-linear effects of continuous covariates on hazard

**O07 DESIGN AND MODELLING**

O:25 **Proshan Michael:** A conservative, adaptive sample size method for clinical trials  
 O:26 **Morgan Caroline:** Sample size re-estimation in group-sequential response-adaptive clinical trials  
 O:27 **Heisterkamp Simon, Doornbos G, Nagelkerke NJD:** Unify class definitions from multiple data sources: re-parametrisation v.s. data-transformation  
 O:28 **McElduff Patrick, Dobson AJ:** A least squares approach to heterogeneous measurement error

18:30 Reception Dijon City Hall

**Tuesday 10 September 2002**

**Poster Session 1: 08:30-17:30**

P01 SURVIVAL MODELS 1	P02 STATISTICAL MODELLING I
P:1 <b>Lambert Philippe</b> : Modelling survival after a kidney graft using flexible parametric accelerated failure time models with a frailty component	P:7 <b>Bessaoud Faiza, Daures JP, Molinari N</b> : Free knot splines for logisitic models and threshold selection
P:2 <b>Cowling Benjamin, Hutton JL, Shaw JEH</b> : Survival models for censored point processes	P:8 <b>Dyba Tadeusz, Hakulinen T</b> : Age-period-region models for incidence prediction
P:3 <b>Goodall Ruth, Dunn DT, Babiker AG</b> : A comparison of 3 methods of confidence interval estimation for survival probabilities when data are interval-censored	P:9 <b>Fountain Jayne, Gallagher J, Brown JM</b> : A practical approach to multi-level analysis with a sparse binary outcome
P:4 <b>Heinävaara Sirpa, Hakulinen T</b> : Cancer-specific survival of patients with multiple primary cancers	P:10 <b>Ganjali Mojtaba</b> : Use and a comparison of robust regression methods to the analysis of interstitial lung disease data
P:5 <b>Porcher Raphaël, Lévy V, Latouche A, Chevret S</b> : Comparative use of event-free survival and competing risks analysis of relapse incidence in clinical trials for malignant diseases	P:11 <b>Cook Jonathan, Ramsay CR, Fayers P</b> : Assessing learning curve effects: an application of linear hierarchical models
P:6 <b>Rossa Agnieszka</b> : Completion method for extended censored life-tables	P:12 <b>Solis-Trapala Ivonne</b> : Robustness of the conditional Poisson regression model
P:3 <b>Foulkes Mary</b> : Clinical Trial Data Monitoring Committees US FDA guidance	P:13 <b>Støvring Henrik, Vach W</b> : Estimation of mortality among pharmaceutically treated patients based on pharmacoepidemiologic databases
P:17 <b>Kundt Guenther, Gerber B</b> : Simultaneous immunohistochemical detection of tumor cells in lymph nodes and bone marrow aspirates in breast cancer and its correlation with other prognostic factors: problems of statistical analysis	P:14 <b>Ambler Gareth, Omar RZ, Murad S, Morton LS, Taylor KM</b> : Risk modelling in heart valve studies
P:18 <b>Mercier François, Salomon H, Aubin F</b> : Analysis and interpretation of a dose-response clinical study in lipid-lowering therapy	P:15 <b>Stanisz-Wallis Krystyna, Martyniak J, Dembińska-Kieć</b> : CAD prediction by three methods
P:19 <b>Thézenas Simon, Gourgou-Bourgade S, Syz N, Kramer A</b> : A literature review of the reporting of statistical designs used in Phase II clinical trials in oncology over a 5-year period	P:4 MISCELLANEOUS I
P:20 <b>Verbitskaya Elena</b> : Statistical analysis of a pilot clinical trial of naltrexone as a treatment for heroin addiction	P:23 <b>Bermann Georgina</b> : Estimation in a randomized trial
P:21 <b>Jackson Andrea</b> : A review of the most common types of pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic models encountered at Covance Phase I clinical trials unit	P:24 <b>Gorlia Thierry, Crott R, Neymark N, Roy T</b> : Methods for estimating average treatment cost in the presence of right-censoring: Should we distrust them?
P:22 <b>Lydersen Stian</b> : Pearson's chi square, Likelihood ratio or Fisher's exact test for association in small 2 x 2 tables – which exact test is best?	P:25 <b>Hiller Louise, Holder RL</b> : Item discrimination in questionnaire validation: further development of the multi-trait scaling macro
	P:26 <b>Zucker David, Denne J</b> : Sample size redetermination for repeated measures studies
	P:27 <b>Aubin François, Salomon H, Mercier F</b> : Adjustment for baseline level in clinical trials of lipid lowering drugs: drawbacks of the percent change from baseline approach
	P:28 <b>Sooriyarachchi Marina</b> : Incorporating data received after a sequential trial has stopped into the final analysis: a comparison of methods
	P:29 <b>Wong Ee-Hwee, Tan SB, Machin D</b> : sample size determination for Phase III trials

**Wednesday 11 September 2002 am (1)**

**Contributed Sessions 08-11: 09:00-10:15**

**O08 STATISTICAL MODELLING 2**

- O:29 **Bamia Christina, White IR:** On estimating treatment effect in randomised clinical trials with multilevel models: is it always safe ?
- O:30 **Gras Claudine, Daures JP, Tretarre B:** Estimation methods of the prevalence of breast cancer with or without reversibility
- O:31 **Zuma Khangelani:** Applying generalized linear mixed models in sexual network data to understand dynamics of HIV/STDs in mobile and non-mobile cohorts

**O09 PHASE II CLINICAL TRIALS**

- O:32 **Buchheister Bettina, Lehmacher W:** Multiple testing procedures for combination drugs in multi level two factorial designs
- O:33 **Christiansen Tina:** Interim sample size calculation in a Phase II study
- O:34 **Jung S-H, Lee T, Kim Kyungmann, George SL:** Admissible two-stage designs for Phase II cancer clinical trials

**O10 PK/PD MODELLING**

- O:35 **Mentré France, Retout S:** Optimal designs in non-linear mixed effects models with application in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
- O:36 **Hansen Bettina, Wolters LMM, de Man R, Stijnen T:** Non-linear random effects PD-modelling of virus return after withdrawal of therapy
- O:37 **Patterson Scott, Jones BB:** REML and method-of-moments modelling as applied to replicate cross-over designs – implications for bioequivalence testing

**O11 PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING**

- O:38 **Nixon Richard, Thompson SG:** Allowing for uncertainty in budgetary predictions
- O:39 **Burman Carl-Fredrik, Senn S:** Examples of option values in drug development
- O:40 **Senn Stephen:** Some thoughts on simulation in drug development and pharmaceutical statistics

**Wednesday 11 September 2002 am (2)**

**Keynote Lecture: 10:45-11:45**

By invitation of Simon Day, the President of ISCB.  
 Laurence Freedman (Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel) [lsf@actcom.co.il](mailto:lsf@actcom.co.il)  
 Judgement in errors: handling measurement error in biostatistics.

