



International  
Society for  
Clinical  
Biostatistics

# News

Number 38

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Editor: David W. Warne

## Executive Committee 2005-06

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Vice-President: Emmanuel Lesaffre (B)  
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## Editorial

Another conference has gone by and I really enjoyed the week in Leiden. Congratulations to the organisers for providing a well-organised meeting in pleasant surroundings. You'll find all the details of what the Society's been doing in the minutes of the AGM.

Hot off the press are the results of the Society's elections. Well-done to the winners - now the work starts!

Looking forward to 2005, work is progressing on the Szeged meeting. There are also plans for 2006, which I have volunteered to organise in Geneva. Could you and your colleagues organise the 2007 meeting? Please contact the ExCom if you have some ideas about holding a meeting.

Thanks to the contributors to this News: Harry Southworth and the book reviewers, Zsolt Lang, Ewa Kawalec, Michael Schemper and Marie Reilly, Simon Day, Emmanuel Lesaffre and Maria Grazia Valsecchi.

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## ISCB Membership

		end 89	end 92	Dec 93	Dec 94	Dec 95	Dec 96	Dec 97	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 00	Nov 01	Dec 02	Nov 03	Nov 04
*=conference host															
	Total	261	596	715	698	725	702	685	729	818	797	837	825	756	<b>758</b>
	# Countries	23	32	32	31	33	34	37	37	41	40	45	41	40	<b>38</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>UK</b>	50	90	176*	120	144	121	128	169*	135	151	153	141	190*	<b>140</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	14*	30	38	33	36	29	31	39	35	33	38	39	33	<b>87</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>USA</b>	18	45	40	39	41	40	79*	66	76	77	89	78	75	<b>57</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Germany</b>	30	67	75	84	71	78	72	70	186*	90	87	77	61	<b>57</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Poland [NatGrp]</b>		11	11	24	24	30	21	19	26	34	37	41	41	<b>43</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Hungary [NatGrp]</b>	1	21	17	18	19	25*	27	29	29	33	34	41	48	<b>42</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>France</b>	30	52	62	50	73	67	52	52	49	53	37	93*	31	<b>41</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	4	58*	38	31	30	32	26	35	38	39	36	46	41	<b>37</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	23	51	53	54	58	64	51	45	38	44	88*	50	36	<b>34</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	13	22	27	30	30	32	35	29	25	33	36	33	23	<b>27</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Italy</b>	16	33	37	32	32	33	26	33	26	63*	29	25	15	<b>25</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	14	25	22	80*	33	29	24	25	23	18	23	26	22	<b>23</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Romania [NatGrp]</b>						2			4	1	1	1	19	<b>21</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Austria</b>	4	9	11	13	11	16	13	11	15	18	15	13	16	<b>17</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Spain</b>	10	12	18	12	46*	23	14	16	12	11	11	8	7	<b>15</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Norway</b>	13	18	25	22	12	18	10	10	11	10	16	16	12	<b>14</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Finland</b>	2	7	7	9	9	9	7	5	10	9	18	11	7	<b>11</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Japan</b>	2	6	7	5	7	4	10	13	20	12	11	10	10	<b>10</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Canada</b>	6	12	14	14	11	13	15	14	9	9	10	14	16	<b>8</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Australia</b>	6	9	11	6	9	8	11	9	10	12	8	9	14	<b>8</b>
<b>21.</b>	<b>Israel</b>	1	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	10	13	10	7	<b>8</b>
<b>22.</b>	<b>Iran</b>						1	1					1	1	<b>4</b>
<b>23.</b>	<b>India</b>		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	<b>3</b>
<b>24.</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>		1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	<b>3</b>
<b>25.</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>					2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	<b>3</b>
<b>26.</b>	<b>Singapore</b>							3	6	4	5	8	5	7	<b>2</b>
<b>27.</b>	<b>Russia</b>					1	3	3	3	2	2	1	4	3	<b>2</b>
<b>28.</b>	<b>South Africa</b>		1	4	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	<b>2</b>
<b>29.</b>	<b>Mexico</b>						1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>30.</b>	<b>Greece</b>		1	1	1				1	1	3	1	6	1	<b>2</b>
<b>31.</b>	<b>Turkey</b>		1	1						1				1	<b>2</b>
<b>32.</b>	<b>Cuba</b>								2	2	2	2	2		<b>2</b>
<b>33.</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>		1		1		2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	<b>1</b>
<b>34.</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	1	3	5	2	2	2	2	5	5	3	4	3	3	<b>1</b>
<b>35.</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>										1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
<b>36.</b>	<b>Malawi</b>												1	1	<b>1</b>
<b>37.</b>	<b>Czech. Rep.</b>			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	<b>1</b>
<b>38.</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	1	2	3	4	3	4	4	2	3	2	3		1	<b>1</b>
<b>39.</b>	<b>South Korea</b>					3		1						1	
<b>40.</b>	<b>Estonia</b>											2		1	
<b>41.</b>	<b>Colombia</b>							1	1		1			1	
<b>42.</b>	<b>China</b>		1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2		
<b>43.</b>	<b>Thailand</b>		1	1		1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2		
<b>44.</b>	<b>Croatia</b>									1	1		1		
<b>45.</b>	<b>Gambia</b>												1		
<b>46.</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>												1		
<b>47.</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>											2			
<b>48.</b>	<b>Argentina</b>											1			
<b>49.</b>	<b>Brazil</b>					2						1			
<b>50.</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>	1										1			
<b>51.</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>											1			
<b>52.</b>	<b>Sudan</b>											1			
<b>53.</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>									1		1			
<b>54.</b>	<b>Egypt</b>											1			
<b>55.</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>								1	1	1				
<b>56.</b>	<b>Philippines</b>									1					
<b>57.</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>						1								
<b>58.</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>				1										
<b>59.</b>	<b>Kenya</b>		1	1											
<b>60.</b>	<b>Oman</b>	1													

## **President's Farewell**

From Maria Grazia Valsecchi

The activities of this year, 2004, are summarised in the President's Report to the AGM (page 5). Here I wish to add some personal comments at the end of my term as ISCB President.

It has been a busy and rewarding two-year period. I greatly value my experience in the Society, which will continue with enthusiasm next year, as Past-President, and then as an ordinary member. I greatly value how the Officers, the ExCom and ordinary members support the traditional activities of the Society and encourage the development of new perspectives.

The commitment of some colleagues, whom I cannot mention here one by one, to the organisation of annual meetings, student conference awards, conference awards for scientists, educational courses, subcommittees' activities, web page and newsletter, deserves the gratitude of all members. The challenge, in particular for the ExCom and the Officers, is to keep and broaden these activities, also with the aim of attracting new members to the Society.

A substantially new ExCom came out from the recent elections, with seven new entries and one renewed member. I take the occasion to wish them all a fruitful period of work with and for the Society. Also, I wish to thank the Nominations Committee (chaired by Jorgen Seldrup) and the Ballot Committee (chaired by Simon Day) for efficiently setting up the elections. Voting was very easy thanks to a clever web system (set up by Kris Bogaerts). Nonetheless, participation in the elections was not satisfactory (only approximately a quarter of the members

expressed their vote) and I think that, here too, there is room for improvement.

When I started my presidency, beginning 2003, a major concern was that the ISCB finances had gone through a marked loss in a meeting. A more careful planning had to be done to recover a safe situation for the Society and in this the Treasurer, Norbert Victor, was of great help. Thanks to the subsequent financially successful meetings and to a close control on expenditures, finances are now on the right track again. In addition, it is expected that the last meeting in Leiden will further contribute some profit. Indeed, I wish to congratulate again Hans van Houwelingen, Theo Stijnen and their collaborators for having organised a very pleasant and successful meeting. I was informed that 40 papers presented at the meeting were submitted for the special issue of Statistics in Medicine, and this in itself is a sign of an outstanding scientific achievement.

Now we all look forward to the following meetings in Szeged (Hungary - 2005) and Geneva (Switzerland - 2006) and encourage all ISCB members to take the challenge of organising a meeting in their countries in the future.

Finally, a special thank to the new ISCB Permanent Office (operating since October 2003) and all my wishes to the new President, John Whitehead, with whom I will be in close contact to aid the transition. I am certain that he will be very successful, with the new Officers, in taking the Society forward.

I take the occasion to wish all the ISCB members a fruitful and happy 2005.

## **Polish National Group Activities 2000-04**

From Ewa Kawalec

### ***Electoral meeting***

During the General Meeting of the Polish National Group of ISCB, which took place in Cracow on 27 May 2004, Ewa Kawalec, was elected as Representative and Professors Leon Bobrowski and Antoni Leon Dawidowicz were elected as Deputy Representatives of the Group.

### ***Membership fee***

Our Group consists of 43 members. The membership fee is settled to 30 PLN (about 7 euros).

### ***Activities***

During 2000-2004, about 25 members of our Group participated in the ISCB Meetings (Trento - 7, Stockholm - 9, Dijon - 5, London - 2, Leiden - 4). The number of members funded by the Society to attend ISCB Meetings was: Trento -3, Stockholm - 4, Dijon - 2, London - 1, Leiden - 1).

During the meeting in Cracow on 27 May 2004, the mini-symposium took place. The recent methodological developments and applications in different areas were presented by our members and followed by discussion:

- *Urszula Biela*: 'Demographic, socio-economic, live style factors and menopause in women at age 35-64 in Polish rural population'.
- *Ewa Dojka*: 'Relation between depression and cardiovascular risk factors in men and women at age 45-64 years in Cracow population'.
- *Krystyna Staniszwallis*: 'Application of Logistic Regression and Neural Network Methods in Risk Factors Determination in CAD'.
- *Walerian Piotrowski*: 'Global risk of death due to cardiovascular diseases in the East Warsaw. The POL-MONICA Project'.

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

The meeting started at 12.00 (at lunch break) on Wednesday 18 August 2004. The agenda of the meeting was:

1. President's report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Subcommittee reports and motions for continuation:
  - Subcommittee on National Groups
  - Subcommittee on Communications
  - Subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs
  - Subcommittee on Education
  - Subcommittee on Student Conference Awards
  - Subcommittee on Statistics in Dentistry
  - Subcommittee on Conference Organisation
4. Elections for the Executive Committee
5. Future ISCB meetings
  - 2005: Szeged (Hungary)
  - 2006: Geneva (Switzerland)
6. Any other business

## 1. President's report (MGV)

The ISCB Officers, Executive Committee's Members and Subcommittees have been actively operating during this year, and finalised their work here in Leiden. I shall mention the items we have on the agenda, together with some personal considerations.

First of all, I wish to mention here that the new ISCB Permanent Office, which took over on October 2003, is now running smoothly and efficiently, after a difficult period of handover, and we thank Rita Schou for her dedication. The PO is now taking care of the ISCB Web page, since Sylvia Codony had to withdraw her personal commitment. While thanking her for all the work done for the Society, we also thank Bjarne Nielsen for accepting the task of being the new Webmaster.