**ISCB AGM: 11:45-12:45**

ALL WELCOME

14:00-17:30

Excursions



**Wednesday 11 September 2002**

**Poster Session 2: 08:30-13:00**

DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES	
P05	<p><b>P05</b> DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES</p> <p>P:30 <b>Kundt Guenther</b>: Imbalance in treatment assignments in stratified randomization</p> <p>P:31 <b>Vastrup Pernille, Helms M, Mølbak, Gerner-Smidt P</b>: Controlling for comorbidity in cohort studies</p> <p>P:32 <b>Moulton Lawrence</b>: Sensitivity, specificity, and their relationship to prevalence</p> <p>P:33 <b>Kupsc W, Kawalec Eva, Szczesniowska D</b>: Comparison of long-term effect of cardiovascular disease prevention in urban and rural centres</p>
P07	<p><b>P07</b> ADAPTIVE AND SEQUENTIAL DESIGNS IN CLINICAL TRIALS</p> <p>P:36 <b>Hartung J, Knapp Guido</b>: Repeated confidence intervals in self-designing clinical trials</p> <p>P:37 <b>Porcher Raphaël, Giraudeau B, Chevret S</b>: Adaptive two-stage design with sample size reassessment for survival trials</p> <p>P:38 <b>Zohar Sarah, Chevret S</b>: Bayesian approaches to the conduct and analysis of randomized clinical trials with binary outcome</p> <p>P:39 <b>van der Holt Ron, van Putten WLJ</b>: Monitoring clinical trials based on reported adverse events</p>
P08	<p><b>P08</b> META-ANALYSIS 1</p> <p>P:40 <b>Witte Steffen</b>: Meta-analysis using non-inferiority trials</p> <p>P:41 <b>Fina Paulo</b>: Multicenter trials on continuous outcomes: a practical comparison between meta-analysis and linear models</p> <p>P:42 <b>Michiels Stefan, Piedbois P, Syz N, Burdett S, Stewart L, Pignon JP</b>: Is the median survival time a useful summary statistic for reporting cancer survival analyses in a meta-analysis perspective?</p>
P09	<p><b>P09</b> STATISTICAL METHODS</p> <p>P:43 <b>Kis Maria</b>: receiver operating characteristic plots for clinical laboratory tests</p> <p>P:44 <b>Lee Mei-Ling, Whitmore GA</b>: Analysis of replicated microarray gene expression data</p> <p>P:45 <b>Tanck Michael, Jukema JW, Zwinderman AH</b>: Estimation of gene-gene and gene-environment interactions for numerous loci using penalised log-likelihood</p> <p>P:46 <b>Panhard Xavière, Dominique S, Grandchamp-Desraux B, Mentré F</b>: Construction of a global score quantifying allelic imbalance among biallelic SNP markers in bladder cancer</p>
P06	<p><b>P06</b> INFECTIOUS EPIDEMIOLOGY</p> <p>P:34 <b>Legrand Judith, Boëlle P-Y, Viboud C, Flahault A</b>: Confidence intervals for estimating influenza-like-illness incidences provided by a surveillance network</p> <p>P:35 <b>Viboud Cécile, Flahault A</b>: Geographical coherence of influenza epidemics in the US, France and Australia: 1972-1998</p>
P10	<p><b>P10</b> MISCELLANEOUS 2</p> <p>P:47 <b>Perperoglou Aris, Keramopoulos A</b>: The use of fractional polynomials in the Cox proportional hazards model: an application to 2716 breast cancer patients</p> <p>P:48 <b>Couris Chantal, Rabilloud, Colin C, Ecochard R</b>: Two-phase study to assess the number of cases based on claims databases: characteristics of the validation data set</p> <p>P:49 <b>Gutknecht Christel, Boutitie F, Saurin JC, Ecochard R</b>: Use of mover-stayer model to determine a subgroup of patients at higher risk of developing a severe duodenal polyposis</p> <p>P:50 <b>Lancaster Gillian, Hinds S, Williamson PR</b>: Use of pilot studies in medical research: what is a pilot study ?</p> <p>P:51 <b>Enachescu Cornelia</b>: Model comparison and Occam's razor</p> <p>P:52 <b>Jurkowski Piotr, Cwiklinska-Jurkowska M</b>: A comparison of effectiveness of combined classifiers with traditional discriminant classifiers</p> <p>P:53 <b>Boda Krisztina, Kálmán J</b>: Evaluation of the "7 minute" neurocognitive screening test using logistic regression models</p> <p>P:54 <b>Gao Fei, Chia KS, Machin D</b>: Investigating seasonal variation in the onset of leukaemia</p> <p>P:55 <b>Matthews John, Allcock GC</b>: Optimal designs for Michaelis-Menten kinetics: a Bayesian approach</p> <p>P:56 <b>Stocken Deborah, Dunn JA</b>: Pragmatic randomised controlled trials – implications for analysis</p> <p>P:57 <b>Vernic Corina, Ursoniu S</b>: Alcohol use and cigarette smoking among high school students from Timisoara, Romania</p>

## Thursday 12 September 2002 am (1)

### Invited Session 4: 09:00-10:30

#### 104 ● INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Organiser:** Paddy Farrington (Open University, UK) [C.P.Farrington@open.ac.uk](mailto:C.P.Farrington@open.ac.uk)  
 Paddy Farrington (Open University, UK) [c.p.farrington@open.ac.uk](mailto:c.p.farrington@open.ac.uk)  
 Branching process models for the surveillance of infections under conditions of high vaccine coverage.  
 Ira Longini (Emory Univ, Atlanta, USA) [ilongin@sph.emory.edu](mailto:ilongin@sph.emory.edu)  
 Estimation of vaccine efficacy for both susceptibility to infection and reduction in infectiousness for prophylactic HIV vaccines with partner augmentation.  
 Nico Nagelkerke (Nat. Inst. Public Health and Environment, Bilthoven, NL)  
[Nico.Nagelkerke@rivm.nl](mailto:Nico.Nagelkerke@rivm.nl)  
 Incidence of subclinical infections with Legionella Pneumonia in an outbreak in the Netherlands.

#### 103 STATISTICAL MODELLING 3

O:45 *Ukounmune Ohio*a: Non-parametric bootstrap confidence intervals for the intraclass correlation coefficient in cluster randomised trials  
 O:46 *Lesaffre Emmanuel, Ghidry W, Eilers P, Verbeke G*: P-spline smoothing of the random effects distribution  
 O:47 *Rosillon Dominique, Leal A, Frank B*: Analysis of repeated time events: an application to repeated hospitalisation during long-term treatment of schizophrenia  
 O:48 *Ecohard René, Clayton DG*: Fitting complex random effect models with standard software using data augmentation

### Contributed Sessions 12-14: 09:00-10:30

#### O12 SURVIVAL MODELS 3

O:41 *Petersen Liselotte, Andersen PK, Sørensen TIA*: Case-cohort study of genetic and environmental influences on premature death of adult adoptees  
 O:42 *Leffondré Karen, Abrahamowicz M, Sieniatycki J*: Definition of risk sets for Cox's analysis of case-control data with time-varying exposures: a simulation study  
 O:43 *Letierce Alexia, Tubert-Bitter P, Kramar A*: Comparison of cancer treatments based on joint dose-efficacy and dose-toxicity outcomes  
 O:44 *Katina Stanislav, Kayserová H*: Survival analysis of patients with cystic fibrosis in Slovakia

#### O14 EPIDEMIOLOGY 3

O:49 *DeStavola Bianca, Morton S, Mann V, Leon DA*: Emigration bias in inter-generational studies: an example of simple sensitivity analyses  
 O:50 *Mann Vera, Lithell H, DeStavola B, Lindmark G, Tuveno T, Mohsen R, Leon DA*: Estimating the between and within family effect of birth weight on childhood blood pressure  
 O:51 *Whitaker Heather, Farrington P*: The impact of correcting for time effects on estimation of the basic reproduction number  
 O:52 *Ecohard René, Clayton DG*: Multivariate parametric random effect regression models for fecundability studies

## Thursday 12 September 2002 am (2)

### Invited Session 5: 11:00-12:30

#### 105 ● STATISTICAL MODELLING

**Organiser:** Val Fedorov (GSK, Collegenille, USA) [Valeri.V.Fedorov@gsk.com](mailto:Valeri.V.Fedorov@gsk.com)  
 Mikhail Nikulin (University of Bordeaux-2, France) [nikou@sm.u-bordeaux2.fr](mailto:nikou@sm.u-bordeaux2.fr)  
 The Proportional Hazards Model and its role in biostatistics.  
 Catherine Huber (University of Paris V, France) [huber@citi2.fr](mailto:huber@citi2.fr)  
 On the major influence of David Cox's Approach on Survival Data in Medical Field.  
 O16 SURVIVAL MODELS 4  
 O:57 *Latouche A, Porcher Raphaël, Chevret S*: Sample size formula for proportional hazards of competing risks  
 O:58 *Lambert Paul, Smith LK, Botha JL*: Up-to-date survival models of patients with cancer by period analysis using regression models  
 O:59 *Biganzoli Elita, Boracchi P, Ambrogio F and Marubini E*: Artificial neural network models for discrete cause specific hazards  
 O:60 *Nardi Alessandra and Rossi Carla*: Mixture models in survival analysis

### Contributed Sessions 15-17: 11:00-12:30

#### O15 SURVIVAL AND MODELLING

O:53 *Wienke Andreas, Christensen K, Skytthe A, Yashin AI*: Multivariate cause-specific lifetime data analysis  
 O:54 *Komárek Arnost, Lesaffre E, Declercq D, Leroy R, Härkänen T*: Bayesian modelling in dentistry  
 O:55 *Brady Tony, Royston P, Rowan K*: Validation of prognostic models for hospital mortality in UK intensive care units  
 O:56 *Royston Patrick, Sauerbrei W*: A new measure of prognostic separation in survival data  
 O17 GENETICS AND BIOINFORMATICS  
 O:61 *Escalano Sylvie, Tréguët DA, Golmard JL*: Use of the stochastic-EM algorithm for haplotype-based association analysis  
 O:62 *Brøët Philippe, Richardson S, Radvanyi F, Tubert-Bitter P*: A Bayesian approach taking into account gene location for comparative microarray analyses in clinical oncology  
 O:63 *Rao J Sunil, Ishwaran H*: Detecting differentially expressed genes in DNA microarrays using Bayesian ANOVA  
 O:64 *Bouille M, Hubert Benoit, Hopirtean V*: Molecular class prediction of cancer with the use of Neural networks and new Algorithm Khtoops of selection and categorization of gene expression monitoring by DNA microarrays

<b>Thursday 12 September 2002 pm (1)</b>	
<b>Contributed Sessions 18-21: 14:00-15:30</b>	
O18	STATISTICAL MODELLING 4
O:65	<b>Manktelow Brad, Lal MK, Draper ES, Field DJ:</b> Using Bayesian predictive intervals to estimate length of stay of very pre-term babies in UK neonatal units
O:66	<b>Thomas Lyndal, Carlin JB, Bond L:</b> Sensitivity analysis of methods for handling missing data in longitudinal epidemiological studies: a case study
O:67	<b>Royston Patrick, Sauerbrei W:</b> Modelling interactions between treatment and continuous covariates in clinical trials by using fractional polynomials
O:68	<b>Thiebaut Rodolphe, Jacquemin-Gadda H, Chêne G, Commenges D:</b> Bivariate longitudinal study of CD4+ cell count and plasma HIV RNA taking into account informative drop-out and left-censoring of HIV RNA values in HIV-1 infected patients
O20	MISSING DATA 2 / GENETICS AND BIOINFORMATICS
O:73	<b>Pantazis Nikos, Touloumi G, Babiker A:</b> Simultaneous modeling of repeated measurements of two HIV-1 disease progression markers in the presence of informative drop-outs
O:74	<b>Siersma Volkert, Nielsen HE:</b> Analysis of a matched case-control study with missing data
O:75	<b>White Ian, Wood A:</b> Missing outcomes: what should randomised trials report ?
O:76	<b>Roberts Chris:</b> Intra-class correlation for nominal scale outcomes in twin and agreement studies
O19	META-ANALYSIS
O:69	<b>Knapp Guido, Hartung J:</b> On the variance weighted approach in meta-analysis given a precision dominating trial
O:70	<b>Riley Richard, Sutton AJ, Abrams KR, Lambert PC:</b> Meta-analysis of prognostic marker studies: combining disease-free and overall survival estimates
O:71	<b>Sutton Alex, Sweeting M, Lambert P, Cooper NJ, Abrams KR, Jones DR:</b> Meta-analysis of sparse and adverse events
O:72	<b>Tudur Smith Catrin, Williamson PR, Marson AG:</b> Investigating heterogeneity in meta-analysis of time to event outcomes
O21	PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING / META-ANALYSIS 2
O:77	<b>Vaeth Michael, Skovlund E:</b> A simple approach to power calculations in logistic regression and Cox regression models
O:78	<b>Pezeshk Hamid:</b> Bayesian sample size determination approach for trials with binary responses
O:79	<b>Cooper Nicola, Sutton A, Abrams K, Lambert P:</b> The incorporation of meta-analysis results into evidence based decision modelling
O:80	<b>Whitehead Anne:</b> Statistical issues in determining the effect of a new treatment from active-control trials
<b>Thursday 12 September 2002 pm (2)</b>	
<b>Contributed Sessions 22-24: 16:00-17:30</b>	
O22	SURVIVAL MODELS 5
O:81	<b>Smits Jacqueline:</b> Who is most in need of a heart transplant ? Validation and calibration of a prognostic survival model
O:82	<b>Giorgi Roch, Astruc K, Bolard P, Quantin C, Abrahamowicz M, Faivre J, Gouvernet J:</b> A flexible relative survival regression model using B-splines: application to stomach cancer
O:83	<b>Zucker David, Spiegelman D:</b> Inference in the proportional hazards model with imperfectly measured discrete covariates
O:84	<b>Yen Joseph:</b> Assessing delay in quantile survival time
O24	CLINICAL TRIALS
O:89	<b>Posch Martin, Bauer P, Brannath W:</b> Sample size reassessment and estimation in adaptive designs
O:90	<b>Graveland Wilfried, van Putten WLJ:</b> Obtaining an interim analysis plan in complex designs using simulation
O:91	<b>Franzén Stefan:</b> Fixed length sequential exact confidence intervals for the probability of response
O:92	<b>Müller Hans-Helge:</b> Sample size recalculation in optimized group sequential designs with stop in favour of the null-hypothesis
O23	STATISTICAL MODELLING 5
O:85	<b>Mansmann Ulrich, Friede T:</b> Planning clinical trials with correlated binary response
O:86	<b>Fidler Vaclav:</b> Is occupancy rate of intensive care units related to the mortality ?
O:87	<b>Robertson Chris, Mazzetta C, Ecob R:</b> Modelling trends in regional variation
O:88	<b>Spiessens Bart, Verbeke G, Komárek A:</b> Classification of longitudinal profiles using mixtures of normal distributions in nonlinear and generalised linear mixed models