ISCB finances are now under control, and I think the Society is now on the right track again, after the recent financial difficulties. This has been mainly achieved thanks to the considerable profit made in the Dijon meeting and the fact that the London meeting ended with no loss. It actually made a small profit, and we take the occasion to thank again the organisers of the joint meeting. Not last, finances have benefited from a careful reduction of the expenses for the Permanent Office, Officers, Executive Committee and Awards programs for Students and Scientists. These latter are an important scientific activity of the Society and I think that the choice of maintaining them, in spite of the economical difficulties, was a good one, with the hope that they not only continue, but possibly expand their programs in a few years from now. A stable and safe reserve level can be maintained also thanks to the income from the membership fees, and officers have been thinking of possible ways to increase it, which need the discussion and support of the Executive Committee. Also very important, a larger membership would

potentially broaden the scientific interests of the Society.

I shall say little about Subcommittees, as they will present here their reports. I only briefly mention that the new ones (Statistics in Dentistry and Conference Organization) have started very actively their work.

Crucial to the life of the Society is to have dedicated Officers and Executive Committee members, and to hold good scientific meetings. As for the first point, we have important elections coming up. We need to elect a new Vice-President, since John Whitehead will become President for the next two years, 2005-2006. Also, Norbert Victor will end his first term as treasurer and Emmanuel Lesaffre will end his second term as Secretary. Several members of the Executive Committee will end either their first (2) or second (6) term of office and so need re-electing or replacing, as appropriate. Thank you in advance to the ISCB members who accepted to serve on the Nomination Committee and Ballot Committee.

For future ISCB meetings, we will have the opportunity to appreciate the programming done by Julia Singer and Michael Schemper, and by their collaborators in the Local Organizing Committee and the Scientific Program Committee, for the 2005 meeting in Szeged, Hungary. We all look forward to this meeting which expresses the initiative of a very active National Group and will certainly be first class! A promising proposal is for holding the 2006 meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, and David Warne (our Newsletter Editor, whom we thank also for the recent issue of the News) will have the opportunity to submit it to the Executive Committee here in Leiden. Recently, Officers have been informally contacting ISCB members who might be interested in organizing future meetings, and encourage all the Executive Committee members to do the same, as we need to ensure with some years in advance the continuity of our annual meetings.

Officers had to comply with the invitation from Wiley to update the description of ISCB in the Encyclopaedia of Biostatistics (that had been written by J. Selstrup in 1997) and from EFSPi to have an ISCB representative in their Qualifications Working Party, and myself and John Whitehead took care of these items. Also, the Officers started to investigate on possibilities for ISCB to apply to EU funds to support part of the Society's initiatives, but the first approaches were not encouraging.

Communication among Officers was rather intense after London, and a teleconference was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, to discuss the most important issues you have seen reported here. It was for me always very easy and very fruitful to work with the Officers, whom I wish to thank a lot. I also take the occasion to thank all members who contribute with their work to the life of the Society.

Maria Grazia Valsecchi  
President, ISCB.  
August 2004

## 2. Treasurer's report (NV)

The financial report for 2003 is given below:

## ISCB25 Leiden 2004: AGM Report (continued)

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL BIostatISTICS FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003

	2003 GBP	2002 GBP	2003 Euro
<i>Income</i>			
Membership fees	12,950.00	15,356.00	18,589.73
Conference surplus	786.51	13,049.48	1,129.04
Course surplus			
Advertising	1,750.00	705.00	2,512.13
Earned interest	2,262.97	3,259.57	3,248.49
Currency gains	2,100.21		3,014.85
<b>Total income</b>	<b>19,849.69</b>	<b>32,370.05</b>	<b>28,494.24</b>
<i>Expenditure</i>			
<i>Permanent Office:</i>			
Consumables	882.54	139.68	1,266.89
Postage & freight	241.63	401.22	346.86
Telecommunication & internet	714.47	603.44	1,025.62
Printing & photocopying	94.29	2,785.05	135.35
Travel	53.42	105.17	76.68
Credit card transaction fee, RfA	623.24	282.03	894.66
Administration RfA	6,419.68	6,288.54	9,215.45
Administration Medicon	1,314.30	2,554.38	1,886.68
	<b>10,343.57</b>	<b>13,159.51</b>	<b>14,848.19</b>
<i>Officers &amp; ExCom:</i>			
Conference fees	541.16	2,592.48	776.84
Accommodation	1,642.00	768.80	2,357.09
Travel expenses	579.22	813.12	831.47
Other expenses		692.44	
	<b>2,762.38</b>	<b>4,866.84</b>	<b>3,965.40</b>
<i>Awards (Students, Scientists):</i>			
Conference fees		2,496.70	
Accommodation	2,343.00	2,466.06	3,363.38
Travel expenses		1,483.78	
Other expenses	67.50	78.27	96.90
	<b>2,410.50</b>	<b>6,524.81</b>	<b>3,460.28</b>
<i>President's Invited Speaker</i>			
Conference fees		185.18	
Other expenses		1,010.80	
<i>Workshops / Courses:</i>			
Honorarium			
Travel expenses		1,110.50	
	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,110.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<i>Newsletter:</i>			
Office expenses	6,901.05	5,381.65	9,906.46
Editorial expense		119.25	
	<b>6,901.05</b>	<b>5,500.90</b>	<b>9,906.46</b>
<i>Other items:</i>			
Bank charges	222.85	274.98	319.90
Interest paid	0.75		1.08
Audit	1,445.00	900.00	2,074.30
Gifts		33.07	

## ISCB25 Leiden 2004: AGM Report (continued)

	2003 GBP	2002 GBP	2003 Euro
Currency loss for unrealisable assets	376.25	963.61	540.11
	2,044.85	2,171.66	2,935.39
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>24,462.35</b>	<b>34,530.20</b>	<b>35,115.72</b>
<b>NET INCOME:</b>	<b>-4,612.66</b>	<b>-2,160.15</b>	<b>-6,621.48</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Barclays GBP current account	1,294.43	8,173.46	1,858.15
Barclays GBP high interest account	7,389.53	7,761.60	10,607.67
Barclays Euro account	2,652.85	85.45	3,808.16
Nordea DKK account	4,457.61	14.17	6,398.90
Nordea Euro account	0.00		
Bonds, Danish State 7% 2004	31,067.10	25,618.97	44,596.82
	46,861.52	41,653.65	67,269.70
<b>Others:</b>			
Accounts receivable	640.00	676.25	918.72
Payment from Dijon conference		12,907.11	
Seed money, Leiden 2004	7,948.38	5,886.52	12,103.51
Resources for Associations	995.00		1,428.32
London conference, 2003	5,951.00		8,542.66
	15,534.38	19,469.88	22,993.21
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>62,395.90</b>	<b>61,123.53</b>	<b>90,262.91</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Owing to Permanent Office	3,605.04	5,153.91	5,175.03
Audits	2,345.00	900.00	3,366.25
Accounts payable	328.47	1,660.28	471.52
Prepayment account, members	196.00		280.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,474.51</b>	<b>7,714.19</b>	<b>9,292.80</b>
<b>Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>55,921.39</b>	<b>53,409.34</b>	<b>80,970.11</b>
<b>EQUITY brought forward</b>	<b>53,409.34</b>	<b>54,894.23</b>	<b>76,669.10</b>
Equity adj. Nordea 31-12-2002 1)	2,165.96		3,109.23
Equity adj. Barclays current account 31-12-2002 1)	1,010.79		1,450.99
Equity adj. Barclays high int. account 31-12-2002 1)	-144.99		-208.13
Equity adj. Nominal value of Danish State bonds 1)	5,448.13		7,820.79
Equity adj. 2002, re advertising 2)	-300.00		-430.65
Equity adj. mistake in settlement of Dijon payments 3)	-1,161.77		-1,667.72
Equity adj. by RfA 3)	106.59	675.26	153.00
Profit/loss	-4,612.66	-2,160.15	-6,621.47
Equity adj. re Euro conversion 31-12-2003 4)			694.97
<b>EQUITY carried forward</b>	<b>55,921.39</b>	<b>53,409.34</b>	<b>80,970.11</b>

Conversion rate GBP/Euro 31-12-2003: 1.4355

1) Difference between booked value 31-12-2002 and bank statement 31-12-2002.

2) Two invoiced paid into ISCB's bank account in February and March 2002 according to bookkeeping.

1. The income in 2003 was lower than in 2002. The deficit in 2003 is about £ 4,600. But the equity capital in 2002 is less than the equity capital in 2003. The reason for this is that RfA (the former ISCB office) did not do some necessary equity adjustments in 2002 when the currency was changed from pounds to Euros. Fortunately, this error was in favour of the ISCB for most of the equity adjustments. Further, the London Conference did not result in a big loss as was feared, but in a small surplus of £ 786.51. Finally, the ExCom have been looking for economy measures, like

3) Resources for Associations.

4) Leiden seed money, actual amount transferred to Leiden is 12,103.51 Euros. Converted amount 31-12-2003 is 11,409.90 Euros, plus adjustment on prepayment account, members 1.36 Euros.

restricting the costs for the Officers, limiting the number of Student Awards, etc. The two balances (2002 and 2003) were approved by the auditors.

2. The Leiden conference will most probably also result in a small surplus. Hence, for 2004 The Society's financial balance doesn't look too bad. However, we need initiatives to increase the income of The Society. One possibility is to increase the membership of The Society.

3. An overview of the membership was given.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

### **3. Subcommittee Reports**

The seven Subcommittee Chairs reported on the activity of their Subcommittee, and their complete reports are published together with these minutes in the Newsletter, with terms of reference and list of members. The reports of the seven Subcommittees to the AGM (edited by the Secretary) were:

#### **Michael Schemper on National Groups**

A total of 11 applications for the Conference Awards for Scientists for the Leiden ISCB meeting were received. The National Groups Subcommittee voted to select the following 6 winning entries:

Boda Krisztina (Hungary), Refik Burgut (Turkey), Vernic Corina (Romania), Geetha Menon (India), Vargha Peter (Hungary), Ewa Dojka (Poland).

At the AGM, the award winners received a certificate from Michael Schemper.

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

#### **David Warne on Communications**

The Newsletter is published twice a year, and up to now twice an electronic Newsletter has been produced. We haven't made the change to a full electronic Newsletter because of various considerations (see Subcommittee report). Hence in the future two printed Newsletters will be sent to the members of The Society.

The Yahoo groups membership is around 600 for present and recent members. 2002 members have been reminded to renew or they'll be removed. David argued that this is a good way to keep in contact with the past and present members.

Our Book Review Editor Harry Southworth started in 2003 and he has done a fine job editing the numerous book reviews.

Advertising has produced less revenue in 2004 than 2003. While there is room for more advertising, a good balance between income and frustration (from receiving possibly unwanted emails) needs to be strived for.

The ISCB webpage ([www.iscb.info](http://www.iscb.info)) was linked to the Leiden conference webpage (an excellent site). The web provider was changed during winter 2003-04 by Rita Schou who got the new site up and running. Further, as mentioned, Bjarne Nielsen is the new webmaster.

Payment of subscriptions through the website was discussed but it was decided not to go ahead for now because PayPal refused to allow a Danish account to work in Euros.

Finally, David asked the members to use the Subcommittee emailing lists for communicating with the members. Further, he mentioned that an effort will be done to advertise our Society to the other Societies.