**Thursday 12 September 2002**

*Poster Session 3: 08:30-17:30*

P11 SURVIVAL MODELS 2	P12 STATISTICAL MODELLING 2
<p>P:58 <b>Kawalec Ewa, Pajak A:</b> Are psychological factors associated with risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and coronary heart disease 5CHD) deaths ? results of the Pol-Monica Cracow project</p>	<p>P:65 <b>Jacquin-Gadda H�el�ene, Commenges D, Dartigues JF:</b> Joint modelling of cognitive decline and dementia to estimate the onset of accelerated decline in preclinical dementia</p>
<p>P:59 <b>Biganzoli Elia, Ambrogi F, Boracchi P:</b> Selection of artificial neural network models for survival data</p>	<p>P:66 <b>Jonsson Robert:</b> A longitudinal approach for constructing tolerance limits when data have error components regression structure</p>
<p>P:60 <b>Hopirtean Vincent, Mejean A, Chauchat J-H, Bazin JP, Roupret M, Hubert B, ballian C, Chretien Y, Thiounn N, Dufour B:</b> Interest of bootstrapping to analyze and compute the odds ratio's confidence intervals in the Cox proportional hazards. Application in bilateral renal cell carcinoma</p>	<p>P:67 <b>Kousignian Isabelle, Abgrall S, Costagliola D:</b> Modelling the variation of CD4 count depending on virologic suppression in HIV infected patients receiving antiretroviral therapy</p>
<p>P:61 <b>Lusa Lara, Miceli R, Mariani L:</b> Updating and validation of prognostic indices: an application to gastric cancer data</p>	<p>P:68 <b>Lall Ranjit, Campbell MJ:</b> An empirical comparison of logit and linear regression models for ordinal data</p>
<p>P:62 <b>Salanti Georgia, Ujm K:</b> Modelling monotonic time varying effects in Cox models</p>	<p>P:69 <b>Roy Pascal, Bouti�e F, Riche B, Remontet L, Solal-Celigny P:</b> Follicular lymphoma international prognostic project (FLIPP)</p>
<p>P:63 <b>Vandebosch An, Goetghebeur E:</b> Structural accelerated failure time models for the effects of observed exposures on repeated events in a clinical trial</p>	<p>P:70 <b>Klersy Catherine:</b> Model validation: a practical example</p>
<p>P:64 <b>Jazbec Anamarija, Pavlovi� M, �orovi� N:</b> ECG findings and all-cause mortality</p>	<p>P:71 <b>Ravery Vincent, Hopirtean V, Messas A, Roupret M, Hermieu J-F, Anouar K, Boccon-Gibod L:</b> Utility and interest of inductive techniques to explore small local cancer databases. Applications in prostate cancer</p>
<p>P13 MISSING DATA</p>	<p>P:72 <b>Tob�as Aurelio, S�ez Marc, Campbell MJ:</b> Sensitivity analysis of common statistical models used to study the short-term effects of air pollution on health</p>
<p>P:74 <b>Holman Rebecca, Glas CAW, Zwinderman AH, de Haan RJ:</b> Treatment of 'not applicable' responses when using item response theory</p>	<p>P:73 <b>Cook Jonathan, Ramsay CR, Fayers P:</b> Estimating the asymptote of learning using non-linear mixed-effects models</p>
<p>P:75 <b>Lambert Paul, Billingham LJ, Cooper NJ, Sutton AJ, Abrams KR:</b> establishing cost-effectiveness with partially missing cost components</p>	<p>P15 MISCELLANEOUS 3</p>
<p>P:76 <b>Aup�rin Anne, Dunant A, Abbas M, Pignon JP:</b> Analysis of Quality of Life data in a randomized trial in oncology</p>	<p>P:83 <b>Hunault Claudine, Eijkemans MJC, Klinkert E, Habbema JDF:</b> External validation of a predictive model concerning in-vitro-fertilisation (IVF) treatment</p>
<p>P:77 <b>Burton Andrea, Batta K:</b> Multiple imputation of missing binary and ordered response data: is a multivariate normal distribution assumption adequate ?</p>	<p>P:84 <b>Dodd Susanna:</b> Analysis of homicide rates in southeast Brazil from 1979 to 1998</p>
<p>P:78 <b>Moran J, Pedan Alexander:</b> Analysis of recurrent events in the presence of informative censoring: device related infection rate in the hemodialysis trial</p>	<p>P:85 <b>Glasbrenner Michaela, Gaus W, H�ogel J:</b> Center weighting factors and treatment effects in multicenter clinical trials</p>
<p>P14 META-ANALYSIS 2</p>	<p>P:86 <b>Petzold Max, Sonesson C:</b> Detection of intrauterine growth restriction</p>
<p>P:79 <b>Gillies Clare, Abrams KR, Mayberry JF:</b> Estimating the incidence of oesophageal cancer in patients with achalasia</p>	<p>P:87 <b>J�ger Bernd, Wodny M, Biebler K-E, Rudolph PE:</b> Discriminant analysis with binary data. A modification of the nearest-neighbourhood-method</p>
<p>P:80 <b>Novikov Ilya, Freedman L:</b> Different goals of meta-analysis of diagnostic tests lead to different results</p>	<p>P:88 <b>Sorokovikova Natalia, Ratanova M:</b> Evaluation of death risk and health impact factors</p>
<p>P:81 <b>Peters Jaime, Rushton L, Jones DR, Sutton AJ, Abrams KR, Muggleston MA:</b> Meta-analysis of epidemiological and toxicological data in setting environmental exposure standards</p>	
<p>P:82 <b>Walter Stephen:</b> Full and partial area under the curve (AUC) for ROC curves</p>	

**Friday 13 September 2002 am**

***Mini-Symposium on Human Fertility and Fecundity: 09:00-12:30***

● **HUMAN FERTILITY and FECUNDITY**

**Organiser:** Henri Leridon (INSERM and INED, Paris, France) [leridon@ined.fr](mailto:leridon@ined.fr)

Henri Leridon (Inserm-Ined, Paris, France) [leridon@ined.fr](mailto:leridon@ined.fr)  
Fertility in Europe: demographic and biological approaches.

Niels Keiding (Univ. of Aarhus , Denmark) [nk@biostat.ku.dk](mailto:nk@biostat.ku.dk)  
A Study on occupational trends in nuptiality and fertility in Copenhagen, 1890.

Alfred Spira (Inserm, Paris, France) [spira@vjf.inserm.fr](mailto:spira@vjf.inserm.fr)  
Use of Time to Pregnancy (TTP) for assessing infertility.

Pierre Jouannet (Cochin-Port Royal, Paris, France) [pierre.jouannet@cch.ap-hop-paris.fr](mailto:pierre.jouannet@cch.ap-hop-paris.fr)  
Variations in human reproductive functions.

David W. Warne (Serono, Geneva, Switzerland) [david\\_w\\_warne@bluewin.ch](mailto:david_w_warne@bluewin.ch)  
The place of hormonal treatments in the treatment of infertility.

## **Winners of the Student Conference Awards 2002**

From Marie Reilly

*The following winners will present their papers in Dijon:*

### **Caroline Morgan**

School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, UK.

Sample size re-estimation in group-sequential response-adaptive clinical trials.

### **Lyndal Thomas**

Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit, Murdoch Children's Research Institute & University of Melbourne, Australia.

Sensitivity analysis of methods for handling missing data in longitudinal epidemiological studies: a case study.

### **Catrin Tudur Smith**

Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Liverpool, UK.

Investigating heterogeneity in meta-analysis of time to event outcomes.

## **Winners of the Conference Awards for Scientists 2002**

From Michael Schemper

A total of 14 applications for the Conference Awards for Scientists for the Dijon ISCB23 meeting were received and according to a judgement by the National Groups Subcommittee, the following 12 award winners were selected:

Agnieszka Rossa, Poland,  
Corina Vernic, Romania,  
Stanislav Katina, Slovakia,  
Malinee Laopaiboon, Thailand,  
Srinivasa Arni, India,  
Cornelia Enachescu, Romania,  
Krystyna Staniszk-Wallis, Poland,  
Elena Verbitskaya, Russia,  
Krisztina Boda, Hungary,  
Anamarija Jazbec, Croatia,  
Piotr Jurkowski, Poland,  
Hamid Pezeshk, Iran.