Marie Reilly posed the question whether the reviewed books could be put on display at the next ISCB conference. However, from the reactions it became clear that this seems difficult as it depends on the policy of the publisher.

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

#### **Jorgen Seldrup on Regulatory Affairs**

The draft PtC (CPMP/EWP/2158/99) on "The Choice of Non-Inferiority Margin" (dated 26 February 2004) was out for public comments in March 2004. The Subcommittee submitted substantial comments

before End of May 2004. A copy of the comments is posted on the Society's web site ([www.iscb.info](http://www.iscb.info)); select in turn <Structure of ISCB>, <Sub-committees> and <Statistics in Regulatory Affairs>. Jorgen thanked the several members who contributed to this PtC.

Jorgen also mentioned that for the future the Subcommittee will have to limit its activities and restrict on commenting the statistical guidelines. For the more clinical guidelines he seeks for help from members of the Society.

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

#### **Carol Redmond on Education**

The proposal from Julia Singer on behalf of the Hungarian National Group, to co-sponsor a short course on the use of mixed models for analysis of medical data (Robin Prescott and Helen Brown) was approved by the Executive Committee. Plans are that the course will be presented in fall 2004.

At the meeting Carol mentioned that she still welcomes new members to the Subcommittee and that she encouraged all members to make suggestions to expand the educational activities of The Society.

Michal Abramowicz suggested to organise educational activities for clinicians (courses, workshops) on specific statistical topics. The President replied that this was an idea in agreement with the reflections the Executive Committee had on expanding the Society's activities.

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

#### **Marie Reilly on ISCB Student Awards**

There were 16 entries received for this year's competition, from 11 different countries. We conducted two rounds of judging, the first to shortlist the entries and the second to choose the three winning papers: (1) Stuart Bailey (Univ. of Sussex, UK). A novel bivariate design for a combined phase I/II clinical trial in oncology; (2) Cosetta Minelli (Univ of Leicester, UK). Meta-analysis of genetic association studies: a model-free approach, and (3) Beatrijs Moerkerke (Ghent Univ, Belgium). Permutation based methods for analyzing quality of life data.

Almost all of the papers submitted had meaningful and novel applications, so the former dichotomy of methodological and applied papers by the rules of the competition has been overcome now by the slight change in the terms of reference

Marie thanked the Leiden scientific program committee to let the non-winning students present their work as a regular submission.

Since the cost for the award winners was relatively low this year, Marie asked at the meeting whether the winners could also participate in the Conference Dinner without charge. The ExCom agreed. Further, the award winners were given a certificate at the Conference Dinner. Marie thanked the ExCom for arranging this on short notice. Finally, it was mentioned that Bjarne Nielsen stepped down from the subcommittee and is replaced by Jan Lanke .

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**Emmanuel Lesaffre on Statistics in Dentistry**

Emmanuel overviewed the terms of reference of the Subcommittee and highlighted that this subcommittee has a different nature than the other subcommittees. The purpose of this subcommittee could even be enlarged by not only bringing together statisticians working in dentistry but also dental researchers. The first action the Subcommittee will undertake is writing a paper on the advantages of using a sound statistical methodology in dental studies. The second action is to write a paper comparing the editorial policies of dental and medical journals. Finally, the subcommittee is also reflecting on setting up training programmes for dental researchers.

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**Harbajan Chadha-Boreham on Conference Organising**

Harbajan first explained the history and the purpose of the Subcommittee. Namely, The first meeting of the subcommittee was held in July 2003 during the ISCB Conference. Three future ISCB conference organisers also participated in the meeting. Two SC members (Simon Day and Francois Mercier) resigned during the year.

To enable the production of some guidelines for conference organising, topics were selected and allocated amongst the ten SC members at the ISCB 2003 meeting. Since that meeting, draft guidelines for majority of the topics have been produced apart from two. The current status of draft guidelines is as follows:

*Future Conference Organisers – Maria Grazia Valsecchi*

*Initial Proposal to Host Conference – John Whitehead*

*Financial Set-up:*

*(a) Rules for ISCB Congresses – Norbert Victor and*

*(b) Conference Accounts – John Whitehead*

*Publicity (Currently no draft guideline as Simon Day resigned)*

*Sponsorship (Currently no draft guideline as Francois Mercier resigned)*

*Overview of Conference – Harbajan Chadha-Boreham*

*Scientific Programme – Emmanuel Lesaffre and Harbajan-Chadha-Boreham*

*Social Organising (Catherine Quantin – partially embedded in topic 10)*

*European Union Funding – Elia Biganzoli*

*Details of Conference Planning by Time – Catherine Quantin and Philippe d’Athis (extensive guideline from which material can be extracted for other guidelines, e.g. Social Organising, Publicity, Sponsorship, etc...)*

At the meeting Harbajan mentioned that Koos Zwinderman would be responsible for Sponsoring and Bjarne Nielsen for Publicity.

The purpose is to finalise the document in the near future.

The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**4. Elections for the Executive Committee**

In the June 2004 Newsletter this message was circulated:

*In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for positions on the Executive Committee for 2005 are needed. Several of the current members end terms of office, two of them are eligible to be nominated for 2nd terms. The current situation is:*

*Grazia Valsecchi will end term as President and become Past President for one year*

*John Whitehead will become President for two years*

*Norbert Victor ends his 1st term as Treasurer*

*Emmanuel Lesaffre ends his 2nd term as Secretary*

*Elia Biganzoli, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Stephen Evans, Carol Redmond, Julia Singer, Elisabeth Svensson all end their 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Ordinary members*

*Bjarne Nielsen and Koos Zwinderman are eligible to stand for a 2nd term as Ordinary members*

*For the end of term it is meant the end of the calendar year (2004).*

*Nominations for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 8 ordinary members are therefore sought. Two committees were set up:*

*Nominations Committee: Jorgen Selstrup (chair), Lutz Edler and Elia Biganzoli.*

*Ballot Committee: Simon Day (chair), Karsten Schmidt and Kris Bogaerts.*

However, since Bjarne Nielsen is the New Webmaster he has chosen not to go for re-election.

The President encouraged everyone to send nominations to Jorgen Selstrup.

**5. Future ISCB meetings****ISCB 2005 meeting in Szeged by Julia Singer**

Julia gave a nice overview of the meeting in Szeged (Hungary) which will be held from 21 to 25 August, 2005. Efforts will be done to ASAP make the Conference Webpage available.

**ISCB 2006 meeting in Geneva**

The proposal for 2006 is getting shaped and David Warne will report on the Geneva meeting next year in Szeged.

**6. Other business**

No questions were raised from the floor. The meeting closed at 1:30 PM. **56** ISCB members attended the AGM.

**Attendance at AGM**

Abrahamowicz Michal; Benner Axel; Biganzoli Elia; Bladström Anna; Boda Kriztina; Bogaerts Kris; Boshuizen Hendriek; Burgut Refik; Chadha-Boreham Harbajan; Chandrawansa Kumari; Close Nicole; Cobo Erik; Dojka Ewa; Edler Lutz; Fidler Vaclav; Geskus Ronald B; Gichangi Antony; Goedhart DM; Hansen Bettina; Heisterkamp Siem; Houwing-Duistermaat Jeanine; Klersy Catherine; Kralidis Georg; Kulathinal Sangita; Lanke Jan; Lesaffre Emmanuel; Lydersen Stian; Mariani Luigi; Menon Gretha; Mittlböck Martine; Nielsen Bjarne; Palmer Chris; Peter Ellen; Procter Marion; Quantin Catherine; Redmond Carol K; Schemper Michael; Senn Stephen; Singer Julia; Stijnen Theo; Svensson Elisabeth; Teerenstra Steven; Tuechler Heinz; Vach Werner; Valsecchi Maria Grazia; van Houwelingen Hans; van Tinteren Harm; Vargha Peter; Vernic Corina; Victor Norbert; Walter Stephen; Warne David; Whitehead John; Willemsen Arnold; Wolterbeek Ron; Zwinderman Koos.



## Book Review by Peter A. Lachenbruch (USA)

Giovanni Parmigiani, Elizabeth S. Garrett, Rafael A. Irizarry and Scott L. Zeger (eds)

The Analysis of Gene Expression Data: Methods and Software

Springer (2003).  
0-387-95577-1

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this review are my own and may not represent those of the FDA.

The field of microarrays is a new one, about 10 years old. As such, many of the issues that seem important today will become less so in a few years as our understanding of the issues improves and new insights are developed. This volume provides a summary of many of the issues and software that are available. In such a volume, it is inevitable that some chapters will appeal more to a reviewer than others. The 19 chapters are:

1. The Analysis of Gene Expression Data: An Overview of Methods and Software (Parmigiani, Garrett, Irizarry, Zeger)
2. Visualization and Annotation of Genomic Experiments (Robert Gentleman, Vincent Carey)
3. Bioconductor R Packages for Exploratory Analysis and Normalization of cDNA Microarray Data (Sandrine Dudoit, Jean Yee Hwa Yang)
4. An R Package for Analyses of Affymetrix Oligonucleotide Arrays (Irizarry, Laurent Gautier, Leslie M. Cope)
5. DNA Chip Analyser (dChip) (Chen Li and Wing Hung Wong)
6. Expression Profiler (Jaak Vilo, Misha Kapusheshky, Patrick Kemmeren, Ugis Sarkans, Alvis Brazma)
7. An S-Plus Library for the Analysis and Visualization of Differential Expression (Jae K. Lee, Michael O'Connell)
8. DRAGON and DRAGON View: Methods for the Annotation, Analysis and Visualization of Large-Scale Gene Expression Data (Christopher M.L.S. Bouton, George Henry, Carlo Colantuoni, Jonathan Pevsner)
9. SNOMAD: Biologist-Friendly Web Tools for the Standardization and Normalization of Microarray Data (Colantuoni, Henry, Bouton, Zeger, Pevsner)
10. Microarray Analysis Using the MicroArray Explorer (Peter F. Lemkin, Gregory C. Thornwall, Jai Evans)
11. Parametric Empirical Bayes Methods for Microarrays (Michael A. Newton, Christina Kenzior)
12. SAM Thresholding and False Discovery Rates for Detecting Differential Gene Expression in DNA Microarrays (John D. Storey, Robert Tibshirani)
13. Adaptive Gene Picking with Microarray Data: Detecting Important Low Abundance Signals (Yi Lin, Samuel T. Nadler, Hon Lan, Alan D. Attie, Brian S. Yandell)
14. MAANOVA: A Software Package for the Analysis of Spotted cDNA Microarray Experiments (Hao Wu, M. Kathleen Kerr, Xianqin Cui, Gary Churchill)
15. GeneClust (Kim-Anh Do, Bradley Broom, Sijin Wen)
16. POE: Statistical Methods for Qualitative Analysis of Gene Expression (Garrett, Parmigiani)
17. Bayesian Decomposition (Michael F. Ochs)
18. Bayesian Clustering of Gene Expression Dynamics (Paola Sebastiani, Marco Ramoni, Isaac S. Kohane)
19. Relevance Networks: A First Step Toward Finding Genetic Regulatory Networks within Microarray Data (Atul J. Butte, Kohane)

The first introductory chapter discusses the main issues of gene expression. I will use the phrase microarray analysis as synonymous with "gene expression analysis." To understand the issues one must have an understanding of biology, genomics, statistics and computer science/informatics among

others. This chapter outlines several issues for microarrays: Sources of variation (both biological and 'technical' - relating to the microarray production), the phases of microarray experimentation (Experimental design, Signal extraction including image analysis, gene filtering, normalization probe level analysis of oligonucleotide arrays); Data analysis including selection of differentially expressed genes, clustering and classification of samples and genes; Validation and interpretation of results. The data for a microarray experiment has a table of absolute or relative expression values at each gene or spot level; a table of covariates; description(s) of genes in the expression data and the phenotypic variables; information about number in the database, protocols, preprocessing etc. All of these lead to major challenges in the management and analysis of these databases. There is beginning to be a standard development (MIAME, MAGE-ML) effort. At present, much of the effort is done with R and S-PLUS. Most of the chapters in this book make use of R and S-PLUS, and these programs are downloadable (as freeware) from the contributors' web pages.

A short summary of some of the specific problems addressed includes:

- Issues of normalization within and across arrays
- Screening for differentially expressed genes
- Multiple estimation/testing issues
- Supervised (allocation, prediction) and unsupervised (clustering) analyses
- Dimension reduction

The remaining chapters describe software, some statistical issues and methods, and provide introductions to the software, although nothing will replace a good help file and tutorial. My own biases led me to considerable interest in the more statistical chapters and somewhat less in the more informatics based chapters. One chapter had some obvious statistical errors (e.g.,  $r^2 < 0$ ) and I lost interest in it. Many of the chapters discuss various approaches to the same or similar problems.

One odd omission is the lack of chapters (or a chapter) specifically devoted to commercially available software from SAS, S-PLUS, and MATLAB. At present, these are less developed than many of the freeware from academic centres. But this may change in the near future. It is unclear if these were not available at the time of creating the book, or if the authors wished to consider only the cutting edge software and methods.

In the last few years, there are at least four other books on the statistical analysis of microarrays (Simon, et al, Wit, Lee, Speed). All will provide slightly different insights and be needed for the specialist. In addition, of course, there are monographs on the biology and genomics of the field that statisticians in this field will need to understand.

This is a welcome volume. The first chapter provides a wonderful introduction to the field. The later chapters are more specialised. These chapters are good references to the individual programs and methods and can be used to find links to the major software for microarray analysis.

From Michael Schemper

Conference Awards for Scientists are available for biostatisticians from ISCB target countries (in particular countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Third World countries) to attend and present a paper at the 26<sup>th</sup> ISCB Meeting in Szeged, Hungary, 21-25 August 2005. Up to six such awards will be granted. An award consists of free accommodation and registration paid by ISCB. Scientists should submit the application form and a one-page summary of the paper to be presented. For full details of the scheme, which should be studied prior to preparing an application, and for the application form please write to

Michael Schemper

Chairman, ISCB Subcommittee on 'National Groups'

Department of Medical Computer Science,  
Section of Clinical Biometrics

Vienna University

Spitalgasse 23

A-1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Tel: +43 1 40400 6689

Fax: +43 1 40400 6687

email: michael.schemper@meduniwien.ac.at

The closing date for application is 1 March 2005.

**Rules**

**1. The ISCB Conference Awards for Scientists**

Scheme is administered by the Subcommittee on 'National Groups' established by the Executive Committee of ISCB. The purpose of the scheme is to support and encourage biostatisticians working under financial constraints, and to enable them to participate in international dialogue.

**2. Who can apply?**

Scientists from 'ISCB target countries' (in particular countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Third World countries) whose work will benefit by attending an ISCB conference.

**3. What is covered by the award?**

The registration fee is waived and inexpensive accommodation is organised and paid for by ISCB. Furthermore, a conference course may be attended free of charge.

**4. What are the conditions for application?**

Submission of a one-page summary of an intended oral presentation or poster which must concern the application of statistical methodology to clinical or epidemiological research. Applicants who do not have a specialist topic to present are invited to prepare a more general paper with a title such as 'The need for biostatistical development in my country/region/department'. Only one submission per applicant is permissible.

Submission of a completed application form (item 6).

The application has to be received by the Chairman, ISCB Subcommittee on 'National Groups' by 1 March 2005.

**5. Who will decide on an application?**

The 'National Groups' Subcommittee will decide as soon as possible, usually within six weeks of the closing date for applications, based on the following criteria: Quality of summary, financial need, value of attendance at meeting to region (to National Groups), preference to those not supported by ISCB for the previous meeting, possible set-up of future National Groups. In selecting award winners, each member of the Subcommittee will independently grade each application. In the case of ties in total grades, the Subcommittee will make the final selection through discussion. The Chairman of the Subcommittee will inform each applicant on the Subcommittee's decision.

Application form:

**Application  
Conference Awards for Scientists  
26th ISCB Meeting in Szeged, Hungary, 21-25 August 2005**

First Name	
Surname	
Title	
Country of residence	
Current affiliation (complete address)	
Current position	
Research interests	
Language skills	
I have submitted an abstract (give title)	
Two most relevant publications	
Give details why ISCB should support you to attend this conference	
I would prefer to give an oral presentation / a poster	
I agree to become a member of the ISCB for the year 2005 if I am granted the award. There will be no charge for this.	
Date: _____	Signature: _____

From Marie Reilly

Student Conference Awards are available for registered postgraduate students to attend and present a paper at ISCB26 in Szeged, Hungary, 21-25 August 2005. It is intended that at least 3 awards will be made. Selection will be made on the basis of a summary of the paper to be presented, which should illustrate the application of statistical methodology to clinical or epidemiological research. Results of particular studies are of interest only if the analysis has methodological implications or shows a novel and interesting application of biostatistics.

Applications should be sent to:

Marie Reilly

Chair, ISCB Student Conference Awards Tel: +46 8 728 39 82

Subcommittee Fax: +46 8 31 49 75

Dept. of Medical Epidemiology & Biostatistics email: [Marie.Reilly@meb.ki.se](mailto:Marie.Reilly@meb.ki.se)

Karolinska Institutet

PO Box 281

Nobels vag 12A

S-171 77 Stockholm

Sweden

The closing date for applications is 1 March 2005.

#### Rules

##### ELIGIBILITY:

Any student registered for a postgraduate degree is eligible to apply for an ISCB Student Conference Award, provided they have not been the winner of a previous ISCB Student Conference Award.

The manuscript submitted must relate to original work that has not yet been published, is not the subject of any other award, and is predominantly the student's own work. Acceptable topics encompass all areas of biostatistics, both methodological and applied. However, results of particular studies are of interest only if the analysis has methodological implications or shows a novel and interesting application of biostatistics to clinical or epidemiological research.

Application for a Student Conference Award does not preclude a student from also submitting their abstract to the scientific program committee, if they so wish.

##### SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

Applications should consist of a short abstract of the paper prepared according to the ISCB standard conference format.

a summary of the paper of no more than 3 double-spaced pages of 12-point text with a maximum of 3 figures and/or tables on additional pages

a statement from the student's supervisor, on official notepaper of the student's institution, confirming that the student is registered for a postgraduate degree, and that the paper to be presented is original, not previously published, not the subject of any other award and is predominantly the student's own work. If the manuscript is co-authored, this letter should also include an indication of the level of involvement of the various authors.

Applications should be received by the Chair of the Awards Subcommittee, no later than 1 March 2005. The items in (a) and (b) must be submitted, in hard copy and electronic format (DOC, PDF or PS format only) to the address given above. Note that electronic submissions will not be considered if not accompanied by a hard copy.

##### REVIEW:

Applications for Awards will be judged by the Awards Subcommittee, and applicants will be notified of the results as soon as possible, usually within six weeks of the closing date for applications. Judgement will concern the quality of the research described, and its relevance to the application of statistics to clinical and epidemiological research. The presentation of the application documents and the interest of the work to ISCB members will be taken into consideration. The decisions made by the Awards Subcommittee will be final.

In selecting papers for Awards, each member of the Awards Subcommittee will independently grade each paper submitted. In the case of ties in total grades, the Awards Subcommittee will make the final selection through discussion.

Members of the Awards Subcommittee must declare an interest in submissions from students with whom they have had substantial contact. Such contact would certainly include students supervised by or in the same department as Subcommittee members and might also include professional contact with the project as well as family links. The Subcommittee member with an interest in the submission would not grade it, other grades being scaled accordingly, and would not participate in discussions of that submission.

Winning students must be able to travel to the meeting and present their work,

and will be required to provide the selection committee with an electronic copy of the complete paper to be presented by 1 June 2005.

For 2005 it is intended to make at least three awards. However, the Awards Subcommittee reserves the right, subject to the approval of the President of the ISCB, to make more or fewer Awards, or even none at all.

##### AWARDS:

The Award Winners will have their papers scheduled in appropriate Contributed Paper Sessions. Their status as Award Winners will be indicated in the Conference Programme. The ISCB will waive the registration fee of Award Winners, and will pre-pay their hotel accommodation. The ISCB will not pay for any excursions for the student. Normally, it is expected that students will pay for travel, insurance and meals, which expenses will be reimbursed by ISCB, on the basis of appropriate receipts. A fixed per-diem to cover meals will be paid. Full travel costs will be reimbursed, provided that these are incurred economically. Thus full advantage of Apex fares, student discounts and so on should be taken. Adequate insurance cover should be arranged, and will be reimbursed.

On being selected, a student must submit a travel budget to the Awards Subcommittee for approval. If it proves more economic to make a longer visit in order to secure bargain fares, the cost of extra accommodation and meals will be borne by the ISCB. Once a budget is approved, additional travel costs will be reimbursed only if a convincing case of their necessity is made.

In the case of hardship, advance payments will be considered. If for good reason a student has to cancel the visit, then the ISCB will consider the reimbursement of costs incurred other than those recoverable from insurance.

Geller edits a book that provides a summary of recent methodology and advances in clinical trial biostatistics. The book will be of interest to biostatistics graduate students and practicing biostatisticians. A basic knowledge of clinical trials and a good background in classical biostatistics is assumed. The book consists of twelve chapters and is divided into three parts. Part 1 describes the first clinical trials undertaken in the course of drug development (Phase I and II). Part 2 describes the randomised clinical trial. Part 3 handles the case of more complex problems. Twenty contributors provide a wide range of expertise in the discipline. The material is well written, clear and concise. The book provides an excellent source of reference material. There are many examples from medicine, including cardiovascular disease, neurological disease and cancer. The book provides interesting reading with new methodology clearly explained.

Chapter 1 introduces Bayesian methodology for cancer Phase I clinical trials. Concepts discussed include maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and dose limiting toxicity (DLT). The authors discuss the formulation of the Bayesian procedure requiring the specification of a model for the relationship between dose level and treatment related toxic response. The dose-toxicity model is specified for models developed in cancer Phase I trials. The authors provide examples of prior distributions used in this Bayesian framework. The use of the loss function is discussed. The authors describe the difference between the Bayesian approach and the maximum likelihood approach for estimating the probability of DLT at each permissible dose level. The authors extend the dose-toxicity model for the multinomial and continuous response measures situation.