It is anticipated that further awards will be granted for the ISCB24 meeting in London, 2003.

## Book Review by Simon Day (UK)

Statistics with Confidence (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) by Douglas G Altman, David Machin, Trevor N Bryant, Martin J Gardner (eds.), BMJ (2000)

This is a substantial improvement on an already excellent 1st edition (published in 1989). Need I say more? Well, there is the trivial typographic error on page 205 but that didn't spoil my general enthusiasm.

The book is a comfortable little 240 pages divided into three sections. The first part (over half the content) is titled "Estimation and Confidence Intervals". It has three introductory chapters establishing the background and benefits of confidence intervals [CIs]. There is the (expected) chapter explaining the benefits of CIs over P values, with - to their credit - a short (although rather dismissive) set of counter-arguments. The "methods" sections really get going at Chapter 4. Successively we have "Means and their differences", "Medians and their differences", "Proportions and their differences", "Epidemiological studies", "Regression and correlation", "Time to event studies" and "Diagnostic tests". I don't intend to describe the detailed content of each of these chapters but, instead, a few comments on style. These seven chapters are rather cookbook style; introductory comments, single samples, two samples (unpaired, paired), worked examples and closing comment. As a reviewer this sets a rather tedious trend but as a user - dipping in to relevant sections as and when - it is an ideal recipe. Of particular note is Chapter 6 on proportions: this has been completely re-written since the first edition to include much of the recent work published in this area. Throughout the chapter the authors describe how to use the "Traditional method" and then the "Recommended method" [they don't recommend any of the traditional methods].

These methods chapters are then wrapped up with the last three chapters of Part I which cover: Chapter 11 "Clinical trials and meta-analyses"; 12 "Confidence intervals and sample sizes"; and 13 "Special topics" (including discussion of exact, mid-P and bootstrap CIs and pros and cons of adjusting coverage levels in the setting of multiple comparisons). Altogether then, this makes a very rounded package of introduction, methods, and discussion.

Part II (two chapters) seems not to fit the major theme of the book: "Statistical guidelines for contributors to medical journals" and "Statistical checklists". They certainly fall under the heading of "Good Statistical Reporting Practice" where CIs also fit; they are also of key interest to the sorts of beasts (medical and statistical) who will be interested in the rest of the book. They are nice to have here - and I wholly support their content - but this does not seem to be their obvious home.

Finally, Part III briefly summarises the mathematical/statistical notation used in the book, gives the necessary tables of statistical distributions and introduces the CIA [Confidence Interval Analysis] software that accompanies the book. I will just make a couple of brief comments about the software: it is now Windows based (I've been happily using my DOS version from 1989 until I got this). It is very simple and intuitive to use. It only calculates 90%, 95% and 99% intervals (an intended restriction). It has a limit of 4000 rows of data - but I think that will do for most purposes! Data can be typed into a spreadsheet or copied from other files (e.g. Excel) or entered as summary statistics. There is no manual but a good "help" facility that has always steered me in the right direction. It comes free with the book which makes the combined package excellent value for money.

Many ISCB members will have known Martin Gardner - either personally or by reputation - who edited the first edition of this book with Doug Altman. Martin died in 1993 aged just 52. Sadly, his widow died in 1999. The book is dedicated to the memory of Martin and Linda Gardner: a dedication of which they would have justifiably been very proud. Go out and buy a copy!

This is a practical book with a great many examples, including worked computer code and access to the datasets. There is an emphasis on SAS (version 6.12 with some discussion of version 7), but the S-PLUS lme functions and the OSWALD (Smith et al, 1996) library, as well as MIwiN, are also used.

The authors state that the book covers "linear mixed models for continuous outcomes," although in fact the scope of the book is confined almost entirely to the rather more restrictive case of normal response, or response that can be transformed to normal. Sandwich estimators of standard errors are described for robust inference, but fully parametric inference using non-normal continuous response is barely touched upon, though the use of the t-distribution in modelling is mentioned in the context of sensitivity analysis for selection models.

The book gives a good practical treatment of normal longitudinal models, with focus on the general mixed model, as well as its conditional and marginal models. Particularly in the first couple of chapters, there are several references to Diggle et al (1994), and I found myself referring to that book to better follow the authors' thinking.

The book has four main strengths: its practical bent, its emphasis on exploratory analysis, its description of tools for model checking, and its treatment of dropout and missingness in general. In terms of practicality, the book has several ongoing examples, some of which will be familiar to many readers (though I was glad not to see any mention of sitka trees). There are an additional two case studies in a final chapter, bringing together much of the material which has gone before. For many of the worked examples, computer code is given, though not for the many illustrations that appear throughout the work (128 of them, according to the information in the front). Since graphical representations of data are so important to our understanding, and especially to end-users' understanding (e.g. clinicians and practitioners), it would have been nice if this code had also been supplied. All of the datasets and SAS macros can be found on the internet (the datasets in SAS format), although the instruction in the book's preface to go to the publisher's website resulted in quite some searching before I finally found the relevant page at one of the authors' websites. The book has a chapter dedicated to issues of trial design, and another dedicated to issues in model building. I found the authors' definition of the AIC, which they give as the true AIC/(-2), to be a little odd.

This book devotes three full chapters to exploratory analysis. The chapter on general exploratory analysis covers exploration of the marginal distributions and of the subject-specific profiles, relying heavily on graphical descriptions of the data. The chapter on exploration of serial correlation covers informal checking, flexible models (fractional polynomials) and non-parametric examination via the semi-variogram. The chapter on exploring

incomplete data relies mostly on graphical representations of the data, including individual subjects' profiles, mean profiles of those subjects remaining in the study, and survival curves for dropout. All of these exploratory techniques are demonstrated on the example datasets.

The sections of the book that deal with model checking are largely devoted to the use of normal mixtures for the random terms, and local influence. The authors discuss the importance of the normality assumption for the random effects, and then describe how to check the validity of this assumption, before introducing the use of normal mixtures for random effects, thus broadening the available random effects distributions to include multimodal and skewed distributions. In the local influence approach to model checking, the effect of each individual in the model estimation is allowed to vary, thus perturbing the log-likelihood. This approach allows the detection of influential subjects. A SAS macro for performing local influence analysis can be found on one of the author's websites. Once such subjects have been identified, what to do with them is, of course, a different matter.

My favourite aspect of this book is its treatment of missingness, and dropout in particular. After some fairly general discussion, the authors present in more detail two approaches to joint modelling of missingness and response. The authors stress that such analyses must rely on assumptions that cannot be tested from the data, and thus there is heavy emphasis on sensitivity analysis. Two chapters are devoted to each of selection models and pattern mixture models, including a chapter on sensitivity analysis for each. Whilst there were occasions on which I wished that the authors had introduced an extra couple of lines of algebra to aid me in following their workings, the back cover of the book does state that the book is not intended to be mathematically rigorous. Although there is still emphasis on the use of SAS, in these chapters, the S-PLUS OSWALD library is also utilised. Presumably, there is also purpose-written software which the authors do not discuss.

In conclusion, although I have included some minor criticisms in the above, my impression of the book was mostly positive. Its strong practical nature and emphasis on dropout modelling are particularly welcome, and I look forward to working through more of the examples and studying the more technically challenging chapters in greater detail.

Diggle PJ, Liang K.-Y and Zeger SL, "Analysis of Longitudinal Data", Oxford Science Publications, 1994.