Chapter 2 uses a hybrid frequentist-Bayesian approach for a series of allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transportation trials (PBSC). The initial trial was designed as a Phase I/II study. A Bayesian stopping rule for safety is established. The authors describe a Phase II trial design with an intermediate endpoint and Bayesian stopping rules for early failure.

Chapter 3 examines the design and analysis of therapeutic equivalence trials. The author provides commonly used statistical formulations for a) testing the null hypothesis of equivalence; b) testing a non-null hypothesis; c) reporting confidence intervals for the treatment difference; and d) specifying the minimal difference in efficacy. The Tamoxifen Prevention Trial, as an example, evaluates the effectiveness of tamoxifen for preventing breast cancer in high-risk women.

Chapter 4 estimates sample size and power for adaptive two-stage clinical trials. The author discusses the use of an a priori estimate of sample size for both the continuous case and the dichotomous case. The example is the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension Study (DASH). Three dietary patterns are compared with respect to change in diastolic blood pressure.

Chapter 5 examines randomisation when the appropriate unit is some aggregate of individuals, known as cluster randomisation. General design considerations include the examination of 1) the unit of randomisation and analysis; 2) sampling methodology; and 3) the handling of patient migration. Statistical analysis strategies are developed for the unadjusted

case and analyses that allow for covariate adjustment. The author uses the mixed model and generalised estimating equation (GEE) approaches for model development. The author describes the Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH).

Chapter 6 addresses the case when there are several endpoints of comparable importance. The author describes several statistics for testing null hypotheses involving multiple primary endpoints. These include: Bonferroni methods, resampling methods, using linear combinations of the endpoints, a Wald-type test for multiple binary outcomes, likelihood ratio tests, rank tests and one-sided Bootstrap tests.

Chapter 7 provides a survey of statistical techniques for subgroup analyses and for examining the interaction. The author applies the methodology to the Antiarrhythmics versus Implantable Defibrillators (AVID) trial. The AVID study randomised patients to treatment by either an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) or by an antiarrhythmic drug.

Chapter 8 presents a class of distribution permutation tests (DPT) for two-sample survival data. Examples include data from a gastrointestinal tumour study and a breast cosmesis study. A prostate cancer clinical trial is used for stratified data and skin graft data used to illustrate the matched pair methodology.

Chapter 9 shows by example how to report a clinical trial analysed using Bayesian methodology. The authors compare the effects of a multidrug 44-week chemotherapy regimen with a 2-drug 18-week regimen for the treatment of operable limb osteosarcoma.

Chapter 10 examines methods incorporating compliance in treatment evaluation. Structural models for binary responses, structural mean models and structural distribution models are defined.

Chapter 11 makes the distinction between longitudinal analysis in which individuals are followed over time and survival analysis in which individuals are followed and their time to event analysed. The authors examine the important issue of missing data. Three clinical trials are discussed: the Intermittent Positive Pressure Breathing (IPPB) trial; a trial to compare buprenorphine with methadone for reducing opiate use; and a trial of felbinat versus placebo for treating epilepsy.

Chapter 12 examines statistical issues emerging from clinical trials in HIV infection. The authors discuss the difficulty in finding exact parallels between HIV and other diseases. In many chronic diseases there is not the toxicity to the patient of the current effective highly active antiretroviral therapies (HAART). The authors conclude that as individuals take HAART for increasing periods of time, toxicity data are likely to play a more important role. The authors discuss the choice of trial design and endpoints, the analysis of biological markers and the issue of compliance.

The book makes an important contribution to the field. The book contains much reference material and is well written. The book contains an extensive subject index. The figures, tables, examples, summaries, discussions and conclusions are well presented. I liked the useful index of clinical trials and index of abbreviations at the end of the book. The book details the most modern approaches used in clinical trial biostatistics. The examples provide for interesting reading. I recommend this book. It makes a worthwhile addition to any medical science and/or statistics library.

## **Elections for Executive Committee 2005-06**

From Simon Day, ISCB Election Officer

The Constitution requires a 'postal' ballot to vote on membership of the Executive Committee. It was decided by the Officers, and agreed by the Ballot Committee, that 'postal' should include email and that the election papers should be sent out and votes received by email.

This procedure does not guarantee that every Member will receive a voting paper since the central address list does not contain email addresses for all Members. Furthermore, some email addresses may be incorrect and some may be out of date (and either no longer operational or be 'black holes' that fill up with never-answered emails).

However, not all postal addresses are correct either: surface mail to some Members is very slow to arrive; post may not always be forwarded when people move addresses, and so on. It is, therefore, not obvious that a mass emailing will be more, or less, successful at reaching as many Members as possible than a mass surface mailing. For these reasons, the Ballot Committee was content to arrange the ballot by email.

At the time the voting papers were sent, The Society had 755 members. 699 emails were sent of which 51 addresses 'failed'. Of those Members who did not have an email address registered at the Society's Permanent Office, 37 of them had fax numbers. These 37 Members were sent a voting paper by fax; 6 of these fax numbers failed. No further attempt was made to contact Members whose contact details did not successfully reach them.

By the close of voting on 15 November 2004, 166 email responses had been received (this compares to 221 responses in the 2002 election, which was also handled by email); a further 9 responses came from the faxed voting papers. Members could vote for up to 8 of the 11 candidates. Seven voting papers (email or fax) were deemed invalid or spoilt. 168 voting papers were deemed valid and the following 8 candidates have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the period January 2005 to December 2006:

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Peter Lachenbruch	USA
Rumana Omar	United Kingdom
Catherine Quantin	France
Jeno Reiczigel	Hungary
Marie Reilly	Sweden
Martin Schumacher	Germany
Vassiliki-Anastasia Sypsa	Greece
Koos Zwinderman	Netherlands

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We thank all those Members who stood for election.

**Simon Day**, Election Officer  
United Kingdom

**Kris Bogaerts**,  
Belgium

**Karsten Schmidt**  
Denmark

## Books for Review by Harry Southworth

Books for review:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Richard M Heiberger	Statistical Analysis and Data Display: An Intermediate Course with Examples in SPLUS, R and SAS	Burt Holland (2004) 0-387-40270-5	
2. Harvey Motulsky and Arthur Christopoulos	Fitting models to biological data using linear and nonlinear regression	Oxford (2004) 0-19-517180-2	
3. Margaret Sullivan Pepe	The Statistical Evaluation of Medical Tests for Classification and Prediction	Oxford (2003) 0-19-850984-7	
4. Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller	Biostatistics and Epidemiology (3rd edn)	Springer (2004) 0-387-40292-6	
5. S. Huet, A. Bouvier, M. -A. Poursat and E. Jolivet	Statistical Tools for Nonlinear Regression: A Practical Guide with S-PLUS and R Examples (2nd edn)	Springer (2004) 0-387-40081-8	
6. Eric Stallard, Kenneth G Manton and Joel E Cohen	Forecasting Product Liability Claims: Epidemiology and modeling in the Manville Asbestos Case	Springer (2005) 0-387-94987-9	
7. Daniel Sorensen and Daniel Gianola	Likelihood, Bayesian, and MCMC Methods in Quantitative Genetics	Springer (2002) 0-387-95440-6	
8. Ettore Marubini and Maria Grazia Valsecchi	Analysing Survival Data from Clinical Trials and Observational Studies	Wiley (1995) 0-470-09341-2	
9. George G. Woodworth	Biostatistics: A Bayesian Introduction	Wiley (2004) 0-471-46842-8	
10. Gerlad van Belle, Lloyd D. Fisher, Patrick J. Heagerty and Thomas Lumley	Biostatistics: A Methodology for the Health Sciences (2nd edn)	Wiley (2004) 0-471-46842-8	
11. G. A. F. Seber and C. J. Wild	Nonlinear Regression	Wiley (2003) 0-471-47135-6	
12. Peter J. Rousseeuw and Annick M. Leroy	Robust Regression and Outlier Detection	Wiley (2003) 0-471-48855-0	
13. George A. F. Seber	Multivariate Observations	Wiley (2004) 0-471-69121-6	
14. J. Edward Jackson	A User's Guide to Principle Components	Wiley (2003) 0-471-47134-8	
15. David A. Belsley, Edwin Kuh and Roy E. Welsh	Regression Diagnostics	Wiley (2004) 0-471-69117-8	
16. Geoffrey J. McLachlan	Discriminant Analysis and Statistical Pattern Recognition	Wiley (2004) 0-471-69115-1	
Books reviews in this issue:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Giovanni Parmigiani, Elizabeth S. Garrett and Scott L. Zeger (Eds.),	The Analysis of Gene Expression Data	Springer (2003). 0-387-95577-1	Peter A. Lachenbruch
2. Nancy L Geller (ed.)	Advances in Clinical Trial Biostatistics	Dekker [2004] 0-8247-9032-4	Paul Johnson
3. Peter J. Huber	Robust Statistics	Wiley (2003) 0-471-65072-2	Harry Southworth

Of the books available for review in this edition of the Newsletter, 6 are from the Wiley-Interscience Paperback Series. According to Wiley, "The Wiley-Interscience Paperback Series consists of selected books that have been made more accessible to consumers in an effort to increase global appeal and general circulation". That is, these are books that were previously available only in hardcover, and the new releases are considerably cheaper.

Wiley have very kindly made 7 of these books available to ISCB members for review. The first review appears in this Newsletter; a review of Robust Statistics by Huber, written by myself. These books were first published in the 1980s and early 1990s and, as such, tend to be a little out of date in places. In particular, several of them discuss computational issues and mention the specifications of the computers used to analyse data. Nowadays, we are lucky enough to have little concern over such matters.

Computational issues aside, these books still have a great deal to offer, providing a mixture of practical and more theoretical approaches, and whilst the new, lower prices are still high enough to restrain many of us from rushing off to Amazon, they do make the books more accessible and it is to be hoped that Wiley's stated aim of extending the lives of these works is realised.

## Books for Review (continued)

Books recently sent for review:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. John P. Klein and Melvin L. Moeschberger,	Survival Analysis: Techniques for Censored and Truncated Data	Springer (2003). 0-387-95399-X	Sarah White, Malawi
2. Sorin Draghici,	Data Analysis Tools for DNA Microarrays	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2003) 1-58488-315-4	S N Dwivedi, India
3. Marc Aerts, Helena Geys, Geert Molenberghs and Louise M. Ryan,	Topics in Modelling of Clustered Data	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2002) 1-58488-185-2	S.H. Heisterkamp, Netherlands
4. Lemuel A Moyé	Multiple Analyses in Clinical Trials	Springer [2003] 0-387-00727-X	Francois Aubin
5. Andrew B. Lawson et al	Disease Mapping with WinBUGS and MLwiN	John Wiley [2003]	Maciej Gorkiewicz
6. Sanford Bolton and Charles Bon	Pharmaceutical Statistics: Practical and Clinical Applications (4 <sup>th</sup> ed.)	Dekker [2004] 0-8247-4695-3	Paul Johnson
7. Richard M Simon, Edward L Korn, Lisa M McShane, Michael D Radmacher, George W Wright, Yingdong Zhao	Design and Analysis of DNA Microarray Investigations	Springer [2003] 0-387-00135-2	Victor Moreno
8. Shein-Chung Chow & Jen-Pui Liu	Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials: Concepts and Methodologies (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	John Wiley [2004] 0-471-24985-8	Friederike Barthel
9. J M Bernardo et al (eds.)	Bayesian Statistics 7	Oxford University Press (2003) 0-19-852615-6	Stefan Tigan, Romania
Books sent for review a long time ago			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year)	Reviewer
1. Allen Cato, Lynda Sutton, Allen Cato III (eds)	Clinical Drug Trials and Tribulations (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed)	Marcel-Dekker (2002) 0-8247-0314-6	Axel Hinke
2. Mikel Aickin	Causal Analysis in Biomedicine and Epidemiology: Based on Minimal Sufficient Causation	Marcel-Dekker (2002) 0-8247-0748-6	Rosa Jiménez
3. Martin J Crowder	Classical Competing Risks	Chapman&Hall/CRC (2001) 1-59488-175-5	Dario Gregori
4. Michael Finkelstein, Bruce Levin	Statistics for Lawyers (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Springer (2001) 0-387-95007-9	David A. Sclar
5. Kirkwood	Essentials of Medical Statistics	Blackwell	Dick Bezemer
6. Michael Healy	Matrices for Statistics	Oxford (2000)	Istvan Janosi
7. Shein-Chung Chow & Jen-Pei Liu	Design and Analysis of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence Studies	Marcel-Dekker (2000)	Graham Kimber
8. Donald C Monkhouse & CT Rhodes (Eds.)	Drug Products for Clinical Trials	Marcel Dekker (1998)	Koos Lubsen
9. CF Jeff Wu & Michael Hamada	Experiments: Planning, Analysis, and Parameter Design Optimisation	John Wiley (2000)	Gilg Seeber
10. Peter Armitage (ed)	Encyclopedia of Biostatistics: Vol. 4: Med-Pre	John Wiley (1998)	Aurelio Tobias

### 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>
Cambridge University Press	<a href="http://publishing.cambridge.org/stm/mathematics/stats/">http://publishing.cambridge.org/stm/mathematics/stats/</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. Regretfully, 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 email, html, RTF or Word are preferred. The reviews may be edited for clarity (English grammar and spelling, punctuation etc.).

This book, originally published in 1981, has been re-released in paperback as part of the Wiley-Interscience Paperback Series (see the Foreword of the book review section). A quick glance at amazon.fr gives the price as \$94.90 or €73.20. The UK price is £52.95. The hardback version does not appear to be available any longer, but I recall it being over £100 the last time I looked, so the new price is a substantial reduction, even if it isn't a giveaway.

Huber's philosophy of robust statistics is that the approach results from an "applied parametric viewpoint" which is to say that we should not claim to believe that parametric models are literally true, but that they are useful approximations to reality. Unfortunately, when outlying data make it all too obvious that the parametric model is *not* literally true, there can be a significant effect on parameter estimates. The most obvious examples are the sample mean and standard deviation which can be thrown out by a single aberrant observation.

These issues are pertinent. The draft ICH E14 Guideline relates to the identification and quantification of the effect of drugs on the QT interval. The Guideline makes clear that there are two possible effects of drugs on the QT interval. One is that there is a shift in central tendency, the other is that there are a small number of large increases. Therefore, such data are good candidates for analysis with robust methods since the results of analysis based on a normal model could confound the two issues.

Huber notes that real data sets are often better modelled by a normal mixture distribution than by a single normal distribution, in which the scale parameter for one of the normal distributions is 3 times that of the other. That is

$$y_i \sim (1-e)N(\mu_i, s_i^2) + eN(\mu_i, 3s_i^2)$$

and this is observed to be a good model for values of  $e$  between approximately 0.1 and 0.01. This model is known as the *e-contamination* model. Huber points out that it is not necessary to consider the model to be true in that contamination really occurs, only that the distribution has somewhat heavier tails than the normal.

This observation is in line with a comment made by Venables & Ripley (2002), that the  $t$  distribution with 5 degrees of freedom is often a better model than the normal (page 121), and with the observations of Lange, Little and Taylor (1989) who documented that a  $t$  distribution with 4 degrees of freedom worked well for them in many cases. In my own work, I've often found that a  $t$  distribution with between 4 and 6 degrees of freedom is a better model than the normal. In any event, notice that the discussion here appears to be of symmetric distributions. Presumably, for these robust methods to apply to highly skewed data, a transformation is to first be applied, hoping that the variance is stabilised and that approximate linearity is imposed at the same time. That is, dealing with contamination (or heavy tailed distributions more generally) addresses only one pitfall encountered with the normal linear model.

According to Venables & Ripley (2002), "Huber (1981) is rather theoretical," which gets straight to the point. The book is indeed rather theoretical and most of the example data sets are synthetic and, in my experience, rather unrealistic. Of course, the data used are

intended to illustrate concepts and they achieve this purpose. Still, my preference would have been to see more real examples. That said, the first motivating example presented (an example due to Tukey, concerning the relative efficiency of the mean square error and the mean absolute error) makes clear that robustness is desirable and is a property missing from some standard approaches to analysis.

Huber discusses 3 basic types of estimators: M, L and R. M-estimators get their name from "maximum likelihood type" -estimators, whereas L-estimators are based on linear combinations of order statistics and R-estimators are based on rank tests. L-estimators include the trimmed mean and least trimmed squares as special cases. Whilst robust regression using the  $t$  distribution was developed after Huber was writing (Lange et al, 1989), it happens to be an incidence of M-estimation. The book pays more attention to M-estimators than L- and R-estimators, noting in the preface that L- and R- estimators "do not generalise well and get awkward to compute and to handle in multiparameter situations."

Much of the formal theoretical background of the procedures is laid down in the second chapter, entitled "The Weak Topology and its Metrization", of which I understood little when quickly paging through it (the introduction advises that it can be skipped). Whilst other chapters are easier to follow, they are still largely theoretical. The occasional informal touch of the author helps to lighten the reading from time to time; for example when he describes the jackknife estimate of variance of the median as being "worse than useless", and states that the correct degrees of freedom for a robust estimate of location is widely considered to be less than the usual  $n-1$ , "but by how much is anybody's guess". However, the going is seldom easy.

The book takes care to cover robust methods for estimates of location and scale, robust estimation in regression problems and robust estimation of covariance and correlation matrices (motivated by robust approaches to principle components analysis). When it comes to regression, Huber concentrates on M-estimation. The basic idea behind the method is that when estimating by least squares, as observations get further away from their expected values, they contribute ever more to the error function (i.e. the sum of squared residuals). M-estimation mitigates this effect by replacing the sum of squares by a function that effectively downweights outliers by limiting their contribution to the error function. This corresponds to "soft trimming" in that whereas the trimmed mean (or least trimmed squares, in the context of regression) deletes the contribution of outliers to the error function, M-estimation allows some contribution, but not as much as the sum of squares.



## ***Book Review by Harry Southworth (continued)***

A chapter called "Robustness of Design" is devoted to discussion of so-called *optimal design theory*. An example is given concerned with taking observations at the edges of the observable range of the data, thus reducing the variances of the parameter estimates. Huber points out that the optimal design theory relies on the linearity of the relationship between variables being literally true and demonstrates that small (in fact, undetectable) deviations from linearity lead to bias in parameter estimates. As such, the advantage gained by increased precision is more than offset by increased mean square error. Thinking about those ideas in pictures makes Huber's conclusion fairly obvious, though the size of the departure from linearity that is necessary to make "optimal" design meaningless is surprising.

In conclusion, Huber's book is theoretical and in places difficult to follow, though it is informative and worth the effort for anyone with an interest in this field. Most of

the examples are synthetic and (in my opinion) a little contrived, though they serve to illustrate the motivation for the methods and are not intended to be representative of real life data analysis problems. When Huber was writing, limitations imposed by speed of computation made many robust methods difficult to use in standard statistical practice. Today, that is no longer true and these methods deserve more attention. Perhaps the re-release of *Robust Statistics*, as well as other texts by Wiley, will go some way to popularising these methods again.

### **References**

Modern Applied Statistics with S (Forth Edition), W. N. Venables and B. D. Ripley, Springer, 2002

Robust statistical modeling using the *t* distribution, K. L. Lange, R. J. A. Little and J. M. G. Taylor, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 84, 881-896, 1989

## ***ISCB Budapest Course Report***

From Zsolt Lang

Sponsored by ISCB, a three-day course entitled "Mixed Models Analysis of Medical Data Using SAS" was presented recently in Budapest by Helen Brown and Robin Prescott from the Medical Statistics Unit, University of Edinburgh. Twenty-eight participants attended the course. They came from Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

Mixed models have become routinely and widely applied methods of evaluating medical data since their implementation in various statistical software packages including SAS.

The lecturers paid special attention to practical applications, gave many examples, while the theoretical basis of the models was explained to the

appropriate extent. The topics included multicentre trials, crossover trials, hierarchical trials, repeated measures, random effects, random coefficients models and many more. Models for different variances and covariance patterns were explained via examples using SAS PROC MIXED. We were also given an insight into generalised linear mixed models and mixed models for categorical data.

Helen and Robin encouraged us to discuss and exchange ideas and quickly created a friendly atmosphere, so coffee breaks and the course dinner became a fascinating and inherent part of this course. Helen and Robin, thank you!

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

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES 2005

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF READING, UK

FOR MEDICAL STATISTICIANS

**7-9 MARCH**

**Statistical Methods for Ordered  
Categorical Data**

*Presenters:*

*Kim Bolland, John Whitehead*

**10-11 MARCH**

**Sample Size Determination in  
Clinical Trials**

*Presenters:*

*Anne Whitehead, Patrick Kelly*

**21-22 JUNE**

**Meta-analysis of Clinical Trials**

*Presenters:*

*Anne Whitehead, John Whitehead*

**23-24 JUNE**

**Phase II Clinical Trial Designs - Frequentist,  
Bayesian and Decision Theoretic**

*Presenters:*

*Nigel Stallard, John Whitehead*

**24-25 OCTOBER**

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

*Presenters:*

*John Whitehead, Yinghui Zhou*

**26-27 OCTOBER**

**Analysis of Multiple Failure Time Data  
Arising from Clinical Trials**

*Presenters:*

*Anne Whitehead, Patrick Kelly*

### FOR CLINICAL PERSONNEL

**28 OCTOBER**

**Data and Safety Monitoring Board Workshop**

*Presenter:*

*Sue Todd*

*Guest Presenter:*

*Julian Bion - Reader in Intensive Care Medicine, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham*

**For further information please contact:**

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<b>Publishing dates:    Jun    2005</b> <b>(and deadlines)      Dec    2005</b>	<b>early May 2005</b> <b>early Nov 2005</b>
<b>Adverts sent to the ISCB emailing list of approximately 800 current and recent members:</b>	<b>€ 750 for 4 emails/year</b> <b>€ 300 for a single email</b>
<b>ISCB webpage advertising:</b>	<b>€ 750 for one year with Link from ISCB's homepage</b>

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE: Email 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 non-commercial announcements can be sent free of charge as an email to most members of ISCB.