Smith DM, Robertson B and Diggle PJ, "Object-oriented Software for the Analysis of Longitudinal Data in S, Technical Report MA 96/192, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Lancaster, LA1 4YF, United Kingdom, 1996.



This impressive book contains more than 950 double column pages filled with almost 200 articles by about 140 different authors, most of them contributing one or two articles. It aims to have an extensive coverage of the statistical aspects of most areas of epidemiological methods, as well as introductions to many areas of epidemiological practice. The book exhibits the amazing richness and variety of methods used in the field of epidemiology. Although quite lengthy, I decided to include the full list of entries in this review. This is the best way to give a good impression of this book, its broadness, its completeness, its variety, and the relative importance given to the different topics as reflected by the number of pages devoted to them.

It is very easy to find one's way in this book. The articles are cross-referenced and there is a very extensive subject index of 30 pages. The book can be used in a variety of ways. It can be used as dictionary, which is quite convenient in a field with a sometimes-confusing terminology. It is also very appropriate to get a quick introduction into, and an overview of a methodological topic one is not yet familiar to. As such, this book fills a real gap. I found it a pleasure to go through it haphazardly. Once you are reading one article it is very tempting to read cross-referenced articles as well and to keep reading.

Most of the articles assume that the reader is familiar with basic statistical methods. Basic epidemiology concepts are described in the book, but elementary statistical methods are not covered. Epidemiologists with a sound knowledge of statistics will find most articles not too difficult to read, although the details can be demanding.

In general I think that epidemiologists interested in methodology will find this volume quite useful. It is also very useful for medical statisticians working in epidemiology, and even more for those who touch this field only now and then.

This is the first volume in the Wiley series of encyclopedias devoted to special fields, derived from the recently published *Encyclopedia of Biostatistics*. Later volumes will deal with fields such as clinical trials, statistical genetics, and biostatistical computing. The large majority of articles in this *Encyclopedia of Epidemiologic Methods* have been taken from the *Encyclopedia of Biostatistics*. Added are the articles entitled Birth Defects Registries, Cancer Registries, Epidemiology Overview, Meta-Analysis in Epidemiology, Sample Size for Epidemiological Studies, Sex Ratio at Birth, Software Epidemiological, comprising in total about 65 of the 950 pages. I have compared some of the other articles with the corresponding version in the *Encyclopedia of Biostatistics*. Most of them were unchanged, while in the others only minor updates of the text and the references could be detected. It is convenient to have all statistical aspects of epidemiological research in one volume. However, in my opinion, if the *Encyclopedia of Biostatistics* is already available at a department, this volume adds little value for money.

This book has the potential to become an important and valued reference work in the field and I strongly recommend every epidemiologic department to have it available.

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Every statistician ought to enrich his own personal library with this excellent book: Andrew B. Lawson, *Statistical Methods in Spatial Epidemiology*, Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics, 2001. The outsiders, meaning non epidemiologists or non ecologists, have opportunity to take survey of contemporary methods for stochastic processes and hypotheses testing on the 2D surface. The novices, the newcomers will be introduced into the most important problems step by step, from terminology and basic definitions, by the sources of data, to the advanced statistical methods. It is very convenient that the reader decides how deeply he wants to explore the matter. All procedures are developed to the operational level, mostly all with the maximum-likelihood criterion and with the Bayesian approach. The more sophisticated methods are summarised into appendices: A: Monte Carlo Testing and Simulation Envelopes; B: Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods; C: Metropolis – Hastings Cluster Sampling.

All the course of book bases on accurate chosen examples:

A retrospective study of the health status in the town Arbroath (Scotland) over airborne emissions from a centrally located steel foundry for the period 1966 – 1976 (pages 13, 156 – 160);

The 49 respiratory cancer death certificate addresses for the town Armadale (Scotland) for the period 1968 – 1974 (pages 14, 129, 145 – 147);

The leukaemia and lymphoma case and control event maps for the Humberside region (England) in the period 1974 – 1986 (pages 15, 117 – 121);

The larynx cancer case and control maps for the Lancashire (England) in the period 1974 – 1983 (pages 17, 127 – 128, 130);

The counts of sudden infant death and the total births in North Carolina (USA) for the period 1974 – 1978 (pages 19, 216 – 218);

The counts of respiratory cancer and controls in 26 districts of the town

Falkirk (Scotland) for the period 1978 – 1983 (pages 18, 131 – 132, 150 – 151, 175 – 179);

Standardised mortality ratios in the 100 counties of Tuscany region (Italy) in the period 1974 – 1978 (pages 19, 96 – 99);

The age – sex standardised counts for lip cancer in administrative regions in Eastern Germany for the period 1980 – 1989 (pages 20, 189 – 195).

The above examples illustrate used structures of data and techniques of graphical presentation. Then each example was examined with some proper techniques and discussed from different point of view.

The book was organised in two parts. Part I, *The Nature of Spatial Epidemiology*, includes chapters 1 – 5, Part II, *Important Problems in Spatial Epidemiology*, contains 6 chapters 6 – 11. Chapters 1 – 3 introduce us into the basic concepts, from Map Hypotheses and Modelling Approaches, Scales, Edge Effects, to Geographical Representation and Mapping. As the basic models the point event models and the count models are examined in the Chapter 4. The count models can be considered as the simplifications of the above models, if the location information is neglected or not available. Usually, the point even data consist of address locations of cases and, maybe, of controls. The phenomenon can be described with spatially dependent parameters, like intensity and relative risk. Under the frequentist approach to inference it leads to Poisson process models. In many epidemiological tasks the prior knowledge and subjective beliefs are valuable. Nevertheless, some parameters of the model ought be considered as random. It can lead to Bayesian analysis of hierarchical models. As attractive alternative to this the hidden structure methods and mixture models are proposed. Chapter 5 discusses exploratory approaches and edge effects. The exploratory analysis of the underlying spatial structure bases on map representation. The choice of what and how to map needs the statistical confirmation. From this point of view, exploratory tools are those which can be used with little or no prior

knowledge of the underlying spatial structure. It is obvious that edge effects play a larger role in 2D problems than in 1D ones, say, time-series. As the basic solution some edge-weighting procedures are proposed. In simplest cases, an external data to the study window are available and can be used as guard area. In other cases a guard area must be constituted inside the window, or data near to boundary of window ought to assess weights  $< 1$ . Both last approaches lead to a loss of information, thus it be fruitfully reach for more sophisticated methods, such as an MCMC from Appendix B. Part II was organised in 6 problem oriented chapters. Chapters 6 and 7 discuss the small scale problems: Disease Clustering and Putative Sources of Hazard. Chapters 8 and 9 concerns the large scale problems: Disease Mapping and Surveillance. Chapter 10 examines the small-scale and large-scale modelling applied to Ecological Analysis. Chapter 11 presents a general approach to modelling the space-time behaviour of infectious diseases. An advantage of the approach is that within the same general procedure it can easy incorporate a variety of model assumptions applicable in different situation. A main fault is that method assumes full knowledge of the enumeration of all invecives at the correct times and location. The Authors discuss how to overcome this impediment with algorithms given in appendixes.

Overall, the book is perfectly user-friendly. All data for the examples are free available on the Internet on the Lawson's personal WWWs or on the proper other ones. Bibliography recommends over 300 references. Some of them are the classical statistical works, which in detail explain used methodology. The majority of them encourage us to supplementary and further studies. Hierarchical index consists of about 600 items. It makes easy any searching in the book. Searching from task to methods and examples from practice needs usually a few seconds, searching from problem to literature takes usually no more than 2 – 5 minutes.