### Society's 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 Email

Please inform the Permanent Office that looks after the membership and mailing list databases. Also, if your **email address changes**, please inform the Office and the News Editor so that your address is changed in the ISCB database and emailing list (yahoogroup).

### Information on Submitting Articles

Articles sent via email 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.

## How to Contact the ISCB Office and Executive Committee

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Please contact the chairs of these subcommittees for further information.

Title & Email	Terms of Reference	Members	Email addresses
Communications iscb-comms@yahoogroups.com	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the future of the Newsletter, including ways to support the Editor, procedures for transition of editorship.</li> <li>To maintain the ISCB homepage on the World Wide Web and facilitate placement of annual meeting information on the homepage.</li> <li>To consider other communications with members, such as through email or the World Wide Web.</li> </ol>	<b>Chair:</b> David Warne (CH) <b>Secretary:</b> Bjarne Nielsen (DK) <b>Members:</b> Stephen Evans (UK), Nancy Geller (USA), Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I), Harry Southworth (UK) John Whitehead (UK)	<a href="mailto:david_w_warne@bluewin.ch">david_w_warne@bluewin.ch</a> <a href="mailto:bn@medicon.dk">bn@medicon.dk</a> <a href="mailto:Stephen.Evans@lshmt.ac.uk">Stephen.Evans@lshmt.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:ng@helix.nih.gov">ng@helix.nih.gov</a> <a href="mailto:grazia.valsecchi@unimib.it">grazia.valsecchi@unimib.it</a> <a href="mailto:harry_southworth@yahoo.co.uk">harry_southworth@yahoo.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk">j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk</a>
Conference Organising iscb-conf-org@yahoogroups.com	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring together ISCB conference organisers or ISCB members who have an interest in sharing and passing on their knowledge and experience to help future ISCB conference organisers.</li> <li>Document processes and systems for assisting ISCB conference organisers.</li> <li>Review and update the documents whenever necessary and promote their usage for improving the procedures or meetings.</li> </ol>	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH) <b>Members:</b> Elia Biganzoli (I) Emmanuel Lesaffre (B) Bjarne Nielsen (DK) Catherine Quantin (F) Norbert Victor (D) John Whitehead (UK) Koos Zwinderman (NL)	<a href="mailto:Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com">Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com</a> <a href="mailto:biganzoli@istitutotumori.mi.it">biganzoli@istitutotumori.mi.it</a> <a href="mailto:emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.ac.be">emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.ac.be</a> <a href="mailto:bn@medicon.dk">bn@medicon.dk</a> <a href="mailto:catherine.quantin@chu-dijon.fr">catherine.quantin@chu-dijon.fr</a> <a href="mailto:victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de">victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de</a> <a href="mailto:j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk">j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:a.h.zwinderman@amc.uva.nl">a.h.zwinderman@amc.uva.nl</a>
Dentistry iscb-dentist@yahoogroups.com	The aims are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring together statisticians who have a major interest in dental statistics</li> <li>Review the statistical quality of the current dental clinical trials</li> <li>Promote education and research on statistical methods in dentistry</li> <li>Contribute to statistical issues in regulatory guidelines</li> </ol>	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Emmanuel Lesaffre (B) <b>Members:</b> Carol Redmond (USA), Ian Needleman (UK), David Moles (UK)	<a href="mailto:emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.ac.be">emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.ac.be</a> <a href="mailto:ckr3@pitt.edu">ckr3@pitt.edu</a> <a href="mailto:I.Needleman@eastman.ucl.ac.uk">I.Needleman@eastman.ucl.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:d.moles@eastman.ucl.ac.uk">d.moles@eastman.ucl.ac.uk</a>
Education iscb-education@yahoogroups.com	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.	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Carol Redmond (USA) <b>Members:</b> Mike Campbell (UK), Rumana Omar (UK), Elisabeth Svensson (S), Nicole Close (USA), Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I)	<a href="mailto:ckr3@pitt.edu">ckr3@pitt.edu</a> <a href="mailto:m.j.campbell@sheffield.ac.uk">m.j.campbell@sheffield.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Rumana@stats.ucl.ac.uk">Rumana@stats.ucl.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:elizabeth.svensson@esi.oru.se">elizabeth.svensson@esi.oru.se</a> <a href="mailto:nclose@emmes.com">nclose@emmes.com</a> <a href="mailto:grazia.valsecchi@unimib.it">grazia.valsecchi@unimib.it</a>
National Groups Iscb-national-groups@yahoogroups.com	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To help those who are interested in forming a National Group through the approval process.</li> <li>To review the arrangements with the current National Groups, specifically regarding financial matters.</li> <li>To set rules and standards for funding of ISCB members of National Groups and others from countries with exchange control restrictions or barriers.</li> <li>The Subcommittee administers the Conference Awards for Scientists for the annual ISCB meetings.</li> </ol>	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Michael Schemper (A) <b>Members:</b> Elia Biganzoli (I), Simon Day (UK), Siem Heisterkamp (NL), Ewa Kawalec (PL), Julia Singer (H), Norbert Victor (D), John Whitehead (UK)	<a href="mailto:michael.schemper@meduniwien.ac.at">michael.schemper@meduniwien.ac.at</a> <a href="mailto:biganzoli@istitutotumori.mi.it">biganzoli@istitutotumori.mi.it</a> <a href="mailto:simon.day@mhra.gsi.gov.uk">simon.day@mhra.gsi.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:SH.Heisterkamp@rivm.nl">SH.Heisterkamp@rivm.nl</a> <a href="mailto:mxkawale@cyf-kr.edu.pl">mxkawale@cyf-kr.edu.pl</a> <a href="mailto:Julia.Singer@sanofi-aventis.com">Julia.Singer@sanofi-aventis.com</a> <a href="mailto:j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk">j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de">victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de</a>
Statistics in Regulatory Affairs iscb-reg-aff@yahoogroups.com	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/her absence, the Vice-President.	<b>Chair:</b> Jørgen Seldrup (F) <b>Secretary:</b> Stephen Senn (UK), <b>Members:</b> Helmut Schäfer (D), Karsten Schmidt (DK) Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH), Anna Petroccione (I) Martin Schumacher	<a href="mailto:Jorgen.seldrup@quintiles.com">Jorgen.seldrup@quintiles.com</a> <a href="mailto:Stephen@stats.gla.ac.uk">Stephen@stats.gla.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:hsimbe@med.uni-marburg.de">hsimbe@med.uni-marburg.de</a> <a href="mailto:kls@dadlnet.dk">kls@dadlnet.dk</a> <a href="mailto:Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com">Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com</a> <a href="mailto:anna.petroccione@nervianoms.com">anna.petroccione@nervianoms.com</a> <a href="mailto:ms@imbi.uni-freiburg.de">ms@imbi.uni-freiburg.de</a>
Student Conference Awards iscb-stud-conf-awrd@yahoogroups.com	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.	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Marie Reilly (S) <b>Members:</b> Marc Buyse (B), Bruno Cesana (I), Simon Day (UK), Jan Lanke (S), Vassiliki -Anastasia Sypsa (GR)	<a href="mailto:Marie.Reilly@meh.ki.se">Marie.Reilly@meh.ki.se</a> <a href="mailto:Mark.Buyse@iddi.com">Mark.Buyse@iddi.com</a> <a href="mailto:cesana@telemacus.it">cesana@telemacus.it</a> <a href="mailto:simon.day@mhra.gsi.gov.uk">simon.day@mhra.gsi.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jan.lanke@stat.lu.se">jan.lanke@stat.lu.se</a> <a href="mailto:vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr">vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr</a>

## 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. Recent topics have included Assessment of drug risks, Statistical challenges in paediatric research, Cancer genetics, Human fertility and fecundity, Emerging issues in clinical trial data monitoring, and Genetics and Epidemiology of Thrombosis.

Meetings in recent years have been held in Heidelberg (1999), Trento (2000), Stockholm (2001), Dijon (2002), London (2003) and Leiden (2004). 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 Mapping and risk assessment, Statistical methods in genomics and computational biology, Introduction to frailty models, Developing and validating clinical prediction models, Design and analysis of studies with incomplete data, Smoothing and generalised additive models, Event history analysis, Introduction to genetic epidemiology, Adaptive and sequential procedures for clinical trials, Methods of interval censored

data, Issues and controversies in data analysis, Sequential Monitoring: Practical implementation of sequential designs for phase III clinical trials, Coping with missing outcome data, Essentials of clinical trials, Statistical validation of surrogate endpoints in clinical trials, Multi-state modelling, Statistical Methods for Planning and Analysis of Equivalence / Non-Inferiority Trials, Analysis of multivariate survival data and Statistical Refereeing for Medical Journals.



The composition of the **Executive Committee** (ExCom) for 2005 is as follows:

**Officers:**

President: John Whitehead (UK),  
Vice-President: Emmanuel Lesaffre (B),  
Secretary: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH),  
Treasurer: Norbert Victor (D).

**Members:**

News Editor: David W. Warne (CH),  
Webmaster: Bjarne Nielsen (DK),  
Past-President: Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I),  
Peter Lachenbruch (USA), Rumana Omar (UK),  
Catherine Quantin (F), Jenő Reiczigel (H), Marie Reilly (S), Martin Schumacher (D),  
Vassiliki-Anastasia Sypsa (GR), Koos Zwinderman (NL).

The Annual General Meeting of the ISCB is organised to coincide with the scientific meeting. Membership of the Society is drawn from about 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** twice a year. The ISCB News editor is David W. Warne, Chemin du Petit-Bel-Air 115, CH-1226 Thônex, Switzerland. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to him via email 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 2005) Ordinary membership fee is €40. The Full-time Student Membership fee is €20.

**Applications** for membership should be sent to:

ISCB Permanent Office,  
P.O. Box 130,  
Datavej 24,  
DK-3460 Birkerød, Denmark

Tel. +45 4567 2279  
Fax +45 7022 1571  
email: [office@iscb.info](mailto:office@iscb.info)  
www: <http://www.iscb.info>



# Calendar

**21-25 August 2005**

**Szeged, Hungary**

ISCB26

Info: Julia Singer email: [Julia.Singer@sanofi-aventis.com](mailto:Julia.Singer@sanofi-aventis.com), web: <http://www.congresstravel.hu/iscb>

**27-31 August 2006**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

ISCB27

Info: David W Warne email: [david\\_w\\_warne@bluewin.ch](mailto:david_w_warne@bluewin.ch)

<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/calendar.htm>



For the latest conference info, see:



Jan 4 - 6	International Conference on Recent Advances in Statistics, to be held at the Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur - 208016 (INDIA). <b>Information:</b> Debasis Kundu ( <a href="mailto:kundu@iitk.ac.in">kundu@iitk.ac.in</a> ), Phone: +91 512 2597141 Shalabh ( <a href="mailto:shalabh@iitk.ac.in">shalabh@iitk.ac.in</a> ), Phone: +91 512 2597905 <b>Fax:</b> +91 512 2597500 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://home.iitk.ac.in/~kundu/conference.html">http://home.iitk.ac.in/~kundu/conference.html</a>	Apr 4 - 5	<b>IASE</b> Satellite Meeting during the <b>ISI Session</b> on the topic "Statistics Education and the Communication of Statistics", to be held in Sydney, Australia <b>Information:</b> Brian Phillips <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bphillips@swin.edu.au">bphillips@swin.edu.au</a> <b>Phone:</b> +61 3 9212 8288 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/commsat.html">www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/commsat.html</a> , <a href="http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/">http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/</a>	May 29 - Jun 3	5 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Stochastic Analysis, Random Fields and Applications and Minisymposium on Stochastic Methods in Financial Models V, to be held at the Centro Stefano Franscini, Ascona, Switzerland. <b>Information:</b> Mrs. Erika Gindraux, Ascona 2005, Institut de Mathématiques, EPFL, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:erika.gindraux@epfl.ch">erika.gindraux@epfl.ch</a> <b>Fax:</b> +41 21 693 53 80
Jan 9 - 11	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii International Conference on Statistics, Mathematics and Related Fields will be held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. <b>Information:</b> <a href="mailto:statistics@hicstatistics.org">statistics@hicstatistics.org</a> <b>Phone:</b> 808-946-9927 <b>Fax:</b> 808-947-2420 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.hicstatistics.org">www.hicstatistics.org</a>	Apr 5 - 12	<b>International Statistical Institute, 55<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session.</b> Includes meetings of the Bernoulli Society, the International Association for Statistical Computing, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association for Official Statistics and the International Association for Statistical Education, to be held in Sydney, Australia. <b>Information:</b> ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands. <b>Phone:</b> +31-70-3375737 <b>Fax:</b> +31-70-3860025 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:isi@cbs.nl">isi@cbs.nl</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.tourhosts.com.au/isi2005">http://www.tourhosts.com.au/isi2005</a>	Jun 12 - 15	Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. <b>Information:</b> Mik Bickis, Mathematical Sciences Group, University of Saskatchewan, Room 142 McLean Hall, 106 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7N 5E6. For information about the scientific program: <a href="mailto:august@mathstat.yorku.ca">august@mathstat.yorku.ca</a> <b>Phone:</b> (306) 966-6088 <b>Fax:</b> (306) 966-6086 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bickis@math.usask.ca">bickis@math.usask.ca</a>
Jan 12 - 14	"MCMSki" 2 <sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of the IMS (Institute of Mathematical Statistics) and ISBA (International Society for Bayesian Analysis) to be held in Bormio, Italy. A central theme of the conference will be Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) and related methods and applications in the 15 years since the publication of the paper that introduced these methods to mainstream statisticians. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.eco.uninsubria.it/IMS-ISBA-05/">http://www.eco.uninsubria.it/IMS-ISBA-05/</a>	Apr 13 - 14	<b>IASS</b> Satellite Conference after the <b>ISI Session</b> : "Complex sampling, retrospective sampling and missing data: A Conference in honour of Alastair J. Scott", to be held in Auckland, New Zealand <b>Information:</b> Chris Wild <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:c.wild@auckland.ac.nz">c.wild@auckland.ac.nz</a>	Jun 20 - 24	International Conference on Statistics in honour of professor Kai-Tai Fang's 65 <sup>th</sup> birthday, to be held in Hong Kong. The conference will cover all main areas in Statistics. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:fang65@math.hkbu.edu.hk">fang65@math.hkbu.edu.hk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.math.hkbu.edu.hk/Fang65">http://www.math.hkbu.edu.hk/Fang65</a>
Jan 26 - 29	Statdep 2005, Statistics for Dependent Data, Paris/Malakoff. Centre de Recherche en Economie et Statistiques, Laboratoire de Statistiques CREST, L.S. Timbre J340, 18, Boulevard Adolphe Pinard, 75675 PARIS, cedex 14, France. The purpose of this conference is to provide an up-to-date view of different techniques in (discrete) times series analysis. <b>Information:</b> P. Bertail or P. Doukhan <b>Fax:</b> (33) 1 41 17 64 80 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Patrice.Bertail@ensae.fr">Patrice.Bertail@ensae.fr</a> , <a href="mailto:Paul.Doukhan@ensae.fr">Paul.Doukhan@ensae.fr</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.crest.fr/pagenero/ls/statdep2005/home.htm">http://www.crest.fr/pagenero/ls/statdep2005/home.htm</a>	Apr 13 - 16	Fourth International Conference on Statistics in Business and Industry (ISBIS-4), Tropical North Queensland, Australia. ISBIS-4 is a satellite meeting to the <b>ISI Session in Sydney</b> . It will focus on important statistical issues relating to productivity improvement, improved use of quantitative methods to support decision-making at all levels of business and industry, and statistical aspects of Finance. <b>Information:</b> Nick Fisher, Conference Director <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:nif@valuemetrics.com.au">nif@valuemetrics.com.au</a> <b>Phone:</b> +61 407 017 016 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.action-m.com/isbis4">www.action-m.com/isbis4</a>	Jun 26 - Jul 1	The 30 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Stochastic Processes and Their Applications to be held on the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara, CA, USA. <b>Information:</b> Raya Feldman <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:feldman@pstat.ucsb.edu">feldman@pstat.ucsb.edu</a> , <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.pstat.ucsb.edu/projects/spa05">http://www.pstat.ucsb.edu/projects/spa05</a>
Feb 6 - 10	The Second Latin American Congress on Bayesian Statistics (COBAL 2) will be held at Hotel Presidente Intercontinental "Los Cabos", in San Jose del Cabo, Baja California, Mexico. This meeting will consist of invited talks and poster sessions. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:cobal2@sigma.imas.unam.mx">cobal2@sigma.imas.unam.mx</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.dpye.imas.unam.mx/cobal2">www.dpye.imas.unam.mx/cobal2</a>	Apr 14 - 15	<b>IAOS</b> Satellite Meeting during the <b>ISI Session</b> on the topic "Challenges in Measuring Small and Indigenous Populations", to be held at Te Papa Tongarewa (New Zealand's national museum), Wellington, New Zealand <b>Information:</b> Mansoor Khawaja, Chief Demographer, Statistics New Zealand, Private Bag 4741, Christchurch, New Zealand. <b>Tel:</b> +64 3 9648794 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ISIsatellite@stats.govt.nz">ISIsatellite@stats.govt.nz</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stats.govt.nz/ISIsatellitemeeting">www.stats.govt.nz/ISIsatellitemeeting</a> , <a href="http://www.stats.govt.nz/">http://www.stats.govt.nz/</a>	Jul 2 - 7	SRTL-4: The Fourth International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy, to be hosted by the Department of Statistics, The University of Auckland, New Zealand. The Forum's theme is "Reasoning about Distribution". <b>Information:</b> Maxine Pfannkuch <b>Phone:</b> 64 9 373 7599, ext 88794 <b>Fax:</b> 64 9 373 7018 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:m.pfnankuch@auckland.ac.nz">m.pfnankuch@auckland.ac.nz</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/srtl4/">http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/srtl4/</a>
Mar 17 - 19	The Center for Law, Science, and Technology at the College of Law at Arizona State University invites you to attend the Sixth International Conference on Forensic Statistics, which takes place in Tempe, Arizona, USA. Forensic statistics concerns the many and various applications of statistics and probability to legal matters. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://icfs.law.asu.edu/">http://icfs.law.asu.edu/</a>	May 17 - 20	XI International Symposium on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis (ASMDA), to be held in Brest, France. The ASMDA aims to serve as the interface between Stochastic Modeling and Data Analysis and their real life applications. The Symposium 2005 will focus on new trends in theory, applications and software of Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://asmda2005.enst-bretagne.fr">http://asmda2005.enst-bretagne.fr</a>	Jul 9 - 12	The Joint Meeting of the Chinese Society of Probability and Statistics (CSPS) and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), to be held in Beijing. Invited program covers a wide range of topics in statistics and probability, presenting recent and state-of-the-art developments. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://math.bnu.edu.cn/statprob/CSPS-IMS2005/index.html">http://math.bnu.edu.cn/statprob/CSPS-IMS2005/index.html</a>
Mar 29 - Apr 1	Satellite Meeting during the <b>ISI Session</b> : The 14th International Workshop on "Matrices and Statistics" to be held in Auckland, New Zealand <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://iwms2005.massey.ac.nz/">http://iwms2005.massey.ac.nz/</a>	May 25 - 26	Workshop on recent advances in modelling spatio-temporal data S3RI to be held at the University of Southampton, Southampton, U.K. The aim of the workshop is to discuss recent developments in modelling spatio-temporal data across a wide range of application areas and identify directions for future work. <b>Information:</b> Sujit Sahu <b>Phone:</b> +44-23-8059-5123, +44-23-8059-5147 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:s3riwshop@maths.soton.ac.uk">s3riwshop@maths.soton.ac.uk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.maths.soton.ac.uk/s3riwshop">http://www.maths.soton.ac.uk/s3riwshop</a>	Jul 10 - 15	IWSM 2005-20 <sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Statistical Modelling will be held in Sydney, Australia. <b>Information:</b> Dr. Kenan Matawie, University of Western Sydney <b>Phone:</b> +61 1141062244 <b>Fax:</b> +61 2 96859339 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:k.matawie@uws.edu.au">k.matawie@uws.edu.au</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.uws.edu.au/iwsm2005">www.uws.edu.au/iwsm2005</a>
Mar 30 - Apr 2	'DREaM 2005' Developments in Statistical Methodology: Diagnostics, Robustness, Exploration and Modelling. Workshop and 1 day meeting (31 March) to be held in Milton Keynes, UK. Contact information: Frank Critchley. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:mcs-statistics-dream@open.ac.uk">mcs-statistics-dream@open.ac.uk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://statistics.open.ac.uk/dream/default.htm">http://statistics.open.ac.uk/dream/default.htm</a>			Jul 24 - 28	The 25 <sup>th</sup> European Meeting of Statisticians, Oslo, Norway. <b>Information:</b> EMS 2005, P.O. Box 114 Blindern, N-0314 Oslo, Norway <b>Fax:</b> (+47) 22 69 7660 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:francesi@nr.no">francesi@nr.no</a> , <a href="mailto:ems2005@nr.no">ems2005@nr.no</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.ems2005.no">www.ems2005.no</a>
Mar 31 - Apr 2	<b>IAOS</b> Satellite Meeting during the <b>ISI Session</b> on the topic "Issues for Official Statistics for Small Countries (Especially Island Nations)", to be held in Nouméa, New Caledonia. <b>Information:</b> Gerard Baudchon, <a href="mailto:itsee@itsee.nc">itsee@itsee.nc</a> or Brian Doyle, <a href="mailto:briandovlestats@yahoo.com.au">briandovlestats@yahoo.com.au</a>			Aug 7 - 11	IMS Annual Meeting/Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota
				Oct 28 - 31	3 <sup>rd</sup> IASC World Conference on Computational Statistics and Data Analysis to be held in Cyprus. The Conference intends to enhance the visibility and reputation of the <b>IASC</b> journal, <b>CSDA</b> .