## How to Contact the ISCB Executive Committee (2002)

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## How to Contact the ISCB Subcommittees

Please contact the chairs of these subcommittees for further information.

Title	Terms of Reference	Members	E-mail addresses
Communications	<p>1. To consider the future of the Newsletter, including ways to support the Editor, procedures for transition of editorship.</p> <p>2. To maintain the ISCB homepage on the World Wide Web and facilitate placement of annual meeting information on the homepage.</p> <p>3. To consider other communications with members, such as through e-mail or the World Wide Web.</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr David Warne (CH),  <b>Secretary:</b> Mr Bjarne Nielsen (DK),  <b>Members:</b>            Prof. Stephen Evans (UK),            Dr Nancy Geller (USA),            Ms Caroline Jackson (UK),            Miss Silvia Codony (DK),            Mr Simon Day (UK)</p>	<p>david_w_warne@bluewin.ch            bn@biodataseservices.dk            s.evans@qmul.ac.uk            ng@helix.nih.gov            c.jackson@icr.ac.uk            sgc@spadille.dk            simon.day@mca.gsi.gov.uk</p>
Education	<p>To organise one or two day courses on contemporary methods in clinical biostatistics which will involve one or several members as lecturers which will be presented in locations represented by the Society. Guidelines and plans of previous courses are available.</p>	<p><b>Chair/Secretary:</b>            Prof. Carol Redmond (USA),  <b>Members:</b>            Prof. Michael Schemper (A),            Dr Albert Cobos (E),            Prof. Mike Campbell (UK),            Dr Shai Linn (ISR),            Dr Elisabeth Svensson (S),            Dr Nicole Close (USA),            Prof. Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I),            Mr Simon Day (UK)</p>	<p>ckr3@pitt.edu            michael.schemper@akh-wien.ac.at            acobos@rdes.com            m.j.campbell@sheffield.ac.uk            slinn@rambam.health.gov.il            elisabeth.svensson@esi.oru.se            nclose@emmes.com            grazia.valsecchi@unimib.it            simon.day@mca.gsi.gov.uk</p>
National Groups	<p>1. To help those who are interested in forming a National Group through the approval process.</p> <p>2. To review the arrangements with the current National Groups, specifically regarding financial matters.</p> <p>3. To set rules and standards for funding of ISCB members of National Groups and others from countries with exchange control restrictions or barriers.</p>	<p><b>Chair/Secretary:</b>            Prof. Michael Schemper (A),  <b>Members:</b>            Prof. John Whitehead (UK),            A/Prof. Jørgen Seldrup (SGP),            Dr Siem Heisterkamp (NL),            Prof. Norbert Victor (D),            Dr Julia Singer (H),            Dr Ewa Kawalec (PL),            Dr Elia Biganzoli (I),            Mr Simon Day (UK)</p>	<p>michael.schemper@akh-wien.ac.at            j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk            jorgen@cteru.gov.sg            SH.Heisterkamp@rivm.nl            victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de            Julia.Singer@sanofi-synthelabo.com            mxkawale@cyf-kr.edu.pl            biganzoli@istitutotumori.mi.it            simon.day@mca.gsi.gov.uk</p>
Statistics in Regulatory Affairs	<p>The subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs will review, comment upon and seek to influence the development of regulatory requirements, guidelines and other documents concerning the scientific aspects of data generation, collection, management, analysis, and reporting. In general, the subcommittee will seek out and handle all regulatory issues in the name of the Society with the approval of the President or in his absence, the Vice-President.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucaksis/Guidance.html">http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucaksis/Guidance.html</a></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> A/Prof. Jørgen Seldrup (SGP),  <b>Secretary:</b>            Prof. Stephen Senn (UK),  <b>Members:</b>            Prof. Helmut Schäfer (D),            Mr Karsten Schmidt (DK)            Dr Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH),            Dr Anna Petroccione (I),            Mr Simon Day (UK)</p>	<p>jorgen@cteru.gov.sg            stephens@public-health.ucl.ac.uk            hsimbe@post.med.uni-marburg.de            KS@spadille.dk            Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@serono.com            Anna.Petroccione@eu.pnu.com            simon.day@mca.gsi.gov.uk</p>
Student Conference Awards	<p>Student conference awards are available for registered postgraduate students to attend the annual meeting and present a paper. The Subcommittee shall receive submissions, judge them, and administer the awards. The rules are announced in a timely issue of the Newsletter.</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b>            Dr Marie Reilly (S),  <b>Secretary:</b> Mr Bjarne Nielsen (DK),  <b>Members:</b>            Dr Marc Buyse (B),            Dr Bruno Cesana (I),            Mr Simon Day (UK)</p>	<p>Marie.Reilly@mep.ki.se            bn@biodataseservices.dk            Mark.Buyse@iddi.com            cesana@telemacus.it            simon.day@mca.gsi.gov.uk</p>

## ISCB General Information:

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<b>The prices are:</b>			<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>
Full	A4 page:	£ 200	
Half	A4 page:	£ 150	
Quarter	A4 page:	£ 100	
<b>Publishing dates: (and deadlines)</b>	Dec 2002		(mid October)
	Apr, Aug, Dec 2003		(mid March, end July, mid October)

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE: E-mail Lists and Personal Information**

ISCB has a strict policy not to give out any information concerning its members to **any** organisation which requests it. If a company wishes to send material to the members, the brochures must be sent to the Society's Permanent Office and News Editor for distribution with the News (see above). Alternatively, small announcements can be sent as an e-mail to members by the ISCB egroup (currently free of charge, but under review and subject to the ExCom's decision).

### 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

### Changes of Address or E-mail

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

Also, if your **e-mail address changes**, please inform the Office and the News Editor so that your address is changed in the ISCB database and egroup.

### Information on Submitting Articles

Articles sent via e-mail or on diskette (Word, HTML 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.

## 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 in Boston (1997), Dundee (1998), Heidelberg (1999), Trento (2000) and Stockholm (2001). 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, and Survival Analysis, Extending the Cox Model, and Statistical Methods for Genetic Epidemiology.



The composition of the **Executive Committee (ExCom)** for 2002 is as follows:

### Officers:

President: Mr Simon Day (UK),  
Vice-President: Prof. Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I),  
Secretary: Prof. Emmanuel Lesaffre (B),  
Treasurer: Prof. John Whitehead (UK), and

### Members:

Newsletter Editor: Dr David W. Warne (CH),  
Webmaster: Miss Silvia Codony (DK),  
Dr Elia Biganzoli (I), Dr Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH), Prof. Stephen Evans (UK), Dr Siem Heisterkamp (NL), Prof. Carol Redmond (USA), Dr Julia Singer (H), Prof. Elisabeth Svensson (S) and Prof. Norbert Victor (D).

The annual general meeting of the ISCB is organised to coincide with the scientific meeting. Membership of the Society is drawn from more than 40 countries worldwide and the number of members is nearly 800.



The ISCB also has special **Subcommittees** dealing with particular aspects of biostatistics.



The Society publishes a **Newsletter** 2 or 3 times a year. The ISCB News editor is Dr David W. Warne, Chemin Frank-Thomas 40, CH-1208 Geneva, Switzerland. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to him via e-mail to:

[david\\_w\\_warne@bluewin.ch](mailto:david_w_warne@bluewin.ch)

**Membership** of the Society is open to all with an interest in biostatistics. The current annual (to 31 December 2002) Ordinary membership fee is £20. The Full-time Student Membership fee is £10.

**Applications** for membership should be sent to:  
ISCB Permanent Office,  
Resources for Business,  
South Park Road,  
Macclesfield SK11 6SH,  
UK

Tel: +44 1625 267880  
Fax: +44 1625 267879  
e-mail: [iscb@resources.demon.co.uk](mailto:iscb@resources.demon.co.uk)  
www: <http://www.iscb-homepage.org>

Have you visited the ISCB Homepage recently ? <http://www.iscb-homepage.org>

Please check often for updated information between issues of the ISCB News!



# Calendar

<b>9-13 September 2002</b>	<b>Dijon, FRANCE</b>
ISCB23 Info: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham e-mail: <a href="mailto:harbajan.chadha-boreham@serono.com">harbajan.chadha-boreham@serono.com</a> www: <a href="http://www.iscb-dijon.u-bourgogne.fr/">http://www.iscb-dijon.u-bourgogne.fr/</a>	
<b>20-24 July 2003</b>	<b>London, ENGLAND</b>
ISCB24 joint with Society for Clinical Trials Info: Diana Elbourne e-mail: <a href="mailto:diana.elbourne@lshtm.ac.uk">diana.elbourne@lshtm.ac.uk</a>	
<b>15-19 August 2004</b>	<b>Leiden, Netherlands</b>
ISCB25 Info: Hans Van Houwelingen e-mail: <a href="mailto:JCvanhouwelingen@lumc.nl">JCvanhouwelingen@lumc.nl</a>	

For the latest conf. info, see the ISCB webpage or the ISI webpage: [www.cbs.nl/isi/calendar.htm](http://www.cbs.nl/isi/calendar.htm)

2002		
August 4-9	Fourth International Conference on Statistical Data Analysis based on the L <sub>1</sub> -Norm and Related Methods - to be held at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. <b>Information:</b> Prof. Yadolah Dodge, Conference Organizer Statistics Group, Case Postale 1825, CH-2002 Neuchâtel. Phone +41 32 718 13 80 Fax +41 32 718 13 81 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Yadolah.Dodge@unine.ch">Yadolah.Dodge@unine.ch</a>	September 24-27
August 11-15	Joint Statistical Meetings, New York, New York. To be held at the New York Hilton and Sheraton New York. Sponsored by ASA, ENAR, WNAS, IMS, and SCC. <b>Information:</b> ASA, 1429 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3415; (703) 684-1221; E-mail <a href="mailto:meetings@amstat.org">meetings@amstat.org</a>	September 25-28
August 14-17	Perspectives in Modern Statistical Inference II. (a satellite to the 24th European Meeting of Statisticians, August 19-23, 2002) to be held at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. E-mail: <a href="mailto:lurecko@karlin.mff.cuni.cz">lurecko@karlin.mff.cuni.cz</a> Website: <a href="http://www.math.muni.cz/workshop_2002">www.math.muni.cz/workshop_2002</a>	October 17-18
August 15-17	Symposium on Stochastics and Applications (SSA) to be held at the National University of Singapore. E-mail: <a href="mailto:ssa@math.nus.edu.sg">ssa@math.nus.edu.sg</a> Website: <a href="http://www.math.nus.edu.sg/ssa">www.math.nus.edu.sg/ssa</a>	October 21-23
August 17-23	Baltic-Nordic Conference on Survey Sampling, to be held in Ammarnäs, Sweden. E-mail: <a href="mailto:banocoss@matstat.umu.se">banocoss@matstat.umu.se</a> Website: <a href="http://www.matstat.umu.se/banocoss">http://www.matstat.umu.se/banocoss</a>	October 31 - November 3
August 19-23	24th European Meeting of Statisticians 14th Prague Conference on Information Theory, Statistical Decision Functions and Random Processes, to be held in Prague, Czech Republic. <b>Information:</b> Martin Janzura, Institute of Information Theory and Automation, POB 18, 182 08 Praha 8, Czech Republic. Tel: 420 2 6605 2572 Fax: 420 2 688 4903 E-mail: <a href="mailto:janzura@utia.cas.cz">janzura@utia.cas.cz</a> or <a href="mailto:ems@utia.cas.cz">ems@utia.cas.cz</a> Website: <a href="http://sivrint.utia.cas.cz/24_EMS.html">sivrint.utia.cas.cz/24_EMS.html</a>	November 6-8
August 20-22	Irving Fisher Committee Conference on Challenges to Central Bank Statistical Activities, to be held at the Bank for International Settlements, Basle, Switzerland. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.ifcommittee.org">http://www.ifcommittee.org</a> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:rudi.acx@nbb.be">rudi.acx@nbb.be</a>	November 14-17
August 24-28	Compostat2002 to be held in Berlin, Germany. E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@compostat2002.de">info@compostat2002.de</a> website <a href="http://www.compostat2002.de">www.compostat2002.de</a>	December 9-13
August 25-28	International Conference on Improving Surveys (ICIS-2002), to be held at the University of Copenhagen. <b>Conference Secretariat:</b> International Conference Services, P.O. box 41, Strandvejen 171, DK-2900 Hellerup, Copenhagen, Denmark. Telephone: +45 3946 0500, Fax +45 3946 0515. E-mail: <a href="mailto:ICIS2002@ics.dk">ICIS2002@ics.dk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.icis.dk">http://www.icis.dk</a>	December 21-24
August 26-28	Sixth International Statistics Conference, to be held at the Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran, Iran. <b>Contact:</b> M. Mohammadzadeh, Dept. of Statistics, Tarbiat Modarres Univ., P.O. Box 14155-175 Tehran Iran. E-mail: <a href="mailto:isc6@modares.ac.ir">isc6@modares.ac.ir</a> or <a href="http://www.modares.ac.ir/isc6/">www.modares.ac.ir/isc6/</a>	January 12-15
August 27-29	IAOS Conference - Official Statistics and the New Economy, to be held in London, UK. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.singstat.gov.sg/IAOS/uk.html">www.singstat.gov.sg/IAOS/uk.html</a> For registration details, see <a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/iaoslondon2002/registration.asp/">www.statistics.gov.uk/iaoslondon2002/registration.asp/</a>	June 8-11
August 29-31	The Eleventh International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics, in Celebration of George P. H. Styan's 65th Birthday, to be held at Lyngby, Denmark. <b>Information:</b> <a href="http://www.imm.dtu.dk/matrix02/">http://www.imm.dtu.dk/matrix02/</a>	June 9-12
August 30 - September 2	Fifth International Conference on Forensic Statistics, ICFS5, to be held in Isola di San Servolo, Venice, Italy. <b>Contact:</b> Julia Mortera, Dipartimento di Economia, Università di Roma Tre, Via Ostiense, 139, 00154 Roma. Tel: +39 - 06-5737-4206, fax +39 - 06-5737-4093. E-mail: <a href="mailto:icfs5@eco.uniroma3.it">icfs5@eco.uniroma3.it</a> Website: <a href="http://icfs5.eco.uniroma3.it">icfs5.eco.uniroma3.it</a>	July 14-18
September 2-6	RSS 2002 - International Conference to be held at the University of Plymouth, Plymouth, England. The 2002 Conference of the Royal Statistical Society (4-6 September) will be preceded by short courses (2-3 September). <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:RSS2002@plymouth.ac.uk">RSS2002@plymouth.ac.uk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.tech.plym.ac.uk/math/research/stats/RSS2002.html">www.tech.plym.ac.uk/math/research/stats/RSS2002.html</a>	July 20-24
September 9-13	ISCB 23 - 23rd Meeting of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, to be held in Dijon, France. <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:harbajan.chadha-boreham@serono.com">harbajan.chadha-boreham@serono.com</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.iscb-homepage.org">http://www.iscb-homepage.org</a>	August 13-20

